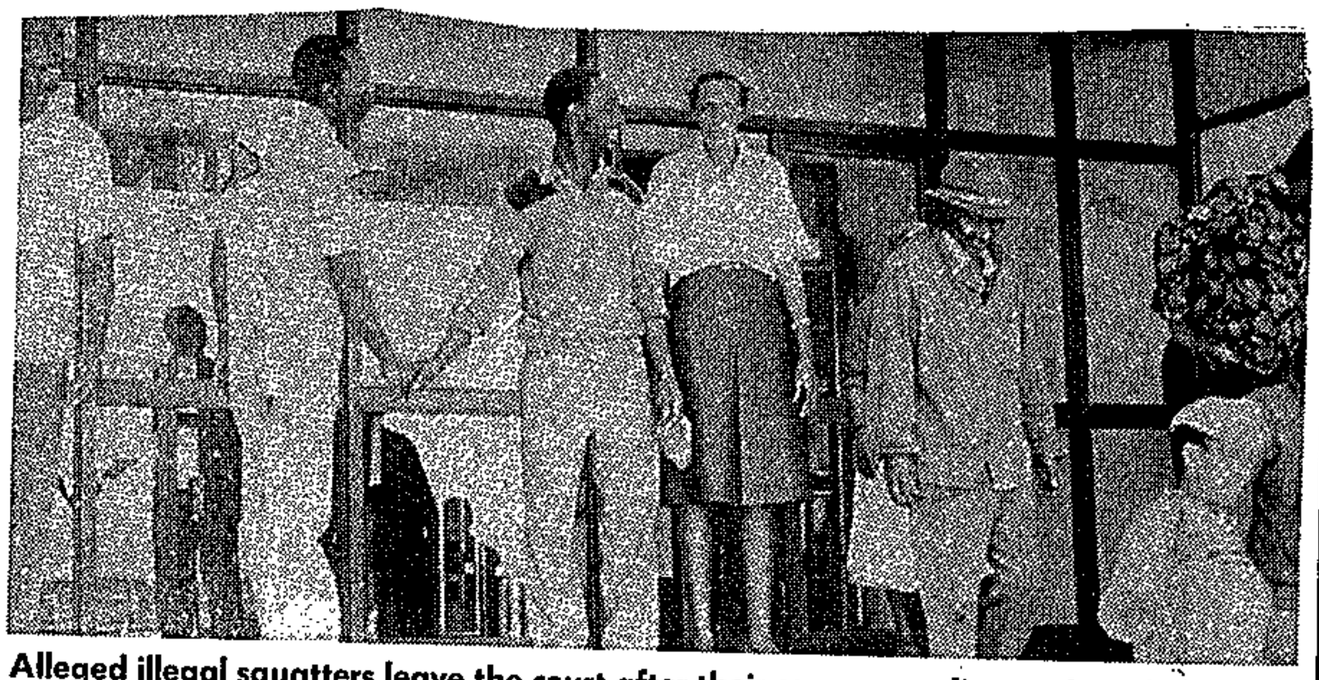
SQUATTERS_TRANSVAAL

1987

JANUARY — DECEMBER.



Alleged illegal squatters leave the court after their case was adjourned until January 8.

Temporary reprieve

4/1/87

310 cayprest

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE trial of 33 alleged Potchefstroom squatters – ranging in age from 17 to 74 – was this week divided into four groups.

The 33 men, women and children appeared before Acting Magistrate Cilliers Botha charged with contravention of the squatting law (Section 26 (4) Act 18 of 1936) and he separated their trials.

The State alleges that the accused were squatting illegally on the plot of a white farmer, S Pienaar, near the Potchefstroom golf course, on Monday, December 29, this year.

The State withdrew charges against two of the accused, Johannes Ramosena, 30, and Johannes Njovane, 32.

Three 17-year-old youths were released into the custody of their parents, who were also accused of the same offence. They will again appear on January 8.

The 17 women, including a 74-year-old granny, appearing on the same charge, were released on their own recognisance and were warned to appear again on January 8.

The 11 alleged male squatters were released on R20 bail each and their case was also postponed until January 8.

Magistrate Botha told the accused that their dockets were to be sent to the Attorney-General for his decision.

Most of the accused were family members whose relatives claimed they were renting the shacks for R30 a month per family from Pienaar.

Curb on squatter shacks

HAMISH McINDOE

THE number of shacks in Soweto's sprawling Mshenguville squatter camp has been limited to 2 000 by the township's council and new squatters will be removed daily.

The Soweto City Council will also conduct a census of the squatters as the first step to expelling non-Sowetans and finding alternative accommodation for "legitimate" residents.

Acting town clerk René du Toit said the council was limiting the number of squatters on health grounds. The camp is home to at least 3 500 people.

"While we're not legalising the camp by allowing 2 000 shacks temporarily to remain, we have to identify where the squatters come from.

"Eventually all the squatters will be removed from the area," he said.

On Tuesday bulldozers razed about 200 shacks in the camp.

A Red Cross spokesman said alternative accommodation was being sought for squatters.

☐ Twenty-five hectares of the Old Crossroads squatter camp, that was razed during the faction fighting last year, will be upgraded by March.

A spokesman for the Department of Community Services said 1 400 site-and-service plots will be available. A start will then be made on upgrading the remainder of Crossroads, where more than 60 000 people lived.

Jan. 1987

CAR. Tmes 7/11/87

Soweto squatter camp bulldozed

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Bulldozers razed the Mshenguiville squatter camp in the Soweto suburb of Mofolo without warning early yesterday morning, leaving at least 1 000 people homeless.

Residents said the camp had been condemned as a health hazard by the Soweto City Council.

By midday, however, some residents had started to rebuild their shacks despite fears that the bulldozers might return early today.

"They just came with their big trucks and pushed everything down. Many houses were locked with furniture inside as a lot of people were at work. I've nothing left and nowhere to sleep tonight," said a distraught woman.

Those that witnessed the action were allowed to remove their belongings before their shacks were bulldozed. But many feared that the rains would destroy what little remained of their possessions.

The SA Red Cross (SARC) had housed about 20 families in tents at the Methodist Centre in Mofolo by late afternoon.

area and are expected to intersect the reef horizon during the
first quarter of this year.
Johannesburg
6 January 1987
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Bulldozers move in on Mofolo squatters

4/1/87 BULDAY 310

HAMISH McINDOE

BULLDOZERS razed the Mshenguiville squatter camp in the Soweto suburb of Mofolo early yesterday morning leaving at least 1 000 people homeless.

Residents say no warning or reason for the action was given, but the camp has been condemned as a health hazard by the Soweto City Council. Camp residents were last year embroiled in a rent-and-utilities row with the council.

In less than two hours, bulldozers and trucks levelled Mshenguiville to a sprawling mass of corrugated iron sheets and rubble.

By midday, however, some residents had started to rebuild their shacks despite fears that the bulldozers might return early today.

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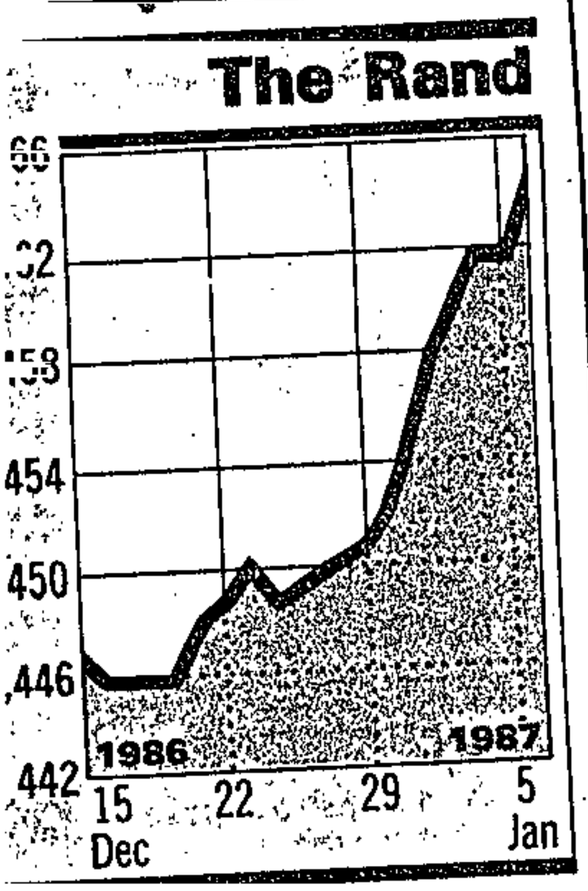
The SA Red Cross (SARC) had housed about 20 families in tents at the Methodist Centre in Mofolo by late afternoon, and efforts were underway to provide shelter for as many families as possible by nightfall.

Yesterday's action is believed to be the fifth time in less than three months that efforts have been made to evict the squatters.

● See picture Page 3

More than two hundred Mshenguiville families were left homeless last month when bulldozers demolished their shacks in heavy rains.

The camp was started early last year by former mayor of Soweto, Ephraim Tshabalala, and has been the focus of bitter resentment from Mofolo residents and the Soweto City Council. The squatters are staunchly pro-Tshabalala.



rand has appreciated by about 4% since middle of December, breaking out of the $0,45 band in which it had been con- for several weeks. The upward in the currency was triggered off weakness of the US dollar which in contributed to a rise in the gold price. has moved up and appears to be show- some fundamental strength while the has exhibited an oscillating tendency the German and Japanese central banks dollars to try to stabilise it.



Hundreds of families were left homeless when Soweto Council workmen flattened about 200 shacks at the Mshenguville squatter camp in Mofolo, Soweto, yesterday.

Soweto battles as shacks flattened

By Michael Tissong

Running battles between Soweto Council police and residents broke out when council workmen bulldozed about 200 shacks in Soweto yesterday and left hundreds of people homeless.

Residents hurled stones and petrol bombs at the council police who were armed with shotguns and were seen firing teargas.

Residents said that early in the day the police went from shack to shack rounding up youths in the large squatter camp in Mofolo. Later the bulldozers arrived, and shack after shack was flattened.

A Bureau for Information spokesman said that after the council workmen started tearing down the shacks, the police arrived.

"The security forces asked the council police to stop demolishing the shacks until other housing could be found for these people. Some petrol bombs were thrown at the council police, but no injuries were reported."

Some residents dragged their furniture from the shacks before the bulldozers came.

Three front-end loaders ripped the walls of the shacks from their foundations and ploughed from one to the next under a heavy police guard.

The wheel of one of the front-end loaders was punctured as it went over a shack and when it was left behind, youths attacked it with stones. Police fired teargas at them and chased some youths through the yards of houses across the road with shotguns. No shots were heard.

The youths later regrouped and closed off one of the roads near the camp with rubble. From the barricades they hurled stones and petrol bombs at the police, who fired teargas.

Large crowds hurled abuse at the police.

STAR 7/1/87

310

Reprieve—but squatters are bitter

12/1/87 Sowetan 310

By MANDLA NDLAZI

MSHENGUVILLE squatter camp families left homeless after their shacks in Mofolo were demolished last week expressed bitterness yesterday despite being allowed to rebuild their homes.

Close to 400 shacks were razed by the Soweto City Council last Tuesday.

The Bureau for Information in Pretoria confirmed the destruction of the shacks, but said the council's demolition squad stopped when security forces arrived and suggested that alternative housing be provided first.

A bitter Mr Matthews Zwane (56), a father of six whose shack was razed for the fourth time, yesterday said the heads of families gathered on Wednesday at the council chambers and discussed their plight with Mr Julius Mdlalose, chairman of the council's housing committee.

Mr Zwane, whom we found rebuilding his shack, said Mr Mdlalose gave the families permission to rebuild their shacks until the matter was discussed by a full council meeting at the end of the month.

"I'd like the council to know that despite the reprieve, we are bitter because we are not warned each time our shacks are to be demolished.

Mr Ephriam Masengen (53), a father of seven, who was among those who were rebuilding their shacks yesterday, was also bitter.

"We are losing a lot of money in this cat-and-mouse game between us and the council," said Mr Masengen. "What we need is a fair deal and that means we should be given homes or a place to build homes."

Yesterday, Mr Mdlalose confirmed his meeting with the squatters.

He said the council will hold a meeting on January 29.

Operation Hunger feeds squatters

By Janine Simon

Residents of Levina's Farm — a long established squatter camp opposite Regina Mundi Church in Soweto — are the latest among the 300 000 urbanites Operation Hunger feeds daily.

Of the 85 families living there, some with as many as 10 members, 57 have no income.

A total of 28 families have a monthly income ranging from R20 for a family of five to R360 for a family of eight.

"I don't know which is worse, the families with no income whatsoever or the miserable wages of those who are earning," said Mrs Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger's executive director.

"The worst is having to sort through the information and 'play God' to decide whether any families are not eligible for help," she said.

Levina's Farm residents have been receiving Operation Hunger mealie meal and powdered soup since December, after one widow and mother of nine — who has been unemployed for three years — trudged to the organisation to ask for help.

SUFFERING

The 10-member street committee who oversee the distribution of the food have one word to explain why Mrs Grace Ndlaziwane asked for help — hunger.

"The people here are suffering, there are no jobs," said committee member Mrs Roseline Rakomane.

She said Levina's Farm, like most settlements, had its fair share of neighbourly support and squabbles.

The 85 families are crammed into tin shanties, dilapidated brick buildings, rickety leantos and even old cars.

The are no toilets — the long bullrushes of a nearby river are used — and only three taps serve the area.

The women try to find work as washerwomen in the nearby township, but most spend their day in the dusty grounds.

Future of 5 000 families uncertain

Squatter camp quandary

Star 29/1/87

(310)

By Pat Devereaux, Star Line

The future of a squatter camp in the Walkerville district south of Johannesburg remains uncertain and neighbours believe a decision has been stalled pending the elections.

Wieler's Farm is home to about 5 000 families and white neighbours have watched its growth with consternation.

The camp was brought to *Star Line's* attention by Mr H Marais, who is unable to sell his plot because the land value has plummeted.

After complaining about numerous robberies, he said: "I really don't know what the Government is up to — this is a white area yet they are reluctant to remove these people. If they want to turn it into a township, why don't they just buy us out?"

He added that although the squatters had water — supplied by the army — they were living in crowded, unhygienic conditions and this was a health hazard.

Another neighbour, resident for 10 years and who did not want to be named, said she felt threatened by the rapidly growing camp. Only during the last three years had the farm attracted squatters and become a neighbourhood issue.

She explained that she had never been in the camp but had heard there was a roaring shebeen trade and that stolen goods were easily obtainable.

Other Walkerville residents mentioned a protest petition given to officials and hinted that a decision over the future of the camp was being stalled because of the white general election.

The chairman of the local areas committee, Mr C Whyte, said he would prefer not to say a great deal about the matter but a decision was expected soon.

Co-ordinated infrastructure

"The Government is dealing with it at the moment — it is in the hands of Cabinet Minister Mr Chris Heunis," Mr Whyte said.

During an unannounced visit to the camp, Star Line found that although many families were living in shacks, there was a co-ordinated infrastructure providing for community needs.

Community leader Mrs Olga Nomonde Lutu, who has turned her house into a central office, explained:

"It all started when the Wieler brothers began renting land to blacks. Over the years more and more people moved to the farm — some have lived here for more than 30 years."

A residents' committee runs their affairs and an advice office is provided by the Black Sash. A feeding scheme for 550 people has been organised by World Vision and there is a mobile clinic.

Legal representative for the squatters, Mr Geoff Budlender, said the squatters were there with the consent of the farm owners — who still owned the land but intended selling it.

"The squatters are there pending the decision of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning. There are two decisions which could be made: either the land can be developed or the people could be moved to Sebokeng," Mr Budlender said.



Life goes on at Wieler's farm despite the uncertain future of the squatter camp, which is home to an estimated 5 000 families.

Police re-erect demolished squatter shacks

By Duncan Guy
and Gien Elsas

Municipal police, who accidentally demolished three squatter shacks at Roodepoort's Big Farm settlement yesterday, re-erected them this morning.

The shack saga at the settlement — which the town council had declared was "not to be touched" since municipal police bulldozed shacks down three weeks ago — started yesterday when, according to squatters, the three remaining shacks in the settlement were demolished.

Yesterday the demolition surprised town clerk Mr Werner Zybrands who learnt of it only when The Star telephoned him last night to ask for comment.

He said an investigation would be held today.

This morning he said: "The structures which were accidentally demolished by the municipal security personnel were re-erected by them early this morning.

"The structures were inadvertently demolished yesterday while the security staff were investigating complaints of other illegal shacks in the vicinity.

"They came across these three unoccupied shacks and demolished them in good faith. They have been re-erected and will remain until the squatters' housing problem has been sorted out."

Members of the 29-strong community who, after raids last July, understood they would not be moved until they had somewhere to go, said they fled yesterday when two men wearing municipal police uniforms arrived.

"We were cooking breakfast. After we ran they threw our mealie meal from a bucket and punched holes in it," said Mrs Margaret Raath.

"Then they set our homes on fire."

Squatters also said that money and food were removed.

In a raid on January 21, 14 people were arrested, tried for trespassing and fined R60 (or 60 days) the same day. They all went to jail.

310

Razed shacks rebuilt

JOHANNESBURG. — Municipal police, who demolished three squatter shacks at Roodepoort's Big Farm settlement on Monday, re-erected them yesterday morning.

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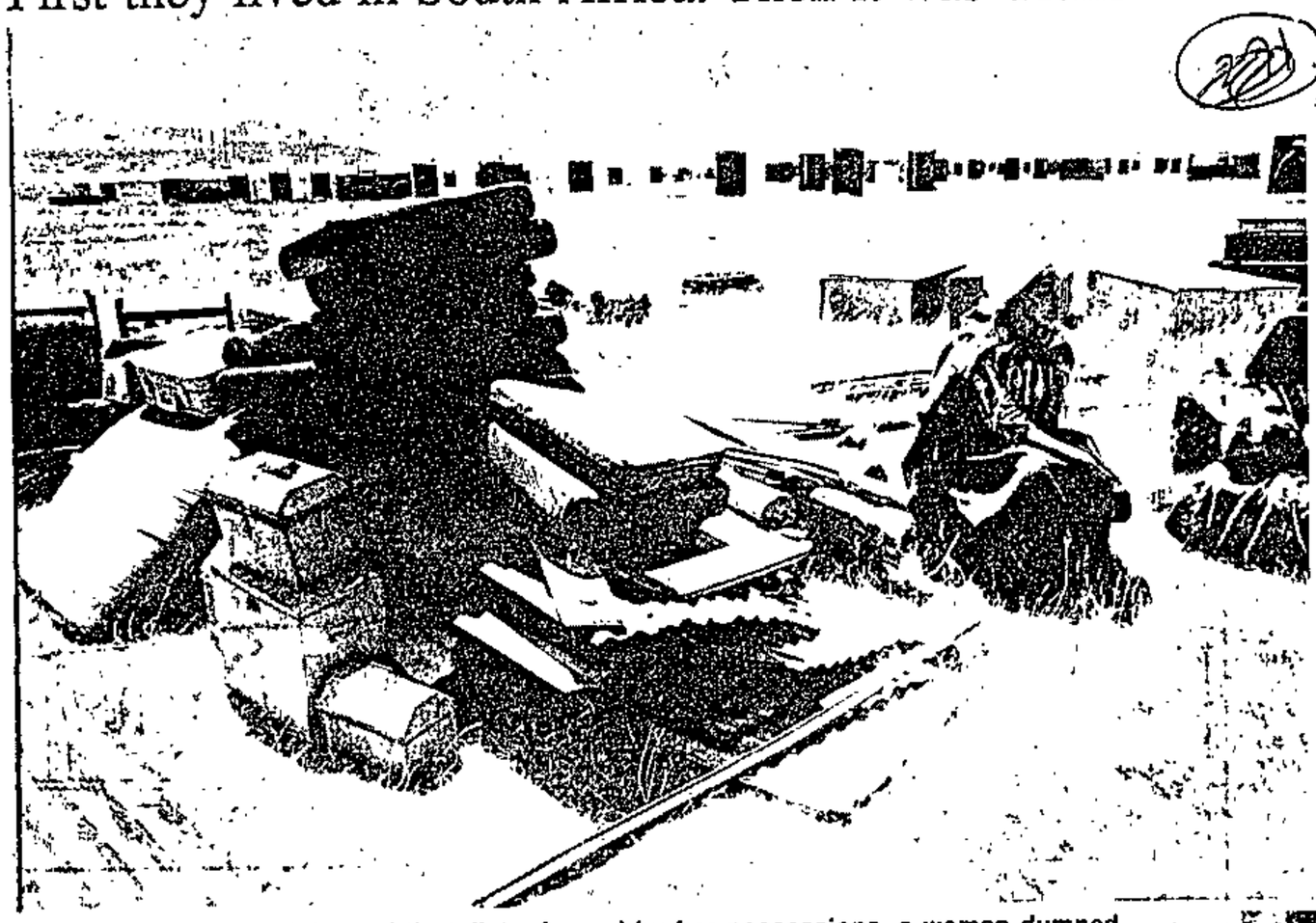
Yesterday morning he said: "The structures which were accidentally demolished by the municipal security personnel were re-erected by them early this morning. The security staff had been investigating complaints of other illegal shacks in the vicinity and demolished three unoccupied shacks.

"The re-erected shacks will remain until the squatters' housing problem has been sorted out."

Members of the 29-strong community who, after raids last July, understood they would not be moved until they had somewhere to go, said they fled when two men wearing municipal police uniforms arrived.

In a raid on January 21, during which several shacks were razed by municipal police, 14 people were arrested, tried for trespassing and fined R60 (or 60 days) the same day. They all went to jail. — Sapa

First they lived in South Africa. Then it was Transkei. Then Ciskei. And next ... QwaQwa?



Against a backdrop of tin toilets, framed by her possessions, a woman dumped in the Onverwacht resettlement camp broods about her future
Picture: GUY TILLIM, Afrapix



A tent in Onverwacht has been home to 84-year-old Sarah Mpitso since July last year
Picture: GUY TILLIM, Afrapix

Human cast-offs in an unpromised land

"ALL we want is a piece of land," says David Tseki, leader of 500 Sotho-speaking refugees living in destitute conditions in Botshabelo/ Onverwacht 50km east of Bloemfontein.

He is among 179 families dumped in South Africa's fastest-growing squatter settlement in July last year. They have lived in tents ever since.

"We refuse to build houses here on these small plots," Tseki says. "They promised us land — land for ploughing and grazing. They even showed us land near Harrismith — good land with water for our animals — and we agreed to go there. We are farmers and we will struggle until we get land."

But an extra barrier has arisen between Tseki's community and their dream: fears that Onverwacht will be incorporated into QwaQwa.

Although the South African and QwaQwa governments have formally quashed the rumours, Tseki and his people remain unconvinced. Their mistrust has been nurtured over time.

The government has quashed rumours that the people of Onverwacht will be incorporated into QwaQwa. But no one in Onverwacht is celebrating. LAUREEN PLATSKY of the National Committee Against Removals reports

Twenty years ago the 179 Onverwacht tent families were part of a community living in the Herschel district near the Lesotho border. Then in 1966 Herschel was incorporated into the Ciskei. Ten years later it was given to the Transkei — one of the presents to encourage Kaiser Matanzima to accept "independence".

Herschel's Sotho and Xhosa-speaking people rejected "independence". In 1976 about 20 000 Xhosas fled to Thornhill — which was later incorporated into the Ciskei. The Sothos who remained in Herschel were harassed and detained by Transkeian officials. Many fled in 1981.

The feeling of the community is summed up in a letter written by Tseki to Chief Minister TK Mopeli of QwaQwa in 1982. Under the heading "This obnoxious Herschel issue", Tseki implored Mopeli to listen to his people's "lamentations" to "refer our desires to the central government".

"We are forced to say there is no sincerity in the policy of the central government," Tseki wrote. "Shall we take up arms and defend ourselves against the brutality of the Transkeian soldiers and police?"

Mopeli responded by giving 179 of the 28 000 Sotho-speaking families from Herschel refuge in QwaQwa. For the next five years some lived in tents and others in rent-free houses in the "homeland's" capital and only town, Phuthaditjhaba.

South Africa's Minister of Co-operation and Development, Piet Koornhof, promised them a farm in the Harrismith district and they were due to move there at the end of 1982.

But when the farm was incorporated into QwaQwa, it became part of a government agricultural scheme. No land was allocated to the people of Herschel.

Tseki and his committee protested. QwaQwa responded by insisting they pay rent for the township houses they were occupying. They refused.

So in July last year the families and their possessions were loaded on to trucks, driven 300km to Onverwacht and dumped beside rows of tents and tin toilets.

Five hundred people — including old women born in the last century and young children — have survived the bitter Free State winter and the stifling summer.

The elderly forfeited their pensions, as no-one informed them they would have to re-apply since they now lived outside the "self-governing state" of QwaQwa.

"First we were under South Africa, then Ciskei, then Transkei, then QwaQwa," Tseki said. "This is it. We want the South African government to help us. We are refugees and can only cry to them. It is their separate development policy which causes our suffering.

"We were happy in Herschel. We had land and cattle — now Operation Hunger is feeding us. We don't want to live as beggars, we want to farm, to feed our children. We want to live in peace under our own leaders, not under chiefs imposed on us.

"If Onverwacht becomes part of QwaQwa we will trek, I don't know where but we will not lose hope. We will struggle on."

'Need for jobs and housing'

By Toni Younghusband

Randburg's escalating squatter problem could not be properly solved until adequate housing facilities and job opportunities were provided in the town, Nationalist councillor Mr Olaus van Zyl said last night.

Mr van Zyl was refering to an item on the agenda of the town council's monthly meeting which stated that 23 squatter shelters had been demolished in the annual quarter ending December 31 1986.

Mr van Zyl warned that removing squatters and demolishing their shelters was only a temporary measure.

Mr Frank Baleta, a Progressive Federal Party councillor, asked whether Randburg could assure squatters in the future that housing would be provided for them by the council.

Management committee chairman Mr Thys Sutherland said the squatter problem was a complex issue which required consultation with neighbouring municipalities and this took time.

THE TENT PEOPLE

By MANDLA NDLAZI

The recent rains may have been a boon to the country but for families living in tents at the St Angelas Roman Catholic Church in Dobsonville, near Soweto, they were a nightmare.

The tent-dwellers cry every time it rains. They go down on their knees and pray while comforting their children. They have to cling desperately to their floating belongings which would otherwise be washed away.

They climb onto tables, beds, chairs, wooden boxes or anything to escape the swirling water.

They often spend sleepless nights in that position, yearning for the break of a new day.

When the skies clear they hang their wet clothes in the yard.

Living in the tents are some of the 147 families that were evicted in August last year from new houses they had occupied illegally.

They spent cold days and nights in the veld with their hungry children crying and coughing.

The Witwatersrand Council of churches then offered them tents that were pitched in the yard of a local church.

This has, however, offered them little comfort, let alone privacy.

Said Mr Johannes Mathe (50) every one of us desperately needed some kind of shelter. That's why we did not bother to be crowded in some of these tents."

Mr Mathe, his wife and seven children share a tent with two other families.

He lost his job six months ago. It was during the time the Dobsonville Town Council had made an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court to get them out of the new houses.

I lost that house, lost my job and ended up in the street before getting to this tent," said Mr Mathe.

"We shiver," added Mr Mathe, "day and night when it rains, but hold on to the tent and pray it should not collapse in the storm."



THE Dobsonville tent community . . . nowhere else to go.

Money

His family have made several visits to the doctor. "Now I don't have the money because I am unemployed as long as we live under such conditions, we shall always need the doctor's attention," said Mr Mathe.

Mr Mathe is one of about 25 unemployed family heads living in the tents. They live off piece jobs and donations from friends and relatives.

Mr David Tabane (37) a father of three children said most of his belongings were damaged by the rain. "In the past weeks," he said, "there was no way we could dry our blankets and mattresses. This is how we found ourselves spending sleepless nights."

He also lost his job because of the court case that left families homeless.

Some of the people living there are pensioners like widowed Mrs Maselele Cunukela (67).

"I sometimes feel I'll die in the rain because of my age." Mr Hendson Ngubane (58) said his 10 children weep throughout the night because they cannot sleep on a flooded floor. "It's a nightmare when strong winds blow," he said.

Retrenched

He was retrenched last October. He has not found a job, let alone a house for his family.

Mr Sipho Somacele (35) a father of two children said: "Perhaps a miracle will save us and only God knows when. "He is also unemployed."

Their hopes of getting houses faded when it was rumoured that the mayor, Mr Steve Nkatlo, recently told residents they would not be given houses.

But Mr Nkatlo denied this. He told the *Sowetan* that he told the residents he was negotiating with the government for land to build houses for the homeless families.



Mr GOODWIN Sibobi . . . father of seven.



ONE of the mothers unhappy about their living conditions in the tents. They often spend sleepless nights.

Rain brings no joy for them



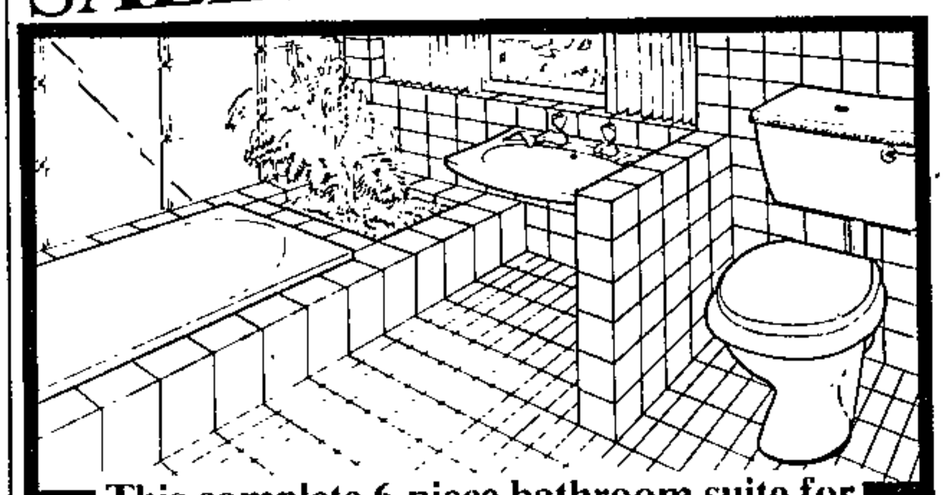
Mr JOHANNES Mathe . . . no job.



Mrs MSELELE Cunukela . . . pensioner.

The kids cry when it storms

SALE★SALE★SALE



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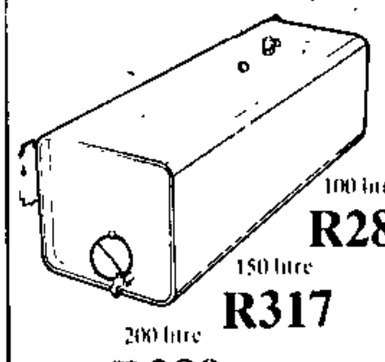

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Deejay says he was axed after remark

By Colleen Ryan

Freelance deejay Mr Vince Connell, who was presenting his second last programme for Radio 5, says he was immediately axed from the air and not paid his salary after he told listeners that he never missed the John Berks show on Radio 702.

Vince says

Mr Connell, who was working a month's notice as a freelance presenter in February, said he was not allowed to do his final Sunday afternoon show on February 22 after making the remarks on air the previous week.

"I can't believe the pettiness," he said.

"Other Radio 5 deejays can get away with making these kind of remarks — but not me. It was because I told them I was leaving."

He said the radio station owed him a month's salary "and they have also refused to send me my mail and my records".

Radio 5:

The head of Radio 5, Mr Pieter Lotriet, said he had no comment to make.

"It was an internal matter that he made public, and I don't want to get involved. He can do what he likes. Whatever steps were taken I regard as internal, between the station and him."

horses at Turffontein. He has previously contested a municipal and a provincial by-election for the NRP.

He is launching his election campaign with a braai for supporters at his Kibler Park, Johannesburg, home on Sunday March 1. Anyone wishing to attend should telephone 943-1129.

Shanty folk have got everything to lose

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

About 60 squatters, including families who have lived on the same plot near Kibler Park for 10 years, are being threatened with eviction.

According to a Black Sash spokesman, police at Mondeor have given them until today to get off land in Olifantsvlei.

But the squatters have nowhere else to go and also face loss of livelihood.

SETTLEMENT

Many of them have reportedly been employed fulltime on the settlement by local businessman, Mr N J Pieterse.

A dispute has arisen over responsibility for the squatters.

According to managing director of Bester Beleggings, Mr Theunis Bester, the land was taken over by his firm as part of a vast portfolio after the crash of Tucker's Land Holdings in 1984.

Early this month the firm was notified by Johannesburg City Council Planning Department that the shanties had to be removed.

Bester inspectors were reportedly told by the squatters that they claimed right of occupation through Mr Pieterse, who in turn claimed his rights through Tuckers in 1977.

After discussions with Bester Beleggings, Mr Pieterse agreed to vacate the property and see that illegal occupants also moved out by today.

Meanwhile, the council's Health Department decided to treat the matter compassionately.

Medical Officer of Health Professor Hilliard Hurwitz said the place was unsatisfactory, but staff had been told not to take strong action.

They were to monitor the settlement until alternative accommodation was ready on a site-and-service basis.

legedly shot and had a car driven over his legs.

Sunset is end for squatters

27/2/87 Star 310

By Adele Baleta

As the sun went down yesterday the atmosphere was desperate at the Kibler Park squatter camp.

The corrugated iron shanty settlement is home to 60 people, including 23 children.

It is due to be demolished today.

Wringing her hands, Mrs Hazel Mpongwane said: "I have lived here with my family for eight months. I don't know where we are going to go. It is difficult to get a house in Soweto. The only type of accommodation is in a back yard."

Mrs Mpongwane, whose husband is a petrol attendant, fears she and her family may have to return to Queenstown.

A man who built his single room house "with my bare hands", Mr John Manake, has lived at the camp for five years and has six children.

Pointing to a rock outside, he said: "I can't keep my children under the stones. Where am I going to take them? The Government must help its people.

"Our house is so small we can barely fit our heads in it. Just give me a place to stay until my children are a little older."

Mrs Rosetta Manxiwa, who has three children and works as a domestic servant in Mondeor, came to Johannesburg from Transkei two months ago.

"We decided to live here because it is close to where I work. But now I don't know where we'll go.

"If we go to the forests, we may be raped and killed."

Mr David Dube has a makeshift "factory" in the area. He stores plastic and material waste which he cleans, packs and sells back to factories.

"Where can I can take all this stuff?" he asked, pointing to a pile of material.

"This move will affect my home and my work."

Candidate wins

Lowveld

NELSPRUIT — In a closely election yesterday Mr Carel spruit, defeating Mr Stef votes.

Although both candidate Mr Prozesky received open while Mr Kruger had Nation

Observers see the results result in Nelspruit, a traditio

In a 39,4 percent poll, Mr Mr Prozesky's 139.

Evicted families' plight brings cries of outrage

THEO RAWANA

THE plight of about 60 families whose shacks were dismantled at Olifantsvlei, near Kibler Park, at the weekend has brought cries of outrage from PFP Johannesburg city councillor Tony Leon and the Black Sash.

The families said they had lived on the land for the past five years, believing that Kibler Park businessman N J Pieterse was the owner and many of them worked for him.

He had given them until February 27 to vacate their dwellings.

Pretoria building constructors Bester Homes, owners of the land, said it did not know until early this month that Pieterse had settled people there, claiming the land was his, and had since ordered him out.

Pieterse would not talk to the media yesterday.

The police gave an assurance last week the people would not be evicted, but charges would be investigated against the owner.

Leon, who is a member of the Johannesburg City Council's housing committee, said it was just a part of a problem facing about 15 000 black people in the area between Johannesburg and Vereeniging.

He said: "By-laws affecting occupation of areas such as these should be relaxed to facilitate the plan for urbanisation."

A Black Sash spokesman said: "These people live and work in Johannesburg. Their crime is that there is no black land where they can stay.

"The people are being forced to find another place which they must also occupy illegally."



Sophie Dyase and 10-day-old Mzimkulu in their shack at Olifantsvlei before the dwelling was dismantled.
● Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

Squatters' shacks go, but they say: 'We stay'

By Duncan Guy

Lightning and heavy cloud greeted about 60 squatters from Olifantsvlei, near Kibler Park, two hours after their shacks were dismantled.

Among the destitute was 10-day-old Mzimkulu Dyase. Last evening his parents did not know where they would sleep.

"Probably in the bush," said his mother, Mrs Sophie Dyase.

Said Mr Johnson Tsela: "Even if we are threatened with arrest, we can do nothing more than stay. There are no houses available anywhere else."

The Johannesburg City Council's Planning Department notified Bester Beleggings, which owned the land, that the shanties had to be removed.

SITE-AND-SERVICE

But the Medical Officer of Health, Professor Hilliard Hurwitz, said the settlement would be monitored until alternative accommodation was available on a site-and-service basis.

When told what happened yesterday, he was "distressed".

Many of the squatters are employed on the settlement by a businessman, Mr N J Pieterse, and if they left they would lose not only their homes but their livelihoods.

Progressive Federal Party councillor Mr Tony Leon, who was at the site yesterday, called for co-ordination between the Government, local authorities and private enterprise to "make the best, not the worst, of urbanisation".

"Unfortunately, the Olifantsvlei affair is a drop in the ocean. There are some 15 000 people in similar situations between Vereeniging and Johannesburg."

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twice. I saw it on a clear night in Port Alfred in 1910." Picture by Garth

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Residents want squatters out

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

Walkerville property owners are pressuring the Government to move more than 5 000 squatters living in converted pig styes, wood and iron shanties and self-built brick huts on Weilers Farm, about 35 km south of Johannesburg.

Homeless people are pouring unchecked into the settlement and the Rev Kobus Roux estimated 180 new houses were going up every month.

The population could double well before the end of the year.

While the white landowners have expressed growing fears that they will be forced off their agricultural holdings by uncontrolled squatting which has depreciated the value of their properties and increased the crime rate, the black squatter population is equally adamant there is nowhere else to go.

Some of the squatters, like Mrs Regina Moyo, have lived on Weilers Farm for the last three years. Today the brick house she built with her own hands has become part of a terrace of flat-roofed homes.

Mr Samuel Radebe moved nearly three years ago from Sebokeng. "We have our own soldiers to keep the peace and settle our problems," he said.

ught for R39 000

Younghusband

r Harry Blechman, yesterday bought se in Hillbrow formerly belonging to npany and valued at R51 000.

iid after the sale he had not even ce".

was being auctioned and we just want to buy it," he said.

and blue baseball cap, Mr Blechman he bidding which started at R25 000.

auction in the lounge/dining room of gnificent view of Johannessburg and r of "Metropolitan Heights", on the reets.

"party-size" spa bath.

310

Squatters say police burnt down huts after evictions

By Duncan Guy

A group of "at least 20 policemen" destroyed a collection of mud huts at Roodekrans, north of Johannesburg, after evicting five adults and five children on Friday night, residents said on Saturday.

The policemen also set fire to one hut, they said.

The residents said on Thursday police issued them with a notice to vacate by 7 pm the next day.

"We had to first to try to find a place to go — and we started to do that on Friday," said Mr Norman Masilela who has lived in the area all his life.

"Just before 9 pm on Friday night about seven vehicles arrived. One was a 'Hippo' which they use to flatten the houses," said Mr Masilela.

A spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations said a "local authority force" had probably dismantled the shacks but he confirmed that police had supervised.

The spokesman said later the inhabitants of the huts had dismantled their own homes.

He would only confirm the police had acted against illegal squatters who had been warned to vacate the property following complaints.

The action against the "squatters" has angered local white residents and one described the events of Friday night as "utterly brutal".

Another local landowner, Mr Tony Duigan, said he was "dismayed and disgusted".

"We have known these people for years and, while they seem to have taken it quite well, one wonders what they are really thinking," he said.

The homeless people scattered to nearby properties where they made plans to stay with relatives. Local white residents provided them with food.

Convicted on 14 counts of theft involving houses

GUILTY MAYOR

Squatters plan to sue



DEPUTY Mayor Jaca . . . fined R3 000.

THE convicted deputy mayor of Dobsonville, Mr Alex Jaca, will be sued by the squatters who brought a case of theft, alternatively bribery against him.

By MANDLA NDLAZI

This was disclosed yesterday by a spokesman for the squatters living in tents in a Dobsonville church yard. He said a lawyer would be briefed this week to handle their claim against Mr Jaca.

Mr Jaca was found guilty on 14 counts of theft, alternatively bribery by Mr P Muller in the Roodepoort Regional Court on Friday. He was sentenced to two years in jail or a fine of R3 000.

The magistrate sentenced Mr Jaca to a further 18 months suspended for five years on the same charge. He had earlier pleaded not guilty on all counts.

The magistrate dismissed the evidence of five of the 19 residents after it had been found that they sat in the courtroom before they were called into the witness box.

The magistrate found that Mr Jaca had committed the crime between 1985 and last year when he received money from residents he had promised houses.

Rejected

Witnesses told the court that Mr Jaca had pointed out that they would have to "wash" his hands if they wanted houses and that they should know "a priest of church eats".

He told them not to come to him empty handed, they said.

A spokesman, who did not wish to be named, said the squatters rejoiced after they had been told of the verdict. They unanimously decided that Mr Jaca should be sued and that a lawyer should be briefed to handle their case.

The defence lawyer, Mr J J A Borman, had earlier submitted that the Dobsonville Civic Association had influenced the residents to bring the case against Mr Jaca, but the court rejected this.

Shack people left homeless

ABOUT 60 shack-dwellers — among them children under the age of seven — were left homeless on Friday after their homes at Olifantsvlei, near Walkerville, were demolished.

The shacks were demolished by labourers under the supervision of the owner of the land, the station commander of Mondeor police station and other officials.

SOPHIE TEMA

About 20 shacks were demolished, leaving the occupants with no place to go.

Corrugated iron with which the shacks had been built was loaded on a truck and taken away.

It is believed all the shack-dwellers — about 55 or 60 of them — had been taken into custody about 2am on Friday and were not present when their shacks were flattened.

A police spokesman at John Vorster Square said about 36 adults were to be charged with trespassing.

Johannesburg City Council Planning Department spokesman D Diack said: "The council had nothing to do with demolishing the shacks. It had informed the owner of the land about the illegal structures."

Asked if alternative accommodation would be provided, Diack said: "The city council can only provide housing for White and Coloured people."

He could give no undertaking on the allocation of alternative accommodation for those made homeless by the demolitions.

SOWETA

Shacks are razed

(310)

SOWETAN

7/3/87

THE Soweto City Council yesterday demolished 10 shacks and ordered more than 150 families staying in a shack settlement in Nancefield to leave the area within seven days.

Shacks were torn down and dozens of other squatter families served with notices to "as a matter of courtesy demolish and remove illegal structures" on the lot.

In another tough move, the Soweto Council yesterday evicted and confiscated furniture belonging to two Jabulani Flats families for owing rent. The evictions come only 24 hours before the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) is to lodge a Supreme Court application challenging the validity of rent evictions.

By LEN MASEKO

Court

The SCA will today ask the court to decide whether black town councils have the right to evict residents who are in rent arrears. The Vaal Civic Association is to take a similar action this week against the Lekoa Town Council.

The Soweto Council, in notices served to squatter families, has warned that dwellers failing to heed its ultimatum will be prosecuted in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act No 52 of 1951.

"As a matter of courtesy you are accordingly ordered to demolish and remove the illegal structures within seven days," the notices read.

Squatters told the *Sowetan* corrugated iron from demolished shacks, some belonging to families who were about to move into the settlement, was confiscated.

"Where are we supposed to live," said one irate squatter. "We have no homes of our own, and now the council wants us to leave."

Hotel

Mr Julius Mdlalose, the council's housing committee chairman, confirmed that the Nancefield shack settlement would be razed, "to pave way for a business development that will include a hotel complex".

Pensioners snubbed — See Page 4

PIC: ROBERT MAGWAZA

...were demolished at the camp yesterday. ... "Your failure to fore-



Weiler's Farm (top) . . . the sight of the destruction of new squatter shacks. Mrs Janet Mehlope (above) . . . her brick and mud home was badly damaged by the demolition squad.

New squatter shacks destroyed

By Jo-Anne Collinge

New shacks have been demolished at Weiler's Farm, the spreading squatter settlement south of Johannesburg.

The camp has caused alarm among whites in the area and local Nationalist MPs have been challenged to find a way of clearing the hundreds of shacks.

Police and army entered the settlement yesterday morning, residents said, and soldiers demolished several half-complete structures. None of these shacks was yet occupied and no attempt was made to destroy older shacks, they added.

Mrs Olga Lutu of the Weiler's Farm residents' committee said she had spoken to officials about the demolition.

She had been told that established shacks were not under threat and that the demolitions were to control the entry of new people to the area.

She added that some families who had been forced to rebuild due to flooding had been mistaken as newcomers. One such person was Mrs Janet Mehlope, whose brick and mud structure was badly damaged by the demolition squad.

Mrs Lutu said there were talks going on about the future of Weiler's Farm.

Residents have refused alternate sites at Everton.

RAID ON SQUATTERS

AT LEAST 10 shacks at Wielers' Farm, north of Evaton in the Vaal Triangle, were demolished yesterday when the 800-family squatter settlement was raided.

According to witnesses who spoke to the *Sowetan*, the demolition was carried out by officials of the Government.

The community at Wielers' Farm live mostly in tin shacks.

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

At an open-air meeting last month addressed by a senior Government official, the farm's 2 000 residents heard that they are to be relocated at a new township in Wildebeesfontein, near Evaton.

Ms Olga Lutu, a member of the farm's squatters committee, said they were surprised when the armed officers moved in at about 9am. Most of the destroyed shacks, she said, were those still under construction.

She said this was a breach of promise in that Mr V C Milne, the Director-General of the new Department of Community Services, had assured them that everything would be done in consultation with the community.

"When I approached one of the officials, he told me they had been sent by the Transvaal

To Page 2

Retrenchment for 200 at Putco — P4

Weiler Farm shacks razed

From Page 1

Provincial Administration to control the erection of more shacks in the area.

"We are going to resist any removal and we intend rebuilding the destroyed shacks. We are against moving next to Evaton, because Evaton people are themselves experiencing accute housing problems. We view this as a ploy to create ill-feeling between them and us," she said.

• The Bureau for Information when asked to comment on the demolition, said the incident was not related to unrest. It referred us to the local authorities concerned.

SOWETAN 18/3/87

Squatters get land offer

SOPHIE TEMA

SQUATTERS at Weiler's Farm, near Walkerville, would be offered relocation to a site-and-service scheme due for completion within nine months at Wildebeesfontein in the Vaal Triangle, said Chris Ballot, MP for Overvaal and chairman of government's committee on squatters.

He said the new scheme would house more than 900 families — the number officials claimed were living on the farm. But a Black Sash spokesman said yesterday there might be many more people living in shacks on the farm. It is now doing a count of families in the area.

White Walkerville residents have been putting increasing pressure on politicians to have the squatters removed from the white area.

Transvaal Provincial Administration regional director Vic Milne yesterday confirmed that the squatters would be removed and relocated at Wildebeesfontein, which would be fully serviced and would house more than 900 families.

Milne confirmed SADF members and the police were constantly patrolling the area to control the influx of more families to the farm.

☐ Several other families in Finetown — about 5km from Weiler's Farm — have been left homeless after their shacks were demolished by police.

Yesterday two more shacks were demolished and the owners were taken to De Deur police station.

A police spokesman said the arrested people had occupied the area illegally. They might be charged under the Squatting Act.

Mrs Nxele waits in the rain

By Michael Tissong

Mrs Dorah Nxele, an unemployed domestic worker from Transkei, hugged her children in a park in Kenilworth, Johannesburg yesterday and glanced upwards with dread at a sky which threatened rain.

Mrs Nxele has been living in the park since losing her job 15 months ago and has survived on the goodwill of domestic workers in the area for herself, her nine-month-old child Lucky and daughter Thembi.

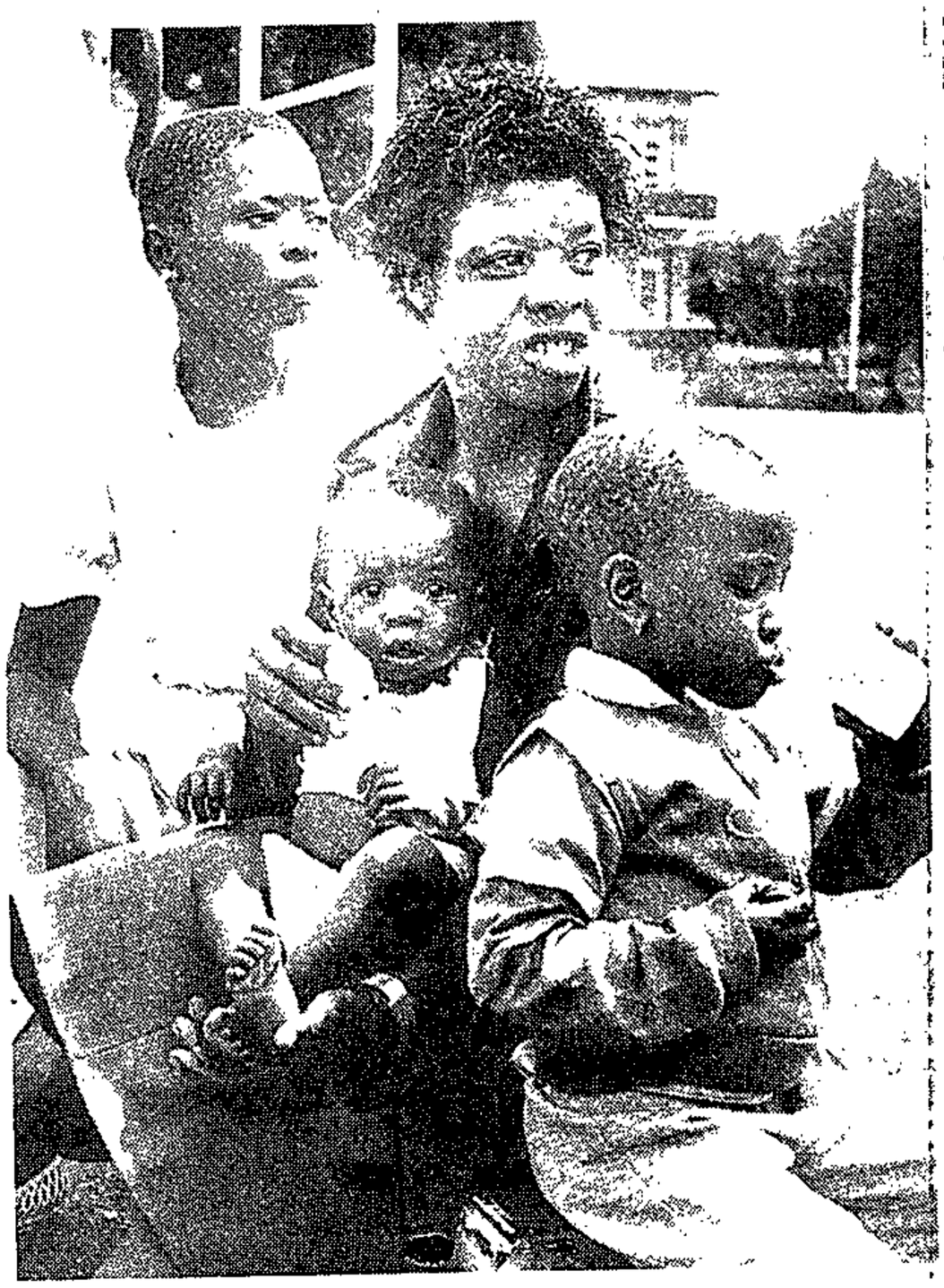
A housewife who lives nearby said Mrs Nxele was probably unsuccessful in her attempts at finding a job because of her children.

Mrs Nxele said: "My sister works in the area so we never starve. Some kind people living here sometimes give us money."

Yesterday their few belongings were stored in plastic shopping bags and clothes they had recently washed were spread on the grass.

Mrs Nxele laughed to hide her sorrow and said she was sometimes scared at night: "People sometimes kill in this park."

They were enjoying the warmth of the morning and the baby was basking in the sun but later in the day the skies opened up and there was a heavy downpour.



Loudhailer call to squatters: Go or be flattened

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

MORE than 100 squatter families living on the outskirts of Katlehong on the East Rand have been given until next Thursday to move out or face demolition.

Many of the squatters are unable to get or afford housing in the regular townships and some have been living in squatter communities outside Kathlehong for eight years.

One man, Joseph Chisani, and his family, have had their shacks demolished twice since they moved into the bush in 1979.

Many of the other men are Transkeians and Ciskeians who have been retrenched from the metal factories on the East Rand and are unable to register as workseekers because they are regarded as "foreigners".

A yellow police bus has been visiting the camp four times a day, announcing over a loudhailer that the people are squatting unlawfully and that they must be out by April 2.

Deadline for ER squatters

3/D Sowetan 31/3/87

ABOUT 500 squatter families in Katlehong township, Germiston have been ordered to leave by Thursday an open veld they have been occupying for the past four years.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

The squatters yesterday told the *Sowetan* that they have been ordered by the Katlehong Town Council to vacate the plot. They have been staying in the open veld, which is on the outskirts of the township, near the coal-yard, since 1983.

Previously the squatters were staying at the Williams Farm, between Katlehong and Vosloorus townships. They were evicted from the farm by the then East Rand Administration Board.

Mrs Rose Ndzimande, a spokeswoman for the Katlehong Squatters executive committee, told the *Sowetan* that they were informed by the council to leave the area on March 19 this year.

She said on several occasions since that day members of the South African Police have visited the squatter camp to inform them that they should leave the area and find themselves alternative accommodation.

Most of the families come from the homelands and the others used to stay in backyard shacks in the townships but had to build their shacks in the open veld after being evicted by their landlords.

Mr Solly "Ntshebe" Lukhele, the deputy mayor of Katlehong, yesterday denied that the council has ordered the families to vacate the plot by Thursday.

He said: "The squatters' committee has approached us about this allegation. We told them that we did not send any member of the SAP to tell them that they should demolish their shacks. We are going to meet the police to try and establish who gave them permission to evict the squatters."

Mr Lukhele added that the council was still trying to raise funds to provide the families with alternative accommodation.

rsity daily — but Zinzi hopes to get accommodation at the university residence.

Squatters 'will not move'

1/9/87 STAR 310

By Montshiwa Moroke

Scores of families at the Katlehong squatter settlement, near Germiston, told by the South African Police (SAP) to leave the area, will not move, the Mayor of Katlehong, Mr Thami Siluma, said yesterday.

Mr Siluma has told a squatter delegation he would discuss their situation at the weekend.

Senior members of the police, including Major Jan Last, station commander at Katlehong, had been present.

Nine men arrested at the settlement on Monday appeared in the Alberton Magistrate's Court charged with entering the Republic without passports.

They are expected to appear again in court on April 29.

"There are aliens from Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and the Transkei," Mr Siluma said. "There are 37 000 shacks in Katlehong. Add the 500 squatters near the coalyard and you see the problem we are faced with.

'Special houses' sales extended

The deadline for the sale of houses built with money from the National Housing Commission on special conditions such as reduced prices, which was to have expired today, has been extended to June 30 next year.

The Bureau for Information

Squatters claim eviction threat

JOHANNESBURG. — About 500 squatter families in Katlehong township, Germiston, have been ordered to leave, by tomorrow, a stretch of open veld they have been occupying for the past four years.

Mrs Rose Ndzimande, a spokeswoman for the Katlehong squatters executive committee, said they were instructed by the council to leave the area on March 19.

Since then members of the South African Police had visited the camp to inform them they should find alternative accommodation, she said.

Mr Solly "Ntshebe" Lukhele, the deputy mayor of Katlehong, yesterday denied the council had ordered the families to vacate the plot.

He said: "We are going to meet the police to try and establish who gave them permission to evict the squatters." — Sapa

Squatters protest

ABOUT 2 000 Mshenguville squatters marched on the Soweto City Council yesterday to complain of exploitation by various people who have demanded money from them.

They were met at the chamber by housing committee chairman Mr Julius Mdlalose.

He warned them against elements who are exploiting the fact that squatters were homeless and desperate.

A spokesman for the squatters said various people and landlords have visited the camp and demanded money from the squatters for the sites, hiring of toilets and money to pay lawyers.

He said about a month ago they were asked to pay R15 rent, but later charged R5 legal fees when shacks were being demolished. Now they are being asked for R4 from each

To Page 4

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2/4/87 Sowetan

310

Katlehong squatter families reprieved

THE Katlehong Town Council on the East Rand has temporarily shelved plans to remove about 500 squatter families in the area.

The families were given until yesterday to demolish their shacks. They have been staying in an open veld, on the outskirts of the township since 1983.

The area they are presently staying at, is a "buffer zone" and does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Katlehong council.

Mrs Rose Nzimande, a spokeswoman for the Katlehong squatters executive committee yesterday told the *Sowetan* that they were informed by the council that they would no longer be removed.

She said the squatters' executive committee will meet the Katlehong council tomorrow to discuss the future of the squatter camp.

The meeting, she said, will be held at the squatter camp.

The families were first told by the council to leave the area on March 19 this year.

The squatters were previously staying at Williams' Farm, between Katlehong and Vosloorus townships. They were evicted from the farm by the then East Rand Administration Board.

Most of the families come from the homelands and the others used to stay in backyard shacks in the township. They built their shacks on a stretch of open veld known as the "Coal-yard Squatter Camp", after being evicted by their landlord.

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NEW HOPE FOR SQUATTERS

Shacks can stay

3/D Sowetan 10/4/87

ABOUT 500 squatter families in Katlehong township, in Germiston, may be provided with proper housing within the next few months, the Katlehong Town Council announced this week.

Mr Thami Siluma, the mayor of Katlehong, met the representatives of the squatter camp on Wednesday night to discuss their future.

Mrs Rose Nzimbande, a spokeswoman for the Katlehong Squatters Executive Committee, said Mr Siluma told them that the squatter camp will no longer be demolished as was earlier planned.

The squatter camp was to be demolished last Thursday. Mrs Nzimande said all squatter families in the area, including those from the homelands, will be provided with proper housing.



Mrs ROSE Nzimande . . . promise of better housing.

Farm squatters claim raid by security force

By SAMKELO KUMALO

THE security forces have begun an inquiry into allegations of irregularities by soldiers and policemen operating in the Wieler's Farm squatter community in Walkerville, south of Johannesburg.

Residents have claimed that soldiers and policemen were involved in raids on hawkers and small traders on Friday March 27, during which property was seized or destroyed.

Assaults

Others claim they have been harassed by security forces deployed in the township.

The South African Police yesterday confirmed a complaint of assault involving a member of the force had been laid at the De Deur police station but did not confirm it was in connection with the Wieler's farm incident.

They also said they had "lawfully" seized property.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg confirmed this week that residents at the sprawling farm had approached them for help and inquiries were made at the De Deur police station.

Affidavits are being collected by the Centre from residents, a few of whom came to see the Sunday Times during the week.

One resident, Mr Samuel Masithulela, complained troops at the entrance to the squatter camp made him strip naked at the camp entrance and took his trousers after threatening to take his car.

Another, Mr Sam Mathega, a member of the Wieler's Farm council, claimed police had destroyed a considerable amount of goods in his "tuck shop" in a raid and damaged stereo, hi-fi equipment and two freezers.

He also claimed R300, cooking oil, eggs, cold-drinks, wine and other foodstuffs were taken by the police.

Residents claimed the security forces had become "a law unto themselves".

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force's Public Relations Directorate said this week preliminary inquiries had been made by the SADF into the allegations but in the absence of formal complaints with either the police or military it was difficult to react.

He appealed for residents to come forward with details.

Detained

A Sunday Times reporter who visited the camp this week was held for four hours and questioned by army personnel and the security police.

The SAP's Public Relations Directorate confirmed on Friday that the De Deur police were investigating one assault case involving a member of the force and that property similar to that mentioned by Mr Mathega had been "lawfully confiscated" and was being retained.

Mr Adrian Vlok, Minister of Law and Order, was unavailable to explain fully about the De Deur police action against the traders.

(310) Sowetan 15/4/87

HOME, SWEET HOME

Land given to put up shacks

HOMELESS people are flocking to Mdlaloseville, a new squatter camp in Soweto named after housing chairman Mr Julius Mdlalose.

By ALI MPHAKI

It is situated in an open space previously a rubbish dump between Dlamini and Tshiawelo.

Already more than 30 shacks have been erected, and the Soweto City Council has built communal toilets and installed taps and washing basins for the residents.

More shacks are springing up daily.

Residents interviewed said they were allocated the land by the council after paying a R23 fee.

The residents said they have been helped by Councillor Julius Mdlalose to obtain land — after struggling for long to obtain houses — having been on the waiting list for houses for several years.

Mrs Elsie Masilela (29), a mother of two, said she paid R23 to Mr Mdlalose after hearing that the council had made available land for squatters.

She said she had no option but to go there as she had been struggling for accommodation for a long time and was also unhappy about hiring a back-room in Soweto.

Another resident, Mrs Dora Sibi (69), said: "I was staying in Dlamini and after the death of my husband in 1977, I was kicked out of the house. I then went to stay with a friend until I heard that people were allowed to build shacks here at Mdlaloseville."

