

SQUATTERS - O. F. S.

1978 - 1990

Illegal squatters held in SA jail

By PATRICK LAURENCE
Deputy Political Editor

BASOTHO prisoners arrested by Tswana police and sentenced by a BophuthaTswana court are being held in a South African jail, it was learnt yesterday.

The prisoners are among the 300 people arrested last week on charges of illegal squatting in the Tswana enclave of Thaba 'Nchu in the Free State.

The BophuthaTswana magistrate in Thaba 'Nchu, Mr L. F. Morule, said yesterday they were charged under Proclamation R188 of 1969, an anti-squatters

regulation.

They were fined R80, or 80 days. R40 or 40 days of which was suspended. Mr Morule said.

"Those who couldn't pay the fine are being held in Bloemfontein prison because we have a problem accommodating them," he said.

The independence agreement between the prison authorities of South Africa and BophuthaTswana of November 15, 1977, provides for the "admission and detention in the Republic of South Africa of any person sentenced by a competent court of Bop-

huthaTswana."

In terms of another agreement of the same date, South Africa undertook to assist the BophuthaTswana Government in the settlement of people "squatting in the Winter-veld and Thaba 'Nchu areas."

The promised assistance includes help in the "expropriation" of landowners who are not Tswana citizens and who refused to co-operate in resettlement projects and who do not wish to remain in BophuthaTswana.

Mr Kenneth Mopeli, Chief Minister of the Ba-

sotho homeland of Qwaqwa, said yesterday: "Our information from the South Sotho Committee in Thaba 'Nchu is that 500 school pupils were arrested with the 300 adults."

The police denied arresting any pupils, and none were charged, Chief Mopeli said.

Thaba Nchu, an isolated piece of BophuthaTswana in the Free State, has long been a source of tension between the closely related Batswana and Basotho peoples.

Officially part of BophuthaTswana, it is in a predominantly Basotho area. The local Basotho committee has repeatedly claimed Basotho outnumber the Tswana.

And the BophuthaTswana Government has insisted that Basotho numbers have been augmented over the years by the illegal influx of squatters into the area.

In another development yesterday, Chief Mopeli accused the Tswana authorities of attempting to force Basotho children to learn through the medium of Tswana and of violating the spirit of an agreement reached between the QwaQwa and BophuthaTswana Government.

The agreement was that there would be mother-tongue instruction in Thaba 'Nchu until more land was made available adjacent to QwaQwa for the settlement of Basotho from Thaba 'Nchu and Mabolo-ka, near Brits.

PAUL ANDREW

Do it (mainly) yourself

Paul Andrew is with the Urban Problems Research Unit, University of Cape Town.

Pen Kotze, the new Minister of Community Development, began his term of office with utterances which reflected a desire to investigate the possibility of utilising self-help building strategies in the "white" areas of the country. This is an indication that a form of commonsense may be taking the place of a housing policy fraught with misconception.

Housing policy in SA, to meet development requirements which maximise and improve all individual and community resources (human and financial), need to meet a number of criteria. The main are affordability, user control, and efficient and effective supply. The most significant precondition is a secure form of tenure.

The housing manager of the administration board in Kroonstad is running a most important project demonstrating how it is possible to use commonsense to solve local low-income housing problems.

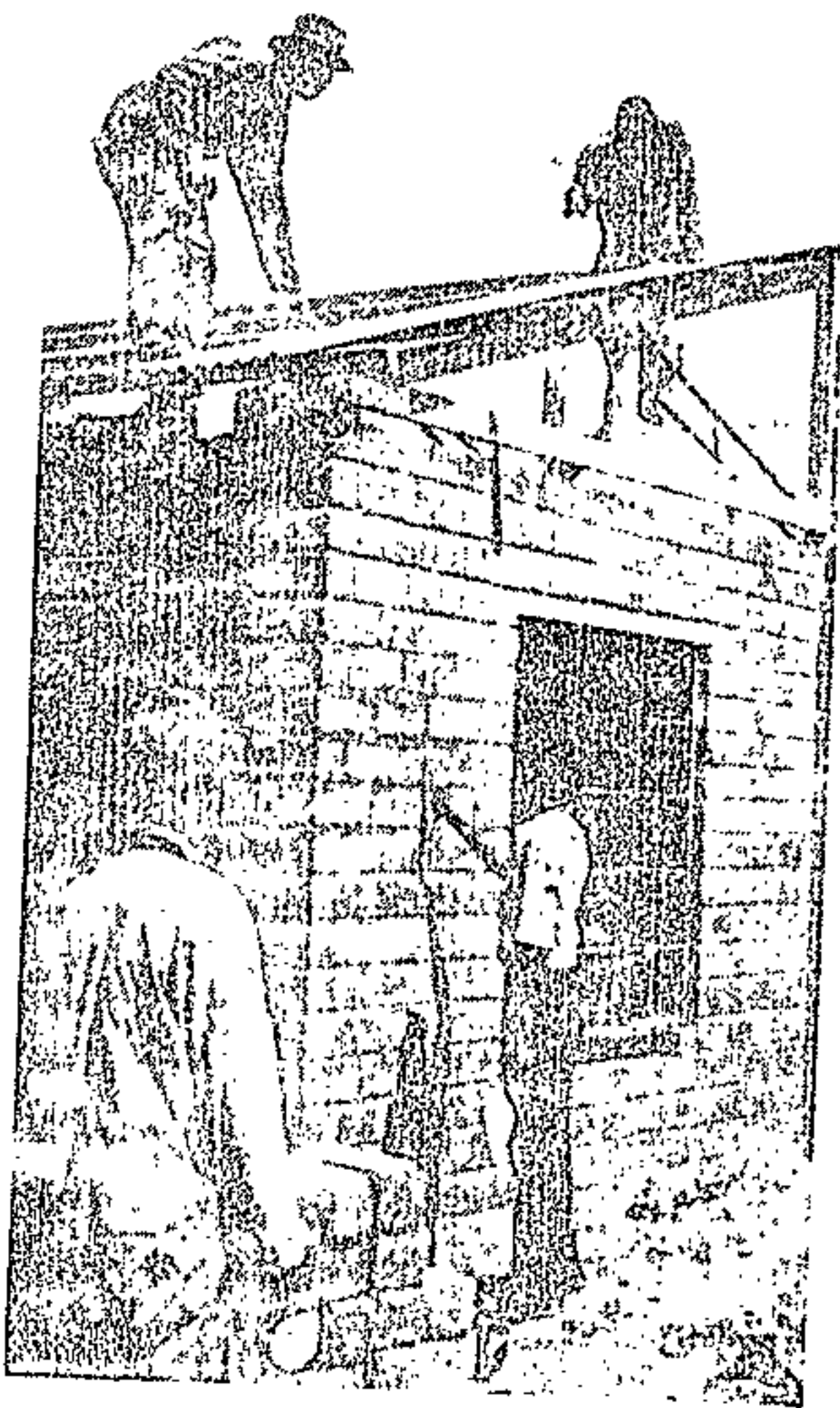
About 700 serviced plots were offered to people who wanted to build their own houses. Previously the Department of Community Development had built 200 standard houses costing R3 042 each with the lowest repayment for leasing a house at R24 per month for a one-bedroomed house. Rents for two and three-bedroomed houses were over R30. People thought that this was too much to pay for a rented house and asked to be able to build their own houses. They paid R14 for water, sewage, unpaved roads, street lighting, refuse removal and other charges. Families moved on to sites, erected temporary shacks themselves and started saving and stockpiling materials, making blocks, casting foundations and so on.

The combined family incomes of the first 10 participants were all below R150, except for one of R248.

Apart from the insistence on standards of building materials (local bricks and concrete blocks), the housing manager's control function is minimal. Most of his function in relation to the scheme is an enabling one: raising

bonds, standing surety for material loans, encouraging local brick and blockmaking, etc.

As a result of minimum authority interference, the actual individual and community "control" rub-off is maximised; individuals design their own



Blacks abuilding . . . look to Kroonstad

houses, and have them drawn up for submission to the board. Local draughtsmen somehow emerge to fulfil the function. News gets around about the best local waste materials to use for blockmaking and these are stockpiled by individual families. Blockmaking is done by families, friends and relatives. Local brickmaking is permitted near the site. Savings are all put into home-making and a valuable saving habit is started.

The board supervises the building on the weekends when the activity is intense. Families are encouraged to move into the completed part of the house and demolish the shacks as soon as possible. There is a natural tendency to remove the shacks as soon as they

can move out of them and identify with the new image.

The result of these simple permitting and enabling conditions is feverish house-building with almost all the houses started two years previously now complete or nearing completion. And all this achieved by the black population of an average Free State platteland town.

Despite the evidence of Kroonstad, the secretary of Community Development, in his latest annual reports, says that site-and-service cannot work and he goes to some length to "prove" it. In doing so he confuses the issue of shelter and tenure.

"As it is expected of the site-and-service dweller to erect his own dwelling . . . some form of ownership of the property will have to be granted to him. Because it is the policy not to subsidise the purchaser of a property, but only a lessee, the loan for the purchaser of the stand is granted at an economic rate of interest. This means that the purchaser of a stand at a price of R3 500 would have to pay R28.89 per month on interest and redemption, whereas the expenditure of a sub-economic tenant on interest and redemption in respect of the stand, would only amount to R6.51 per month."

The obvious question is: why not change "the policy"? Then we could come closer to allowing "the individual a personal responsibility as regards his housing. The help provided by government and employers must be aimed at activating people and motivating them to do more for themselves" (Prime Minister, October 19 1979) — as in Kroonstad.

In applying some of these notions, in many instances also held by the PM, we could build a society based on the "self-determination" aspects of a private enterprise economy — giving the majority of citizens an actual role in determining their housing conditions. This is by nature incremental with people building on as they can afford it; and with State assistance in technical and financial matters.

More citizens would be reached more effectively this way than by building completed accommodation in a manner decided on by the bureaucracy.

'Houghton' facilities for OFS squatters

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The Minister of Health, Dr Lapa Munnik, last night claimed health services provided in the Onverwag squatter camp in the Free State were "as good as anything in Houghton."

Dr Munnik was involved in a row on squatting during the budget debate on the health vote in the Assembly yesterday.

Following interjections by the MP for Houghton, Mrs Helen Suzman, Dr Munnik said he had been to Onverwag — a squatter camp housing about 120 000 people in shanties and tents with pit latrines about 15km from Thaba Nchu on the border of Bophuthatswana.

Dr Munnik said every house at Onverwag had a tap and the camp had a clinic and a health service.

'As good'

"It is as good a health service as any you people have in Houghton," he said.

Earlier Mrs Suzman interjected while Dr Munnik was talking about the Crossroads squatter camp in Cape Town.

He said he had been there and seen the appalling conditions.

"Every time anyone mentions squatter camps the member for Houghton runs to the foreign press."

Determination

"We will have to tackle squatter camps with determination. We cannot have squatter camps," Dr Munnik said.

At this point Mr Graham McIntosh, MP for Maritzburg North, inter-

jected: "Then you go and dump them in the homelands."

Against the background of uproar from the government benches Dr Munnik said he had visited a number of the "so-called dumping grounds."

One of these was Sada in the eastern Cape which was called a hell-hole but "now has a number of factories."

Farm workers

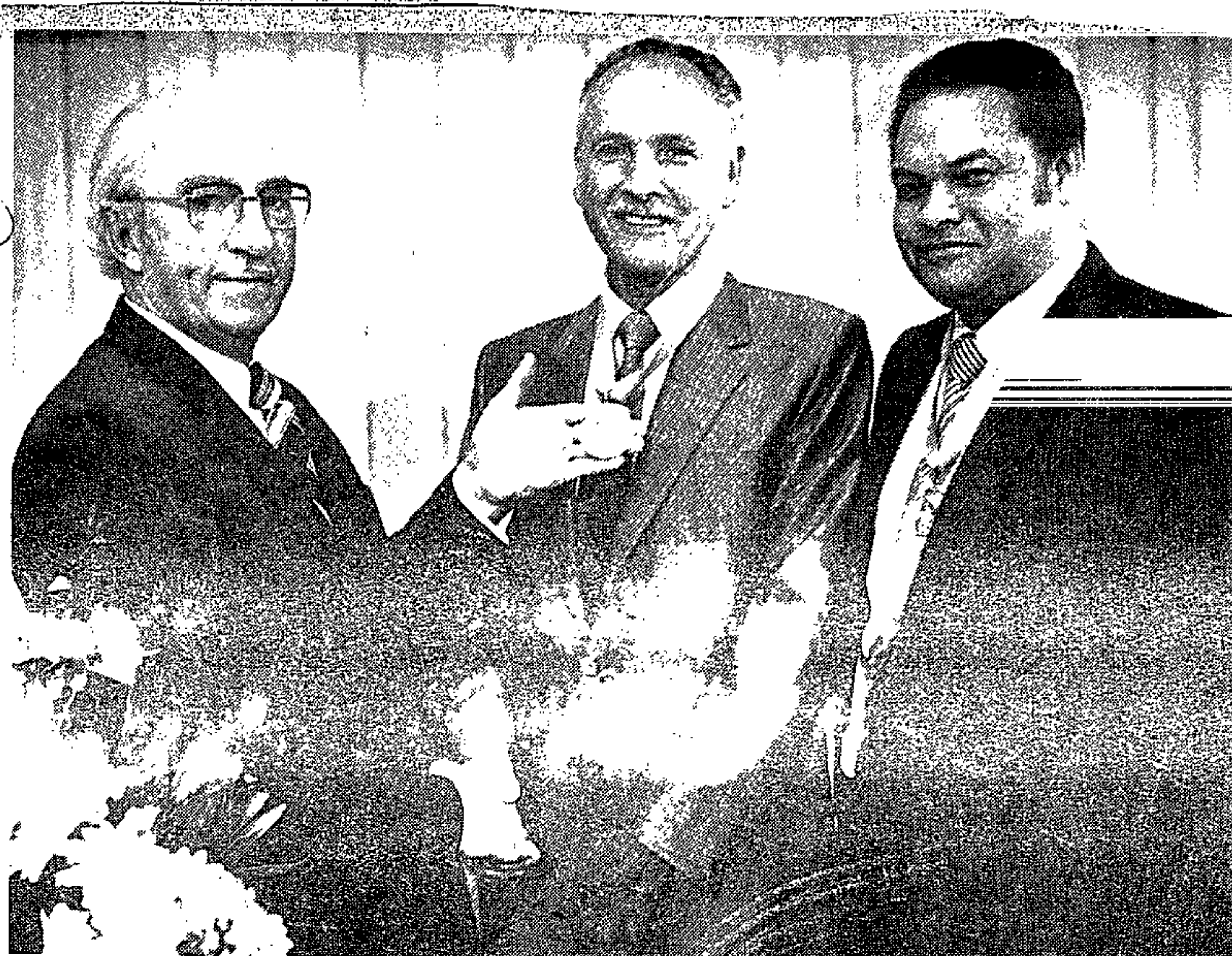
Dr Munnik, who has a farm in the Dordrecht area in the "white" corridor between Ciskei and Transkei, said a number of his farm workers now felt they wanted to go back to the homeland.

Two of them, he said, had already gone back to Sada.

Commenting on Dr Munnik's remarks outside the house Mrs Suzman said she doubted very much whether the health services at Onverwag would match up to those available in Houghton.

"The only difference is that people in Houghton are there of their own free will and have got jobs to go to so they can earn a livelihood close to where they live."

"I also doubt whether the pit latrines provided at Onverwag would measure up to the flush toilets inside the Houghton homes," Mrs Suzman said.



The Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr L A P A Munnik, left, takes a close look at one of the Silver Salus Awards which he yesterday presented to Mr I S W van der Merwe, centre, and the Rev C J April, right, for meritorious service to the community. The awards are awarded to people or bodies in the private sector who have played an exceptional role in the promotion of health in the community. Mr Van der Merwe, a farmer in the Laingsburg district, with his son, played an active role in saving the lives of people who were trapped. He later became chairman of the Rebuilding Committee. Mr April, now a member of the President's Council, was awarded the medal for his work in the coloured community at George where he was instrumental in the erection of a library, two clinics and a civic hall and in various improvements to local living conditions.

Squatter

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services

(309)

'equal to

Houghton'

Parliamentary Staff

SERVICES in a Free State squatter camp are as good as anything in Houghton, the posh Johannesburg suburb, according to the Minister of Health, Dr L. A. P. A. Munnik.

In the debate on the Health Vote in the Assembly yesterday, he dealt with the Onverwag squatter camp of 120,000 near Thaba Nchu on the border of Bophuthatswana in the Free State.

Here people live in shanties and tents and have pit latrines.

He made the statement after Mrs. Helen Suzman (P.F.P. Houghton) had made interjections.

TAPS

The Minister said every house at Onverwag had a tap and the camp had a clinic as well as a health service.

He told Mrs. Suzman: "It is as good a health service as any of you people have in Houghton."

Earlier Dr. Munnik said he had seen the appalling conditions in the Cross-roads squatter camp.

He accused Mrs. Suzman of running to the foreign Press with these matters.

Commenting on Dr. Munnik's statements afterwards, Mrs. Suzman said she very much doubted that the Onverwag health services would match those in Houghton.

There was also the difference that people were in Houghton of their own free will and had jobs close to where they lived.

She also did not believe that the Onverwag pit latrines could measure up to Houghton's indoor flush toilets.

New row over Munnik

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The claim by the Minister of Health, Dr Lapa Munnik, that health services in the Onverwacht resettlement camp in the Free State are "as good as anything in Houghton" has precipitated a major row.

An outraged Dr Marius Barnard (PFP Parktown) has tabled a series of questions seeking information on conditions at Onverwacht.

A community worker, who has asked not to be named, has painted a drastically different picture of the camp from that offered by Dr Munnik during the budget debate on the health vote on Monday.

Dr Munnik claimed that every house at Onverwacht has a tap and that the camp has a clinic and a health service which is "as good a health service as any of you people have in Houghton".

Dr Barnard said: "Dr Munnik has a very sad record of insensitive statements and this one — comparing health services in Onverwacht and Houghton — must rank as one of the worst."

Shanties

Onverwacht is a resettlement camp about 15km from Thaba Nchu on the South African side of the border with Bophuthatswana. It houses about 120 000 people mainly in tin shanties.

It was established in 1979 to house non-Tswanas from neighbouring Bophuthatswana. The population has been swelled by workers who have left white farms in the Free State.

A community worker

who has worked at Onverwacht said the health services at the camp consist of a clinic staffed by 12 nursing sisters and a doctor.

The worker said that while the clinic gave a good service it was quite inadequate to serve 120 000 people.

Taps

He said that there was a tap "about every 100 metres or every ten houses".

Under normal conditions this did not lead to undue congestion but in November/December last year when there was a water shortage, there was serious congestion at the water points.

He said work had begun on a new section at Onverwacht where it appeared each unit would have running water and water-borne sewerage although as yet no units had been completed.

He said there were about 10 000 stands in the main section of which about 600 were brick-and-mortar dwellings, about 50 tents and the vast majority tin shanties.

There was no water-borne sewerage and there were bucket latrines which were supposed to be emptied twice a week. Often, however, the cart came round only once a week and "things got quite unpleasant".

1 It was established in 1979 to house non-Tswanas from neighbouring Bophuthatswana. The population has been swelled by workers who have left white farms in the Free State.

2 A community worker

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Houghton was never like this.

Cape Times 23/4/82

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Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Onverwacht is no Houghton, in spite of claims by the Minister of Health to the contrary.

Dr L A P A Munnik said in Parliament this week that the health service at the Onverwacht resettlement camp in the Free State was as good a health service as any in Houghton.

He further stated that every house at Onverwacht had a water tap.

Dr Marius Barnard, chief opposition spokesman on health, has tabled a series of questions in Parliament on the entire health situation on the area, a resettlement camp 10km from Thaba Nchu in the Free State.

It was established by the government with a massive land purchase in 1979 covering 20 000 ha to house Basotho people who had to be resettled urgently after nearby Bophuthatswana became independent.

200 000 people

Onverwacht housed an estimated 200 000 people, most of them young families with small children, local authorities said yesterday.

The Cape Times correspondent found, on comparisons between Onverwacht and Houghton, that Dr Munnik's comparison was highly inaccurate.

Onverwacht does not have one water tap for each house, as he stated. It was found that the resettlement area has one water tap for every 50 houses.

Medical services at Onverwacht consist of one clinic, recently completed, which houses one eight-bed maternity section and a facility for 12 emergency treatment beds. One doctor, aided by 11 nurses, sees about 300 patients each day. Four doctors alternate duty at the clinic during the week.

Seriously-ill patients were always transferred — with two ambulances — to nearby Thaba Nchu, which had a total of 250 beds in its four hospitals for blacks, said Dr A P van Dendberg, district surgeon of the area.

"We are always very busy here, and of course medical services here are never adequate. I see as many as 300 patients a day with the largest variety of complaints you can imagine," he said.

15 schools

The infrastructure of the town includes one general store, not yet completed, and four large water storage tanks, which serve water taps on an average of one tap per 50 houses, shanties or tents.

The government has built 15 schools. The area is about as large as Houghton,

but Onverwacht is very different from Johannesburg's smartest suburb.

The area is to become part of the homeland QwaQwa. A large stadium and a R26-million hospital are planned for an area in the near future about 5km down the road towards Bloemfontein. The plans have already been drawn up and the government has budgeted for it.

People in Onverwacht are allowed to build their own houses.

The government, under a pilot project with CSIR, provides a interest-free loan of up to R6 000 for people to do so.

The houses are a very basic design consisting of three room shells with a outside bucket toilet and outside taps.

However, the present water tap facilities are inadequate. The taps for every 50 families are about 200 metres apart.

A small stream running through the settlement provides recreation for thousands of the residents when it rains.

The Cape Times correspondent found this week that rain had created puddles in huge potholes all over the township.

The only roads are dirt tracks. Water-filled potholes in the tracks provide mosquitos with a breeding ground.

Mothers questioned said that when it rained, their children had to play in the mud which created a health hazard as they became very dirty.

Pneumonia

This problem also causes a high incidence of pneumonia and TB during the rainy season, according to clinic nurses.

However, the biggest headaches facing the 200 000 Onverwachters is firewood, or anything else they could use to heat themselves with during the freezing cold of the Free State winters.

There are no trees anywhere within walking distance. The one local shop sells fire wood kindling for 20 cents per bundle of five pieces.

The Onverwachters try to grow vegetables in their front yards, because of the prices demanded at a local shop when they become available.

Five women sell apples and mielies for 20 cents each, in front of the clinic.

The government rents out 600 new brick houses they recently completed in the settlement.

Onverwachters usually build their own shanties. Thousands are scattered throughout the densely-populated valley. For each shanty, the government provides one outdoor toilet with a bucket which is emptied once per week.