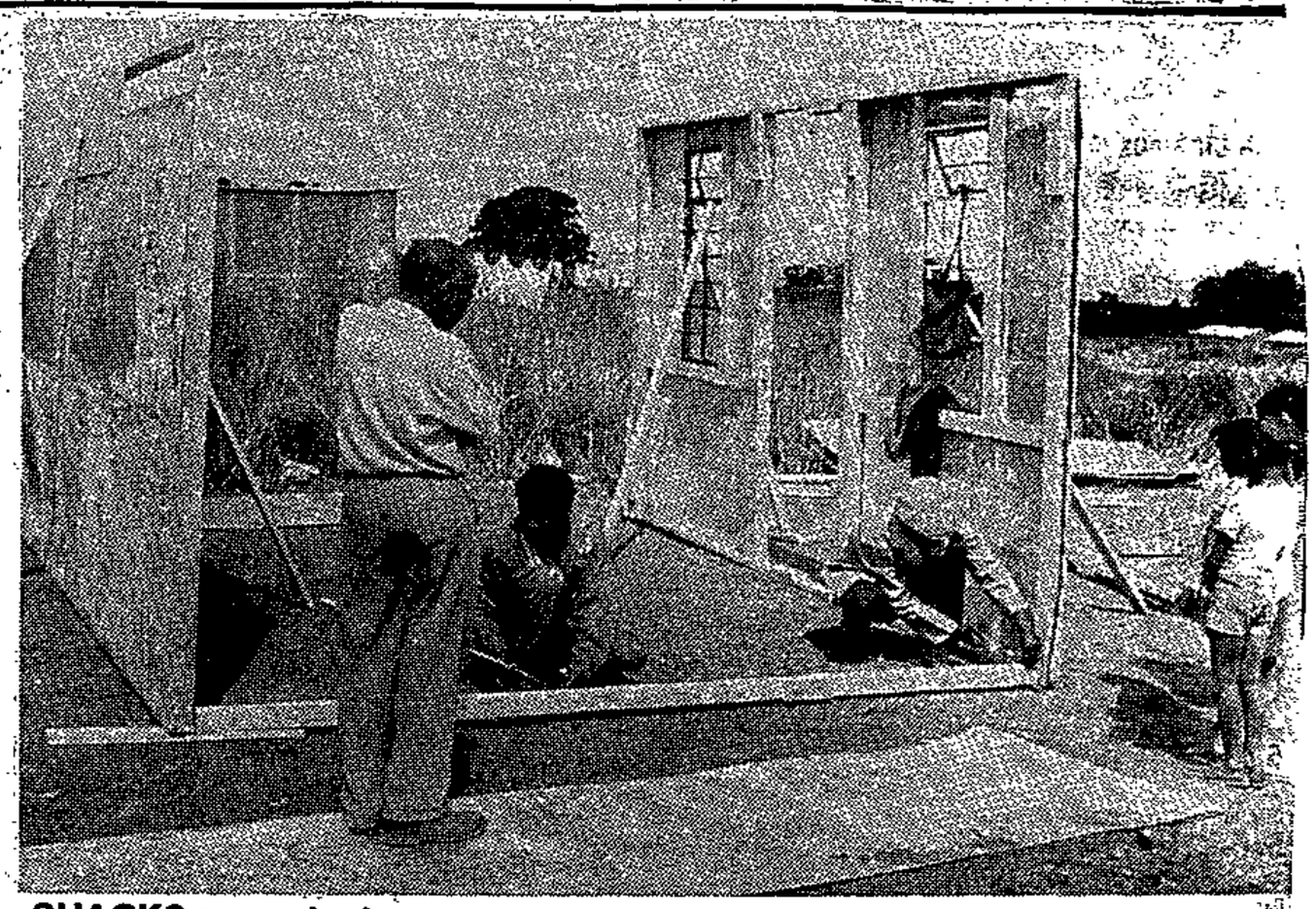
Mrs Sibi is sharing her one-roomed shack with her daughter Paulinah and a four-month-old baby.

Another resident, Mrs Eunice Mhlaba, said she

Mr Julius Mdlalose, chairman of the Soweto City Council management committee, confirmed that people have been given land between Dlamini and Tshiawelo to build their shacks.

He said: "We have decided that these people should occupy the land temporarily until there are houses available for them. These people feel they cannot afford to stay in backyards because of the high rents they have to pay."

He said anyone who wishes to obtain a site where he can build his shack must pay R23 to the council. "We will house them properly when the time comes," Mr Mdlalose said.



SHACKS are springing up in Mdlaloseville and these men who are erecting them charge R600.



17h31 — Spiderman.
17h20 — The Front Runners (E):
17h10 — Retailing Principles (E):
22h25 — Die Handlanger.
23h30 — Die Nuus.
23h45 — Ordenkino.

Sowetan

Squatters' shacks destroyed in raid

SOPHIE TEMA

ABOUT 25 squatter families who have been sleeping in the bushes near a Roodepoort municipal dump had all their belongings destroyed by fire this week during a raid by municipal guards.

A municipal security department spokesman said yesterday the squatters had caused "a lot of unpleasantness", particularly at the dump, where the families had been "scavenging".

Conflict had developed between the squatters and workers of a local contractor and the municipality. There had also been several incidents of stone-throwing by the squatters, he said.

He said at the beginning of the year there were almost 400 people on the plot. Their numbers had dropped after more than 100 were arrested and charged under the Squatter Act.

The families lost their shacks after the guards set them alight and confiscated the corrugated iron with which they were built.

When guards raided the area on Monday they set alight clothing and other household items found hidden in the bushes.

B10 Cities

Move to stop eviction

19/4/87

By STAN MHLONGO

THE 800 squatters, threatened by eviction at Wielers' Farm, north of Evaton, this week started legal action to stop plans to kick them out of the area.

Legal Resources Centre member Geoff Budlender this week said negotiations have started with the government, appealing for intervention to stop the evictions.

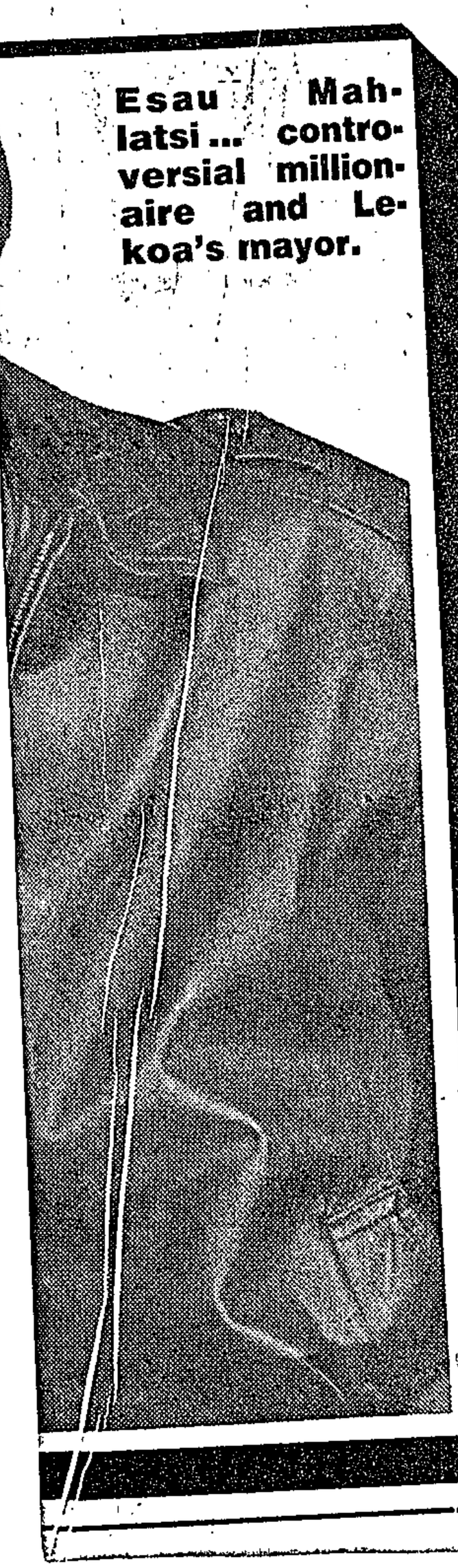
The bid to stop the evictions comes in the wake of fresh allegations that troops raided them on April 2.

A spokesman for the SA Defence Force public relations directorate said inquiries were being made by his department about the allegations. He advised the victims to lay charges at their nearest police station.

One squatter, Samuel Masithulele, claimed that he was made to strip naked by the troops, who also threatened to take his car.

The troops were given a mandate to monitor the squatter camp by the Walkerville Local Areas' Committee recently.

Esau Mahlatsi ... controversial millionaire and Lekoa's mayor.



MAYOR'S 'THREAT' TO SQUATTER LEADERS

TWO leaders of the Katlehong squatter camp, on the East Rand, claim they have been harassed and threatened with eviction by the township's mayor, Mr Thami Siluma.

They are Mr Nganeyakhe Bhayi, chairman, and Mrs Rose Nzimande, an executive member of the Katlehong Squatters and Homeless Committee.

The committee represents about 600 squatter families staying on the outskirts of Katlehong, near the Katlehong coalyard.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

Mrs Nzimande told the *Sowetan* that about 20 Katlehong council policemen confiscated goods worth more than R2 000 from her tuck shop last week.

"They said I had no right to operate a tuck shop. They have not returned my goods," Mrs Nzimande said.

Mrs Nzimande has a licence to operate a tuck shop.

She said on several occasions Mr Siluma had threatened to demolish committee members' shacks, because they were "misleading the squatters."

Committee

Mrs Nzimande and Mr Bhayi said members of the committee were also warned that they would be evicted if they did not join a committee formed by the council representing squatters in the area.

Mr Siluma was yesterday not available for comment. His deputy, Mr Solly "Ntshebe" Lukhele said he was not aware of the allegations. He promised to investigate.

Last month the council rescinded a decision to evict the squatters.

Squatter families are left homeless

MANY squatter families in Bekkersdal, near Westonaria, have been left homeless after the Bekkersdal Town Council demolished scores of shacks at the weekend.

By NAT DISEKO

The demolitions were carried out at a huge shantytown called "Spooktown". The place is situated outside the local cemetery.

Since Friday, when the shacks were demolished, homeless shack dwellers moved in with other squatter families. Some homeless Spooktown residents slept in the open.

They said council officials told them the shacks were demolished because people squatted without first obtaining official permission.

One of the homeless people is Mr Lennox Nxande (40), who lives with his wife, Eunice, and four children. He said he has been in Spooktown for two years.

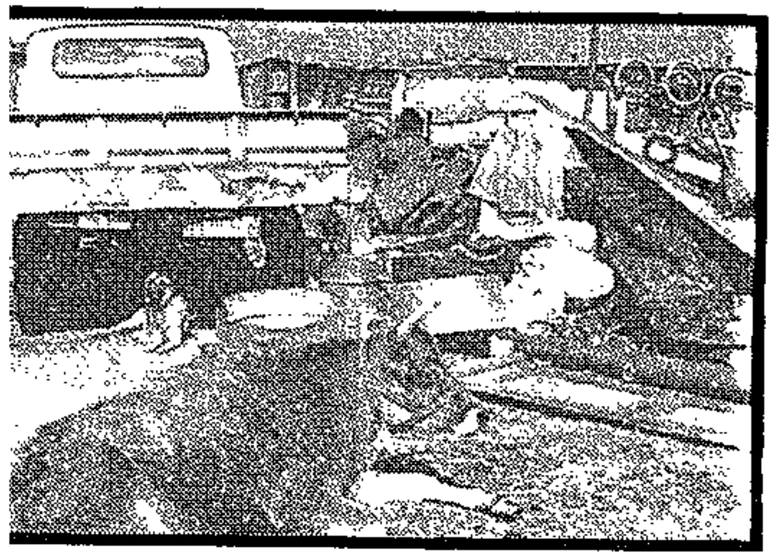
"I work seven days a week as a cleaner for the Westonaria City Council. But I have not been to work since Friday. I have been trying to get a home for my family. We are now crowded in a two-roomed shack belonging to a friend.

Mr David Mbuqe (27), and his common-law wife, Miss Gladys Mbele (27), also had their shack demolished.

Yesterday, a group of homeless women went to the council offices in an effort to obtain permission to rebuild their shacks.

The superindentendent of the town council, Mr Henry Cross, was not available for comment.

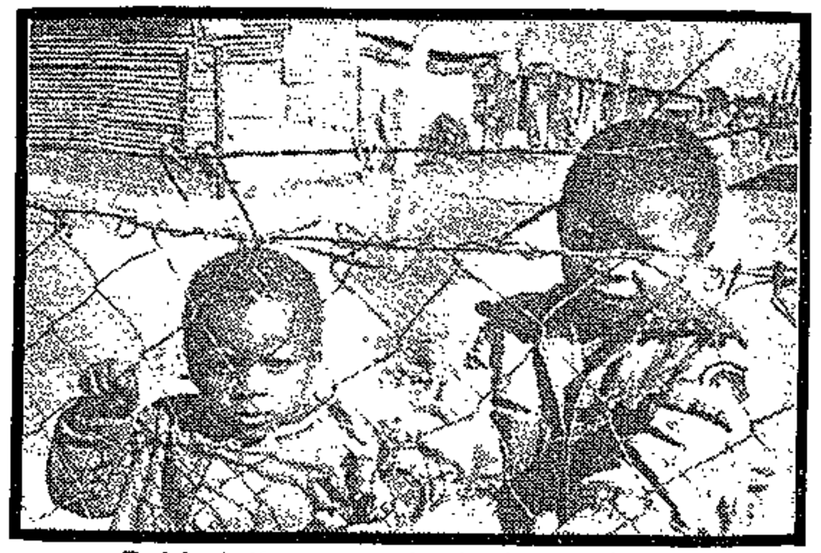
SQUATTER SQUALOR



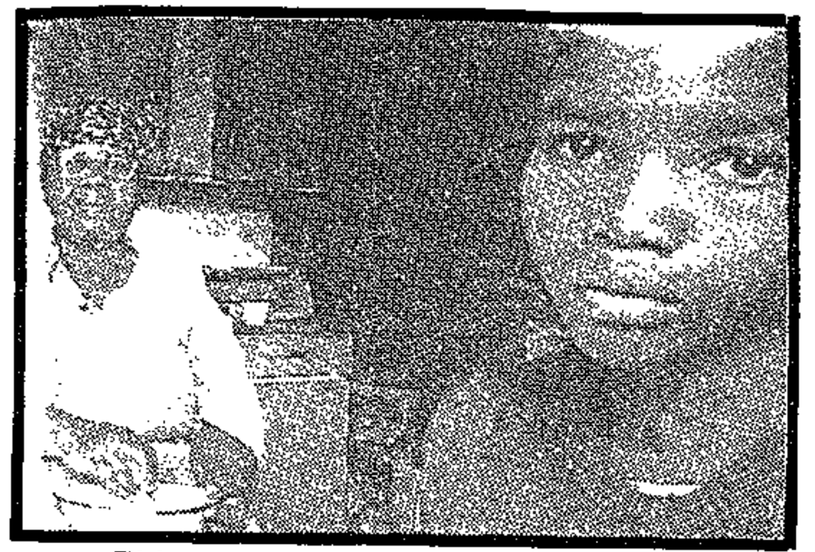
A chained dog and cow and heaps of debris are typical of the site



An older woman is one of those paying up to R60 a month for living quarters



Behind the rusty barbed-wire fence which surrounds the squatter camp



This woman and her family have put a kitchen together, but it's paraffin-powered

and they pay a white farmer up to R60 a month for it

WHITE farmer is taking nts of up to R60 a onth from the residents a squalid squatter mp on his smallhold-g.

The five-acre Benoni smallding has been turned into a uatter slum, but the farmer, Giel Nieuwoudt, is adaant that he is doing nothing ong.

"I'm providing people with mes who would otherwise be meless," he said.

"I'm not breaking the law and, yway, nobody is staying here illgally."

Angry white neighbours claim Niewoudt, who has lived in the a since 1983, could be earning to R12 000 a month from his uatter business".

By JANINE LAZARUS — Pictures: JAMES SOULLIER

A Government health inspector said this week there were about 300 squatters in the area — Varkfontein 25 — but the residents said there were "2 000 people and sometimes more".

A spokesman for the Peri-Urban Health Department said they knew Mr Nieuwoudt was charging the squatters about R40 a shanty.

BOREHOLE

The inspector, who did not want to be named, said Mr Nieuwoudt had "invited" blacks to squat on the ground, which was "virtually a location".

"I have conducted at least one inspection a month since February this year, and the number of people living there keeps on doubling," he said.

"There is no electricity or refuse removal, and the water provided from a borehole is not within reasonable walking distance."

The spokesman added that there were only six pit latrines for the squatters, and some of the shanties were erected below power cables.

"There are more than 90 dogs on the land, some of which have been tested for rabies, and the fires which are made in the mornings and evenings are also a health hazard.

"The floor area in relation to the number of inhabitants is insufficient, but I do not have the authority to clamp down on this issue. I have handed the matter over to the police."

Residents have also lodged complaints with the police after what they say have been numerous break-ins.

Mrs Sylvia Schouten, who has been living on a smallholding in the area for three years, said "the location" — about 500m from her home — was "totally unacceptable".

"Residents have been complaining of break-ins since Mr Nieuwoudt has been hiring out his land to blacks," she said.

Elderly Mrs Lena Malimela, who has been living in a cramped, corrugated-iron shanty on the smallholding since December last year, said she paid R60 a month.

"I stay here with my husband, my sister and her baby, and there isn't enough room for us all."

A filthy pit full of muddy water serves as the squatters' "refuse bin" and is full to the brim with foul-smelling rubbish.

A police spokesman said squatting was something the police looked at all the time.

He knew of the area concerned and a docket on the case was with the Attorney-General.

ADAMANT

Mr Nieuwoudt, who lives in a sprawling, flat-roofed white house some distance from the location, said he charged "only R30 a family".

"These people actually stay on my land for nothing -- it's the water they are paying for," he said.

Mr Nieuwoudt was adamant that "a little more than 200" people were living on his smallholding, "which includes a lot of pensioners who have nowhere else to live".

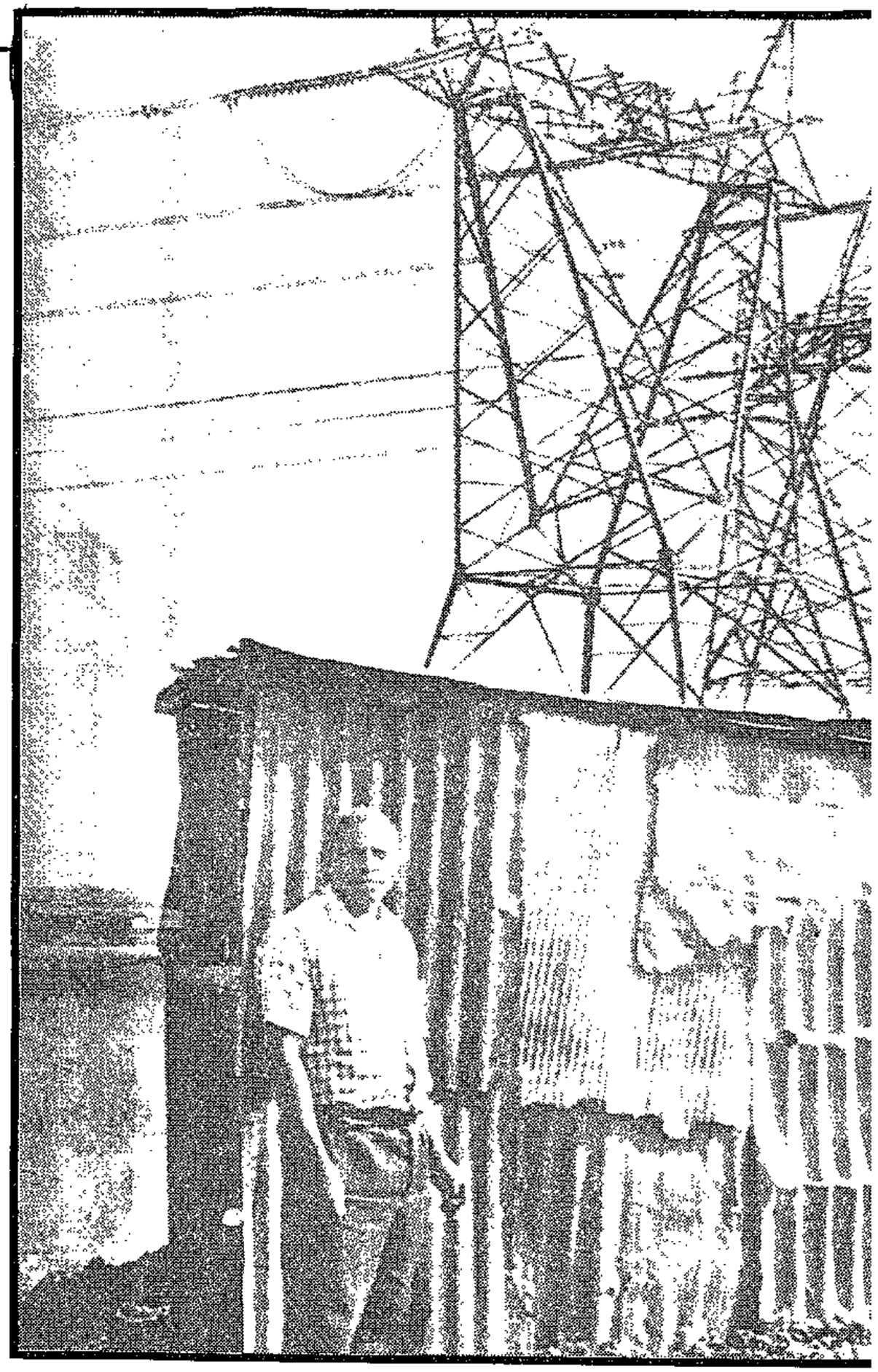
He added that there were 30 farm toilets in the location, which was "more than enough — after all, they don't use the toilets all at once".

"Most of the adults only stay here over the weekends, so it is mainly the children and the elderly people who are here most of the time," he said.

He denied that some of the shacks were erected under power cables and said he knew nothing about the squatters' dogs being tested for rabies.

"The health department said they wanted to check the dogs for any illnesses and a few of them were shot dead, but that is understandable because every second house has a dog," he said.

Mr Nieuwoudt added that he provided "cheap" meat, milk, wood and coal for those staying on his farm "at half the price they would get it at any shop".



Pylons loom and powerlines stretch over the shanties — but there is no electricity for the squatters



MRS PAULINE Nkabinde . . . may be evicted.

Thokoza squatters face eviction - families paid R350 for sites

ABOUT 60 squatter families in Thokoza, near Alberton, who claim they "paid" a councillor between R200 and R350 for sites to build shacks, now face eviction.

The families yesterday told the *Sowetan* that they paid the money to a former councillor.

They said the councillor told them that the land where the shacks were erected belonged to him. Chairman of the Thokoza administrators, Mr Jacob Sekete, yesterday denied that the land belonged to the councillor.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

The councillor denied that he took monies from the families. Mr Sekete said the administrators would take action against the squatter families because they had no right to erect shacks next to a water reservoir.

The families said they gave the councillor the money between January and March this year. They added that they were not given receipts. A spokesperson for the squatters, Mrs Paulinah Nkabinde, said that last week the councillor told them that from this month the families would have to pay monthly "rent" of R60 each to him.

There is neither water nor toilets at the squatter camp. Yesterday more families arrived at the camp to erect new shacks.

Mr Sekete said the families would be evicted because they had no right to occupy the area.

The councillor is one of five who were dismissed last Monday by the administrator of the Transvaal who dissolved the Thokoza Council because of its unsound position.

envisaged in respect of this residential area; if so, (i) when, (ii) whereto and (iii) in what way;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) No.

(a) Due to the cost (estimated at nearly R40 million) to replace the existing facilities it cannot be afforded to do away with existing good housing and other facilities for blacks in an area where there is a considerable backlog in black housing. Bophelong is conveniently situated in respect of work opportunities for blacks.

(b) Upgrading of the existing improvements and infrastructure

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

(2) No.

Riots: buildings damaged

*19. Dr F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:†

(a) How many buildings falling under the control of the Department of Development Aid have been damaged as a result of riots in the current calendar year, (b) what is the estimated cost of the damage and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) 3.

(b) R30 700.

(c) 23 May 1987.

Onverwacht

*20. Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 22 on 17 February 1987, any further consultations and discussions have been held regarding the date for the incorporation of Onverwacht into Qwaqwa; if so, (a) with whom, (b) on what dates and (c) what was the outcome in each case;

(2) whether a referendum is to be held amongst the resident of Onverwacht on incorporation into Qwaqwa; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) how will it be conducted;

(3) whether the Government of Qwaqwa has made any representations to the South African Government regarding independence; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the (i) nature of these representations and (ii) response thereto?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) No, no further consultations or discussions were held.

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

(2) No decision regarding a referendum has been taken.

(a) and (b) Fall way.

(3) No. (a) and (b) Fall away.

Group Areas Act

*21. Mr J J S Prinsloo asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether a body or person falling under his Department issued a residence permit in terms of the provisions of the Group Areas Act to a White person who is living with his Coloured wife in a White group area at an address furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply; if so, (a) when, (b) by whom and (c) on whose recommendation was the permit issued; if not,

(2) whether any steps have been taken or are contemplated against the above-mentioned persons; if so, what steps; if not, why not?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) No. (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

(2) Yes, the person concerned was indicted on a criminal charge and convicted in a court of law.

Benoni: illegal squatting

*22. Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether any illegal squatting is taking place on a certain piece of land in the Benoni District situated next to the Benoni/Babsfontein/Pretoria through road and further particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply; if so, (a) how many persons are squatting on this piece of land and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

(2) whether any charges are being collected from the squatters; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) for what purposes and (c) at what rate;

(3) whether his Department has investigated the consequences and possible consequences of this squatting; if not, why not: if so, (a) what consequences have been investigated and (b) what were the findings in each case;

(4) whether his Department has taken or is going to take any steps in respect of this squatting; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when?

†The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) Yes.

(a) Approximately 1 500 people in approximately 250 structures.

(b) 15 May 1987.

(2) Yes.

(a) Mr Giel Nieuwoudt.

(b) Unknown.

(c) Acording to information obtained from some of the squatters, Mr Nieuwoudt is collecting R30 per structure per month.

(3) No, because the administration of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951, has been assigned to the Provincial Administrators.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(4) No, But the Transvaal Provincial Administration intends to pursue the matter as soon as the criminal charges, brought by the South African Police against Mr Nieuwoudt and in respect of which he is to appear in the magistrate's court on 9 June 1987, have been disposed of.

(a) Possible action in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951, and/or the Group Areas Act, 1966.

(b) As soon as the criminal case has been determined.

Cape Town: vagrants

*23. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) Whether any facilities are available for the rehabilitation of vagrants of each race group from the central Cape Town area; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action is being taken in this regard; if so, (i) what facilities, (ii) (aa) where, (bb) when and (cc) by whom was each such facility provided and (iii) by whom are they financed;

(2) whether any additional facilities for the rehabilitation of such vagrants were provided during the past five years; if so, (a) what facilities, (b) (i) where, (ii) when and (iii) by whom were they provided, (c) by whom are they financed and (d) what total number of vagrants can be accommodated in these facilities?

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) *Asians:* None.

ropolitan, urban or rural RSC).

(ii) None.

(iii) From the applicable RSC's budget account.

Notices to sell premises

19. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether any notices to sell or vacate premises in White group areas were served on non-White owners and occupants as a result of complaints received by his Department; if so, (a) in how many cases and (b) in which towns or cities were such complaints received;

(2) whether he will furnish the names of the bodies and/or persons from whom these complaints were received; if not, why not; if so, what are their names in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) No, no non-White owner is involved and the notices are also not to vacate.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) Falls away.

Leeudoringstad: squatters

117. Mr J M BEYERS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether any Blacks are squatting on private property adjoining Leeudoringstad in the constituency of Schweizer-Reneke; if so, (a) how many persons are estimated to be squatting there and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether his Department is taking any steps in respect of these squatters; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps, (b) in terms of what statutory provisions and (c) with what result?

HoA

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) Yes.

(a) Between 50 and 60 people.

(b) 3 June 1987.

(2) No. The Transvaal Provincial Administration has however taken the necessary steps.

(a) Criminal charges were laid against the owner of the land.

(b) Sections 3A (1) (a) (i), 3A (1) (a) (ii) (aa), and 3A (1) (a) (ii) (bb) of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951 read with section 3A (2) of the said Act.

(c) One charge was withdrawn, because the squatters concerned had left the property in question. The remaining charge has been referred for trial to the Regional Court, and a date for the trial has yet to be set.

Mixed couples

130. Mr M J MENTZ asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) How many mixed couples have been living in White group areas since the repeal of the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, No 55 of 1949, (a) with and (b) without a residence permit issued under the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966;

(2) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) and (b) The question can unfortunately not be answered as statistics are not kept in the form required by the hon member.

(2) Falls away.

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 1987

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 9 June 1987:

David Allen

*28. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether he or his Department granted any permits, licences, concessions, quotas or other benefits to (a) a certain person from Port Elizabeth, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, and/or (b) any firm represented by this person; if so, (i) what was the nature thereof, (ii) when were they granted in each case, (iii) what was the duration thereof, (iv) what is the present status of the said permits, licences, concessions, quotas or benefits and (v) what is the name of the person concerned;

(2) whether these permits, licences, concessions, quotas or benefits were subject to tender procedures; if not, why not; if so, from whom were tenders received?

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(i) The permit was an authority for the experimental cultivation, transport and sale of mussels and oysters in the S A Transport Services harbours of Port Elizabeth and Saldanha Bay.

(ii) The permit was first granted on 5 August 1985.

(iii) The permit was valid up to 31 December 1986, but has subsequently been renewed.

(iv) The "present status of the permit" is that it is valid.

(v) The late Mr David Allen.

(2) No, tender procedures are not applicable.

Marco Parisi

*35. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was a member of the Defence Force at the time of his death on or about 13 February 1987; if so, (a) to which military base was he attached, (b) on what date did he report for duty and (c) what was his name;

(2) whether this person received any medical treatment at any military hospital or sick-bay while he was a member of the Defence Force; if so, (a) at which military hospital or sick-bay and (b) what was the (i) diagnosis and (ii) treatment prescribed;

(3) whether a board of inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances of his death; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will such a board be convened; if so, (i) when and (ii) who is the chairman of the board;

(4) whether the board has reported its findings; if not, when is it anticipated that it will submit a report; if so, what were its findings;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) The person was a member of the SA Defence Force until 11 February 1987 when he was discharged medically unfit.

(a) 3 SA Infantry Training Unit, Potchefstroom;

lian campers.

tion in order to inform itself about the powers.

Slum clearance puts people in street

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

Hundreds of people in Newclare, Johannesburg, have been ordered to move in a city council slum clearance operation that has left some "black" families living in the open since Tuesday.

Mrs Lydia Adendorf (34) said she and her 66-year-old mother had been told to quit rooms, at the back of dilapidated shops, which they had rented for R7,50 a month since 1977.

"We have nowhere to go and have to stay on this open lot with all our possessions," she said.

Mr G P Pinto, coloured management committee councillor for Newclare, denied the council had evicted people. He said they had been given ample time to find other accommodation.

He said Mrs Adendorf had a house in Rustenberg.

"They are black people and I am not prepared to give them accommodation in Newclare as my own people are suffering," he said,

"When Soweto put out coloureds, we put up tents to accommodate them."

Johannesburg housing director Mr Thys Wilsnach said: "These shops are council property which was rezoned from business to residential land in 1978.



Mrs Lydia Adendorf (left) and her mother, Saartjie, say they have been living in the open since last week.

"The tenants were given 10 years' 'use right' to resettle elsewhere. That right expired on April 15, and the coloured management committee decided not to extend the use right as it wanted to build houses on those sites."

The move was labelled "racist and totally inhuman" by Actstop (Action Committee to Halt Evictions) spokesman Mr Mohammed Dangor.

SA expected to domi

The Star's Foreign News Service

MUNICH — South African issues are expected to dominate the German Evangelical Church congress that opens in Frankfurt today, and Frankfurt police are bracing themselves for possible clashes on the fringes of the four-day gathering.

South African church representatives, led by Dr Allan Boesak, are attending the congress. Dr Boesak will be delivering the sermon at the closing religious service on Sunday.

Swapo is also represented at the congress, despite the protests of some German churchmen.

Scores shiver as shacks are razed



TWO-YEAR-OLD Phumla and her younger sister Nandipha (nine months) sit on the remains of their home.

Sowetan 19/6/87 (310)

By LANGA SKOSANA

SCORES of families were left stranded in bitterly cold weather yesterday when their shacks were razed in Katlehong near Germiston.

The action started after 8am when newly-built shacks in an area housing hundreds of people were torn down. The demolition squad is said to have even kicked down the shacks.

Among those left without a home were two-year-old Phumla and nine-month-old Nandipha Ndwengwa (in the picture), whose frantic mother, Mavis, left them on the corrugated iron sheets strewn around by the demolishers.

Friends of the stranded mother said Mrs Ndwengwa was running around the squatter camp looking for a family that could accommodate her for the night.

Her husband, Ndodomzi Ndwengwa, an employee at the Natalspruit Hospital, was unaware that his home had been pulled down, they said.

Another family that spent last night in the cold is that of widow, Mrs Mary Mzwakala, whose 10 children clustered around a shack near their demolished home. She said she was told to move out before the demolition squad pulled down her home.

Some of the squatters said the "squad" removed furniture and clothing from the shacks they had demolished. Some of the occupants were arrested.

Mrs Nosabelo Ngesi, whose shack was not razed, said it appeared the demolishers picked mostly on squatters coming from Mozambique.

She said that even those squatters who did not come from Mozambique had their shacks torn down.

A spokesman for the Katlehong town council said his council was not involved in the demolitions.

A spokesman for the security forces in Katlehong was unavailable late yesterday afternoon.

1,5-m black IDs ready for collection

Pretoria Bureau

The Department of Home Affairs says about 1,5 million new identity documents for blacks are ready and has appealed to people to collect them from the regional or district offices of the department.

In a statement issued in Pretoria yesterday, the Director-General of Home Affairs, Mr Gerrie van Zyl, said 4,4 million applications for new documents had been received and applications were pouring in at the rate of 24 000 a day.

A total of 3,4 million documents had been completed and returned to the regional and district offices but only 1,9 million had been handed over to the applicants.

Applications can be made at any of the department's regional or district offices or the local magistrate's courts.

'Golden boys' coin it

MELBOURNE — Four South Africans have been hailed by the media here as the heroes of Australia's entry into the world gold coin market.

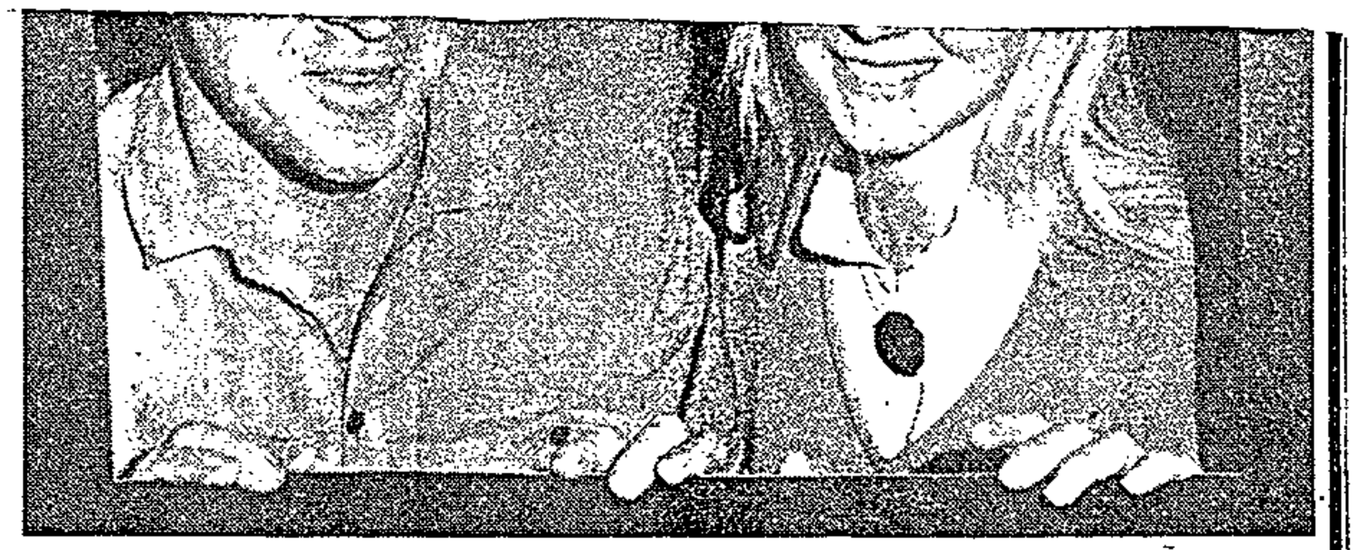
Heading the list was Mr Don Mackay-Coghill, former chief executive of South Africa's International Gold Corporation. The Western Australian government lured him to Perth to head Gold Corp, which has sold seven tonnes of coins in seven weeks.

Others are: Mr Nigel Desebrock, former head of the investment division of South Africa's gold coin operation who now heads Gold Corp's bullion division; Mr Brian Bath, now director of finance and operations at Gold Corp; and Mr Peter Lowe, who is now setting up two refineries in Western Australia. — The Star's Foreign News Service.

De Beers plan is 'no breach'

LONDON — Plans by De Beers to use a free port on the Isle of Man will not breach UK Government policy on trade restrictions, the House of Commons has been told.

Home Office Minister Mr Douglas Hogg said the Isle of Man authorities had given assurances to this effect. — The Star Bureau.



Rogan Coles and Laura Jeannes with one of the photographs on their exhibition "Elements of South African Architecture" that opens today at the Shell Gallery.

Report says thousands of squatters displaced

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Thousands of squatters around Johannesburg are being displaced and many taken to court as the Government's "orderly urbanisation" policy is put into effect, according to a report on the plight of Witwatersrand squatters.

The report, by the Shackdwellers Project of the Black Sash and the Agency for Industrial Mission, said: "The controls under the policy are being exercised without being balanced by the provision of sufficient affordable serviced land, close to where people find their employment".

The report says the possible exception to this harsh implementation of "orderly urbanisation" is Weiler's Farm where 6 000 people are waiting to move to serviced land on the northern edge of Evaton/Sebokeng.

For the rest, the report says, it is a question of repeated arrests, destruction of homes and property and, at best, temporary refuge.

"Our society deprives countless of its members their most basic rights — shelter, water, accommodation close to work. Homeless people are made into 'illegals'. This means they are denied all services that society owes its members.

"As if this were not bad enough, threats, demolitions, arrests, prosecutions and jail — and the destruction of meagre possessions and food — are added to their daily hardship," the report states.

It details the position of 20 squatter communities, mostly to the south of Johannesburg but also to the north and west. These include:

- **Kibler Park, from which more than 100 people were evicted early this year and reaccommodated by the Johannesburg municipality in a compound at Olifantsvlei. "They have been told they must move on in October," says the report.**
- **Westonaria, where at least 50 people living in brick outbuildings near a shop must leave the property by the end of the year.**
- **Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre, near Roodepoort, where health authorities have ordered the demolition of illegal shacks.**
- **Seven sites accommodating about 2 300 people in the Grasmere area, which has been designated for Indian occupation.**
- **Big Farms, Roodepoort where 100 people are awaiting rehousing and where repeated destruction of shacks has occurred.**
- **Various townships where people who cannot get formal housing have simply moved on to vacant land. This has occurred in Katlehong, various parts of Soweto (Protea, Mshenguville and Chicken Farm) and in Tembisa.**

About 800 squatters in the Balfour township of Siyathemba have also been served with notice to move from the land they have occupied in the "buffer zone". The period of notice expires this week.

Hostel plan for homeless

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

THE Soweto City Council is to move scores of families living in shacks in transit camps in Soweto into empty single-sex hostel rooms previously used by male migrant workers.

The plan, which has been under discussion by Soweto councillors, was given the green light this week by a member of the executive committee of the Regional Services Council (Rand), Mr John Mavuso.

The council has also asked the Government to include the Devland Industrial area, near Baragwanath Hospital, into its area of control, in a bid to boost its depleted coffers.

Not welcome: Some 10 000 shackdwellers on the reef

By JO-ANN BEKKER

THIRTEEN months after influx control was formally abolished by the government — giving South African black citizens the right to move to the cities provided they have state-approved housing — the fate of at least 10 000 shackdwellers in the Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area hangs in the balance.

According to a report by the Agency for Industrial Mission Shackdwellers Project, the government is enforcing "orderly urbanisation" by evicting illegal squatters. But, despite the authorities' new powers to authorise "controlled squatting" the state is not compensating the communities with affordable, serviced land close to employment sources.

The researchers, who analysed trends in nearly 20 squatter communities, believe the patterns they observed are occurring on a vast scale in the area.

Weilers' Farm, where an estimated 6 000 shackdwellers live on public land, is a more complex variation on the pattern.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration, responding to right-wing pressure from the electorate in the area, recently expropriated the farm. It is now run by a committee of TPA Department of Community Services officials, soldiers, police and other state officials.

The report said the farm was soon to be declared an emergency camp — in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act — pending removal of the shackdwellers to Wildebeesfontein, on the northern boundary of the Sebokeng township, 10km away.

"The Weilers' Farm case is the first known current instance of a local group of squatters having achieved the recognition by government that it must find solutions for a group per se."

But, the researchers add, it is still unclear whether the authorities will agree to the community's wish to be consulted about where they live; what the new sites and services offered to them will cost and how close they will be to work opportunities.

Already, there is opposition among squatters to the permanent roadblock outside Weilers' Farm, staffed by members of the security forces and TPA officials, which has stopped a further influx of squatters. Shackdwellers are prevented from erecting more shacks or improving existing structures. Regular security force patrols have been reported, and two people were charged R50 each for trading illegally on the farm.

The Black Sash, which ran a weekly advice office at the farm over the last 18 months has been refused entrance.

Giving a breakdown of their investigations, the researchers said the authorities were acting against several private owners and tenants whose land was occupied by shackdwellers, including:

- The Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre at Roodepoort, where health officials had ordered the demolition of illegal structures on the church-owned property.
- A 100 Kibler Park squatters evicted by the owners after pressure from Johannesburg City Health authorities, have been temporarily housed in an unused compound in the city's Olifantsvlei Sewerage Works.
- Zinc shacks which housed several hundred black people on white-owned land in Westonaria have been demolished, after official pressure.

The authorities also acted against squatters on public land, apart from Weilers' Farm. Other examples given by the researchers were:

- Seven sites on land near Grasmere, designated for Indian development.

In recent weeks scores of people from five of the sites have been arrested and charged with squatting.

- Big Farm, Roodepoort, where about 100 squatters face eviction from land belonging to the municipality, and designated for the coloured township. In April more than 11 shacks were demolished but the structures were re-erected.

The researchers said they had also received reports of shack demolitions and evictions from a number of black urban areas, including Protea, Mshenguville, Tembisa and:

- Balfour's Siyathemba Township, where about 800 people moved onto sites to the west of the overcrowded township. Squatters report that in June municipal police served notices giving shackdwellers 30 days to leave
- Katlehong. Squatters, previously evicted from a farm, now face eviction by the Katlehong Town Council from land adjacent to the council.
- Chicken Farm, near Kliptown Station. In March, shackdwellers who erected structures between authorised shacks were arrested and their shacks demolished.

The promised land that faded away

By THAMI MKHWANAZI

SOWETO housing director Estelle Bester persuaded residents of a council-operated shack camp near Rockville to break the rent boycott in exchange for houses — but the houses the squatters were promised have been allocated to other families.

Occupants of the crowded Fred Clark camp were first promised housing in Nancefield by Bester's predecessor, Del Kevan. That promise had not been kept by the time Kevan resigned after a petrol bomb attack on her house.

According to a source close to the Soweto council, Bester attempted to fulfil Kevan's promise to the squatters by making a pledge of her own: to find them alternative accommodation in Nancefield — on condition they owed no rent.

But now the sites on which the promised houses were to be built have been allocated to others.

Almost all the Soweto councillors were each "entrusted" with 13 sites in the Nancefield settlement for allocation to people in their respective wards who desperately needed houses.

The Fred Clark families had been paying the council between R35 and R125 for accommodation in corrugated iron shacks or in partitioned classrooms of the former Salvation Army seminary.

Families at Fred Clark had been asking for houses since that year, when the West Rand Administration Board bulldozed their shacks in Orlando and housed them at the camp as an emergency measure.

In a letter to the council, the residents' committee stated its grievances, saying former mayor David Thebehali had promised them land in Nancefield in 1983.

The council has charged R15 rent for a shack and R20 for services, which they were told would be used for developing the Nancefield sites.

Meanwhile, the letter continued, toilets were regularly blocked, electricity was cut off and taps were leaking.

- The squatters have commissioned a Johannesburg legal aid organisation to assist them.

10/7/87

(310) SPM

Squatter on the land he has farmed for years

By Therese Anders and Jo-Anne Collinge

Witbooi Kubheka, disabled and growing old, is sustained by a passion for the land he has tended half his life — but he has no more right to that land than the most uncaring vagrant who strolls across it.

Mr Kubheka (58) was convicted in the Wakkerstroom Magistrate's Court last week of illegal squatting and has been given until the end of the month to leave the farm on which he was born and where his father worked.

He was also fined R300 or 150 days' jail.

Just a month ago he was fined R100 or 50 days for committing the offence of trespass by remaining on the farm after his period of notice had expired.

At the June hearing he was given until July 3 to produce witnesses to testify the original owner of the farm had given him the right to live there in perpetuity. He failed to do so when he appeared again last week.

Mr Khubeka speaks with deep feeling about the land where his parents are buried.

READY FOR JAIL

"I am ready to go to jail," he has said. "I don't want to move from my parents. I just want to die and be buried with them.

"If God was near I could call on Him to fetch my life. But God is far and I can't shout and have Him hear my cries."

Mr Khubeka was a tenant farmer, bound by a form of labour and land occupancy theoretically outlawed for many years but still practised in the Natal Midlands and parts of the Eastern Transvaal.

He was permitted by the owner to live on the farm St Helena and use a portion of it for grazing his own stock, provided he and his family supplied labour to the landowner.

Things became difficult for Mr Khubeka last year when his family was no longer able to provide labour to the farmer, Mr Pieter Pienaar.

The older Kubheka sons are unacceptable because they have lived in Soweto and are suspected of acquiring city ways.

The younger Khubeka boys, who attend school on a neighbouring farm, refused to work for Mr Pienaar, Mr Khubeka said. One of them, Mfumeni, ran away after a brief spell of work at St Helena and was traced to his aunt's house.

Since September last year the Kubhekas have been given several verbal warnings and written notice to leave the farm.

Mr Pienaar believes he has been "very generous" to Mr Kubheka.

"He refuses to work for me so I have given him written notice to leave several times.



Mr Witbooi Kubheka . . . received no cash payments for years of work on the farm he now has to leave.

"I had no alternative but to take the matter to court. It is not my duty to keep on this man and his family."

Mr Pienaar said if Mr Kubheka had not had "such a wrong attitude" he would possibly have let him stay even though he was not working.

Mr Kubheka is frail beyond his years. He was badly hurt in a shunting accident when he worked at a foundry on the East Rand.

"I was this high when I started working for the farmer," he recalls, raising his hand to shoulder height. "I worked for his grandfather and his father. The father died. Then his son, who lives in Cape Town, hired the place to Mr Pienaar."

He added bitterly: "I've worked on the farm so many years, but now that I've lost my strength, where shall I go?

"If I was to say they should give me money for all that work, they wouldn't be able to do so."

Mr Khubeka says he was never paid a cash wage on the farm, but received a ration of mealie meal. When money was needed to clothe the family or buy household supplies, he would sell a goat or a cow.

Assaults on squatters alleged



A RED CROSS team removes a woman who was injured at the McDonald Farm where there were shack demolitions yesterday.

POLICE STORM CAMP

TROUBLE flared at Soweto's Chicken Farm squatter camp yesterday when council police assaulted families whose homes they were demolishing.

The attacks come after authorities gave the squatters until Monday to demolish their tin shacks or face court action.

All the squatters did not comply with the order and council police began destroying their homes yesterday.

By LANGA SKOSANA

At least six people were injured and two were taken to clinics for treatment.

The head of the Soweto council police, Brigadier H Meintjies, said his men did not attack anyone at the squatter camp.

When told that a *Sowetan* reporter witnessed assaults, Brig Meintjies said one of his men was injured when people started throwing stones.

"There was no action from any of my men. If the people who say they were assaulted want to lay charges, they are welcome to do so," he said.

He said he went to the camp personally and found everything back to normal.

Pounced

About 200 people were standing in groups watching council workers raze the corrugated iron shacks when a policeman ordered one of the squatters to move away.

When he did not move back, about six policemen pounced on him and attacked him with fists, rifle butts and their boots.

Women screamed. Other people shouted at the police to stop the assault. The badly injured man was put into a police van.

More assaults followed and men, women and youths were attacked and told to move away.

A Columbia Broadcasting Services (CBS) TV/cameraman, Mr Siphiwe Ralo, had earlier

• To Page 2

Police storm camp

• From Page 1

been assaulted and ordered not to film the events.

His equipment was wrenched away from him. He was told: "Police are about to act and if you are around you will be arrested under the emergency regulations."

The photographer left the scene.

Gunshots followed but it was not clear whether the police were firing birdshot, blanks or live ammunition.

When the crowd picked up stones, the police went to their trucks and moved away.

Some people in the crowd said the attack was unprovoked and unnecessary.

Some of the injured people said they were going to lay charges of assault against the police.

Mrs Lolo Morris (28), a mother of three, could hardly stand after being assaulted. She said she did not know why she was singled out. She suffered a cut lip.

Beaten

"I was beaten on the face with fists and trampled over the body with boots. This vicious attack on me was carried out by about five or six men," she said.

She said she would lay charges. Her husband, Peter, was at work when she was attacked.

Mr Simon Yende (57), said his son, Daniel, was assaulted with rifle butts and kicked all over the body by a "horde" of policemen.

"I don't know whether he was shot as he lay on the ground. They picked him up and bundled him into a police van. I hope he's still alive," said Mr Yende.

Miss Agatha Tshabalala (30), said when she fell on the ground police kicked her. She planned to lay charges of assault.

Province halts razing of shacks

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Provincial authorities intervened yesterday to prevent Soweto Council police demolishing squatter shacks — after police had destroyed two shacks and injured four people.

The last-minute intervention followed a telephone conservation between PFP MP Mr Rupert Lorimer and Consitutional Development and Planning Minister Mr Chris Heunis.

Mr Heunis's department is ultimately responsible for implementing the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, in terms of which 1 000 squatters were to be sent "back to where they came from".

Mr Heunis referred Mr Lorimer to the Provincial Director of Land Use Control, Mr J J van der Walt, who contacted Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan to urge him to impose a moratorium on the removal.

Mr Malan confirmed the intervention last night and said negotiations were continuing to provide an alternative squatting site.

Squatters' assaults

SOWETO council authorities were investigating yesterday reports that council police had assaulted squatters whose shacks were about to be demolished in Soweto on Tuesday.

The demolition of shacks at the "Chicken Farm" was stopped by the intervention of PFP MP Rupert Lorimer, who had been approached by squatter representatives.

Soweto's director of emergency and protective services, Chris Oosthuizen, said Soweto council police head Commandant H Meintjies had been instructed to investigate reports that people had been assaulted and injured at the scene of the projected demolition on Tuesday.

Meintjies had also been told to contact CBS TV news staff in Johannesburg to clarify reports that a news crew had been assaulted.

body in his Northcliff townhouse on Tuesday.

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Sowetan 16/7/87

Council halts demolitions

THE Soweto Council has halted the demolition of squatter shacks at Chicken Farm, near Kliptown following incidents of assault on squatter families by municipal policemen.

By LANGA SKOSANA

The council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan said yesterday about 200 squatters in the area has been served with eviction notices about a week ago.

He said the council proposed to offer the squatters a site in another area because the area they presently occupied had been earmarked for commercial and industrial development.

The council, he said, had decided to discontinue the eviction of the squatters while it investigated what to do with families who were non-Sowetans. Those from Soweto would be given another site to erect their shacks while waiting for houses.

"Before we take any action we will have to serve them with notices again in good time so that they must know what they must do," said Mr Malan.

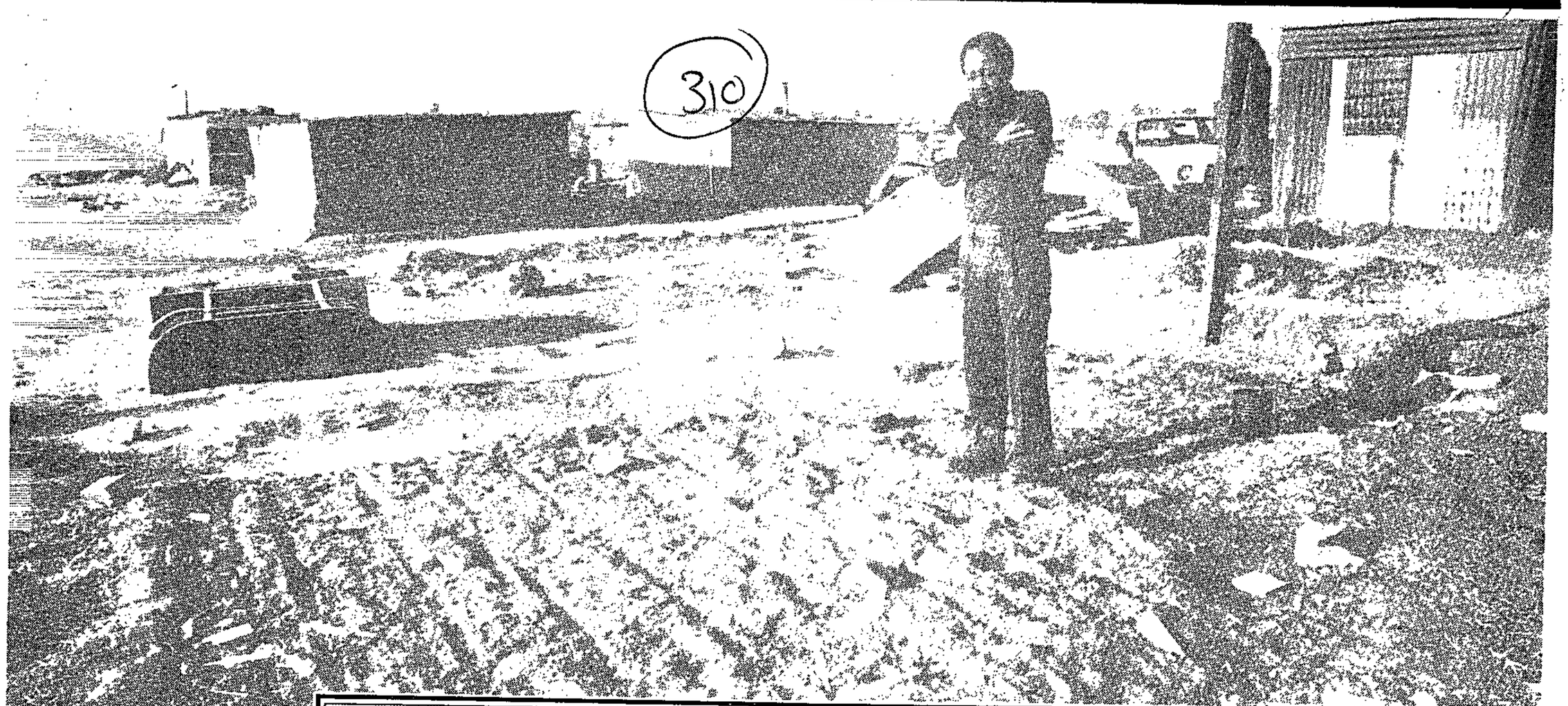
He said yesterday it was peaceful and quiet at the squatter camp.

Brigadier H Meintjies, head of the Soweto municipal police, whose men have been accused of vicious assaults by the squatters was yesterday unavailable for comment.

A Soweto doctor, who treated people who were assaulted at the squatter camp said yesterday others may have been taken to the clinic or hospital by Red Cross volunteers who came to the scene.

About six people were injured when police assaulted them with fists, rifle butts and kicked them with their boots.

The squatters said they were not told that the evictions had been stopped.



Lines in the dust mark the spot where Mangempi Ngubane's shack once stood.

Mangempi Ngubane returns from work to find that his home has vanished

JO-ANN BEKKER reports on the demolition of squatter shacks in Soweto

MANGEMPI NGUBANE returned home to a bare patch of ground in Soweto's Chicken Farm squatter camp this week.

His few possessions had been thrown in a careless heap. A set of keys lay in the pot containing the remains of his breakfast porridge.

Ngubane, a maintenance mechanic, was at work on Tuesday morning when Soweto Town Council police and officials arrived to tear down the zinc shacks of the squatting community which had ignored the council's instruction to leave the area by this week.

The estimated 1 500 shackdwellers were the latest victims of the state's post-influx control urbanisation policy: black people must have government-approved housing to live in the city. It is a policy which goes hand-in-hand with harsh action against squatters.

Other Chicken Farm dwellers watched as Ngubane's R500 tin shanty was demolished and carted away by the police. Then they tried to protest as corrugated iron sheets from four other homes were ripped off by council police using crowbars.

Anger mounted as police arrested several photographers who were recording the destruction. In the heated confrontation which followed, residents claimed six people were injured, one seriously, by police. The council police, in turn, stated they were acting defensively, as squatters were hurling stones at them.

Then, shortly before 11am, the council police withdrew as suddenly as they had arrived.

Judith Mapoma, of shack 114, said the departure of the police was a miracle: "I thank God, because if it was not for him they would have broken down all our houses. We, the women, have been praying every morning and now we see God's power. I wish everyone could see how powerful he is."

Others attributed the tenuous reprieve to the combination of community resistance, behind-the-scenes legal and political pressure and the presence of local and foreign journalists on Tuesday morning.

A Johannesburg lawyer said Progressive Federal Party MP Rupert Lorimer had appealed to Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis, whose department handles the implementation of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

Heunis referred Lorimer to Land Use Control provincial director JJ van der Walt. And Van der Walt contacted Soweto town clerk Nico Malan to urge him to freeze the instruction to move the squatters.

According to the lawyer, the Soweto Town Council had arranged for those squatters it considered Soweto residents to move to an emergency camp in nearby Dlamini. Malan also told him arrangements were being made for the other shackdwellers to be offered accommodation in the Roodepoort or Krugersdorp area.

"As we understand it, alternate sites will be made available to everyone," the lawyer said.

But, he added, he would try to secure further clarification. On Saturday night, the lawyer said, Malan had assured him the council had shelved the planned demolitions. "Then, on Monday at 4pm, he said they would go ahead on Tuesday."

Estelle Bester, the Soweto Town Council's director of housing, said officials from her department accompanied by council police, were implementing a Town Council resolution when they began demolishing shacks at Chicken Farm on Tuesday.

"The council has allocated the area for industrial development, because it is not suitable for housing," she said. "The people there received eviction notices in March. If they claim they did not receive them, it's because they moved there afterwards."

She said only one house had been destroyed when Malan "told me we could stop because other possibilities had cropped up. He said it was still at the stage of negotiations. So I got a message to my staff at the camp."

Bester was perturbed that press reports on the confrontation between police and squatters did not coincide with what her staff had told her. "They said the people who landed in trouble were throwing rocks — not stones — at the police and at my people. The one lady in particular. When she had to be arrested she rebelled very much."

Referring to the demolitions, she stressed: "We don't like doing this."

Bester said a group of squatters had come to her, and she had explained the council's position to them.

"They wanted me to legalise their stay there, they offered to pay rent but it's impossible. The area has been earmarked for different (industrial) development."

She said the town council had resolved to move some of the squatters to an emergency camp in Dlamini "as soon as the camp is ready and it shouldn't be long now". She said the "people from Soweto" who would be moved to the camp formed about a third of the squatters. "We have ways of determining who they are," she said, explaining they included those on the waiting list for houses, and those who "grew up" in Soweto.

"Regarding the others, the town council has got the policy — not because they are not sorry for them but because development opportunities are very limited — to look after its own children first. Some of the squatters came from Alexandra, Dobsonville and other parts of the country."

By midday on Tuesday, the dusty squatters camp — named after a chicken farm once in the area — resounded with the ringing of hammers on corrugated iron as residents rebuilt their dwellings.

Only Mangempi Ngubane's wire-bed base, single mattress, broken window pane, clothes, coffee tin and candle lay where the police had left squatters come from Alexandra, Dobthem. There was nothing his neighbours could rebuild. The police had taken his R300 Zozo hut and corrugated iron sheets worth R200 with them.

Ngubane's shack, number 107, was at end of the newest section of the camp. Nearby, Nomawonga Kutu, 36, was scrubbing pots, flanked by sheets of iron which the council police had ripped from the front of her shack, using crowbars.

"I came here in February, from Orlando where I was boarding," she said. "I live alone with my children, and have no job. I don't know anywhere else to go."

Her neighbour Joseph Wekeni was on his roof, hammering the iron sheets down where they had been wrenched away by the police. Inside his wife pointed to the thick layer of dirt and dust which had fallen on to the bed, stove and floor of the one-room shack she and her husband share with their four children.