"Shanty people" pay R1 per year to the government for this service. When the Cape Times correspondent visited the area, odours from the toilets permeated the entire area.

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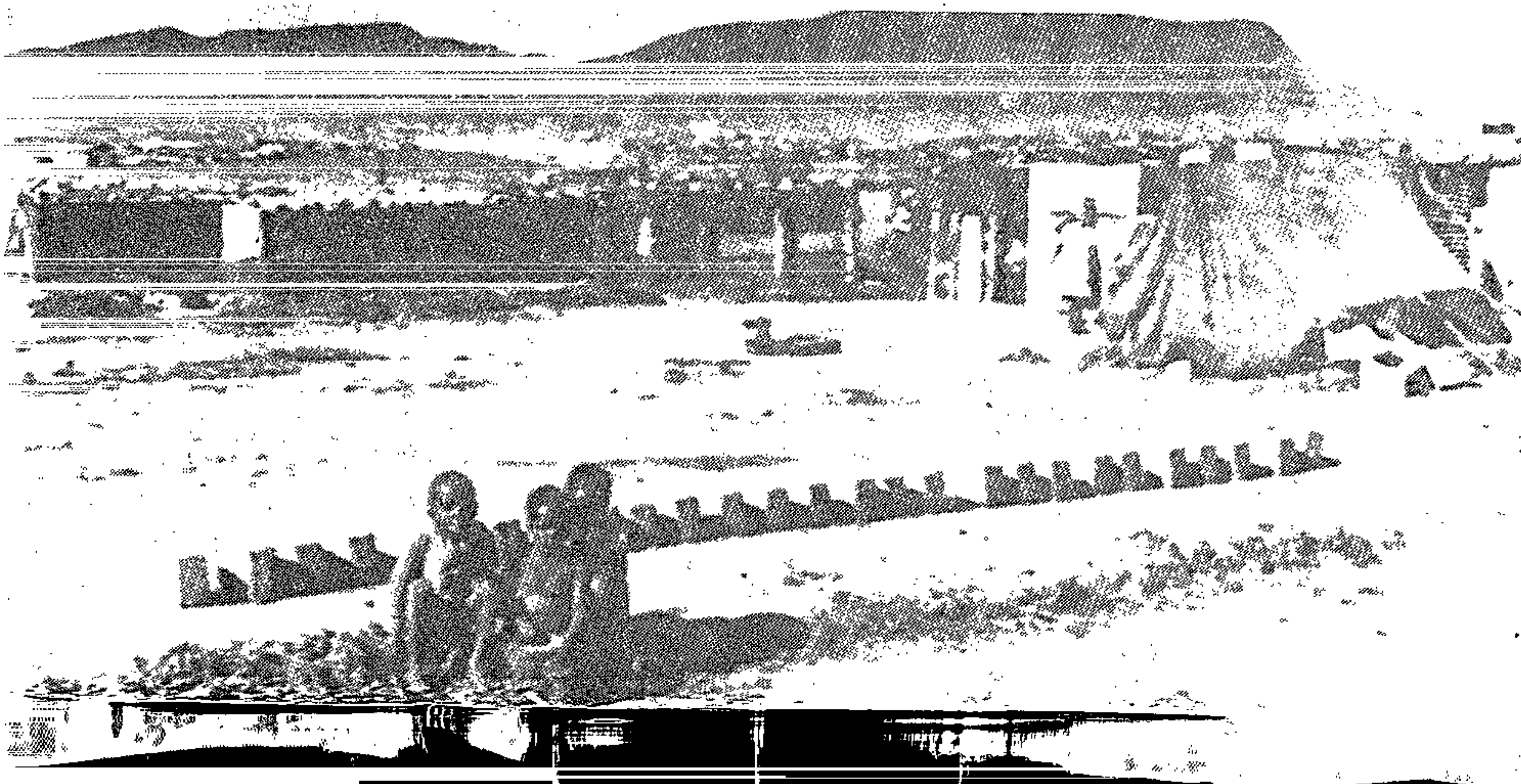
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HORROR CAMP

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Sowetan 26/4/82

MORE THAN 1 900 people have died so far at the squatters' camp of Onverwacht, near Thabanechu in the Orange Free State.

The camp, established in June 1979 to accommodate people who did not want to belong to Bophuthatswana after the homeland had opted for inde-

pendence, returned to the public spotlight last week after a claim in Parliament by the Minister of Health, Dr Lapa Munnik, that health service at Onverwacht was as good as in Houghton, the prestigious Johannesburg suburb.

"It has as good a health service as any of you people have in Houghton," the Minis-

ter told Mrs Helen Suzman, MP (PFP). During a two-day visit, reporters found that 1 949 people had died at Onverwacht since the camp was established. 1 025 of them children. Most of the dead children were under the age of three.

By Thursday last week, 11 more people had died. Some 527 people died of a typhoid epidemic in the camp's first year of existence.

The greatest killer diseases at Onverwacht now are gastro-enteritis, kwashiorkor and pneumonia. Infectious diseases like measles are also prevalent.

A new clinic has been built, but a nursing sister said that the staff of 12 was not coping.

Onverwacht has an estimated population of 130 000 and more than 300 patients are treated at the clinic every day. It does not provide a 24-hour service and is closed over week-ends.

Desperate youths swindled

By ALINAH DUBE

26/4/82

ONVERWACHT has become the target of con-men who prey off its misery.

The SOWETAN heard a startling tale from two young men lured out of the Free State labour pool with the promise of a job.

Mr Johannes Lekgotlana (18) and Mr Lazarus Tinte told how two men, one white and one

black, came to Onverwacht and told them "to prepare your things as fast as you can — if you want to find yourselves good jobs in Jo'burg."

Said Johannes: "We were all excited, but little did we know what we were in for."

"These men had showed us a corner where they would wait for us, and they warned us to be as fast as we

could.

"Wishing us luck, some of our parents offered their hard-earned cents to us to buy food on our way. I, for instance, was given R10."

Lazarus said that "this white man often comes to Onverwacht for youths."

The youths said they became suspicious when the white man, whom they knew only as "Oubaas", suddenly stopped

the car and demanded that each pay R10 for petrol.

But a bigger shock awaited them in Johannesburg, when "Oubaas" dropped them outside Ellis Park Stadium.

"Oubaas said he had lost interest in our labour. We told him we had no money but he dismissed us and said: 'Gaan julle weg'," said Lazarus.

Sowetan

OFS squatter 'city' headache

WEDNESDAY LINDA ENSOR

GOVERNMENT's policies of separate development and regional services councils (RSCs) could create a tangled web of overlapping authorities in the Greater Bloemfontein area.

Botshabelo/Onverwacht, the vast squatter settlement situated 60km outside Bloemfontein, has been promised to the QwaQwa government, but it is also scheduled for inclusion in the RSC for Greater Bloemfontein.

It has a population of more than 250 000, which is expected to reach 450 000 in 20 years' time.

The Bloemfontein City Council, however, is willing to include the "city" under the ambit of the regional services council only if government continues financing infrastructural development.

Facilities in this vast settlement are rudimentary. Only the main road is tarred and the bucket system of sewerage is still used by most of the residents, the majority of whom live in shacks.

Bloemfontein municipality development manager Niels Booysen says: "We are prepared to include Botshabelo, but the government must continue with its investment in infrastructure because it is impossible for the city council to finance this as well as provide services for the other township, Mangaung."

The QwaQwa government does not want to take over Botshabelo unless government upgrades it.

President P W Botha gave a commitment to the QwaQwa government last year that Botshabelo would be incorporated into the homeland.

However, Chief Minister Kenneth Mopeli says the step has been delayed because his government will accept the city once only its infrastructure has been developed.

He envisages that once part of the homeland, Botshabelo will be politically under the jurisdiction of the QwaQwa government and economically under the QwaQwa Development Corporation, with services being provided by the Greater Bloemfontein RSC.

health services.

out a few business details.

Walkerville squatters: petition to go to P W

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

13/3/87
The State President, Mr P W Botha, is to be petitioned by the Walkerville "town council" to stop the expansion of the Weilers Farm squatter camp.

The petition is being circulated by the 10-man Walkerville Local Areas Committee — which is responsible to the Transvaal Board for the Development of Peri-Urban Areas — to about 3 000 property owners and residents of the greater Walkerville area.

It calls on the State President "in desperation" to arrange for his officials to take immediate action to stop the growth of the camp.

The petition states that it is believed the Regional Directorate of the Department of Community Services in

the Transvaal Provincial Administration is already in the process of removing the squatters.

But residents claim the 5 000 squatter population is increasing almost daily, with 180 shacks a month going up. They are not convinced that the area will be cleared or properly developed.

A letter attached to the petition has informed residents that the LAC has attended numerous meetings with authorities about the squatters, including one chaired by the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis.

A second public meeting, to be addressed by the MP for Overvaal, Mr Chris Ballot, is scheduled for March 19 at 7.30 pm in the Walkerville Showgrounds Hall.

Fraseriks R 10-m 'allocated' 2/2/87

Where only a fool won't make money

If a critic of apartheid accused the Government of encouraging gross exploitation of black workers, there would be many indignant and angry denials.

Yet — after a visit to Botshabelo, the black settlement in the Free State that was incorporated recently into the homeland of QwaQwa — it is easy to come to this conclusion.

Botshabelo was created eight years ago as a reservoir for Free State blacks not permitted to live in "white" South Africa.

It suffered from the same problem as numerous other apartheid-inspired black settlements: no economic infrastructure.

Residents had to rely for jobs on Bloemfontein, 55 km away, and the Free State goldfields, but these areas absorbed only a small part of the workforce.

To try to solve this problem, the State began investing millions of rands in the development of an industrial area for Botshabelo.

It has succeeded in creating 10 000-15 000 jobs — but at a vast cost to taxpayers. A spokesman for the SA Development Trust Corporation (SADTC) said it had cost the Government more than R4 000 to create one job — and that was just to develop the factories and infrastructure.

In addition, the Government offers huge and lucrative incentives to lure businessmen to move to Botshabelo. As one shopowner put it: "You would have to be a fool not to make money here."

This is the deal offered to industrialists: the Government will pay for the construction of the factory and will subsidise rentals for 10 years. It will also pay 90-95 percent of the monthly wages of each worker up to a maximum of R100 for seven years. It offers to subsidise rail transport to the tune of 40 percent, and to provide training grants worth 125 percent and housing subsidies of 40 percent for white managers relocating to Bloemfontein.

No wonder there are about 50 factories now operating in this remote area.

If businessmen are getting such good subsidies, the workers must surely be getting fair wages.

Yet the average worker is being paid only R60 a month — R72 paid by the Government and a paltry R8 by the factory owners.

Workers interviewed said they could barely exist on these wages but they had no option but to accept the situation. If they gave up their jobs there were scores of others prepared to take their place.

This labour surplus has been used by the Government to promote Botshabelo. An advertisement in the Regional Industrial Development Annual said of Botshabelo: "There is an oversupply of enthusiastic and trainable labour."

There is not a single black businessman in this so-called black area; most are Taiwanese but there are some South African and Israeli industrialists.

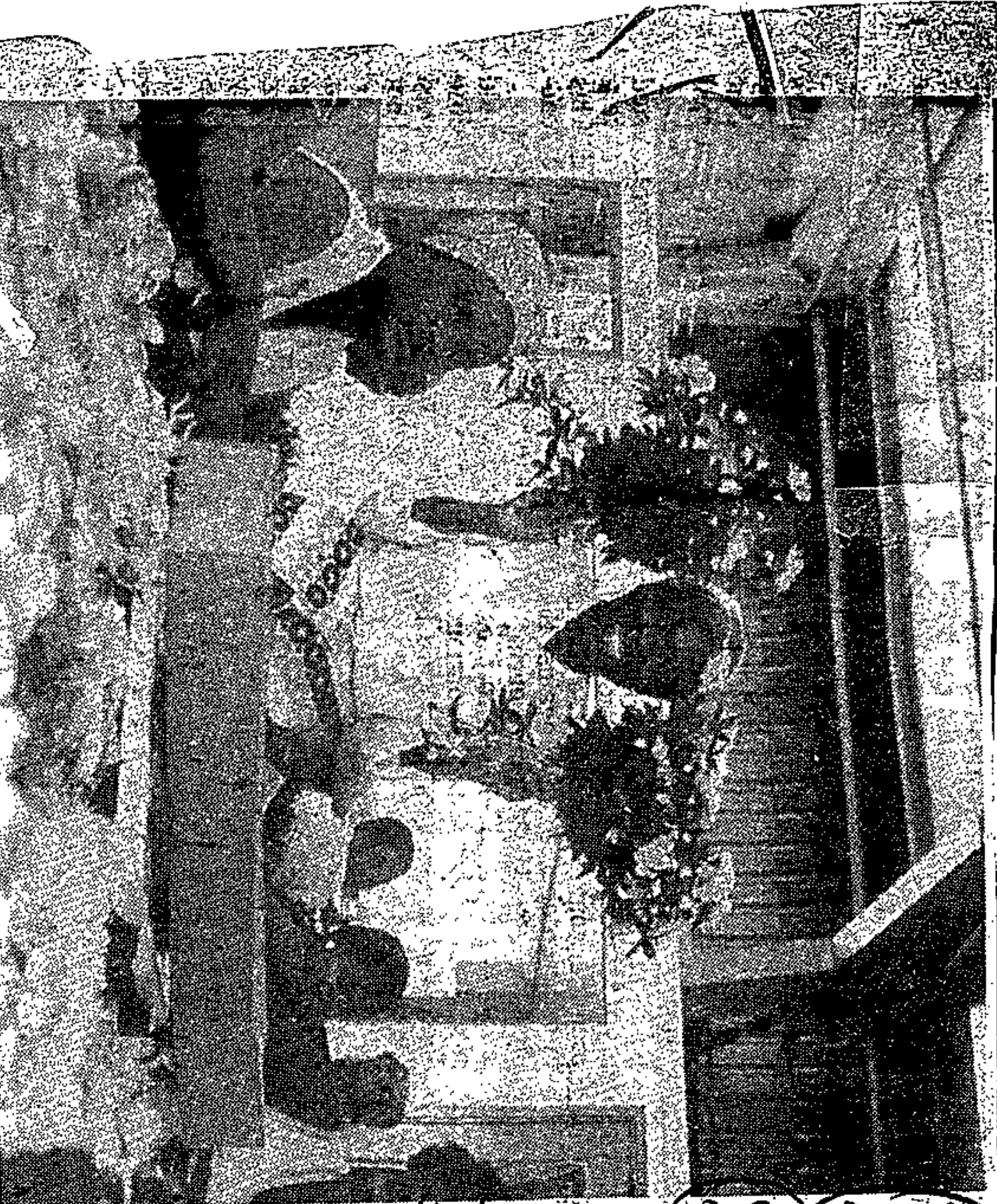
An SADTC spokesman said the corporation was aware of the problem of low wages. "We've held numerous seminars to try to explain to industrialists the importance of paying fair wages."

He said it had to be remembered that most workers were totally unskilled and had never been employed before.

The Star asked what was the minimum wage recommended by the SADTC. "I can't speak for the SADTC, but in my opinion untrained workers should get about R80 to start. But as soon as they have acquired skills, the industrialists should easily be able to pay them R150 to R200 a month," he said.

Perhaps what is happening in Botshabelo's industrial area was not the Government's intention. But the hard facts are that many foreign and local businessmen are making a very good living on a captive labour market.

And Botshabelo is not an exceptional case. There are numerous other such developments in South Africa where "you would probably have to be a fool not to make money".



Local women from Botshabelo at work in a Government-subsidised factory in the industrial section of the township. Most workers earn less than R90 a month.



One of thousands of makeshift tin shacks in which most of the Onverwacht residents have to live.

When the Sunday Express arrived at Onverwacht the medical staff was arming itself against the predictable outbreaks of pneumonia and bronchitis as the Free State winter approaches.

The nurse said that the health resistance of most Onverwacht children was "very low" — mostly due to malnutrition.

The day we arrived at Onverwacht six children were treated for malnutrition at the clinic.

One was 18-month-old Mavis Mgezo who was suffering from kwashiokor. Lying limply on a bed in a one-roomed tin shack and in the care of her grandmother, Mavis has been crying for the protein her body craves.

She had all the symptoms of being underfed ... skin peeling around her mouth, swollen eyes, hands and ankles.

Mavis is one of hundreds of Onverwacht children who have to make do with the little food available in their homes. As most of their fathers are either working illegally in Bloemfontein and Welkom or are migrant labourers at the mines, their mothers are left to provide for them.

'Smart alec' Munnik

HELEN Suzman, PFP spokesman on black affairs, said: "Dr Munnik is, I'm afraid, an incorrigible smart alex."

"He cannot resist making insensitive remarks such as his favourable comparison of the primitive health conditions at Onverwacht 'where a sad, poverty-stricken community struggles to exist, with well-endowed Houghton."

"The comparison is so absurd that it's hardly worth a comment. One can only hope that sooner or later Dr Munnik will realise that his offensive remarks reflect very badly, not only on himself but on his department which cannot dissociate itself from him."

The shortage of food is evident in the increasing number of children suffering from pellagra — vitamin B deficiency — who are fed by the clinic's feeding scheme.

The nurse commented: "We think the problem is far more widespread than we are aware of because most of the deaths are reported to the commissioner."

"We are not given the official infant mortality statistics at the clinic."

A community worker in Thaba 'Nchu said that about three out of five funerals arranged by the Roman Catholic Church are for children.

When the Sunday Express was at Onverwacht on

Wednesday funeral arrangements were being made for a four-month-old baby and 17-month-old baby.

Sanitation and the inadequate water supply makes Onverwacht a health inspector's nightmare.

Most of the shacks and mudhouses are interspersed with corrugated iron pit-toilets and although officially the toilet buckets should be emptied twice a week residents said that they were being emptied once a week.

A few white-washed matchbox houses lie scattered among the tin shacks.

No official figure on the number of new houses built could be obtained but ac-

cording to the community worker the Economic Development Corporation had built about 600 homes.

"These are for those who have work seekers' permits and are bought for between R4 300 and R6 000."

"But most Onverwacht residents live in one-roomed tin shacks and there are quite a number of families still living in the tents issued by the Government when they were first moved to Onverwacht four years ago," said the community worker.

Most of the people at Onverwacht were moved from the Kromdraai squatter camp in Thaba 'Nchu after Bophuthatswana independence.

Before independence the 'non-Tswanas' lived in harmony with the Tswanas.

But after independence in December 1977 conflicts with the Bophuthatswana citizens became an everyday happening and those at Kromdraai — mostly South-Sotho speaking — were harassed by the police.

They were not allowed to work in Bophuthatswana and their children were prevented from attending Bophuthatswana schools.

To 'quell resentment' they

were moved to Onverwacht but had to take out Qwa-Qwa citizenship although the area is not part of the homeland.

Mrs Alice Mashode's case is typical of the many families who have been relocated.

A mother of four, she was dressed in a short yellow dress, torn and stretched through years of trying to

keep making it fit despite being made for a teenager.

She took me into her tiny 3m² corrugated iron shack, its sides pasted with newspapers to keep out the dust and draught.

Her husband is a migrant labourer who works in Henne-man and only sees his family once a month when he brings home a family allowance of R50.

It is a hard life for Mrs Mashode and her family. To buy their meagre groceries she either goes to the supermarket where products are sold at three times the price they are sold at in Thaba 'Nchu or catches a bus to Thaba 'Nchu.

"But there's never enough. I have a baby who is starving. I don't know what to do," she said.

Where babies starve

SAYS HAS HEALTH FACILITIES WHICH COMPARE WITH HOUGHTON

SUNDAY EXPRESS April 25, 1982

Hundreds of pupils are shut out

25/4/82
HUNDREDS of Free State children were turned away from their schools after an official announcement that their parents had to have lodgers' permits.

A community worker told the Sunday Express that last week — at the beginning of the second term — hundreds of Onverwacht residents queued outside the commissioner's office to

309 271 126 50
obtain lodgers' permits.

"It was one of the most distressing scenes I had seen at Onverwacht," said the community worker. "People had queued for kilometres for about seven days."

School attendance figures dropped dramatically: Children whose parents did not have lodgers' permits were not

S. Express
allowed to go to school.

"At the moment there are about 559 children from Sub A to Std 5 and 325 pre-school children who are not allowed to attend the primary schools.

"Two Onverwacht women have now tried to start a sort of creche for these children, temporarily using the Catholic Church's hall at Onverwacht."

EXPRESS CLOSE-UP VISITS THE RURAL SLUM WHICH MUNNIK

The dumping ground

THE day after Minister of Health Dr Lapa Munnik compared health facilities at the Onverwacht resettlement camp in the Free State to Johannesburg's Houghton, two children died of starvation and nearly 300 people lined up at its clinic waiting for attention by one of its two doctors.

Onverwacht — a conglomeration of despair and squalor — nestles at the foot of a chain of kopjes 15km from Thaba 'Nchu and houses about 160 000 people.

Driving through the dust-bowl they call 'Botshabelo' — a place of refuge — the young and old sat outside their tin shacks and mud-

houses seeking warmth from the wintry Free State sun.

There is little the clinic can do to alleviate the many seasonal health problems encountered by the residents in this resettlement camp established in May 1979.

So far the work of the 12 nurses and the two South African Defence Force doctors has hardly made an impact on the daily lives of those living at Onverwacht.

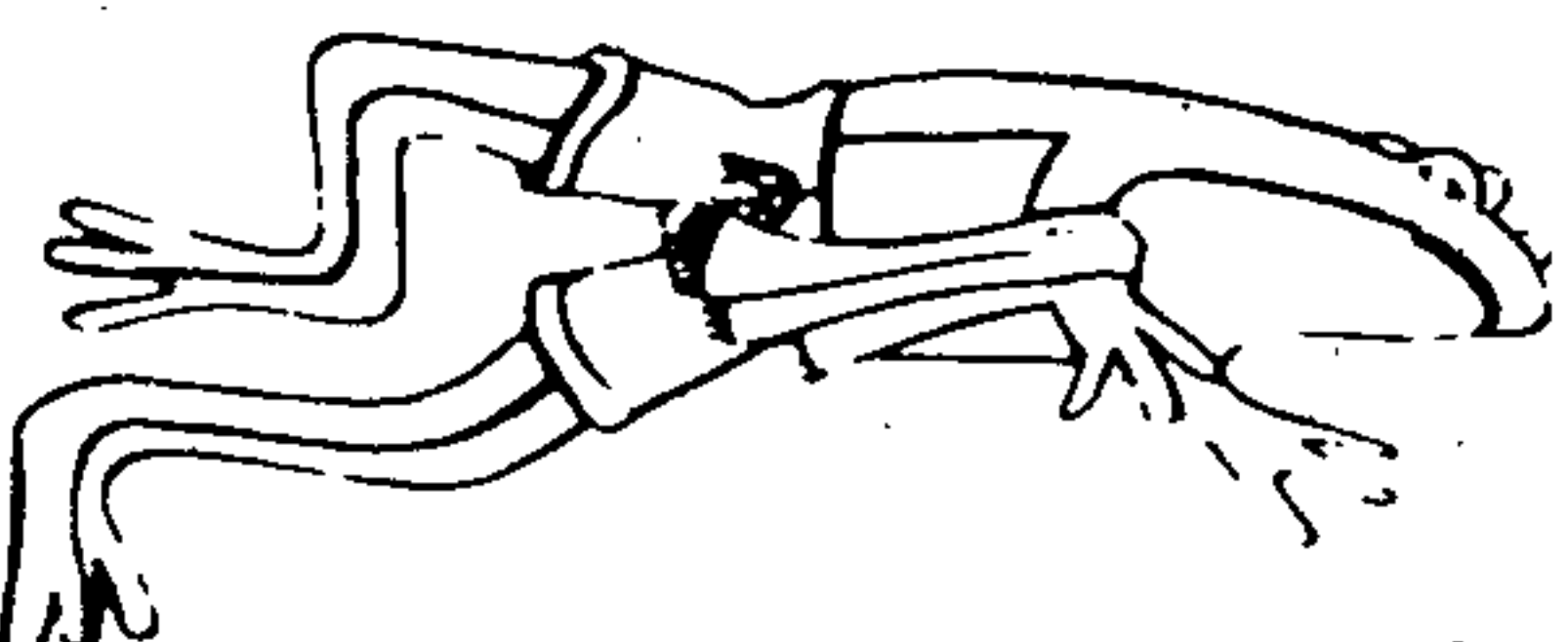
Recently they had to stand helpless as up to 70 children a day were rushed to Pelonomi hospital in Bloemfontein — 60km from the camp — during a gastro-enteritis epidemic. A nurse at the clinic said the medical staff could not cope with emergencies.

"If there are any emergencies after 4pm the patients are either taken by our ambulance to the Moroka hospital or they catch one of the buses to Thaba 'Nchu," said the nurse.

Another cause of discon-

tent is the lack of preventive medical care at Onverwacht. Community health, said the nurse, was nonexistent because of staff shortages.

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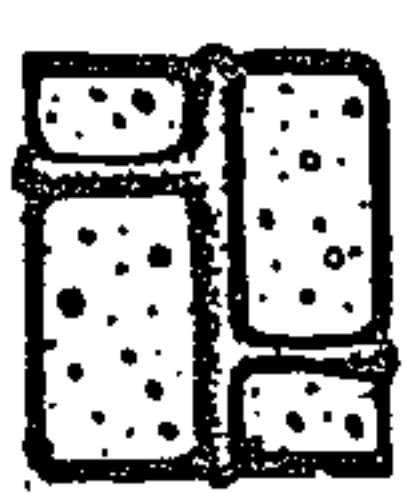
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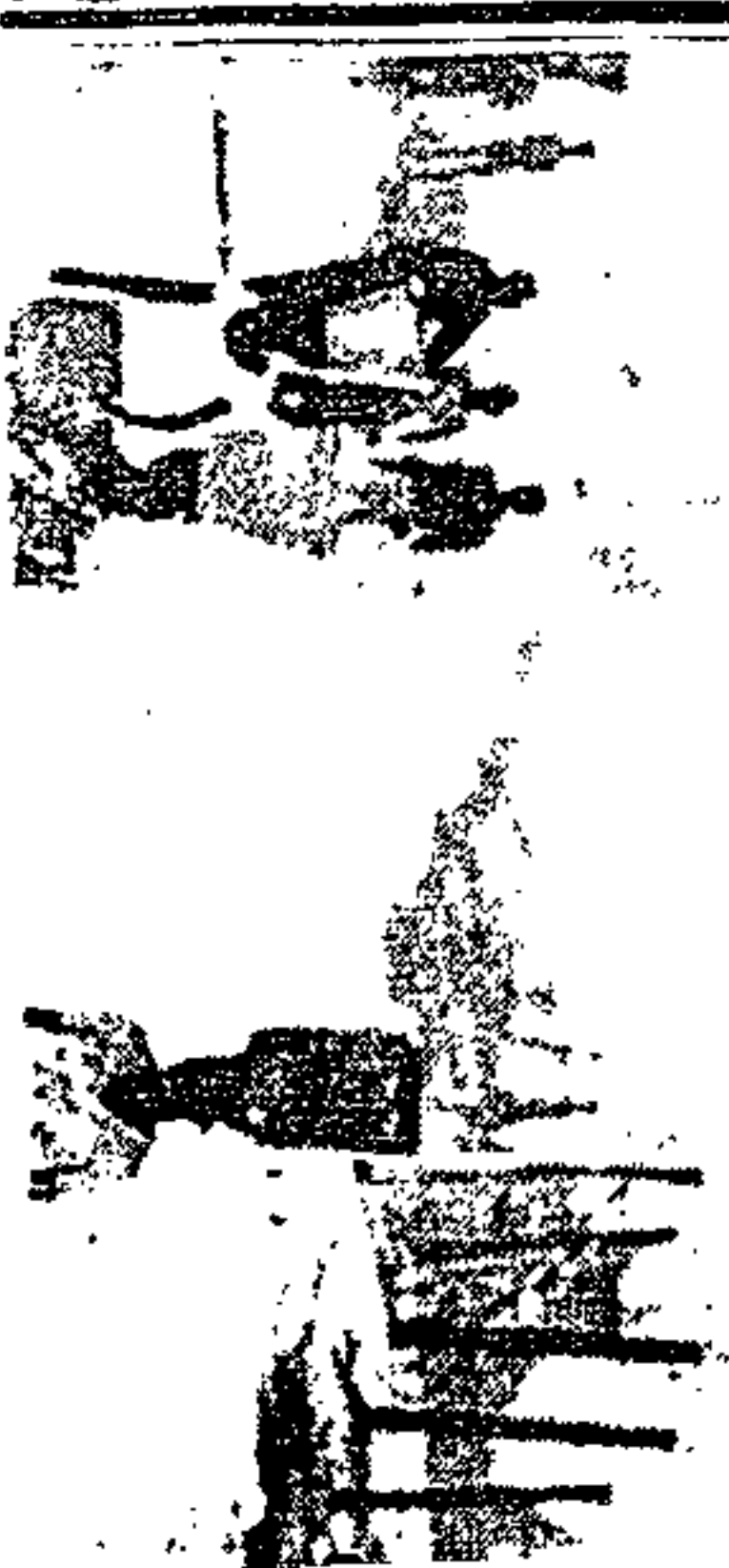
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The Dumping Ground

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Reports

by

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Pictures

by

DENIS FARRELL

tent is the lack of preventive medical care at Onverwacht. Community health, said the nurse, was non-existent because of staff shortages.



● Dusty squalor is the lot of 160 000 people who live in the rural slum of Onverwacht.

336. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development.

- (1) (a) What are the latest population figures for Onverwacht and (b) in respect of what date are such figures given;
- (2) whether there are any (a) hospitals and (b) community health centres at Onverwacht at present; if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) how many hospital beds are there; if not, (aa) why not and (bb) what is being done to rectify the situation;
- (3) how many, (a) doctors, (b) dentists, (c) community health workers and (d) social welfare workers are there at Onverwacht at present;
- (4) how many taps are there in this area;
- (5) whether a water-borne sewerage system has been installed at Onverwacht; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be installed?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) 200 000.
(b) 30 June 1983.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) The first community health centre is now being planned.

There are three clinics in the

603

TUESDAY, 1.

area — one of which has 23 beds — as well as one mobile clinic. Tenders are awaited for the erection of the out-patients and casualty sections of the Planned hospital.

- (3) (a) Two Defence Force doctors, one district surgeon and five doctors in private practise.
(b) One dentist who practises there 3 times a week and one full time dental therapist.
(c) 32 community health workers.
(d) Nine social workers.
- (4) 1 312.
- (5) Area H has 811 residential sites serviced by a water-borne sewerage system. The other areas are serviced by a bucket system only. A sewerage service for these areas is being planned.

309 Onverwacht 12/5/82

576. Dr. M. S. BARNARD asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- (1) (a) When was Onverwacht first settled and (b) what was its annual population growth from the date of its establishment to the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) how many (a) doctors, (b) community health workers and (c) social welfare workers are there at Onverwacht;
- (3) (a) how many houses were built in Onverwacht by (i) his Department and (ii) private individuals in each specified year since its establishment and (b) how many tents are there at present;
- (4) how many taps are there in this area;
- (5) whether Onverwacht has a water-borne sewerage system;
- (6) how much was paid out in (a) pensions and (b) disability grants in the Onverwacht area in each of the latest specified three financial years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) June 1979.
(b) December 1979—17 000.
December 1980—54 171.
The figures above are in respect of persons settled by the Department of Co-operation and Development.
Estimated population 1981 - 120 000. The said figure includes approximately 66 000 persons who joined relatives and friends at Onverwacht.
- (2) (a) Two doctors—part time basis.
Three District Surgeons
One Dentist—daily basis.
One Psychiatrist - twice a week basis

The following persons are also connected with the local clinic:

Curative Services

2 Senior Sisters
11 Sisters
7 Staff Nurses
2 SANTA Information Officers

Family Planning

1 Senior Sister
4 Sisters
2 Assistant Nurses
5 Female Information Officers
2 Male Information Officers

Health Services

2 Health inspectors

(b) 9

(c) There are four posts for social workers of which three posts are vacant.

(3) (a) (i) 53

(ii) 591 while 8 080 wood and iron structures have been erected pending the provision of permanent structures

(b) 61 Tents have been supplied by the Department of Co-operation and Development while 28 tents have been pitched by individuals.

(4) Taps have been provided every 150 metres

(5) No.

(6) (a) Old age pensions and disability grants paid:
1979—R184 670
1980—R323 343
1981—R332 862

It is unfortunately not possible to furnish separate figures in respect of old age pensions and disability grants.

Report claims most residents opposed to inclusion

Govt move to incorporate Botshabelo into QwaQwa could spell disaster

Two weeks ago, pamphlets were dropped over the dusty township of Botshabelo informing the 500 000 residents that they were no longer a part of South Africa — their land had been incorporated into the tiny homeland of QwaQwa.

The QwaQwa authorities claim most people in Botshabelo favour incorporation, but opponents dispute this. It is difficult to say how the majority of residents feel because they have never been consulted.

From a practical and economic point of view, it seems to be a disastrous decision.

Frozen areas

Botshabelo is economically tied to Bloemfontein, 55 km away, where most people are employed. Many residents came from Bloemfontein's black areas which were "frozen" to prevent expansion.

They also came from other "frozen" or de-proclaimed townships, from nearby Kromdraai in Bophuthatswana where as Sesotho speakers they were not welcome or were forced off white-owned farms.

Up until now, Botshabelo has been administered by South Africa, but with incorporation, administration will be given to QwaQwa, 330 km away.

Even the most efficient and well-run administration would find it difficult to administer territory from such a distance. And QwaQwa hardly has an impressive record. It has an impoverished population of

Earlier this month, an extraordinary Government Gazette was issued incorporating the sprawling Free State township of Botshabelo into South Africa's smallest and poorest homeland, QwaQwa, 330 km away. In the second and final analysis, COLLEEN RYAN looks at the issue of incorporation as well as at the settlement's industrial area.

250 000 and no viable industrial infrastructure.

Botshabelo has at least twice the number of inhabitants of QwaQwa and also no viable economic base.

The South African authorities were quick to reassure the people of Botshabelo that incorporation would not affect the running of the settlement or their freedom of movement.

For the moment, only administrative and executive powers have been transferred and the land is still in the hands of the South African Government.

But now that authority is officially vested with QwaQwa, the land can eventually be legally transferred.

According to the National Committee Against Removals, the Government is treating softly with the issue to avoid a repetition of the violence over incorporation of Moutse into kwaNdebele in 1986.

Community workers say that most residents are opposed to incorporation. According to a survey by researcher Mr William Cobbett earlier this year, more than 90 percent of the population opposed it.

Police present

South African Government spokesmen say that residents

knew when they moved to Botshabelo that it would eventually be incorporated into QwaQwa and should not have moved in if they were against it.

But opponents say that many people were forced to move there as it was the only settlement where housing and expansion was permitted.

Development aid spokesman Miss Betsy Smith also pointed out that there was no violence or formal protests after incorporation which showed people were not opposed to the idea.

Critics say that the strong police presence a few days before and after incorporation, the presence of numerous armed "kitskonstabels" and the fact that seven young activists are in detention for opposing incorporation made people afraid to show their feelings.

Another factor which inhibits people from organising protests is that the people of Botshabelo are not a homogeneous community. Apart from the common Sesotho language, residents come from a variety of backgrounds and are virtual strangers to each other.

The Chief Minister of QwaQwa, Paramount Chief M J Mopeli, is not without support. He has the backing of some residents because of his influence in negotiating land for the 64 000 Sothos who were forced

to move from Kromdraai.

But even his supporters are said to be divided about incorporation.

"Those who work in schools and other Government departments know that South African administration of salaries and pensions is far better than the homeland administration," said one community worker.

Chief Mopeli has welcomed incorporation. He has arranged a few meetings in Botshabelo, and in July, claimed to have held a "secret ballot" in which he said he collected 11 000 signatures.

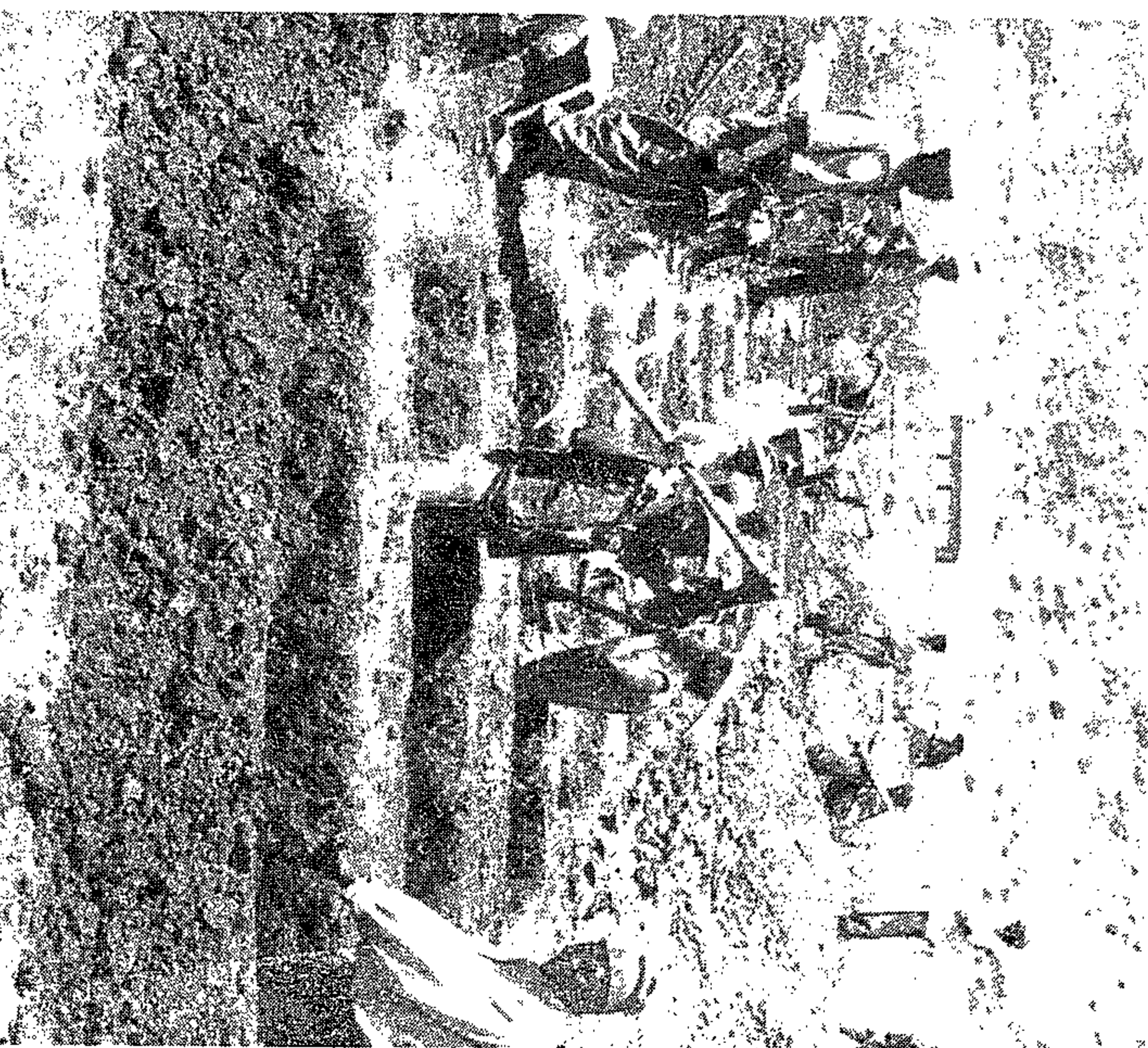
Why would Chief Mopeli wish to be burdened with an impoverished settlement so far from QwaQwa?

Control budget

According to the National Committee Against Removals, Chief Mopeli stands to boost his standing as a black leader and will gain control of Botshabelo's budget. This year South Africa doubled the development budget to R50 million.

The Government has denied that incorporation will eventually lead to independence, yet a question posed by the National Committee Against Removals in a report on incorporation remains unanswered:

"Unlike other bantustans that oppose independence, QwaQwa is extremely keen to extend its land area. Why would they want to incorporate Botshabelo if there was no intention of taking independence?"



Gravediggers in Botshabelo. Residents say there are between 20 and 30 funerals in the settlement every weekend.

304
Shore
14/12/87

CARL TRAPS 11/2/88

'New terms for forced removals'

Staff Reporter

THE government had not stopped forced removals but was using terminology like "development" and "upgrading" to justify them, the coordinator of the National Committee Against Removals (NCAR), Ms Laurine Platzky, said yesterday.

Speaking at a press briefing, Ms Platzky said there had been contradictions in government statements since 1982 when Dr Piet Koornhof declared that there would be no more forced removals.

In January this year, however, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, had qualified this by saying that the government "has never said there would not be any more forced removals ... what the government said was

that there would be no forced removals for political reasons".

Ms Platzky said the government now tried to use planning terminology to justify certain removals, by "blurring the distinction between removals for development and political purposes".

She cited the example of Kleinskool near Port Elizabeth, where up to 15 000 coloured people and blacks had lived together for the past 60 years.

A Group Areas board hearing was held there last year and indications were that the government intended declaring the area coloured — which would lead to the removal of thousands of blacks who lived there.

"If that's not political, I don't know what it is," said Ms Platzky.

A Western Cape NCAR worker, Ms Julia Shapiro, said many informal "squatter" settlements in the Peninsula and Cape Flats were under threat. It appeared

that the government wanted to "clear up" the peri-urban areas before the October municipal elections.

Western Cape squatter communities at Bloekombos (Kraaifontein), Red Hill (Simon's Town), Fish Hoek and Hout Bay also stood on the brink of removal, she said.

At least five communities in the Transvaal faced forced removals, while up to 290 000 people in Natal lived with the uncertainty of possibly being incorporated into KwaZulu.

A further 10 communities in the Eastern, Northern and Southern Cape were immediately threatened with removal.

Ms Debbie Newton, an NCAR member, said that Botashabelo in the Free State was last year incorporated into Qwa Qwa, more than 300km away, for political reasons.

Policeman badly injured by mob

PRETORIA — An off-duty policeman was attacked by a mob and seriously injured on Saturday in Botshabelo, Bloemfontein, police said yesterday.

The unidentified constable suffered three stab wounds and was admitted to hospital in a serious condition, the police unrest report said.

The attack follows the killing of three policemen in Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, on Friday when gunmen opened fire on a group of people in the yard of a home.

There have been no arrests in connection with the attack, in which three people were also injured.

AK47 cartridge cases were found on

the scene.

The unrest report also said three homes — two in Botshabelo and one in Kwa-Denjizi, Durban — were damaged in petrol bomb attacks.

No deaths or injuries were reported in the incidents.

A police spokesman said yesterday no further details on the policemen were available as their next-of-kin had not yet been informed.

He also said there were no further leads on Heinrich Grosskopf, the man who is wanted in connection with Thursday's car-bomb attack in Krugersdorp in which three people died and 20 were injured.

is no c:

FAMILIES PAYING R300 FOR A SHACK

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE town council of Kutlwanong township near Odenburg in the Free State has come up with a unique money-making scheme - it charges R300 "admission fee" per family for outsiders to come into the township and put up a shack.

This practice, introduced in April last year, has resulted in an influx into the township of people from surrounding areas who are stranded without accommodation.

The council has already netted about R150 000 from each of the 500 families now forming part of the squatter community in the township.

Once these people are in the township, the council does not provide sites for them to erect their shacks.