"I don't know what will happen if they come back. There is nowhere else to go," she said.

Residents said the first squatters had moved to the area about four years ago. The population has steadily increased until today there are 494 shacks, housing at least 1 500 people, according to the Johannesburg lawyer.

There are no facilities to support the community. A tap near the oldest section of the development is the only waterpoint. Shortly after the police left, the squatters, carrying buckets, resumed their endless trips to and from the tap.

A doctor called to the scene to examine the injured said like other squatter areas in South Africa, Chicken Farm with its overcrowding, high-rate of unemployment, and lack of sewerage facilities or piped water would foster diseases like gastro-enteritis.

All the residents interviewed, however, were adamant that they wanted to remain in the camp, provided it was upgraded.

"We are prepared and willing to pay if we can stay here," said Letti Dladla of shack 133. "If they want us to buy our places, we can manage. We are willing to do anything to keep this place."

She arrived at Chicken Farm in November, after leaving a tiny room in Orlando, Soweto which she had rented for R105.

"We went to the Urban Bantu Council (now the Soweto Town Council) in March or April and said we would pay rent. They said why will you pay when Deep Soweto won't. We said because we're stranded. Deep Soweto people have been paying rent for 25 to 30 years for their houses. But we are willing to pay rent. Even R30 we can afford. We want houses for ourselves."



Like a scarecrow, Ngubane's jacket slung over a pole from his demolished house, kept watch over his possessions

Pictures: SANTU MOFOKENG, Afrapix

I watched the Chicken Farm beatings

By MONO BADELA

I WAS at the Chicken Farm settlement in central Soweto this week when municipal police and *kitskonstabels* (special constables) beat women squatters this week in full view of local and international journalists.

When *Weekly Mail* arrived on the spot, before 11 am, black municipal police had their R1 rifles trained on a crowd that had gathered as municipal workers were tearing down five shacks in the settlement.

Journalists dodged the police, who kicked and beat at least two women and a youth. One woman, Gladys Dlamini, was kicked twice as she and several others protested against the police action.

Another woman, Lola Morris, was so badly injured she required medical treatment and had to be helped by Red Cross workers. She and others had objected when municipal police had attempted to arrest me after I refused to hand over my notebook.

Shortly afterward, police fired warning shots, then charged squatters and journalists. A freelance journalist was ordered at gunpoint to leave the site. Members of a television crew were manhandled out of the area.

The head of the Soweto Municipal Police, Brigadier H Meintjies, has denied that his men attacked anyone at the camp.

He said one of his men was injured when squatters threw stones.

"There was no action from any of my men. If people who say they were assaulted want to lay charges, they are welcome to do so," he said.

Balaclava gang attack— with cigarette burns

By CARMEL RICKARD, Durban

FIVE men wearing balaclavas and long coats abducted a Durban advice office worker from outside his home earlier this month and burnt him extensively with cigarettes.

The man — who asked not to be named — said he went out to lock his car one night and suddenly felt a gun pressed to his head. His five assailants took him to a deserted spot where he was bound and gagged and then assaulted.

He said he was hit with a firearm, punched, kicked and burnt repeatedly with cigarette ends.

His right arm is disfigured with burn marks in concentric circles. A doctor who examined him has stated in a medical certificate that he noted 50 burns on his right arm and 38 on his left. He also found similar marks on his forehead and the back of his neck.

The victim of the attack said it was the second in two months; he had been similarly abducted and assaulted, again with cigarette burns, in early May.

During the assault his attackers asked him why his advice office, the Croftdene Advice Centre, should exist "when there was the House of Delegates and the Department of Manpower" to serve the people's needs.

They also told him the office was "putting pressure on the House of Delegates".

They threatened that if he reported the attack to the press, the police or any other authority, they would kill him.

They also threatened him and his co-workers with death and said the premises would be petrol bombed if the office was not shut down.

Another member of the committee said although they had "strong suspicions" about who was responsible for the two attacks and the repeated death threats phoned to the office, they had taken legal advice on the matter, and all they were prepared to say at this stage was that a vigilante group was responsible, which wanted to see the office closed down.

The vicious cigarette attack has, however, not achieved this aim and the Croftdene Advice Office, which has helped many people in the area obtain pension and other benefits, is continuing to function despite the threats and assaults.



Two brands of warrior meet in Durban's Queen street this week for the Durban Tattoo

Picture: CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix

A 48 year wait to mark a simple 'X

Half-a-world away from home, the family Krynau did something this week they couldn't do in the o days back in SA: Vote. BRYAN PEARSON repor from Melbourne

NEVILLE KRYNAUW, who describes himself as a Cape Hottie, voted this week. So did his wife, Deborah.

And, for the first time in their lives, their votes were not only canvassed but were crucial.

"I've waited 48 years to do this," said South African immigrant Krynauw, his voice quivering with emotion. "All these years I've had to put up with snot-nosed 18-year-old whites determining my destiny. Now at last I can make my own political decisions."

The occasion was the Australian general election, held on July 11, in which Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labour Party coasted to to an historic third term.

The Krynauws found that the great god of irony was, finally, on their side. They were in the most marginal electorate in the country, Chisholm in Victoria state. Their votes could mean the difference between either the Labour Party or the Liberal Party scraping in — Labour had made it by 30 votes in the 1983 election.

In South Africa they had been "Cape coloureds", voteless, politically powerless, neither oppressed black nor privileged white, but, in Krynauw's words, "just Hotnots born on the wrong side of the track".

In Melbourne they are Mr and Mrs Krynauw, financial adviser and bank-teller respectively, the parents of two children, the owners (not freehold lessors) of a property in an area of their choice and, most perfect of all, voters.

The right to vote — "in this country it's a right, in South Africa it's a privilege" — became theirs last year when they were naturalised.

Their first attempt to exercise their democratic right at a municipal election late last year ended in disaster, with the Krynauws racing from polling booth to polling booth only to find at the end of a harrowing day that, once again, they had been excluded from the vote: Their registration as voters had not yet come into effect.

But this time Krynauw made sure, checking and rechecking. So it was with confidence and growing excitement that after a couple of hours of chatting in the livingroom, he suddenly said: "Let me put on my bloody socks and go do the thing I've b waiting 48 years to do."

And after the actual deed was d Tears. Not so much of joy but grief for all the wasted years.

Deborah Krynauw, so far from small village of Laaiplek, near Sa danha Bay, where she grew up, also moved. "I wish my family co have been here to see me."

Both admitted they had given much, both materially and emotiona ly, when they left South Africa fiv years ago.

"We were the nouveaux riche confesses triple-graduate Krynau "We lived at Glen Haven — the blac man's Constantia. I was making a l of money. We had many friends. B when we came here we had to sta all over again."

Their reasons for leaving we many. The obvious political one their abhorrence of the apartheid sys tem; the violent murder of a cousin the continued assault on their dignity And, a great sadness overcame Krynauw one day when, in the Eastern Cape, he found a beach that had been divided into four zones: Whites only blacks only, coloureds only and Cape Malays only.

"You know, when I saw that they had even created a division for Cape Malays I thought: 'My God, it's time I get out'."

So they got out in 1982. It's been tough. And lonely. Both have had to struggle with their emotions, their alienation and their financial crises.

Krynauw now heads a lucrative financial advisory business. Deborah Krynauw is to study the appropriate course so that her physical education qualifications will be recognised by the Australian educationalists.

They have survived — done well in fact — and don't regret coming to Australia. They have made only a few friends here and many of their South African friends have disowned them for joining the chicken run.

VACANCIES

COMMUNITY HOUSE
CAPE TOWN

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR/ CARETAKER

Community House is a new centre in Cape Town for organisations working towards a democratic and just non-racial South Africa. The Tenants' Committee is looking for someone who is -

PRACTICAL
able to
* maintain plumbing and electrical systems
* monitor security precautions
* ensure the building is kept clean
* cope with audio-visual equipment
* collect rents and do simple accounting

DIPLOMATIC
willing to
* deal with tenants' needs and problems
* work with cleaners and security guards

CREATIVE
able to
* promote the use of halls and conference facilities
* ensure that Community House is a vibrant centre

Salary is R850 per month. The job includes a two bedroomed flat, rent free. Previous experience in community organisations or unions is essential.
We dont expect any one person to be an expert at all these things, but you need to be flexible, hard-working and efficient.

Apply in writing to: Community House
P O Box 287
SALT RIVER
7925

Closing date for applications is 29 JULY 1987.
Successful applicants will be interviewed on 7,8,9 and 10 AUGUST 1987 to start as soon as possible.

EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE UNIT

DIRECTOR

The Cape Educational Trust is seeking a man or woman to lead ELRU into a dynamic new phase in its development.

ELRU is an independent, non-racial organisation which plays a key role in the promotion of black pre-school education throughout South Africa. Its functions include non-formal training (adults) programme development, creation of educational materials, consultation, research and information services.

The position requires qualification at tertiary level in education and/or the human sciences, relevant professional experience, administrative and public relation skills. A commitment to educational innovation is essential Salary related to university lecturer/senior lecturer scales Commencement date 1st January or as soon as possible thereafter

Closing date for applications 15 August 1987
For further information telephone (021) 637-9146

Applications should include a full CV, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three contactable referees, an indication of starting date and be addressed to:

**The Secretary, Cape Educational Trust,
Early Learning Resource Unit, Springbok Street,
Kew Town, Athlone 7764**

South African Federation of Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Unions

Applications are invited for the position of

EDUCATION OFFICER

●***The educationalist would need to:*** Develop and conduct shop steward training courses nationally for our Affiliates.

●***Job responsibilities include:*** ❑Planning ❑Training - evaluation ❑Education co-ordination ❑Conduct of classes.

●***Post requires:*** ❑ Degree training recommended ❑Teaching experience ❑Experience in teaching adults ❑A driver's licence is recommended.

Salary negotiable
Applications including CV and copies c certificates should be addressed to:

Secretary, S.A. Federation of Textile, Garment & Leather Workers Unions
88 Blake Road
Durban 4000

Closing date: 31 July

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What The Star's staff saw . . .

Allegations that The Star published falsified pictures this week are totally rejected. Here is the newspaper's evidence, which has been handed to the Soweto Council inquiry. The first picture was taken as Mrs Lola Morris (28) (middle) is about to be assaulted by a Soweto Council policeman at the Chicken Farm on Tuesday. But, the director of the township's emergency and protective services, Mr Chris Oosthuizen, has been reported as saying she actually threw herself at the policeman. He said the photographer (in this case The Star's Herbert Mabuza) made it "look as if she was the one being assaulted". Mr Oosthuizen has launched an investigation into the Chicken Farm incident. Yesterday a member of his staff investigating the incident requested and was given copies of these photographs by The Star.

Picture 1: A council policeman is seen running towards Mrs Morris with his shotgun in his hand while a woman looks on.

Picture 2: A policeman grabs her hands and runs to his left, dragging her along on her knees.

Picture 3: He finally stands over her after she was hurled to the ground while the woman and another council policeman look on.

Picture 4: Mrs Morris is wheeled away on a stretcher by members of the Red Cross following the assault. A similar picture showing the same paramedic was published on the front page of the Sowetan on Wednesday. Mr Oosthuizen was reported as saying that the picture was actually taken "some time ago during a different incident". The picture used in the Sowetan was in fact taken by The Star photographer Herbert Mabuza at the Chicken Farm and syndicated to the Sowetan.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Assault complaint laid by woman in Chicken Farm row

By Montshiwa Moroke

Picture 4



Residents tell of beating by council policemen

By Montshiwa Moroke

Residents of the Chicken Farm squatter settlement camp spoke to The Star yesterday about the events that took place in the area on Tuesday in an action involving officials of the Soweto Council.

Mrs Chriselda Lola Morris (28) said she had left her home minutes before the incident to look for her two-year-old child.

"I was walking back to my house when I saw a number of policemen running towards me, chasing people.

"I heard one of them suddenly saying 'Here is one of them'.

"He grabbed the neck of my lumber jacket, threw me to the ground and started kicking me. When I tried to get up he hit me hard in the face."

Mrs Morris said that a second policeman joined in assaulting her with fists and kicked her with boots.

"They continued to beat me as they dragged me for several metres along the way past the coalyard while I begged them for mercy.

"I asked them what I had done and tried to tell them that I was merely looking for my child.

"The two policemen, who had been joined by others, ignored my pleas and continued to beat me."

Mrs Morris said the policemen eventually ran to their vans.

She was later treated for a swollen and bruised face, bruised legs and an eye injury.

Mrs Morris said she had not stood with the crowd which had gathered to watch the demolition of some shacks.

Mrs Martha Malinga (44), a resident of the Chicken Farm squatter camp said yesterday she had witnessed the assault on Mrs Morris.

She said she had been standing next to her house when she saw Mrs Morris walking up the pathway saying worriedly: "My children".

She said the police who were chasing people suddenly turned towards Mrs Morris.

"I saw a policeman grab Lola, hit her in the face, hurl her to the ground and then kick her as she lay on the ground.

"A second policeman joined the first and the two policemen then hit her several times in the face and kicked her on the body.

"I saw the policemen hit her with the butts of the guns. I was very frightened and just stood there watching."

Mrs Malinga appeared in the photographs published in The Star this week showing Mrs Morris being assaulted by two policemen.

The woman allegedly assaulted, with others, by Soweto Council Police at the Chicken Farm squatter settlement on the edge of Soweto has laid a complaint with the police.

Mrs Chriselda Lola Morris (28), a mother of three, made a statement at Kliptown Police Station on Tuesday and others allegedly assaulted during the incident have been talking to lawyers.

Lieutenant-Colonel H J S Meintjies, chief of Soweto's municipal police, has said he will take personal charge of investigations into the matter.

WATCHED

Soweto Town Clerk Mr Nico Malan said the officer's findings would be reported to the Soweto council, which would "take appropriate steps".

The incident, watched by both local and foreign journalists, was at first denied by the authorities.

Yesterday the township's director of emergency and protective services, Mr Chris Oosthuizen, was reported as casting doubt on photographs of the assault which were published in The Star and the *Sowetan*).

"THREW HERSELF"

He was quoted by *The Citizen* as saying photographs of a woman being ill-treated did not show the truth.

"The black woman threw herself at the policeman and the photographer made out she was the one being assaulted," he was reported as saying.

The Star disputes this.

Squatters' shacks are demolished

East Rand Bureau

Township police demolished the shacks of scores of squatters in Thokoza yesterday, leaving families with young children to spend last night in the open.

A minister of The Wits Council of Churches, which is providing relief to the people, claimed the council had broken an agreement that no immediate action would be taken against the squatters.

He said the families had been in the area for up to six years and had been paying rentals of R45 to R50 to private landlords.

Mr Jacob Sekete, chairman of the Thokoza administrators who run the township, said about 40 to 50 families were living illegally in Thokoza.

They were a "health hazard", he said, and had been told to get out by July 14 or face eviction, because the land on which they were living was needed for development of the township.

Church to take up Thokoza squatters' cause

Legal action is being investigated to secure shelter for scores of evicted Thokoza squatters and representations are to be made at Cabinet level about the plight of the 60 families left in the open following a council crackdown on shack-dwellers on Monday.

The action has been initiated by the Witwatersrand Council of Churches (WCC), which is also moving blankets and zinc sheeting into the area near Germiston and planning emergency medical care for children whose health seems affected by two bitterly cold nights spent in the open.

A WCC spokesman said the approach to the Government is to be made by a Progressive Federal Party MP.

"Most of the families have said that they are quite happy to move to another place. They are able to pay rent in most cases," the spokesman said.

"This eviction is really one of the most appalling things to do at this time of the year."

The squatters, living out in the open near the sites of the demolished homes, said yesterday they had been given until 6 pm to vacate the area or face prosecution.

Some were loading their belongings on to trucks and leaving when The Star visited the area.

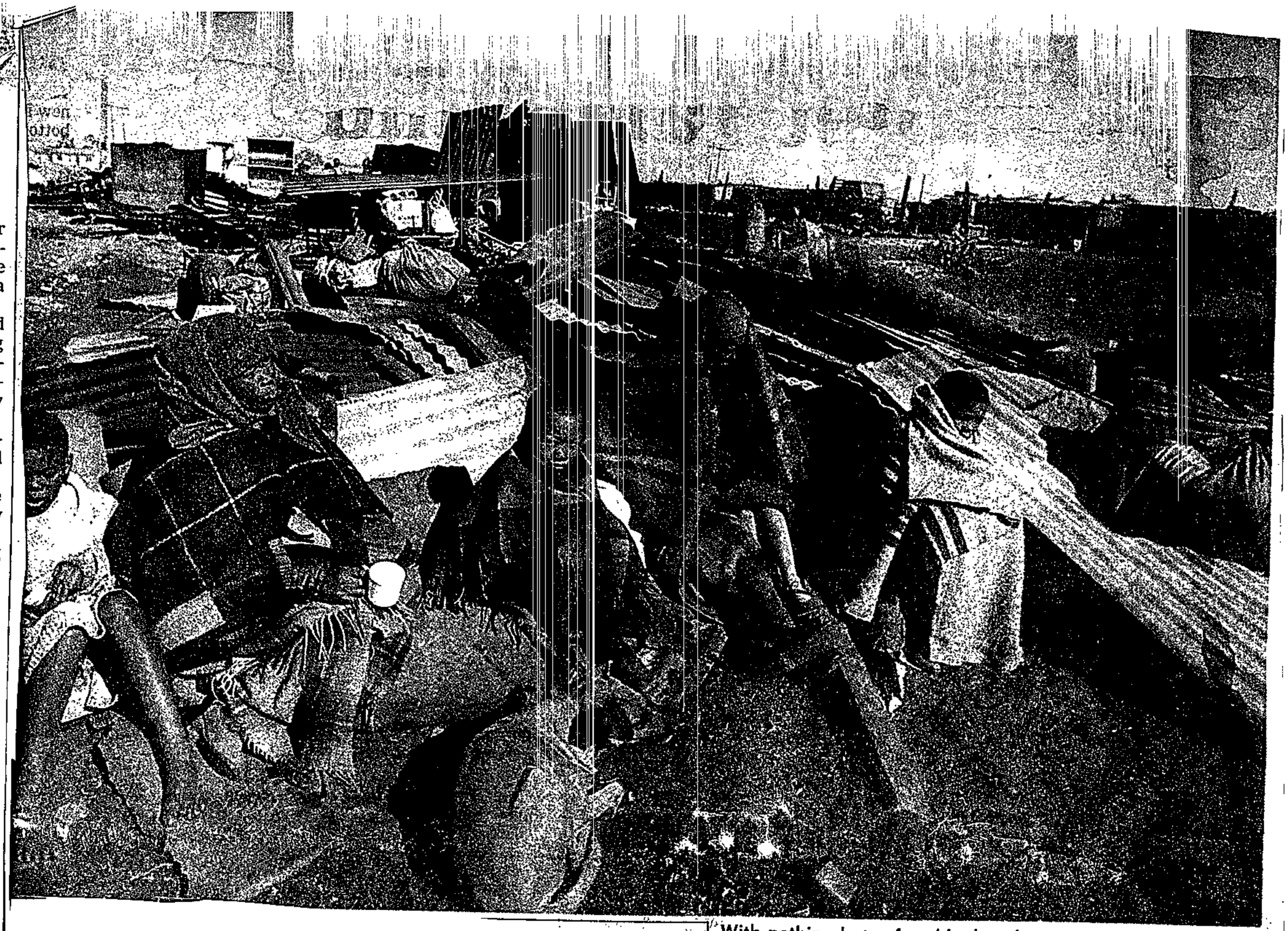
A spokesman of a local youth organisation, which arranged the trucks for ferrying the squatters, said they were being taken to another area in the township.

The WCC spokesman said the squatters had been warned a second time that they were acting illegally after moving to the new site. It could not be confirmed at the time of going to Press whether any action had been taken against them during the night.

The shacks were flattened with a grader early on Monday morning after squatters failed to heed a warning notice to leave the area by July 14. They were given a chance to remove their possessions before the flattening of their homes, the WCC spokesman said.

The local authority has explained that the squatters constitute a "health hazard" and that the land is required for redevelopment.

Four wo..en ...the night out i... open with their babies. One child is believed to be two weeks old.



With nothing but a few blankets between them and the blast of winter, a household of Thokoza squatters huddle in yesterday's comfortless sunshine around the remains of their home. Scores of shacks near the coalyards in the elite area of Thokoza Gardens were destroyed on Monday by municipal police. Families have spent two nights without shelter.

Picture by Alf Kumalo.



Out in the open on a cold winter's day are Mrs Nolimit, Nitshati, her baby Siphumle and baby Siyanda Ncobani, both two weeks old, after their shacks in Thokoza were pulled down on Tuesday. Siyanda's mother, Mrs Princess Ncoba, was in the township looking for a place to stay when The Star's Alf Kumalo took the picture.

Homes for squatters 'means they jump the housing queue'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

If provincial authorities were to solve the problem of the Thokoza squatters — left in the open since their shacks were demolished on Monday — it would only create the expectation among thousands more that the way to get housing was to become illegal squatters.

This was the view yesterday of Transvaal member of the executive council for local government Mr John Griffiths, who said the influx from rural areas was contributing to the growth of squatter camps.

He asked: "Should people be allowed to come in from the outside and be given preference over those on the housing waiting list for years?"

Mr Griffiths said urban squatters often had a place to stay in rural areas and became vulnerable shack dwellers only on entering the cities.

He acknowledged that many migrants to urban areas squatted to acquire access to jobs or income from the informal sector — opportunities the countryside did not always offer.

Mr Griffiths said the province was directly responsible for settlements outside the independent local authorities. These included rural communities and areas formerly administered by the peri-urban board.

The lack of land — particularly serviced land — for black settlement was a major stumbling block in the formulation of a constructive policy on squatters, Mr Griffiths said.

Where possible, he said, the province would not evict people and demolish shacks if there was no alternative housing.

He added: "We must find lasting solutions to what we're doing. There's no use in just breaking up shacks."

Mr Griffiths pointed to Weiler's Farm, 30 km south of Johannesburg, as an site where demolition had been avoided. An estimated 6 000 people live there in outbuildings and shacks.

The province had halted demolition of shacks and police raids at Weiler's Farm, but it refused new residents access to the settlement, which is patrolled by the defence force.

The settlement would remain until land for a new housing scheme had been identified, purchased and serviced, Mr Griffiths said.

He said the province felt local authorities should take responsibility for their housing problems.

Mr Griffiths said it was desirable that municipalities take a stance similar to that of the province, but this could not be prescribed to them (the Thokoza shacks were demolished by municipal order).

Mr Griffiths' comments came as Sapa reported on an Urban Foundation call to Government to help provide subsidised, low-cost housing.

There was no way Government could avoid this responsibility, wrote Foundation chairman Mr Jan Steyn in a special edition of *Leadership* magazine to celebrate the Foundation's 10th year of operations.

He wrote: "The challenge is to give the poorer classes access to affordable housing.

"Existing shelter must be preserved. With the enormous housing shortage, it is indefensible for us to break down any dwelling which affords some shelter."

Mr Steyn said a second challenge was to involve financial institutions in finding a way to make loans available to people at the lower end of the scale.

Church

July 23, 1987

may take legal action on squatters

LEGAL action is being investigated to secure shelter for scores of evicted Thokoza squatters and representations are to be made at Cabinet level about the plight of the 60 families left in the open following a council crackdown on shack-dwellers on Monday.

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The local authority has explained that the squatters constitute a "health hazard" and that the land is required for redevelopment.

Four women spent the night out in the open with their babies.

Babies die from disease in squatter camp

SOPHIE TEMA

MORE than 10 infants at the Katlehong squatter camp in the East Rand have died since March this year from diseases related to the unhygienic conditions prevailing in the area.

This week two more children died from diarrhoea.

A doctor, who set up an emergency clinic for the squatters about two months ago, confirmed that several babies had died since he started work in the overcrowded camp which did not have proper water and sewerage facilities.

Katlehong mayor Thami Siluma this week blamed government for having created a squatter problem in the area by failing to grant the town council more land.

He said at the opening of the Family Housing Association and City Press '87 show in Siluma View there were 37 185 shacks in the Katlehong squatter camp which was not created by his council.

Siluma said Katlehong also faced a problem of accommodating more than 6 000 housing applicants on the official waiting list.

This figure excluded thousands of people living in backyards as well as those at the squatter camp.

He said the fact that there was a need for 321 000 housing units for the PWV area alone demonstrated the chronic situation of the black housing problem.

He said his council had, as early as 1985, taken the initiative of submitting proposals to the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning specifically requesting more land from government.

Siluma's view on squatting

By ZB MOLEFE

KATLEHONG mayor Thami Siluma this week defended his council after a number of East Rand squatters had their shacks razed to the ground in an action which has been condemned as heartless by thousands of township dwellers.

Siluma was welcoming guests at the opening of a high and low-income housing project outside Katlehong.

Siluma said: "It is unfortunate that today Katlehong finds itself being confronted by a squatter camp problem. It is also unfortunate that the council was blamed for the action taken by the South African Police against the squatters.

"Some 'respected' clergymen accused the council of being dishonest to the squatters by not protecting them against the police action.

"A lot of unfounded allegations were levelled against my council, and the newspapers were quick to splash all kinds of rumours about the squatter camp without thorough investigation."

He added that his council took the initiative in 1985 when it submitted proposals to the Department of Constitutional Development for land in order to alleviate the squatter problem in Katlehong.

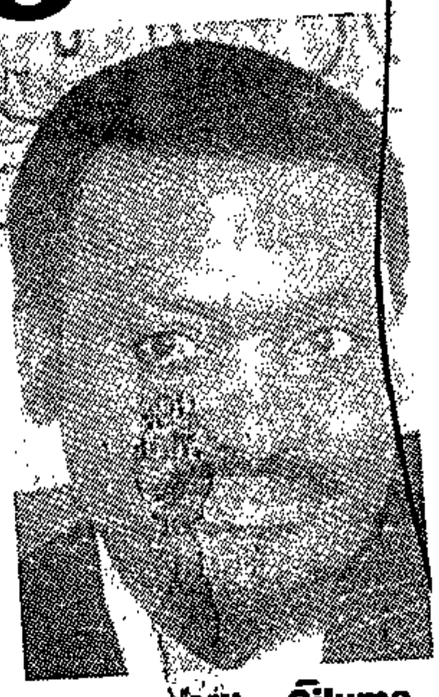
"I personally brought the land issue to Chris Heunis when he visited Katlehong on December 18, 1985. He promised to attend to the matter as quickly as possible," said Siluma.

Again, he said, his council pursued the matter on June 6 last year when it advised the government that any delay in attending to the Katlehong land request would result in unpleasant consequences.

"Yet the government dragged its feet and today Katlehong is faced with a squatter camp of more than 37 185 shacks," said Siluma.

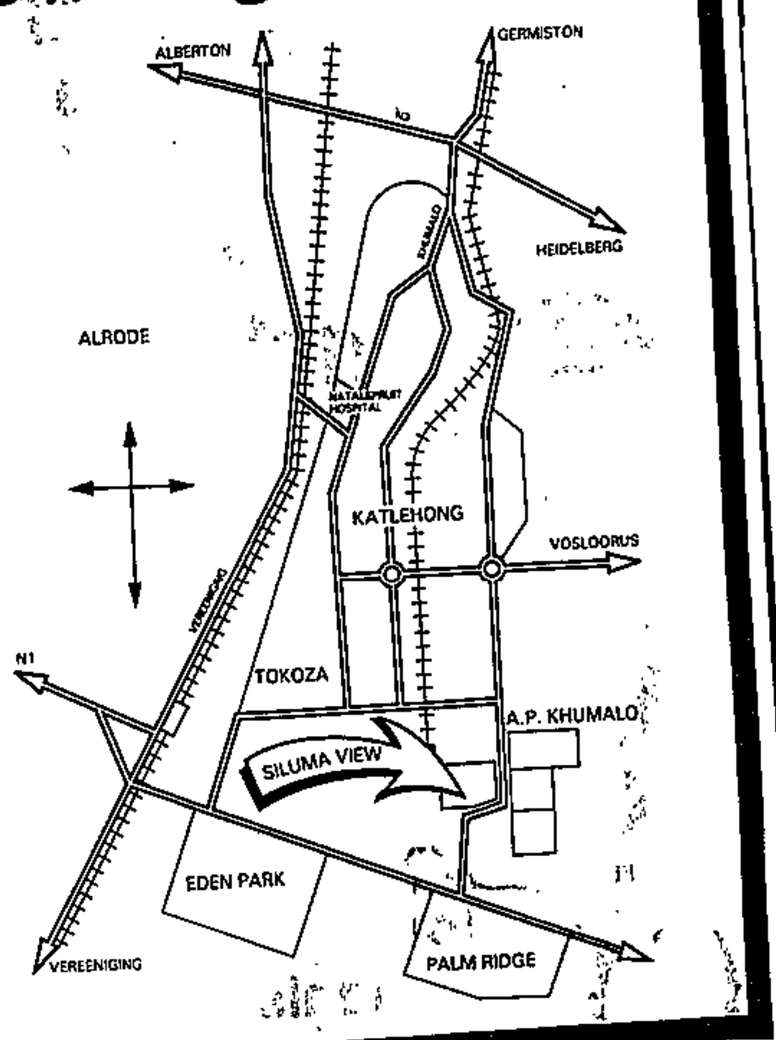
On the other hand, Siluma said, the opening of the housing project – Siluma View – was a blessing in disguise because Transvaal Provincial Administration executive comittee member John Mavuso was the guest of honour at the function.

"I wish to make a special plea to Mavuso that when implementation of the Regional Services Council gets off the ground on the East Rand, first priority should be given to Katlehong," said Siluma.



Mayor Mike Siluma

How to get there ...



City Press will be bringing you this competition for the next six weeks, offering you the chance to win a stand on which you can build your own home. Tips on home ownership and pitfalls to be avoided will also be featured.

Make sure you don't miss *City Press* over the next few weeks.

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A girl finds her way in a puddle of filthy water.

Story and pix by MIKE MZILENI



A figure wrapped up in warm clothing trudges across the dusty veld near the camp, seemingly in a hurry to reach home.



These two girls took a blanket along to school.

The day the brr ... invaded a transit camp

A DECADE ago hundreds of families were moved from Kliptown after their homes were flooded by water after heavy summer rains.

The families were moved to a "transit camp" in Meadowlands, where they have been waiting to be moved to better houses.

In the meantime, the 10 long years of waiting have seen a community grow out of the squalor which has become characteristic of squatting throughout the country.

Little children fell victim to the chilly winter weather this week when Arctic weather conditions swept through South Africa.

City Press roving photographer Mike Mzileni was struck by the filth and squalor which reflects conditions in most squatter camps – be it Thokoza on the East Rand or Mshenguville on the West Rand.

The squalid conditions express just how desperate people are for roofs over their heads.

"This place has become home," a woman said.

Amid the blackened and unplastered walls, the corrugated-iron dwellings, the burst sewerage, filthy puddles of water, dusty roads and over-crowded shacks people continue to wait for better housing conditions in the Meadowlands transit camp.

The coldest night of this winter found the people without electricity – and it was normal for them.

RACIST SPANNER IN PUTCO WHEEL



DERRICK LUTHAYI

CPress

332

26/7/87

THE wrangle over the purchase of controlling shares in the giant bus company, Putco, has shifted from a commercial venture to assume political connotations that could prove disastrous.

Putco, which operates the largest bus fleet in the black townships, has in the black taxi owners' association, with a membership of about 45 000 through-business consortium, led by Anthony Meyer, has been accused by Sabta as brought into the mainstream of the economy," said Sabta.

Meyer told a daily newspaper that the consortium's bid of R150-million was a direct result of concern voiced by the "strictly" Afrikaans-speaking group and that funds for the bid came from "with-transport should not be in black hands at this point in time.

Up to the time of going to Press; Meyer and his mystery group – which claims to have extensive business interests in the transport industry – could not be contacted.

National African Federa-about the economic future of our country. Blacks are no longer satisfied with the crumbs from their 'masters' table – politically and economically," said Mokgoko.

He added that blacks wanted substance.

"It is clear that, in future, blacks will be active-where Putco really stands.

"However, you cannot fool 84 percent of the population everytime and all the time," said Mokgoko.

Negotiations ceased this week after the mystery consortium bettered by R10-million Sabta's offer of R140-million for Carleo's 52,5 percent share-

Among those who voted against Albino were his brother, Luigi, also a director of Putco. If Luigi had supported his brother, the company would not have been up for sale.

Members of Sabta have become formidable competitors to Putco. Until re-

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Justice):

Yes.

(a) Not to institute a prosecution.

(b) No further action is necessary.

Teachers: religious objectors

4. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) Whether (a) a policy has and (b) regulations have been devised to govern community service performed by qualified teachers who have been classified as religious objectors in terms of section 72E (4) of the Defence Act, No 44 of 1957; if so, when (a) was the policy and (b) were the regulations finalised;

(2) whether any groups of persons or individuals were consulted prior to finalising the (a) policy and (b) regulations; if not, why not; if so, what groups and/or individuals were consulted;

(3) whether it is the policy that teachers classified as religious objectors and performing community service may not perform such community service by teaching in the schools at which they were formerly employed; if so, (a) why, (b) how many of these teachers have been removed from their teaching posts and (c) what schools have been affected by the removal of these teachers;

(4) whether these regulations make provision for a teacher with a degree, a diploma or a minimum of three years of post-graduate study to be paid a professional fixed daily allowance of R11,44 plus a daily allowance of R8,00; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the daily allowance payable to such teachers;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Manpower):

(1) (a) No.

(b) No.

(2) Falls away.

(3) It is not the Department of Manpower's policy to stop teachers classified as religious objectors, who perform community service, from teaching in the schools at which they were formerly employed.

(4) No.

(a) Remuneration and allowances are determined in terms of regulation 14 of the Regulations governing community service which stipulates that the pay of religious objectors for services rendered may not be more favourable than that paid to serving national servicemen. National servicemen who are teachers do not receive a professional allowance.

(b) Married: R11,44 per day
Unmarried: R5,72 per day
Plus
daily allowance for degrees/diplomas for which the following duration of study is prescribed:

Duration of study	Daily allowance (R per day)
3 years	0,50
4 years	1,00
5 years	2,00
6 years and more	3,00

(5) No.

Durban North: combating of crime

*5. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether the South African Police (a) took any special measures in 1986 and (b) have been taking any such measures in 1987 to combat crime in the police station areas falling within the Durban North constituency; if not, why not; if so, (i) what measures and (ii) with what result?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) and (b) Yes.

(i) and (ii) Continuous crime prevention actions which form an integral part of policing were carried out and yielded satisfactory results.

Vusumuzi Khanyile, Detention of

*6. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was detained by the Police in or about December 1986; if so, (a) on what date, (b) where, (c) why, (d) in terms of what statutory provision, (e) where is he being held and (f) what is his name;

(2) whether the relatives of this person were informed of his detention; if not, why not; if so, on what date;

(3) whether this person has been allowed to receive any visitors; if not, why not; if so, (a) how often is he allowed to receive visitors and (b) who is allowed to visit him;

(4) whether any complaints and/or representations have been received from this person regarding the conditions of or reasons for his detention; if so, what was the (a) nature of the complaints and/or representations and (b) response thereto;

(5) whether any charges are being investigated against this person; if so, in terms of what statutory provision?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) 12 December 1986.

(b) Soweto.

(c) Because his conduct threatened the safety of the public and the public order.

(d) Regulation 3 of the Emergency Regulations as promulgated on 12 June 1986 in terms of the Public Safety Act, 1953.

(e) I do not consider it in the public interest to furnish information of this nature.

(f) Vusumuzi Khanyile.

(2) Yes, on 12 December 1986.

(3) Yes.

(a) One visit every 14 days.

(b) His son and his attorney.

(4) Yes.

(a) and (b) The detainee contested the legality of the reasons for his detention and applied for an interdict, which was dismissed with costs.

(5) Yes, a contravention of section 54 (2) of the Internal Security Act, 74 of 1982—Subversion, and a contravention of section 56 (1) (a) of the Internal Security Act, Act 74 of 1982—Promoting the aims of an unlawful organisation.

Wheeler's Farm: squatters

*7. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) (a) How many Blacks are living in the squatter town at Wheeler's Farm in Walkerville at present, (b) how many squatter structures have been erected there, (c) what services are provided there and (d) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether it is the intention to move this town; if so, (a) when and (b) whereto; if not, what steps are envisaged in this connection?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

(1) (a) The exact number could as yet not be determined, but it is estimated that approximately 7 000 blacks reside on Wheeler's Farm.

(b) 1 135 structures.

(c) (i) A borehole fitted a diesel

engine and pump as well as two storage tanks from which water is supplied.

(ii) A clinic service.

(iii) Refuse removal services.

(d) 25 June 1987.

(2) Yes.

(a) As soon as the necessary services have been installed (it should be mentioned that forced removals are contrary to Government policy; the squatters will therefore have to be persuaded to move to the new site).

(b) The farm Wildebeestfontein.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I should like to know, if the Government is not in favour of forced removals, and if squatters, as at this place, come and squat and do not want to move of their own accord, whether they will be permitted just to remain there?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: No, Mr Speaker, it is not our policy that the squatters should remain there. We have a policy that we apply and this includes the persuading that we do. Together with that there is the provision of facilities and housing in which the people can settle.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, if the persuading and encouragement which the Government is doing now does not work, is the Government simply going to leave the thousands of squatters there?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: No, Sir, it is very clear that we cannot permit conditions such as those developing at Wheelers' Farm—I was there personally—to continue *ad infinitim*. We shall apply the various ordinances and regulations that exist. We are therefore not in favour of conditions such as those existing at Wheelers' Farm.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, if the hon the Deputy Minister is not in favour of removals, I again want to ask him specifically what they are going to do if the actions to encourage people do no work and 7 000 or 8 000 or 10 000 squatters remain and do not want to move. What are they going to do then? Are they then going to compel them to move?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: I have such confidence in the persuading that I have to do, what I shall not even reply to the question.

Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is this not a situation which was created as a result of the expectations created by the Government's policy of so-called orderly urbanisation? [Interjections.]

Municipal police: identification

*8. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether members of municipal police forces in Black townships are required to (a) wear some visible form of identification and (b) produce their identification on demand by any member of the public; if so, what form of identification are they required to (i) wear and (ii) produce on demand; if not, why not;

(2) whether any action is to be taken regarding the wearing and production of identification by these policemen; if not, why not; if so, what action;

(3) whether these policemen are allowed to perform their duties in plain clothes; if so, under what circumstances;

(4) whether any complaints have been received regarding the actions of these municipal policemen; if so, (a) how many, (b) what was the nature of the complaints and (c) what action was taken as a result?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) Besides the prescribed uni-

form, badges are worn by the officers while on duty as prescribed by legislation.

(ii) An appointment certificate issued when appointed.

(2) No, falls away.

(3) Yes, only in the Cape Province when the commanding officer deems it necessary when the officials execute their duties as peace officers.

(4) Transvaal, Cape Province, Orange Free State and Natal. No. (a) to (c) Falls away.

Cape Province. Yes.

(a) 195.

(b) Murder; attempted murder and assault; culpable homicide; serious assault; negligent and reckless driving; unlawful arrest; pointing a firearm; theft of weapon; damage to property; and attempted rape.

(c) The South African Police investigate all charges and on conviction those concerned are sentenced. Thereafter departmental disciplinary steps are taken in accordance with staff regulations.

Gompo Village: municipal police

*9. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether any complaints have been laid with the South African Police against members of the municipal police force of Gompo Township, previously knows as Duncan Village; if so, (a) how many, (b) in respect of what dates were these complaints laid and (c) what was the nature of these complaints in each case;

(2) whether any persons have been arrested and charged in connection with these complaints; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action is being taken by the Police in respect of these complaints; if so, (i) how many and (ii) what was the outcome in each case;

(3) whether the South African Police have approached the Gompo Town Council in connection with these complaints; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date, (b) to whom did they speak on this occasion and (c) what was the response of the Gompo Town Council?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) 63 complaints.

(b) For the period 28 November 1986 until 26 June 1987.

(c)

Murder	1
Attempted murder	4
Assault with the inent to do grievous bodily harm	14
Assault (common)	42
Crimen injuria	1
Pointing of a fire-arm	1

(2) Yes.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(i) One person on a charge of murder.

(ii) The person is awaiting trial.

(3) No, but discussions about the matter were held on several occasions with the commander of the Municipal Police, who conducts lectures for members of the Municipal Police on a regular basis to restrain them from committing offences.

(a) to (c) Fall away.

Note: I want to point out to the hon member that in addition to the charge mentioned in paragraph (2), three members of the Municipal Police are awaiting trial on charges of assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm and one member on a charge of pointing a fire-arm. In 27 cases the investigation has not yet been completed, while the perpetrators in 6 cases have not yet been apprehended and prosecution was declined in 25 cases.

Shack people leave farm

ABOUT 7000 black squatters at Wheeler's Farm in Walkerville had been "persuaded" to move to an alternative site at Wildebeestfontein, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Piet Badenhorst, said in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question from Mr J H van der Merwe (CP Overvaal) he said that as at June 25 this year, there were 1135 squatter dwellings at Wheeler's Farm.

The residents were served by a pump for water and a refuse removal facility.

They would be moved to Wildebeestfontein as soon as facilities there had been completed.

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People sit outside the tents which were erected by the Red Cross after they were evicted.

Help for evicted

THE Red Cross has come to the aid of people who were evicted and had their homes demolished in the Thokoza and Honeydew areas last week – and local authorities and police have promised not take any further action against them.

The Red Cross is providing shelter for about 3 000 people in Thokoza, according to the assistant regional director of the Red Cross in the Southern Transvaal region.

The organisation is also providing shelter for the people of Honeydew.

Squatter group warns of typhoid epidemic

(310)
Star 28/8/87

By Martin Challenor

A typhoid epidemic could break out on the East Rand unless squatters living in appalling conditions in a coal merchants yard are re-housed, a committee formed to help them has warned.

Health workers have this year identified seven typhoid cases, six positive tuberculosis cases plus 20 suspected cases.

The committee, comprising health officials, employees of a large industrial concern, some coal merchants and Food and Allied Workers' Union officials, yesterday revealed itself and its life-line to the kwaThema coalyard families at a Press conference.

One of its motivations for revealing itself was to try to prompt kwaThema councillors into action.

About 40 shacks stand in the yard. The residents work for the 40 coal merchants who supply kwaThema. There is one tap, no sewerage system and no water drainage network in the yard. Some people have been living there for three years.

The committee, which wants the kwaThema Town Council to allocate land so 30 temporary homes can be erected to house the families, claims the council is stalling.

The committee warned: "We are heading for an epidemic. We have one month of cool weather left and if we have not re-housed the people by then, we can expect serious health problems."

kwaThema council would need to establish a water supply, waste water drainage system and a sewerage system for the new site.

TEMPORARY HOMES

Committee member Mrs Jacqueline Ryan and union officials said they would ask local companies to finance temporary homes where the people could stay until they found permanent housing.

Coal merchants said the council had been promising them a new yard for three years.

Now the council has told them to evict the people.

Shacks must go, 50 told

THE KwaThema Town Council this week threatened to demolish shacks belonging to 50 families staying in a coal yard.

The squatter families were last month given seven days to demolish their shacks and find alternative accommodation.

The deadline has expired and no action was taken by the council. Council officials visited the squatters on Monday and warned them to pull down their structures.

Mr Elias Mphatlanyana, a spokesman for the squatters said the families shared one tap and had no toilet facilities. The place was a health hazard but the squatters were staying there because they had no alternative accommodation, he said.

Mrs Jacqueline Ryan, a spokeswomen for a recently formed committee looking after the problems of the squatters, said her committee met the mayor of KwaThema, Mr Sam Ngema, last month to discuss the plight of the squatters.

"Mr Ngema promised us land to accommodate the families. He also promised that the land will be serviced and that the families will have water and sewerage facilities. The council has failed to do this," Mrs Ryan said.

Mr Ngema was yesterday not available for comment. He was said to be out of town for the whole week.

Charge is denied

A-G to get dockets after assault probe

By Montshiwa Moroke

Five dockets — including some on the news media — have been opened following incidents at the Chicken Farm squatter settlement outside Soweto where several people were allegedly assaulted by Soweto council police.

Soweto council's director of emergency services Mr Chris Oosthuizen said yesterday an investigation was being held up by "one piece of evidence".

That evidence is a CBS video cassette. One of its TV crews was on the scene at the time.

Said Mr Oosthuizen: "I have opened five dockets on different people, including some of the media.

"The dockets will be sent to the Attorney-General for his instructions."

CBS bureau chief Mr Bill Mutschmann said yesterday the cassette and others had been shipped to New York.

He added: "I'm waiting for approval from New York to get the cassette back.

"They have subpoenaed the tape and we are compelled to hand it over."

A member of Mr Oosthuizen's staff investigating last month's incidents had earlier requested and was given copies of Star photographs showing Mrs Chriselda Lola Morris (28), a mother of three, being assaulted by two Soweto council policemen.

Mrs Morris has since laid a complaint with the SAP.

At least five people, including three women, were allegedly assaulted during the demolition of shacks in the area.

The incident was watched by Pressmen who had to run to safety.

Mr Oosthuizen was reported then as casting doubts on photographs of the assault (published in The Star and *Sowetan*).

He was quoted by *The Citizen* as saying the photographs of a woman being ill-treated did not show the truth.

"The black woman threw herself at the policeman, and the photographer made out she was the one being assaulted," he reportedly said.

ASSURANCE

The Star disputed this.

Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan said "appropriate steps" would be taken as soon as the findings on the allegations of assault by municipal police were made known.

Lieutenant-Colonel F Meintjies, head of Soweto council police, who had first denied that his men had assaulted anyone, later gave an assurance that he would personally launch an investigation.

"If the reports are correct, then my men acted unlawfully.

"The matter will be thoroughly investigated," Colonel Meintjies said.

SQUATTERS 'MUST LEAVE'

Impoverished families face eviction from coalyard

ABOUT 50 squatter families in KwaThema township, near Springs, live in poverty and misery.

Most are unemployed.

The squatters, who stay in the KwaThema coalyard, have been threatened with eviction by the KwaThema Town Council. They have been told to leave the coal yard and look for alternative accommodation.

If the council carries out its threat and evicts the families, they will have nowhere to go.

The coalyard is their home. The place is a health hazard, but the families say they will not leave unless the council provides them with alternative accommodation.

Health authorities have already reported eight cases of tubercolosis at the squatter camp.

A spokesman for the KwaThema Clinic, who asked not to be named for professional reasons, said they feared that an epidemic could break out at the camp if living conditions are not improved immediately.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

A council spokesman said the squatters cannot live in the area because it is a business complex and a health hazard.

Several squatters interviewed by the *Sowetan* last week said they were living in poverty. Most said they were unemployed and begged for food from relatives and friends.

Others said they were given part-time jobs at the coalyard to fill empty bags with coal. They said they earned very little money for this.

'Smiley'

Mrs Jeannette Motha, a mother of seven, said she was selling "smiley" (sheep heads) for a living.

"It is tough here. With the little money I make from selling the "smiley", I can manage to feed my children. When things are bad and business is not good, we sleep on empty stomachs," she said.

Another resident, Mr John Mofokeng, said he was also selling "smiley" for a living.

Presently the squatters share one tap and have no toilet facilities.

The squatters were allowed to stay at the coalyard, free of charge, by members of the KwaThema Coal Merchants Association.

Last Monday, the squatters were threatened with eviction by the KwaThema council. Last month the council gave the families seven days to demolish their structures. The deadline has expired and the council has not acted.

A committee, made up of professional people, is negotiating with the council to provide the squatters with alternative accommodation.

The congress of South African Trade Unions is also involved in the project. Mr Chris Dlamini, deputy president of Cosatu, said as soon as the families were provided with alternative land, the organisation would negotiate with employers to build the families houses or provide them with better structures to live in.



THREATENED: Mrs Motha, one of the many unemployed squatters at the coalyard.

Pic: ROBERT MAGWAZA

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BECOME A QUALIFIED STOREMAN EARN MORE

HEALTH HAZARD

Squalor at Pimville building camp

By SY MAKARINGE

SCORES of black construction workers employed by Bester Homes are living in appalling and squalid conditions in a small shanty town set up by the company near a building site in Pimville, Soweto.

Residents living in nearby houses this week expressed fear that an epidemic could break out in the area as there was lack of proper sanitation in the camp. Workers living in the camp also told the *Sowetan* that they relieved themselves in the veld as their toilets were blocked.

They said the squatter camp could result in a health hazard if nothing was done to improve conditions in the area. Bester Homes will be working in the area for another year.

An investigation by the *Sowetan* found that two toilets which served about 70 people were blocked. Rivulets of polluted water snaked through the yards of nearby houses. Residents are also plagued by a nauseating smell that came from the blocked toilets.

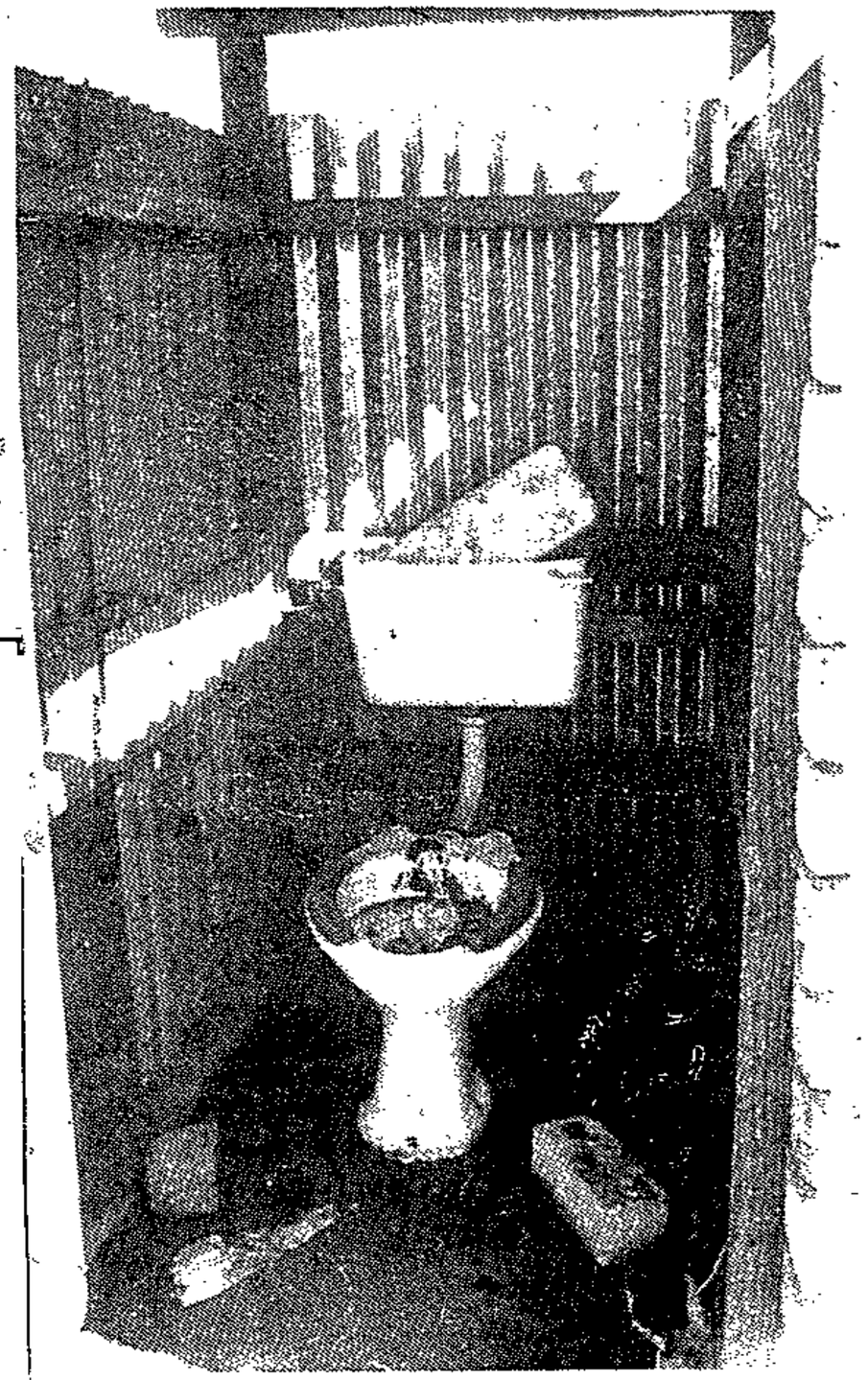
Miss Estelle Bester, the Soweto City Council's Director of Housing, said she was not aware that Bester Homes had established a squatter camp in Pimville.

She said the council could get tough with the construction company if the camp did not meet health requirements.

Mr Johan Horn, Bester Homes' site manager, said it was normal practice to establish a squatter camp in the vicinity of a building site.

"I know that the camp does not look too good. But already our sewerage has been connected to the main sewer line," Mr Horn said.

He said the Pimville project would be completed within the next twelve months. Mr Horn added that he would do his best to improve the situation.



ONE of the blocked toilets at the Bester Homes' squatter camp.

Decision on families' fate soon

20/8/87 Bd Day

SOPHIE TEMA

THE Roodepoort Town Council will decide next week on the fate of 20 families who have been sleeping in the bushes after their shacks were demolished this week — for the 10th time in a year.

The families, who had been living in shacks near a Roodepoort mine dump, were given a reprieve to remain in the area until Monday next week, when the council's management committee will decide their fate.

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A council spokesman told a legal representative for the squatters no action would be taken against the families until Monday's meeting.

Red Cross takes in e Honeydew homeless



TWO of the residents of the tent village, Mrs Constance Kgalane (left) and Mrs Martha Mabena.



A CHURCH delegation visited the tent village. On the left is the Rev Daniel Modisapodi and the Rev Buti P Mthimkhulu, secretary of the Vaal Council of Churches with Mrs Esther Mavumba of the Red Cross.

Pic: LEN KHUMALO

The 40 families who became homeless after they were evicted last month from a small plot in Honeydew where they lived in rented shacks have been temporarily settled at a tent village in Evaton.

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21/9/87

By NAT DISEKO

The shack dwellers were caught by surprise when they were told to vacate their shacks because their landlord had sold the property they were squatting on.

Mrs Jane Mamotho Vilakazi (35), who is chairperson of the tent village committee said the squatters were surprised when front-end loaders arrived at the smallholding on the day after notice to vacate was given.

She said: "All our shacks were brought down and we were left homeless with our belongings left on the pavement. The eviction took place early in the morning and we were all stranded.

Rent

"We used to pay rent of R45 a month and were not even refunded the outstanding rent we were owed. The eviction took place in the middle of the month."

The Red Cross was made aware of the plight of the squatters and came to their rescue by providing them with tents. The organisation decided to pitch the tents on a piece of ground in Evaton owned by the organisation.

Mrs Esther Mavumba, a community organiser of the Red Cross said the ground had been earmarked for the building of a Red Cross centre but that it was decided to settle the squatters there on a temporary basis.

It is not yet known what will eventually happen to the tent people.

A Red Cross volunteer, Mrs Judith Sedinyana said the organisation had also provided the homeless people with food, blankets and toilets.

This week, a delegation from the Vaal Council of Churches led by chairman, the Rev Daniel S Modisapodi visited the tent village. He said the VCC was concerned about children at the tent village who were of school-going age.

He said ministers in the area would try their best to place them at schools nearest to where the children lived.

Problems

One tent-dweller, who asked that her name not be used said while all the homeless people were grateful to the Red Cross for "taking them off the street", one of the biggest problems they now had to contend with was travelling long distances to work.

She said: "My husband, who works as a labourer in Randburg spends about R45 on transport a week. There are others who work farther afield."

Another problem was that working mothers who did not have relatives in Evaton had no one to look after their children.



MRS JANE Vilakazi, chairperson of the tent village committee.

'Courtesy' knocks before the hammers

28/8/87

Billing

PATRICK BULGER

THE notice addressed to: "Occupier Shack No 39" was unequivocal.

"As a matter of courtesy you are ordered to demolish and remove the illegal structure (his house) within seven days. Should you fail to comply with this order, you will be prosecuted in terms of the said Section 3A (of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act)," the Soweto city council informed him.

"Occupier Shack No 39" is a resident of Soweto's Chicken Farm squatter camp, an apparently organised community, but one of more than a dozen on the Reef facing demolition in spite of government's "orderly urbanisation" policy.

Up to 10 000 squatters face eviction in terms of a bewildering variety of laws — among them health regulations, town planning ordinances and statutes such as the Squatting Act.

A brake

Graeme Reid, a lawyer who has dealt with squatter issues, says the 36-year-old Squatting Act is being used increasingly to put a brake on black urbanisation in the absence of the pass laws.

"There has been a dramatic increase in the use of the Act since March," says Reid.

"The authorities are using it more and more to replace influx control. They have adopted the attitude that 'we cannot be expected to provide accommodation for people who move into the cities'."

The Transvaal Provincial Administration, which administers the Act on behalf of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, says claims that it is being used to substitute the pass laws are "completely untrue and unfounded".

While it has taken no steps to evict squatters, the TPA says "it must be pointed out that landowners or local authorities who take action against illegal squatters in terms of the Act are not subject to the jurisdiction of the TPA.

"Consequently, the TPA has no right to forbid the eviction of illegal squatters or to stop the demolition of illegally erected structures".

Reid says in many ways the Act is harsher than the pass laws.

'Homelessness'

In terms of the latter, urban dwellers could qualify to stay in the city if they fulfilled certain conditions. Now, however, they are being told in effect they may stay but that they are not entitled to a roof over their heads.

The situation has led Black Sash researchers to identify the problem as "homelessness".

"There is little yet that indicates that the new policy — 'orderly urbanisation' — will accommodate large numbers of poorer people on the Witwatersrand," Black Sash says in a report.

According to Black Sash, controls under the "orderly urbanisation" policy are being exercised "without being balanced by the provision of sufficient, affordable, serviced land close to where people find their employment".

The TPA says it is preparing a report on the "squatter problem". But while the bureaucrats devise new policies and strategems reflecting their "deep concern about the problem," squatters like "Occupier Shack No 39" live uncertainly in their illegal iron shacks.

People afraid after raid

3/8/87 Sowetan 31

By STAN MHLONGO

A COMBINED raid by the SADF-SAP on a group of squatters outside Johannesburg at the weekend has put fear into hundreds of families in the area.

Scores of people arrested at Vlakfontein, south of Johannesburg, were charged with trespassing at the De Deur Police Station.

An SADF spokesman confirmed the raid.

He said the soldiers were there only to assist the police. He would not elaborate.

Head of the West Rand police Major MJ Halgryn said that police, accompanied by soldiers, raided Vlakfontein and "some people were arrested for tresspassing and will appear in court in the near future".

He could not give an excact number of those arrested in the raid.

Mandini
Stanger
Umbogintwini
Umhlanga Rocks
Westville (including Westville North)

(b) The decision whether to open public libraries under their control to all race groups rests with the relevant city councils, town boards, etcetera.

Mooinooi: squatting

319. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether any squatting by Blacks is at present taking place on a certain farm in the district of Mooinooi, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply; if so, (a) how many (i) squatters and (ii) dwelling units for squatters are there on this farm at present and (b) who is the owner of the farm;

(2) whether the squatters are charged any rent; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what amount per month is collected in this manner;

(3) whether he intends taking action in respect of these squatters; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action, (b) when and (c) in terms of what statutory provisions?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Falls away.

Export of sold capital equipment

336. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

(1) Whether any applications were received in 1986 and 1987, respectively, to export capital equipment which had been sold; if so, (a) (i) which applicants in each case and (b) what was the value of the equipment involved in each application;

(2) whether any of these applications were granted subsequent to being refused initially; if so, (a) which applications and (b) why were the initial decisions reversed?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

(1) Yes. (a) and (b) The departmental records are not kept in such a manner that the required particulars are readily available. Capital goods include a large variety of goods which are classifiable under some 70 tariff headings. Certain of these tariff headings also cover goods which are not necessarily capital goods. During 1986 and 1987 thus far a total number of between 8 000 and 9 000 permits was granted under all the relevant tariff headings.

(2) Yes, in the normal course of work.

(a) The information is not readily available.

(b) This information is also not readily available, but it may be accepted that it was done by reason of the submission of more detailed or new particulars.

Secondary schools: subjects of Std 10 pupils

344. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

Whether all secondary schools for Blacks in the Western Cape offer the same subjects to Standard 10 pupils; if so, what are these subjects; if not, what are the subjects available to Standard 10 pupils at each specified secondary school?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

No. The subjects available to Standard 10 pupils at the schools concerned are as follows:

(a) *Langa Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(b) *Fezeka Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Sotho, Tswana, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(c) *I D Mkize Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(d) *Sizamile Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History, Biblical Studies.

(e) *Luhlaza Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History, Biblical Studies, Business Economics, Economics, Accounting, Typing.

(f) *Maliso Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(g) *Simon Hebe Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History, Agricultural Science.

(h) *Vusisizwe Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(i) *Cross Roads Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History.

(j) *Lagunya Secondary School:*

Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Mathematics, Physical Science, Biology, Geography, History, Biblical Studies, Physiology, Introduction to Criminology, Business Economics, Economics.