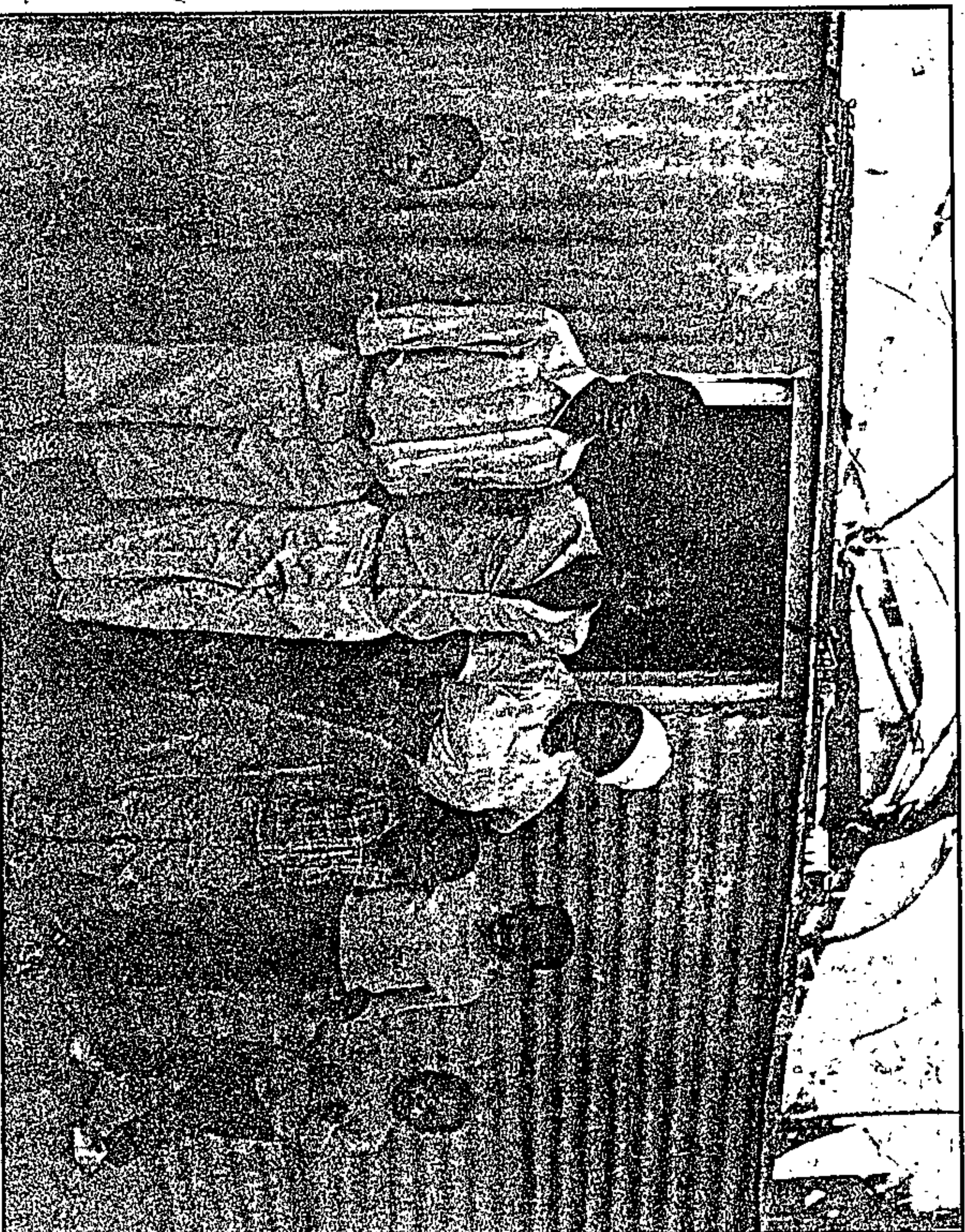
And the question whether this practice is legal or not is at the centre of a dispute between the council and an organisation known as The Resident, the local community affairs watchdog.

"They are making a fortune out of these farm folk," said a spokesman.

What is even worse is the fact that the council is encouraging squatting for a profit.

The chairman of The Resident, Sechaba Maphike-Konyana, said local residents asked his organisation to look into the legality of the operation, and that lawyers had been briefed.

He said that beside the R300 "admis-



Maria Nyelwe and her family in front of the small shack they paid the council R300 to build in Kutlwanong.

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The chairman of The Resident, Sechaba Maphike-Konyana, said local residents asked his organisation to look into the legality of the operation, and that lawyers had been briefed.

He said that beside the R300 "admission fee", new squatter families were charged a further R33 lodgers' fee per month by the council. Because the council does not provide sites, families are forced to squat in the yards of registered families in the township, to whom they have to pay a monthly rent of R50 or R60.

"The landlord, in turn, has to pay an extra R10 to the council for each tenant in his yard," said Maphike-Konyana.



Maria Nyeliwe and her family in front of the small shack they paid the council R300 to build in Kutlwanong.

'They are making a fortune out of these farm folk. Even worse is that the council encourages squatting for a profit.'

'Admission fee' nets Kutlwanong R150 000

"The council also expects people visiting the township to pay a levy of R1 a day," he added.

A list of about 500 shack-dwellers and duplicate receipts reflecting a total of R150 000 were

shown to City Press by The Resident executive committee this week.

The committee's spokesman, Peter Xaba, said they were pressuring the council to refund the money before the council disbands

next month.

"We have a legitimate case against the council. Nowhere in their by-laws is the R300, R33, R10 and R1 levies explained, and if they fail to refund this money we will be forced to take them to court."

"The government scrapped influx control and they are now re-enforcing it by charging people exorbitant fees," said Shadrack Mahasela, vice-chairman of The Resident.

Maria Nyeliwe, one of those who paid R300 for coming into Kutlwanong, where she and her husband and seven children are staying in a one-bedroomed shack, said her husband was unemployed.

Kutlwanong's former mayor, Obed Makakane, who was ousted in mayoral elections last week, confirmed that newcomers were each charged R300.

"I cannot comment further on this subject because I am no longer mayor, although I am still a councillor and because I learnt that the matter was being handled by lawyers," he said.

The present mayor, whose term of office expires on August 15, LP Mofokeng, a regional court interpreter in Welkom, also said he knew about the charges, but was going to stop the practice.

The two men's explanations did not please the residents who were interviewed by City Press.

"This has been going on since April last year and they (Mofokeng and Makakane) have supported the payment of R300, but now that the whole thing has been exposed, they want to wash their hands."

"They are equally guilty of driving people into misery," said pensioner Leah Moholo, bitter about paying an extra R40 per month for her four tenants.

Principles for SWA peace may be applied soon - Pik

THE set of principles agreed on for peace in Namibia by South Africa, Angola and Cuba were released at a news conference called by Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha in Pretoria this week.

The 14 principles which would lead to black rule in the country were formally unveiled in Washington, Pretoria, Havana and Luanda on Wednesday.

A memorandum released at the Pretoria news conference said the governments recognised that each of the principles was indispensable to a comprehensive settlement. This includes the implementation of Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council which provides for unsupervised independence for Namibia.

The principles state: "The parties shall agree upon and recommend to the Secretary General of the United Nations a date for commencement of implementation of Resolution 435."

The governments of Angola and South Africa would co-operate with independence procedures for Namibia through free and fair elections and abstain from the execution of Resolution 435.

Botha suggested that chances of troop withdrawals were brightened by Angolan-Cuban flexibility on the issue and by growing similarity in US and Soviet views on the subject.

The United States and the Soviet Union have set September 29 as a target date for agreement on a settlement plan.

Botha said it was significant that consensus had been reached for the first time between the adversaries.

He cautioned that the principles were interrelated and if Cuba and Angola could not agree on the withdrawal of Cuban troops, they could not expect agreement to be reached on an implemen-

tation date for Resolution 435.

A link between Resolution 435 and Cuban withdrawal was firmly acknowledged in the talks, he added.

Asked whether the principles meant an end to South Africa's military aid to Unita, Botha said: "Just as this is not the stage to approach Angola on the issue of their support to the ANC, this is also not the stage to address the question of our aid to Unita."

Due to the "delicate nature" of the peace talks he was not able to comment on whether the agreement would constitute an immediate ceasefire or non-aggression pact, he said.

The next phase of talks involved coming to agreement on the implementation of the principles and could be started "within days, not months" somewhere in Southern Africa. - Sapa

Swapo government up to Namibians

THE possibility of Swapo winning an election under UN supervision was more a question for the people of Namibia than for the South African government, according to Defence Minister Gen Magnus Malan.

He was speaking at a news conference in Pretoria where the South African government announced its approval of a set of principles for peace in Namibia and Angola.

Asked about Swapo winning an election, Malan said: "Are you forecasting now that the future elections will be won by Swapo?"

"I believe a lot of water is still to flow before you can express that type of view."

Told it was a possibility, Malan said: "I think it is really a question that the South West African people should take into consideration, more than the South African government." - Sapa

"When being entertained at a restaurant, I'm never sure whether to give my order direct to the waiter, or tell my host which dishes I'd like. But I'm never in doubt about the cigarettes to ask for after the meal."



*A London connoisseur insists that the correct course is to tell your host which dishes you'd like. (Some diners-out have been known to order from the waiter as well, in the hope of getting two helpings!) Of course, it isn't necessary to ask for Mills Special as all considerate hosts know their guests appreciate the fine, expensive tobaccos in Mills Special.



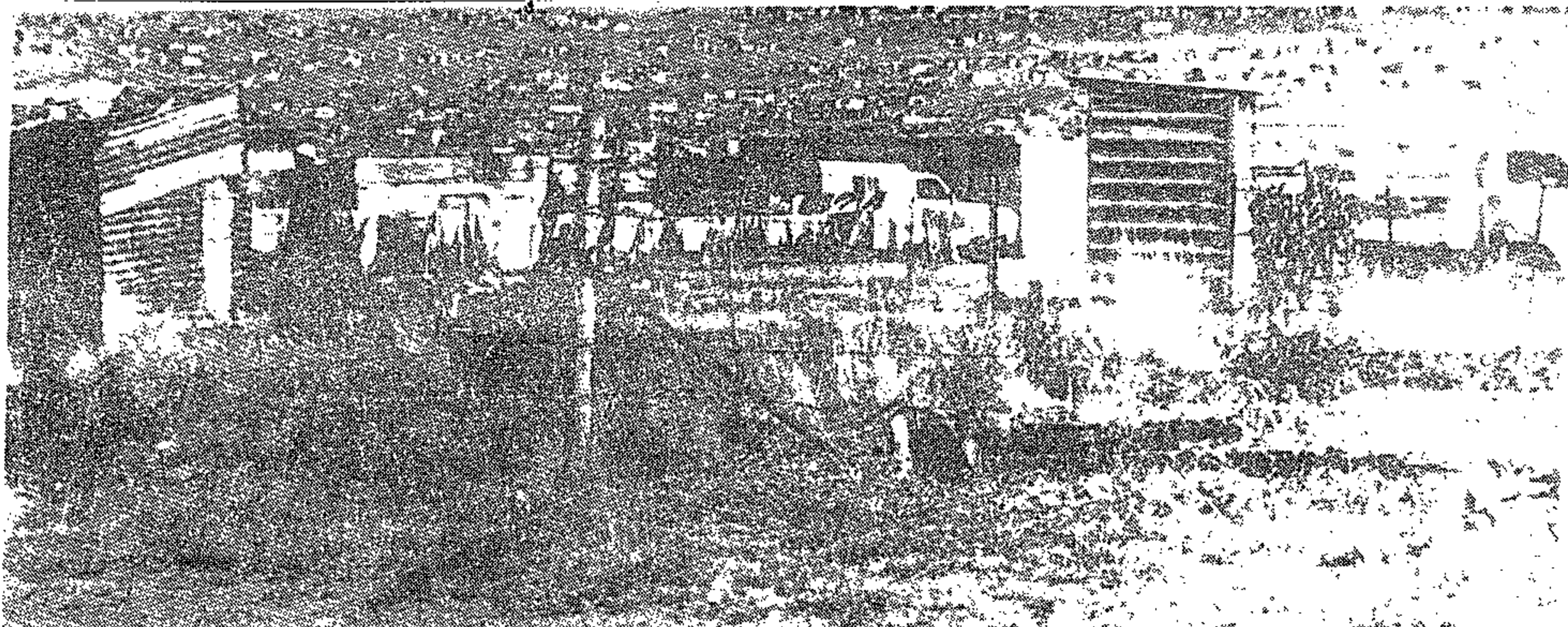
Available in boxes of 20 and 30, and tins of 20.

England's Luxury Cigarette

Manufactured in the U.K. and South Africa.

MIL 658/23E

C/Press 24/7/88



BOTSHABELO . . . the resettlement camp in the Free State where poverty for its 500 000 residents is a way of life.

NEAR the entrance to the industrial park with its rows of bright, metal-roofed factories a Government billboard proclaims: "Together We'll Build a Brighter Future."

The British Union Jack flies alongside the flags of Taiwan, Israel and South Africa, signalling investment by these nations in the industrial area outside this township of about 500 000 people in the windblown, dusty flatlands of the Free State.

But the factories, the slogans and the investment have done little to alleviate the grinding poverty of the residents of Botshabelo,

South Africa's second biggest and fastest-growing black township.

Botshabelo means "place of refuge."

Pretoria, implementing its apartheid policies, set up Botshabelo eight years ago when it bought the former farm of Onverwacht (which means unexpected) to resettle "surplus" blacks not permitted to live in white-designated South Africa.

Barren

Many of the residents — victims of the Government's policy of forced removals — were moved from homes in the Free State, Southern Transvaal and the Western Cape, separated from their livestock and dumped on tiny plots of the barren land.

Since then, Pretoria has poured millions of rands into Botshabelo,

mainly in generous allowances to foreign industrialists setting up business in the area.

About 50 companies, mostly from Taiwan, Israel and Hong Kong, have opened factories here. A few are South African, one Italian and two are British textile firms.

"There are some factories here that pay R60 a month," said Mr Isaac Koko (21), a high-school dropout who has been scouring Botshabelo for 18 months looking for work.

"I don't think they (the industrialists) are doing the right thing for the

No place of refuge in Botshabelo

SAPA-REUTER

people," added Mr MacDonald Makhoa, Mr Koko's daily companion in the search for work.

"If they don't pay enough, they should close their factories and go," he added. Unemployment in Botshabelo is unofficially estimated at 80 percent.

Officials urge residents to build shacks of corrugated iron but many still live in tents, refusing to accept their new domicile, and use toilets planted on top of holes in the ground.

Disowned

Last month the Government disowned Botshabelo and overrode residents' protests by declaring it part of QwaQwa, the poorest of South Africa's 10 homelands, which is about 200 km away.

There are few schools, no running water and a bucket system for sewerage. Some residents compete for jobs in the Free State gold mines 100 km away.

Church and community workers say the apartheid ideology has overwhelmed economic logic in Botshabelo.

"On a scale of human misery, these people are among the most vulnerable in the country," said

86 percent of residents are jobless

Ms Laureen Platzky, a social worker from the National Committee Against Removals.

To try to solve the problem, Pretoria lures businessmen to Botshabelo with lucrative incentives.

The Government pays for construction of the factories, subsidises rentals for 10 years, grants low-interest loans and provides a 95 percent rebate on monthly wages to a maximum of R100 for seven years.

As a further sweetener, Pretoria also pays a 40 percent subsidy on rail transport, gives training grants of 125 percent and 40 percent housing subsidies for white managers living in Bloemfontein 55 km away.

Bucket

Labour researchers charge that some of the wage subsidies are skimmed by profiteering factory owners.

Factory workers say there are no trade unions to shield them from

exploitation and a vast pool of unemployed in the shantytown eager to replace them if they are fired.

"You have to be a fool not to make money here," said one white shop owner, who refused to give his name.

Mrs Anna Matladi, a 41-year-old widow with six children, is one of 3 000 women who dig holes for the latrines and clean away plastic buckets of nightsoil three times a week.

She works for the town council and earns R200 a month.

"I have no choice," she said as she emptied a bucket of sewage onto a truck. "But I am better off in this job. If I worked in the factories I would earn R140."

New militancy as Botshabelo workers demand union rights

BOTSHABELO, the mass squatter settlement near Bloemfontein, was rocked by an unprecedented bout of industrial militancy this week as workers in the township's industrial estate demanded the recognition of their trade union.

About 450 workers were sacked after thousands of workers at two factories downed tools to back claims that a key supreme court decision, which last month blocked incorporation of the township into QwaQwa, has opened the way for employers in the area to deal with trade unions.

Botshabelo, incorporated by government edict into QwaQwa last year, attracts investors from Israel, Taiwan, England and South Africa because of decentralisation incentives which include some of the lowest wages in the country, state subsidies and an absence of militant unionism.

A strike by some 2 300 workers at the Yichihoo shoe factory, a Taiwanese company, was sparked on Friday when a colleague was assaulted by the director's son, says a local of-

South Africa's second biggest township, Botshabelo, is experiencing industrial action for the first time. By EDDIE KOCH

ficial of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

Thamsanqa Mfazwe, TGWU organiser for the Free State, said a brawl erupted at the factory after the worker had been beaten for refusing to name a colleague who crumpled up his payslip and threw it away to express disapproval at his low wages.

A group of labourers armed themselves with stones and bottles while the entire workforce downed tools in protest at the assault and added demands for the union to be recognised.

Police were called in to break up the strike and all the workers sacked. This week the company re-employed 2 080 women but refused to accept some 220 men back, saying they were responsible for the violence.

A representative for the company,

who identified herself as Mrs Miller, said: "We are not members of the union and nor are the workers, nor will we be if we can possibly help it." She refused to comment on the union's allegations.

The second strike broke out at the Electronic Magnetic Association (EMA) plant in Botshabelo when more than 300 labourers protested at management's refusal to discuss union recognition with Mfazwe. This week 30 workers, including all the shop stewards, were dismissed.

TGWU, an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has instructed its lawyers to investigate the legality of both sets of sackings.

Olfie Kok, manager of EMA's head office in Johannesburg, said the government had appealed against the supreme court bar on the township being ceded to the "homeland" and that the township would remain under the jurisdiction of QwaQwa, where there is no law providing for unionism, until the appeal is heard. For this reason the company could not recognise TGWU in Botshabelo.

309

Dobsonville families live in tents

BIG WAIT

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

THIS week marks the third anniversary of living in tents for over 100 Dobsonville residents.

The tent community was started in October 1986 when over 147 families who were evicted from newly built houses were left to spend nights in the open.

Their plight touched the hearts of priests who housed them in church buildings.

"For three months we were shunted from one place to the next until we were housed in the Dobsonville Roman Catholic Church hall," said Mr Vincent Ditse, who shares a tent with his family of four.

"The hall was over crowded and there was no privacy. That led the Witwatersrand Council of Churches to offer us these tents as a short term arrangement. We were promised sub-economic houses by the council."

"The tent dwellers are there on their own free will," said the mayor of Dobsonville Mr Steve Nkatlo when asked for comment.

"After being evicted from the houses they had allocated themselves, they were told to go back to their former houses. They have to be on the waiting list like everybody else. Their being there does not give them priority above other people waiting to be allocated houses."

Life goes on as usual for the thirty families who are still living there although the area has no infrastructure.

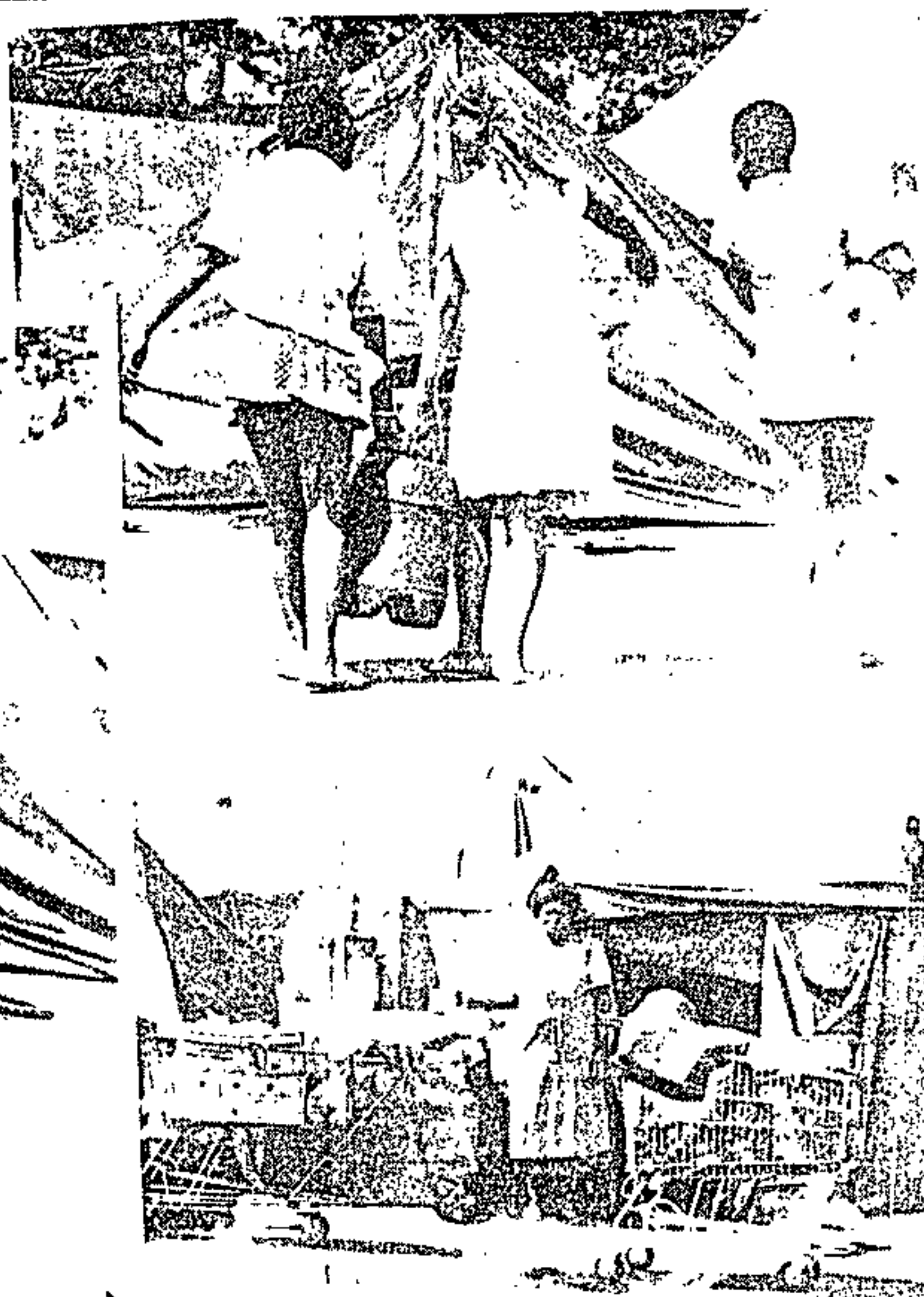
The tents are small (8x5 m); have no partitions and there is still no privacy. There are no toilets and the whole community uses a communal toilet from the church building. There is only one tap which also belongs to the church. They do not have rubbish bins, therefore, they pile their rubbish at the corner of their camp settlement.

"We have learnt to live without the basic needs," said Mr Ditse. "Our worry is the lack of safety. The tents are cold when it's cold and hot when it's hot. They are easily blown away by wind. Sometimes they split into two when there is a strong wind. Our goods have been stolen while we are asleep at night."

Burnt

In three years two tents have been burnt down, one was struck by lightning and the other was blown away by a stormy wind in the middle of the night. No one was injured in these incidents.

Mr Nkatlo agreed that the lack of infrastructure in the camp was a health hazard to the Dobsonville community.



LIFE goes on as usual for the tent community in Dobsonville.

Pics: MOFFAT ZUNGU

ANGOLAN COMMERCIAL

LONDON — To talk or not to talk.

South Africa's neighbours are divided over whether peace can come to the region by talking to President P W Botha. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire met the South African leader on Saturday. The presidents of Malawi and Mozambique met him last month. President Kaunda of Zambia is reported to have let it be known he is willing to meet him.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has ruled out such a meeting and has implied criticism of African heads of state who did talk to the South Africans. Mr Mugabe

said on Friday that he would not meet President Botha until there was change inside South Africa. "I don't see any purpose in talking to him. I see a purpose in President Chissano of Mozambique meeting him against the background of the Nkomati Accord. I don't know what Mobutu Sese Seko really has in common with Botha... our own approach is that South Africa must first accept that its apartheid system is obnoxious and unacceptable and must accept that change must come to South Africa."

Meanwhile, President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola is being urged to open negotiations with the Unita rebels, who are

backed by South Africa and the United States. The Americans have urged conservative African leaders to encourage the Angolan Government to do a deal with Unita. They point out that if the South Africans leave Namibia, and are no longer a threat to Angola, the 50 000 Cubans would be staying in Angola simply to fight Unita (United Front for the Liberation of Angola). This would amount to intervention by non-African forces, which goes against the charter of the Organisation of African Unity and would be unacceptable to many African countries.

Stalled

The Unita question is



Millions can't afford formal homes

80-221188 (309)
BLOEMFONTEIN — There were about 7 million people in informal housing and shelter in South Africa's urban areas, the Urban Foundation's managing director, Mr Sam van Coller, said yesterday.

Addressing a Foundation conference on demography, economic opportunities and education, he warned that on the basis of affordability most South Africans would never become homeowners through the acquisition of a formal house.

Mr Van Coller said the country did not need a Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill.

He said an "Informal Housing Bill" would recognise informal

housing as part of the national housing stock and promote upgrading and not demolition of informal housing.

The Bill envisioned by the Urban Foundation would further ensure access to serviced land for the very poor.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mr Van Coller told the meeting that the state of emergency had an important bearing on the situation in which urban blacks found themselves.

Restrictions on important community organisations placed serious constraints on the work of organisations such as the Urban Foundation.

The Foundation believed that all South Africans had a common destiny and that there was an urgent need to move away from racial structuring.

Mr Van Coller said that South Africa had suffered by excluding millions of people from decisions that affected them.

"We need to adopt an approach that includes people in decision-making at all levels.

"And, finally, we believe there is a need to reverse the erosion of the principles of the rule of law so that South Africa can return to the road of expanding civil liberties." — Sapa.

● See Page 4M.

COUNCIL DRIVES OUT SQUATTERS

TWENTY three families including small children, slept in the open after their shacks were demolished by the Daveyton Town Council this week.

The shacks were demolished at Daveyton's Etwatwa East on Monday. The families slept in the open at the premises of the Daveyton council offices.

They left the offices on Tuesday afternoon.

The raid on the squatters was conducted by the council police, code-named "Squad B". All the property belong-

By MZIKAYISE
EDOM

ing to the squatters, including building materials and furniture

were confiscated by the council.

Mr Edwin Motebang, deputy mayor of Daveyton, yesterday said he was not aware of the raid.

He said he would investigate the matter and try to provide the families with alternative accommodation.

A senior council po-

liceman who asked not to be named said they received instructions from council officials, including councillors to demolish the shacks.

'CAMP UNACCEPTABLE'



MSHENGUVILE . . . the squatter camp that made Deputy Minister of Health Dr Michael Veldman see red.

14/9/88
THE deputy Minister of Health, Dr Michael Veldman, this week paid a visit to Soweto to launch an anti-pollution campaign that would result in areas of the city being declared "smoke-free" in the near future.

The Minister was accompanied by the mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile, the council's town clerk Mr Nico Malan, Soweto's health officer Dr W Matsie and a group of councillors. Among a group of experts who were with Dr Veldman was Mr Martin Lloyd who had been monitoring the smoke pollution in Soweto for more than a year.

"Soweto is not yet a health hazard, but it could easily develop into

**By MOJALEFA
MOSEKI**

one if the situation is not monitored. The conditions at the Mshengu squatter camp is totally unacceptable. The lack of accommodation in Baragwanath Hospital is totally unacceptable. The smoke pollution levels in Soweto during winter is also totally unacceptable," said Mr Veldman in response to Press questions after the tour.

Dr Veldman also visited clinics and schools in the township.

Former policeman kills 4, wounds 17 in shooting spree

Pretoria carnage: SAP to act

Reporters
er Minister Mr
has issued a stern
e police will be re-
ir actions against
h the Left and the

n the charged atmo-
from the killing of
the wounding of 17
l Pretoria at 3 pm
legedly by a white
o be the leader of
Wit Wolwe (White

complain if we clamp
Mr Vlok told the Trans-
ty congress in Pretoria

Mr Barand Hendrik Stry-
erg was being held in con-
outings.

stigating Mr Strydom's
leader of the so-called Wit
right-wing organisation
responsibility for a num-
d terror attacks in South
a this year.

y that 11 of the 17 injured
still in either a serious or

ped with a 9mm automatic
powered by three black po-
shooting spree near the
Strijdom Square.
the Afrikaner Weerstand-



Police remove the body of the last of the four people killed by a gunman in Pretoria's city centre yesterday. In his rampage he also injured 17 people. Witnesses said the gunman apparently aimed only at black people.

Street sweeper

PW may have
been target on
group's hitlist

By Dave Braun, (344)
Political Correspondent

The State President, Mr P W
Botha, could have been the tar-
get of the mysterious right-wing
organisation which calls itself
the Wit Wolwe.

The political correspondent of
Beeld, Mr Tintu Plessis, said
yesterday that he received a
phone call from an anonymous
man late on Monday night after
he had returned to his office
after attending the meeting ad-
dressed by Mr Botha.

The caller said Mr Botha
owed his life to the fact that he
had not announced the release
of jailed ANC leader Nelson
Mandela at the meeting.

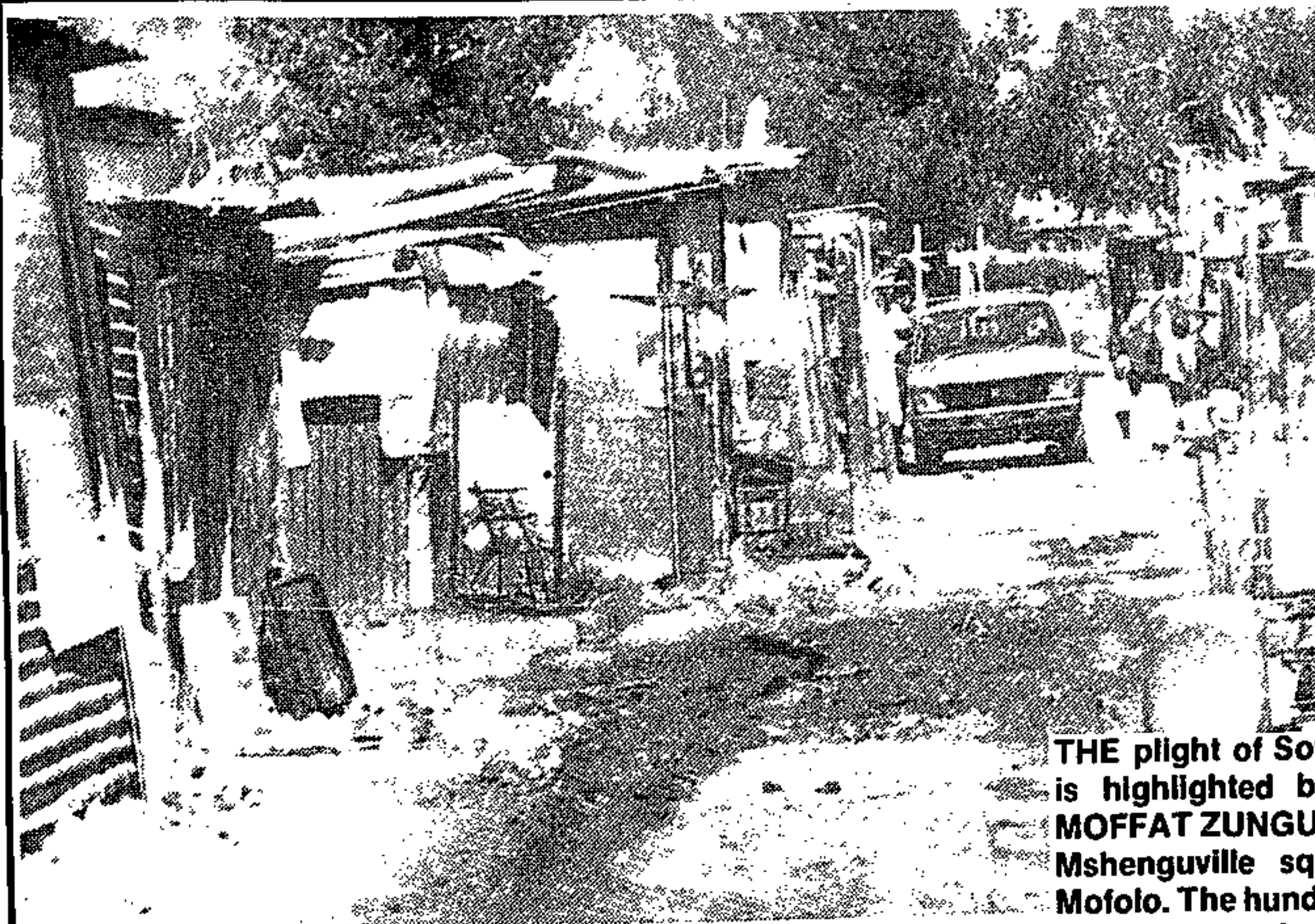
Scores of foreign correspon-
dents attended the meeting be-
cause of rumours that Mr Botha
could announce Mandela's re-
lease.

The man said he was the lead-
er of the Wit Wolwe.

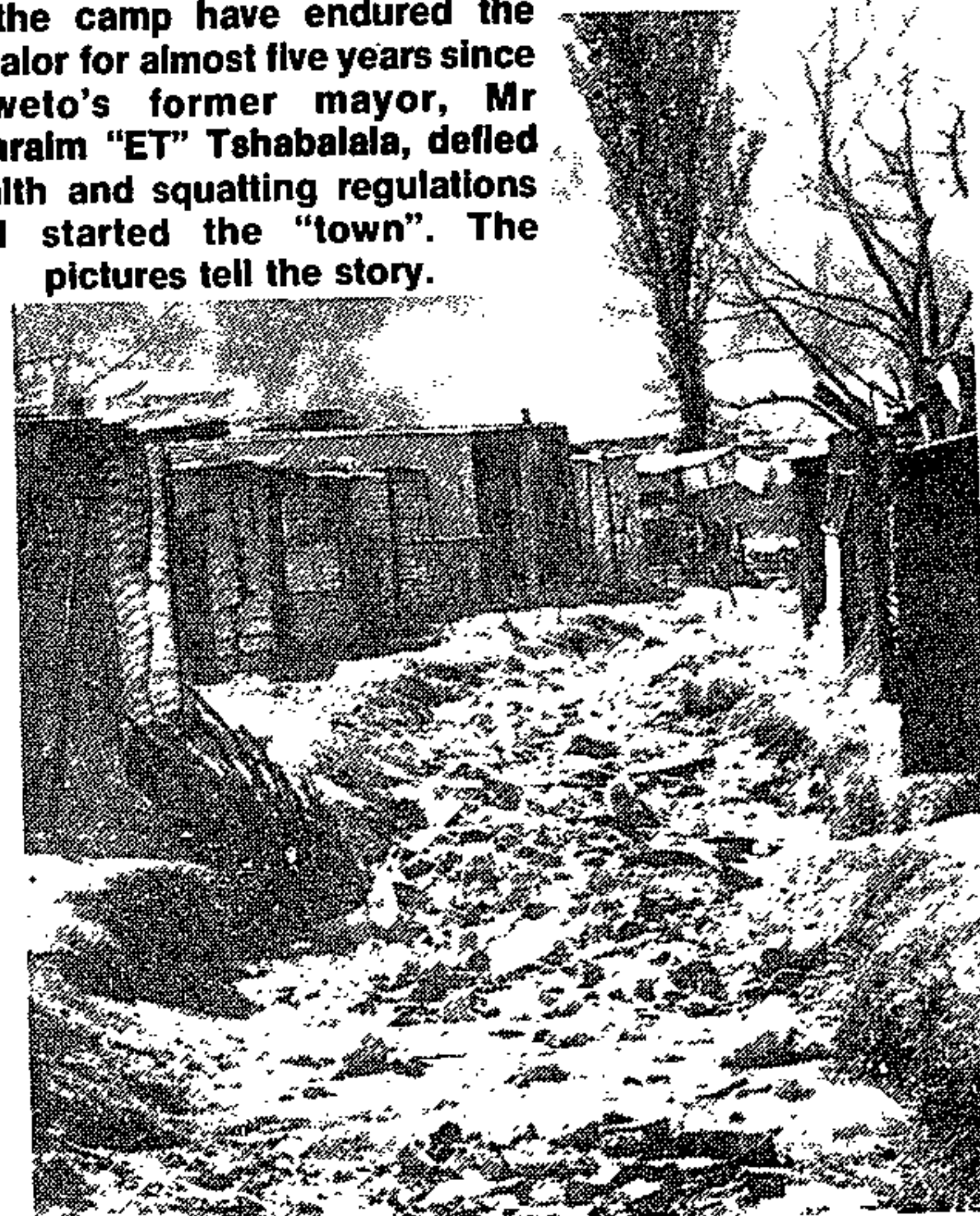
He then told Mr Du Plessis to
keep a careful watch on the cen-
tre of Pretoria the next day be-
cause something would happen
which would demonstrate that
the Wit Wolwe meant business.

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The 'town' ET built



THE plight of Soweto's homeless is highlighted by photographer MOFFAT ZUNGU's pictures of the Mshenguville squatter camp in Mofolo. The hundreds of residents at the camp have endured the squalor for almost five years since Soweto's former mayor, Mr Ephraim "ET" Tshabalala, defied health and squatting regulations and started the "town". The pictures tell the story.



- (b) PA 3 — R1 459
PA 4 — R2 947
PA 5 — R3 561
PA 6 — Nil
PA 7 — R895
PA 8 — Nil

Incidentals not exceeding R300 are not included in the above-mentioned amounts.

Natal:

- (a) NP 26 — 39 000 km
NP 63 — 24 613 km
NP 64 — 34 775 km
NP 43 — 38 378 km
NP 69670 — 16 138 km (since August 1989)
- (b) NP 26 — R2 583,27
NP 63 — R1 763,15
NP 64 — R1 991,59
NP 43 — R4 101,27
NP 69670 — R1 443,32

Transvaal:

As far as the Province of Transvaal is concerned, the following:

- (a) the kilometres covered were, respectively, as follows:

Provincial Registration Number	Official Number	Type Vehicle	Kilometres
LIL 537 T	GCP 189 G	Mercedes 230 E	44 756
MXH 114 T	GCV 184 G	Mercedes 230 EA	69 456
NJS 063 T	GCV 621 G	Mercedes 230 E	47 560
LIL 245 T	GCP 188 G	Mercedes 230 E	29 593
KXJ 978 T	GCP 187 G	BMW 728 i	57 181
LMG 311 T	GCP 619 G	BMW 728 iM	26 865

- (b) the maintenance costs were as follows:

Provincial Registration Number	Official Number	Type Vehicle	Amount
LIL 537 T	GCP 189 G	Mercedes 230 E	R4 730,00
MXH 114 T	GCV 184 G	Mercedes 230 EA	R2 916,00
NJS 063 T	GCV 621 G	Mercedes 230 E	R4 434,00
LIL 245 T	GCP 188 G	Mercedes 230 E	R4 241,96
KXJ 978 T	GCP 187 G	BMW 728 i	R8 779,58
LMG 311 T	GCP 619 G	BMW 728 iM	R2 308,90

Orange Free State:

- (a) OB 55088 — 13 500 km
OB 55011 — 25 600 km
OB 59000 — 17 600 km
OB 59059 — 18 200 km

- (b) OB 55088 — R12 201,25
OB 55011 — R 3 429,55
OB 59000 — R 2 998,27
OB 59059 — R 3 625,91

Black local authorities: joint debt burden

204. Mr W C MALAN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) (a) What was the joint debt burden of Black local authorities in the Orange Free State at the end of the 1986-87 financial year and (b) to what amount had it increased by the end of the 1988-89 financial year.
- (2) whether there are any Black local authorities in this province which do not have a debt burden at present; if so, (a) what authorities and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) R185 190 243,00 — This amount is subject to final auditing.
- (b) The accumulated debt at the end of the 1988-89 financial year cannot be furnished, as the financial statements for the 1987-88 and 1988-89 financial years have not yet been completed.
- (2) None.
- (a) Falls away.
- (b) Falls away.

Stinkdam squatters

215. Mr W C MALAN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) Whether squatters from Stinkdam, near Allanridge in the Orange Free State, have been or are to be moved; if so, (a) for what reasons, (b) when, (c) where to and (d) how long has the Stinkdam camp been in existence.
- (2) whether any investigations into the possibility of upgrading Stinkdam have been made; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) by whom and (c) what were the findings of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Orange Free State:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) The squatters camp is adjacent to a natural pan of which the water-level varies according to the rainfall and which is fed by the immediate vicinity of the pan where squatters reside with consequent extremely high residual concentration and resultant health risks.
- (b) Is presently in process.
- (c) To Nyakallong, a newly planned and surveyed town adjacent to Stinkdam and which is supplied with municipal services.
- (d) Approximately 28 years.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) During the existence of the former Southern Orange Free State Development Board.
- (b) By the former Southern Orange Free State Development Board.
- (c) (i) Primarily because of health reasons it was essential that the squatters be moved.
- (ii) The secondary reasons were: that the ground is not suitable for the erection of houses that the land is also required for the expansion of the sewerage disposal works, which serve both the White and Black towns at Allanridge.

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Orange Free State

- (1) The total debts as on 31 December 1989 per town were as follows:

Local Authorities	Total debts
Allanridge (Nyakallong)	R 8 374,06
Arlington (Leratswana)	78 069,05
Bethlehem (Bohlokong)	710 609,05
Bloemfontein (Mangaung)	6 272 650,00
Bothaville (Kgotsong)	3 831 295,65
Boshof (Seretse)	9 457,97
Bultfontein (Phahameng)	137 847,75
Brandfort (Majewmasweu)	196 388,10
Clarens (Kgubetswana)	6 503,08
Clocolan (Hloholwane)	119 151,61
Cornelia (Ntswanatsatsi)	12 947,91
Dealesville (Tswaranang)	107 509,48
Dewetsdorp (Morojaneng)	121 521,17
Edenburg (Ha-Rasebei)	162 531,96
Edenville (Ngvathe)	24 530,95
Excelsior (Mahatswetsa)	23 545,64
Fauresmith (Ipopeeng)	28 427,68
Ficksburg (Mogheleeng)	1 303 217,02
Fouriesburg (Masjaing)	95 516,64
Frankfort (Namahadi)	205 123,56
Harrismith (42nd Hill)	283 053,72
Henneman (Phomolongo)	330 421,40
Hertzogville (Malebogo)	11 325,27
Heilbron (Phurtona)	517 561,91
Hobhouse (Dipeleang)	7 586,03
Hoopstad (Tikwana)	38 966,87
Jacobsdale (Ratanang)	203 770,75
Jagersfontein (Thumeleng)	182 664,74
Kestell (Tholong)	27 640,74
Koffiefontein (Dithake)	55 462,28
Koppies (Kwakwatsi)	206 840,26
Kroonstad (Maokeng)	3 622 259,00
Ladybrand (Manyatseng)	90 042,96
Lindley (Ntsha)	105 043,11
Marquard (Moemaneng)	36 147,99
Meinel (Zamani)	6 877,08
Ondendaars (Kutlwanaong)	730 171,37
Oranjeville (Metsimaholo)	16 171,37
Parys (Tumahole)	6 728 811,22
Paul Roux (Fateng-Tse-Ntsho)	44 546,40
Petrusburg (Boloikanang)	60 143,74
Petrus Steyn (Mamaibedu)	67 012,72
Philippolis (Poding-Tse-Rolo)	21 675,24
Reddersburg (Ohweng)	66 168,22
Reitz (Petsana)	346 596,89
Rosendal (Mause)	32 305,39
Rouxville (Rweleleyathunya)	118 128,80
Senekal (Marwabeng)	80 962,83
Smithfield (Mofutatshepe)	14 221,05
Soupan (Ikgomatseng)	58 904,40

Black local authorities: revenue

216. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- What total amount was due to each specified Black local authority in respect of (a) rents, (b) services and (c) other specified levies as at 31 December 1989?



Faced with the prospect of no shelter, millions of people — like this woman in Plastic View, Tembisa — make 'homes' with what they can find

Picture: GILL DE Vlieg, Afrapix

●From PAGE 1

There could be no sharper contrast to the situation in Transvaal where shacks are being torn down day after day — and often in bitterly cold weather.

Last week two people were killed at Phola Park on the East Rand while defending their homes against an onslaught by public servants.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration's John Mavuso asserts: "The first responsibility for private land owners is to prevent squatting."

And he ranks black local authorities foremost among the land owners charged with fulfilling this role.

Mavuso and Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Hernus Kriel have reacted angrily to announcements this week by the United Democratic Front's Southern Transvaal region that it is to spearhead a campaign to house the homeless by occupying vacant property. Kriel described the campaign as "an invitation to confrontation".

The confrontation existed before the UDF threw down the gauntlet. Recently shacks were demolished at Midrand, Thokoza, Dobsonville and Ikageng, near Potchefstroom. At Thokoza and Ikageng confrontation rapidly gave way to violence and bloodshed.

This pattern of demolitions followed closely on a warning from Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, while addressing a business gathering in Secunda, that police had been ordered to do everything possible to eradicate the "evil" of squatting.

"Squatting has become a new method to violate people's rights to their own property," said Vlok.

He urged owners to report squatting at its earliest manifestation and said

Some evict squatters ... Others seek solutions

WEEKEND MAIL 2017-261 7190

Commissioner of Police Johan van der Merwe had issued strict orders to the police to do everything in their power to stop illegal squatting.

The shack-dwellers of Dobsonville had little doubt that orders were being obeyed when they woke up one frosty morning last week to find themselves surrounded, with a police helicopter hovering overhead. Demolitions followed that day. Residents were arrested and charged, among other things, with public violence.

Almost simultaneously — just across the Vaal River — technical advisers to the Tumahole Civic Association (TCA) were talking to engineers of the Orange Free State provincial administration about how to lay on a temporary water supply to the 400-unit shack town called into being by the TCA just weeks earlier.

The plan is to provide communal taps by connecting up to the existing municipal supply. The civic has promised to provide the labour and is examining ways to raise money for the costs of the project. It also has technical experts at its disposal through its relationship with the Rural Advice Centre (RAC).

An RAC representative said the land occupation had pushed the area available for settlement well beyond the boundaries of the township.

He believed the relationship between the TCA and officials was productive and that the TCA was well on

the way "to becoming the implementing agency" in the Tumahole shack town. The province, he noted, had no objection. "They seem to recognise that the existing town council of Tumahole has been unsuccessful in managing the township."