State expenditure on education

345. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) What was the total State expenditure on education in the Republic, (a) including and (b) excluding the self-governing territories and the independent Black states, in the latest specified financial year for which information is available;

(2) what amount was spent in that financial year on education in respect of (a) Blacks in the (i) Republic, (ii) self-governing territories and (iii) independent Black states, (b) Whites, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) For 1987-88 the total State expenditure on education in the Republic is.

(a) R8 617 287 000, including the self-governing territories; and

(b) R7 332 633 000, excluding the self-governing territories.

These amounts do not include expenditure in respect of education in the independent Black states which do not form part of the Republic.

(2) For 1987-88 the expenditure on education is as follows:

(a) (i) R1 555 941 000 for Blacks in the Republic outside the self-governing territories.

(ii) R1 284 654 000 for Blacks in the self-governing territories.

(iii) the amount is not available for Blacks in the independent Black states.

(b) R3 887 696 000 for Whites.

(c) R1 348 292 000 for Coloureds; and

(d) R540 704 000 for Indians.

The amounts in (1) and (2) do not include funds provided in respect of education on

(310)(288) SPM 7/9/87

Clash averted as Mogopa accept compromise bid

By Jo-Anne Collinge

A looming confrontation between officials and the Mogopa community — who were set to defy the Government this week and reoccupy land near Ventersdorp from which they were unlawfully removed in 1984 — has been headed off at the 11th hour.

The Mogopa people decided yesterday to take up a Government offer to evacuate them from the Bethanie/Bersheba area of Bophuthatswana later this week and to accommodate them temporarily on South African Development Trust land at Onderstepoort near Sun City.

Residents of Mogopa made it clear that they had taken a position of compromise to keep the community intact at Onderstepoort, from where they would continue to fight for an acceptable permanent settlement for the 250 to 300 families.

The longstanding deadlock on Mogopa was broken after a delegation had met Minister of Development Aid Dr Gerrit Viljoen in Pretoria on Saturday.

Yesterday the atmosphere at the report-back meeting ay Bersheba was charged as residents who had already packed their goods for the make-or-break return to Mogopa this coming Saturday gathered to consider a compromise.

Speakers expressed doubts that the Government could be trusted to keep its word, pointing out that their title deeds to the Ventersdorp farm had meant nothing to Pretoria and the Government had done anything so far to acknowledge the Appeal Court ruling that the Mogopa removal had been unlawful.

Citizenship guaranteed

Residents are adamant that the only land they will accept as a permanent home must be in South Africa-proper and that they must get title to such land.

Community leaders reported that Dr Viljoen had been willing to meet these demands and to guarantee that residents could retain their citizenship.

The hitch in the weekend talks had been over the question of the location of alternative land.

The Mogopa committee is pressing for "released land" — set aside in law for black occupation — adjacent to existing "black spot" communities.

The move to Onderstepoort means that a community that has lived without proper sanitation and clean drinking water will immediately gain these services.

Onderstepoort, prepared as a resettlement camp for the Mathopestad community but never occupied, also has a school. The settlement is large enough to accommodate all the Mogopa people.

Old age pensioners whose grants had been stopped would receive their money within weeks.

310 DD 7/9/87

FOR SUBSCRIPTION

Potsdam squatters removed

EAST LONDON — The Potsdam residents squatting near Mdantsane were taken back to Ciskei this weekend — allegedly without their belongings.

A World Vision official, Mr Tim Wiggley, said South African police with police dogs moved in on the squatters about 6 am on Saturday and removed them. He claimed their belongings had been left behind.

The Border police liaison officer, Major Trevor Hayes, confirmed last night that the people had been returned to Potsdam.

He said the police told them to load their belongings aboard the trucks as they were occupying the land illegally.

To his knowledge, all the possessions were also taken back, Major Hayes said. — DDC

Squatters 850 000 in Tvl

PARLIAMENT — There was a total of 1 310 813 black squatters in South Africa, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, said yesterday.

Replying to a question by Mr Koos van der Merwe (CP Overvaal), he said figures regarding the squatter situation for the period between 1984 and 1986 were unavailable.

A breakdown of the total number squatters showed there were about 850 000 in the Transvaal, nearly 300 000 in the Cape, 1 142 in the Free State and 156 715 in Natal, including some who lived in kwaZulu. — Sapa.

Ennerdale families given temporary accommodation

(310 SPM) Vereeniging Bureau 8/9/83

Charges of squatting against Ennerdale families who were forcibly evicted from sub-economic housing units in the township last week were withdrawn in the De Deur Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The brief hearing before magistrate Mr S P Nolte was a sequel to an incident in which more than 100 adults were arrested after they moved into the unallocated houses, several of which have yet to be completed.

A police spokesman said the charges were withdrawn following discussions between the "squatters" and Government officials at the weekend.

The group was ordered to vacate the houses by noon yesterday as temporary accommodation had been arranged for them.

Mr Sidney Leaman, chairman of the Ennerdale Ratepayers' Action Group, said yesterday it was established at the meeting that the Department for Coloured Housing had made available R2 million for immediate use towards housing in the area for the so-called squatters.

About 27 sub-economic units would be built with this amount.

Kasigo squatters routed at 4 am

More than 20 families were left homeless when their shacks were demolished by council police in Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, last Friday.

The squatters said Kagiso Town Council police razed the shack settlement at about 4 am.

Miss Nmbulelo Mpinga (21) said she was asleep when the raid took place.

"I was ordered to remove my belongings before the shack was brought down with hammers and axes," she said.

Another squatter, Miss Nmvula Dladla (35), said: "We don't know what to do. We have nowhere else to go and fear we might die from the cold."

She said a truck was used to knock down some of the shacks while others were set alight.

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310 SMC 8/9/87

Ennerdale squatting charges withdrawn

Vereeniging Bureau

Charges of squatting against Ennerdale families who were forcibly evicted from sub-economic housing units in the township last week, were withdrawn in the De Deur Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The hearing before Mr S P Nolte was a sequel to an incident in which more than 100 adults were arrested days after moving into the unallocated houses, of which several have yet to be completed.

After discussions between the "squatters" and representatives of the Department of Housing and Development (House of Representatives), temporary houses have been provided.

Mr Sidney Leaman, chairman of the Ennerdale Ratepayers' Action Group, said the department had made available R2 million for immediate use to provide 270 housing units in the area.

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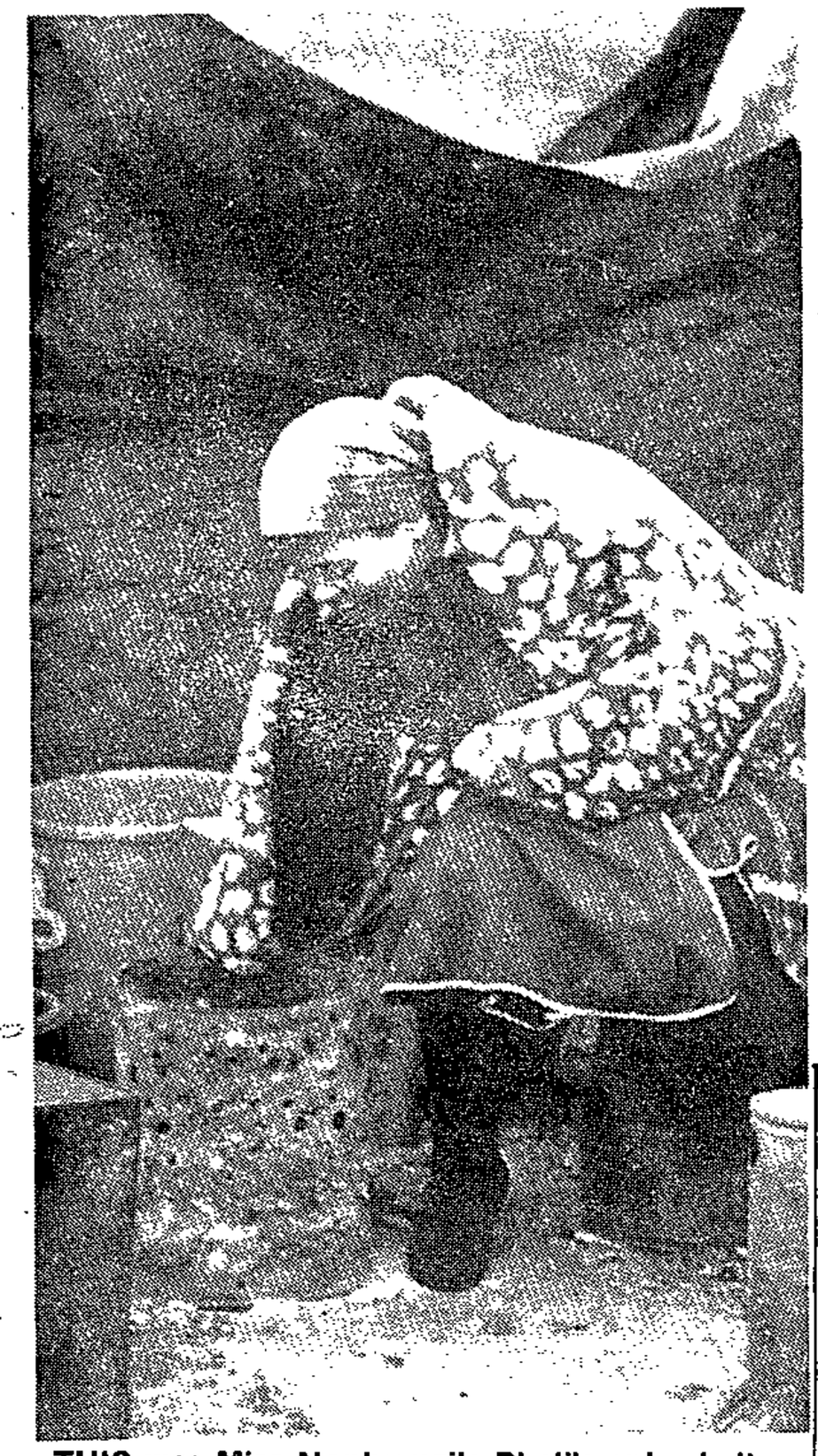
MANY HOMELESS AFTER RAID



THIS was Miss Nophumzile Phali's only shelter against yesterday's cold and drizzle.

MANY people were stranded after Kagiso Town Council police demolished about 20 shacks at a coalyard at the weekend.

Yesterday many of the homeless people shivered as they huddled in groups around braziers in the open. A continuous cold drizzle made the situation even more miserable.

What remained of the squatters' humble belongings was strewn all around the open veld. There were odds and ends of furniture, bundles of clothes, cooking utensils and pieces of corrugated iron.

The squatters said council policemen descended on the shack settlement about 4am on Friday morning.

Kagiso Town Council razes shacks

By NAT DISEKO

Miss Nombulelo Mpinga (21) said she was asleep in her shack when the raid took place. "I was ordered to take out my belongings and the shack was then brought down with hammers and axes," she said.

Another squatter, Miss Nomvula Dladla (35), said: "We don't know what to do. We have nowhere else to go and fear we may die from the cold."

She said a truck was used to knock down some shacks and that some were deliberately set alight.

The Kagiso town clerk, a Mr van Rensburg, would not comment and would not give his first name — "I only give my first name to my friends," he said.

He directed further enquiries to the chief of the council's security police, a Colonel Senekal, who Mr van Rensburg said was attending a conference in Bloemfontein.

4 30 12/9/87

African pensions: monthly payouts by end of the year

By MIKE MABUSELA

THE new computerised pension payment system for African pensioners is ready and by December or early next year they will get monthly pensions as promised by the Government 18 months ago.

Speaking from Pretoria the Deputy Director of Pensions, Mr S J Verwey, said it was hoped that the new system would be introduced in December or early next year. Restructuring had caused the delay, he said.

At the moment African pensions are paid every two months in community halls and other places.

To get their pensions some old people spend the night near the payment points, while those coming on payout day find themselves squeezed and trampled in the rush. Only last week a pensioner was crushed to death in a rush at the Jabulani Stadium, Soweto.

Mr Verwey said under the new system pensions would be paid directly into banks and building societies on a monthly basis, enabling pensioners to obtain their money at automatic tellers.

In addition, the department was investigating sites where pay points could be set in the various townships.

Mr Verwey said provincial administrations would take over the handling of pensions. "We are in a process of obtaining payment offices which will serve as pay points. We will also carry on paying pensioners at the existing pay points."

Mr Verwey said the Ibhayi Town Council had agreed to a payment office on its premises.

The department, he said, wanted pension offices to be open throughout the week to give people ample time to collect their pensions.

About 50 000 pensioners, he added, had applied for their pensions to be deposited in their building society accounts.

"We are busy processing these applications and we will deposit their money as requested. Since this takes some time, I would say by December or early January, black pensioners would get their monthly pension as promised."

The department would appoint permanent staff to handle payments throughout the month in cases where pensioners chose not to use auto-tellers or building society offices, or where these facilities are not available.

He said it would not be possible to pay pensioners at post offices, as Post Office officials said they would be unable to cope.

The monthly payment of pensions was approved by Parliament last February.

Rini town councillor Mr B B Zondani, an executive member of the Urban Councils Association and of the multiracial Eastern Cape Regional Welfare Board, called on the department to speed up the introduction of the new system.

"This will put an end to senior citizens being forced to sleep out in the open," he said.

21 more rent boycotters are evicted

The latest blitz on rent boycotters in Soweto which started again this week continued yesterday when 21 families were raided and locked out of their homes in Jabulani.

This brought to 40 the number of families who have been evicted in the area in two days.

The director of housing in the Soweto Council, Ms Estelle Bester, yesterday confirmed the evictions. However, she said one of the families had been allowed back after making a payment.

The families were each told how much they owed. If they could not pay, some furniture was confiscated, the rest put outside and the houses locked.

Ms Bester said the council had resolved at a meeting that evictions should take place again following a drop in payments since action against rent defaulters was stopped by the mayor, Mr Nelson Botile.

The mayor stopped the evictions because he had been given promises that people would pay their arrears, said Ms Bester.

Mogopa 'refugees' move a third time — and it's still temporary

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Government trucks piled high with household belongings rumbled into the overgrown Onderstepoort settlement yesterday as the first 30 families of Mogopa "refugees" took up their temporary homes there.

It was the third move for the Mogopa community in less than four years — the first being their forced removal from the land they owned near Ventersdorp in February 1984.

It was also an historic move, with a community of several hundred returning from a homeland to "South Africa-proper" as a result of negotiation with Pretoria.

FINDING PERMANENT HOME

The Onderstepoort camp, near Sun City, will provide a base for approximately three months. During this time negotiations will continue with the aim of finding the people acceptable land for a permanent home.

Mogopa spokesman Mr Matthew Kgatitsoe, addressing an impromptu press conference at the Onderstepoort school, made it clear that the community still cherished hopes that a return to the original Mogopa farm near Ventersdorp could be negotiated.

The move to Onderstepoort "doesn't mean we are satisfied with settlement here. We will only be satisfied with Mogopa", he said.

He added that the Government had already made two key concessions, guaranteeing them land within South Africa — not in any homeland — and title deeds to such land. Its precise location was a matter for further negotiation.

The people of Mogopa are leaving the Bethanie/Bersheba area of Bophuthatswana where they fled after their homes at Mogopa were smashed in 1984.

Many have lived there in conditions of great privation — without land to cultivate, without clean water to drink and without solid houses.

At Bersheba yesterday the atmosphere was subdued as people were anxious about conditions at the other end of the 80 km journey. At Onderstepoort there was evidence of an immense government effort to supply emergency housing in the three days since the deal.

The schoolyard was piled with prefabricated houses and tents, waiting to be erected for some 300 families. The cost of these alone is likely to exceed R750 000, according to figures given by officials.

The school is a solid brick structure and hundreds of sites, with toilets and communal taps, were laid out years ago in preparation for the Mathopestad community which resisted being moved.

In a joint statement, the Department of Development Aid and community representatives said pensions, including arrear payments, would start as soon as information about those eligible was provided. The Department of Education and Training was to provide staff for the primary school immediately and a mobile clinic would be provided.

Second detainee goes to hospital

WINDHOEK — A second Swapo detainee, Mr Anton Lubowski, has been admitted to Windhoek State Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said Mr Lubowski had a kidney problem.

Swapo's deputy national chairman, Mr Danny Tjongarero, is in hospital with a more serious kidney complaint. — The Star's Africa News Service.

ia urged to

Confrontation avoided as dispossessed community reaches temporary settlement

Mogopa on the move again

(310) STAR 14/9/87

→ cont.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Hammer blows and sounds of falling corrugated iron echo across the glazed red earth of Bersheba. There is an air of calm as shack after shack is destroyed.

Building materials and household goods are piled on the Government trucks bearing the distinctive "hot cross bun" logo of the removals squad.

But the women are unperturbed. Clustered in affectionate groups among the debris of their dismantled homes, they continue feeding their babies, talking softly.

This is resettlement with a difference. Not forced. But not truly voluntary either.

It is an evacuation that is tainted by its root cause, a forced removal which took place some four years ago at Mogopa near Ventersdorp, behind a screen of almost 100 policemen and under local and foreign criticism.

Evacuation

The Mogopa people, refusing to settle in the designated Government removal camp, fled to Bersheba and Bethanie.

Their present evacuation from these villages in Bophuthatswana entails the Government moving about 300 families to South African land 80 km away at Onderstepoort, where temporary accommodation will be provided on serviced sites.

During the three-month stay at Onderstepoort negotiations will continue to find the Mogopa community permanent land in South Africa-proper.

The initiative to seek afresh is a scene which is likely to be re-enacted several times in the next few months.

Such negotiations might seem commonplace — but they were unthinkable four years ago when a large number of Mogopa people vigorously opposed their forced removal and Pretoria repeatedly dismissed them as a small group of dissidents involved in a tribal dispute.

Last weekend's talks have already yielded unprecedented undertakings for the Mogopa people. They have been promised:

- They will be given land inside South Africa and will get a Cabinet guarantee that this land will never be incorporated into a homeland.
- They will get freehold title to this land.
- They will remain South African citizens.
- Their pensions — interrupted during the 1984 removal — will be reinstated with backpay where applicable.
- Temporary accommodation and services will be provided at Onderstepoort at the Government's cost so that people no longer have to endure the harsh living conditions at Bersheba and Bethanie.
- The precise location of the permanent settlement will be decided by negotiation.

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee, which has been closely associated with Mogopa, noted that residents called off their reoccupation bid with strong misgivings.

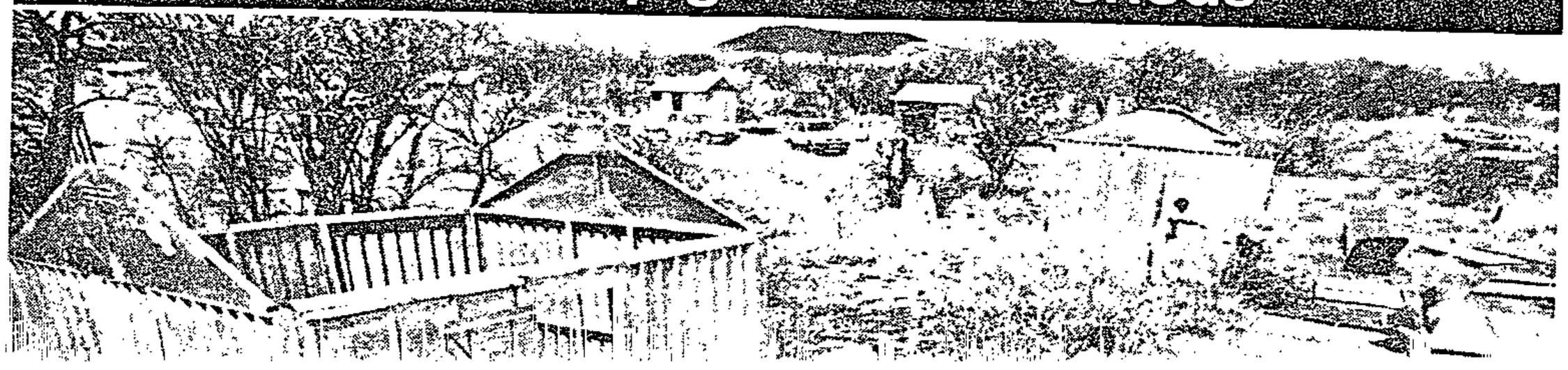
"The new offer was reluctantly acccepted after vigorous debate. Their history of suffer-

Down come the old shacks . . . .



The old shacks at Bersheba are broken down by workers in preparation for the move.

. . . and up go the new sheds



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The initiative to seek afresh for a solution for Mogopa came under threat of an act of mass defiance by the Mogopa people — action which would aagain have captured the attention of the international community.

Residents felt they had been frustrated at every turn by Pretoria and had been left no option but to reoccupy their old land at Ventersdorp, even if it meant some of them died in the process.

The return would have been a massive exodus involving a convoy of up to 200 trucks setting out to cover 150 km under the eye of a wide range of supporters and observers.

Many thought this desperate effort by victims of forced removal to reclaim their land might have been swathed in teargas and brought to an abrupt end at a roadblock.

Even community members, as they laid plans for the reoccupation which would have occurred this weekend, knew that the emergency regulations could have been used to render them leaderless by large scale detention or to divert their convoy to any place the Government desired.

Given the potential for conflict, there were those who saw victory in the last-minute compromise which was put into operation this week.

There were others who sensed defeat in the community's relinquishment of a strategy aimed directly at attaining their ultimate dream: re-establishing themselves on the ruins of their old Mogopa farm near Ventersdorp.

And then there are those who see the meaning of the latest Mogopa development neither in the banners of victory nor in the white flag of defeat.

They choose other images to convey their reading of events. Images of two rows of men, seated facing each other across a table — engaged, not in "talks" but in negotiation — as a Government statement put it, busy exchanging "proposals and counter-proposals".

On the one side of the table sits the Minister of Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and representatives of various Government departments — all responsible ultimately to a National Party Cabinet and a white electorate.

Lined up opposite are representatives of Mogopa — young and old — and a couple of advisors. They are all responsible to people who have no vote, whose homes were smashed and herds were destroyed at the order of the State President — and who meet under trees on the bare veld to try and regain some grip on their lives.

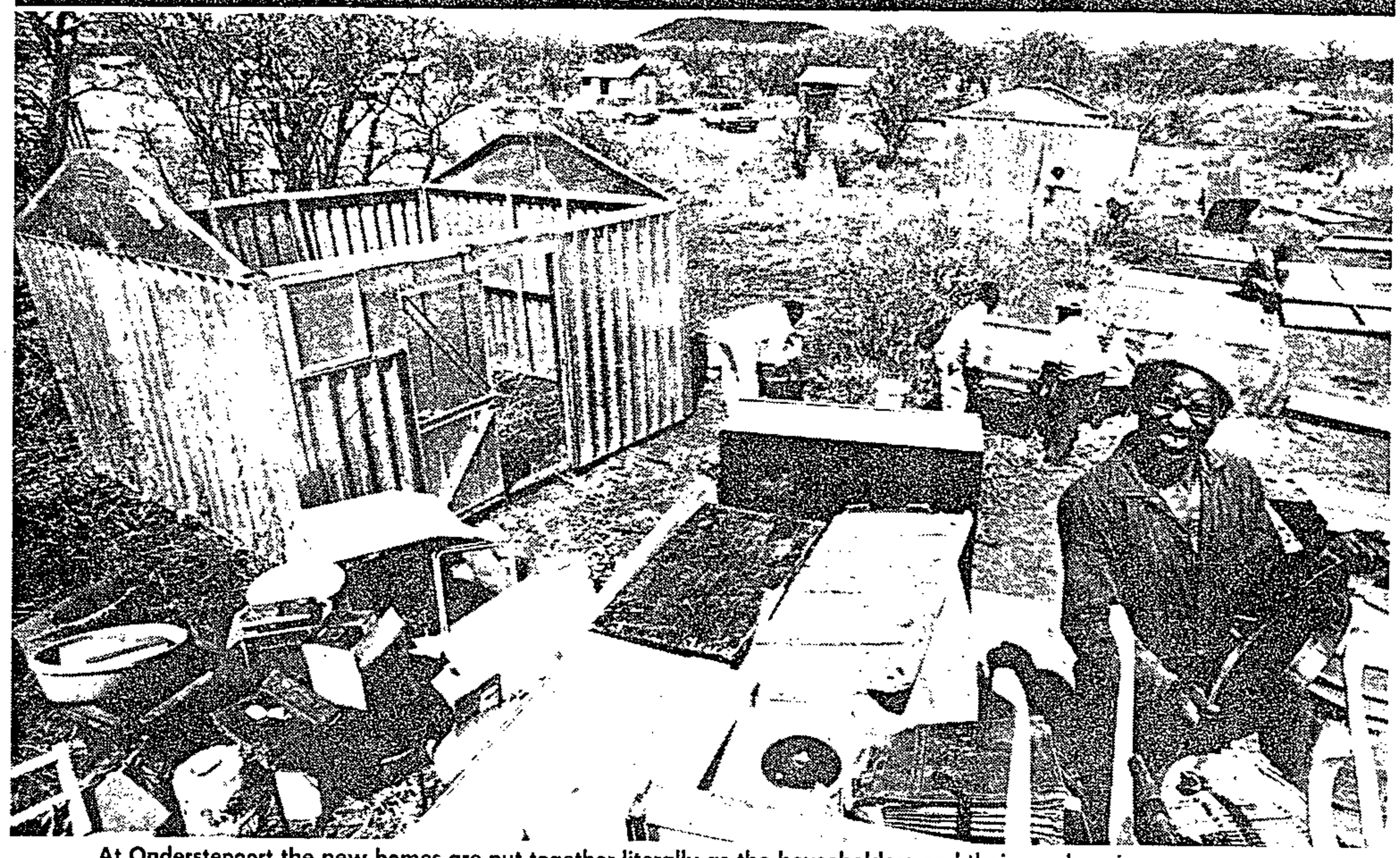
It is the scene which was played out last week when the reoccupation of Mogopa was headed off at the 11th hour. It



The old shacks at Bersheba are broken down by workers in preparation for the move.

14/9/87 (310)

. . . and up go the new sheds



At Onderstepoort the new homes are put together literally as the householders and their goods arrive.

● Pictures by Ken Oosterbroek.

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● The precise location of the permanent settlement will be decided by negotiation.

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee, which has been closely associated with Mogopa, noted that residents called off their reoccupation bid with strong misgivings.

"The new offer was reluctantly acccepted after vigorous debate. Their history of suffering, deprivation and dispossession made them acutely suspicious of the sincerity of the Government's commitment."

There was no doubt of the Government's resolve to get the first phase of the plan — the move to Onderstepoort — into gear this week. Within three days, hundreds of tents had been moved into camp and truckloads of prefab houses arrived in a steady stream.

Plans for health services, for the stimulation of small business and for getting the school operational were outlined to the media in a statement issued by the Department of Development Aid.

Onderstepoort — ironically — is a monument of resistance to removal. Laid out with services some six years ago, it has never been occupied because the Mathopestad people for whom it was planned have refused to agree to removal.

As their people took up occupation at Onderstepoort this week, Mogopa leaders made it clear they would make sure they did not stop for long there and that they would soon undertake their fourth move in as many years — leaving Onderstepoort as a symbol of the struggle to retain land rights.

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SAIRR 14/9/87



With all their household belongings on the back of a truck, this family defiantly moved from their shack into incomplete housing units in Ennerdale Extension 6 about two weeks ago.

Seventy squatter families evicted after weeks of being shunted around

By Pat Devereaux

About 70 Ennerdale families ended up on the streets again at the weekend after being evicted from their temporary accommodation in the township.

The families have been shunted back and forth since they defiantly moved into the unfinished housing units in Ennerdale Extension 6 about two weeks ago. On Friday morning, the police again moved in and evicted them.

After charges of squatting had been withdrawn in a De Deur Magistrate's Court on September 7, the families agreed to voluntarily vacate the premises when temporary accommodation was found.

According to Mr Sidney Leaman, Chairman of the Ennerdale Ratepayers Action Group (ERAG), about 30 families had remained in the new housing units after the court appearance and others had moved into about 13 "zozo" houses put up for them by the the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture.

"These are desperate people, whose shacks were destroyed by the peri-urban board," said Mr Leaman.

Asked to comment on the evictions, regional director of the department, Mr L W Oldacre said: "There is a tremendous housing shortage but I cannot condone an illegal situation. When they seized houses allocated to others I got a court order to evict them. We agreed to drop charges if they moved out and since then I have met with these squatters every day.

"We agreed to put up temporary accommodation for the really desperate ones but others moved in and so we had to evict them again."

Shacks at settlement are again torn down

Roodepoort municipal police demolished 11 squatter shacks at the Big Farm settlement last week, the Black Sash has said.

This is the eighth time this year that Roodepoort municipal police have torn down squatters' homes at Big Farm, a field worker for the organisation said.

She said when she arrived at Big Farm on Friday morning the people were re-building their homes that had hours before been pulled down by officials.

Between 50 and 60 people live in the shacks.

The ground is earmarked as an extension to the coloured township of Davidsonville, and part of the new services have already being laid out.

Municipal officials were not available on Friday afternoon to confirm the demolitions. The Black Sash worker said she had spoken to the town secretary about the demolitions.

The organisation pointed out that while there were several hundred thousand people living as squatters on the Witwatersrand, they were in small settlements and did not attract as much attention as major squatter camps like Crossroads in Cape Town.

Misery for the tent people

MORE than 30 families living in Dobsonville's "canvas town" spent the weekend in chilly and wet weather after their tents were flooded during a heavy downpour on Saturday night and yesterday morning.

By SY MAKARINGE

Many of the families, some with children as young as five months, were left destitute after their tents were ripped open during a heavy hailstorm that hit the township on Saturday night.

Their clothes and blankets were soaked when the rain leaked fiercely through the canvasses. As the downpour did not show signs of subsiding by late yesterday, many children could be seen shivering uncontrollably in the bitterly cold weather.

Hailstorm

Many people were yesterday desperately trying to patch up the worn tents with pieces of plastic, but to no avail.

A family of eight was forced to seek refuge with another family after their tent collapsed during the hailstorm at about 10pm on Saturday night.

Mrs Rosina Hlongwane, head of the family, said all the family's clothes and blankets were soaked when her tent was flooded.

"The tent collapsed on us at about 10pm. There was water everywhere. We had to evacuate the tent and spend the night with a family which was a bit fortunate," Mrs Hlongwane said.

She added: "Even my five-month-old grandchild, Winnie, is left without warm clothes as a result of this. The authorities must show some sense of sanity by addressing our genuine grievances as soon as possible."

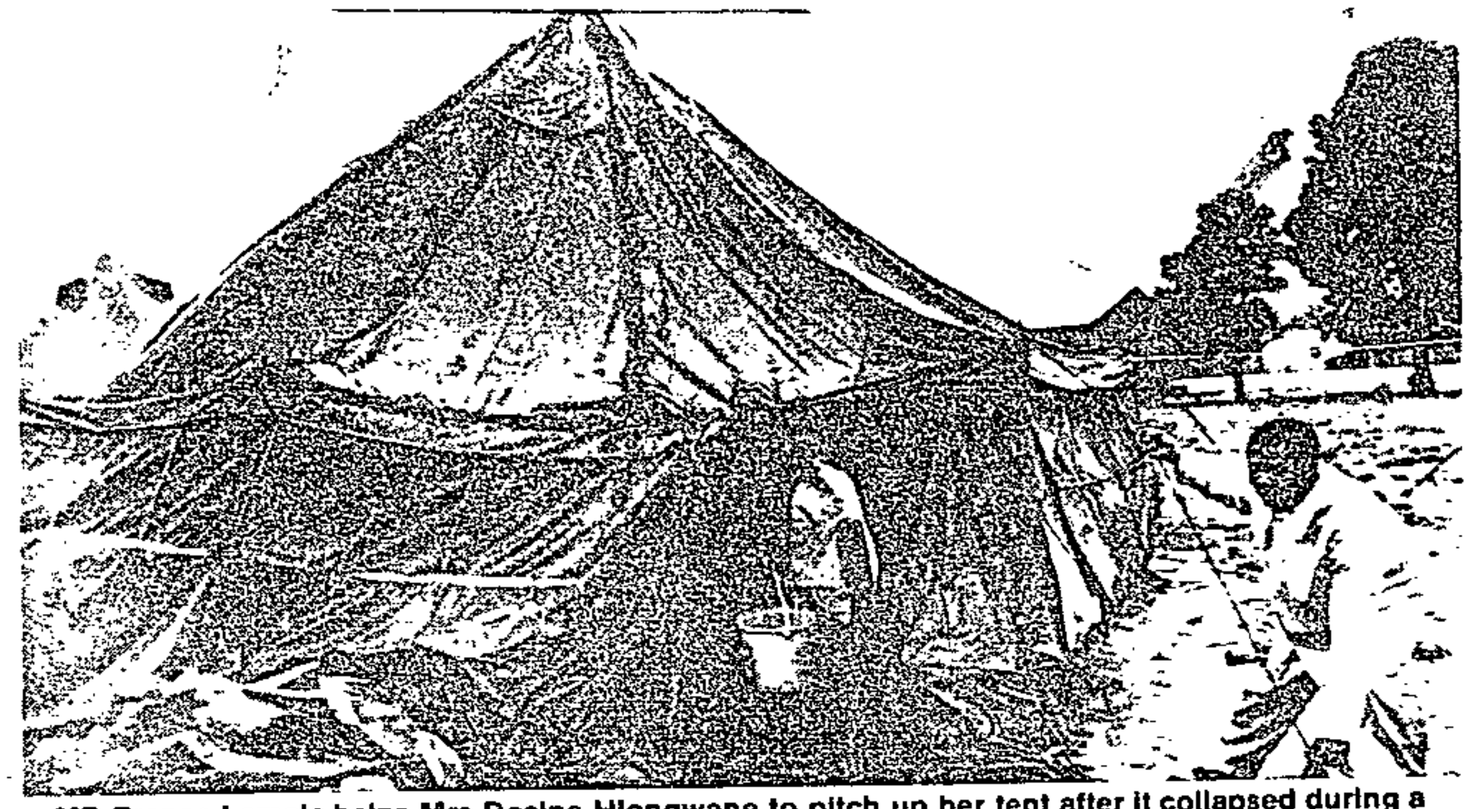
The families pitched up the tents which were donated by the Witwatersrand Council of Churches (WCC) after they were evicted from newly-built houses they occupied "illegally" exactly a year ago.

The Dobsonville Town Council has gone on record as saying that it did not have houses for the "tent people." The council added that it had 3000 residents on the housing waiting list.

Mr Goodwill Maphepha, one of the "tent people" spokesmen, said the council's silence on these families could be seen as a punishment following their "illegal" occupation of the houses a year ago.

"I believe we deserve first preference. We can't live here forever. Imagine what would happen if it rained for two or three weeks? It would be bad," Mr Maphepha said.

Officials of the Dobsonville Town Council could not be contacted for comment yesterday.



MR France Lamola helps Mrs Rosina Hlongwane to pitch up her tent after it collapsed during a heavy hailstorm on Saturday night.



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Squatters fear floods in wake of heavy rain

By Montshiwa Moroke

Families who live on Chicken Farm near Kliptown and in other squatter settlements of Soweto are living in fear of floods following heavy weekend rains.

A number of people at the Chickcn Farm and squatters living in corrugated structures and tents elsewhere yesterday expressed fears of being made homeless if the rains continue.

Mrs Joyce Hlongwane, a mother of two, who lives at Chicken Farm near the banks of the Kliprivier said:

"We did not sleep on Sunday night. The water started to increase its volume at 10 am and at noon the water began to cover rocks on the banks of the river.

"All our neighbours came out to watch as the water rose and lashed at the rocks as if to sweep them away. Our biggest fear was that the water would wash our houses away."

Mrs Patricia Kubheka, who lives with her husband and two children close to the same river, said she had been staying in the area since 1969 when her parents moved there.

"We have twice survived floods. In 1973, our family and others were temporarily moved to the Merafe male hostel during the first floods. Then came the 1976 floods when scores of families had to be moved."

In Dobsonville, where homeless families have spent more than a year staying in tents, conditions were miserable as families put their goods outside to dry.

The tents, donated by the Witwatersrand Council of Churches last September, are torn and let in water and chilly wind whenever it rains.

The families — some have been on the waiting list for many years — were moved there after the Dobsonville Council threw them out of 147 newly-built homes they had occupied unlawfully last year.

Mrs Cynthia Mojatau said she, her husband and four children slept on one bed on Sunday as the floor was full of water. Her family's sofa, blankets and clothes were still soaked.

Mrs Rosy Nikani, an official of the Dobsonville Civic Association, said that while the squatters would prefer homes, they desperately needed new tents.

Sister Anne, a Catholic nun who visited the squatter camp yesterday, said: "The families endured the bitter cold throughout winter without homes and I hope something can be done soon".



Sister Anne of the Catholic Church visited the Dobsonville squatter camp yesterday. Here she is trying to cheer up three-month-old Jimmy in the arms of his mother, Mrs Lindi Sweetie.

● Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Durban Argus man dies after illness

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Mr Charles Edward Still (61), ex-deputy editor of *The Daily News*, died in Durban from cancer on Sunday.

Mr Still retired last year after 40 years' service with the Argus Company. He was deputy editor of *The Daily News* from 1977 to 1986 and was previously editorial director of *The World*, the Johannesburg daily newspaper which was subsequently banned.

Born in Cape Town, Mr Still matriculated at the Diocesan College there and served in the South African Artillery in World War 2 before joining The Argus.

He spent eight years in Zimbabwe, working on the then *Rhodesia Herald* as news editor and on the *Bulawayo Chronicle* and in Lusaka, Zambia.

Mr Still then worked on The Star and *The Pretoria News* before going to *The World*.

He leaves his wife and two daughters.

Letter gives Klipspruit squatters 14 days to leave tents

(310 SMC 30/9/87) By Pat Devereaux (3814)

Tent people at Fred Clark Emergency Camp have been told by the Soweto housing director to find other accommodation by next Tuesday.

A letter, signed by Soweto housing director Miss E Bester, gave the squatters 14 days to vacate the tents in which they have been living for the past year.

"The stands (on which their tents are pitched) have been allocated to people to build their houses on," the letter explains.

About 30 tent families at the Fred Clark Emergency Camp, in Klipspruit Extension 2, were handed the letters on September 22, said housing official Mr D Khetsi.

Miss Bester said those who had difficulty finding accommodation could buy houses for about R16 000 at Naledi or put a deposit of about R2 000 on a stand at Phiri or Dlamini Emergency Camp.

Businessmen will welcome the return of Mogopa community

By Jo-Anne Collinge

If the people of Mogopa were to be granted their dearest wish — to return to the land from which they were removed in 1984 — it would stimulate trade in the nearby town of Ventersdorp, businessmen in the area say.

Farmers of the region are less willing to express their views on the position of the Mogopa people lest they alienate their neighbours.

GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

But the outgoing local organiser for the Rural Foundation, Mr Chris Botha, said: "I can't see that there would be problems (if they came back here) because there was never any animosity between them and the farmers. Every person has a right to a place in the sun — where he can raise his children and have his church."

He qualified his view by saying that any steps taken should be properly negotiated.

Farmers approached by The Star referred to previous good neighbourliness between themselves and the people of Mogopa.

One said that, while he would prefer white people living near his farm, there was "no particular objection" to having the Mogopa people there. If the Government were to decide to resettle them on the old land, he would conclude that it had no other option and would accept this.

About 350 Mogopa families have been accommodated temporarily by Pretoria in a resettlment camp near Sun City while negotiations on their place of permanent settlement continue. The Government has given no indication of the location of the land under consideration, except that it will be in South Africa and not in a homeland.

The manager of a Ventersdorp funeral parlour, Mr J M du Plessis, said his business had been hit by the departure of the Mogopa people. About two-thirds of his clients came from the black community, he said.

"There was definitely a decline in business when the Mogopa people left. I'd be glad to see them back," he said.

Mr du Plessis said several businesses in town were shaky, mostly because the drought had severely undercut the buying power of farmers. The departure of more than 400 families from Mogopa had compounded their problems.

The owner of the largest store in the Indian shopping complex said that "businesses do suffer with shifts of population out of the region". He said the Mogopa had been the most recent of a series of removals.

If the Mogopa community were re-established on its own land, "naturally the town would come to benefit from the population increase," he said.

He estimated that 15 firms in town had closed in recent months and that scores of homes in white suburbs were standing empty.

BUSINESS WILL PROFIT

A bottlestore manager said he was not opposed to any possibility that the Mogopa might be re-established and that his business would profit.

He added that he had been a farmer and that relations between the Mogopa community and farmers had been sound. He had satisfactorily obtained casual and seasonal labour from the settlement.

The Mogopa land now belongs to the Government and it is being rented to a group of farmers as additional grazing for their herds.



Mr Bobby Harries . . . determined to rebuild the remnants of the power station that was once the centre of his life.

Family's pride demolished by the great flood

By Don Holliday

The focus of Mr Bobby Harries's existence for 47 years was virtually demolished last week when the Albert Falls Dam near Maritzburg overflowed.

The Albert Falls power station, reputed to be the last independently owned power station in South Africa, is on the banks of the Umgeni River, directly below the falls and the dam wall.

At the height of the storm early last Monday, the river rose at least 8 m, crushing the building housing the turbines, flooding the adjoining offices and nearby sawmill and sweeping away with it tons of machinery.

EMERGENCY NETWORK

On Saturday morning Mr Harries seemed stunned when he came to assess the damage to the property his family owns, yet was adamant the power station would be functioning normally within weeks.

"At the moment, the Albert Falls village and surrounding farms, the area we serve, are getting electricity from an emergency Escom network.

"My grandfather built this power station in 1940 and it has been the centre of my life, and of my family, ever since.

None of his employees was injured as the premises were cleared last Sunday night when it became apparent the dam might overflow.

An 87-year-old railway bridge built above the falls was also swept away, as was a concrete road bridge 500 m further downstream.

By Saturday morning, the river was still flowing but had receeded to normal limits. The dam was still brim-full.

After the deluge — life begins again for Umbulwane squatters

By Don Holliday

When the Klip River burst its banks last Monday Mr Patrick Mthembu (55) was one of dozens of Ladysmith squatters whose mud huts and meagre possessions were swept away.

"I was getting ready to go to work at about 5 am when all of a sudden I saw and heard the water coming down."

The river burst over the floodplain and within minutes had engulfed Umbulwane, an illegal cluster of huts about a kilometre below the town.

"It was flowing very strongly and was about chest-high," said Mr Mthembu.

"I grabbed my three youngest children and put them on the roof while the rest of us tried to stop everything else from disappearing.

"My four cows, my chickens and everything in the house except a fridge and a bed went.

"We stayed there the whole day until someone from Ladysmith came and rescued us in a boat on Monday night."

Mr Mthembu said two children had been reported drowned about 400 m downriver.

By the weekend the community had already begun re-building huts, using materials salvaged from the flood.

Other hard-hit sections of Ladysmith were the Indian residential area of Leonardsville and the commercial centre of the town.



All that remained of Mr Patrick Mthembu's three-roomed home after the Klip River burst its banks near Ladysmith. His three youngest children clung to the roof as the rest of the house disappeared.

● Picture by Garth Lumley.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes.

(a) His private capacity

(b) (i) Commandant L A Terblanche.

(ii) Soldier of Fortune.

(2) (a) Yes. The request was considered.

(b) Yes. Permission was granted to attend and address the convention in his private capacity.

(3) Yes. Unclassified archive material of Operation Protea and the internal unrest situation.

(4) No. The member's address was based on his own interpretation of available material and did not necessarily represent the official attitude of the SA Defence Force. No steps are contemplated with regard to the matter.

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 29 September 1987:

Pamphlets dropped from helicopter

*1. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 21 on 28 July 1987, the investigation into the incident on 23 May 1987 in which pamphlets were dropped from a low-flying helicopter has been completed; if not, what are the reasons for the delay in completing this investigation; if so, (a) when, (b) what were the results of the investigation and (c) who is the owner of the helicopter;

(2) whether, as a result of this incident, any action has been taken against the (a) owner of the helicopter and (b) group allegedly responsible for distributing these pamphlets; if not, why not; if so, (i) what action in each case and (ii) what is the name of this group?

HoA

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) No. Because the investigation instituted up until now suggests that the helicopter which is being referred to, was at an aviation company for routine service and maintenance on the date of the alleged offence. This information is in conflict with the information which the South African Police received from the End Conscription Campaign and is at present being further investigated.

(a) to (c) Fall away.

(2) No, because the investigation has not yet been finalized.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Oukasie, Brits: deproclamation

*2. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether the Black residential area at Brits, also known as Oukasie, has been deproclaimed; if so, when;

(2) whether this deproclamation has been or is being implemented; if so, when was the matter disposed of or is it expected to be disposed of;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) Yes. 17 October 1986.

(2) Yes. It is not possible to determine a definite date because the relocation of the residents to Lethlabile is a continuous process.

(3) No.

Oukasie, Brits: illegal squatting

*3. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether any illegal squatting is at present taking place in the Black residential area at Brits, also known as Oukasie; if so, how many squatters are involved;

(2) whether he intends taking any action in respect of these squatters; if not; why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) Yes; 136 families.

(2) (a) and (b) The Transvaal Provincial Administration is already taking steps in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951, to effect the establishment of an emergency camp on the land concerned where the squatters may be accommodated temporarily until they can settle elsewhere.

Member of SAP

*4. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, is or was a member of the South African Police; if so, (a) when did he join the Police Force, (b) (i) in which sections of the Force has he served and (ii) during which periods did he serve in each of these sections and (c) what is the name of this person;

(2) whether this person has since left the South African Police; if so, (a) when and (b) why?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2) I do not consider it to be in the public interest or the interest of the country to furnish this information.

Algoa Regional Services Council, Port Elizabeth

*5. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether the premises occupied by the Algoa Regional Services Council in Port Elizabeth, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, were redecorated recently; if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) what was the (i) total cost of redecorating and (ii) cost per metre of the curtaining material and (d) what is the street address of these premises;

(2) whether tenders were called for to undertake this redecoration; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether the lowest tender was accepted; if not, why not?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) Yes, if it can be called redecoration.

(a) Between 1 April 1987 and 15 August 1987.

(b) It is the property of the Municipality of Port Elizabeth. A few years ago the Ford Motor Company vacated the building. All that was left behind was an empty shell. Air-conditioning, electric wiring, partitioning, carpets and curtains had to be installed and particular plumbing had to be done.

(c) (i) R541 451.

(ii) Those in the council chamber—R12,99 per meter; those in the reception area, committee room and offices—R14,99 per meter.

(d) Seventeenth Floor
Brister House
Main Street
Port Elizabeth

(2) No, it was not in the interest for the functioning of the RSC. A long period is taken up for the invitation of tenders. Economical prices were negotiated with the suppliers. At least two quotations were obtained for every item.

(3) A special committee of the Port Elizabeth City Council approved the lowest of the quotations.

services such as tarred roads, stormwater drainage, sewerage systems, provision of drinking water, provision of electricity and development of public open spaces.

(c) (i) Phase I = 1 213 sites
Phase II = ± 850 sites
Phase III = ± 850 sites.

(ii) (aa) Due to the fact that a functioning Town Committee is non-existent a basis is still to be determined by the Cape Provincial Administration.

(bb) The allocation of sites will be undertaken by the Administrator of the Cape Province until an election can be conducted with a view to the establishment of some form of local authority.

Radio/television reception: complaints

634. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services:

(1) Whether he will furnish information on (a) radio and television transmitters and (b) complaints about radio and television reception; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether any changes were made to the (a) radio and (b) television transmitters on (i) Constantiaberg and (ii) Table Mountain during the course of 1987; if so, (aa) what changes, (bb) for what reasons and (cc) with what result;

(3) whether any complaints about (a) radio and (b) television reception in the Cape Peninsula were received during the course of 1987; if so, (i) what complaints, (ii) what was the cause of the problems and (iii) what action was taken as a result?

HoA

The MINISTER IN THE STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTRATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(aa) FM radio frequencies were altered and the cabling to the television aerial on Table Mountain was replaced and a combiner was installed at both stations in order to include M-NET transmitters.

(bb) In terms of a decision by the International Telecommunications Union the SABC was forced to alter all its FM radio frequencies. This decision has a bearing on the whole of Africa and parts of Europe, and frequencies had to be altered in order to comply with amended international standards.

The cabling to the television aerial on Table Mountain was replaced because water had infiltrated into the system, thus hampering radiation. The installation of combiners has been referred to in (aa).

(cc) Some listeners experience difficulty in tuning into the correct radio frequency. Reception problems experienced by television viewers in the city centre and in the Gardens area have been solved to a large extent.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) The complaints regarding radio reception were divergent and are best reflected

in a letter from a Mrs R Edwards forwarded to the SABC recently for reply by Mr Dave Dalling, MP. A copy of Mrs Edwards' letter and of the SABC's reply to Mr Dalling can be made available to you.

Complaints regarding television reception have been addressed in (2) (cc) above.

(ii) The main cause of the problems with radio reception is frequency alterations. The cause of the problem regarding television reception has been addressed in (2) (bb) above.

(iii) The problem regarding television has been rectified to a large extent by replacing the cabling. The SABC is awaiting the arrival of a new aerial for Table Mountain ordered from overseas. The radio reception problems over which the SABC can exercise control are being investigated.

~~Member of SAP~~

635. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, is a member of the Police; if so, (a) when did he join the Police Force, (b) what is his present rank, (c) to which branch of the Police is he attached, (d) where is he stationed and (e) what is his name?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

No, not according to the personnel records of the South African Police.

(a) to (e) Fall away.

Vlakfontein: squatters

637. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any members of the South African Police recently took any action against squatters in Vlakfontein, situated south of Johannesburg; if so, (a) what action, (b) in respect of how many squatters, (c) why, (d) on what date and (e) in terms of what statutory provisions?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) and (b) 24 persons were arrested and charged. They were, however, released immediately to appear in court on 12 October 1987.

(c) because complaints were received that persons were illegaly squatting in the area.

(d) 2 October 1987.

(e) Section 1A of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951 (Act 52 of 1951).

Vlakfontein: squatters

638. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

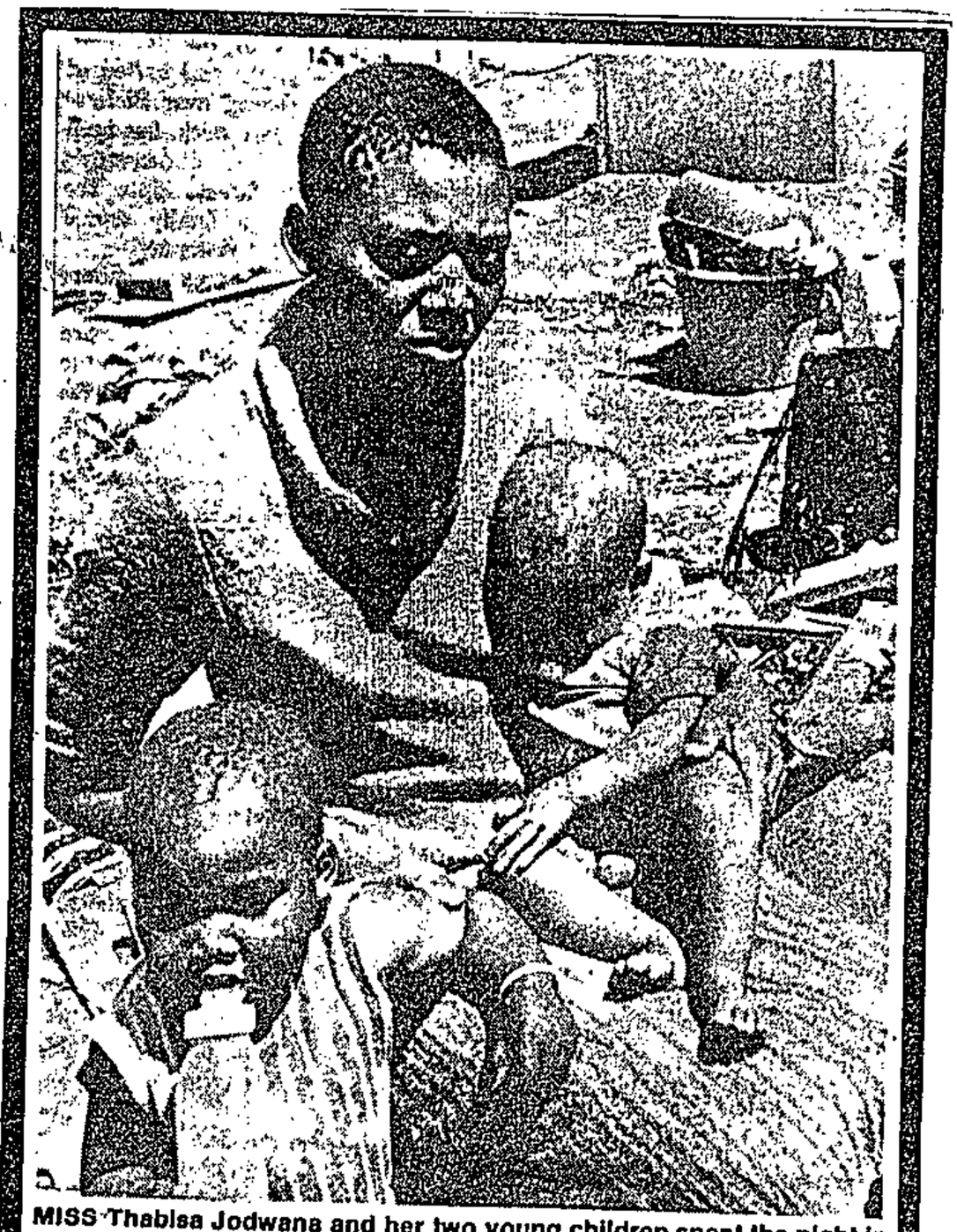
Whether any officials of his Department recently took any action against squatters in Vlakfontein, situated south of Johannesburg; if so, (a) what action, (b) in respect of how many squatters, (c) why, (d) on what date and (e) in terms of what statutory provisions?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

No. The execution of the provisions contained in the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951 (Act 52 of 1951), which assigns powers, duties and functions to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, has been assigned to the Administrators of the respective provinces in terms of State President's Minute 0963 of 25 September 1986, with effect from 1 October 1986.

Western Cape: colleges

640. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:



MISS Thabisa Jodwana and her two young children spent the night in the cold after their shack was demolished on Wednesday.

NIGHT IN THE OPEN

310
Sowetan
9/10/87

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

A SIX-MONTH-OLD baby and her brother were among a group of squatters who spent the night in the open after shacks were demolished in Thokoza, near Alberton, on Wednesday.

Since last Thursday, Thokoza council policemen, with the help of the South African Police, have demolished 124 shacks at the squatter camp known as Dunusa. It is near the Thokoza men's hostel.

There are about 2000 families staying in the area.

A spokesman for the East Rand police said he was not aware of the SAP's involvement in the demolition. He promised to investigate.

On Wednesday council policemen demolished six shacks. Two more were destroyed yesterday.

Miss Thabisa Jodwana and her children, Ndumiso (one-year-old) and six-month-old Nokuthula, were among a group of squatters who spent Wednesday night in the open.

She claims she was given permission by the council to erect her shack and was shocked when council policemen arrived on Wednesday and demolished her structure.

"I have nowhere to go with my young children. If I do not find other accommodation, I will be forced to sleep with my children in the open again," she said.

Mr Jacob "Babla" Sekete, chairman of the Thokoza administration, confirmed that the council was demolishing the shacks.

He said the council had agreed to allow 2000 families to erect shacks at Dunusa as temporary accommodation until they were provided with proper accommodation.

"All the shacks we are demolishing, belong to people who were not given permission by the council to erect structures there. These people do not even appear on our housing waiting list," Mr Sekete said.

He warned that the council police will continue to demolish all shacks belonging to families not permitted to stay in Dunusa.

SOWETAN, Monday, October 12 1987

POLICE BOSS GIVES A PLEDGE

By SY MAKARINGE

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, and the De Deur police have given an undertaking not to arrest families squatting on the Vlakfontein farm, south-west of Lenasia, on charges of trespassing pending the outcome of a Rand Supreme Court interdict to be heard on November 10.

Mr Vlok and a Lieutenant Jacobs of De Deur police were cited as respondents in a court interdict in which the squatters applied to restrain the police from continuing with a cycle of arrests which began on August 20.

The respondents were ordered by Mr Justice Goldstone to file answering affidavits by October 23.

The application was brought after the police and members of the South African Defence Force arrested more than 100 squatters on charges of trespassing on August 20.

The squatters alleged in papers filed in court that they were harassed, assaulted with rifle butts and chased with dogs during the combined Security force raid. Some of the people arrested were children, the squatters alleged.

The arrests were followed by another raid on September 22 in which more than 40 squatters were arrested for trespassing. About half of them were among those who were arrested on August 20.

Two more raids were conducted in which several people, many of whom had charges of trespassing already pending against them, were arrested and released on R50 bail each.

Lawyers acting for the families later established that the complaint of illegal squatting was lodged by the House of Delegates.



MR ADRIAAN Vlok.



Mrs Grace Senteni sits among the debris that was once her home in Big Farm with her two-month-old daughter. ● Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Star 14/10/87 310

Squatters' shacks destroyed

By Mokgadi Pela

Roodepoort municipal police demolished about 14 shacks at the Big Farm resettlement and confiscated property on Monday, squatters said yesterday.

Only two shacks were left untouched.

Squatters said Monday's action was the ninth this year. The last time shacks were destroyed was on September 11.

LOBBY FOR ACCOMMODATION

A squatter, Mr Tembi Magadla (29), said: "This is the second time municipal police have destroyed our shacks since September, leaving only two. They will not succeed in dividing us."

A Black Sash member who was in the area, Mrs Valerie McIntyre, said she had gone there to tell the squatters not to fight among themselves. She said the only thing Black Sash could do for the squatters was to lobby in the Roodepoort area for alternative accommodation.

Mr Joseph Madira (21), whose shack was one of the two not destroyed, said when he asked the police why they did not destroy his shack, they told him the municipality had instructed them not to touch it.

Gien Elsas of The Star's West Rand Bureau reports that Roodepoort's Town Clerk, Mr Len de Wet, yesterday justified the action.

"We have had to remove squatters from the area several times as the living conditions there are totally unhygienic and unsuitable," he said.

"There is no sanitation, no running water and no other facilities at all in the area."

Mr de Wet said the municipal security team was acting only after complaints from people living close to the squatters of "undesirable activities" at the squatter camp.

"It is against the squatters' interests to live there. They are there illegally and, although I sympathise with their problem, the particular area where they are squatting is not suitable."

He said 13 shacks had been demolished and the two had been left standing for people who appeared to be in dire straits.

THEIR JOY CUT SHORT

Sowetan
30/10/87

By LANGA SKOSANA

THE joy of moving out of a tent to live in a shack for 15 Soweto families has been soured by the news that they will have to stay for many more days in their leaking tents before being housed.

Tuesday was the 1 117th day the families have been living in dilapidated tents at the Fred Clark squatter camp, near Nancefield, in Soweto.

About two weeks ago they were ordered to vacate the tents by the Soweto City Council. They were given the option of buying R16 000 homes at Naledi Extension 2 or move into a shack at Dlamini.

Home for them still a leaking tent

The families were excited by the idea of being allowed to build their own shacks because "we moved from bare veld into a tent and we have now graduated into a shack before moving into a proper home," they said.

But when they asked the council to move them to its emergency camps where they would build their own shacks, they were told to wait as they were still being classified.

Mr Siegfried Manthatha, chairman of the Council's housing committee, confirmed that the squatters would have to stay in their tents while awaiting classification.

Attacked

Some say they were hounded by authorities, attacked by thugs, women raped by hoodlums and all have endured the worst weathers they have known in their lives.

The families are not different from the messenger, the typist, the driver or tea-maker you see and meet in many Johannesburg firms. The only difference is that they have no proper shelter.

According to Mrs Lydia Mpofu, the families have been living at the Fred Clark farm for more than 20 years.

About three years ago they were ordered by the council to vacate the area as it was to be developed for low-cost housing. She said they were promised to be put on the priority list for housing and were told that once Fred Clark camp was developed they would be the first to get homes.

"That promise has not been kept. What is now happening is that people from other areas of Soweto are being allocated sites and we are told we cannot be considered because we don't have money to build expensive houses.

"We were also ordered not to build shacks in this place. No one wants us because we don't have money," she said.

Mrs Matshiliso Tledina said living in a tent had been a misery to all the families.

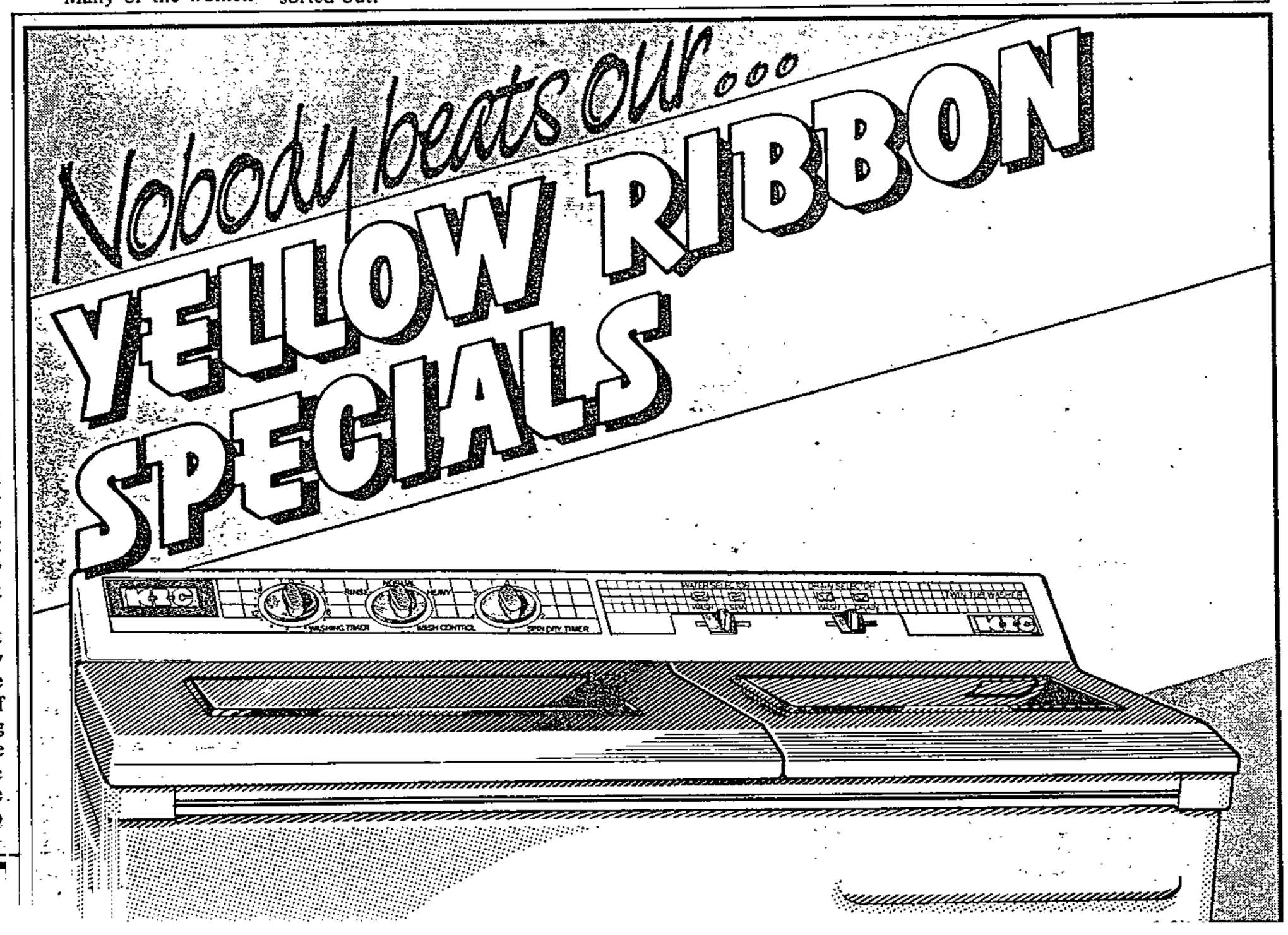
"Thugs have attacked many women in these tents and raped them. There is no protection because there are no doors and thugs simply walk in and do as they please.

"Many of the women have reported rape cases to the Kliptown police and the police have asked them to give descriptions of attackers. Many of these women don't know who these people are but we know that one rape will be followed by another rape," she said.

Mrs Rebecca Matsie said when they spoke to council officials on Monday they were told that they would have to wait a little longer in their tents as they were being sorted out.



THE tent families stand wondering what next is to happen after spending more than three years in these homes.



30 years on, and still they live in shanties

Joe Thloloe of the *Sowetan* (right) pays a nostalgic visit to his childhood home and asks why the national housing crisis is allowed to worsen when the country is rich enough to solve the problem.



If you were in a south-bound train from Johannesburg in the early 'fifties, you would pass the little station of Mlamlankunzi. After Mlamla, if you looked through the window to your right, you would see the sprawling shantytown we called the Orlando Shelters.

The town originally consisted of rows of rooms, built with grey bricks, but the people found one room for each family too small. So some would add an extra room, built with corrugated iron, cardboard, anything.

All sort of things were piled on the roofs to hold them down and because there was no space for all their belongings in the small rooms.

People had to walk distances to the communal taps and the communal toilets. There was no waterborne sewage in all of Soweto — called the South-Western Townships of Johannesburg.

Squalor accepted

Men driving wagons pulled by oxen came every evening to collect the nightsoil and a stink would envelop the whole township.

We were young then; we accepted the squalor as normal. Nothing was more exciting than playing hide and seek in the dark corners of the Shelters on a summer night.

We played in the gurgling Klip River that cut below Shanty 2, meandered between Shanty 2 and Shanty 1 and then on the eastern side of Shanty 3 and Shanty 4 on its way to the Vaal River.

I still remember the walks to the Orlando Station when we would hold our breath as we found our way over a narrow ledge between the railway line and the river.

All these memories came flooding back as I stood in Mshenguville the other day. More than 30 years and still nothing has changed. Of course, the faces might have changed, but I see the same shacks and the same dirty river.

I spotted three women sitting around a table in a well-kept shack and I went to talk to them. The shack is neat, in a fenced yard. A little stoep has been built along the front wall of the shack.

The women are all neighbours having morning tea and a chat. The kitchen is warm because of the coal stove that is burning. A curtain divides the room in two, the kitchen and the bedrooms. This shack has been turned into a real home.

Mrs Constance Mofokeng tells me she is the owner. She came to Mshenguville with her husband George and her 10-year-old son, Elliot, last November because she was tired of living with her parents.

Her husband is employed as a driver on the East Rand and she works for — appropriately — the Witwatersrand Network for the Homeless.

The Network, to quote one of its publications, "concerns itself with one of the most pressing problems facing the country today — that of homelessness".

At the moment Mrs Mofokeng is on maternity leave.

She and the other women tell me about their struggle to put up their shacks.

"Between November and last January 6, the Soweto Council demolished our shacks four times. And mind you, it does not take anything less than R800 to build a shack.

"After they have pulled down the shack, we find we cannot use some of the material again. We have to buy some more.

"We have now been given house numbers, so we have official permission to be here. And for that we pay the Soweto Council R35 a month.

"The council officials have said that the money is for the toilets, refuse removal and the maintenance of the streets.

"They told us they pay R31 000 a month to the company that hire out the toilets and cleans them.

"As for the refuse removal and the roads, they are joking. There are no streets in Mshenguville. The council workers remove rubbish heaps at the edges of the village and ignore the heaps in the village. There are no rubbish bins.

"We still have to pay householders in the neighbourhood of Mshenguville for water. There is no water provided by the council here".

I continued to walk through the village. I passed people still building in the few spaces that are still open. One picture I will not forget is that of a pregnant woman and her husband digging the foundation for a new shack — hopefully a home for the coming baby.

Again my mind swung back through the decades to Shantytown and the Moroka Squatter Camp.

I remember that after a lot of agitation, the Johannesburg City Council and some businesses in the city started a massive housing project that wiped out the two places. That project led to most of the new townships in deep Soweto: Molapo, Mapetla, Moletsane, Zola, Emdeni, Tladi and so on.

Why did the imagination that led to the wiping out of Shantytown dry up?

New middle class

As the housing crisis worsens some of us remember the utterances by Big Business that followed. Remember that Big Business advocated the creation of a black middle class, who owned their homes.

The argument was that people who had something to defend would not riot.

And shortly thereafter the local authorities stopped providing cheap housing.

That middle class has been created, but it has its own resentments against apartheid society. It is not about to be a buffer against the anger from below.

Truth is: the people need homes and this country is rich enough to provide them.

An invitation

If you have a complaint about the editorial content of The Star you are invited to write to The Ombudsman, c/o The Editor's Secretary, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

the money, the mother aged 10.

Squatter families get serviced sites

THE Daveyton Town Council on the East Rand is to spend R6 m to provide 3 000 squatter families with serviced sites.

Addressing a Press conference yesterday, Mr Tom Boya said 3 000 stands will be developed with the money. He said the first 350 families will be accommodated tomorrow.

The families are presently staying at Varkfontein Farm near Daveyton.

Loan

A R6 m loan from the Transvaal Provincial Administration was allocated to the council last week Friday. Mr Boya said it was expected that a further 16 000 stands would be developed in the near future to accommodate all the homeless families in the area.



MAYOR Tom Boya.

There are 6 000 families on the housing waiting list in the township.

Mr Boya said that his council would apply for more funds from the National Housing Commission to provide these families with funds to build proper houses.

Mr Boya said the R6 m will be mainly used to provide the families with serviced sites that will include sewerage and water facilities. Part of the money will be used to provide roads in the area.

Water

Mr Boya said the council was hoping to have finished accommodating the 3 000 families by the end of the year.

Meanwhile about 350 families staying at Varkfontein have been without water since Sunday. They told the *Sowetan* that the owner of the farm had threatened to demolish all their shacks and had stopped providing them with water after ordering them out of his farm.

Siamese twins improving

THE Mathibela Siamese twins, Mpho and Mphonyana, were yesterday described to be improving and doctors have been unable to assess any brain damage.

A spokesperson for the Baragwanath hospital said the twins were still under serious attention in the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The spokesperson said psychologists and psychiatrist will be able to examine the twins once they have been separated to assess the possibility of any more brain damage.

Meanwhile their mother, Miss Sophie Mathibela, is still in isolation and doing well, according to the spokesperson.

Doctors have been working hard to establish whether the twins suffered brain damage when they bled profusely on the operation table last Tuesday. Results might be ready later this week.

However, the hospital has so far been optimistic that they did not suffer any permanent damage because of the bleeding.



Squatters evicted from Varkfontein stack their belongings on to a Transvaal Provincial Administration truck.

TPA moves 20 Varkfontein squatter families to Daveyton

By Maokeng Kgwete

About 20 squatter families at Varkfontein were evicted from their shacks and moved to Etwatwa-East, outside Daveyton, after a Supreme Court order obtained by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

In terms of the order made against their landlord, Mr Gideon Nivote, a month ago, the squatters were evicted as early as 6 am on Tuesday.

Trucks belonging to the TPA carried their belongings to the new area.

At about 11.30 am, squatters at the Varkfontein farm were still seen demolishing their shacks. Even those who had not been evicted demolished their shacks saying they were preparing for any eventuality.

A TPA official on site said he hoped the move would be completed by next Friday.

Most squatters said they were worried about their new home as it had no running water.

Daveyton's mayor, Mr Tom Boya, said the Daveyton Town Council agreed to allocate an area for the squatters following talks between the council and the TPA.

He said the council agreed to permanently relocate the squatters after the TPA approached them about the matter and had promised to fund the project. The TPA gave the Daveyton Town Council R6 000 to upgrade the new area.

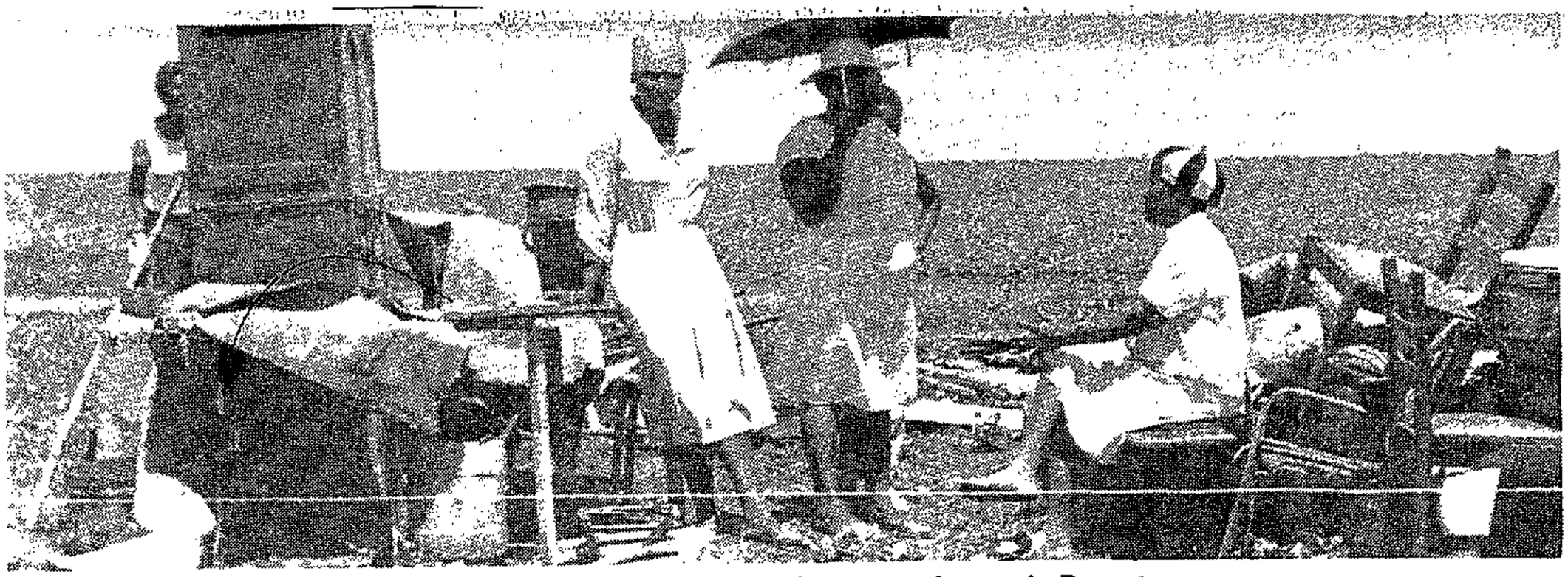
Mr Boya said the council would provide water tanks and provisional toilets until the National Housing Commission provided funds for proper housing.

Etwatwa-East will accommodate about 350 squatters from Varkfontein as well as people who have been squatting in Daveyton backyards.

Yesterday's evictions came after a final order made against Mr Nivote on October 13 by the Pretoria Supreme Court, that the squatters should leave the area by October 30.

He was also ordered to pay costs.

Before this final order, Mr Nevote was found guilty in the Benoni Magistrate's Court and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with the option of a R2 000 fine.



Squatters from Varkfontein at their new settlement in Daveyton. Picture: Susan

Daveyton bid for houses for squatters

SOPHIE TEMA

THE Daveyton City Council has submitted an application to the National Housing Commission for finance to build houses for 350 families squatting on a white farm in Varkfontein.

Yesterday more than 50 families of the Varkfontein squatting community were resettled on sites provided by the council near Daveyton.

The council plans 3 000 sites in the area where the families have been resettled for people on Daveyton's housing waiting-list.

Daveyton mayor Tom Boya yesterday said the Transvaal Provincial Administration had given the council permission to provide the squatters with chemical toilets.

Pipes were also to be laid on to supply the community in the area with water.

Boya told the families roads would also be built within the next two months.

In the meantime TPA would be sending tankers into the area to provide the families with water every day.

Boya said the R6m set aside by the council would immediately be used for housing and the needs of the squatters and the homeless residents of Daveyton.



●Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Squatters stand among the ruins of their demolished shacks in Alexandra township yesterday.

Demolition shocks Alexandra families

By Jo-Anne Collinge and Sally Sealey

A corner stand on 11th Avenue in Alexandra looked as though a bomb had hit it yesterday after a demolition squad moved in to break down shacks.

About 35 shacks were destroyed and debris and household belongings were scattered over the muddy site when the municipal demolishers departed.

About 100 residents stood around bewildered. They said the zinc sheeting they had used to build their homes had been removed and they expected to spend the night in the open.

Most residents are workers from the Northern Transvaal who have found jobs in the Johannesburg area and have become squatters so that they can live with their families.

The action appears to have been conducted in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

Lawyers consulted by the community quoted from a notice issued in the name of town clerk Mr Pete Genis and stamped "Protective Services Municipal Police".

Issued to residents of 12th and 13th Avenues at the end of last month, the notice gave residents seven days to demolish their homes or face local authority action.

Families at the 11th Avenue site claimed not to have received the notices.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mr Genis said he had no knowledge of the day's evictions because he had returned from a meeting "five minutes ago".

Squatters given notice

(310 Star 13/11/87

Illegal squatters in Alexandra township became anxious when a large contingent of armed police arrived at the squatter camp yesterday — because they thought their remaining shacks were to be demolished.

Members of the local municipal police, accompanied by the South African Defence Force and the South African Police, arrived at the camp at about 3 pm and issued eviction notices to the remaining squatters.

They were asked to sign these notices to acknowledge that they were being given seven days' notice to demolish their shacks.

Some squatters refused to sign them claiming they did not understand the implications of the notices.

Squatters acquitted but homeless

By JO-ANN BEKKER

SQUATTERS on Eikenhof farm outside Johannesburg scored a hollow victory this week. A Johannesburg magistrate acquitted them on charges of trespassing but warned them to leave the property as they were living there illegally.

Evidence before court was that the squatters understood they had permission to remain in their settlement about 10km from Johannesburg.

But Johannes Jacobus de Wet, a legal official acting for Beste Belegings and Tuckers, which bought the farm, said he had told the community to leave. He had also asked the Mondeor police to arrest the squatters.

However, De Wet admitted that until this year Tuckers did not know the exact location of the property or whether people were living on it.

And he could not say whether the six accused — Joseph Molefe, 67, Margaret Nkosi, 62, Elizabeth Maduna, 32, Christina Jholwane, 63, Godfrey Mangaba, 21 and Alfred Khumalo, 62 — were among the group of 15 squatters he had addressed.

Magistrate H Swanepoel said "the fact that they have been acquitted does not mean the court gives permission for them to live there".

Late this week the Eikenhof community's legal representatives were involved in negotiations with Tuckers in a final bid to secure their right to remain on their family land.

New US campaign for Mayekiso

Weekly Mail Reporter

THE campaign to support Moses Mayekiso, the trade union and community leader on trial for treason in Johannesburg, has spread to the United States.

The United Auto Workers (UAW) union in the US, which has close links with Mayekiso's National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa), is spearheading the campaign.

A parallel campaign has been running in Britain for some weeks.

UAW president Owen Bieber has convened a group of 10 distinguished American jurists to monitor Mayekiso's trial in the Rand Supreme Court.

"We intend to focus the international spotlight on the Mayekiso case because the SA government is trying to weaken the anti-apartheid movement and the black trade unions which in recent years have emerged as the key force opposing the apartheid regime," Bieber said.

The committee includes former US attorney general, Griffin Bell, former Supreme Court judge Arthur Goldberg, federal appeal court judges Damon Keith, Abner Mikva and Stephen Reinhardt and Benno Schmidt, the president of Yale University.

OFFICE SPACE TO LET

The Weekly Mail has office space to rent in its new Johannesburg city centre premises from January. Ideal for journalists, photographers, graphic designers. Excellent rentals and convenient access to wire services, darkrooms, typesetting facilities. For more details phone CLIVE COPE or PHALDI SOLOMON at 337-5350

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BLITZ ON SQUATTERS

KATLEHONG Town Council police this week demolished a number of shacks at the Katlehong squatter camp and then burnt the materials used to build the shanties.

The shantytown residents said the municipal police, who carried out the demolitions, were accompanied by "kitskonstables."

Council officials were not available for comment yesterday.

By NAT DISEKO

Miss Esther Nthaba (29), said the demolition crew arrived at her shack on Tuesday and ordered that she take her belongings out.

She said a mechanical arm mounted on a truck was used to bring down the shack.

She said: "After the sheets of corrugated iron were prised apart, they were loaded onto the truck.

"All inflammable materials like cardboards, planks and doors were heaped together. Some more materials from other shacks that had been demolished were added on to the heap and then set alight."

Two other shacks next to where Miss Nthaba's once stood have also been pulled down. Only crater-like depressions remain.

Mr Willie Mazini (38), who runs a motor mechanic shop in his backyard, had the make-shift garage which he had built next to his shack pulled down.

Miss Mavis Hlalokane (22), a mother of two children aged one and three, said her shack had been demolished thrice this month.

She said: "I don't have any more money to buy materials. What am I to do? I am presently being sheltered by other residents."

Miss Vuyisile Ngcobo (26), a mother of three, the youngest of which is six months old, said she had nowhere to go after her shack was pulled down a week ago.



MRS ESTHER Nthaba among the rubble of broken asbestos. This is where her shack once stood.

TRADERS MUST LEAVE

Outcry as Soweto City Council issues eviction notices

Soweton 23/11/87



NO SYMPATHY: Mr Nelson Botile, mayor of Soweto.

SCORES of shack-dwellers and traders operating thriving businesses at the MacDonald and Levine farms, near Rockville, have been ordered to leave the area by January next year to make way for a multi-million rand housing development.

The Soweto City Council recently served them with notices, giving them 90 days in which to move. The land has been allocated to Fox Lake developers who have indicated to the council that they would like to commence with the development immediately.

Angry shack dwellers yesterday said they would resist the planned removal unless the council made an undertaking to provide them with alternative accommodation.

An irate shack dweller, Mr Joseph Mkhize, said it was obvious that the squatters would be left out in the cold as developers were more concerned with building houses that could only be afforded by the higher income group.

"The council must tell us where we must go before it starts with this project. We may be poor, but we are people too. I think it's high time that the council thinks of building houses for the poor," Mr Mkhize said.

One of the traders who have been ordered to vacate the area by January next year is Mr Joe Mphuti, who last year spent more than R15 000 on renovations to his butchery shop.

Mr Mphuti said if he was forced to move, many people living at the nearby Dlamini Extension would be considerably affected as they would have to walk long distances to buy meat.

He said although there were plans to build a business complex, it would not serve any meaningful purpose as it would be far away from where the service was needed.

He added that the council would have to compensate him for the improvements he made on the butchery shop.

Deadline today for East Rand squatters

(310) STAR 23/11/87

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Squatters in the East Rand township of Tokoza are bracing themselves for another round of evictions after receiving notices that they must demolish their shacks by the end of today because they are not "citizens of Tokoza".

At a meeting held in the shack settlement near the hostel complex yesterday, several hundred people resolved that they would not budge from their present site, even if officials arrived to tear down their homes.

They said most of them had jobs in the Alberton/Germiston area, had been on the housing waiting list for years and now were told they had no right to shelter in Tokoza.

Notices were issued to many people on Friday.

They were signed by Warrant Officer G M Mello, and read: "You are hereby warned to demolish your shack. The reason is that you are not a citizen of Tokoza. You have only four days from today (Friday) or otherwise the Town Council of Tokoza will demolish your shack.

"If the council has demolished it you will not be allowed to claim the material of your shack."

If today's demolitions occur they will be the third major round of evictions in the area this year. Some families have been repeatedly deprived of shelter and a large section of the present shack town was uprooted and moved to the site behind the hostel a fortnight ago.

The meeting decided the Witwatersrand Council of Churches should approach key employers and inform them of the conditions and threats with which their workers were having to contend.

Residents also discussed how they could improve the present settlement, where there is no tapped water and only 17 toilets for an estimated 6 000 people. Proposals for people to construct pit-toilets on a communal basis were considered.

Families complained of division in the community and of harassment of those who had organised themselves to resist removal.

Squatters defiant

310

Sowetan 27/11/87

MANY shack dwellers and business people who have been ordered to leave the McDonald and Levine Farms near Rockville, Soweto, are to challenge the order in the Rand Supreme Court.

This was disclosed to the *Sowetan* yesterday by one of the traders, Mr Joe Mphuthi, who said residents saw the order as the continuation of the Government's policy of "mass removal" of blacks.

He said they were prepared to resist being moved unless alternative accommodation was provided for them. They also wanted to be reimbursed.

Forced to live with the dead

PEOPLE would never think of living in a graveyard. But this is what about 500 desperate families have done in Port Elizabeth's Zwide township.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

It was early on Sunday morning when we went to visit the squatter camp known as Ndlovuyangena.

Photographer Moffat Zungu and I experienced an eerie feeling as we entered the Veeplaas Cemetery on the outskirts of Zwide township.

We parked our car in the middle of the graveyard. Children were playing happily outside the shantytown and sheep and goats were grazing peacefully among the tombstones.

As we were nearing the first shack, my hair stood up. I could not believe that people, including small children, were living in a graveyard.

The housing waiting list in the township has grown to 3 000 in the past five years, according to an Ibhayi Town Council official, and chances are very slim that the families will be provided with accommodation in the near future.



MR MXOLISI Selame.

The squatter families do not pay any rent for their graveyard shantys. That is just as well, because most of the people staying there are unemployed.

They were not given permission to build the shacks in the cemetery but they told the *Sowetan* that the graveyard was the only place where they could put up their shacks.

"There are no open spaces in the township to accommodate all of us," they said.

The families live in unhygienic conditions. There are no water and toilet facilities and the place stinks. It is horrible.

Mr Phakamile Nobebe, a resident at the camp, said the cemetery was his last hope. "I have been on the housing waiting list for the past six years. I and my family had no accommodation in the township and we decided to come and build a shack here.

"It is not a good thing for one and his family to stay in a cemetery, but under the circumstances we are forced to do so," he said.

Another resident, Mrs Andisa Tshosama, said at first she could not sleep at night when she first arrived at the squatter camp.



MRS Andisa Tshosama.

"In the past I had heard many stories about ghosts and when I arrived here, I feared that they would terrorise us at night. I am now used to the place and I do not fear walking in the cemetery at night," she said.

Some residents definitely did not like their unusual neighbourhood, but felt they had no choice

"I have lost hope of getting a new house in the township. The graveyard is my home. Living conditions are bad here but there is nothing one can do. There are no water and toilet facilities," Mr Mxolisi Selema said.

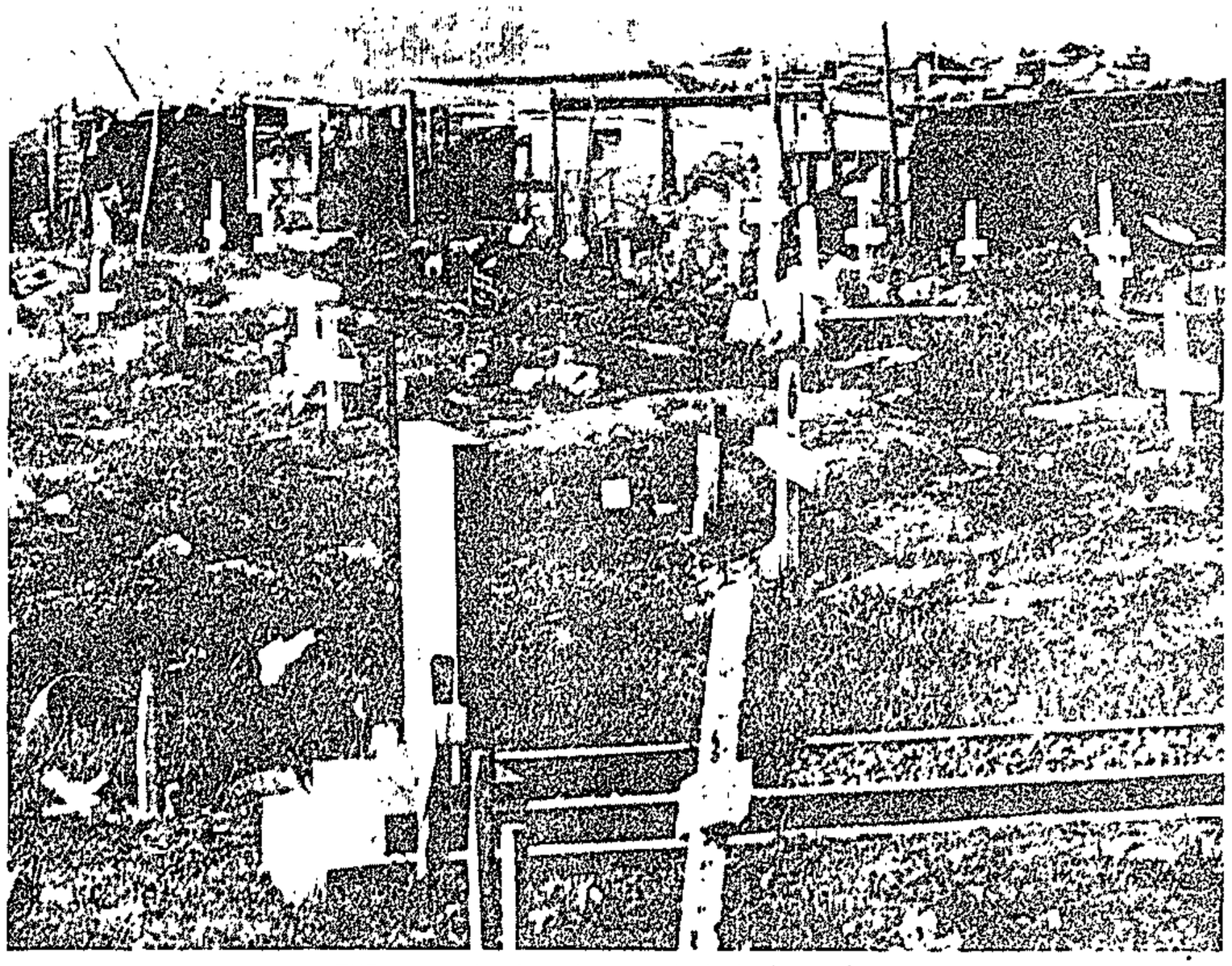
Miss Lulama Mwezeni said: "I appeal to the authorities to feel for us. We are also human beings and we need decent accommodation. What have we done to deserve such treatment?" she asked.

The Ibhayi Town Council said that the squatters would be provided with proper accommodation within the next two years.

Meanwhile, life goes on in Ndlovuyangena.



MISS Lulama Mwezeni



THE graveyard and squatter camp in the background.

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Squatters get a reprieve

By STAN MHLONGO

THE government this week gave an estimated 2 000 Wieler Farm squatters, south of Johannesburg, an "indifinite grace", postponing plans to have them evicted from their homes within nine months.

This unexpected move by the Transvaal Provincial Administration comes after the white Walkerville Local Area's Committee had vowed to leave no stone unturned to see the squatters evicted.

The lawyer representing the squatters, Geoff Budlender, said the squatters had only been given temporary relief because the TPA had made it clear that the main reason for the eviction was because Wieler farm was only designed for farming purposes – not as a residential area.

The WLAC had earlier said that the squatter camp would be fenced off by a R25 000 fence "to ensure that no further squatting takes place in the area."

The Farmers and residents had earlier drafted a petition demanding that the squatters be removed from the farm "because crime, rape and theft of livestock had escalated since the squatters moved into Weiler farm".

The squatters are due to be moved to a place called Wildebeesfontein, south of Evaton township.

(310) SMR 11/12/87 Dean

A community of farmers without land

The Government's announcement of the incoporation of Botshabelo into Qwa Qwa last week went by largely unnoticed by South Africans — yet it is evidence that old-style homeland apartheid is alive and well. COLLEEN RYAN visited this new piece of homeland — which has at least twice as many inhabitants as the original part of Qwa Qwa situated 330 km away. The first in this two-part series sketches the conditions at Botshabelo and the plight of its people. On Monday, the industrial area of Botshabelo will be examined as well as the issue of incorporation.



Water is in short supply in some parts of Botshabelo. On the day The Star visited the settlement, supplies were cut off and tankers brought in the water.

The Herschel people are probably no poorer than most of the other residents of Botshabelo — but they are a community set apart.

They live in tents on the outskirts of the settlement.

Elected leader of the Herschel caravan is 62-year-old Mr David Tseki, whose mission is to find land so the 179 families can farm again.

They lived in Herschel before it was incorporated into the Transkei in 1975. "The Transkei officials made life so terrible for us, that we had to leave," said Mr Tseki.

"Herschel was a beautiful place. It is where most of our people still live and where we have our cattle and sheep. Botshabelo is like a jail. It is not a place for people to live."

First, they moved to Zastron in the Free State near the Lesotho border.

Mr Tseki said then, because they spoke Sesotho, they were told to go QwaQwa. "We waited there for more than three years.

"On July 3 last year, the trucks came and took us to Botshabelo. We are still living in the tents that they gave us."

Mr Tseki and his wife, Gladys, are vigorously opposed to the Government's announcement of the incorporation of Botshabelo into QwaQwa.

"We cannot live under these homelands. We want to farm and live in peace in South Africa."

Their hopes of getting land were dashed recently when their lawyer died. "The South African Council of Churches has promised to help us fight our case in court. Only then will we decide where to go."

Shack city a place of hopelessness with lowest income structure in the world

Botshabelo — refuge for homeless

In Sesotho, Botshabelo means "place of refuge". Yet it is hard to imagine that any settlement in the world could be quite as hopeless as this shack city in the Free State.

The irony is that although some people were compelled to move to this settlement, to many thousands of people Botshabelo is a kind of refuge. They say it is better than the place they came from.

The heat is oppressive and the winds seems to blow constantly.

If you leave Bloemfontein and drive 55 km towards Thaba Nchu, you come across the start of Botshabelo.



The tent people of Botshabelo . . . they are still waiting for the SA government to provide them with land so that they can resume farming.

'The curtain'

Nearest the road is the "industrial" section where about 50 factories employ more than 15 000 workers and pay them wages ranging from about R60 to R120 a month.

Close to the industrial section are well-constructed brick houses for "professionals" and civil servants — people employed in the schools and in other Government departments.

Some locals and regular visitors refer to this area as "the curtain" — a respectable-looking facade for the Bloemfontein motorists who head for the hotel casino in Thaba Nchu after work and at weekends.

Once you enter Botshabelo on the main tarred road, you come across the rows of uniform factories which have been constructed at Government cost to entice businessmen to invest in this otherwise desolate township.

From the industrial centre, you can drive towards the "elite" housing where you are greeted by a Bureau for Information signboard which says, "Let's build a brighter future".

But after you leave "the curtain" area, it becomes difficult to believe in this future. Now you are in the real Botshabelo where hundreds of thousands of people live in row upon row of small mud, brick or tin homes.

There are a few main tar roads, but for the most part only narrow, dusty tracks separate one row of dwellings from the next. From the outside, most of the houses look like ugly, unimaginative shacks.

Sanitation is rudimentary. Toilets operate on the bucket system and there are occasional taps which many families share. In some parts of the sprawling tin city, there are no taps and twice-daily visits by water tankers provide the only relief.

With the constant wind and dust, you wonder how people keep their homes clean. But somehow out of the bleakness, there is still a human spark.

We called on one Botshabelo woman who lives with her family in a low house constructed of tin and mud. The home is spotless. Linoleum covers the kitchen floor and the tin walls have been papered with magazine pages. On one side of the tiny house is the living area where beds are neatly made.

On the other side is a small sitting room which is carpeted and decorated with ornaments. Two carefully nurtured potplants in the room are a poignant attempt to create greenness in this arid, treeless environment.

The settlement is made up of various housing sections, listed from A to Z. Between each housing section is a buffer of land which makes communication and organisation difficult for the residents who have no telephones or electricity.

On a weekday morning many men and women, young and old, sit outside their houses idling away the hours — confirmation of the huge unemployment rate, which, says a study by the Department of Sociology at the University of the Orange Free State, is two out of every three people over the age of 18.

Botshabelo partly owes its existence to displaced people from Bloemfontein and the majority of working people are dependent on the city for jobs. Most people spend about three hours a day travelling

Many of the inhabitants were previously farm people, yet there is no land for grazing stock and only a few people grow a handful of mealies on their tiny plots.

Government officials are proud of how much has been accomplished in the eight years of the existence of Botshabelo.

Development Aid spokesman Miss Betsy Smith, a frequent Botshabelo visitor, said she saw improvements every time she went back.

The Government was working as fast as it could to provide essential services like water, she said.

Perhaps it is true that conditions have improved since 1979 when the first people from Kromdraai in Bophuthatswana were "voluntarily" moved to the settlement, then called Onverwacht.

The thousands of new arrivals were provided with 15 m by 30 m sites marked out by wooden stakes. Each family was provided with a tent and food for three days.

Gradually corrugated iron shacks replaced the tents and Botshabelo began to grow as homeless people flooded in.

They came from farms from which they had been evicted, from squatter camps, and dozens of Free State townships which had been "de-proclaimed", or areas where black housing had been frozen.

Some were forcibly moved and many others who came voluntarily were forced to leave their old homes.

Terrible poverty

In spite of claims that this drab expanse represents "progress" in the apartheid mould, it is hard to escape the fact that there is terrible poverty in Botshabelo where the average household of six people lives on R33 a month. The university study says this puts Botshabelo in the lowest income category in the world.

Lutheran minister Father Phillip Knutsen said it was true that many people living in Botshabelo were better off than those living in appalling conditions as farm labourers or squatters.

"The Government is saying it has accomplished so much. But people are frustrated, not because water is being provided two weeks too late, but because it is 40 years too late," he said.

SQUATTERS - TV

1988



Council police stand by as squatters' belongings are packed on to trucks at the McDonald squatter camp in Soweto today.

Soweto council officials demolish squatter shacks

By Maokeng Kgwete

A large contingent of armed Soweto council police surrounded the McDonald squatter camp near Moroka police station today while a group of plain-clothed men demolished shacks.

The council police arrived at the camp at about 7 am escorting a number of large trucks and men. The men had sticks, hammers, sjamboks and crowbars.

The squatters were given 15 minutes to remove their belongings from the shacks, but before the time had expired the men, referred to as the "wallas", began breaking down some of the shacks, according to eyewitnesses.

One resident was involved in a brawl with the men who pulled down his shack before he could remove his belongings.

A senior police officer then arrived at the scene and allowed residents to remove their belongings.

Piles of corrugated iron and other belongings were packed on trucks and transported to Dlamini emergency camp.

Soweto's acting town clerk, Mr R du Toit, said squatters would be provided with basic facilities including water and toilets.

Bewildered residents at the scene did not object to the move but said the removals came earlier than they had expected.

According to the residents, Soweto's mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, told them at a meeting held shortly before Christmas that the move would begin after January 20.

Mr Botile is on holiday and could not be reached for comment.



Council police stand by as squatters' belongings are packed on trucks at the McDonald camp.

Evictions at shantytown

By Maokeng Kgwete

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Soweto's acting town clerk, Mr R du Toit, said squatters would be provided with basic facilities including water and toilets.

(310) 6/1/88

COUNCIL MOVES 3 FAMILIES, THREATENS 250

Evictions continue

By ALI MPHAKI

THE curtain fell for the people of MacDonald's Farm (Mochaeneng) in Soweto yesterday when three families had their tin shacks demolished and 250 others given an ultimatum to vacate the farm by next week Wednesday.

The three families and their belongings were transported by Soweto City Council trucks to an emergency camp in Dlamini where they had to erect fresh shacks. By late last night the families were still out in the open, with none of their three shacks completed.



A SOWETO council employee pulls down a shack at the MacDonalds Farm yesterday.

Farm

Soweto's director of housing, Mrs Estelle Bester, who later visited the farm, said the removal was necessitated by developments earmarked for the area.

She said residents had been informed since last year July about the move, and there was no need for a further postponement of the removal.

"It is the first time in the history of the Soweto City Council that we provided transport for the squatters. We want the people to move with limited pain to a place where there are ablution facilities and water. They will not pay rent, only for services," she said.

Promise

Residents claim that Soweto mayor Mr Nelson Botile promised them that they would have to leave the area around mid-January. This was denied by Mrs Bester, who added that she was merely carrying out a council resolution.

Mr Botile could not be reached for comment as he was said to be on leave.

Of the 200 other families, only those with Soweto permits will be allowed to go to the emergency camp. Those without permits will be taken to Rietvlei, a few kilometres from Kagiso in the West Rand.

Some of the residents have been staying in the area for more than 10 years and the removal was met with mixed emotions.

Dr Abu Asvat, head of Azapo's health secretariat, who also has a surgery at the farm, said the move was again showing the insensitivity of the Soweto Council towards the plight of squatters.

A contingent of Soweto council police was present at the farm but no incidents were reported.

Thokoza camp disease

HEALTH workers have claimed that there is an alarmingly high incidence of early kwashiorkor among children living in the densely populated squatter camp in Thokoza.

The camp in Thokoza's industrial area is characterised by murky coloured puddles from which, a spokesman for the health group said, came "a nauseating stench".

He called the place "unsanitary". The spokesman also said several cases of previously undetected and untreated diseases such as early kidney failure, high blood pressure and squint had been discovered by the group.

The Chief Health Inspector with the Alberton City Council, Mr A S Lotz, declined to comment and referred the question to the Thokoza town clerk who could not be contacted.

(310)

Families 'told their homes will be bulldozed'

By Maokeng Kgwete

Families whose shacks were untouched in the demolitions at McDonald's Farm, Soweto, say they have been warned their homes will be "bulldozed" unless they move voluntarily by Wednesday next week.

One resident, Mrs Martha Khanya, said yesterday the ultimatum was given by a senior Soweto council official.

Mrs Khanya said plainclothes men, accompanied by council police during the demolitions, had pulled down part of her shack on Tuesday.

She said: "I cannot afford to transport my belongings and this could mean all my possessions may just be flattened as well."

Soweto's housing director, Mrs Estelle Bester, yesterday denied that the squatters at McDonald's Farm were threatened with "bulldozing".

COUNCIL COULD NOT AFFORD TO DELAY

"I have never used the word bulldozers in my life. I do not know who told them that", she said.

She said it was unfortunate that the council could not afford to delay the removals any further as they had signed a contract with a firm of developers a long time ago.

She also said squatters who qualified for Soweto residence would be allocated sites to erect shacks at the Dlamini emergency camp. Non-residents would be sent to Rietvlei, near Kagiso in Krugersdorp.

She said the Dlamini emergency camp would have ablution facilities and other basics such as running water and garbage removal.

By late Tuesday at least six shacks had been demolished and about 10 were still standing. The South African Red Cross has provided the families at Dlamini emergency camp with tents.



Mrs Flora Molefe, right, and Mrs Martha Khanyile . . . "given a week to move".

Hillbrow flea market faces the axe

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

The livelihood of nearly 40 stallholders at a Hillbrow flea market is in jeopardy after shop-owners put pressure on the city council to close the market on Monday.

Those who will suffer most are pensioners and the unemployed, for whose benefit Hillbrow Protea Flea Market was established a year ago.

The battle lines are being drawn, but even if public sentiment favours the flea market on the corner of Abel Road and Catherine Avenue, the traders who have complained of unfair competition have the law on their side because the market was operating illegally on land zoned for residential use.

A store manager, Mr B Patel, said flea market prices were lower as the stallholders paid a R10 fee and they did not charge GST. Monthly shop rentals in Hillbrow averaged R3 000.

The Johannesburg planning department turned a blind eye to the market until it was forced to act after a single complaint followed by a petition signed by 10 traders, one a florist and another a hairdresser.

The Hillbrow Traders' Association's plans to establish a Petticoat Lane outside members' shops are said to have flopped and it is said to have concentrated on having the flea market closed.

Mrs Carolyn Rosslien, who started the flea market, said: "I simply cannot face these people to tell them they must lose their only source of income."

Daggakraal land rights now secure, TPA tells owners

Land-owners of the huge Eastern Transvaal freehold farm of Daggakraal will not be required to move off the property acquired by their forefathers in 1912.

The assurance that they may remain on Daggakraal and that their land rights are secure, was given by Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman Mr F Piek at a meeting of residents held in Daggakraal at the weekend.

But a community authority is to be established for the area and elections will be held for this body which will be recognised by the Government and will communicate directly with it, the community was told.

"Nobody from outside will interfere and it is up to the community to decide and to recommend what their priorities are," said Mr Piek.

Only landowners will stand for election in the community where the combined population of tenants and landowners is about 46 000.

Mr Gweje Twala, chairman of the Daggakraal Joint Executive Committee, and his secretary Mr Temple Mvelase, said they welcomed the move.

HAPPY WITH DECISION

"We are particularly happy that the Government has decided that Daggakraal will not be run by a tribal authority but by a community authority," said Mr Twala.

This reaction is in sharp contrast to the stand taken by black freehold communities elsewhere in the country, who have rejected the community authorities as outdated modes of apartheid administration.

Daggakraal's neighbouring black freehold farms — kwaNgema and Driefontein — are among those who have rejected the system.

Mr Piek added that development in the area would be done by the Department of Development Aid, which was also represented at the meeting. Improvements to roads would be undertaken immediately by the State free of charge, he said.

The authority of the chief over the settlement would have to be curtailed, said Mr Piek, because landowners could not have a chief ruling over them.

He also noted that many landowners had tenants whom they charged rental. Mr Piek said this was a malpractice punishable by law. — Own Correspondent and Staff Reporter.



No time for a little toddler

Yesterday was just a normal day for this young resident of McDonald's Farm squatter camp in Soweto — the dust and litter of the shack settlement are her familiar playground. For her parents it was another story — they were forced to leave their toddler unattended as they frantically prepared for the move to their next home — Dlamini emergency camp. Other parents were not so lucky, they are among those who do not qualify for emergency accommodation. Their most likely destination is provincial land at Rietvallei on the West Rand, according to Transvaal MEC Mr John Griffiths, who confirmed today that the provincial administration had agreed to assist the Soweto Council in accommodating squatters from Levine's and McDonald's Farm, which the local authority could not house.

See Page 13.

Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

→ cont



McDonald's Farm . . . a full-blown community created on the open veld by the homeless. By the end of this week the veld must be clear of shacks so property developers can move in.
© Pictures by Herbert Mabuza.



Pass laws may be dead, but their legacy lives

30
Star
21/1/87

By Jo-Anne Collinge

This week Mrs Irene Khuswayo, a 40-year-old mother of three, must leave the property where she was born because Levine's Farm squatter camp — now part of Soweto — is to be razed to make way for housing development.

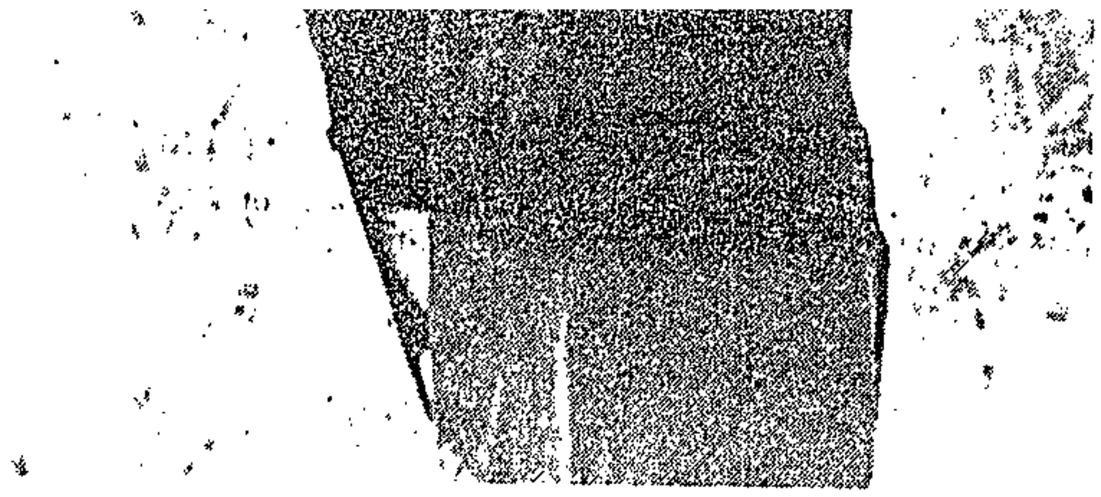
Soweto Council housing officials do not consider Mrs Khuswayo eligible for alternative accommodation in the township's Dlamini emergency camp.

The reason? Mrs Khuswayo has no pass book or identity document — no way of proving that she was born where she knows she was. Because of this, she was not even asked to fill in an application form for the Dlamini camp, says the Black Sash.

Local housing director Miss Estelle Bester has confirmed that it is policy for the council to refuse to re-house shack dwellers who cannot prove they were born and bred in Soweto.

Mrs Khuswayo is just one of many at McDonald's and Levine's farms whose plight proves that the pass laws might be dead, but the evil that they do lives on.

Says Black Sash national advice offices co-ordinator, Mrs Sheena Duncan: "It is very important to realise that these people never



Onward in the never-ending search for shelter . . . one of the hundreds of shack dwellers dismantles his home in preparation for the trek to serviced sites at Dlamini camp.

'Non-Sowetans' refused shelter

12/1/88

310

Many squatters at McDonald's and Levine's farms in Soweto, told by the Soweto Council that they must be out of their shacks and off the land by tomorrow, have been refused alternative shelter in the Dlamini emergency camp because they are "non-Sowetans".

This claim was made by the Black Sash and McDonald's committee spokesman Mr Joe Mphuthi, and confirmed by Soweto housing director Miss Estelle Bester.

The council says:

The exclusion of "non-Sowetans" from the Dlamini emergency camp has been confirmed by Soweto housing director Miss Estelle Bester, who says that she has received an undertaking from the Transvaal Provincial Authority (TPA) that it will accommodate them.

"The council has taken that policy resolution not because it wants to discriminate or close the doors for other people. We have to draw the line somewhere. We would have loved to cater for everybody."

Miss Bester said many of those who qualified for admission to the Dlamini camp had said they wished to move there independently of the council and had been given until January 5 to do so. It was in the light of people failing to clear the squatting site before this date that the council had begun to move them, she said.

"We are still scrutinising applications for Dlamini. Many people are now coming in and trying to get something that they are not entitled to.

"We have made a survey and those who are not Sowetans — who were not born and bred in Soweto — are being allocated to a provincial camp. The TPA has agreed to accommodate them. We will help to move those who are not gone by Wednesday."

Commenting on the cases of people who were born in Soweto but who had no documentary proof of this, Miss Bester said they would not be accepted as Dlamini camp residents.

"We cannot make allowances for people without IDs. We are not very strict about drawing the line. But if there's nothing that can prove that they were born here, they'll have to go to the provincial camp."

Miss Bester sad they were currently dealing with about 200 to 250 families and that all who could prove they were Sowetans by birth would get into the Dlamini camp.

"What they do further will depend on themselves. They must go and negotiate for other (permanent) housing — negotiate with developers because the Soweto Council is no longer building houses. It makes stands available."

Mrs Bester said that in her experience squatter families were not always desperate for housing. "It's not always that they're desperate. They move out of backyards where they've been squatting before because they think they'll get houses sooner. We have to mark squatter shacks (with numbers) so that we do not cater for some people to the detriment of those who have been there for a longer time."

The Black Sash says:

The Soweto Council seemed to believe that "non-Sowetans" were people who were not born in Soweto and that they therefore had no right to accommodation in Soweto, said Mrs Sheena Duncan, the Sash's national co-ordinator of advice offices.

"This is a ludicrous concept," she argued. "If all South Africans were required to go and live where they were born, it would be a shake-up of such colossal magnitude that it would virtually wreck the economy and would destroy relatively new towns like Welkom, Virginia, Sasolburg and Secunda."

Mrs Duncan said that in one morning last week she had interviewed representatives of 29 families who had been told by officials that they were not eligible for the Dlamini camp because they were "non-Sowetans".

All these families were legally entitled to live in Soweto, she said. "This applies equally to people from the TBVC homelands as it does to those who are South African citizens. They are exempted from the requirement in the Aliens Act that foreigners need a permit before they may enter the country and that exemption has not been withdrawn."

Squatters should be left to occupy their present shacks until the council had negotiated with the province for suitable serviced land on which to move them.

"If the Soweto Council does not do so, it will merely prove that it is true that influx control is now being enforced by the black local authorities in as severe and restrictive a way as it ever was by the Department of Native Affairs/ Bantu Affairs/ Plural Relations/ Black Affairs and that department's agents."

Mrs Duncan acknowledged that councils like Soweto had problems not of their making in the shortage of land. "The responsibility for this situation lies entirely on the shoulders of the National Party Government and only the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning can rectify it."

Mr Joe Mphuthi said there was a suspicion that the people who have been refused admission to Dlamini camp would be sent to Rietvlei on the West Rand.

He added that he believed that the council would stick to its Wednesday deadline. "They have told us that they have signed a contract with developers and work on it is long overdue. So there is no way that they would show mercy to anybody," said Mr Mphuthi.

application form for the Dlamini camp, says the Black Sash.

Local housing director Miss Estelle Bester has confirmed that it is policy for the council to refuse to re-house shack dwellers who cannot prove they were born and bred in Soweto.

Mrs Khuswayo is just one of many at McDonald's and Levine's farms whose plight proves that the pass laws might be dead, but the evil that they do lives on.

Says Black Sash national advice offices co-ordinator, Mrs Sheena Duncan: "It is very important to realise that these people never had pass books because they never had house permits as they had no legal accommodation.

"Mrs Khuswayo told me she had tried to get a pass but had always been refused. The Black Sash can confirm this by the large number of such problems we have dealt with over the years."

She added: "It is equally difficult for such people to obtain the new identity document. If they have never had a reference book, they have to produce a birth certificate. If there is no official hospital or clinic record of the birth, it is exceedingly difficult to get a birth certificate."

The legacy of the pass law era is a severe shortage of land in black townships — and it is this shortage that has led the Soweto Council to draw the line between people it regards as Sowetans and all others.

It will accept responsibility only for "Sowetans", and defines the group so tightly that it excludes:

- Mr Solomon Thuco, a self-employed builder, who was born in Johannesburg but who left the area for part of his childhood and went to live in Sebokeng because of domestic upheaval.
- Ms Martina Sithole, who lived in Diepkloof before coming to Levine's Farm. Diepkloof is part of Soweto but falls under the Diepmeadow Council.
- Mr Loftus Magamo, a witch-doctor, who lived at Chiawelo in Soweto before coming to Levine's Farm in 1983. Although he has been put on the official waiting list for a permanent site in Soweto, he was classified as a "non-Sowetan" when he applied for a place in the emergency camp.

There are many others at Levine's and McDonald's farms who certainly were not born in the Johannesburg area, but have lived there for years — some as long as 20 years.

Mr Alfred Zwane, for instance, was born in Paulpietersburg, Natal, and has lived at Levine's Farm since 1966. He is married and holds a job.

Mr Lefu Molefe, born at Nqutu in Natal, came to the East Rand as a contract worker and lived in a hostel before settling at McDonald's Farm 12 years ago. His wife joined him there in 1980 and they have three children.

Mrs Duncan points out that normally a resident of a decade or two's standing would have the right to regard the town in which he or she lived as a "hometown". But, she concludes, even now "we are all so tied into the influx control mentality that we simply can't think in other terms".

SQUATTERS MOVE TO A NEW SITE

A FUNEREAL air hung over MacDonald Farm ("Mochaeneng)" at the weekend as residents prepared to trek to an emergency camp in Dlamini to meet the Wednesday deadline set by the Soweto City Council, writes ALI MPHAKI.

The close to 300 families who have been occupying tin shacks for years in the piece of land next to Dlamini Extension 1, have to give way for the development of an elite suburb to be known as Dlamini Extension II.

Last week Monday the families were given nine days to vacate the area after talks between Soweto Council's housing director Mrs Estelle Bester and lawyers acting for the residents.

Permits

Families with Soweto permits will be accommodated at the emergency camp situated in what was previously a rubbish dump, while the fate on the "non-Sowetans" still hung in the balance yesterday.

Mrs Bester said their fate was in the hands of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

Mrs Bester also dismissed rumours that they will be taken to Rietvlei, a few kilometres from Krugersdorp in the West Rand.



FORMER MacDonald Farm squatters clear the field at the Emdeni emergency camp where they have been moved to by the Soweto Council.

A visit by the *Sowetan* to the emergency camp revealed that the arrivals have to clear long grass before they could start erecting tin structures.

The council charges R20 for the service.

The Red Cross Society has pitched four tents in the area and the three families whose shacks were demolished by council employees last week are occupying them.

Mrs Angeline Ngwenya, whose shack was the first to be demolished, claimed that her wardrobe was broken when it was transferred to the camp.

Another camp resident, Miss Elizabeth Salemela, also claimed that her furniture was broken during the removal.

(310)

No shops, transport and little water

Displaced squatters face a tough time

By Jo-Anne Collinge

From today scores of squatter families who have been displaced from farms in the south of Soweto and denied alternative accommodation in the township will be removed to Rietvallei, a broad expanse of open land on the Far West Rand.

Rietvallei is owned by the province which envisages developing a large permanent settlement there, says MEC Mr John Griffiths. He confirmed that it was the "most likely site" for the resettlement of Soweto shack-dwellers from McDonald's and Levine's Farms, which are being cleared for redevelopment.

SITE BEING PREPARED FOR RESIDENTS

When The Star visited Rietvallei yesterday, it was clear that the site was being prepared for an influx of residents. Sources at McDonald's Farm said residents had been informed of the pending move to Rietvallei at a meeting called by officials yesterday.

In a sense Rietvallei is a breakthrough in that its founding residents are mostly people who survived the pass law era without that vital document and clung to urban life by existing in rudimentary shack settlements on the township fringes.

In another sense it is a symbol of defeat — because Soweto council policies based on the old pass laws were used to exclude these families from being re-accommodated in Soweto itself, where services are better than those at Rietvallei.

COUNCIL, TPA TO ACCOMMODATE FAMILIES

The Soweto Council is accommodating the "Soweto born" squatter families while the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) is dealing with the rest. In all there are 200 to 250 families.

At present Rietvallei has just 26 families, squatters who were moved there a month ago from Big Farms near the Roodepoort municipal dump.

Although the TPA plans to service the area the shack-dwellers face a tough initial period at Rietvallei. There is only one hand-pump providing water. There are no shops in the area and no transport from the camp.



Miles of veld and a busy highway has come between these Rietvallei children and their education. Without transport to school in Kagiso, they'll spend many days just like they spent the last day of the school holidays — playing in spots of shade between the shacks. ● Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

14/1/88 (310)

SOWETO COUNCIL DEADLINE FORCES FAMILIES OUT

200 shacks are smashed



A MacDONALD Farm resident wrecks his shack. Pic: TAPS MOKOENA

ALI MPHAKI

ABOUT 1 000 squatters at MacDonald Farm (Mochaeneng) yesterday demolished their shacks in accordance with a deadline given to them by the Soweto City Council.

By noon about 200 families classified as Sowetans had demolished the tin structures they used to occupy and moved to an emergency camp near Tshiawelo, while about 40 families who are non-Sowetans remained behind ready to be moved to Rietvlei on the West Rand.

This was in compliance with a Soweto City Council order that they should vacate the farm to make way for the development of an affluent black suburb called Dlamini Extension 11.

Soweto Council housing director, Mrs Estelle Bester, said her council would help transport some of the families to Rietvlei today.

She said there was no way the council could provide squatter areas for non-Sowetans because Soweto people were many, and had to be given priority.

Most of the people who stayed on the farm were self employed welders whose sole income was derived from welding cars in the area. Others are employed in Johannesburg and the move to Rietvlei is likely to affect their jobs.

Painful

Mrs Bester said although the move was painful, the people have been taken to places where there are sanitary facilities as well as water supplies.

"In the long run the people will realise that the move was worth it. We hope to have the area cleared for development by next week Friday," she said.

Squatters do it their own way

CLP 1#/1188. 340

By SIMPIWE NCWANA and BONGANI HLATSWAYO

THE eviction of the MacDonald Farm squatters, near Regina Mundi in Rockville, Soweto, which started on Wednesday, was yesterday temporarily stopped when trucks organised by the Soweto City Council to "escort" the squatters to their "new places" were turned away by the representatives of the squatters, community and church organisations.

The representatives and squatters had organised their own vehicles to transport their belongings to an "emergency camp" near Chiawelo extension.

A spokesman for the squatters said: "We are not resisting eviction, so we do not need to be policed."

Meanwhile, six families were evicted from a block of flats in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, yesterday after they failed to heed a Supreme Court order that they pay their rent arrears within seven days.

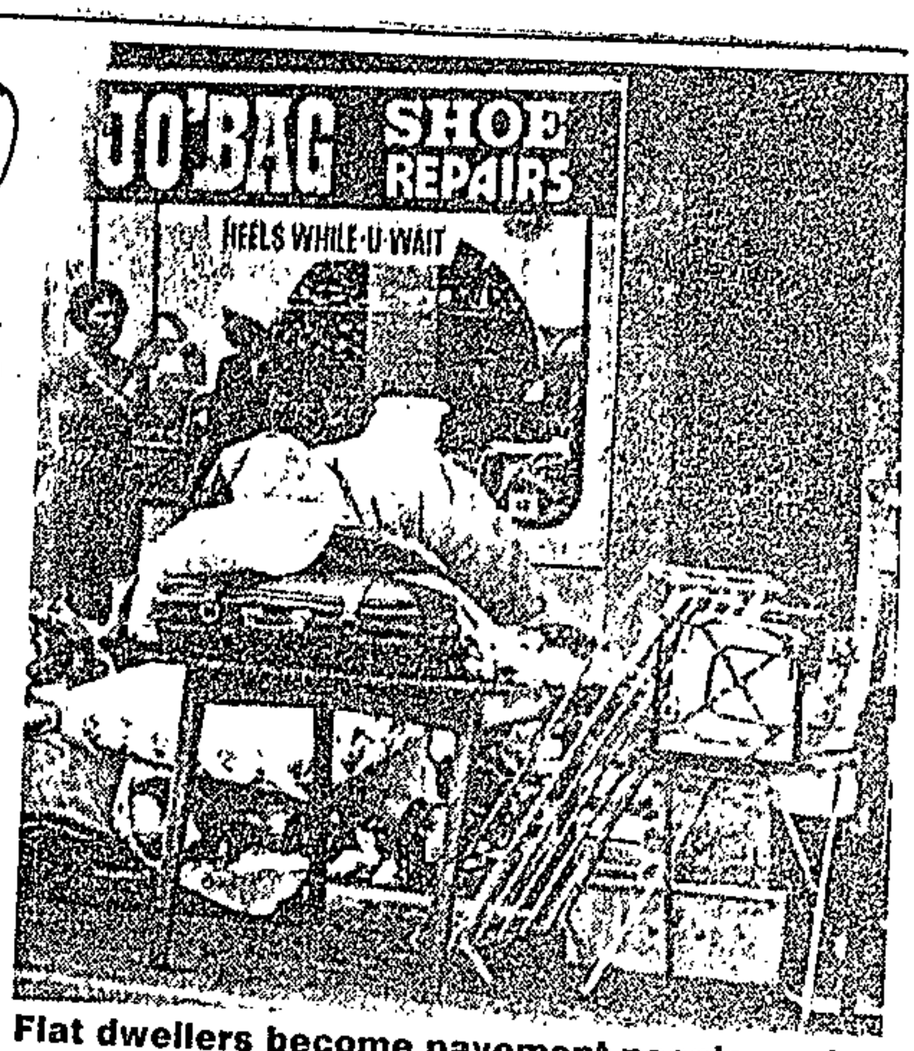
The six families, residing at Branskome Towers in Wanderers Street, were evicted from their flats at 7am.