Resistance of Tumahole residents to the local council is reflected in the five-year rent and service tariff boy-

payment.

It is quite likely that Tumahole shack community — branded as confrontationalist in conventional bureaucratise — will become the first people in the area to resume paying for the services they consume. Of course, the payments might be made to the TCA rather than direct to the local authority.

Said the Rural Advice Office worker: "I get the sense that the Free State planners really appreciate what land hunger is."

Sources close to the Free State provincial authorities detect certain underlying principles in their approach to informal settlements. The first dictum is: don't demolish. Then there is a reasonably prompt effort to survey and service land — frequently the very land that the people have occupied. And, if there is to be a removal to the serviced sites, efforts are made to negotiate this removal or to allow the civic itself to organise the move to new sites.

Officials are known to take the view that they will work with all relevant groups — ranging from the local authorities to the civics — in order to ensure that the solution is lasting.

The MCA's Malebo confirms that the province has been instrumental in securing the future of Freedom Square — that it has obtained sanction for the continued existence of the shantytown from the House of Representatives which owned the invaded

land.

Mike Makwa, chairman of the Freedom Square Committee, says people are aware this is a political victory as well as a satisfaction of their need for land. "They wanted to scramble apartheid. They wanted to see if the Group Areas Act was abolished. So they took the land and they won. We are here to stay."

The MCA, like other civics, has obtained professional advice in laying out its plots and allocating them to homeless applicants. It sees Freedom Square not as a make-shift measure but as a small step toward a post-apartheid South Africa. Care has been taken to leave space for service lines and adequate roads.

The MCA holds meetings with applicants for plots in Freedom Square. It screens the people to ensure that they are genuinely homeless and not just on the look-out for extra land. And — especially in the precarious early days — it explained their obligation to defend the illegal town.

Now residents are being encouraged to consider ways of acquiring structures more permanent than zinc shacks. Already, here and there, a few brick structures have been erected. Residents have been restrained by the civic from demolishing the old farm houses in the area to obtain building material. These buildings are to be conserved as community facilities — creches, clinics and MCA offices.

The MCA is slightly less sure of its footing in a second, smaller camp — known as Tambo Square. No removals have been carried out there but the noises are not reassuring.

It has also failed to negotiate the provision of services for Freedom Square with the Mangaung Town Council and the shortage of water remains a problem.

“Eradicate this evil ... Squatting has become a new method to violate people's rights to their own property”

court in the area. The council is understood to pose no obstacle to the consolidation of the new shack area.

The TCA itself is preparing to tackle the question of service charges in the shantytown. A TCA representative said they were exploring with the people acceptable levels and channels of

Some fight squatters. Others search for solutions

It's nothing new for the homeless to 'invade' vacant land. But the state's response varies. In the Free State land is set aside and water laid on — in the Transvaal shacks are torn down to eradicate the 'evil' of squatting.

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

ORGANISED occupation of vacant land, often in defiance of the Group Areas Act, has been occurring since early this year. And far from hell breaking loose, orderly communities with a viable future have been created. This living challenge to predictions that "ungovernability" is the inevitable outcome of land invasions is to be found mainly in the Orange Free State.

Mangaung's Freedom Square which consists of 2 500 shacks — just 10 minutes out of Bloemfontein — is an example.

Mangaung Civic Association (MCA) secretary Sekhopi Malebo states unambiguously: "When we put up these informal areas we do it consciously as part of the repossession of the land."

But this hasn't prevented the Orange Free State provincial authority from liaising with the MCA to improve the physical plan of Freedom Square and grade the roads. Nor has it deterred the province from facilitating a transfer of the land to the local authority so the settlement can become permanent.

This pattern is being repeated throughout the Orange Free State where official estimates of the number of shacks run to 27 000 units spread over 20 towns. It has not eliminated the contest over land but it has helped manage it.

●To PAGE 3



Under the pylons ... A girl stands destitute after her family's shack was razed in Phola Park, Thokoza, in the Transvaal

Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

Squatting fees go to ANC - claim

Sowetan 13/8/90

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SQUATTERS at Lesilo Park camp in Thabong, Welkom, claim the local crisis committee demands that they pay R26,50 for ANC membership to qualify for stands on which they can build shacks.

The squatter camp which was started last month by the Lesilo Park Crisis Committee accommodates about 1 500 squatters.

Mr Fannie Skwere, a

By KENOSI MODISANE

spokesman of Kenalematla Advice Centre accused the committee of charging residents an "exorbitant R80 for the provision of water and toilets".

However, a Thabong Advice Office spokesman, Mr Vuyani Jabuza, denied the claims.

"It has never been our policy to force people to join the ANC. Those residents who joined did so

voluntarily," said Jabuza.

He said the R80 fee was agreed upon by the residents for the hiring of portable toilets. The fee covers the first two months and is payable when a resident is given a stand for a shack.

The fee is later reduced to R40 which is for the maintenance of the toilets.

Claims

Jabuza however acknowledged claims of a man collecting money for ANC membership. He said the advice centre had delegated a commission of inquiry to investigate.

Mrs Lydia Mafisa, a camp resident, said she was forced to pay the money by a man only known as Kholekile.

She said she was told that R2,50 was for a membership card, R2 for joining fee, R10 for a video film on the plight of the squatters at the camp and R10 for officials travelling between Welkom and Johannesburg.

Regarding the video fee, Jabuza said residents engaged the services of a private firm to film a video of the area.

"It was used to expose the 'bad conditions' under which people are living while the council is in charge of the area".

Mr Freddy Vanga, regional co-ordinator of the ANC in Thabong dismissed the allegations as "petty issues which are only meant to discredit our movement."

He said: "It is quite obvious that Kenalematla is a BCM initiative and we call upon the movement to discuss such issues with us before running to the newspapers". BCM regional co-ordinator in the area, Jethro Dlalisa could not be reached for comment yesterday.

contaminating Freedom Square's water supply.

The Freedom Square branch of the South African National Civic Organisation says the sewerage problems started in about June. "Now the sewerage system is blocking almost every day," says SANCO vice-chairman Bohosi Metsing. He and others insist that the job was not done properly.

Says SANCO's Tello Lebesa: "They say we are throwing newspaper, cloth and tins down the toilets. But the pipes are too small."

Says Metsing: "I was born here in Bloemfontein and have never seen such a mess. You never see such blockages in the white suburbs."

Volume

Thomas Stewart of the New Housing Company (NEWHCO), which manages the project on behalf of the Upgrade Community Trust — set up in 1990 to improve the area — believes the project is sound.

"Most blockages are in the first phase and due mainly to a construction defect. That has been rectified."

He points out that the volume of water running down the sewer lines is much less than expected.

But the most significant blockages might not be in the pipes.

Ian Palmer, manager of the Independent Development Trust capital subsidy scheme, which funded the project, says: "The technical things can usually be solved."

His Cape Town-based development firm has done a nationwide study of urban sanitation. "Ninety percent of other areas have the same

under political pressure for quick delivery.

"The key problem is the lack of proper local authority support," says Palmer. While Bloemfontein's city council is mostly responsible for maintaining the Freedom Square sewerage system, Stewart says "the situation reflects the transitional vacuum we are in. We don't have a legal agreement."

SIMILAR problems are likely to crop up elsewhere as development work is done under political pressure for quick delivery, writes Chief Reporter JOHN PERLMAN.

"That's the weak link. It's a problem larger than the project."

Initiatives are under way to set up "maintenance teams" to work with the council, but relations are strained over a familiar issue — non payment of water bills.

"The council says 'you pay, we'll deliver' and the residents say 'you deliver, we'll pay'."

Palmer believes "proper local authority arrangements" under the new constitution will help. "But development will still have to involve communities at levels below the local authority."

Community involvement is the key word in development these days. And Freedom Square, de-

ment it says is not appropriate. Says Metsing: "If people here can't afford to buy a loaf of bread, can they buy a roll of toilet paper? The people were never asked before these toilets were built. We would have opted for houses."

Trust chairman James Mentor says that was not what they said at the time. "We accepted this sewerage system on their recommendation. It was healthier and the people wanted it. It is too late to go back to pit latrines."

Insistence

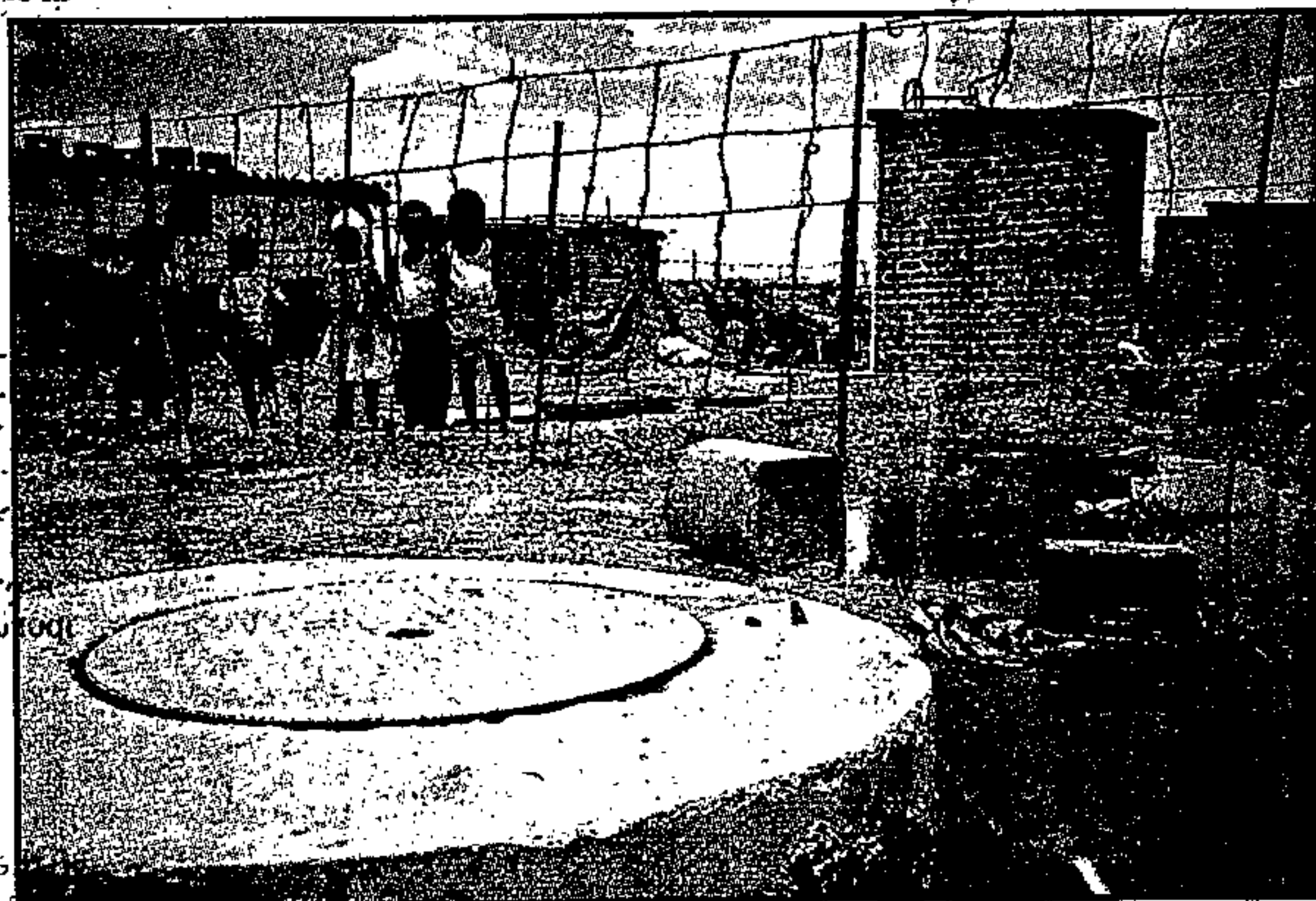
A 1990 survey found that 85 percent of residents listed "no services" as their chief problem; 1 percent mentioned housing.

Complicating all this is the insistence of Freedom Square residents on the trust that they be paid for the work they have put into the project.

Metsing and others resent the fact that one trust member, Johannes Wessels, is NEWHCO's chief executive officer.

"It's not an ideal way to structure it," concedes Stewart. "It doesn't create a good picture." But he believes that the Freedom Square trustees should be paid only with the consent of the community, as the remuneration would be from community funds.

Metsing's criticism that Stewart and Wessels "wear too many hats" is not without irony. At the start of the project, Freedom Square builders were subcontracted to do some of the work. Neither of the two residents appointed to manage this full-time — Metsing and the chairman of the civic association — was a builder.



UNHEALTHY GAMES: Children in Freedom Square look on as leaking sewage takes over the backyards where they play. ● Photograph: JOHN PERLMAN

End of consumer boycott

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Soweto 9/11/90

THE six-week-old black consumer boycott in Bloemfontein ended yesterday morning after an agreement was signed and a forum established on Wednesday night to negotiate on further problems of mutual concern.

Terms of the agreement are that the Bloemfontein City Council will supply water at the squatter areas in Manguang and will test electricity meters that are said to be faulty.

Problems

A technical committee will be formed to investigate the problems with water and electricity and will advise on the fairness of the electricity tariff of

R10 fixed charge and 8,3c a kilowatt hour - the standard charge for electricity supplied by the council.

Bloemfontein Mayor Mr Henri Lerm said yesterday what had been achieved was that through negotiations problems had been ironed out.

"If we want a better Bloemfontein we will have to work for it. The new South Africa will need a lot of goodwill and understanding.

"We have made friends. When you start talking and negotiating you come to the understanding and realisation of the needs of other peoples and sectors," he said. - Sapa.

Mogopa land dispute

THE postponed appeal on the Mogopa land dispute has been removed from the roll of the Appeal Court

in Bloemfontein for November 20.

The appeal was postponed by the court on August 24 this year to allow the parties to negotiate a possible settlement.

It is understood that the negotiations are progressing well, but that no settlement has so far been reached.

The appeal is against the confirmation of a "rule nisi" of February

taken off roll

24, 1989, whereby all members of the Bakwena ba Mogopa tribe - except those with written permission from the Minister of Education and Development Aid - had to vacate the farm Zwartand and remove all residential structures.

Mr Justice W J van der Merwe, in the Transvaal Supreme Court on May 2, 1989, ordered that, if the members of the tribe did

not comply with the order within seven days of its issue, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs and the Minister of Education and Development Aid were authorised to have the people and structures removed.

The Commander of the S.A. Police at Ventersdorp was authorised, with members of the SAP, to assist.

When the appeal of Mr

Daniel Molefe, of Zwartand, and Mr Matheu Mphse, of Mimosa section of the Onderstepoort Group Farms, who is chairman of the Mogopa committee, was called on August 24 Acting Chief Justice Mr Justice Joubert raised the question of a possible settlement.

After several hours of negotiation about a possible settlement, the

parties agreed to a postponement of the appeal to allow them to negotiate.

The appeal was postponed "sine die", with November 20 being suggested as a possible date for the appeal to continue if negotiations were unsuccessful.

The appeal has now been removed from the roll to allow more time for the negotiations.

The Mogopa tribe was moved from Zwartand in 1983. The farm was later expropriated by the Government.

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24/10/90

Squatters deny they looted white farms

By Shareen Singh
and John Miller

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Orange Farm squatters yesterday denied any involvement in a concerted looting campaign against white farmers.

Several squatters interviewed by The Star said white farms were far from their shacks.

White farmers this week alleged that their houses were being stripped by the Orange Farm squatters.

"How do they know that the squatters who are looting their farms are from here? There are other squatter settlements in the area," said Godfrey Vilakazi, who has been a squatter at

Orange Farm, near Vereeniging, for more than a year.

All the squatters interviewed had been unemployed for between six months and 2½ years.

● A man was arrested yesterday and two firearms and ammunition recovered when police noticed three men sitting under a tree in the Orange Farm district.

A police spokesman said that at about 2 pm yesterday, the men were spotted under a tree next to the road.

When they were approached, two fled into the nearby bush and the third was arrested.

The arrest follows several alleged looting incidents in the area.

SQUATTERS — OFS
1991-1993

PEOPLE'S LIVES 500 children crammed into two classrooms and four old buses

TPA is blocking kids' education

By Staff Reporter

M

ORE than 500 children living in a squatter camp at Wieler's Farm near Grasmere are crammed into two classrooms and four old buses for a school with unqualified teachers.

Despite the obvious need for a school, the children's desire to learn and the Wieler's Farm community's determination to educate their children, the school, called Rutasechaba (teach the nation), receives no support from the Government. It is not that there are no funders that are willing to support the school. It is just that an enormous amount of Transvaal Provincial Administration red tape prevents the school from having access to funding, said community worker Father Emmanuel Lafont.

Lafont and the Wieler's Farm community have been battling, without success, to get the school registered.

It cannot be registered unless the TPA grants it permission, even temporarily, to exist. Without registration it will not receive the funding from the Department of Education and Training necessary for running costs and teachers' salaries.

■ **RED TAPE** Squatter camp school

Sowetan 7/12/95

denied access to funding:



The community has been battling to get the school registered without success

Lafont showed *Sowetan* the impassioned letter he wrote to the TPA's MEC, Mr John Mavuso, pleading that the school be permitted to exist.

Wieler's Farm is an informal settlement that is not recognised by the TPA and therefore it does not enjoy the support and infrastructure that an official settlement would.

"I appeal to you today, as I do to the State President ... there we are, with a community deprived by all standards and still wishing their children the little bit that can be done, and the red tape of the old fashioned administration is on their way. We know that eventually a decision can be taken," said Lafont in the letter to Mavuso.

The Wieler's Farm community had

already given an undertaking that they would publicly acknowledge, if the TPA were to permit the school to exist, that it would not be construed as a guarantee that the camp was a recognised and legal settlement.

Since the agreement in February, however, further contact with TPA officials in Pretoria have not helped the Wieler's Farm community to run their school.

The school was founded in 1988 and then consisted of a large tin shack. Members of the community volunteered as teachers although they had no proper qualifications. Then, two years ago Lafont and a local doctor in the area raised funds and built two brick and mortar classrooms amid threats from the TPA to destroy them.

The school had four teachers last year, three of whom left early this year because there were no funds to pay their salaries. This month the principal, and ten volunteer teachers had between themselves R5 000 to share as salaries, raised from funders by Lafont.



UNCOMFORTABLE TRIP TO EDUCATION ... Pupils at Rutasechaba School at Wieler's Farm cram into a disused bus.

TPA in plea for Sowetan 7/12/93 services

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has appealed to Orange Farm protesters to allow the reopening of administration offices and the resumption of vital day-to-day community services.

Mr Jeff Wilkins of the TPA Witwatersrand regional office said yesterday the complex's reopening had been made impossible by ongoing protests following a sit-in by the Palestine Civics Association from November 22 to 26.

Identity documents

Essential services — including the maintenance of water and sanitation, pensions payouts, registration of the unemployed and assistance with obtaining identity documents — could not be rendered to the 165 000 residents of Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg.

The TPA said it had made numerous attempts to solve the impasse but the civic leadership had avoided negotiations and resolved to continue with sit-in action. — *Sapa*.

1 200 squatters resettled
BLOEMFONTEIN. — More than 1 200 squatters
at Qibing, near Wepener in the Free State, have
been resettled in a new residential area, Kan-
ana, in the past three weeks.

ET 5/10/93

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Bid to persuade squatters to move

By S. M. 11/93

TALKS between Randfontein Estates Gold Mine and Bekkersdal squatter representatives continued last night as the mine explained that unless the squatters relocated to an adjoining piece of land, their lives were threatened by the risk of sinkholes.

A sinkhole 30m wide and 40m deep 2km away from the endangered squatter site, situated on mine property, illustrated the danger. The squatters have refused to move and five months of negotiations have not ended the impasse.

The mine had threatened to relocate the squatters' 450 dwellings from today, but talks were resumed yesterday after a last minute intervention by the ANC PWV office.

ANC spokesman Stephen Eck said he was confident his organisation could convince the community of the need to relocate.

Eck said that each time the mine and the community had come close to an agreement, the move had been stalled by squatters demanding items unrelated to the

KATHRYN STRACHAN

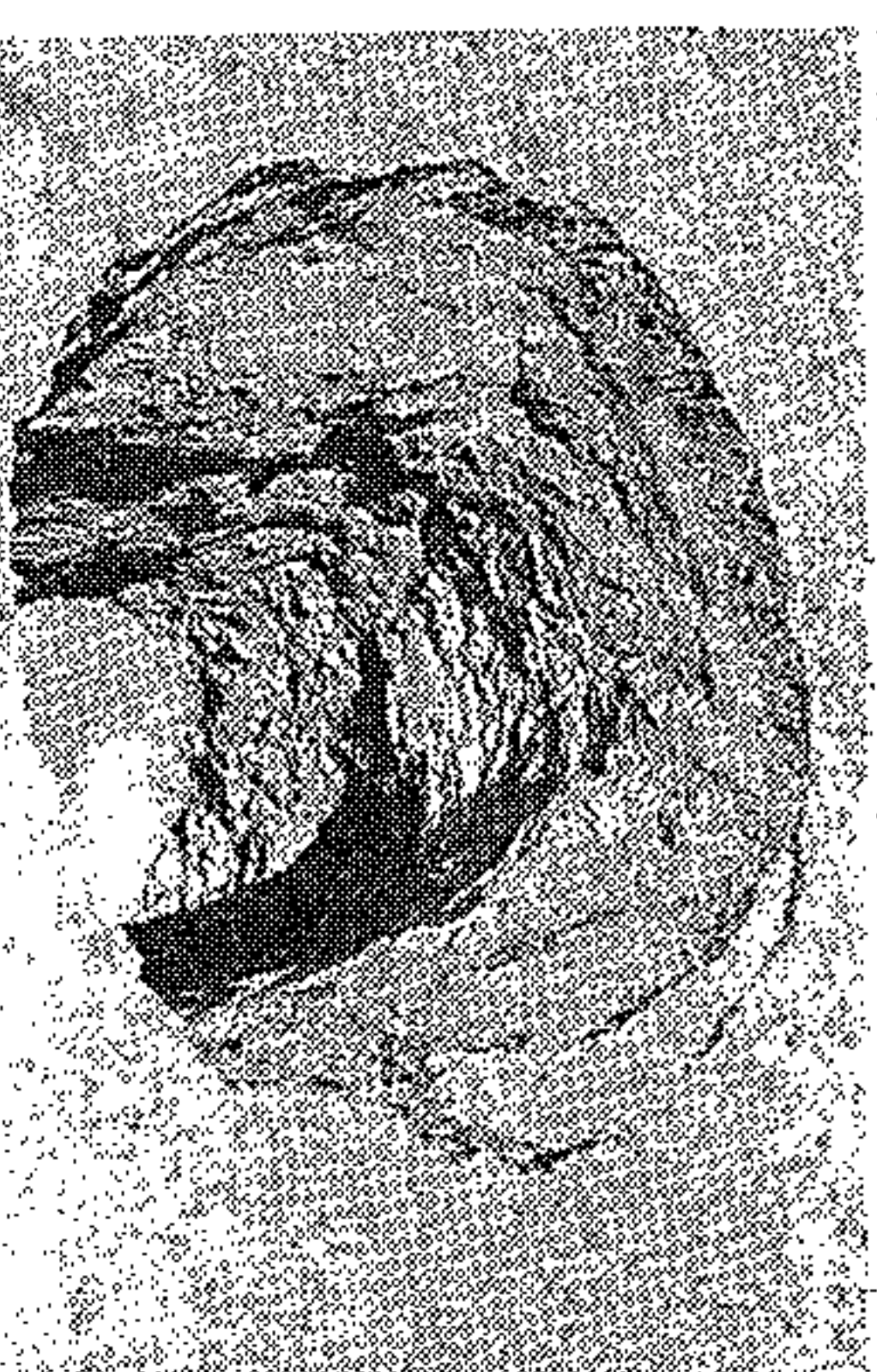
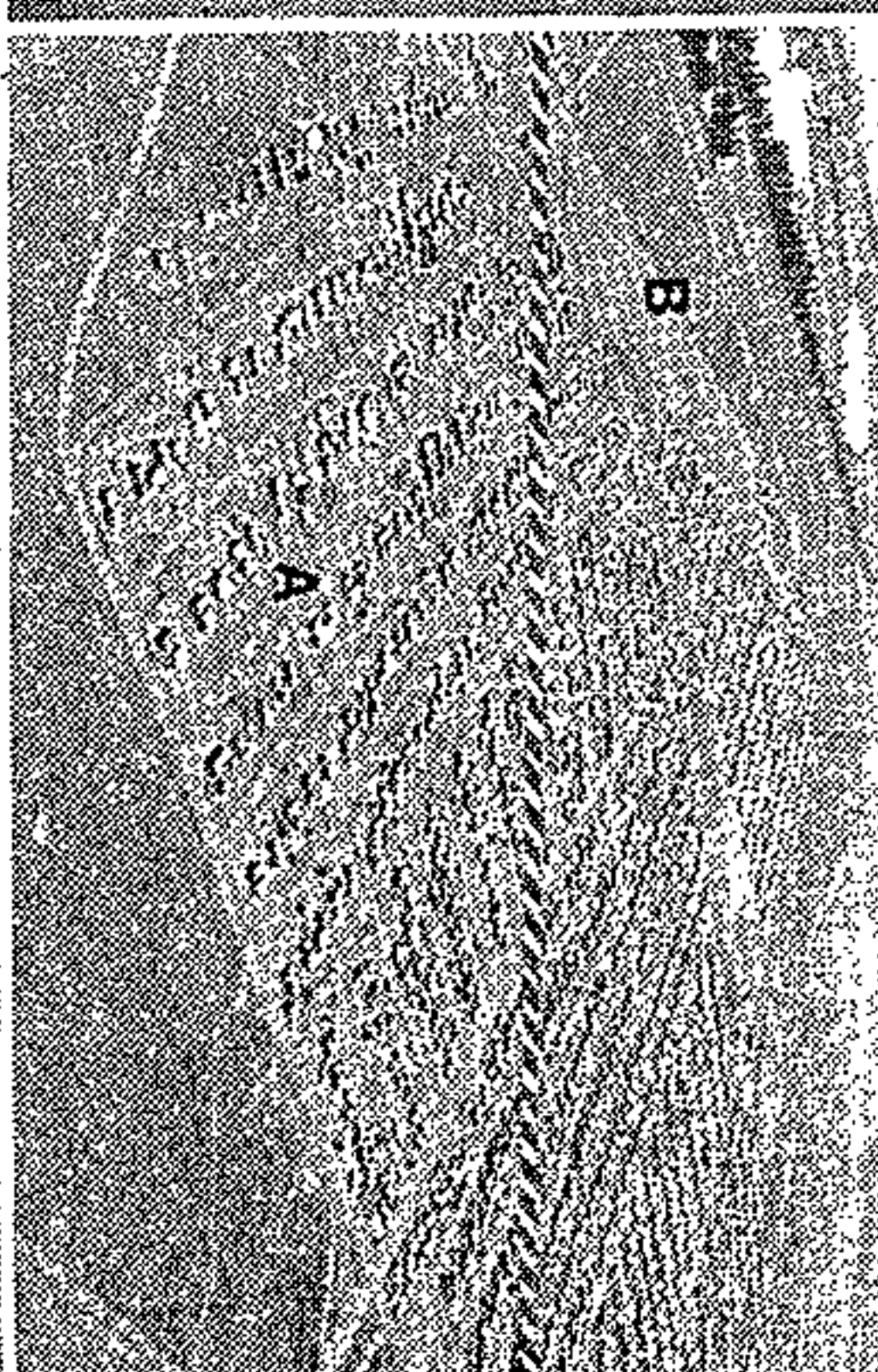
move. The residents had resisted because they did not understand the danger.

The mine has undertaken to pay the costs of moving and to provide materials for rebuilding.

Randfontein geologist Clive Parsons explained yesterday the hazards facing the community. An underground natural rock formation cut across the settlement. While the section north of the formation was relatively free from the threat of sinkholes, the area south was highly susceptible because of a "dewatering process".

The process, necessary to prepare the ground for mining, created underground voids which resulted in sinkholes. The incidence of sinkholes had increased as underground water levels had been reduced.

The mine had declared the area unsafe before the shacks were erected. The high density of residents on the land and water leaking into the ground had increased the risk.



Randfontein Estates Gold Mine geologist Clive Parsons, top, tells a news briefing, held in Johannesburg yesterday, of the danger of sinkholes facing the Bekkersdal squatter camp near Randfontein. The mine is attempting to relocate residents in section A to sites in section B. Bekkersdal administrator Gert Steyn, bottom, outlines the threat, illustrated by a 40m-deep sinkhole 2km from the settlement.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Help for flooded squatters 209

NORTHERN Orange Free State civil defence units and the local Red Cross branch have stepped in to render aid to flood stricken squatters at Phomolong township near Hennenman.

About 160 families living in two squatter areas in Phomolong lost their possessions in the flood and a soup kitchen has been set up to provide basic food for the victims, Sethuya said.

Sethuya 11/11/92

Drought, then hell and high water

CP/197
15/11/92

By JETHRO SEREISHO



Families destitute after the big flood

THE people of Phomolong township in the Free State survived the drought with difficulty, and prayed night and day for rain.

This week the rain came and didn't stop until most of their homes were destroyed.

Now 89 families will have to start again from scratch as their homes and most of their possessions were washed away.

Ironically, Phomolong means resting place, but there is not going to be any rest for a long while.

"I came here five years ago hoping for peace and tranquility," said pensioner Mirriam Dikole, 76, whose shack was built three months ago, "but all I have had is the worst-ever drought and now this flood."

She spoke to City Press while her four children and three grandchildren tried desperately to salvage materials for another shack for her.

There is still no electricity in some parts of the township and the schools, taken over by refugees, have only just opened their doors to pupils again.

Most of them are matric pupils, and those at Bahale Senior Secondary had to abandon their studies because of the natural disaster. They also had to help their parents who were trying to get their lives back to normal.

Teacher Sekhotse Rampai said: "I hope my pupils can overcome this trying stage in their lives."

Secretary of the South African National Civic Organisation's Phomolong branch, Theo Masemola, said he and the executive committee were busy organising food from the Red Cross and Operation Hunger and were also trying to get medical aid and accommodation for the homeless.

The ANC and the Phomolong Welfare Association are also lending a helping hand. The police and the Red Cross have donated 40 tents.

But more help is needed, and rescue organisations are hoping for donations in cash and kind.



IT NEVER RAINS, IT POURS... The people of Phomolong prayed so hard for rain it came down in a flood, washing away the homes of 89 families who are now refugees. ■ PLOI ANDRIES MCINENKA

Star 11/2/93

Pre-school squatter projects inject hope

By Paula Fray

The impish squeals of children playing in a community-created pre-school are a hopeful sound in the otherwise bleak, poverty-stricken Free State squatter settlement of Tholanel.

Tholanel mushroomed alongside the farming town of Viljoenskroon during the country-wide exodus of labourers from drought-stricken farms last year.

"The drought has been devastating," says educationist Jane Evans. "A lot of people in the squatter camps are from the farms ... unemployment is high."

Tholanel squatter community has virtually no money or facilities.

They are largely reliant on Operation Hunger, the local churches and the Government's drought relief programme.

According to Operation Hunger deputy director Mpho Mashinini, South Africa faces disaster unless something is done about starvation levels.

The group already feeds 2,2 million people, with a further 750 000 waiting for help. Field workers also report widespread crop failure caused by the drought, meaning more people will become dependent on food assistance to survive. Although some areas had early rains, the subsequent heat has withered many crops.

There are already 1 200 homes in Tholanel.

Nearby, is the Ntataise project; it has trained almost 2 000 rural women to run stimulating pre-schools on about 300 farms since 1981. Ntataise, meaning "to lead a young child by the hand", was the first project aimed at farm children.

Evans, Ntataise executive director, estimates about 20 000 rural children now receive early stimulation through the

project.

This is reflected in the improved social and emotional skills displayed by the children.

"There are a lot of differences from the old days. They know their names, their homes ... they are not shy," says trainer Rebecca Sothoane.

The project has imprinted its influence on rural communities and even Tholanel has women who were trained at Ntataise.

"There are 500 children in this camp," explains trainer Lydia Motsoeneng who was employed by Ntataise to assist the three pre-schools set up after the community approached the project for help.

"It has been very much a project of the community," says Evans, adding that it was the first time Ntataise has moved into a squatter community.

According to trainee teacher Lydia Khiba there is only one major employer — at which there was a strike — and "people here have no money".

"But parents pay R5 a month. And they built the shelters and give food."

One of the shelters is a wood and canvas structure which is open around the sides; the second is an open zinc structure; the third a church's premises.

Old brightly painted tyres mark off the community-built creches to which parents bring their toddlers in the morning and their four- to six-year-olds in the afternoon. A new goal is to set up more permanent structures before winter.

Squatter houses

ALTOGETHER 352 629 squatter houses were built over the past three years, the Minister of National Housing, Mr. Sam de Beer, said in Parliament yesterday.

More than two million people had moved into these houses from 1990 to 1992.

(309) 13/12/93

Better deal for Durban's 'Block AK' squatters

C Press 30/5/98

308

By FRED KHUMALO

FOR years they lived like hunted animals, attacked by white rightwingers and despised by some Durban city councillors for being "pests and parasites" who gave the city a dirty image.

But the trials and tribulations of hundreds of people squatting on a small patch of land called Block AK near Umgeni Road could soon be over following a decision by the council management committee (Manco) to build a complex for the squatters - at a cost of R3-million.

Justifying why it was important that the council spend this amount of money resettling the squatters, the committee said customers from rural areas spent R120-million in the city each year and it was only logical that the Block AK squatters - many of whom are traders - be provided with proper facilities and accommodation.

The setting up of this complex could give a boost to the earnings made by the city from rural people, said Manco.

The squatters, who come from as far afield as Transkei, sleep and ply their trade under unhygienic conditions in the overcrowded squatter settlement.

The new complex, to be completed in eight months, will provide them with accommodation and basic facilities they need for carrying out their business.

Said Manco chairman Peter Mansfield: "A study group looked at the situation and have come up with an innovative plan which will serve these customers, traders and all other people connected with them."

The squatters' shacks border on the

pristine Greyville race course on the one side and modern office blocks on the other.

The squatters are to be resettled on a patch of land on Mansell Road, between the railway line and Umgeni Road, near Old Fort Road.

The decision was arrived at after months of debate, with conservative councillors calling for the complete removal of the squatters from the city.

But a strong liberal lobby within the city council succeeded in its campaign to have the squatters resettled elsewhere in the city where they could continue plying their different trades.

Many of the squatters peddle huge plastic barrels, cushions, second-hand clothes, cakes, juices, cosmetics, detergents and vegetables.

Meanwhile, the city council has come out strongly against the unhygienic conditions at yet another squatter settlement a stone's throw from the Durban CBD on Brook Street.

A recent municipal report said the approximately 70 families squatting would be removed with immediate effect if they didn't clean up.

The 70 families who live in shacks made of planks rely on one tap and use three portable toilets.

The area is constantly awash with dirty water mixed with litter from overflowing rubbish bins. The squatters blame the squalor on the shortage of rubbish bins.

Known as Ekuhlophekeni (Place of suffering), the squatter camp has been in existence for three years. Many of the inhabitants are refugees fleeing violence in such areas as Umbumbulu, Inanda and Umlazi.

Farmer fury at rural crimewave

STAR 24/12/91
● From Page 1

sole survivor in the latest of a spate of attacks on farmers.

She saw her family shot dead one by one and saved her own life by pretending to be dead. When the murderers left in her grandfather's car, she ran 3 km to neighbours.

The slaughter took place on the Grootstry farm of Willie Engelbrecht at Verkeerdelei near Bloemfontein.

Free State police spokesman Captain Hannes Wentzel said Mr Engelbrecht (70) and his wife Bettie (69) had just returned from Boshoff with their daughter Lena Smit (40) and her children Lizelle and Michelle (11), whom they

had fetched for Christmas when they found a man armed with a .22 pistol in the main bedroom.

He shot Mr Engelbrecht and forced the others into a wardrobe.

"The man then pulled Mrs Engelbrecht from the wardrobe and shot her dead. He did the same to Mrs Smit and Michelle," he said.

Lizelle was shot while she cowered in the wardrobe. Wounded in the head, she faked death. Once they had gone, Lizelle ran to a neighbour's house.

Five hours later, police found the car in Bloemfontein and arrested a man. He appeared in court yesterday. Police are still searching for three men in connection with the attack.

● On Saturday morning an armed robber assaulted and robbed an elderly couple on a farm in the Harrismith district.

Police said Samuel du Plessis (87) and his wife Susanna Magdalena Martha (85) were at home on their farm Mareesgeluk when the robber broke in at about 10 am. He beat up Mr and Mrs du Plessis up and took pistols, rifles and about R1 500 in cash.

● On Sunday night robbers entered a bedroom on the farm Dundee, Bultfontein district.

Police said Willem Jacobus Britz (55) and his wife were assaulted and bound, while the robbers made off with handguns, furniture, a vehicle and about R5 000 in cash.

GONIVE PARK has a short but turbulent history. In an area controlled by the Conservative Party, everything this small squatter community has is a product of tireless resistance to apartheid rule.

In early 1990 residents of Mosko hostels and Nuwedorp formed an Advice Office which approached the Villiersdorp municipality for land.

They asked for a place where hostel dwellers could be united with their families without fear of harassment, a place where the homeless could erect shacks instead of illegally sleeping on white farmers' land.

The municipality promised the land and asked for a list of people who would be using it. The Advice Office supplied the list — and all those on it were promptly arrested by local police.

The Advice Office then transformed itself into an interim civic that would unite people in fighting for this demand. It also dealt with a developing rent crisis in Nuwedorp.

In September 1990 it organised the setting up of a squatter settlement on unused land, in defiance of the municipality.

On the same day, police broke down all the shacks, confiscated the building material and re-arrested all those responsible.

By December a civic association had been launched and all members of the local management committee had resigned after a vote of no-confidence had been passed at a public meeting.

An embattled community

South 16/11 - 22/11/92.

(309)



STANDING FIRM: Goniwe Park residents who make up half of the Villiersdorp civic committee

On December 1, the civic organised a march where they handed a letter to the municipality demanding land. The municipality did not budge.

On February 3, 1991, a prayer meeting was called. Over 300 emotionally charged people decided to occupy the municipal offices until their demand was met.

It was not. The municipality did, however, hand back the materials the police had confiscated.

Armed with these materials and surrounded by police, the people walked to where Goniwe Park is today and started to rebuild their shacks.

The civic organised the building of

10 shacks at a time. After each batch was built, the police would break them down and arrest those responsible. This continued for two days.

Later that week the civic threatened to launch a consumer boycott of Villiersdorp and hold another march.

The municipality promptly sent the

where he was asked to speak to the municipality about the civic's demand.

Jansen refused to accompany the station commander and sent him back, saying a meeting should be called the following week between the entire civic committee and the municipality.

AT THIS meeting, the municipality agreed to recognise Goniwe Park if the civic called off the consumer boycott and the march. This was agreed to.

It was declared an emergency camp and had a list of conditions that had to be met. Among the municipality's demands were:

- A rent of R38.
- A surrounding fence to be erected.
- Selling of alcohol to be prohibited.

● An agreement made limiting the amount of people who live there.

- No dogs or pets allowed.
- Criminals to be evicted.

The civic rejected all these conditions and decided that people would pay R10 a month rent.

After four months the municipality stopped installing toilets and other services, including electricity and refuse collection.

On November 23, over 400 people marched through Villiersdorp demanding better treatment.

Negotiations between the municipality and the civic are continuing.

Squatter town is recognised

South 16/11-22/1/92

African women in Villiersdorp will no longer have to spend their nights sleeping in bushes evading police hostel raids.

QUENTIN WILSON reports that they are now free to live with their husbands in the newly recognised squatter community of Goniwe Park.

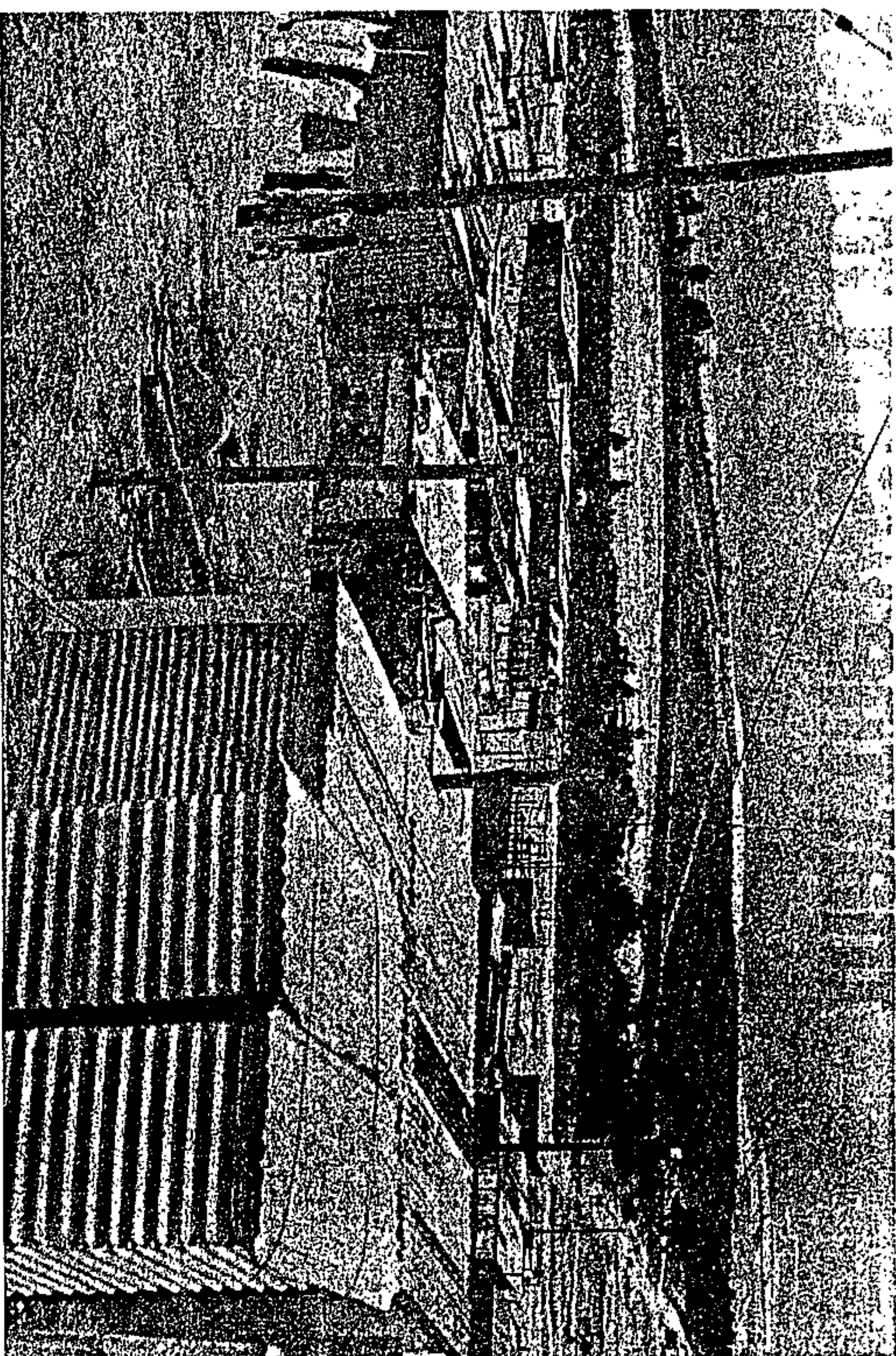
N DECEMBER African residents of the Boland town of Villiersdorp reaped the benefits of a lengthy, bitter struggle when they celebrated the opening of Goniwe Park. African squatters, under the leadership of their civic association, forced the Villiersdorp municipality to recognise them after months of marches, sit-ins, pickets, negotiations, boycott threats and acts of defiance.

Previously, the municipality insisted that employed African men lived in compounds while wives, children and unemployed workers were forced to leave after regular police raids.

The compound system ensured residents were divided along racial lines.

In a day of festivities started by recently returned exile Mr Ben Baartman, the 150 squating families chose to honour slain Cradock civic leader, Mathew Goniwe, by adopting his name for their community.

For the more than 400 residents of Goniwe Park, the celebrations were more of a recommitment to improve their difficult living conditions than to pat themselves on the back.



GONIWE PARK: 200 shacks in the background of Villiersdorp

PICS: QUENTIN WILSON

Resident Mrs Margaret Vers said: "It was great, but there are still many problems to be sorted out — only two of the four streets have toilets and the water runs very slowly from the taps."

Mr Thomas Jansen, Villiersdorp Civic Association spokesperson, said: "We, the residents of Goniwe Park, feel very confident about the future."

"More and more people are being organised — even in the surrounding farms, the ANC has returned about

200 farmworkers. From Villiersdorp itself, the ANC has a branch of 530 signed-up members."

It has been a tough struggle in a town controlled by the Conservative Party — and there is no sign that it will ever be plain sailing as the white townspeople are still intent on driving wedges between coloured and African residents.

According to Jansen, 37 Africans were fired from work after last year's VAT slayaway even though Cosatu's

call was heeded by everyone.