Their belongings were sprawled along the street while they stood on the pavements waiting for their committee members who had gone to consult their attorney.

Some of them told *City Press* that not all of the tenants were given notice.

Peter Govender, a spokesman for Ex-Stop, an organisation fighting high rentals in the suburbs, said: "The evictions are lawful in the sense that the tenants affected never paid their arrears, whereas the rest of the tenants did pay up."

Attempts to get a comment from Hillcrest Properties proved futile at the time of going to Press.



Flat dwellers become pavement people again.

Fall from grace for Bara

CLP 1#/1186

By REVELATION NTOULA

BARAGWANATH Hospital, once the toast of Africa's medical services, has fallen from grace.

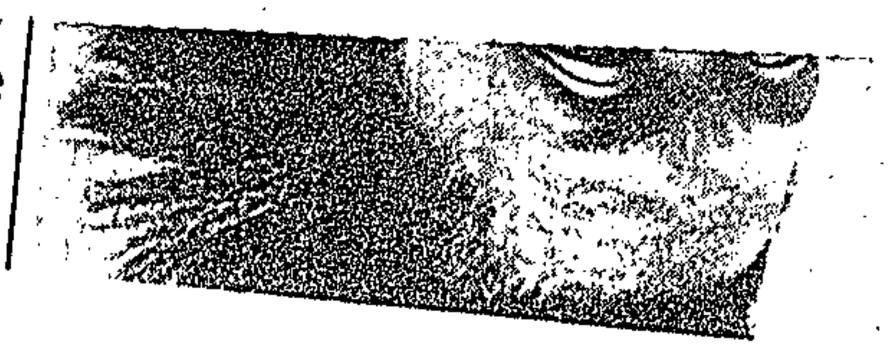
Hardly a day passes without a disturbing report on what used to be one of Africa's best-equipped hospitals.

Doctors employed at the hospital now describe conditions there as "disgusting and despicable" while the attitude of the authorities is said to be "deplorable".

And while a storm is raging following the Transvaal Provincial Hospital Administration's demand that all doctors who signed a letter of complaint that appeared in the *SA Medical Journal*, another bombshell revealed that mentally sick patients at the hospital were made to share the same wards with physically ill patients.

In a letter sent to South African Medical and Dental Council on June 12, 1980, 70 doctors employed in the department of medicine at Baragwanath Hospital, pointed out the unsatisfactory conditions at the hopital. The letter, the doctors said, was ignored by the council. Similar ap-

Visitor is shot dead



file 7

THE PROMISED LAND . . .

Katlehong squatters to get proper homes at last

KATLEHONG squatters occupying a piece of land known as "Crossroads" will be provided with proper housing in six months time.

The assurance was given by the newly elected mayor of Katlehong, Mr Aaron "Jimmy" Hlahane in an interview yesterday.

In the meantime, Mr Hlahane said, the squatters have been told,

By JOE MDHLELA

by the council to pay R35 for services. The payment would go towards the provision of water, collection of refuse and night soil.

Mr Hlahane said the council had bought land on the outskirts of the township to be developed by Habitech, one of the contractors engaged in housing projects on the East Rand.

"We appreciate the problems of the squatters and are doing our best to house these people," said Hlahane.

Mr Johnson Tshawe, one of the leaders in the squatter camp, said he welcomed the decision by the council to provide squatters with proper housing.

The Wattville Village Council has announced that it has acquired land for the building of houses which it hopes will eliminate the shortage of accommodation in the area, writes SELLO RABOTHATA.

Mr T B Masoeu, a councillor, told a meeting held at the local soccer stadium that the land had already been purchased by the council and that sub-economic houses as well as sites would be made available to residents.

Mr Masoeu said the council would build the sub-economic houses, which are earmarked for people who earn around R450 per month and less. Those who earn more will be allowed to purchase sites and build for themselves.

The council is to start with the projects in July or August.

Mr Masoeu said the waiting list for houses in the township is presently at 786 and with the land acquired this would be wiped out.

The council would not provide houses or sites for people who are not residents of the township. He also invited residents to start applying for sites at the council offices.

The council has also received R2-million for the upgrading of electricity in the area. This project is to start in May.

Mr Masoeu said a meeting will be held at the Solomon Motlana Combined School on Saturday, starting at 5pm. He said the meeting would address the youth.





MR JIMMY Hlahane . . . mayor of Katlehong.

Squatting charges withdrawn

Charges of illegal squatting against more than 650 people living south of Johannesburg were this week withdrawn, "pending an administrative solution".

About 670 people were due to appear in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court on a number of days this month.

Lawyers acting for the homeless people informed the State they would object to the charges and requested a day on which the objections could be heard in one hearing.

At a meeting involving Mr Graeme Reid, who represented the lawyers' firms, Mr Essop Patel, an advocate, Mr T Smith, a Mrs Bezuidenhout, and two prosecutors, the lawyers were informed that the charges had been withdrawn.

Mr Smith confirmed this later, saying the charges had been withdrawn on instructions of the attorney-general of the Transvaal.

The charges against the 670 were apparently brought by the House of Delegates, which controls the land on which the squatters were arrested at squatter complexes in Grasmere, Finetown, Lenasia and Ennerdale.

Mr Reid described the withdrawal of the charges as an admission that the courts could not cope with the squatter problem, or that courts were not the proper forum to resolve the crisis of homeless people.

THE WEATHER

CRACKDOWN ON 'ZOZO' DWELLERS

310

22.8.88

THE Atteridgeville City Council has threatened to crack down on hundreds of people living in illegal structures, including "Zozos" in the townships.

The council, in their monthly newsletter released this week, said: "Thousands of people living in illegal structures in the backyards of houses will also have to pay up for the services in future".

The council said it had conducted a survey which showed that many of the people living in these structures were unregistered residents, who paid R50 per month rent to permit holders.

"These squatters make use of services such as water, electricity, sewerage and roads which are provided for the registered residents.

Permit

"In other words, they are being subsidised by permit holders. The council is cracking down on these unauthorised residents because they make free use of services which registered residents have to pay for," the council's newsletter said.

The newsletter also stated that a recent survey conducted in Ward 9, a section of the township in Saulsville, revealed that 275 houses were visited by council officials, who found 381 Zozos erected there.

According to the council, the move to take action against the "squatters" follows complaints about the increasing number of illegal structures "particularly Zozos, erected in back yards".

9/11/88

670 charges dropped: courts can't cope says legal man

SQUATTERS TO STAY

MORE than 650 people living south of Johannesburg have had charges under the Squatters Act against them withdrawn "pending an administrative solution."

About 670 people were due to appear in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court on a number of days this month.

Lawyers acting for the homeless people informed the State they would object to the charges and requested a day on which the objections could be heard in one hearing rather than have the same application brought up in several hearings.

At a meeting involving Mr Graeme Reid, who represented the lawyers, from Mr Essop Patel, an advocate, Mr T Smith, a Mrs Bezuidenhout, and two prosecutors, the lawyers were informed that charges had been withdrawn.

Mr Smith confirmed this later, saying the charges had been withdrawn on instructions of the Attorney General of the Transvaal.

The charges against the 670 were apparently brought by the House of Delegates, which controls the land on which they were arrested. They were arrested at squatter complexes in Grasmere, Finetown, Lenasia and Ennerdale.

Problem

Mr Reid described the decision to withdraw charges as an admission that the courts would not cope with the squatters problem, or that they were not the proper forum to resolve the crisis of homeless people.

"The problem of urban homeless people in the immediate vicinity of Lenasia and Ennerdale needs to be tackled with perceptive objectivity and a sense of humanity," Mr Reid told *The Indicator* this week.



MR GILBERT Marcus and Mr Jules Browde, SC, at the Rand Supreme Court yesterday. They are representing the ***New Nation,*** whose case has been postponed to Monday.

New Nation case held over

THE *New Nation* case challenging media restrictions has been postponed until Monday at the Rand Supreme Court, a statement from *New Nation* said yesterday.

This follows a consultation between the Judge President of the Transvaal and counsel for the newspaper.

New Nation, a South African Catholic Bishops' Conference publication, was given a warning notice in terms of the emergency regulations in November last year and Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha later indicated he was considering taking further action which could result in a three-month ban or the appointment of a censor.

The newspaper is asking the court to declare media restrictions issued in August last year invalid and unlawful. It is also asking that warning notices issued against the newspaper be declared invalid and set aside.

Bishop Reginald Orsmond, Bishop of Johannesburg, said in an affidavit before the court that the newspaper had asked for a personal audience, because Mr Botha had indicated his door would always be open to editors, but it was refused.

The Minister's refusal to grant an audience and his summary rejection of representations made to him by the newspaper, had made him apprehensive about his future conduct, Bishop Orsmond said.

He said *New Nation* had encountered genuine difficulties in interpreting the regulations. *New Nation* was completely committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in South Africa.

He said the emphasis in the newspaper was on current events which have a particular bearing on the black community.

If the newspaper was suspended, it would have the effect of permanently closing the newspaper. It would lose its advertisers, its readers and possibly its staff.

However, the staff of the newspaper felt it would be intolerable to work under a censor and felt it would "utterly compromise the journalistic profession," Bishop Orsmond said.

Mr Botha said in papers that he had come to the decision that *New Nation* published material which caused a threat to public safety, the maintenance of public order and the termination of the state of emergency.

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Irate Soweto squatters refuse to move out



A furious squatter, Mrs Emily Mkhabela, paces up and down as plain-clothes men demolish shacks at the MacDonald squatter farm yesterday. Next to her is one of the women who protested against the demolitions. ● Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

By Maokeng Kgwete

Emotions ran high at the McDonald squatter farm in Soweto yesterday when some of the 65 families still there refused to move.

A furious resident, Mrs Emily Mkhabela, challenged a group of Soweto Town Council employees who were demolishing shacks.

She told them: "I am not moving. You had better kill me and move my corpse to Rietvlei."

She accused the men of being unsympathetic to their fellow people.

"Your crowbars are always readily available to demolish our shacks and we are suffering like most of you do," Mrs Mkhabela said.

A group of angry parents and their children sat on the ground in protest and shouted that they were not prepared to move to the new settlement outside Krugersdorp.

The women complained that Rietvlei was far from Johannesburg, where most of their husbands worked.

Parents said there were no school facilities at the new settlement and moving there would deprive their children of an education.

Mrs Nomvuko Seratasa said she was surprised to see the shacks being demolished as Soweto housing director Mrs Estelle Bester had recently said the shacks would not be demolished "pending a council resolution".

Squatter tresspass charges dropped

2911-4/2/88 (316)

By JO-ANN BEKKER

TRESPASSING charges have been withdrawn against about 670 homeless people living in shack settlements south of Johannesburg.

This significant reprieve follows pleas for a moratorium on squatter prosecutions until the government has worked out a way to accommodate shackdwellers in the post-influx control era.

The instruction to withdraw the charges of squatting and trespassing came from the Transvaal Attorney General, according to a Johannesburg lawyer representing squatters in the Finetown area.

He said he was not able to disclose the reason charges had been withdrawn. However, it has been reported that the prosecutions have been shelved pending an "administrative solution".

The rise in squatter trials followed the abolition of influx control in 1986. People streamed to the cities searching for work. But although no longer subject to pass laws, the shackdwellers fell victim to laws forbidding squatting and trespassing.

During the last months of 1987, regular mass arrests of squatters south of Johannesburg flooded the De Deur and Vereeniging courts. By the end of the year there were a total of 670 prosecutions pending.

Government figures last year placed the number of black squatters countrywide at more than one million. But the Black Sash claimed at least five million people were homeless — one in every six South Africans.

DOWN GO SOWETO SHACKS

EIGHT shacks in Mdlaloseville — an emergency squatter camp in Dlamini — were demolished by the Soweto City Council yesterday morning.

By ALI MPHAKI

This comes two weeks after about 250 families were resettled at the camp from MacDonald's and Levine farms.

The victims were anxious about where they would sleep tonight as they looked at their belongings in the scorching sun.

The council employees arrived at the camp at about 9 am and put a big "X" on all shacks that were to be demolished.

A woman in one of the tin structures took off her clothes in front of the council employees accompanied by the police. Action was taken against her.

The victims claimed they qualified to be in Soweto and it was the council's responsibility to allocate them sites at the camp.

But Soweto council housing director, Miss Estelle Bester, said those shacks demolished were not officially placed at the camp.

"These people did not follow procedure and erected their shacks on a Rand Water Board water servitude. They cannot squat there whether officially or unofficially," she said.

Asked whether the council would give the families alternative accommodation, she said all Soweto's emergency camps were full.

She said the Transvaal Provincial Administration had made arrangements for them to be transported to Rietvlei on the West Rand but the families had refused.



MR SAMSON Mnisi picks up remains of his tin shack which was demolished by the Soweto City Council yesterday morning. Two of his children play in the background.



Children at the squatter camp creche show off their new toys.

A few toys light up the lives of squatter kids

CP Reporter

ABOUT 60 toddlers at the Fred Clarke squatter camp in Soweto will now enjoy the pleasure of playing with toys – thanks to employees of the Bates Wells Research and Advertising Company.

The toys, all neatly packed and labelled for the suitable age groups, were donated at an end-of-the-year party at the company's Sandton offices.

Research executive Beatrice Kubeka, accompanied by a *City Press* team, recently traced destitute children at squatter camps.

Kubeka, who is also involved in various charity programs, urged the community to "reach out for the less privileged families". She said the Press played a prominent role in helping to identify these families.

Mayor enters taxi war

By KHUME KANGALA

THE Dobsonville Taxi Owners' Association this week called a meeting with the Dobsonville Mayor, Steve Nkatlo, in a bid to end the ongoing Soweto taxi war.

The conflict was sparked by Soweto and Dobsonville taxis allegedly encroaching on each others' territories.

At the meeting it was emphasized that Soweto taxis would not be allowed to operate in Dobsonville.

It was also suggested that an alternative route, through the Main Reef, be found so that Dobsonville taxis would not pass through Soweto enroute to the Johannesburg city.

Meanwhile, plans were underway for Putco to extend its services to ease the transport problems.

2 000 people share 2 toilets

Staff Reporters

More than 2 000 people are trapped in squalid conditions — sharing two taps and two toilets — in Thala squatter camp near kwaGuqa township, Witbank.

The camp is on Witbank Town Council property, but town secretary Mr Pieter Rorich says no facilities can be provided. "We are taking this matter to council for a formal decision soon. It will be dealt with by all the relevant authorities to try to find a solution," he said.

The mayor of kwaGuqa, Mr John Skosana, expressed fears that the council might kick out the squatters, especially if "too much attention is drawn to the conditions in the camp".

"The (Thala) council has started to build accommodation for the residents. We are trying to speed up construction so that people can be moved in," he added.

People who move into the houses and flats have to pay a minimum rental of R35 a month. But many squatters say they cannot afford even that.

Mr Skosana said: "The problem with us, too, is money ... We (the council) do not get much help from the Government, so we have to depend on loans, rent and taxes from residents."

A doctor has said that disease could break out if the camp's sanitary conditions are not improved.

SUNNY

THE WEATHER

Squatters' killing: man in custody

16/2/88

310

By Craig Kotze

Police have arrested a man linked to the dangerous group of housebreakers who at the weekend went on the rampage in squatter camps near Randfontein with a stolen semi-automatic rifle, killing three people and wounding six others.

The man, one of the group of possibly three gunmen, handed himself over to police on Saturday night. Detectives seized a stolen pellet gun.

A hunt is continuing for the remaining suspects.

The nine people were shot at squatter camps in Luipaardsvlei 30, north of the Cooke One mineshaft, said West Rand Murder and Robbery Squad commander Captain Neville Thoms.

He said the men were very dangerous and were not to be approached. Anyone with any information was asked to contact (011) 665-3300.

The drama started at about 9 pm on Saturday when the group broke into a house on a smallholding belonging to a Mr A Hill. No-one was home and the intruders took the rifle and pellet gun.

They then went to a squatter camp about 750 m from the house, where they killed three people and wounded five.

At another squatter camp the gunmen wounded another person.

MY PEOPLE WANT TO RETURN HOME

FOUR years ago on February 14, 1988, the farming community of Bakwena-Ba-Mogopa in the Western Transvaal was forcibly removed from its land and resettled on a dry patch in Bophuthatswana. On Sunday they remembered the day.



ONDERSTEPOORT resettlement camp. The tin houses are a far cry from the solid brick structures the Mogopa community left when they were uprooted. Pics: VUSI MANYONI

By THEMBA MOLEFE

About 350 families led by 90-year-old Mr Isaac More — affectionately known as Oupa Sakkie — gathered at a school in their resettlement camp in Onderstepoort, just 10 minutes away from glittering Sun City, and recalled in word and song the day when they were uprooted from their homes.

Mr More recalled how men were reduced to being helpless boys; their livestock and crops were taken away, women and children loaded into government trucks and driven to arid Pachsdraai — their new home.

Pointing at the tin dwellings and tents that are scattered amid the bush of Onderstepoort, Mr More said the structures were a far cry from the solid stone and brick houses the Mogopa community had at their original home.

"This land is not suitable for growing crops or even raising livestock. All we survive on now is water and hope," Mr More said.

His two-roomed tin shack is a far cry from his seven-roomed brick house in Mogopa.

Mr More said the police woke him up at 3.30am on February 14, 1984 and told him he was to be resettled in Pachsdraai.

"They showed me a white farmer's house which they said would be mine because I was a leader. That was just a hoax as my new home in Pachsdraai was a tin shack," Mr More said.

He and the 350 families loyal to him quit Pachsdraai for Bethanie, near Brits, the next day.

Conditions in Bethanie turned out to be just as bad. The water was brackish, the community was refused old age pensions and could not register for employment. No meetings were allowed.

Out of desperation, Mr More and his people decided to defy the Government and return to Mogopa towards the end of 1986.

The move became even more appealing after a plan by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC) and the South African Council of Churches to buy a R3 million farm called Holgat were thwarted.

Trac says the plan was smashed when the Government expropriated the farm from the Hermannsburg mission of the Lutheran Church a week before the transfer was to be made to the Mogopa community.

Determinaton and more desperation made the community decide on a date — September 12, 1987 — on which to defiantly return to Mogopa.

A week before the move the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, agreed to meet a delegation from the community.

A meeting was set up where it was agreed that the community should resettle temporarily at Onderstepoort while proposals and counter-proposals were being studied.

The Government gave an undertaking that the area would not be incorporated into Bophuthatswana and that freehold rights would be guaranteed.

One of the proposals was that the community be allowed to return to Mogopa.

Another meeting was held with Dr Viljoen on November 28, 1987 and the community was told the Cabinet had rejected its proposals.

The community was told:

- It was not Government policy to allow blacks to resettle or live in areas earmarked for white settlement; and that
- Other black communities that had been resettled would start putting pressure on the Government to allow them to return to their lands of origin.

The proceedings of the two meetings, the proposals to Dr Viljoen and his response are contained in documents carefully preserved by the Mogopa leaders.

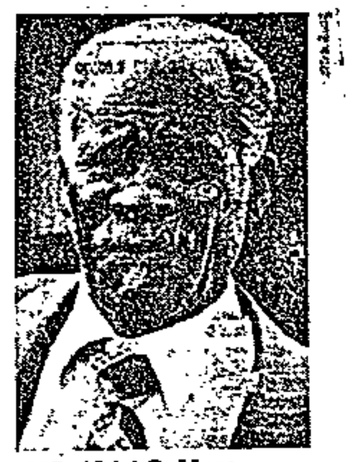
Mr More and his community are now waiting and hoping that they will return to Mogopa which stands empty as they try to adjust to life in the dry bushveld.

This week about 60 men from the community accepted R3-a-day job offers from white farmer Cecil Allum who owns farming land outside Mogopa.

They leave Onderstepoort at 5am and work at the farm until 6pm.

Said one of the men: "The Government said whites in the Ventersdorp area did not want us there but here it is they come for our labour even when we are far away."

Mr More said: "My people will do anything to show the Government that they want to return home and go away from this baboon-infested and arid piece of land."



MR ISAAC More . . . leader of the Mogopa community.

Forced removal is remembered

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Oukasie residents held by police, committee claims

Several prominent residents of Oukasie township near Brits have been held by police in the last week, according to a field worker for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

He said the families of most of the group had been informed in writing that their relatives were being detained in terms of emergency legislation.

The claimed detentions have not been confirmed by the police.

Oukasie, an old settlement built by residents close to the white area, has been under threat of removal for more than two years. Thousands of residents have refused to move to Lethlabile.

The Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, has stated plainly that the Government was determined they must move.

purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) what are the names of these persons, (b)(i) at whose request, (ii) when and (iii) where in Pretoria was this meeting held and (c) (i) what other persons attended this meeting and (ii) in what capacities did they attend it;

(2) whether the question of financial assistance from the State was raised during this meeting; if so,

(3) whether the possibility of the withdrawal of such assistance was raised; if so, (a) by whom and (b) on whose authority?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) No
(a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Murderer/s of Dr Robert Smit/wife: statement regarding identity

*6. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether the identity of the person or persons who murdered Dr Robert Smit and his wife is known to the South African Police;

(2) whether the Police have obtained a statement regarding the identity of the murderer or murderers from a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether he will disclose the (a) contents of this statement and (b) identity of the person by whom it was made; if not, why not;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) No.

(2) Yes, a statement was obtained, but it did not contain evidence from which the identity of the murderer or murderers could be established.

(3) (a) and (b) No. The identity of persons who make statements to the Police is confidential and the contents of those statements are privileged information.

(4) Yes. The investigation in this case is continuing. The South African Police will leave no stone unturned in tracing the guilty person/s.

KTC: discussions regarding elections for town committees/town councillors

*7. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether any official has (a) on the instruction and/or (b) with the knowledge of his Department (i) held any discussions with and/or (ii) put forward any proposals to members of the Masincedane Committee in the KTC squatter camp regarding the possibility of having a town committee and/or town councillors elected by the residents of this squatter camp; if so, (aa) what was the nature of these discussions and proposals and (bb) with how many members of the said committee were these discussions held;

(2) whether his Department intends to proceed with its plans to hold elections for town committees or town councillors in the KTC squatter camp?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) No.

Rest of question falls away.

Oukasie: emergency camp for Blacks

*8. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 3, standing over, on 6 October 1987, an emergency camp has been erected for Blacks in Oukasie; if not, why not; if so, what facilities (a) (i) have already been provided there and (ii) when and (b) (i) are to be provided there and (ii) when;

(2) whether any further sites are being made available for squatters at present; if so, (a) how many, (b) how many squatters are on these sites at present and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) No. The matter is still being investigated in order to find the most suitable solution to the problem.
(a) (i) and (ii) and (b) (i) and (ii) Fall away.

(2) No.
(a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

*9. Mr T LANGLEY—Law and Order.† [Reply standing over.]

Cape Peninsula: boycotts at schools on 3 March 1988

*10. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether any boycotts affected attendance at schools under his control in the Cape Peninsula on or about 3 March 1988; if so, (a) how many pupils were affected, (b) which schools were involved and (c) what (i) was the duration of and (ii) were the reasons for these boycotts;

(2) whether his Department took any action with a view to ending these boycotts; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) what progress has been made in this regard?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) The pupils staged a stay-away action.

(a) 5 310.

(b) Fezeka Sec. School
I.D. Mkize Sec. School
Gugulethu Comprehensive School
Langa Sec. School
Luhlaza Sec. School
Crossroads Sec. School
Sizamile Sec. School

(c) (i) 2–4 March 1988 (3 days).

(ii) On 29 February 1988 a pamphlet was distributed in the name of the so-called Joint Student Representative Council, a non-democratically elected self-appointed body without a constitution. This JSRC is a branch of the Western Cape Students' Congress (WECSCO) which, in turn is affiliated to the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) and the UDF.

In the said pamphlet pupils were called upon to sympathise with late applicants whose applications for admission to secondary schools were unsuccessful by maintaining "three days of concern". Pupils interpreted this appeal as being a call to stay away from school for three days.

The pamphlet was intimidating, inflammatory and inciting, abounding with untruths.

(2) Yes

(a) (i) A counter pamphlet in which the senselessness of such stay-away actions was pointed out, was distributed in the residential areas by the Department of Education and Training.

(ii) On 3 March 1988 the Regional Director issued a press statement in which pupils were urged and encouraged to attend school.

(iii) Staff meetings were held with the principals and personnel of the schools concerned. Once again the pointlessness of stay-away actions was discussed.

(b) On Monday, 7 March 1988, school attendance at the affected schools was virtually back to normal and since Tuesday, 8 March, the average daily attendance increased.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, may I ask him what he would advise the 1 000 or more pupils of schoolgoing age who cannot gain admission to schools to do during the course of this year?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, let me first of all point out in reply to the hon member's question that the department went out of its way by repeated extensions of the time for registration at these schools to afford pupils a reasonable chance to enrol for this year. Secondly, the department insists on proper registration. I am sure the hon member would not send his own children to a

Council prohibits squatting

West Rand Bureau

The Roodepoort Council decided last night to prohibit squatting and authorised the security division to prevent squatting on council and private land.

The decision was taken after squatters, who have since been resettled at an emergency squatter site, had been repeatedly removed from the Princess dumping site.

Councillors were told the emergency camp had been set up temporarily to house squatters at Rietvallei, which falls under the Kagiso Town Council, and recommended that squatters from the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre be given until June 30 to move there.

Squatter tot dies under earth mover

By Anna Louw,
East Rand Bureau

An 18-month-old baby was decapitated by an earth-moving machine during excavations at a squatter camp in the veld in Edenvale on Friday.

The baby, Mongane Ntsibi, had been staying with Mrs Maria Zwane in a squatter hut in some bushes in the veld.

The accident happened at about 8 am when Mr Johnson Nhlapo (28), who is employed by a Kew earth moving company, was clearing the area.

Mr Nhlapo said that as he lifted ground with the earth-moving machine he saw a man's legs sticking out. The man was unharmed.

The driver realised he had destroyed a squatter hut, which had been concealed by the bushes.

He then discovered the body of little Mongane near the hut.

Homeless in kwaThema act

Homeless people in kwaThema, near Springs, met the town clerk, Mr S Muller, on Friday to voice their grievances about the lack of housing.

About 100 people later gathered on an open veld on the outskirts of kwaThema where a shack had been erected.

A woman told the group she had been on the waiting-list for housing since 1969. Another said the council had promised her a house by last December.

Mr Muller said in a letter, which was read to the crowd, that the council will hold a special meeting today to discuss the problem.

18/3/88

'Scheme to house 2 million squatters'

By Duncan Guy

RANDFONTEIN — Plans are being made to accommodate about two million squatters near Randfontein, Mr Arrie Paulus, Conservative Party MP for Carletonville said last night.

He was addressing a by-election meeting attended by about 150 people. Randfontein voters go to the polls on March 29 to elect a new MP.

Mr Paulus said he had been shown the plans for the scheme by Westonaria's town clerk and that the matter would not be discussed by local authorities until after the by-election.

"But after the election the plan will carry on," he said.

Mr Paulus also told the audience, many of whom were mineworkers, that if the CP came to power black miners would no longer be given blasting certificates and those which had been issued to blacks would be declared invalid. This brought loud cheers.

"The homelands have their own mines and blacks can use their blasting certificates there," he said.

He also attacked the Government's privatisation policy, saying that not the poor people — but the capitalists and liberals — would own State property that was up for sale.

Randfontein's CP candidate, Mr Corné Mulder, son of the late Dr Connie Mulder and brother of newly-elected CP MP for Schweizer-Reneke, accused the Afrikaans Press, notably *Beeld* and *Rapport*, of blatantly being the mouthpiece of the National Party.

(Report by D Guy, 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.)

Areas for squatter housing considered

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

Vast tracts of land south of Johannesburg are being investigated as possible areas for housing hundreds of thousands of squatters who have descended on the city, management committee chairman Mr Francois Oberholzer said last night.

Speaking at the city council meeting, he identified 3 000 ha in the Cyferfontein, Zuurbekom and Waterpan regions which were suggested for site and service use many years ago, but postponed because of problems.

The land was needed to provide site and service but if it was heavily populated it would create pollution problems affecting the water pumped at the Zuurbekom station which supplied three-quarters of Johannesburg's supply, Mr Oberholzer said.

He said a special committee had been appointed to liaise with the mining companies which controlled large areas in the south to release some of the land.

The requests were understandably refused by the Mining Commissioner as large tracts were needed to dump soil after gold extraction if mines were reopened.

"We say, 'Research what the reserves are, but it is difficult to say how much land is required," he said.

● See Page 9.

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been reduced to 29 primary
Unity talks began in July last year, he added.

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Evicted family sleeps next to road in the rain

By Kaizer Nyatsumba

A labourer evicted from an Eastern Transvaal farm spent two nights — one of them wet — sleeping "off the side of the main road" with his family of six.

The labourer, Mr Albert Mthimkhulu, said he grew up on the farm from which Mr F E Johannes of Pampoenkraal in Panbult evicted him and his family on Thursday last week in the presence of policemen.

A messenger of the court confiscated his TV set, a generator and a case of beer, Mr Mthimkhulu said.

Mr Moray Hathorn of the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg said Mr Mthimkhulu first received a written eviction notice from Mr Johannes in November last year, but he had nowhere to go.

He approached a Piet Retief magistrate who wrote a letter to Mr Johannes asking him to allow the Mthimkhulus to stay until June when they would have reaped their crops.

On January 27 Mr Mthimkhulu was fined R30 for trespass.

Mr Johannes denied responsibility for the eviction.

Country

Interdict saves Thokoza shack

12/4/88 By Bruce Anderson (310) SMC

A temporary interdict, restraining the Thokoza Town Council from demolishing a shack in a squatter area, was issued by a Rand Supreme Court judge yesterday after an urgent application by the shackowner.

The application was brought by Mr Caiphas Mandla Mbatha of Site 3, Thokoza.

In an affidavit before court he said he had erected a wood and iron shack at Site 3, Thokoza, in August last year. The shack served as accommodation for his wife and children, and he also ran a shop next to the shack.

He said he was advised that the council had been pressured by the Red Cross into recognising Site 3 as an informal emergency squatter area.

Mr Mbatha said he believed he had the permission of the council to live there as his site was numbered by the council after he had erected it and because members of the Thokoza municipal police had handed him a permit, issued by the council, which authorised him to live there.

On March 30 this year a group of Thokoza municipal police informed the occupants of more than 200 hundred shacks that their shacks would be demolished on April 5.

No action was taken by the municipal police on April 5, but on April 8 the police informed Site 3 shackowners that their shacks would be demolished at 6.00 am on April 9.

Mr Mbatha said no order had been issued in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

The application has been postponed to allow an opposing affidavit to be filed.

Interim relief for Tokoza resident

B/day 12/4/88

SUE RUSSELL

A RESIDENT at a Tokoza squatter site was yesterday granted a temporary interdict restraining the town council from demolishing his shack.

Caphias Mbatha brought the urgent application before Mr Justice H C J Flemming in the Rand supreme court yesterday.

The judge granted the interim interdict and postponed the application *sine die* to allow for the filing of further papers.

Mbatha said in an affidavit there had never been an order for his ejectment and he had put up his dwelling in August last year with the permission of the Tokoza town council.

He said he erected his wood-and-iron house on a concrete slab at site 3 in the township.

From the time he put up the shack, he said, he believed he had the council's permission to live there because shortly after moving there they had numbered his site.

Mbatha said on March 30 he was told the shack was to be demolished on April 5. He had ascertained about 200 other shack-dwellers were also informed of this.

They were told they would be moved to a new site near the Tokoza men's hostel.

Mbatha said the proposed site was marshy and small.

If all the occupants of shacks in his section were moved there, Mbatha said, it would be unreasonably crowded.

Mbatha said the council was not entitled to eject him or demolish his home

D/D 13/4/88

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Squatters get vote in new regulations

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Squatters will qualify for the vote in the coming October municipal elections in terms of new regulations and legislative amendments.

Officials in the Constitutional Development Department confirmed that President P. W. Botha had, within the past two weeks, signed amendments to the Constitutional Affairs Act which in effect will grant the vote to millions of squatters should they wish to exercise it.

One senior local government official in the Transvaal said: "We were insistent squatters should not be discriminated against. Although most of them squat illegally they have been there for many years."

In terms of the amendments, anyone who has lived in an area under the jurisdiction of a local authority for three months or more, or has immovable assets in the area, will be granted the franchise.

The Black Sash recently estimated there were more than a million squatters in the PWV area alone.

In addition to this development, election regulations for the Transvaal in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act were gazetted last week and now make provision for blacks who do not have ID books to vote.

The regulations make it possible for blacks who qualify for the vote to show any form of identification, including the now redundant reference books if they have not been able to obtain ID books before the election.

Where ID documents are not available, persons wishing to vote or be enrolled on the voters' rolls will be able to do so if another person with an ID document is able to vouch for them.

Local government authorities say other provinces are due to gazette similar election regulations soon.

Walkerville fears black township on its doorstep

People living in the Walkerville district south of Johannesburg fear that the Government will turn a massive squatter camp nearby into a permanent black township.

At a public meeting attended by about 300 people in the Spioenkop Ned Geref Kerk near Walkerville this week, residents were told of "discreet buying up of local land options" by regional town planners over the past few years.

Mr Piet van Niekerk, a member of the Walkerville Squatters Committee, which is agitating for the removal of the estimated 10 000 people on Wheeler's Farm, said clandestine meetings had been taking place at which white landowners were being urged to sell their property to the Government.

"People fear that Wheeler's Farm

MELANIE GOSLING

(squatter camp) is destined for development into a black township. Already the squatters have forced us to become prisoners in our own households. We want them out," said Mr van Niekerk.

The Conservative Party MP for Losberg, Professor Fanie Jocobs, said at the meeting that the "squatter problem" had been removed from the jurisdiction of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning to the provincial administration.

He said that because residents of Johannesburg's northern suburbs had protested about the proposed building of a black township of Norweto, it had been decided to move it south of Johannesburg.

Conflict over squatters enters a new chapter — and it could set a precedent. ● See Page 10

It's Third World squalor . . . the stark drama of poverty's fierce clash with the modern affluence

There's gold and diamonds on my farm, says Weiler

Star 23/4/88 (310)

SARA MARTIN

Like a diamond whose surfaces reflect many colours of light as they catch the sun, the history of Weiler's Farm, now a Section 6 squatter's emergency camp south of Johannesburg, has many different facets.

And the man who owned the 860 ha farm, Mr Walter Weiler, in partnership with his brother Max, is equally as versatile, mysterious and elusive.

The 77-year-old man now lives in monastic surroundings in a flat above his son's stationery shop in Doornfontein. For 30 years he lived alone on the farm, his brother Max preferring to live in town.

Mr Walter Weiler left the property two years ago.

"I was attacked four times by the squatters. I feared for my life so I just had to get out," he told The Saturday Star.

In March 1987 the Transvaal Provincial Administration paid him R1,25 million when it expropriated his property.

"Only a few months earlier we had been made an offer of R6 million by a town developer to buy the land and convert it into a black township, provided Government permission was granted," claims Mr Weiler.

Now he and his brother Max have taken legal action against the Department of Public Works because they feel they were not adequately compensated.

Said Harry, son of Mr Walter Weiler: "We were paid R1,25 million for the land because the Government claimed at the time it was agricultural land. The number of people living on the land has proved that it is a township and therefore we should have been paid for township, not agricultural rights."

The land was Mr Weiler's pride. It was bought with all his savings in 1940, six years after he arrived in South Africa, a German Jew.

Mr Weiler's early life reads like an adventure yarn. His friends tell how he not only escaped the Nazi persecution, but organised that an entire village of Jewish refugees arrived safely in South Africa from Germany. He gave them free board and lodging until they got jobs.

He bought the farm, then only half the size, from the Standard Bank, its previous owner having gone insolvent.

He expanded the farm and stocked it with 400 Friesland cows, 50 000 chickens, 2 000 pigs and 1 000 sheep.

Then one day, he claims, he found diamonds, semi-precious stones and gold on the property. He tried to mine them but was unsuccessful because, he says, he lacked capital.

Mr Weiler still firmly believes the property is rich in mineral wealth.

But his son Harry says it is nothing more than a "figment of an old man's imagination".

A spokesman from Rand Mines, whom Mr Weiler invited to inspect the site two years ago, said he found no trace of diamonds.

But Mr Weiler still clutches two little boxes, one of which he claims contains five uncut diamonds; the other semi-precious stone chips. They were found, he insists, on the property.

How his farm ever became a squatter camp still baffles Mr Weiler.

"Four years ago I called in the police to arrest the 170 black and coloured squatters who had found shelter on the farm," he says.

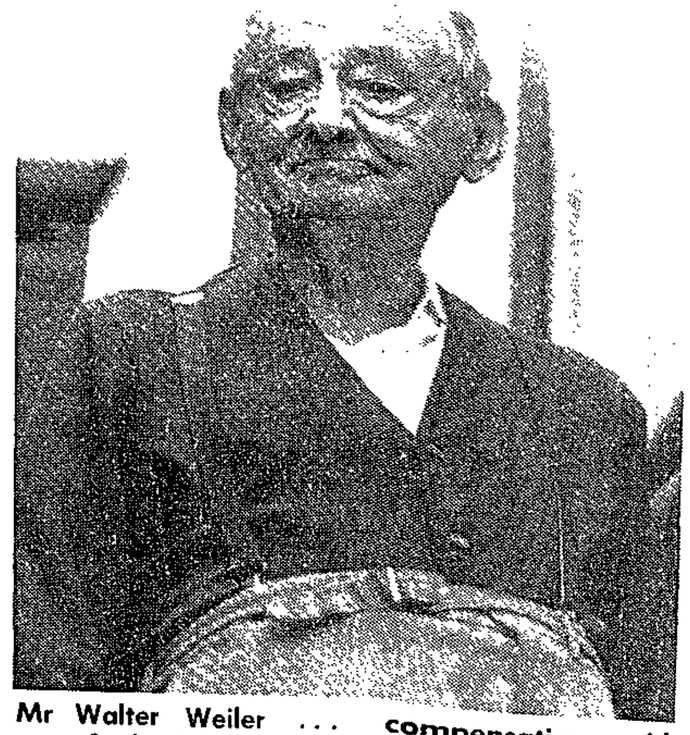
"They were arrested but discharged on the grounds that they were paying rent and water, so they had a right to stay.

"Then it mushroomed, people came from everywhere and it went out of control."

Following the outcry by white residents in the area, and pending General Elections in May 1987, the TPA, the police and the army were asked to move in and control the squatter influx in March last year.

The number of people that moved on to the farm increased from 2 000 to 7 000 between August 1986 and January 1987.

Following a plea by several political groups to have civil administration restored, the army moved out in November last year and the TPA took control.



Mr Walter Weiler ... compensation paid for his farm was not enough, he says.

Weiler's Farm could become Govt blueprint

Star 23/4/88 (310)

SARA MARTIN

Squatters are 'official', but face big move

The squatter settlement at Weiler's Farm, in the Grasmere area about 40 km south of Johannesburg, which white residents do not want to evolve into a township, is to be moved in October.

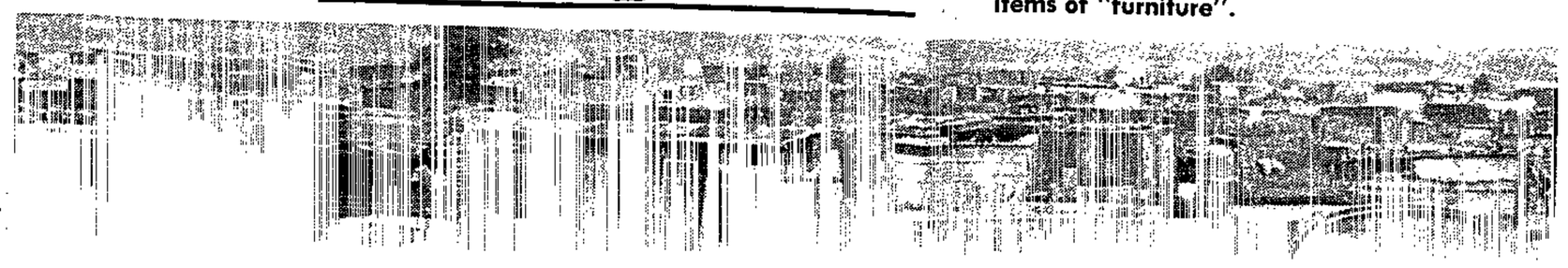
Residents of the Walkerville area gave the local areas committee of the Peri-Urban Board a full mandate to have the squatters removed at a public meeting held earlier this month.

A spokesman for the residents said that "like the whites in the north are fighting Norweto, we will fight Weiler's Farm."

"Properties are depreciating, crime is escalating. Roof tops are even stolen," he said.



PRE-SCHOOL: Children and teachers in the dark shed used as their classroom. Blankets and a tin filled with coal are their only items of "furniture". ● Picture by Sean Woods.



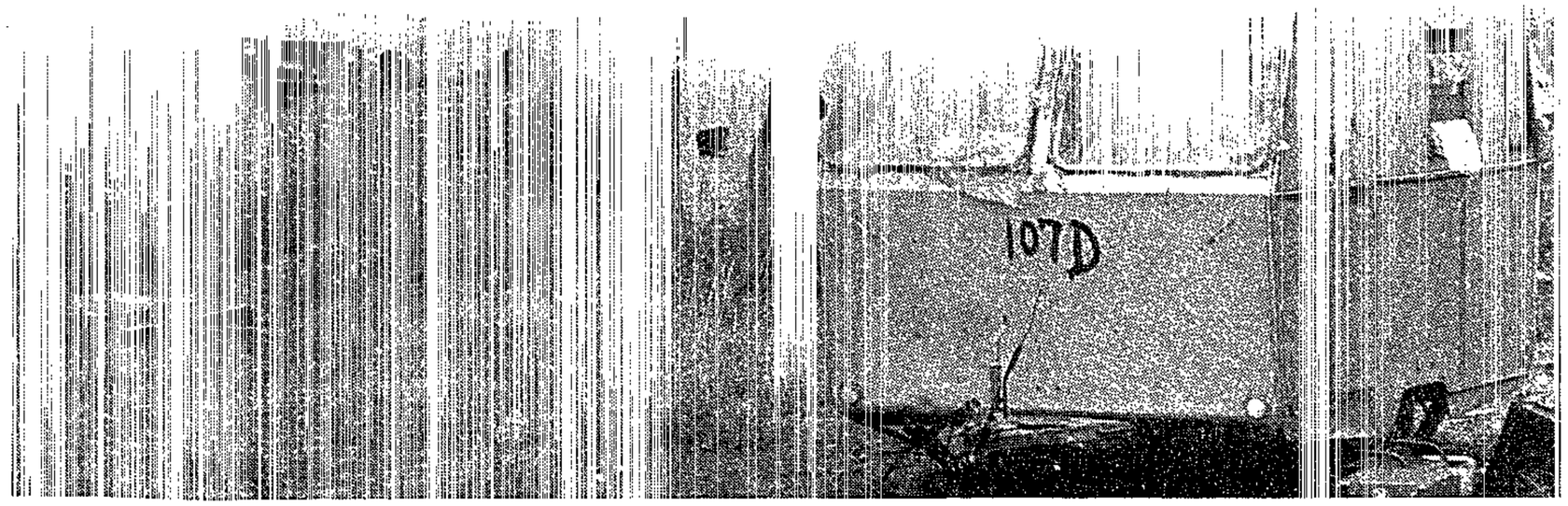
'White neighbours

Star 23/4/88 (310)

the squatter problem in the Witwatersrand was one of the contributing factors of the success of the Conservative Party in the area and CP party members claim it will be used to an even greater extent in the municipal elections in October.

Said Mr Koos van der Merwe, CP MP for Overvaal: "The squatter problem is like measles, it spreads all over." There were about 900 000 squatters presently living in the PWV (Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal Triangle) area.

Political analysts see Weiler's Farm as a precedent to how the whole issue of squatting is to be dealt with in the Transvaal.



A PATTERN OF HOMELESSNESS SHROUDED IN CONTROVERSY: "Our presence is justified," say the squatters . . . "It's like measles," says the Conservative Party . . . "They must go," say the residents . . . ● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

It is the first-known current instance of a local group of squatters to have achieved Government recognition.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) expropriated 795 hectares of the Weiler's Farm property in March last year after residents protested against the increasing concentration of squatters in the area. Soon after the Government's removal of influx control, the 300 people who lived on the farm, paying rentals for nearly two decades, had mushroomed into a community of more than 8 000 people.

The TPA, police and the army moved in shortly after the expropriation to control the number of people entering the area. Following outcries from various political organisations, the army and police moved out in November, leaving the TPA in control.

In December, regulations in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, were promulgated to control the settlement pending removal of the squatters.

In terms of the Vaal River Complex Guide Plan, the regional plan proposes that the black population of the area will be mainly housed in the Wildebeesfontein farm, at Evaton North, 10 km away. The guide plan was adopted in 1982.

According to Mr Vic Milne, regional director (community service) of the Provincial Administration, only 1 000 of the 3 000 stands will be made available for the residents of Weiler's Farm as from October, the rest will be for Evaton residents.

The remainder of the squatters according to Mr Milne are to be relocated "sometime next year" on Engelbrecht Farm, directly east of Evaton. Low-cost housing in the area is to be provided by the SA Housing Trust and the Family Housing Association.

Contracts have already been awarded by the TPA for the Wildebeesfontein project and construction on civil services such as water and sewerage for the stands is expected to begin next week.

Mr Milne has said that the squatters of Weiler's Farm will be able to buy or rent the stands. In addition they will be required to pay service fees.

"They will be granted on a first come, first served, basis," he said.

No provisions are to be made for pensioners or the unemployed.

An AID/Black Sash survey conducted in February/March 1986, found that 17 percent of the squatters were unemployed, 20 percent were pensioners.

According to committee members of the squatters community of Weiler's Farm, the 8 000 people living in the area have not formally been paying rent for the past two years.

Some of the senior squatter residents say they were born on the farm and have lived there all their lives.

A small, dusty road branches off from the main road to Grasmere and leads to Weiler's Farm.

An air of stagnation, resignation and despair hangs about the place. However this is in direct contrast to the ebullience exhibited by the residents: here and there children frolic under a tree, women stand in a long queue for water from a water pump.

Squatters on Weiler's Farm maintain that their white Walkerville neighbours have nothing to worry about as far as they are concerned.

"We don't want to interfere with the people of Walkerville and we have never interfered with them in the past. Besides, they are quite far away from us," said Mr Silas Lamola, a member of the residents' committee on the farm.

Weiler's Farm residents said they were aware that "the people of Walkerville don't want us here", but they say the objection to their presence in the area is "totally unjustified".

Planned move

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), which took over the place last year, plans to move some of the 8 000 squatters to Wildebeesfontein near Alberton in October, where 1 000 sites have been reserved for them.

"We would not like to move from Weiler's Farm, but if we *have* to be moved, we would like to be taken to a place nearer our work, and we would like to be moved together — all of us," said Mrs Olga Luthu of the residents' committee.

She said most of the inhabitants of the farm worked in the Johannesburg area.

Mr Fanie Terblanche, a public relations officer of the TPA in Pretoria, said those people who had been on the farm for some time would not be moved until better accommodation was found for them.

"Only those who have just arrived and cannot be accommodated on the farm will be moved to a site with better facilities.

KAIZER NYATSUMBA

"It is important to stress that this is not a forced removal. Those who will move to Wildebeesfontein where some elementary services are already being supplied will do so out of free choice," said Mr Terblanche.

When the TPA took over, Weiler's Farm residents were told they would have to pay R35 "service charge" a month, while their lodgers would have to pay R15, beginning from March this year. No rent has been paid yet. Residents, according to the committee, "are prepared to pay the money, but not so much".

Mr Terblanche said the amount would not be reduced, "because that is how much it costs the province to provide services to each unit".

Ultimatum to pay

The residents have allegedly been given an ultimatum to pay the charges soon or face the prospect of being thrown off the farm. They said they could afford R35 per month, "if we could be allowed to run self-help projects again in order to create jobs".

Mr Terblanche said the residents' request to be allowed to run self-help projects "would be investigated and then they would receive a feedback if they can submit a formal proposal to the directorate of their local TPA office".

The TPA take-over of the farm has reduced some residents to dependents, "because each time they have a problem they run to the TPA officials, knowing they will be taken care of," according to Mr Monde Dyantjie, also a member of the residents' committee.

Haunting memory of visit to squatters living on outskirts of the City of Gold



MRS OLGA LUTU: A powerful force behind the education programme. ● Picture: Sean Woods.

SARA MARTIN (310)

You go prepared, or so you think. You brace yourself emotionally for this your first visit to a squatter camp — but still it leaves you stunned, short of breath, the way you feel after having received a punch in the stomach.

Seeing the squalor in which 8 000 people live in Third World conditions — just 40 km from the centre of the City of Gold, side by side with wealthy farmers — haunts you long after you have returned home, a place you had not previously thought of as particularly opulent.

Yet the squatters living on Weiler's Farm in Grasmere, south of Johannesburg, are listed as "some of the more lucky ones" who populate the long winding stretch of squatterland that extends all the way to Vereeniging.

Unlike their neighbours they have a health clinic and water. On February 8, their first school came into being.

Their local committee has organised 863 children into classes from Grade 1 to Std 6. Any available building is used.

Meet Mrs Olga Lutu, a warm mountain of a woman, who is the driving force behind the learning programme. Mrs Lutu uses every available space in her house — one of the original farmhouse buildings — for classes.

The Grade 2s learn Zulu in her kitchen, the Std 1 class overflows into her lounge, the Std 2 class is in her bedroom. The little ones squint in the murky light of the rooms, sharing the few books they are able to lay hands on.

On sunny days they overflow on to the stoep and the grounds surrounding the buildings. On cold and rainy days, they huddle in whatever four-walled shelter they can. Electricity is only a far-away dream. Often 40 children squeeze into a damp, stuffy, windowless 2 x 2 m room.

Every morning they leave their shanties, some attached to the old stables and the old pigsty, and stumble through the mud and garbage with only one thought in mind — to learn.

"We've been expecting to move for four years. While we wait, we might as well do something about our children," says Mrs Lutu. "They are the future of the country."

For the preschool children a dark shed with paneless skylights has to do for shelter. A few blankets, three wooden benches and an old tin filled with coals are the only items of furniture on the cold cement floor.

The teachers are all volunteers, some of them students straight from school. They have only one aim in mind — to improve the quality of education of the community.

"We are planning a high school and an adult education programme. By the end of the year we want every member of this camp irrespective of age to be able to write the Junior Certificate Examination (Standard 8)," says Mrs Lutu.

"Were it not for the constant fear of moving, in spite of all our shortcomings we are contented here," she adds.

Times are not as bad as they used to be, says Mrs Lutu. "It was a relief when the army moved out and the Transvaal Provincial Administration moved in."

Mrs Lutu says she has been in prison more times than she can remember.

"I always open my mouth at the wrong time. But I could not stand seeing my people harassed."

The year-long occupation by the army, says Mrs Lutu, left the people with unpleasant memories.

"We've been through much and we've stood firm. But you can be sure," she adds with spirit, "that we intend standing firm for as long as it takes."



WEILER'S FARM: A stark silhouette of poverty and hope where squatters are listed as "some of the lucky ones" compared to their neighbours. ● Picture: Sean Woods.

First Transvaal squatter crisis looms

Ster 23/4/88

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SARA MARTIN and KAISER NYATSUMBA

Johannesburg could be faced with its first major squatter problem later this year when the squatter settlement at Weiler's Farm, 33 km south of the city, is moved in October.

The settlement at Grasmere has been strongly opposed by local white residents who want to prevent a township developing on their doorstep. At a public meeting earlier this month, residents of the Walkerville area gave the Local Areas Committee of the Peri-Urban Board a full mandate to have the squatters removed.

A spokesman for the residents said that "like the whites in the North are fighting Norweto, we will fight Weiler's Farm. Properties are depreciating, crime is escalating. Rooftops are even stolen," he said.

The squatters, however, maintain that their white

● TO PAGE 2

Squatter issue aids CP

Ster 23/4/88 ● FROM PAGE 1

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neighbours have nothing to worry about as far as they are concerned.

"We don't want to interfere with the people of Walkerville, and we have never interfered with them in the past. Besides, they are quite far from us," said a member of the residents' committee on the farm.

Objections to their presence in the area was "totally unjustified", he said.

The sensitive issue of the squatter problem in the Witwatersrand was one of the contributing factors of the success of the Conservative Party in the area, and CP members claim it will be used to an even greater extent in the municipal elections in October.

Said Mr Koos van der Merwe, CP MP for Overvaal: "The squatter problem is like measles — it spreads all over. There are about 900 000 squatters presently living between Randfontein and the Vaal Triangle."

Political analysts see Weiler's Farm as a precedent as to how the issue of squatting is to be dealt with in the Transvaal. It is the first known current instance of a local group of squatters to have achieved Government recognition.

Weiler's Farm is a heavily-populated squatter camp that differs from similar areas through its adoption early last year by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

The TPA expropriated 795 hectares of the Weiler property in March last year after residents protested against the increasing concentration of squatters in the area.

Soon after the Government's removal of influx control, 300 people who lived on the farm, paying rentals for nearly two decades, had mushroomed into a community of more than 8 000 people.

The place has since been declared "an emergency camp" which, according to a TPA spokesman, "allows squatting in an orderly fashion."

The residents, however, believe the only difference between themselves and other squatter camp dwellers is that they are provided with water.

Mr Fanie Terblanche, a public relations officer of the TPA in Pretoria, said those people who have been on the farm for some time will not be moved until better accommodation is found for them.

"It is important to stress that this is not a forced removal. Those who will move to Wildebeesfontein where some elementary services are already being supplied will do so out of free choice," said Mr Terblanche.

When the TPA took over, Weiler's Farm residents were told they would be required to pay R35 "service charge" per month, while their lodgers would be required to pay R15, beginning from March this year.

No rent has been paid yet. Residents, according to the committee, "are prepared to pay the money, but not so much."

Proclamation renews removal issue

Oukasie now an emergency camp

DIANNA GAMES

OUKASIE township near Brits was yesterday proclaimed an "emergency camp", opening the way, according to observers, to the removal of the 10 000-strong community to a town 25kms away.

Transvaal Administrator Willem Cruywagen proclaimed the area an emergency camp in terms of a government gazette issued yesterday.

Cruywagen said last night the camp was a means of controlling the situation to ensure no more squatters would be allowed into the overcrowded area. He said officials would get information on who exactly was living there and their houses would be marked.

It was impossible to say how long the emergency camp would be in force, he said, but he denied it would lead to the removal of those people.

But the legal advisor to the Brits community, Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre, said the move was likely to be a precursor to the removal of the 10 000-strong community to Lethlabile on the Bophuthatswana border.

This was despite the assurance last month by Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis, who told Parliament only those Oukasie residents who asked to be moved of their own free will would be resttled at Lethlabile.

Budlender said government had "disestablished" Oukasie as a township in 1986 and yesterday's legislation would seem to be a temporary measure to control the situation with a plan to go ahead with removal.

Oukasie residents were told in December 1985 that they were to be removed. The plan met with vigorus opposition from residents who formed the Brits Action Committee.

Heunis said earlier this year that government had never said there would not be any more forced removals.

"After all, people will squat illegally and you cannot accept they will stay there forever. What government said was there would be no forced removals for political reasons," he said.

The official reason given for the possible removal of Oukasie has been that it is a slum and it is not economically viable to upgrade it.

But according to Black Sash regional chairman Ethel Walt, the real reason is that Oukasie is 2km from the elite white area of Brits, a CP stronghold.

Newspaper reports have suggested Lethlabile may be incorporated into Bophuthatswana.

However, legislation tabled in Parliament last month by Education and Development Aid Minister Gerrit Viljoen said Lethlabile was no longer earmarked for incorporation into any neighbouring homeland.

Mellors 'aimed to get Chikane'

DANIEL SIMON

DENZIL Bruce Mellors would have preferred SA Council of Churches head Reverend Frank Chikane as a hostage rather than the receptionist, the Johannesburg Regional Court was told yesterday.

This was disclosed by SAP investigating officer Sergeant Felix Tiedt, in evidence for the State opposing Mellors's bail application.

Mellors's court appearance follows the hostage drama at Khotso House on April 11, when he allegedly held SACC secretary Beverley Fasser hostage at gunpoint in protest against Bishop Desmond Tutu's "communist ties" and the Methodist Church's call against border duty.

He faces five charges: kidnapping, a charge under the Explosives Act, possession of an unlicensed firearm, possession of ammunition and theft of a firearm.

Tiedt told the court that, after questioning Mellors, he found the accused "very involved in politics". He also said Mellors had deep religious convictions.



● MELLORS . . . out on bail

In evidence, Mellors said he had gone to Khotso House on April 11 to obtain information about certain rumours he had heard.

He said he had taken a firearm for self-protection.

The court ruled in Mellors's favour and granted him R2 500 bail. Further conditions to the bail were that Mellors must report to the Brakpan police station every day, may not communicate with State witnesses, or enter Khotso House.

The case was postponed to May 27.

...ments and the TPA yesterday appeared to "But I don't remember ...

(310)

28/4/88 B/day

Superintendent to govern basic activities

Heavy controls on Oukasie squatters

DIANNA GAMES

OUKASIE squatter settlement near Brits is to be strictly controlled by a superintendent appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, who will have to give permission for most of the basic activities of the 8 000-odd residents.

Oukasie was declared an "emergency camp" by Transvaal Administrator Willem Cruywagen in terms of a Government Gazette issued on Tuesday.

From the end of May, Oukasie residents will be issued with permits and will have to seek the superintendent's permission to have somebody stay overnight, to carry out extensions or renovations on buildings and to keep animals.

Anybody wishing to move to Oukasie, which government has threatened with removal to Lethlabile, a new settlement 25km away, for more than two years will have to get permission to do so.

The provisions do not apply to SA Defence Force members, an officer or employee of the State or the Brits Town Council, registered medical practitioners or a sheriff, deputy sheriff or court messenger.

The gazette also increased service charges by more than 50%. Brits Action Committee secretary Cyril Ramakabye said they rejected the increase with contempt as there had been no improvement in basic services for more than 50 years. Half of the community was unemployed, he said.

Intimidate

A Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) statement said: "This latest move by government on Oukasie residents can only be viewed as a further attempt to totally demoralise and intimidate the community so that ultimately they move 'voluntarily'."

Louis Kok, TPA's executive director of community services, said police had been called in to help with getting information from residents but had left the area by yesterday.

He said the township could remain an emergency camp indefinitely in the absence of proper legislation to deal with the situation.

The control contained in the gazette will become effective within 21 days from Tuesday.

Details to be given to the provincial authorities by residents include name, sex, identity number, nationality, name and address of employer, and details of any full-time business conducted in the camp. Each building must be numbered.

One provision says if the superintendent agrees to the erection of a new building, the registered occupant must occupy it within seven days of its completion or the superintendent may demolish it, remove the debris and recover the demolition costs from the occupant.

Violations of the regulations could result in the withdrawal of the permit, and the permit-holder and his family must leave the camp within 28 days of its withdrawal.

'Emergency camp' opens way to removals

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Oukasie township near Brits was yesterday proclaimed an "emergency camp", opening the way, according to observers, to the removal of the 10 000-strong community to a town 25km away.

Transvaal Administrator Mr Willem Cruywagen proclaimed the area an emergency camp in terms of a government gazette issued yesterday.

The legal adviser to the Brits community, Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre, said the move was likely to be a precursor to the removal of the community to Lethlabile on the Bophuthatswana border.

This is despite the assurance last month by Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Mr Chris Heunis who told Parliament only those Oukasie residents, who of their own free will had so requested, would be resettled at Lethlabile.

Mr Budlender said the government had "dis-established" Oukasie, which has had residential occupation since 1929, as a township in 1986 and yesterday's legislation seems to be a temporary measure.

Trespass charges dropped

JOY AS SQUATTERS ARE FREED

Sowetan 29/4/88 (310)

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THERE was jubilation in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court on Wednesday after about 107 squatters, mainly women with babies straddled on their backs, were set free on charges of tresspass.

Many women burst into song outside the court and spoke of their relief after more than eight months of trauma.

The men and women, who are squatting on the Vlakfontein Farm, near Grasmere, were found not guilty and discharged on charges of tresspass by magistrate Mr S P Nolte.



SOME of the 107 Vlakfontein Farm squatters who were acquitted by a Vereeniging magistrate.

Relatives

The State alleged that they were illegally staying on Plot 19, Vlakfontein. They were arrested on August 27, last year.

Their defence was that they stayed with relatives and friends in the area while they were employed at neighbouring farms and towns.

In acquitting them, the magistrate said he found that the State did not submit sufficient evidence.

Mr Nolte also withdrew warrants of arrest which were issued against some of the squatters who did not appear in court, as well as those who failed to appear at various other times since the trial started last year.

Speaking after the trial, the chairman of the squatters' committee, Mr Jabulani Mkhize, said: "We are going back to our shacks until proper homes are provided for us."

"This whole case had made us to suffer mentally and financially," he said.

Official sources disclosed to the *Sowetan* yesterday that the Evaton Community Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration was keen to provide homes for the families at an open veld near Evaton.

THE mayor of the Lek Town Council, Mr Es Mahlatsi, has warned th in future he would tough against councillc who "abuse the powers".

Mr Mahlatsi gave th warning after the coun resolved at its month meeting in Sebokeng th week to axe councill Mr M Modise, for failir to comply with th standing orders of th council.

He also lashed at thr suspended councillors - Mr Samuel Kolisang, M Sello Motshoahole an Mr Phokojoe Mofoken — for "misleading residents about the rer

Faster traffic flow was high

Oukasie reprieve welcomed

By David Braun, Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government's decision not to proceed with the removal of the residents of Oukasie was welcomed by the Progressive Federal Party today.

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Chris Heunis told the House of Assembly yesterday that Oukasie would not be relocated. Only those persons who of own free will and who so requested would be resettled at Lethlabile.

He was answering questions by Mr Clive Derby-Lewis (CP, nominated).

Oukasie, a black township at Brits, was earlier earmarked for demolition and its residents were to be resettled at Lethlabile, 25 km away in spite of Government policy that there were to be no more forced removals.

PFP spokesman on black affairs Mrs Helen Suzman said Mr Heunis's statement was "very good news indeed".

Mrs Suzman has been campaigning on behalf of the people of Oukasie. She said there was never any valid reason for the removal of Oukasie.

Whether his Department is involved in the construction of a new road between Umdloti and Richards Bay; if so, (a) what works in respect of this road have been completed, (b) in what phases is it envisaged to build the road and (c) what is the estimated total cost of the road?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

(a) The first carriageway of the envisaged dual carriageway road between Ballitoville and New Guelderland.

(b) As 12 separate contracts commencing in the 1988/89 financial year to complete a dual carriageway road between Umdloti and New Guelderland and a new single carriageway road between New Guelderland and Mariedal on the existing road a short distance north-west of Richards Bay.

(c) The total estimated further cost of the road is R376 561 000.

Richards Bay: new police station complex

*7. Mr W J HEINE asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

Whether it is the intention to erect a new police station complex at Richards Bay; if so, (a) what buildings will the planned complex comprise, (b) what is the estimated total cost of these buildings and (c) when are building operations expected (i) to commence and (ii) to be completed?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) to (c) It is envisaged that the construction of a new police complex, comprising a district head office, police station, mortuary and single quarters at an estimated cost of R68,5 million, will, according to expectation, commence early in 1994. The preliminary construction period is 42 months. However, I wish to point out to the hon member that the expected date of commencement of the project may be changed as a result of various factors, *inter alia* the availability of funds.

Instructions that no further action be taken against squatters

*8. Mr S C JACOBS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether he or any person representing him has issued any instructions to the effect that no further action be taken against squatters; if so, (a) when, (b) to what areas do these instructions apply and (c) on whose authority was this decision taken?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) to (c)

As the result of a notice of motion by the Vlakfontein Residents Committee in the Supreme Court, on 22 October 1987 an undertaking was given that the South African Police would take no further action against the Vlakfontein Squatters, pending the outcome of the notice of motion. On 4 December 1987 this undertaking was extended to also include the areas of Vereeniging, Grasmere and Finetown. The notice of motion is still pending.

†Mr S C JACOBS: Mr Chairman . . .

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: [Inaudible.]

†Mr S C JACOBS: . . . arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, will he tell us whether he is considering amending the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act in such a way that squatters will not be able to continue living where they are living illegally?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member is supposed to be a lawyer.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: But you are supposed to answer the question!

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! This is the second time within a short while that the hon member for Overvaal has made a loud remark of that kind across the floor of the House. It will not be permitted. The hon the Minister may continue.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Losberg is supposed to be a lawyer. So he should know that that Act does not fall under me. It is the responsibility of the hon the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, and I think he must put his question to that hon Minister.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Chairman, on

a point of order: Hon Ministers are not supposed to be sarcastic about questions put by Opposition members. [Interjections.] That is exactly how the hon the Minister of Law and Order has just acted. He told the hon member for Losberg that he as a lawyer ought to know better.

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! That is not a point of order. There is also no such written rule, or even a convention of which I am aware. The fact of the matter is that the attitude of one hon member towards another is determined by the behaviour of the hon members in question.

†Mr J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is the notice of motion of the residents of Vlakfontein also applicable to those in the Vereeniging area? If not, why was this undertaking extended to Vereeniging?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I said, on 4 December it was also extended to squatters in other circumstances in other areas, and that notice of motion must have been applicable. That is why it was extended.

Letters by Department to Central Mechanization Committee/Commission for Administration

*9. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) With reference to the report of the Advocate-General in terms of section 5(1) of the Advocate-General Act, No 118 of 1979, on the purchase of the Ivis interactive video system by his Department, which was tabled in the House of Assembly on 29 March 1988, who on behalf of his Department wrote the (a) detailed reply to the Central Mechanization Committee mentioned in paragraph 6.12 and (b) letter dated 26 March 1986 to the Commission for Administration mentioned in paragraph 6.17 of the said report;

(2) whether, in the light of the findings made by the Advocate-General in his report in paragraphs 6.18 to 6.24 in general and paragraph 6.23 in particular, he has requested explanations in regard to the writing of the above-mentioned two letters; if not, why not; if so, what explanations were offered in each case;

(3) whether he intends taking further action pursuant to these explanations; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) (a) and (b) The departmental letters referred to were handled in the normal way, namely that the draft letters were written by the Deputy Director: Computer Assisted Education (Mr T P Metrowich) and checked and controlled by the Chief Director: Education Development Services (Dr H A Mocke), and then submitted to the Deputy Director-General (Dr D H Meiring) for approval and signature. Where necessary, the above-mentioned three persons together edited and revised the draft letters.

(2) Yes.

The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General supplied explanations in a personal interview immediately after the release of the Advocate-General's report, as well as in the form of documentation and written input which was submitted to the Advocate-General.

The Advocate-General found (para 6.18) that "die sertifikaat van die Departement is heel waarskynlik korrek met betrekking tot die tydstip waarop die sertifikaat gegee is". Although the Advocate-General found further that there possibly was one other firm in command of the technological expertise and skills to develop a similar interactive video system, the situation in fact was that at that juncture no other firm actually had suitable courseware available. Without courseware, any system is useless. Even at this stage such courseware is not yet available from any other firm.

(3) No.

Non-White students accommodated in Hippokrates/Francie van Zijl hostels

*10. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether the Hippokrates and Francie van Zijl hostels of the University of Stellenbosch are situated in a White group area; if so,

Aerial photographic survey may be a key

Accurate picture of squatting is elusive

AERIAL photography could provide a key to establishing the rate and extent of urbanisation in the PWV area, where about 1-million people live in informal settlements, according to latest government figures.

Concerned organisations and institutions have been unable to come up with accurate statistics on the overall increase in the region's urbanisation, particularly since the lifting of influx control almost two years ago.

However, a Business Day aerial survey of some Soweto shack settlements showed the capacity of aerial photography to establish the nature and extent of these settlements.

The findings were matched against official statistics from the Soweto council and generally corroborated them, giving an indication of the accuracy which might be obtained.

In the most striking case, the Mofolo settlement, it was found there were about 2 600 shacks. The Dlamini and Tladi emergency camps together hold about 1 300 shacks.

Other statistics supplied by the council were 354 units at the Fred Clarke emergency camp on the Potchefstroom road; about 2 000 "squatters" in open spaces around Soweto; and about 25 000 backyard shacks.

ROGER SMITH

Council housing director Estelle Bester said the increase in the number of shacks since the abolition of influx control was difficult to determine, and more research was needed. Her impression, however, was that people were "squatting like mad".

Contrast

On the number of shack-dwellers, the council was working on a figure of not more than five people per shack. This would mean about 13 000 people in the Mofolo settlement and at least 156 000 shack-dwellers in Soweto.

The council's figure contrasts with that of about 11 people per shack used in surveys by the Inkatha Institute in the Durban region.

Fred du Toit of the CSIR's division of building technology warned against applying shack occupancy figures from one area to another, pointing out urbanisation patterns could differ quite widely.

The Business Day aerial survey did in fact find the shack settlements on the West Rand were scattered and often formed dense, isolated pockets, unlike the Durban region where settlements form an almost continuous belt around the metropolitan area.

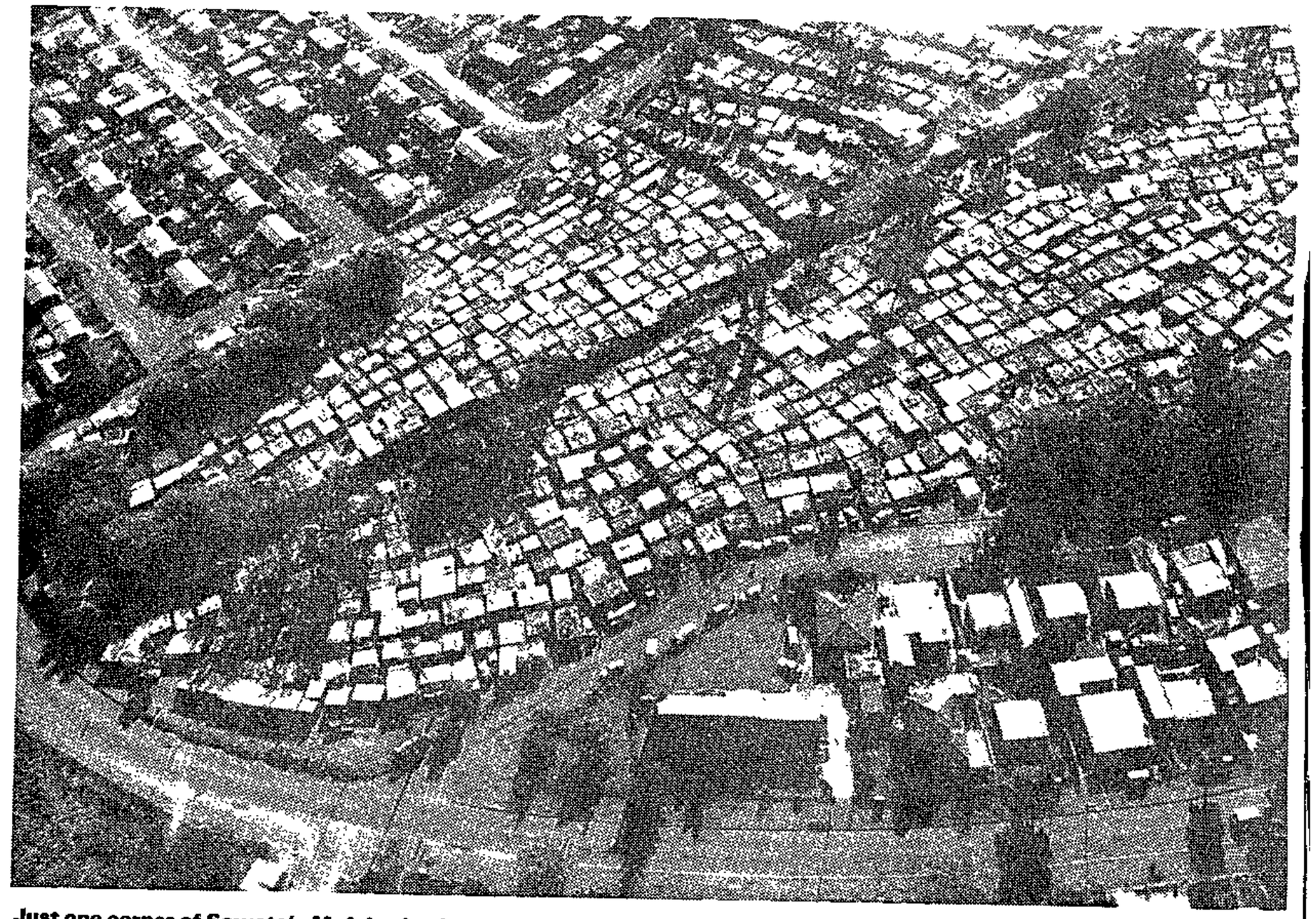
Du Toit described the Soweto shack settlements as "not exorbitant" and in appearance "a well-ordered urban environment".

He commended the advantages of aerial photography to assess patterns of urbanisation, but said it had to be questioned whether the expense was worthwhile in specific instances.

A reckoning had to be made of the value of the precise information in terms of the savings that might be achieved as a result, for example, in service costs.

He pointed out the rate of urbanisation was now apparently so fast that statistics from two bodies within six months could vary considerably.

He said reasons for the rapid urbanisation were complex, including not only the abolition of influx control but socio-economic factors and pressures on rural land.



Just one corner of Soweto's Mofolo shack settlement from the air gives some idea of the enormity of the urbanisation crisis. On a conservative estimate the 800 shacks shown here — crammed into an area the size of several rugby fields — are home to about 4 000 people. They are served by about 15 portable toilets detectable in two rows at the top and bottom of the picture. The stream flowing through the centre of the settlement has become a great drain, littered with garbage. Shack-dwellers' vehicles crowd the roads on the periphery of the settlement. From the air, the settlement contrasts strongly with the large, established and expanded homes at bottom right, and the standard formal township housing at top left, which is notable for the shacks in almost every backyard.

(a) Lapse.

(b) Lapse.

(4) No, as far as could be determined.

(a) Lapse.

(b) Lapse.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he give an indication as to whether any of the archives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, post 1910 — which I understand from his reply were closed as at 1980 — were ever open to the public?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, not to my knowledge. However, I cannot give the hon member a specific reply. He will have to table that question. I am not a walking encyclopaedia.

Mrs H SUZMAN: We know that! [Interjections.]

Archival material relating to Department of Foreign Affairs: request to be regarded as closed

*30. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) With reference to the reply of the Minister of National Education to Question No 27 on 26 April 1988, (a) why did his Department request that archival material relating to the Department of Foreign Affairs be regarded as closed in terms of the Archives Act, No 6 of 1962, and (b)(i) when and (ii) by whom was this request made;

(2) whether he will consider permitting access to all or part of the archives of his Department; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) In view of its aim and functions, the records of the Department of Foreign Affairs comprise not only material relating to the RSA but also information affecting the interests of other states. There is an obligation to safeguard sensitive information affecting other countries. Requests in this connection have been received from other states. Some of the material is furthermore still sensitive after 30 years or longer and could cause embarrassment to other governments and citizens of their countries if publicized. The interests of South African private individuals and bodies must also be taken into account.

(b) (i) and (ii) These questions concern a policy position of the Department of Foreign Affairs enunciated over the course of time in letters of senior officials to the Department of National Education and to private individuals.

(2) Yes.

The Department of Foreign Affairs changed its policy of not releasing its archives by way of an internal arrangement in 1985 to provide that records can be made available to researchers, taking into account the above considerations.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, would the hon the Minister consider opening those parts of the archives of the SA Department of Foreign Affairs pertaining to countries whose archives concerning South Africa are already open?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I cannot give an unqualified answer to a question like that. It depends on individuals and governments which might be affected. As far as this Government is concerned, my department will not be party to the embarrassment of other countries. It will detrimentally affect South Africa's relations.

Mr K M ANDREW: Do your damnest then!

The MINISTER: Yours too!

Oukasie squatter camp near Brits: declaration as emergency camp

*31. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 686 on 25 March 1988, the Oukasie squatter camp near Brits has been declared an emergency camp; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) in terms of what statutory provisions or regulations and (d) who took the decision in this regard;

(2) whether a house-to-house inspection of the area was conducted on or about 26 April 1988; if so, (a) by what agency, (b) why and (c) on whose instructions;

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(3) whether any further action is to be taken in regard to this area; if so, (a) what action, (b) when and (c) why;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This information was furnished by the Transvaal Provincial Government:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) In order to gain control thereof and to prevent further squatting and influx of persons to the area and,

(ii) After consultation with the Minister of National Health and Population Development, issue regulations providing for the administration, maintenance, sanitation and health of the said emergency camp, and the control thereof.

(b) On 26 April 1988.

(c) In terms of section 6 of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, 1951 (Act 52 of 1951).

(d) The Administrator in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee.

(2) No, only a survey.

(a) By officials of the Provincial Government.

(b) In order to conduct a survey and to number each building in terms of Regulations 3 and 4 of the Emergency Camp Regulations, respectively.

(c) The Superintendent in terms of the regulations.

(3) (a) Yes.

(i) Place the administration of the emergency camp on a sound footing;

(ii) ensure that the Emergency Camp Regulations are applied and are complied with;

(iii) render assistance to those who wish to move to Lethlabile voluntarily; and

(iv) endeavour to improve the precarious living conditions of the persons resident in the camp.

(b) As from 26 April 1988.

(c) To improve the living conditions as far as possible of the persons resident in the camp.

(4) No.

Mrs H SUZMAN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is he aware of the fact that this is an indirect method of forcing removals for political reasons despite the assurance that was given to us by the hon the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I do not think that the hon member's submission is correct.

Mrs H SUZMAN: Oh, absolutely!

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, we could not hear clearly, but I just want to ask him whether there is any possibility of this squatters' camp being removed.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon Minister replied to this on a previous occasion, and I should like to refer the hon member to that. Unfortunately I cannot remember the exact date offhand, but it was some time during March.

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION: Why don't you leave the hon member for Brits to ask his own questions?

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, again I could not hear very clearly. [Interjections.] I should just like to know in clear language whether or not the Government is considering removing this squatters' camp at some stage or other.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I refer the hon member to the reply I have just given.

High schools in Cape Peninsula: capacity/current enrolment of pupils

*32. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

Squatter camp health conditions are scandalous

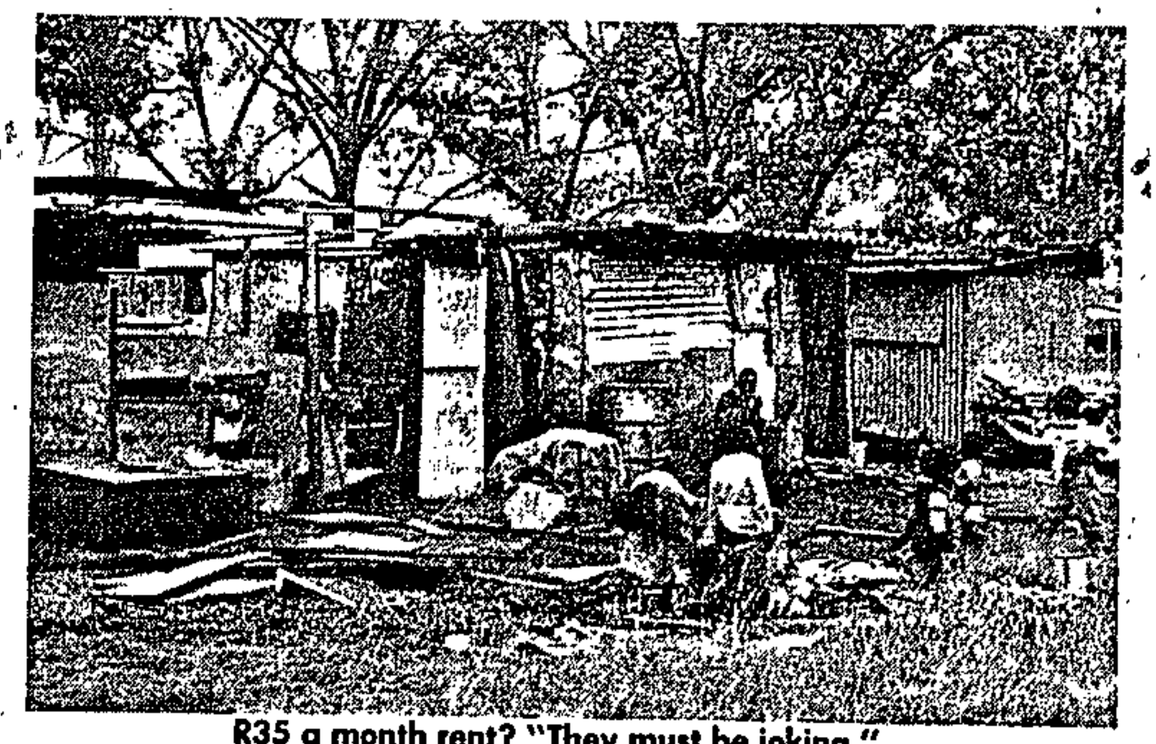
The Student Community Action Group (SCAG) of Nusas has arranged its contribution to the Five Freedom Forum's "101 Ways to End Apartheid" campaign. Adele Kirsten, the Forum's co-ordinating secretary, gives the details.

1988 marks 40 years of Nationalist Party rule. The implementation of apartheid has systematically divided and polarised our society. Today our country is conflict-ridden and marked by violence, injustice and inequality.

For millions of people, a tragic and disastrous manifestation of apartheid has been the cycle of evictions, homelessness, squatting and resettlement. The Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 allocated 13 percent of the land to 80 percent of the population. This was reinforced by the Group Areas Act of 1950.

Since 1960 more than 3,5 million people have been forcibly removed and resettled. Millions are forced to live in the so-called independent homelands which have insufficient resources to support their inhabitants. Forty percent of black South Africans live in urban townships which have inadequate facilities and few amenities.

Instead of trying to address some of these inequalities, in its 1988 Budget the National Party decided to spend less than R3,6 billion on development aid and the creation, training and upgrading of jobs, while more than R8,2 billion (a quarter of the total Budget) was allocated to the army and police.



R35 a month rent? "They must be joking."

Mofolo squatter camp in Soweto came into being in 1986 when people were compelled to move from accommodation in Soweto backyard shacks. As it grew it was given "emergency status" by the Soweto Council, which regards the camp only as a temporary settlement. This is an acknowledgement of the people's presence, but in such a way that it allows the council to avoid providing any services.

The camp population rapidly rose to a 40 000 (the residents' estimate), housed in some 4 500 shacks. The situation with regard to health, cleanliness and services for the protection from infection is scandalous. Sanitation is minimal, with only two taps serving the entire area.

The council provided about 100 "easy loos", but refuses to do anything about rubbish removal. As a result of lack of official support for the community, in the two years of its existence, conditions have deteriorated and the camp has become increasingly unhygienic.

In May last year, the Soweto Council decided that all residents should pay R35 a month per shack. Many residents were very angry; their sentiments are reflected in the following comment made by one of them:

"The council says they won't resettle us ... We have been here since 1986. Still we have no houses. The council demands rent from us to stay in our shacks. They have no right to do this. We built our shacks without any help from them. They don't give us water.... Many of us are unemployed and those of us who have jobs get very low wages. Now they want money from us. They must be joking!"

Conditions in Mofolo and many similar communities are a direct result of the apartheid system. Identifying this, SCAG offered to work with the residents to address their problems. Extensive talks were held to determine this contribution.

A direct result of these talks was a joint residents' and SCAG clean-up operation. Through this involvement SCAG members recognised that the material resources, privileges and skills which they have as white South Africans can be used to alleviate the plight of those suffering under the burden of apartheid. SCAG is concerned to work with the community, not for them.

Responding to Mofolo residents' request that the broader white community should be exposed to squatter conditions, this second combined clean-up will enable whites to contribute in a practical way to improving the area and to give tangible support to the residents.

VITAL ROLE

This event is part of the "101 Ways to End Apartheid" campaign which allows white South Africans the chance to become involved in practical community activities in a rewarding way. Experiences such as these facilitate harmonious interracial contact and build non-racialism.

The Five Freedoms Forum and SCAG believe that organisations and individuals have a vital role to play in bringing an end to the conflict in this country. Only with the abolition of apartheid can we truly begin to solve our problems. However, as ordinary people working together we can become involved in practical and legal actions to begin this process.

Members of the public who would like to take part in the Mofolo squatter camp clean-up should meet on Saturday at 8 am outside the Students' Union Building at Wits. There will be a short talk before the group sets off to Soweto. Please dress appropriately and bring empty refuse bags, gloves, spades and your own lunch.

We shall be grateful if any companies with trucks, bulldozers or refuse bags would offer assistance.

For more information contact Bronwen Levy and Mike Avidan, 716-3101 (day) or Bronwen Levy, 442-7997 (evenings).

The science of inventing words

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor of The Times

Contrary to the gloom of language reactionaries and dyslexicographers, much of the new jargon that our scientists coin is vivid and charming.

Physicists seem particularly inventive. "Charm" itself is a happy neologism to describe the property of some elementary particles proposed to account for unexpectedly long lifetimes compared with other particles of matter. I like it.

"Quark" has literary origins, being associated with "Three quarks for Muster Mark!" in "Finnegans Wake". Murray Gell-Mann, who introduced the idea of "strangeness", and thence quarks, explained in a private letter to the editor of the Supplement of the Oxford English Dictionary how he hit upon the word:

"I employed the sound 'quork' for several weeks in 1963 before noticing 'quark' in 'Finnegans Wake', which I had perused from time to

your speciality too seriously to coin good jargon. Here is another American physicist who is in the process of using these qualities as namegiver. He has discovered that the motion in certain superfluids is damped by tiny whirlpools, and he wants to name these whirlpools "boojums". You remember:

But oh, beamish nephew,
beware of the day,
If your Snark be a Boojum!
For then
You will softly and suddenly
vanish away,
And never be met with again!

Paradoxically, it is the specialists in non-physical disciplines, chaps who work with words rather than things, who are less good at devising ... priorated ... the parameters, structure and function of society's organisations."

But let us not bounce into the philistine reaction that all sociology is useless because some sociologese is vacuous. In spite of his jargon, even Talcott Parsons has added to the sum of human knowledge in his efforts to create a general theory of social action that will encompass, as a logical system, all dimensions of human behaviour from individual motivations to macrosocial processes.

It is catching, you see. And do not forget that Max Weber's sociologese has given us two of the most popular new words of our century, status and charisma (originally from religious jargon).

Children sleep out in cold after shacks are smashed

Several shanties in Mzimhlope, Soweto, have been demolished — leaving 12 people, including children, one only two months old, sleeping in the open veld in freezing winter weather.

The Diepmeadow town clerk could not be contacted late yesterday for comment. Two squatters who contacted The Saturday Star said the people had been sleeping in the open after the council security police broke down their shacks.

The squatters wish only their first names to be used for fear of repercussions.

According to "Peter", a father of three children ranging from eight to 15 years of age, squatters built the shacks over four years ago when they were forced to leave the Meadowlands Hostel because of infighting.

"We paid R35 rent for living in appaling conditions at the hostel, never knowing when we would be knifed from behind.

"There was a lot of friction between those who lived in the single quarters and those who lived in the transit family area — which was only meant to be a temporary measure for people who were moved from other areas.

"The transit area still remains to this day.

"In the shanties we built we had no water or toilet facilities, but at least we were safe. Now we have nowhere."

A second squatter, "Moses", a father of two, says that in March 1987 they were visited by the police. Their names and details were taken.

They were promised houses in the near future.

"But the police arrived on May 3 and half demolished some of the 10 shacks", says "Moses".

"We asked even to pay rent to stay, but the council refused to let us do so."

Says "Peter": "They broke the things inside our house and told us to demolish everything and move away."

According to "Moses" the council police visited the camp again on Wednesday this week and demolished more shacks. Only two were left standing.

"My watch and R346 in cash was stolen while my shack was being knocked down," he says.

According to figures released recently by the Soweto Town Council, there are over 156 000 squatters living in shanties in Soweto alone.

SOWETAN, Monday, May 16, 1988

Legal action is planned

LAST DAY FOR ALEX SQUATTERS

Sowetan 14/5/88 310

MORE than 200 families squatting in two camps in Alexandra township were last week given an ultimatum to vacate the premises by today because the council wants to develop the area.

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

The acting town clerk, Mr Piet Genis, said the camp belonged to a private contractor who had an agreement with the council. The area was earmarked for development and there was nothing the council could do.

The private contractor, Mr Mick Bartmann, undertook to demolish the camp by the end of April, Mr Genis said. As far as the council was concerned the contractor was responsible for accommodation for the families.

Mrs Gladys Dondolo, a chairperson of the Squatters' Committee, said they were considering taking legal action to stop the demolition of the camps.

Mr Bartmann said all his efforts to convince the council to buy the place from him in order to accommodate the families have drawn a blank. He was left with no option but to destroy the camps.

"It is upsetting for me to do this. I feel pity for these destitute people who will be left homeless with their minor children."

Shack dwellers teargassed

Staff Reporters

Confusion reigned yesterday at Weiler's Farm emergency camp, 30 km south of Johannesburg, when police fired teargas to disperse a group of shack dwellers on their way to a court case in De Deur.

Members of the Weiler's Farm community said a crowd of about 600 was waiting for transport at about 8.15 am when police arrived and warned them to disperse.

They had not done so when the time limit expired and teargas was fired into the crowd, members of the community said.

After they regrouped, teargas was again fired, and sjamboks were used on a section of the crowd, witnesses said.

Two police dogs were used and a youth was reported to be badly bitten during the chaos.

Community leaders insisted that members of the crowd had not been violent.

The crowd was eventually given an extended period to disperse, and did so.

"A lot of people were prepared to go (to the court hearing) and listen to what their colleagues were arrested for. They felt the rent was too high," a member of the Weiler's Farm Committee said.

A woman from the community stressed that the rent of R35 imposed since March had confused people.

A police spokesman confirmed that police had used tearsmoke during an incident of unrest at Weiler's Farm yesterday morning.

Squatters in court for failing to pay rent

Vereeniging Bureau

Three members of the Weiler's Farm Committee were released on bail of R50 each after appearing briefly in the De Deur Magistrate's Court yesterday morning on charges of failing to pay their rent at the squatter camp last month.

Mr Joseph Mofokeng and Mr Jacob Khumalo pleaded not guilty before Mr S P Nolte, and Mr George Polisi pleaded guilty to the charge.

No evidence was led.

The case has been referred to the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court and was postponed to June 1.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre will be appearing for the defence.

About 100 squatter camp residents turned out at the court in support of the accused.

Squatters face a homeless winter

Star 17/7/87 3/0

By Adele Baleta

About 200 Alexandra township families face a homeless winter after a town council order that two old hostels in which they are squatting must be demolished.

The managing director of the Springbok Patrol security firm and owner of the buildings, Mr Mick Bartmann, has ignored an April deadline to destroy the hostels because he refuses "to take the roof" from over the heads of the squatters.

Three years ago the hostels accommodated the security firm's guards.

"I moved my staff and offered to sell the hostels to the council who were planning to upgrade the area. I also suggested subdividing the hostels to make homes for families. These options were rejected.

"I was told to knock down the buildings, but the squatters moved in. We will not proceed for humanitarian reasons."

The acting town clerk of Alexandra, Mr Piet Genis, said that, as far as he was aware, the structures were empty.

In May 1987 the security firm stated that the buildings were empty and demolition could go ahead.

Official standards may go in fight to cope

230 000 squatters living in Soweto

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

An estimated 230 000 squatters were living in illegal structures in Soweto, Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council chairman Mr Gerrit Bornman said yesterday.

Speaking at the RSC's monthly meeting, he referred to the "tremedous problem" faced by the authorities and said a conservative estimate was that more than 5,5 people were living in each squatter home.

A total of 39 860 structures had been counted in: Diepmeadow (7 239), Mshenguville (2 500), Macdonald's Farm (900), Fred Clarke (600), Dlamini 1 and 2 (588), Dlamini 3 (360), Tladi emergency camp (500), Orlando East (21 000), Protea South (803), Racecourse (870), Dobsonville (2 300) and other areas. (2 200).

There were an estimated 2 650 squatter structures in Alexandra — an increase of 150 since the last count.

An information item on the agenda spelt out the powers which have been transferred by the Government to provincal administrators.

DRAFT BILL

These are listed in a draft Bill amending the Illegal Squatting Act of 1951.

Emergency camps — now dubbed transit camps — may be established or closed down by the authorities on public or private land.

Building standards may be waived and only safety standards will be enforced.

In certain transit camps even the health laws may be suspended if necessary.

Land for controlled squatting — so-called designated areas — will eventually be established on a permanent basis, but, initially, provisions under the Slums Act, township planning, building standards, township establishment and building standards will not apply in these areas.

Mortimer to be new chief

Municipal Reporter

Dr John Mortimer, acting chief executive officer of the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council since its inception last year, has been appointed chief executive officer.

He worked for the Johannesburg City Council from 1956, where he became the chief director of technical services before transferring to the RSC.

There were six applicants for his present job.

RSC to act against levy defaulters

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council plans to get tough on turnover and payroll levy defaulters.

About 9 000 levy payers who failed to submit assessments in February and about 15 000 defaulters in March this year are to be investigated by the Receiver of Revenue.

RSC chairman, Mr Gerrit Bornman, said at the monthly meeting last night that the Receiver was now authorised to act on behalf of the RSC.

The RSC planned to increase its own inspectorate as well as relying on the 18 teams which the Receiver already had in the field to collect outstanding contributions due under the two levies.

The RSCs total income at the end of April amounted to R65 million, an increase of R91 million on the March total of R56 million. An amount of R47 million of an anticipated budget of R75 million has already been allocated.

SQUATTERS NOW TOP 230 000

Sowetan 20/5/88

(310)

AN estimated 230 000 squatters were living in illegal structures in Soweto, Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council chairman Mr Gerrit Bornman said this week.

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IT'S ALL IN THE HEAD

INNOVATIVE hair styles are on view at an Orlando East cultural club function. Showing theirs are Hazel Mthethwa (left) and Nokuthula Khumalo.

Diepkloof rent talks

Sowetan 20/5/88

By MOKGADI PELA

REPRESENTATIVES of various zones in Diepkloof will meet on Sunday to consolidate their views following a meeting called by Mr David Thebehali early last month to resolve the rent crisis.

At the meeting which was held outside the Diepkloof Hall because of a large turn-out of residents, Mr Thebehali, who is also the administrator of Diepmeadow, called on the residents to pay the amounts they had been paying before the rent boycott.

Mr Thebehali also said that the arrears could be paid off over a five-year period. The instalment would be agreed between the resident concerned and the council, he said.

Mr Muntu Myeza, coordinator of the residents' meetings, said: "What has been happening is that the various zones in Diepkloof have held meetings to discuss proposals to the resolution of the rent dispute."

"Presently, all but one have discussed this issue. Zone 4 residents will hold theirs on Saturday," Mr Myeza said.



DAVID Thebehali

RAADSKENNISGEWING 32 VAN 1988

WET OP DIE VOORKOMING VAN ONREGMATIGE PLAKKERY, 1951 (WET 52 VAN 1951)

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Administrateur sy goedkeuring geheg het aan die wysiging van die Regulasies betreffende die Weiler's Farm Noodkamp, soos in die Bylae hierby uiteengesit.

PB 16-2-1

BYLAE

WYSIGING VAN REGULASIES BETREFFENDE WEILER'S FARM NOODKAMP

Algemene verduildelikende nota:

[ ] Woorde in vet druk tussen vierkantige hake dui skrappings uit die bestaande regulasies aan.

—— Woorde met 'n volstreep daaronder, dui invoegings in bestaande regulasies aan.

Aanstelling en werksaamhede van superintendent

2. (1) Die **[Administrateur]** Streekdirekteur stel 'n superintendent vir die noodkamp aan.

(2) Die superintendent moet, onderworpe aan die beheer en voorskrifte van die Administrateur—

(a) die noodkamp ooreenkomstig die bepalings van hierdie Regulasies administreer en bestuur;

(b) enige skriftelike klagte of aanbeveling wat van tyd tot tyd deur 'n geregistreerde bewoner aan hom gerig word aan die streekdirekteur voorlê;

(c) vir die inligting van die geregistreerde bewoners 'n afskrif van hierdie Regulasies in beide amptelike tale op die kennisgewingbord by sy kantoor in die noodkamp laat vertoon en dit in stand hou.

Dienstegelde

25. (1) Die volgende gelde word maandeliks vooruit of op die sewende dag van die maand deur die bewoner van die betrokke gebou betaal ten opsigte van dienste en huisvesting in die noodkamp:

(a) R35,00 indien slegs die bewoner en sy gesin die betrokke gebou bewoon;

(b) 'n bykomende bedrag van R10,00 ten opsigte van elke loseerder wat die gebou bewoon.

(2) Die gelde in subregulasie (1) beoog, word betaal by die kantoor van die superintendent in die noodkamp met ingang van die eerste dag van die derde maand wat volg op die datum waarop hierdie Regulasies in werking tree.

(3) Die bedrag in paragraaf (a) van subregulasies (1) genoem sowel as die bedrag in paragraaf (b) van daardie subregulasie genoem, word verhoog met R5,00 per maand vanaf 1 January **[1988]** 1989.

Aanstelling van komitee en voorsitter

27. (1) Die **[Administrateur]** Streekdirekteur kan 'n komitee vir die noodkamp instel.

(2) Binne 30 dae nadat 'n komitee ingevolge subregulasie (1) ingestel is, verdeel die superintendent die noodkamp in die aantal wyke, geografies of andersins, wat hy na goeddunke bepaal.

(3) Die komitee bestaan uit twee lede vir elke wyk wat deur die superintendent aangestel word uit geregistreerde bewoners of meerderjarige lede van hulle gesinne.

BOARD NOTICE 32 OF 1988

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL SQUATTING ACT, 1951 (ACT 52 OF 1951)

It is hereby notified that the Administrator has assented to the amendment to the Regulations concerning the Weiler's Farm Emergency Camp, as set out in the Schedule hereto.

PB 16-2-1

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS CONCERNING WEILER'S FARM EMERGENCY CAMP

General explanatory note:

[ ] Works in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

—— Words underlined with solid line indicate insertions in exsiting enactments.

Appointment and functions of superintendent

2. (1) The **[Administrator]** Regional Director shall appoint a superintendent for the emergency camp.

(2) The superintendent shall, subject to the control and directives of the Administrators—

(a) administer and manage the emergency camp in accordance with these Regulations;

(b) submit to the regional director any written complaint or recommendation which is delivered to him from time to time by a registered occupier;

(c) for the information of the registered occupiers display and maintain copies of these regulations in both official languages on the notice board at his office in the emergency camp.

Service charges

25. (1) The following charges shall be paid monthly in advance or on before the seventh day of the month by the occupier of the building concerned in respect of services and accommodation in the emergency camp:

(a) R35.00 if only the occupier and his family reside in the building;

(b) an additional amount of R10,00 in respect of every lodger residing in the building.

(2) The charges referred to in subregulation (1) shall be paid at the office of the superintendent in the emergency camp with effect from the first day of the third month after the date upon which these Regulations take effect.

(3) The amount referred to in paragraph (a) of subregulation (1) as wekk as the amount referred to in paragraph (b) of that regulation shall be increased by R5,00 per month with effect from 1 January **[1988]** 1989.

Appointment of committee and chairman

27. (1) The **[Administrator]** Regional Director may establish a committee for the emergency camp.

(2) The superintendent shall, within 30 days after the establishment of a committee in terms of subregulation (1), divide the emergency camp into the number of wards, geographical or otherwise, he deems fit.

(3) The committee shall consist of two members for each ward appointed by the superintendent from the registered occupiers or adult members of their families.

(4) Binne 30 dae vanaf die datum waarop hy die noodkamp ingevolge subregulasie (2) verdeel het, plaas die superintendent 'n kennisgewing in beide amptelike tale op die kennisgewingbord by sy kantoor in die noodkamp waarin—

(a) geregistreerde bewoners en meerderjarige lede van hulle gesinne versoek word om binne 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 'n datum in die kennisgewing gemeld, uit hulle geledere skriftelik—

(i) 'n maksimum van twee lede per wyk te nomineer om as lede van die komitee te dien;

(ii) een van die persone wat hulle ingevolge subparagraaf (i) nomineer, te nomineer om as voorsitter van die komitee op te tree; en

(b) die bewoners en lede van hulle gesinne in paragraaf (a) beoog, verwittig word dat die skriftelike nominasies by die kantoor van die superintendent ingehandig moet word.

(5) Die geregistreerde bewoners en lede van hulle gesinne kan benoemings inhandig ten opsigte van elke wyk, ongeag of hulle onder die wyk ressorteer al dan nie.

(6) Binne 14 dae nadat die tydperk beoog in subregulasie (4) (a) verstryk het, stel die superintendent—

(a) ten opsigte van elke wyk, die twee persone wat die meeste nominasies ontvang het, aan om as lede van die komitee te dien.

(b) die persoon wat die meeste nominasies as voorsitter ontvang het, of, in die geval waar slegs een persoon as voorsitter genomineer is, sodanige persoon aan om as die voorsitter van die komitee te dien.

(7) Waar daar ingevolge subregulasie (4) (a) (i)—

(a) geen nominasies ontvang is nie;

(b) geen nominasies ten opsigte van 'n bepaalde wyk ontvang is nie;

stel die superintendent 'n geregistreerde bewoner of meerderjarige lid van sy gesin wat, na die mening van die superintendent bevoeg is om as lid van die komitee te dien, aan om elke vakature te vul.

(8) Waar daar ingevolge subregulasie (4) (a) (ii) geen nominasies ontvang is nie, verkies die lede van die komitee by wyse van geheime stemming tydens hulle eerste vergadering, 'n voorsitter uit hulle geledere.

Ampstermyn van lede van komitee

28. 'n Lid van die komitee beklee sy amp vir die tydperk wat die **[Administrateur]** Streekdirekteur bepaal: Met dien verstande dat—

(1) die **[Administrateur]** Streekdirekteur te eniger tyd 'n lid van sy amp kan onthef by wyse van 'n skriftelike kennisgewing gerig aan die lid en afgelewer by sy laaste bekende adres in die noodkamp indien—

(a) die **[Administrateur]** Streekdirekteur van mening is dat sy voortgesette lidmaatskap van die komitee, regstreeks of onregstreeks—

(i) lei of kan lei of aanleiding gee of kan gee tot versteuring van die rus en goeie orde in die kamp;

(ii) die uitoefening van die bevoegdhede of die vervulling van die funksies of pligte van die komitee verhinder;

(b) daar 'n gegronde rede daarvoor bestaan;

(2) 'n lid sy amp ontruim indien hy sonder die toestemming van die komitee van drie vergaderings van die komitee afwesig was.

(4) The superintendent shall, within 30 days from the date upon which he has divided the emergency camp into wards in terms of subregulation (2), post a notice in both official languages on the notice board at his office in the emergency camp in terms of which—

(a) registered occupiers and adult members of their families are requested to nominate, within a period of 30 days from a date stated in the notice, in writing from their ranks

(i) a maximum of two members per ward to serve as members of the committee;

(ii) one of the persons nominated by them in terms of subparagraph (i) to act as chairman of the committee; and

(b) the occupiers and members of their families referred to in paragraph (a) are informed that written nominations shall be lodged at the office of the superintendent.

(5) The registered occupiers and members of their families may lodge nominations in respect of every ward, irrespective of whether they reside within the ward concerned.

(6) Within 14 days after expiration of the period referred to in subregulation (4) (a), the superintendent shall appoint—

(a) in respect of each ward, the two persons who received the most nominations to serve as members of the committee;

(b) the person who received the most nominations for chairman, or in the event of only one person having been nominated as chairman such person, to serve as chairman of the committee.

(7) If in terms of subregulation (4) (a) (i)—

(a) no nominations are received;

(b) no nominations are received in respect of a particular ward;

the superintendent shall appoint a registered occupier or adult, member of his family, who, in the opinion of the superintendent, is fit to serve as a member of the committee to fill each vacancy.

(8) If no nominations are received in terms of subregulation (4) (a) (ii), the members of the committee shall by secret ballot during their first meeting elect a chairman from their ranks.

Tenure of office of members of committee

28. A member of the committee shall occupy his office for the period determined by the **[Administrator]** Regional Director: Provided that—

(1) the **[Administrator]** Regional Director may at any time remove a member from his office by means of a written notice addressed to the member and delivered at his last-known address in the emergency camp, if—

(a) the **[Administrator]** Regional Director is of the opinion that his continued membership of the committee, directly or indirectly—

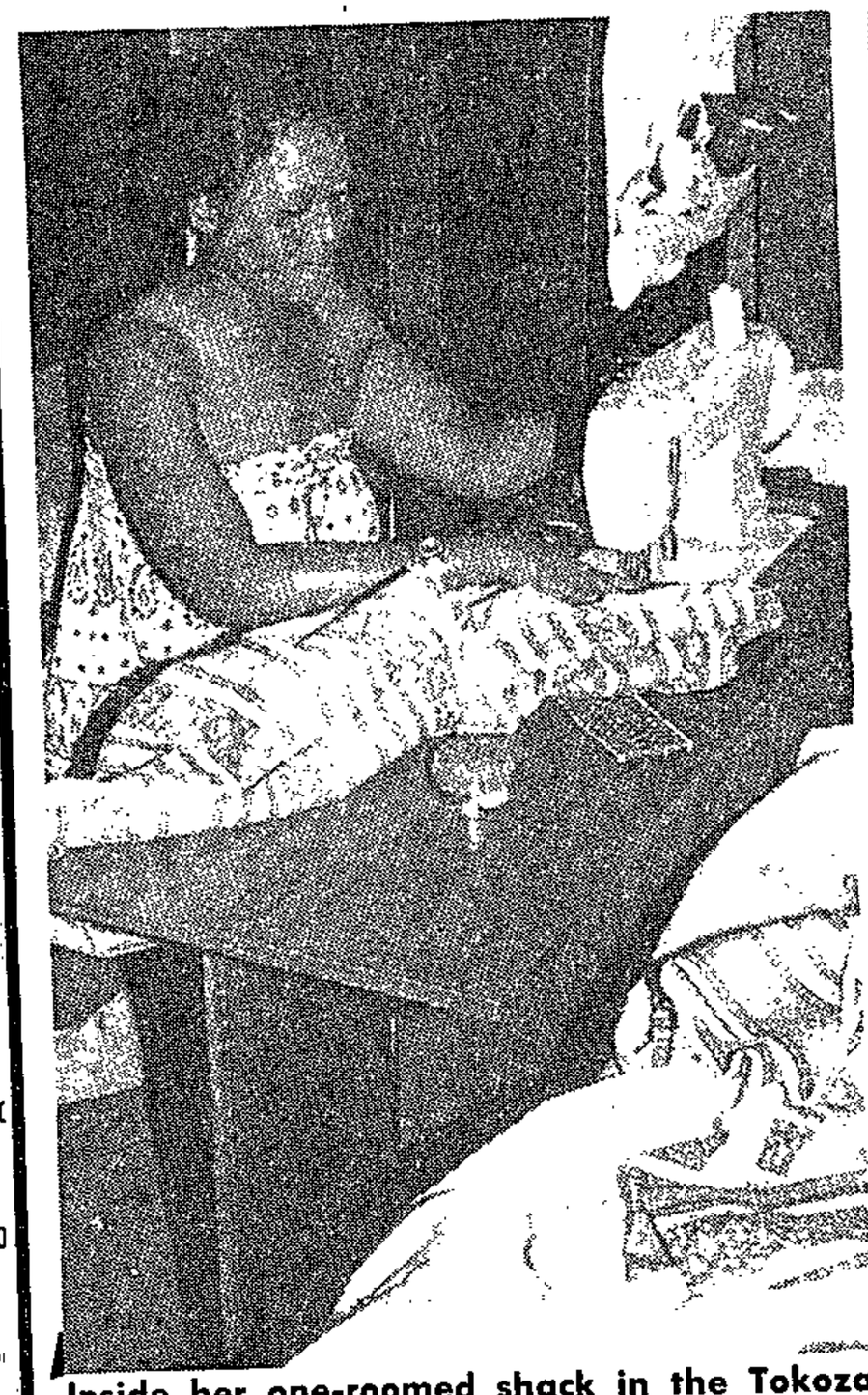
(i) leads to or may lead to or causes or may cause a disturbance of the peace and good order in the camp;

(ii) obstruct the exercise of the powers or the execution of the functions or duties of the committee;

(b) there is good cause for such dismissal;

(2) a member shall vacate his office if he is absent from three meetings of the committee without the leave of the committee.

We live in fear, we swelter, we freeze



Inside her one-roomed shack in the Tokoza squatter camp ... Mrs Elizabeth Ngwenya at her sewing machine.

More people in South Africa live in shacks than in formal housing.

They are ordinary people who, through circumstances, have been denied the opportunity of owning a home, so they erect makeshift shelters for themselves and their families.

A talk given at Alberton Catholic Church by Mrs Elizabeth Ngwenya and Mrs Madgelene Molefe, who live in a squatter camp at Tokoza on the East Rand, underlines the suffering of tens of thousands of homeless in South Africa.

Mrs Ngwenya, a mother of three and their sole breadwinner, supports her family by mending and making pinafores for township women. Mrs Molefe, her sister, has a working husband and five school-going children.

Winnie Graham reports the stories of the two women in their own words.

We will try and tell you about some of the things at the squatter camp in Tokoza.

It is hard to live in a shack. There is little space between the shacks, and the shacks are small. A shack is just one small room which we use for cooking, sleeping, washing and, at night, also as a toilet.

As there is no electricity, we use candles and some of use have paraffin lamps. It is very dark outside and we are afraid to go out at night. Women get raped and men get robbed.

For cooking we use a paraffin stove and sometimes a coal fire. The paraffin stove can cause big trouble. Recently three shacks burnt down because a stove exploded in one shack. Because they were so close, two other shacks also burnt down.

The coal fires we use not only for cooking but to keep us warm in winter. They make much smoke in the shack so we become dizzy.

In our camp there are many hungry children. Many people are without jobs and cannot buy food. There are only small shops in the camp and food costs much. To go to cheap shops in Alberton is too far and costs too much money. We try to help one another.

Many people do not have work. To make money to live, people run shebeens. The shebeens cause many problems because people drink too much. Many people fight and there is much noise.

Many people in the camp get sick. The children are not strong. Some have sores on their bodies and many have died. To go to a doctor costs a lot.

The few toilets at the squatter camp stink because they are cleaned only once a week. Sometimes they overflow, especially during the holidays and at weekends. Because of the state of the toilets, and because they are so few, we are forced to use the veld.

Water is a big problem. We get water from the showers at the men's hostels. We have to carry the buckets of water back to the camp, which is far to walk when the bucket is heavy.

The soldiers bring some water to the camp but it is just a little for all the people.

When it rains it is bad. The zincs (corrugated iron) leak. Our furniture, clothes, blankets and food get wet. We cannot sleep because the floor is covered in water. We just sit all night.

In cold weather it is ice cold in the shacks. And when it is hot, it is so hot even our candles melt and fall down. At night we have to leave our doors open and even then the water just runs off us.

These are some of the problems in our life. There are many others. The people in the shacks love one another and we help each other. We keep whistles and if anyone has a problem, we just blow these and the people in the shacks come quickly to help us.

We share our food. If someone dies we help with the funeral. We give money to pay for the coffin.

Reserve Bank building in Group Areas Act not was an interim measure sentative of all people.



ONE of the families evicted yesterday in Doornfontein sitting on a pavement.

80 families evicted

EIGHTY families were yesterday morning evicted from two houses in Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

Some of them are believed to have been arrested but Jeppe police could not confirm this.

The families have been occupying the old and dilapidated houses for the past two years and were paying a monthly rent of between R100 and R200.

One of the houses, a double-storey, has no windows.

One of the tenants, Mr Ishmael Lekganyane from Pietersburg, said a messenger of court, accompanied by SAP members, first arrived on Monday and evicted 33 people from both houses.

"The families went back into the houses. Yesterday morning, we were all evicted and threatened with arrest if we defied the eviction orders," said Mr Lekganyane.

Most of the families said they did not have any alternative accommodation. All come from areas outside Johannesburg.

Police have denied any knowledge of the evictions.

A spokesman for the Johannesburg Central Advice Centre, Mr Ayub Mayet, said his organisation, which approached the families after their families after their eviction, will seek legal advice on the matter.

"The tenants were not told why they were evicted," he said.

The owner of the houses, a Mr Rust, could not be traced yesterday. The families said they have not seen him since they were evicted.

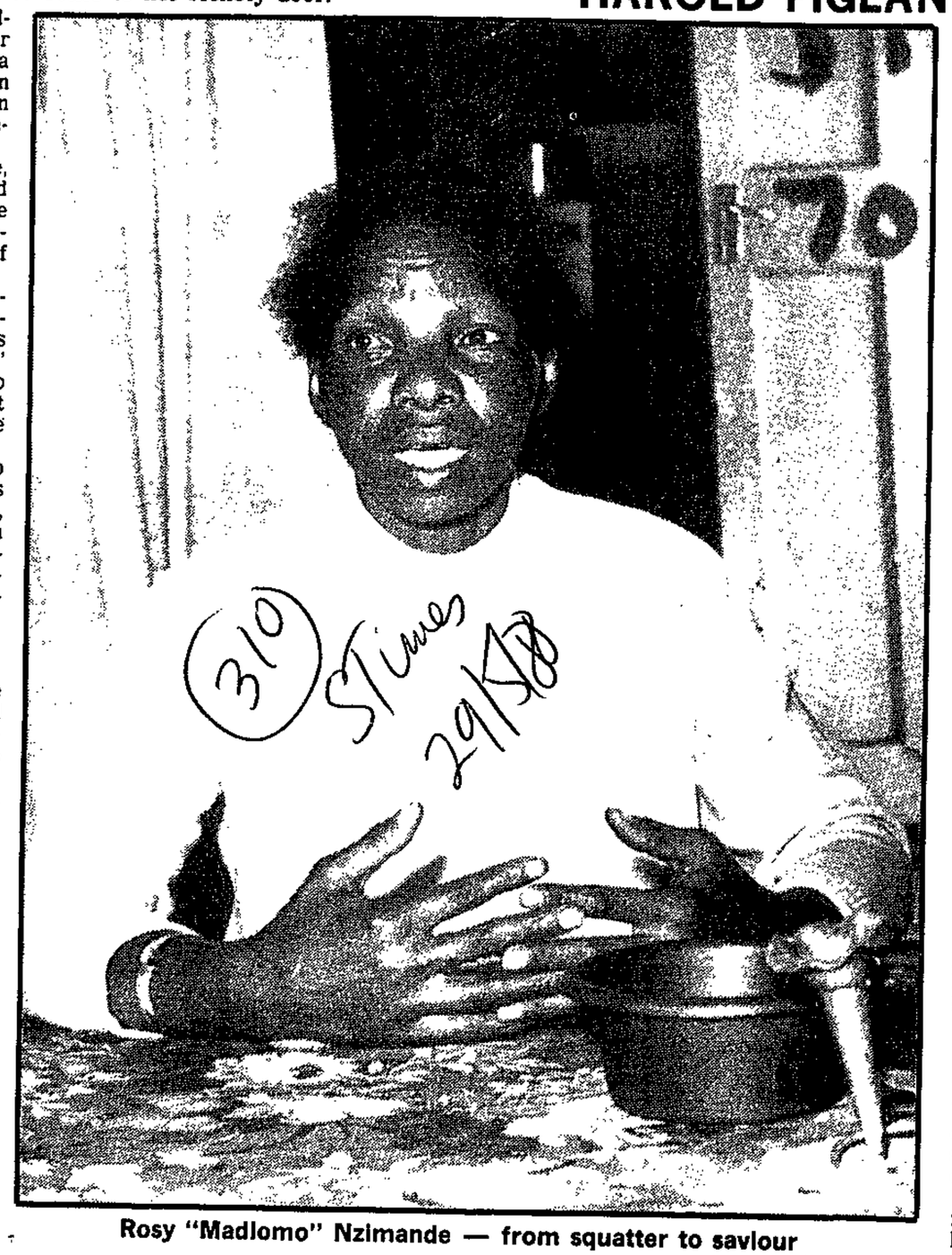
MOTHER THERESA OF THE SHACKS

MRS ROSY NZIMANDE, chief squatter of sorts, is something of a local Mother Theresa to the bustling Crossroads squatter settlement on the East Rand.

She will tell you about the squatter who came from Mozambique after losing his family in a Renamo attack; the entire family that doesn't have an income because of pass problems; the families plucked from the jaws of deportation through legal assistance — and a lot more. The whole community's woes seem to come to her rickety door.

Report:
MANDLA TYALA

Picture:
HAROLD FIGLAN



Rosy "Madlomo" Nzimande — from squatter to saviour

Even men, burly breadwinners, come with their problems — adding to hers, a woman with five children and a husband who has been unemployed since he was retrenched three years ago.

You will, on a lighter side, learn how well co-ordinated squatters' daily lives can be behind the facade of a seemingly impenetrable mass of wood-and-iron structures.

Mrs Nzimande, a 43-year-old former furniture saleslady, has become known as the camp's "social worker" — the caring woman who picks up children in the street and takes them home to care for them.

Since she gave up her job because of ill health she has devoted, for no personal gain, all her time to humanitarian work in the squatter settlement which nestles just outside Germiston's black township of Katlehong.

Name

She estimates that there are 2 000 structures and about 25 000 residents — "some families have up to 15 members".

The camp is not named after Cape Town's world famous settlement, she explains, but is known as Crossroads simply because it is "across the road" from Katlehong.

Madlomo, as Mrs Nzimande is affectionately known to her fellow squatters, moved to the camp four years ago when her family became too big for the room in which they were lodging in Katlehong.

They have never owned a proper home. When they got married they did not qualify for a council house because her husband was born in Johannesburg and, according to council regulations at that time, he had to work in Germiston for a stipulated length of time before he could qualify.

The house could not be registered in the Germiston-born wife's name because she was unemployed.

"When they finally removed that requirement there were no houses left. Instead there was overcrowding all over," she says.

Madlomo ran a legal tuck shop until her R60-a-month licence was cancelled and stocks she estimated at R2 000 were confiscated by council officials. Left without an income and seven mouths to feed, she turned to peddling booze.

How does one get to become a member of a squatter settlement?

"Most camps have elected committees," Madlomo says. "We have a committee of 13 that is headed by an induna. These people who hold office, in the case of Crossroads for a year, vet applications and allocate stands. For instance, we prefer to accept families instead of single people. We do not take people who caused problems where they were staying and left in an unpleasant manner."

The committee also mediates in squabbles. "We reprimand some people and refer serious cases to the police."

One of the committee members is an inspector whose function is to go around the camp looking for places of particular untidiness.

"For instance, although we do not have toilets, we do not allow children to relieve themselves in the street. There is an area in the bushes set aside for that.

"When the inspector finds that people have been heaping rubbish where they shouldn't, he blows a whistle and all residents come out with shovels."

The whistle plays a very important part in their lives. For one thing, Madlomo believes, it has managed to bring down the crime rate in the camp.

"All households have whistles. If a resident is attacked at night a whistle is blown and we all come out with sticks to investigate.

Signals

"Despite high unemployment here, people now do not go out to mug people at night because they know they might end up facing a lot of sticks."

Madlomo says the whistle is used to give different signals — to call a meeting, for example. Meetings, before they were banned, were held frequently and the most important was the annual gathering to elect new committee members.

She says there has been little change to their lives since the much-vaunted abolition of influx control regulations.

"We still get raids. People also get stopped in the street. But instead of a pass, the police now demand to see an ID book."

Jobs

The pass was provided for by Section 10 of the Black Urban Areas Act, which gave disqualified blacks permission to be in an area for a certain period.

"We find now that people from the homelands seldom have pass problems when they come here to look for work, although some of those from the Transkei still get sent back for citizenship certificates when they lose their jobs.

Meanwhile, with the others it's a question of going to Market Street (Johannesburg) to find another job."

Crossroads, which was started in 1983 by squatter families who were forced off private property, has been growing so rapidly that shack numbers have had to be changed on three occasions.

Madlomo's shack started off as No 84. New squatters came and there were many No 84s. She had to change her number to 317, and on the day we interviewed her the shack number had just been changed to 700.

She says there is presently a heavy influx of new squatters, since Indians and coloureds are presently being removed from a section of Germiston to Eden Park and people who were boarding in their backyards are finding themselves homeless.

There is no water in the camp. The authorities provide a water tank that comes twice a day. In between, residents have to walk to a nearby hostel to draw water or pay vendors 50 cents for a 20-litre container.

As we converse, Madlomo's husband Moses and a friend come home after yet another unsuccessful job-hunting expedition. Their shoes are worn from beating the same path everyday.

Recounting the events of the day, they say they were in a crowd that had to be put to flight with dogs when too many jobseekers converged on one company's gates.

Another resident drops in to check the mail. Out of concern, Madlomo says she went to the local post office and offered her services as the squatters' mail lady after realising how sorely they needed the service.

"I used to go to the post office to fetch the mail and deliver it door-to-door. But since the change of house numbers I just bring it home and people come here to fetch it. I still deliver telegrams and express mail."

The woes of an entire community arrive at squatter Rosy's door

CITY PRESS, May 29, 1988



ıool, what can a boy do?