He also claimed that certain churches, particularly the NG Sendingkerk, attempted to consolidate a coloured-only following and often prayed against the "evils" of the Villiersdorp civic and the ANC.

Repression is still rife, with gun-toting AWP members harassing local residents who have also had to bear the brunt of heavy-handed police action on many occasions.

In November, when 500 people

marched through Villiersdorp demanding houses, toilets, sports facilities and a town hall, 49 were arrested. Jansen, who was among them, has also received threatening telephone calls.

● On Monday, the ANC chairperson of Villiersdorp, Mr Thomas Jansen, was detained by local police. About 10 policemen surrounded Jansen's house and took him and his four children to separate cells. The children's ages range from three to 13.

this will be part of De Ramodike.

Nyakallong gets houses

Sowetan 30/1/92

309

ABOUT 250 new houses will be built in Nyakallong, Allanridge in the Free State to ease the housing backlog in the area.

This follows months of negotiations between the civic association and the local administration.

The civic's spokesman, Mr Wilson Cele, said they had approached the local administration after receiving complaints about lack of shelter from the community.

Both parties agreed that a farm be bought in Allan-

By GRACE RAPHOLO

ridge, where four-roomed houses would be built for residents of Nyakallong.

Cele said surveyors began working on the land early this week and sewerage pipes had already been installed.

He pleaded with the community to pay their service charges so that the township could be developed. The charges would be increased from R20 to R30 with effect from February 1.

A fruitless search for work in the city of hope

Star 17/2/92

Some who have fled the land are so desperate they scavenge in the towns, reports PAULA FRAY.

MADAKANE Mtshawe spent his entire life — 74 years — on the Free State farmlands until six months ago when the searing drought began to hit hard and, like thousands of others, he made his way to the nearest town in search of work.

The years etched deeply into his expressive face, the former farm labourer remembers his working years in the fields that feed thousands of South Africans with pride and mixed feelings on his journey to Hoopstad — a city of hope for those suffering on the farms; a city of disillusionment for those who made it there.

"I was born and grew up on a farm," says Mr Mtshawe, brandishing an ID book showing he was born in 1918. The only life he knows is farming

... and most recently a struggle for survival on a Free State farm.

He recalls "Hitler's war" when he had only three sons and work was plentiful. Farming, he says, always went in cycles, but it has never been so bad.

Now, penniless, he has no possessions left to sell to feed his grandchildren. Of his nine children, only one son is with him in the burgeoning squatter camp outside Hoopstad.

Six months ago he began to feel the drought's effects.

"I had 25 cattle — four of them milking cows. Because of the drought the whole place was bare. There was

no place for us ... no food for the cattle."

After a brief spell as a gardener, he moved to Hoopstad when all his cattle were sold.

"When I left the farm I thought I would get a better life. But it's more difficult here? There are no jobs. My children are not working and I can't afford to send my grandchildren to school.

"I see no chance of moving back to the farm now ... it's even bad for the white man. But I can't even find work here and the pension money is too little.

"I get mealie meal from Operation Hunger. I used to have milking cows ... now

the children don't even get milk, just pap."

Last week he waited with hundreds of other elderly people at Tlkwani — a township outside Hoopstad — to receive his weekly allocation of food from Operation Hunger field workers.

Nearby, children waited for their daily cup of soup.

According to Operation Hunger Field Co-ordinator Anthony Mfola, Tlkwani has a growing population of about 20 000. Most started moving in from the farming areas as early as October last year.

The majority end up with no jobs, and eventually without hope. Each week day the organisation distributes food to about 1 000 people — soup for the children and family rations for those on the operation's books.

A sewing and knitting project has also been started to make the community less dependent on aid — but even this is hampered by the economic situation as few people can afford to buy anything other than food. And, while Operation Hunger has encouraged the growth of vegetable gardens, even these have wilted in the heat.

The situation is desperate. At the local dump residents flock each Wednesday to forage for food after Hoopstad's rubbish has been dumped.

Surrounded by dusty roads and houses, Mr Mtshawe has no hope for a last-minute miracle for the Free State: "Last year there was a harvest. But this year the mealies got no water and they have died." □



No hope ... former labourer and cattle owner Madakane.

There is no place like Hell

309
w/m ad
5/14-11/4/91

The homeless from all over South Africa have come together for the first time to look for solutions to their common plight.

By WALLY MBHELE

JOSEPH THUNTSA lives in a section of Botshabelo called Die Hel — The Hell.

The name was given by police in 1985 trying to remove ad hoc squatters who had colonised an unused section of this huge township — which had been created anyway as a dumping ground for "surplus" farm workers and residents of "black spots".

When the squatters of Botshabelo resisted efforts to move them, annoyed policemen turned their backs and said: "Die plek is net 'n hel" (This place is just hell). The residents took up the word as the name for their settlement.

For Thuntsa (69), hell is a sort of paradise. Although he is unemployed, his wife's health is poor and the family must live on his R300 bi-monthly pension, he has a two-room matchbox built with Catholic Church donations — and shacks in the yard for his nine children, one a schoolteacher.

Thuntsa was one of the more than 150 delegates at a conference for the homeless organised by the Southern African Council for Catholic Social Service last week at the Alpha Training Centre in Broederstroom.

Delegates from homeless communities who came together for the first time shared tales of unemployment, disease, demolitions and violence, resistance to removals, court battles.

More than half the squatters in some communities are unemployed and prices for basic resources like food, paraffin, wood and candles are skyrocketing. Resources are scarce. Delegates noted a lack of infrastructure, an



Hundreds of thousands of South Africans don't have a place they can call home Photo: KEVIN CARTER

absence of cemeteries, churches, sports and recreation facilities.

The authorities turn a deaf ear to these problems because "we have illegally occupied that land", said Tom Scholtz, who delivered a paper on the struggle for resources.

Like all delegates at the conference, Thuntsa was clasping a blue file under his arm, with the logo "Land and affordable safe homes for all".

"I left Koffiefontein in 1982 after a struggle of nearly 20 years without decent shelter," he said. "I used to stay in a mud hut, under a very strict farmer."

"When I arrived with my family in Botshabelo in 1982, I had hopes that things would change for the better, I would find employment, but things

didn't go according to my dreams." For three years he struggled to secure a stable home. He was forced to split up the family. He was often evicted when his rent was overdue.

Finally, in 1985, he and hundreds of other homeless people erected shacks on a piece of open land in Botshabelo.

The squatters have managed to negotiate for toilets and water taps to be installed in Die Hel which, he says, "will become one of the biggest and nicest places to live in this country if the resolutions of this conference become real", he said.

The conference has declared that land is a right, not a privilege: a resolution states that "if needs be, we'll occupy whatever land is unoccupied".

Other resolutions call for stepped-up mass action to resist evictions and oppose the government's land reform strategy; to take to the community recommendations about ways of improving education and health.

There is plenty of room for improvement. In Kleinskool, there are only 10 water taps to supply more than 1 500 families, the conference was told. In some places, people have to travel more than 10km to fetch wood.

Among the worst off appear to be villagers from Mhokota in Gazankulu, who told the conference they are required to buy a permit from a local chief before being granted permission to chop wood for making fire.

"Life is very difficult there," said Charles Mahlawula. "Even the educated struggle to make a living."



CITY

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Argus 9/5/91



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

RELEASED: A well-wisher welcomes Mr David Moisi back to the mainland after he and two other long-serving prisoners, including Mr Mandela Shabangu, right, were freed from Robben Island. They had been on a hunger strike for seven days.

Three Island prisoners take first steps to freedom

By LINDA GALLOWAY
Staff Reporter

THREE long-serving prisoners took their first steps to freedom down the gangway of the Robben Island ferry, leaving behind 40 hunger-striking comrades.

Johannes Mandla Shabangu, 31, David Motshwane Moisi, 35, and Rufus Nzo, 32, told well-wishers at the dockside that their fellow-prisoners on the island, although debilitated by the strike, were standing firm in their resolve to continue refusing food until their release.

They said two, Aron Thabo Memela and Christmas Mofokeng, had collapsed and had been transferred to hospital.

Mr Moisi said it had been "excruciatingly painful" to leave their comrades behind.

"Our release is a stick-and-carrot policy on the part of the government to put the ANC on the defensive before the ultimatum deadline," he said.

Mr Shabangu read a statement from the hunger-strike committee on the island, reiterating their resolve to continue although "all of us are on the

brink of collapse".

"It is the only weapon we have and we will remain on hunger strike until we get to Cowley House (the Dependents' Conference halfway-way house for political prisoners in Woodstock)," he said.

Mr Shabangu, from Johannesburg and Mr Moisi, from Kroonstad, were sentenced to death for high treason in 1980 for attacks on the Booysens police station, a policeman's house and the West Rand Administration offices.

Mr Nzo, from Port Elizabeth, was serving a 20-year sentence for treason, terrorism, possession of arms, ammunition and explosives, attempted murder, fraud and exploding a bomb on the Swartkops railway line.

ANC spokesman in the Western Cape Mr Trevor Manuel drew attention to the inconsistencies of the government in releasing some prisoners and not others.

"There is no pattern. Some were released without applying for indemnity, others who applied have not been released. Some prisoners sentenced with others for the same offences have been released while their co-accused have not," he said.

THOUSANDS of black people who have lost their jobs on white farms in the Free State are living in abject poverty, while their children are being ravaged by malnutrition.

Several children have died of starvation in Daleside, Hoopstad, Steynsrus and Botshabelo.

The families have moved from white farms to nearby towns and are living in squalor in the most unhygienic conditions.

Hoopstad community worker Matso Mathibe wept after visiting several poverty-stricken families and listening to their pitiful stories.

In several of these areas residents are also suffering from poverty related diseases, which include mental illnesses and blindness.

They are all unemployed and while some have to make the most of their meagre monthly pensions, others have to scavenge to exist.

They have no proper furniture, clothes or blankets and sleep on the bare floor, even on icy cold nights.

Those who do have blankets have very few, but they are all worn and scanty.

An urgent appeal has been made to Operation Hunger to help them.

This week, *City Press* visited a shack settlement in "Phumasibethane" (come out let us fight one another), near Hoopstad in the Free State.

Green Tshawe is the head of a family of 14 adults and children which includes his daughter-in-law, children, grandchildren and nephews.

The family's only breadwinner is his nephew, Petrus Ngubeni, who earns R80 a week as a mechanic's assistant.

Two of the children, Aletta, 10-months, and Johannes, 2, are showing clear signs of undernourishment - potbellies, puffed cheeks and swollen feet.

The family has very little clothing and almost no blankets.

Tshawe's daughter-in-law, Elisa Jack said:

"The nights are very cold in the Free State, and we keep the children warm with our body heat."

Annie Jonata is a 70-year-old pensioner who has to fend for six other people - her daughter and five grandchildren.

Annie says that from her meagre pension of R175 a month she can only afford a bag of mealie-meal.

She cannot afford meat, as the rest of the money goes on her grandchildren's books, clothes and school fees.

"I can hardly afford to buy a bar of soap. When the bag of mealie-meal is finished we have nothing to live on.

"We sometimes go to bed with our stomachs empty.

"There are days when my daughter and her children have to dig into dirtbins at local factories for food," she

Little hope in Hoopstad



Blind pensioner Sinah Nkomo and her husband, Office, sit disconsolately among the squalor of the Phumasibethane settlement near Hoopstad. They say their children take their pensions, leaving them destitute. ■ PICS: EVANS

said.

Sinah Nkomo is a blind pensioner. She and her husband, Office, live alone and have nobody to wash or cook for them.

They both get a pension, but claim that as soon as they receive their money, their children come and take it from them, leaving them with absolutely nothing.

They depend on handouts from community worker Mathibe.

Mathibe told *City Press*:

"It is sad because many of the children in the area are undernourished and the chances are that they might die if nothing is done to save the situation.

"We have already buried several children. A recent case is of one baby who was buried about two weeks ago."



Camped out . . . the Basotho-ba-Herschel are desperate after seven years living in tents near Thaba'Nchu in the Free State.

■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

No home for wandering Basotho

By SOPHIE TEMA

23/6/91

AFTER 10 long years the Basotho-ba-Herschel are still searching in vain for a place they can call their home.

The small tribe of about 80 families live in a clutch of shabby tents near Thaba'Nchu in the Free State.

They exist on handouts from an aid organisation but are determined to fight to the end for their own corner of land.

The Basotho-ba-Herschel originated from Herschel near the south-western tip of Lesotho, which was incorporated into Transkei after its creation in 1976.

Because of their ethnic differences, the Basotho refused to become part of the Xhosa tribal homeland under Chief Kaizer Matanzima, and in 1982 decided to pack up

and quit the Transkei.

The Basotho-ba-Herschel were led by David Tseki, an articulate historian appointed in 1981 to lead his people to a place of their own.

Ten years later, the tribe still has no land of their own.

Tseki is terminally ill at Pelanomi Hospital near Bloemfontein and his people are still nomads. They are camped at Botshabelo, near Thaba'Nchu, where they are known as the "tent people".

Tseki's wife Gladys tells their story.

In Herschel the Basotho became an embarrassment to Matanzima and his government after they demanded that they be allowed to stay as an independent group within Transkei.

Matanzima refused and put pressure on

them which forced them to flee to the Free State.

Tseki was detained for seven months before he left and Gladys was placed under house arrest.

The first stop of their "Great Trek" was Zastron, where they lived for three months before moving on to QwaQwa — the tribal homeland of the Basotho.

At QwaQwa the tribespeople were told by the South African Government that they would be allocated land near Harrismith for resettlement.

Gladys showed City Press piles of correspondence between her husband and different government officials dealing with the Basotho-ba-Herschel.

"We were looking forward to finally being settled on land of our own," she said.

But when the land was allocated by the South African Government, the QwaQwa Government took it and incorporated it into its territory.

"We were then told by the QwaQwa Government that the South African Government had ordered that we be moved to Botshabelo, where we are still waiting, seven years later."

The tribe lives in uncertainty, their seven-year-old tents torn and dilapidated.

Operation Hunger feeds the Basotho-ba-Herschel and provides them with blankets, but there is still a cold winter ahead.

"The organisation has now supplied us with sheets of heavy plastic to cover the torn tents to help keep out the icy wind.

"But we still do not know what the future holds for us," Gladys said.

Families homeless

Many families have been left without accommodation and shelter in the informal Freedom Square development in Mangaung, outside Bloemfontein, after a nearby dam broke at the weekend. Shacks were destroyed by the force of water from the dam and residents battled in water and mud to rescue possessions. (309)

focus on Deneysville

Sowetan 22/11/93

SEMI-BLIND Mr Johannes Duduma Ngcosane (70) is one of about 450 people who squat in the Tshepiso camp in Refengkgotso near Deneysville in the Orange Free State.

He has not been so lucky.

From as far back as 1963 he lived on a farm in Sweetveldt near Vereeniging in terms of a labour tenancy agreement.

In terms of the agreement, he was required to provide labour in exchange for the right to live on the farm and keep cattle.

He lived there with his wife Matsedisio and 11 children. His relationship with the farmer lasted until October 7 last year, when he got 10 days notice to vacate the farm together with his family.

"My boss fired me because I was no longer of any service to him. I lost my eyesight during working hours," Ngcosane said in his shack.

"I was frustrated and had nowhere to stay with my family after I was forcibly evicted from the farm. I came to live in Tshepiso during January this year out of desperation."

He is one of the more than 450 labourers and pensioners who were evicted from farms by their white bosses after having served them for many years.

Ngcosane, and other labour tenants in a similar position, are forced to uproot themselves and eke out a living in distant homelands.

An article in *Land Update*, a publication of the National Land Committee, says: "After all it was the apartheid policy that prevented us from getting land and that was made easy for the white farmer to evict people."

It adds: "The number of tenant labourers evicted during the past year or two by farmers who fear their workers will make a claim of their small holdings under a new government has multiplied."

The Tshepiso squatter camp was established mostly by farm labourers and pensioners as a result of a shortage of homes in Refengkgotso.

The population of Refengkgotso is estimated to be more than 35 000 people and growing. There are only 7 500 homes, mostly shacks without a proper system of sanitation, electricity or street lights.

The streets are not tarred, there is no stormwater drainage and residents travel long distances to fetch water from an ablution block.

Tshepiso is established on land that was bought by the Sasolburg City Council from a white farmer, Mr William Scott, who has since moved to another farm.

There are three churches, two schools, one crèche and two shopping complexes, numerous spaza shops and two graveyards.

Most of the residents — about half the population — are unemployed while those who work travel distances to neighbouring farms near Sasolburg and the Vaal Triangle industrial centres. Unemployment has created many problems.

President of the local civic association Mr

Pensioned former farm workers are having a tough time making ends meet at the Refengkgotso squatter camp. Staff reporter **Joshua Rabaroko** visited the camp and spoke to some residents.

Most families are often forced to split because the head cannot find employment

Godfrey Kolokoto, said: "Most families are often forced to split because the head cannot find employment."

He added that those who work do so far away from their homes and normally came home over weekends.

Ngcosane said he was never so lucky after he became semi-blind while working on a farm near Vereeniging. "I struggled to get my pension money."

"I was evicted from the farm after my boss fired me. He did not need my services any longer because I was handicapped. I worked for him for 30 years."

Inconsiderate

"He was inconsiderate and never gave me time to look for alternative accommodation. I pleaded with him to allow me to stay for another three months so that my children should finish their schooling, but he refused."

"He told me he had healthy people who will work and stay in the house I occupied for 15 years."

The same sentiments were expressed by Mr Jan Motloun (73) who said that he worked as herdsman on a farm in Heilbron in the Orange Free State. He earned R25 a month.

Motloun suffered a stroke and was forced to leave the farm because "the white farmer told me he could not keep idle people on his plot".

I am forced to squat here because I cannot afford to buy a new house. I have no money and I am jobless.



"I needed a shelter for my 10 children," he said. "I came to Tshepiso after I was advised by relatives."

He added: "I am forced to squat here because I cannot afford to buy a new house. I have no money and I am jobless. I survive on a bi-monthly pension which I get from local authorities offices."

A father of six children, Mr Soldaat Mphuthi, said he worked on a farm in Frankfort for 26 years. He earned R20 a month and received a bag of mealie meal. His employer died last August.

He was evicted by the new employer, who was apparently scared that "I will demand smallholdings for having worked for my previous employer for generations."

The problems of this squatter camp and Refengkgotso are similar to those in other informal settlements, especially in the Pretoria Witwatersrand Vereeniging complexes.

The township attracted a lot of media coverage when residents marched from the local hall to the offices of the superintendent, where they presented a memorandum.

In the memorandum the residents demanded that electricity and sewerage be installed in their homes, the water supply increased and roads tarred.

However, there is a ray of light at the end of the tunnel after the Deneysville administrator Mrs Rosyl Jager announced that R3 million will be provided to upgrade the township.

Squatters fume over sewerage

Star 18/12/93

209

WHEN 150 000 poor people are jammed together in a shack settlement on the fringe of a major city and somebody puts up R30 million to put in a water-borne sewerage system, that's got to be good news, right?

Well, that's the way the script goes. But in Freedom Square, just such an area on the south-east side of Bloemfontein, a multi-million-rand sewerage system might be causing more problems than it has flushed away.

It blocks, belches and leaks, creating stinking green pools and rivulets, and fears that it might be contaminating Freedom Square's water supply.

The Freedom Square branch of the South African National Civic Organisation says the sewerage problems started in about June. "Now the sewerage system is blocking almost every day," says SANCO vice-chairman Bohosi Metsing. He and others insist that the job was not done properly.

Says SANCO's Tello Lebesa: "They say we are throwing newspaper, cloth and tins down the toilets. But the pipes are too small."

Says Metsing: "I was born here in Bloemfontein and have never seen such a mess. You never see such blockages in the white suburbs."

Volume

Thomas Stewart of the New Housing Company (NEWHCO), which manages the project on behalf of the Upgrade Communi-

'Blockages institutional - not in the pipes'

100 mm piping. I've no doubt that the main problems are institutional."

Those "institutional" problems give Freedom Square's rather local problems wider relevance. By all accounts they are not unique, and could well multiply as South Africa moves rapidly into a phase in which development work is done under political pressure for quick delivery.

"The key problem is the lack of proper local authority support," says Palmer. While Bloemfontein's city council is mostly responsible for maintaining the Freedom Square sewerage system, Stewart says "the situation reflects the transitional vacuum we are in. We don't have a legal agreement.

spite having plenty of this, gives some idea of just how thorny this seemingly simple concept can be.

For a start, both Stewart and the civic association agree that there was no information programme explaining how the sewerage system should be used. Metsing and others criticise the developers for this.

Stewart says: "We are still awaiting a formal poster to be distributed in the area. Other than that there have been regular efforts to involve the civic in a process to convey the message to individual owners. We rely fairly heavily on them."

The civic association seems reluctant to take responsibility for a system it says is not appropriate. Says Metsing: "If people here can't afford to buy a loaf of bread, can they buy a roll of toilet paper? The people were never asked before these toilets were built. We would have opted for houses."

Trust chairman James Mentor says that was not what they said at the time. "We accepted this sewerage system on their recommendation. It was healthier and the people wanted it. It is too late to go back to pit latrines."

Insistence

A 1990 survey found that 85 percent of residents listed "no services" as their chief problem; 1 percent mentioned housing.

Complicating all this is the insistence of Freedom Square residents on the trust that they be paid for the work they have put into the project.

**SIMILAR
problems are
likely to crop up
elsewhere as
development
work is done
under political
pressure for
quick delivery,
writes Chief
Reporter
JOHN PERLMAN.**

SQUATTERS - N. CAPE
1998

'Blame the dop system for disruptions'

(3078)

MTG 17-23/7/98

Heidi Clark

Community leader Freddie Brown says the 350 "squatters" who have made their home under the tall pine trees on a hill in Wilderness have lived in the area since the 1920s and feel they have a right to be there.

The setting is idyllic, but for the fact that they are forced to share their water source, a ground dam, with the local livestock. The other

water source, a stream running through the settlement, is effectively an open-air toilet.

The Wilderness Transitional Local Council has considered various solutions for the people of this small community — except providing them with the services most communities in this affluent region take for granted.

Ratepayers with property adjoining Wilderness Heights claim the community is "disruptive".

Ronnie Cox, a Wilderness Heights property owner, lives across the road from the community. He claims the value of his property has been drastically reduced. He says he was advised by an estate agent that unless the community was moved his land would be "all but worthless".

Community members strenuously deny these claims. They say the disruptive behaviour they are blamed for emanates from the surrounding farms.

Hanna Frans has been living in the community for two years. "It's difficult," she says. "On Fridays people get brought here by the farmers. They gather under a certain tree and all get drunk on their wages. Then we get blamed for the noise they make."

Many farmers in the area use the "dop" system to pay their workers — buying them alcohol as part of their wages — adding to the problem.

— DMA