Rietvlei gets shack settlement

It may be remote, but residents are not being hassled

By REVELATION NTOULA

A NEW shack settlement has mushroomed on the outskirts of Kagiso, near Krugersdorp.

What makes the Rietvlei settlement unique is that it is remotely situated – about eight kilometres from the nearest main road, between Randfontein and Johannesburg. It is also 10km from the Kagiso Town Council offices from where it is administered.

The nearest other dwellings are the Doornkop mine hostels, about four kilometres away.

There are no shops, schools, churches or any recreational facilities for the 500 residents who occupy sites at Rietvlei, having been moved from Big Farm in Roodepoort where they were constantly harassed.

Workers living in the shacks have to walk up to 20km to their work places, such as the Roodepoort mines, because there is no transport.

There is one hand-driven water tap and six toilet units serving the community – thanks to the Black Sash which has made these facilities available.

The Kagiso Council has posted two armed policemen to stand guard and prevent other squatters from secretly putting up shacks without the council's permission.

Amid the unwelcoming sight of the shacks' location and their very appearance, the residents themselves appear content with the fact that, despite their problems, they at least have a place to sleep without being harassed by the authorities. They have made Rietvlei their home.

To make sure that they do not become slaves of their environment, the residents have formed themselves into a unit and meet regularly to examine their needs and see how best they can help themselves.

The first priority the group identified was that of establishing a communally-owned store. Each family has pledged to contribute R10 towards putting up the shop and stocking it.

Proceeds from the shop will be ploughed back into the community – for establishing a little school and perhaps hiring a teacher.

Other projects include the establishment of a church and the purchase of a bakkie, which could be used as a taxi and also to transport requirements like firewood, coal and stock for the shop.

Given the time and the means, the residents believe Rietvlei will eventually be habitable like any other black residential area.



A small child's tummy gets some attention. In the background is one of Rietvlei's six toilet units.

800 at meeting to remove squatters

Star 10/6/89

310

Vereeniging Bureau

An amendment to the Squatting Act is at present under consideration and should be processed through Parliament shortly in an attempt to help alleviate the squatter situation on Weiler's Farm in the Walkerville area.

Making the announcement at an emotionally charged meeting in Walkerville last night Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC, said the amended legislation is aimed at making effective action possible against landowners who allow illegal squatting, as well as persons who illegally occupy land.

The three-hour meeting was attended by about 800 landowners and residents in the area.

Several senior Government officials and MPs, including Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr Leon Wessels, were also present to answer questions on the situation from irate and concerned residents.

The squatter problem involves about 25 000 shacks in the Walkerville area.

Mr Wessels gave the meeting the assurance the issue was receiving urgent attention.

He said the high crime rate in the area does not please him, the SAP, or landowners, and that plans were underway for more effective police patrols in the area.

Professor Fanie Jacobs, Conservative Party MP for Losberg, said the squatter problem has increased tremendously since the abolition of the influx control laws.

Weiler's squatters removal date fixed

SQUATTERS OUT: The 1 910 families of squatters in the Weiler's Farm and Doornkuil area, south of Johannesburg, are to be removed with effect from October 1, it was reaffirmed at a mass meeting held at the Aloe Ridge School in Eikenhof (right).

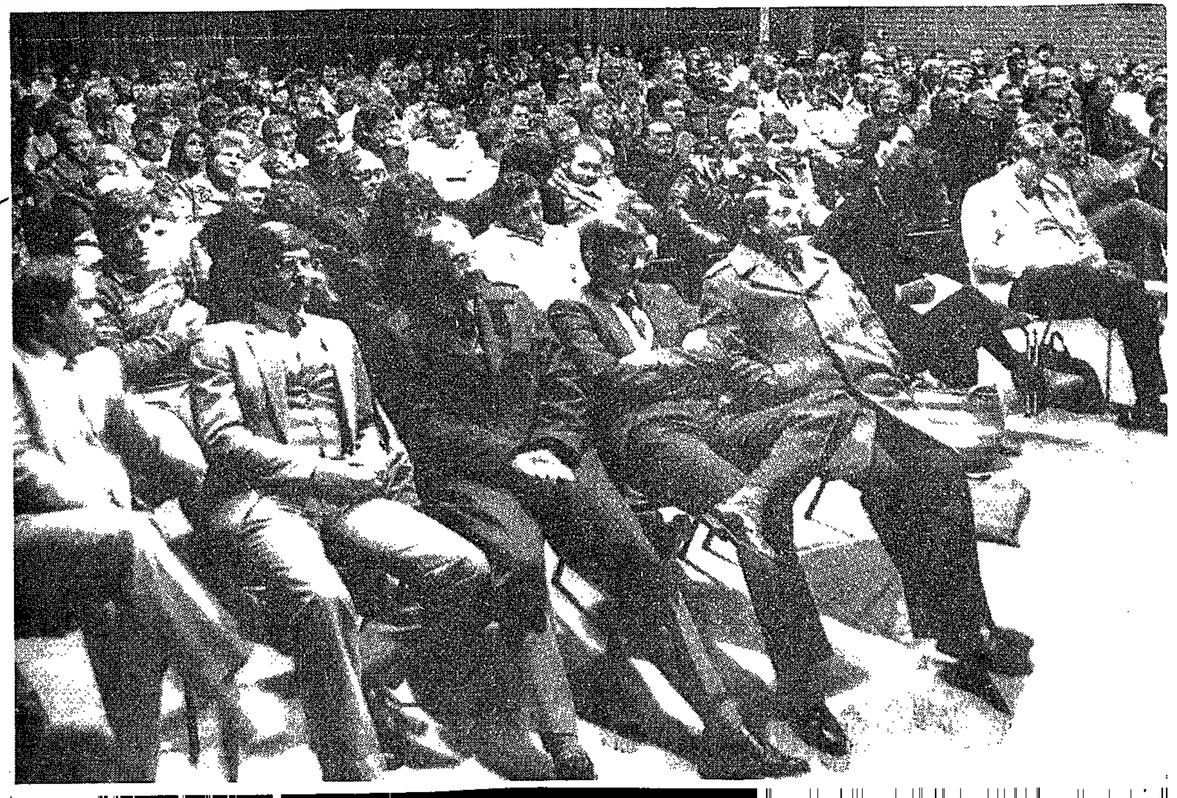
The meeting, organised by the Walkerville Areas Committee and members of the co-ordinating committee for squatters in the Vaal Triangle, was attended by more than 300 people, including senior members of the SA Police and Defence Force as well as MEC Olaus van Zyl, the Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr Leon Wessels and Professor Fanie Jacobs, Conservative Party MP for Losberg.

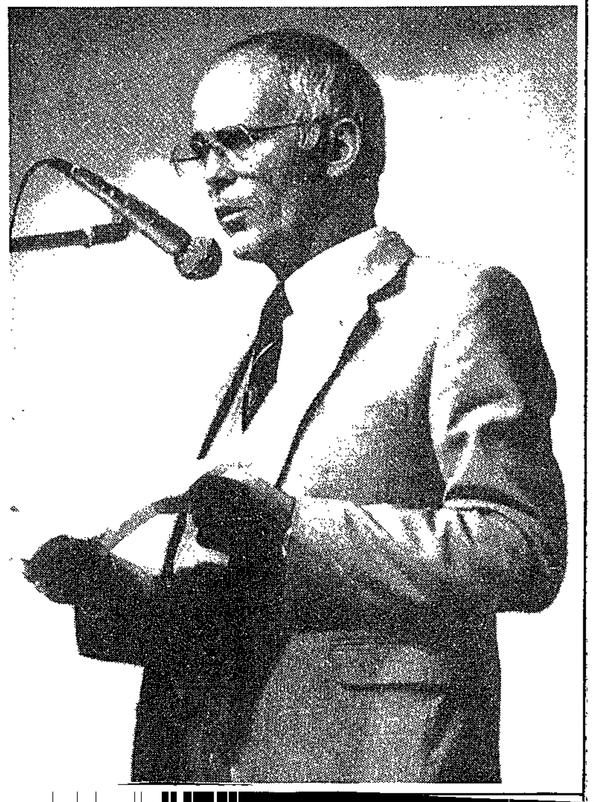
Mr Vic Milne, far right, regional director in the Department of Community Service of the TPA, outlined the strategy for the removal of the squatters.

The Weiler's Farm/Walkerville area is to revert to agricultural usage in terms of the proposals for the PWV area released last week.

The Saturday Star indicated in April that political analysts see Weiler's Farm as an example of how squatting is to be dealt with in the Transvaal. It is the first instance of a group of local squatters getting Government recognition.

● Picture: Karen Fletcher.





'No-name' squatter camp

300 crammed in shacks without water or power

Star 13/6/88

310

By Shehnaaz Bulbulia

A no-name squatter camp — home to at least 300 men, women and children — is growing in Lenasia South.

The camp of 67 shacks is one of four in Lenasia south-west of Johannesburg.

Some of the one-roomed shacks are home to eight people.

The camp has no electricity, water or sewage facilities.

Mrs Maryanne Phetheni (33) and her five children arrived at the camp last November from Ciskei.

She came to Johannesburg to look for work but ended up jobless and without accommodation.

"I had a little money so I bought a bit of zinc, found some plastic and broke some branches to build a house for my children and me," she said.

Except for the few 20 litre oil tins used as stools and a small combustion stove, her room is bare.

"We all squeeze together and sleep. In winter I go mad, I pray to God to show me how to keep my children warm," she said

"When I want food I have to leave my house at 8 am and I get to the shops by 11 am. I leave my children here for the whole day."

Sometimes she said she took on temporary work as a domestic earning R2 a day.

Mrs Pheteni said often she begged for water from the neighbouring community or walked for 10 minutes to a nearby brick factory.

She said: "With all these problem, I still don't want to return to Ciskei because life there is not any better."

She said the squatters came from all over the country.

"We are friends, we don't fight be cause we are suffering," she said.

Mrs Janet Moloi (48), a widow, came to South Africa two years ago from Lesotho. She is a mother of four girls aged eight, six, four and three.

"When I first got here, I slept like a dog. My children and I used to sleep in the open field with just plastic to cover us."

With the little money she earned Mrs Moloi said she built "dog kennels" to keep her babies warm.

"Now, in my shack when it rains or if its cold we squeeze in the corner covering ourselves with a blanket."

She said moles and field mice constantly invade her shack and eat her mealies.

A squatter referred to by other squatters as "Baba" (father) was the first person to erect a shack at this camp.

He arrived in 1986 from the Free State. He said he worked in a factory but had no accommodation.

"I was desperate and needed to shelter my wife and seven children."

"The land was bare then, slowly people came. I could not chase them away because they were suffering just like me."

Last month Mr John Zazam from Ciskei burnt to death when his shack caught on fire, "Baba" said.

He added that municipal workers often came to the camp.

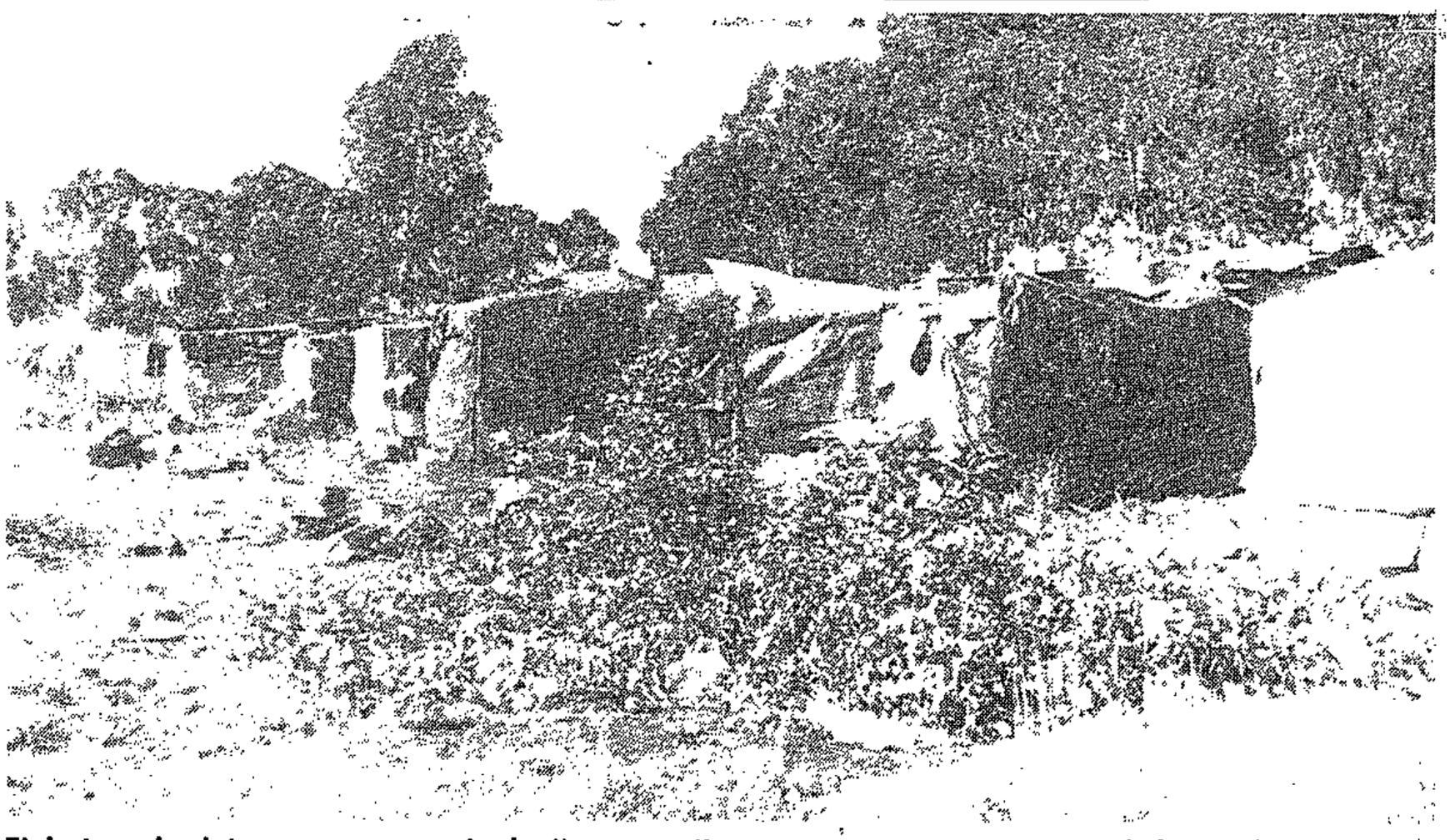
"I asked them to give us some taps for water but they said we can't get water because the Government was going to give us a place near Soweto.

"Now they say the place is full, what are we going to do?"

Attempts to contact the Transvaal Provincial Administration for Community Service met with little success.

Mr Z Lombard, deputy director of special services, said he could not comment on the situation and suggested contacting the regional director, Mr Vic Mil. Several calls were made to his office in Johannesburg without finding him in.

Later his secretary said Mr Mil would not be in until Wednesday.



Eight in a shack is not uncommon in the "no-name" squatter camp in Lenasia South from which mothers walk for great distances to get food and water for their families.

Residents asked to donate blankets

By Shehnaaz Bulbulia

The presence of squatters in Lenasia has met with mixed reactions from the community.

A spokesman for the Lenasia Extension 9 Residents' Association said: "We will be sending notices of appeal to residents asking them to donate clothes, blankets and food to the camp."

She said the committee appreciated the desperate plight of the squatters, and had decided to open lines of communication with them.

However, not all the residents of Lenasia have taken to the squatters.

Mr Adam Kola of Extension 10 called The Star last week and said: "I'm spending a lot of money to beautify my home. These squatters are an eyesore."

He said he sympathised with the squatters but felt they should go back to where they came from.

Mr Hoosein Amodjee, a resident from Extension 10, said: "The squatter problem is heart-breaking.

"I think our community should do something about it. We need to assist them. Welfare organisations need to pitch in and help. They can be very constructive in trying to find jobs and decent shelter," he said.

Mrs Damyanti Chiba of Extension 10 said she was concerned at the lack of water and sewage facilities, as it was a potential health risk .

A spokesperson from the Community Advice Centre in Lenasia said: "We believe people have the right to stay where they want to, these people were forced to set up shacks because they have no accommodation. Their situation is grave and we need to assist them.

"People in extention 9 and 10 should be sympathetic because they too are victims of the Group Areas Act."



No water, electricity or sewage facilities nearby . . . and moles and mice invade their homes for food. But it's worse in Ciskei, says a mother living in the camp.

SQUATTERS PLIGHT

Sowetan 14/6/88

HEALTH 2000 conducted a survey at the Chiawelo emergency camp at the weekend.

Dr Abu Asvat, co-ordinator of Health 2000, said: "We found that there were 25 families living in tents with no end of their plight in sight.

"The threat of removal to Rietvallei still looms large on them. Therefore few people have money for brick structures. They also feel that the R27 they pay for rent is exorbitant," Dr Asvat said.

Many cases of upper respiratory problems were found as a result of the recent cold spell and poor quality of their structures, he said.

Health 2000 found a number of cases of previously undetected high blood pressure and referred them to the Chiawelo clinic.

They also found a case of one teenage mother who had no source of income and having two underfed children. She was referred to the social workers for assistance.

Dr Asvat said they distributed soup and bread as well as clothes obtained from well wishers. Health 2000 also made a call to the community to bring along old clothes and blankets to house No 2065 at Moroka, Soweto for distribution.

Influx of Evaton squatters 'serious'

B/Day 14/6/88
310

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Squatting by black families in the Walkerville-Evaton area had assumed serious proportions, according to a Provincial Executive Committee statement.

MECs J S Mavusa and O A van Zyl said yesterday in the area east of the N1 — a white area — there were 1 910 black squatter families; west of the N1 1 655; and in black areas alone there were 18 663 families (13 500 in Evaton and 5 163 in Sebokeng).

Sources pointed out this was a total of 22 228 black families. Estimated conseratively at five a family, this would bring the total of squatters in the area to about 120 000.

Coloured squatter families in the Ennerdale coloured area totalled 335 and in Lenasia there were 1 320 Indian squatter families.

The MECs said deficiencies in the Prevention of Illegal Squatters legislation and court judgments made it difficult to act against squatters and landowners.

An amendment to the Act, to go through Parliament this year, was aimed at making effective action possible against landowners.

Council orders squatters out

Owner gets warning about families in deserted hostel

By SOPHIE TEMA

More than 30 families living in an abandoned single-men's hostel in Alexandra face homelessness again if the hostel-owner heeds an Alexandra Council notice to throw the families out.

The homeless families moved into the Springbok Hostel after it was deserted by its 123 inmates who fled during riots in the township in 1985.

The squatters have never paid rent to occupy the space.

The owner of the property, Nic Baartman, was notified by the council to evict the illegal residents some weeks ago, but the squatters are still there.

Meanwhile, the families have begged Baartman to allow them to stay as they have nowhere else to go.

If the new Amendment to the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act comes before Parliament this session and is legislated, Baartman might be liable to a fine of R10 000 for allowing the squatters to remain on his property.

According to figures recently released in Parliament, there are 1 310 813 black squatters in South Africa. About 914 000 of these are in the Transvaal.

Meanwhile, the Urban Foundation has estimated that 30 000 hectares of land are required to meet the existing housing demands of the PWV area alone.

The Agency for Industrial Mission and the Black Sash Transvaal Region Urbanisation Working Group have called for pressure to be placed on black local authorities to make land available to build houses.

The agency says private developers are unwilling to build homes for people in lower-income groups because they do not qualify for housing subsidies.

DT de Vos, of the National Building Research Institute of the CSIR, has estimated the housing backlog outside the homelands as being as high as 832 000 units.

De Vos says this means that about five-million people – one in every six South Africans – are homeless.

The CSIR has assessed that only about 25 percent of blacks could make any contribution towards housing costs.

An official of the SA Housing Trust – which was established to devise ways of meeting the needs of home-owners who can only afford houses costing R5 000 or less – said: "The odds are against us in achieving success."

The Trust has also estimated that the construction industry could build about 70 000 units a year outside the homelands but this would still be short by 20 000 units required every year to eliminate the housing backlog.

In Alexandra more than 50 families have built shacks on land situated between the cemetery and a sewerage depot.

The families were accommodated by the Alexandra Council at R12-a-month rent until the council could find them alternative accommodation.

Hard mining times

(210) B/day 22/6/88.

REINIE BOOYSEN

INFLATION, sanctions and strikes may have led the mining industry into one of its most difficult periods, out-going Chamber of Mines president Naas Steenkamp said yesterday.

In spite of record capital investment and employment, he said the industry's vigour was being tested on a number of fronts.

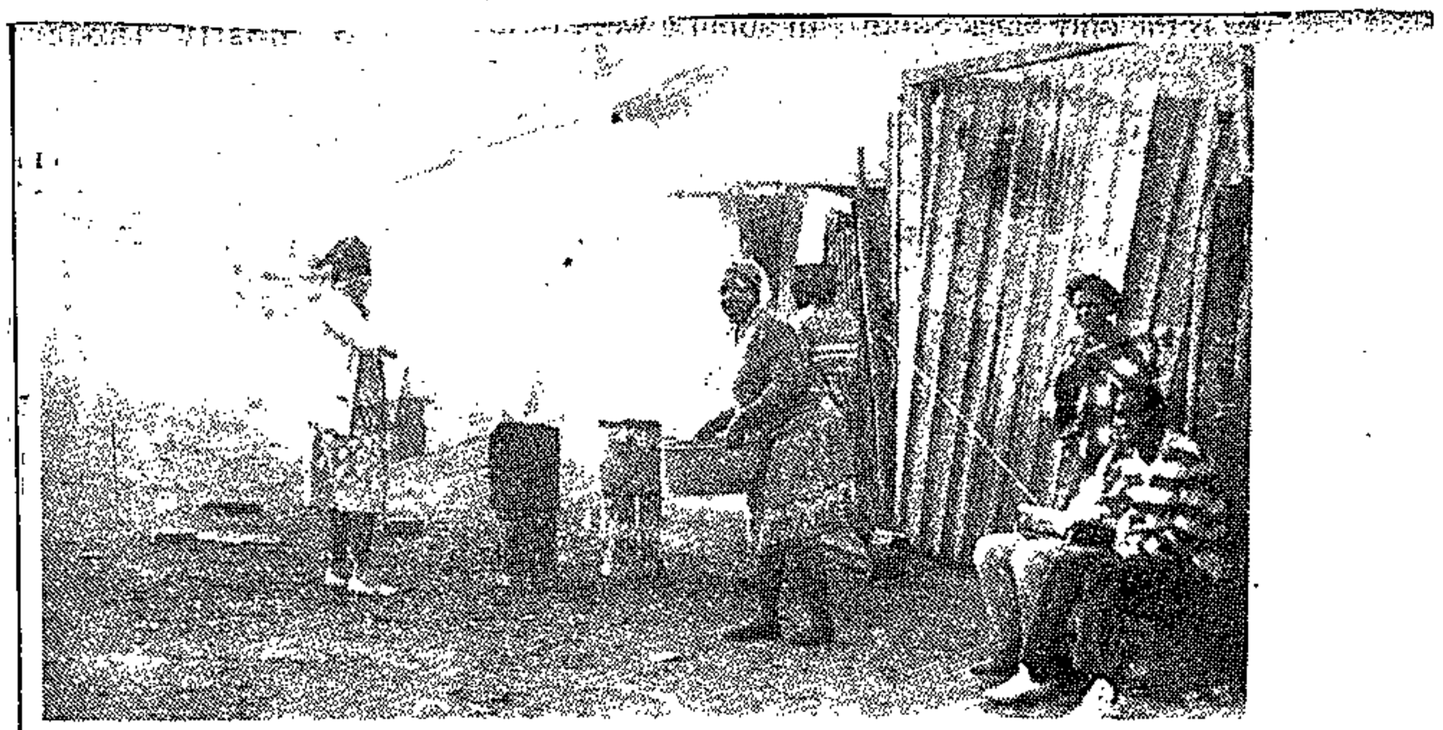
"Persistent double-digit inflation affects all mines; our coal-mining industry has been hit by a weakening world market and economic sanctions; and there was a major strike involving many of our mines last year," said Steenkamp.

He said this was partly the cause of last year's drop in mineral sales — only the second time this has happened in more than four decades of steady earnings growth.

Steenkamp said: "The major mining groups, therefore, all agree that in the interests of our shareholders, of our employees and of southern Africa as a whole, we must now gather our forces and strengthen the basis for the long-term survival and progress of our industry.

"We are agreed we must find an enduring formula for coping with our changing economic and industrial relations environment."

● See Page 8



SMOKE rises from rudimentary fireplaces on the streets of Dukathole as the day draws to an end . . "More shacks are going to be destroyed," the authorities say.

Sowetan 23/6/88

Families stranded

310

MORE than 60 families in Germiston Old Location were left stranded without alternative accommodation when their shacks were demolished by the Germiston City Council.

The removals, which started on Sunday, are still continuing. On June 10, the families were given notices by the council to demolish their shacks and look for alternative accommodation.

They were given 10 days to do this. The deadline expired on Sunday. The affected families are lodgers in the area.

Confirmed

Mr A W Heyneke, town secretary of Germiston, yesterday confirmed that a number of shacks belonging to black families were demolished by the council in Dukathole.

Said he: "The families whose shacks have been demolished were staying illegally in the township. They did not have permits to be there. More shacks are still going to be destroyed but I cannot say how many."

Residents in the oldest township on the East Rand, also known as Dukathole, this week said the first families were evicted on Sunday.

"Their shacks were demolished and they were left stranded without any alternative accommodation. Their goods, including furniture and clothes, were dumped on the pavements," a resident, Miss Maria Tshatshelo, said.

Mrs Ellen Jackson said: "All six shacks belonging to my lodgers were demolished on Monday morning. Council officials arrived about 7am and told the families to remove their belongings. Those who refused had their goods dumped on the pavement."



THE remnants of demolished shacks are stacked in a corner of Ellen Jackson's yard. Six shacks belonging to her lodgers were brought down on Monday. In the days to come more people will lose their homes.

Reform talk 'a farce' — Actstop

Govt crackdown on squatters in Jeppe predicted

By Carina le Grange

A crackdown on squatters in Jeppe was imminent ... and the Squatting Act was being used in the absence of influx-control laws to control the movement of black people, the chairman of the Action Committee to Stop Evictions (Actstop), Mr Cassim Saloojee, said last night.

He was reacting to a statement by Jeppe's National Party MP, Mr Hennie Bekker, that a crackdown on squatting in certain areas of his constituency was imminent.

Tough new measures to control squatting and slum conditions, including a maximum fine of R10 000, or five years' imprisonment or both, for owners who permit squatting on their property, are provided for in the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, which will soon be debated in Parliament.

The recently tabled Slums Bill would further strengthen the hand of the Government when it dealt with people contravening these Acts, Mr Bekker said in a statement released yesterday.

Mr Saloojee said: "I think that in the absence of influx-control laws they are now using the Squatter Act to control the movement of the black population.

"And in connection with the problems under the Group Areas Act they have had recently, our impression is that the Squatter Act will be used to overcome those difficulties they have in moving people away from so-called white areas.

"All this goes to show the talk of reform is just a farce. The Government has no intention of moving away from old-style apartheid in any significant way."

Mr Bekker told the divisional committee of the National Party at the weekend that "money-grabbing property owners were exploiting the plight of homeless blacks by accommodating people in overcrowded structures and garages

It would take a few months to implement the new law effectively, he said.

Blanket Equity ban possible soon

The Star Bureau

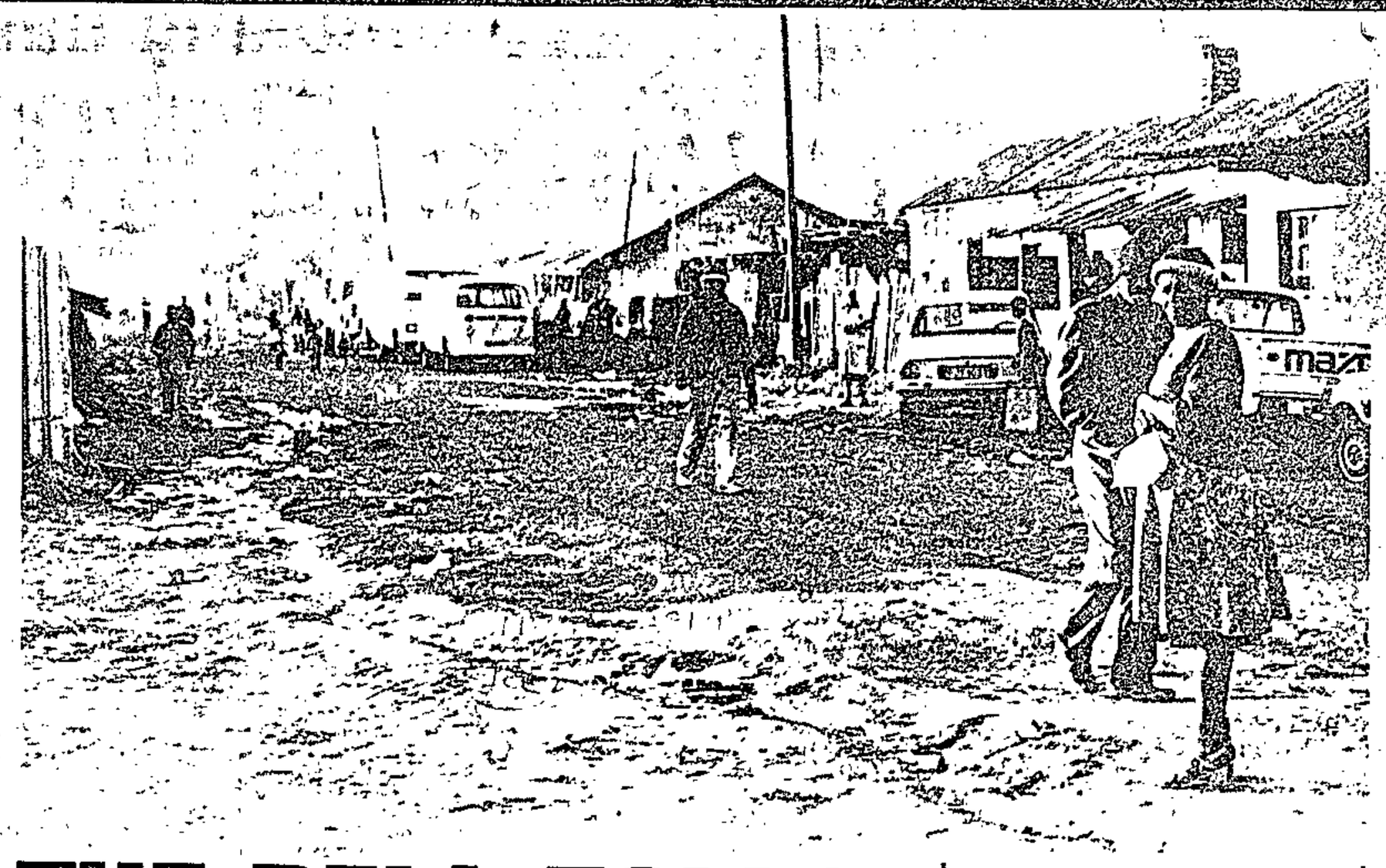
LONDON — The whole issue of a cultural boycott of South Africa could be reopened today if Equity members vote on a small deletion in their constitution.

They are being asked to decide whether the terms "non-party" and "non-sectarian" should be eliminated from the union's official terminology.

If they are, the legal obstacle to a complete Equity boycott of South Africa will be removed, and a blanket ban could be imposed.

A referendum three years ago which called for such a ban was passed, but later overturned when moderate Mr Marius Goring challenged it in the High Court. The court ruled that no matter how laudable or widely supported, a campaign against apartheid remained "sectarian" and therefore outlawed by the constitution.

As things presently stand, members may only be advised against visiting and performing in South Africa.



A STREET scene in Dukathole. The township is doomed to die.
Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

THE BELL TOLLS FOR DUKATHOLE

There's no turning back this time

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

GERMISTON Old Location, one of the oldest townships on the East Rand, will be demolished to make way for an industrial area.

There are about 600 African, coloured and Indian families living in the area. Most are lodgers.

The place is a slum with no proper facilities like water and a sewerage system.

Dukathole, as the township is also known, will cease to exist by the end of the year. The township was built more than 40 years ago. When the Government demolished areas like Sophiatown (Kofifi) and Payneville, near Springs, in the early 50s, Dukathole was also affected.

At the time, it was said that the townships were being removed because they were situated near white suburbs. Sophiatown families were resettled in Meadowlands, Soweto and those in Payneville were taken to KwaThema, near Springs.

Dukathole families were moved to Katlehong, near Germiston.

Both Sophiatown and Payneville are dead. Dukathole, which has turned into a slum and a health hazard, has been threatened with removals for more than 20 years but the township just refused to die and be buried.

"But this time, there is no turning back, Dukathole will just have to go and make way for an industrial area. The removal of the township is long overdue. The place is a health hazard and no people can live there," said Mr A W Heyneke, town secretary of Germiston.

The first 60 shacks were demolished in the township this week. All belong to lodgers. The families were not provided with alternative accommodation.

Mr Heyneke said the families were not provided with accommodation because they were living in the area illegally and had no permits to own houses and shacks in the area.

"Only coloured and Indian families will be provided with houses on the East Rand because they were renting the houses in Dukathole. It is unfortunate that African families will have to find their own accommodation.

"As soon as we are through with demolishing the shacks belonging to the lodgers, we will start resettling the other families. We hope to complete the removals by the end of the year," said Mr Heyneke.

Mr Ellen Jackson said it was unfair for the council to remove the families from the township and turning the place into an industrial area.

"I have been staying in the area for the past six years and I feel that instead of the council demolishing the area, it could have upgraded it and built new houses. By removing us, they are not solving the housing problem," said Mrs Jackson.

Another resident, Mrs Selma Salim, said the Germiston City Council should provide accommodation for all people living in the area and not only for coloureds and Indians.

"This is not fair", she said.

Miss Irene Maphalala said it would be a sad day to see Dukathole being demolished.

"I have lived all my adult life here and I had a good time," she added.



FOR the children of Dukathole the future is uncertain. The continued existence of the township has now been finally settled. It must die.

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S 2086

Govt's squatting plan leaves many people out in the cold

Backyard dwellers not catered for

By SOPHIE TEMA

GOVERNMENT'S decision to introduce controlled squatting in "site-and-service" areas to cater for poor blacks does not seem set to solve the problems of the homeless.

Considering Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council chairman, Gerrit Bornman's announcement that about 230 000 squatters were living in illegal structures in Soweto, not all will be accommodated on land that is to be developed for blacks in the southern Witwatersrand.

In his recent announcement on the allocation of more land for black development, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis said this land would help alleviate the squatter problem. He, however, said it would not cater for people living in backyard shacks.

Figures released by Bornman indicate that there are 21 000 backyard shacks in Orlando East, 7 239 in Diepmeadow and 2 300 in Dobsonville. These are listed in a draft Bill on the Illegal Squatting Act.

Other squatters live in transit or emergency camps.

In his announcement, Heunis said the government was considering amendments to the Slums Act once land for controlled squatting or designated areas were established on a permanent basis.

Heunis said that if illegally occupied buildings or structures were demolished, the occupants would not be entitled to redress unless they could show before court that the demolition was done in bad faith, in terms of the proposed Bill

He said an owner or lessee of land who permited squatting would be liable to a maximum fine of R10 000 or five years' imprisonment.

Several black local authorities have indicated that the Slums Act, coupled with the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, would affect owners of land who permitted squatting. This would include people who allowed backyard shacks on their premises.

But a spokesman for the Soweto Council said: "There is no way by which the government can ignore people living in backyard shacks.

"They too should be provided with accommodation once the designated areas come into operation because many of the shackdwellers are children born in Johannesburg and qualify for housing in the area.

"They are the ones who should be given first priority."

Martha Mofokeng who lives in a shack in Orlando East, said: "Living in a shack is a difficult experience. You have no space to move around freely and you have no privacy.

"As shackdweller, you cannot afford the luxuries that other people enjoy, like electricity, water, and free movement.

"We who live in shacks are restricted by the owners of the yards in which we live to be indoors at a specified time because they want to lock their gates.

"We have to pay for the water we use and cannot use their electricity facilites because we would be expected to pay exorbitant prices.

"We have to be content with living in one room which we use for cooking, sleeping and washing."



Chris Heunis... illegal homes may be demolished.

(310) 26/6/88 CPress

Squatters will be even worse off

Star 27/6/87

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill is a punitive and negative response to a situation beyond the control of those the new measure seeks to punish, says the Urbanisation Working Group of the Black Sash.

The group predicts that people will be worse off under the Bill, which was tabled in Parliament 10 days ago, than they were under influx control.

It considers that the proposed law is a negation of the White Paper outlining the Government's stance on urbanisation.

Such coercive legislation was only necessary because of the authorities' failure to put into practice the positive aspects of the "orderly urbanisation" policy, it stated.

"We said in 1986 that unless affordable, good land was urgently made available in large quantities, so that people could make their homes close to where they find work, the policy would fail.

"This was not done. It is doubtful whether the land now allocated for

Black Sash hits out at new Bill

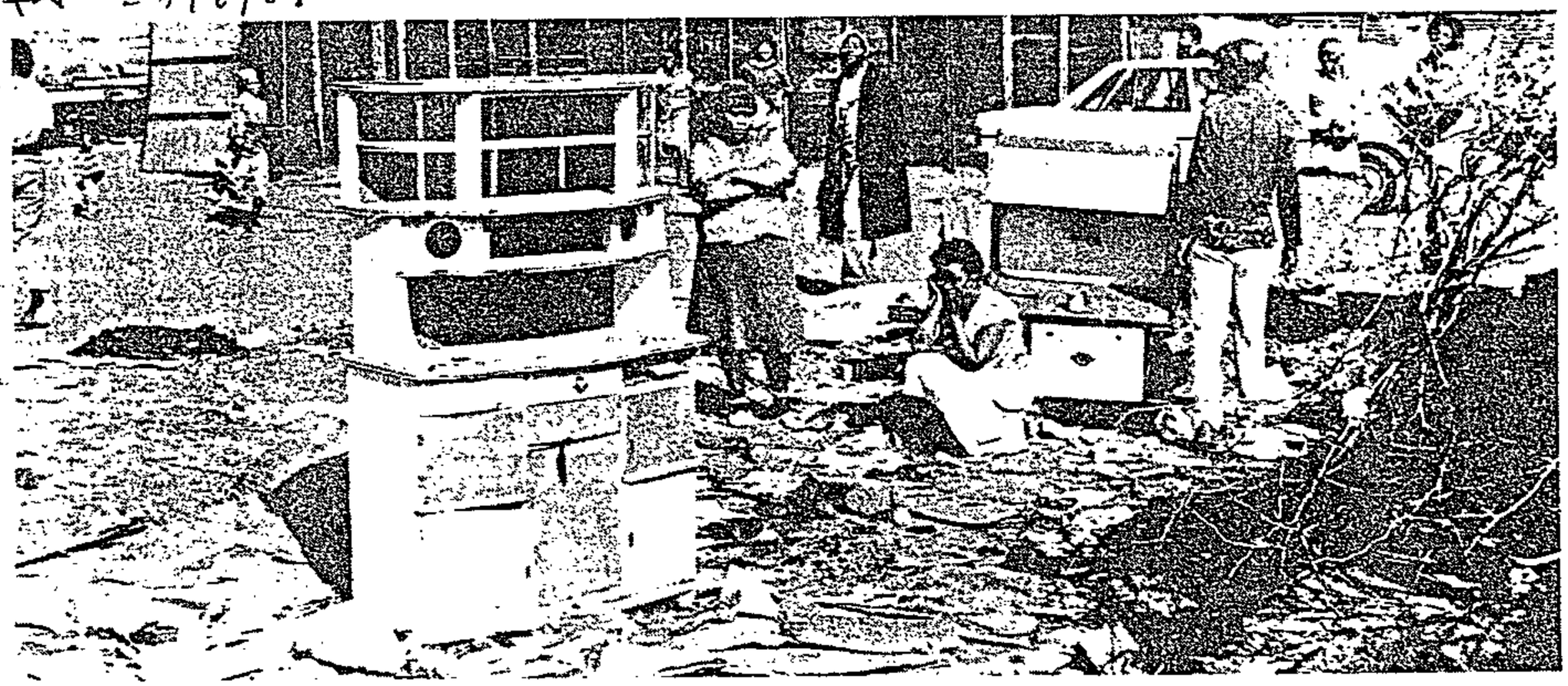
extension of black areas will meet the need.

"It is a current and politically expedient myth that the spill of people into all the 'wrong' places is the result of abolishing influx control."

It pointed out that the numbers of black people living in the metropolitan areas of South Africa had been grossly underestimated because their presence in the urban areas was unlawful.

"Hundreds of thousands of black people are homeless on the Witwatersrand. Millions more are in the same sad situation throughout the country."

The Transvaal region of the Black Sash has endorsed the views of the Urbanisation Working Group, saying that it was hard to believe that South Africans were willing to endorse such vicious actions against their fellow-citizens for a situation which was not of their creation.



The Tshabalala family stand on the ground that was their home until it was demolished by Germiston City Council employees on Friday. ● Picture by Jacoob Rykliff.

Illegal Squatting Bill vicious, says committee

By Jo-Anne Collinge

If you rolled into one the pass laws, the removal-by-decree clause of the Black Administration Act and the accommodation restrictions which used to apply to farm labourers, you would still not achieve a result as vicious as the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill.

This is the essence of what the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), a project of the Black Sash, has to say about the proposed legislation which is currently before Parliament.

On what grounds does Trac figure that this legislation of the "reform" era take South Africans back beyond the age of classic apartheid, when millions of people's lives were governed by the *dompas*?

In an analysis of the Bill, Trac says: "In terms of the pass laws, at least those black people who managed to qualify in terms of Section 10 (of the Black Urban Areas Act) were secure in the cities.

"In terms of the new amendment anyone, other than a landowner, may be removed from his or her house by decision of a junior official — regardless of whether the person has permission to be there."

To demonstrate how sweeping this provision is, Trac proposes the improbable scenario that "all tenants in State housing in Soweto could be removed after just three days' notice".

Section 10 urban residence rights were conferred on the basis of continuous employment. The Government, in sections of the Bill applicable to urban areas, shifts the criteria for residing in the towns and cities from employment to housing, Trac says.

"There are many more people without houses than without jobs. The Bill renders millions upon millions of people vulnerable to a process of unchallengeable evictions and demolitions."

Turning to the area of forced removals, Trac says that the statutory reform recently effected in this area will also be nullified if the Squatting Amendment Bill is passed.

"The most infamous removal provision was Section 5 of the Black Administration Act which gave the State President the power to move any group, tribe or black person from any area to any other area."

This provision, which was used to effect the Mogopa removal in 1985, was repealed in mid-1986.

"Now it has been replaced by Section 5 of the Squatting Bill which gives the same powers to magistrates. The magistrate can order the removal of people regardless of whether they have consent to be where they are. There is no provision for parliamentary check on this power as there was in the old Act."

FARM WORKERS THE COMMON VICTIMS

Farm workers have comprised the largest category of victims of forced removals. A mechanism commonly used in their case was Chapter Four of the Development Trust and Land Act — also abolished in the pass law reform two years ago.

"Section 6 (e) of the Squatting Bill introduces controls that go beyond the worst aspects of the old law," argues Trac.

"It applies to the rural areas where it empowers committees to decide that certain people are squatters and to order the eviction of these people."

The criterion for defining candidates for farm removals is work status — those employed by the farmer on whose land they live are not deemed squatters.

"This means that the families of farm workers can be evicted whereas, in terms of the old law, they were allowed to live on the farms. The farmer concerned may make representations to protect the people living on his farm, but a committee (appointed by the administrator) can over-rule this and order him to evict the people," says Trac.

Any farm worker who loses a job will be vulnerable to eviction and prosecution while looking for new employment. Trac notes that the law purports to be non-racial, "but it is most unlikely that a committee would order the eviction of white non-employees who live in the rural areas.

"After all, white pensioners, farmers, contractors and unemployed people all have the vote and so must be treated with respect".

The organisation points out that there are hundreds of thousands of black people potentially affected. Some live in the forest areas and earn a living by private contracting, some are tenant farmers, many have children attending school and not working and many have aged parents living with them as dependants.

"We fear that the Bill would be used selectively to evict these people and that it heralds a return to the old Nationalist dream that only those blacks who are economically active should be allowed in the 'white' areas."

The old law provided that the availability of alternative accommodation be investigated before a family could be evicted. The Bill makes no such stipulation.

Law cracks down on squatters

PWV squatters will be our priority, says Kok

Star 28/6/88

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Black local authorities will be responsible for resolving the bulk of the squatter problem in the Transvaal as almost 90 percent of an estimated 200 000 shacks fall under their jurisdiction, says Mr Louis Kok, executive director of community services for the province.

Interviewed a week after the tabling of the controversial Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, Mr Kok said he had not seen the proposed legislation.

But he added that the province had been consulted in the drafting and it had developed its own policy document which he believed the new legislation would enable the province to execute.

The province, Mr Kok said, was determined to be proactive and not reactive" in dealing with squatters.

And its priority would be resettling shack dwellers settled on white-owned land in the PWV area — some 30 000 families.

It was not particularly concerned about the position on platteland farms and did not see its responsibility as lying in the townships.

"I've got no problems as far as the urban areas are concerned," said Mr Kok.

In any event, the law empowered local authorities to deal with this aspect of homelessness, he pointed out.

However, if local authorities failed to act on the squatter front, the administrator of the province could override them and execute the law on their behalf — then bill the local authority for costs.

In the PWV "peri urban" area the aim of TPA planners was to avoid acting as if they were "shooting birdshot, so that the birds fly into the air and come to sit down again in another place".

Mr Kok's avowed target is the landowners. "It's not the black man that's causing the problem. It's the white plot owner that 'farms' with squatters," he claimed.

SEVERE CASES

"The new law will enable us to get all these owners . . . In severe cases we will be able to take his land and declare an emergency (or transit) camp."

Asked if it did not mean in most cases that shack dwellers would be "got at" at the same time as their landlords and rendered homeless, Mr Kok conceded that this would occur.

But, he added, this was where the authorities' proactive attitude would be tested. "We say it is no use having legislation and doing this thing through the courts. The only reasonable way to handle squatting in the Transvaal will be to have enough sites available."

He said that 40 000 sites would be serviced in the coming months north of Evaton. It was estimated that these would be sufficient to accommodate all shack-dwellers on semi-rural land south of Johannesburg.

He said that he believed that the recent demarkation of other land in the PWV for black residential use — as announced by Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr. Chris Heunis — would be sufficient to accommodate the population.

He said he was unable to account for the provision in the Bill which made demolition mandatory even where no alternative accommodation was offered.

In rural areas the Bill provides that committees will determine the fate of people who are living on farms but are not employed by the landowner. It is silent on the precise composition of such committees and how they will operate.

Mr Kok said committees would comprise farmers from the area in question.

Aged couple have to live in shack under the trees

Star 30/6/86 310

By Duncan Guy

Partially-blind Mr Mannie Lorewick and his wife Mieta have lived under the wattle trees near Rubridge Road, Roodepoort, for about four months.

They say they have had frequent visits from police who warn them to leave.



Mr Mannie Lorewick and his wife, Mieta . . . nowhere to live.

● Picture by Duncan Guy.

DESTROYED

On one occasion "some months ago" the police burned down a shack and on June 17, police destroyed some of their household equipment, said other people who live there.

A Transvaal Provincial Association Community Services spokesman said yesterday that the squatters' best chance of housing lay in Kagiso or possibly Rietvallei, where squatters have been housed.

The Kagiso Municipality could not be contacted for comment.

Mrs Lorewick said she used to work in fields owned by a market gardener, until she had to go to hospital. She had to leave the staff quarters when she left her job.

"All we want is help to find a place to live. There are even people among us who have jobs in town but have to sleep here at night," said Mrs Lorewick.

A police spokesman confirmed that, following complaints, action had been taken against the squatters on more than one occasion. He said he had no knowledge of police damaging their possessions or burning a shack.

New Bill aimed at slum-lords and 'squatters of all races'

S for 30/6/88

By Esmaré van der Merwe

Legislation preventing illegal squatting and slum conditions made no reference to colour or race, Mr Hennie Bekker, National Party MP for Jeppe, said yesterday.

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, to be debated in Parliament soon, and the Slums Act would be used to prosecute and remove slum-lords and squatters of all races, he said.

Mr Bekker was reacting to accusations from Actstop, an organisation representing people of colour in Johannesburg's flatland areas, that the legislation was being used in the absence of influx control laws to control the movement of black people residing in white areas.

Earlier this week Mr Bekker indicated that a crackdown on squatting was imminent.



A member of the Brits Action Committee speaks to younger residents.

'We won't move'

Residents of Oukasie vow to oppose resettlement

The government announced earlier this year that residents of Oukasie, near Brits, would not be relocated. But residents see the recent imposition of emergency camp restrictions on the township as an attempt to pressure them into moving. MONO BADELA reports

JOHANNESBURG. — Entering Oukasie unlawfully, or keeping a dog, chicken or donkey without written permission of the township superintendent invites a fine of R500 or three months' imprisonment.

This is but one of the emergency camp restrictions placed on the rundown township last month in terms of the Squatters Act. But the 10 000 strong community has vowed to oppose any attempts to move them to a Letlabile, a new settlement nearby.

In terms of a Government notice, outsiders must apply for permits from the township superintendent to enter the township. The application can be turned down "if he is of the opinion that the presence of the person concerned may cause a disturbance of the peace and good order in the camp" or "good cause exists for such refusal or withdrawal".

A visit to the area last week revealed no large-scale army and police activity. The restrictions are not yet strictly enforced, and the township has not as been sealed off to all non-residents. Visitors could still enter the area.

Residents believe the Government will still attempt to get residents to move "voluntarily".

On April 26 a curfew was imposed on Oukasie — after 9pm police went round telling residents to move into houses and not be seen in the streets.

Brits Action Committee (BAC) spokesman Mr Sello Ramakobye said pamphlets had been sent to employers saying these steps were taken because "radicals" were behind the people's refusal to move.

BAC said it viewed the restrictive camp conditions "as a pretext for the State to establish a permanent military and police presence at Oukasie to control and demoralise the community" so that residents would leave "voluntarily" for Letlabile.

Soldiers have entered the township, numbered the houses an taken a census.

As an emergency camp Oukasie has been subjected to a large increase in service charges - from R24 to R37,50 a month. An additional R15 a month is payable for every registered lodger.

Residents have vowed not to pay the rent hikes.

Ramakobye said: "There had been no improvement in basic services for over 50 years and about 50 percent of our community is unemployed."

Failure to pay service charges may incur a sentence of R500 and/or three months' jail for the first offence.

The maximum penalty for second or subsequent violations of the emergency camp regulations are R1 000 and/or six months.

The 55-year-old township has been under threat of removal since 1986. That year the Government ordered the 15 000 residents to move to a new site 25km away.

Residents demanded to stay, and threatened to stage a one-day strike at local factories. They said it would be a forced removal.

'Illegal squatters'

The streets in Oukasie are potholed. There is bucket sewerage and no electricity, and only 54 communal taps for a remaining population of 10 000. It provides labour for several local plants, including Firestone and other multinational companies.

Neither the authorities, nor the companies whose workers live there, have made an effort to upgrade the settlement, residents said.

The Government wants to move residents away from an expanding white suburb about 200m from Oukasie, to Letlabile.

In March this year Oukasie residents became "illegal squatters". About 5 000 residents, mostly civil servants, accepted Government offers for compensation and moved to Letlabile, where the authorities have provided water on sites where they may build their own homes.

However more than 10 000 residents stayed on in Oukasie.

On March 25 this year Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis announced in Parliament that residents of Oukasie would not be relocated. Those who requested would be resettled at Letlabile. He also announced that Letlabile, originally scheduled to be incorporated in Bophuthatswana, would remain part of South Africa.

But not long after the Government announced the imposition of emergency camp restrictions on Oukasie.



Several houses in the area have already been demolished

In the backyard of St Barnabas College ...

The 'weed people' seek shelter in the swamps

Star 14/7/88

310

By Shehnaaz Bulbulia

About 25 squatter families — referred to by locals as the "weed people" — live in the backyard of St Barnabas College in Bosmont.

They are hidden in a swamp covered by a thick growth of weeds, 8 m high.

The camp, known to the squatters as "Newtown City", has for the past eight years been a refuge to those who are constantly harassed for squatting.



Chairman of the Islamic Relief Fund, Mrs Suraya Hassim, hands out blankets, clothing and food parcels to Mr Kenneth Mfolone.

But "Newtown City" does not have the conveniences of the city; its unemployed occupants live in the cold, with no water or toilet facilities.

A resident, Mr Kenneth Mfolone (23), father of a six- month-old baby boy, said he arrived with his girlfriend and set up his shack in 1981.

"I had no home. I thought this was a place where we could stay without being kicked around.

"We came from Soweto. We have been living in the weeds. Our only company on dark winter nights are rodents," he said.

Mr Sonnyboy Moloi (25), an orphan, arrived six years ago from Carletonville to seek employment in Bosmont.

"I found a job, but there was no place for me to sleep," he said.

After a year of sleeping in parks, Mr Moloi said he built a cardboard shack in "Newtown City".

Mr May Pelehkwa (18) was one of the first squatters to arrive at the camp 10 years ago.

"I lived with my grandmother. When she was sent to an old age home, I had nowhere to go. This looked like a place I could stay."

Mr Pelehkwa said he was concerned about the health of two of his brothers.

Initially, he said, the squatter begged for water from the locals, but after numerous complaints they began using the dirty marsh water to bathe in.

"I'm afraid because my brothers have started getting ugly sores on their skin," he said.

Old bones and scraps — and people are living there

Story and pictures by
SEBASTIAN BALIC

A rubbish dump in Boksburg is home to a growing number of unemployed people who make ends meet by rummaging through trash.



Down in the dumps . . . a solitary figure trudges through the garbage of Boksburg's more affluent residents. Discarded furniture, implements and planks are unearthed by scavengers, refurbished and sold, but some rely on the dump for food, clothing and 'shelter'.

The municipal dump, Wit Deep, is less than 2 km from the centre of the middle-class Boksburg suburb of Witfield. The dump is home to an entire community of unemployed people who derive a living scavenging in the piles of garbage.

One of the primary sources of income at the dump is from collecting and selling copper and aluminium.

For many others the dump is a source of food and clothing. Some of these people travel in from Daveyton each day; others are forced to make a home on the dump itself.

TALES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The stories told by individuals at the dump are depressing tales of unemployment and desperation:

- Andries Vundla. Unemployed for four years. Feeds his wife and four children by scavenging for broken implements, which he repairs and sells. Lives in Daveyton.
- Elizabeth Twala. Unemployed since 1987. Travels in from Daveyton each day. In her mid-twenties.
- Albert Matuwani. Came to the Reef in 1967 from King William's Town. Unemployed since 1984. Albert has been living at the dump since last year.

While there is no community to speak of, the dump people help each other in their attempts at subsistence.

Another of the residents at the dump is Simon Fagude, whose home is on the lower slopes of the dump. Invisible to the Boksburg residents who offload garbage here every day, there is a living area far down the slopes of the huge dump. "Home" is a tiny space separated from the others by knee-high earthen walls. Some have constructed windshields from planks. There is no overhead shelter.

The odd assortment of things collected from the dump are stored neatly in a variety of containers. Disused steel drums serve as utility wardrobes. On a table lies the thighbone of an animal, pieces of its flesh drying in the winter sun.

Some of the people are sufficiently resourceful to subsist off the dump's offerings.

Duster Maila has been living at the dump for two months. He lives in Moutse, and has been supporting himself in the informal economic sector since 1969.

At home in Moutse he used to be a photographer, until he discovered he could earn more by making napthalene, for mothballs, in old cookie pans.

He stays at the dump to collect as much discarded furniture and planking as possible, before returning home where he plans to refurbish and sell it.

Boksburg City Council public relations officer Ms Leonie Badenhorst told The Star: "I didn't even know the problem existed."

Chief health officer Mr Willie Coetzee would speak to The Star only in his personal capacity. While he was unaware of people living at the dump, he acknowledged that squatting was a major problem that had escalated in the past year.

"If there are people living there, it is in contravention of the Group Areas Act, but it is not the function of the local authority to prevent these people from living there, unless it is a health hazard. In the light of this we have taken the SAP up to the dump on occasion.

"The function of my department is to ensure that when people are living, or squatting, on someone's land where rent is being charged, that they are provided with adequate site and service facilities.

"Often these landowners are not willing to improve the facilities, even of their own employees, and they are told to move on. There should be some sort of social welfare. I know of no State body whatsoever that is concerned with the rehousing or rehabilitation of such people. To merely have the SAP move them on is useless and not constructive."

Mr Coetzee considers the plight of the homeless a major social problem which should be dealt with by the local authorities involved.

Another point of concern are the city council workers at the dump site. One of the workers told of the conditions under which he was employed: the unskilled workers earned R170 a month. They were supplied with working clothes and basic food.

NO RUNNING WATER OR TOILETS

The problem was that they lived near the dump in shacks of corrugated iron and cardboard. The roofs reached no higher than waist level. There was no running water or toilet facilities at the shacks. The closest water and ablutions were provided at the entrance to the dump, a few hundred metres away.

Boksburg's acting town clerk, Mr J J Mare, denied the claims in the strongest terms:

"The council provides a hostel in Vosloorus for our employees. If an employee owns a house, we offer a subsidy. There is no truth in these allegations."

The lowest council wage at present was R377,44 and it was policy to provide protective clothing, but not food. "If there is any one of our workers staying at or near the dump site, it must be because they prefer it there. We certainly do not allow it."

ANC man hurt in border drama

MBABANE. — Swaziland police yesterday shot and wounded a member of the ANC and arrested another after they stopped four men on the Piggs Peak-Bulembu road near the South African border in north-west Swaziland.

Eyewitnesses said two of the men escaped after a police chase.

They said police found arms and ammunition during the incident.

Police had received a tip-off that the men were in the area. When they confronted them one of the men threatened to set off an explosive he was carrying.

● There was also a shoot-out between police and suspected insurgents at Seaview near Umtata on Tuesday, an eyewitness said. It was said to be the second in two weeks.

There was reportedly heavy shooting before combined South African and Transkei police forces were seen removing a body from a hut.

Polic removed a large quantity of arms. — Sapa

Cape Times 16/7/88

'ANC men' were wounded

MBABANE — A Swazi police spokesman confirmed that two of the four alleged ANC gunmen who were arrested following an armed confrontation with Swazi police at Pigg's Peak on Thursday were wounded in the shootout.

Hospital sources in Pigg's Peak confirmed that one of the wounded men, Mr Arnold Masimuta, 30, was in a critical condition after being shot in the buttocks.

An eye-witness said one of the men, armed with an AK-47, was seen firing at the policemen surrounding the workshops where the four men had stopped. — Sapa

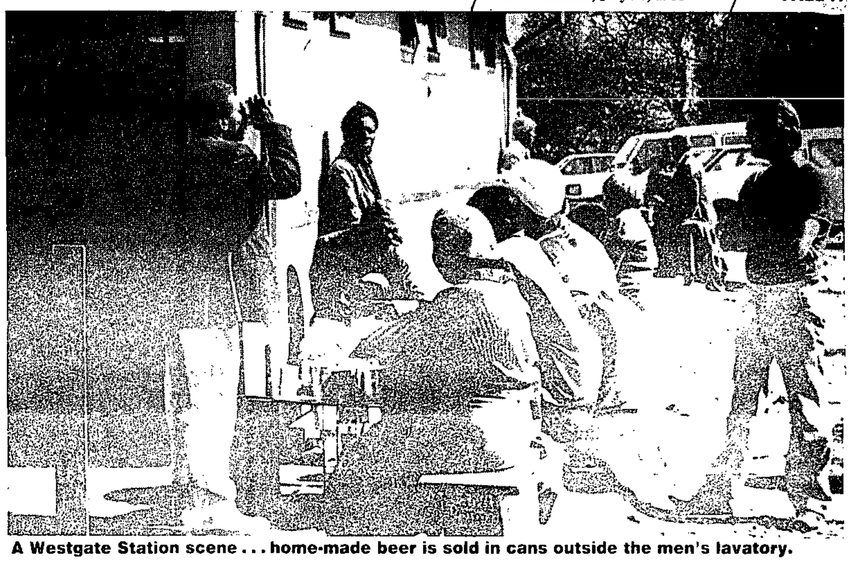
Katlehong housing plans

The mayor of Katlehong, Mr A K Hlahane, said today his council intended building 19 000 houses to alleviate the township's housing shortage.

More than 10 000 families were on the waiting list and about 1 500 squatters, now living in shacks, needed to be housed.

"Yesterday, we took some of the squatter families in buses for an inspection of the area where we intended building houses for them. They were very happy," Mr Hlahane said.

Mr Hlahane said the developing company, Habitech, would start installing the infrastructure before the end of the year.



A Westgate Station scene . . . home-made beer is sold in cans outside the men's lavatory.

Life's not so hot at Westgate

Especially in winter . . .

By LULAMA LUTI

WESTGATE Station – a bee-hive of activity in Johannesburg – is also a pathetic scene.

It is Johannesburg's black market place area – known for its wine, women and song character.

But it is also home for some people not by choice, but because they have no other accommodation.

When *City Press* visited Westgate last Saturday morning, we were reminded of Crossroads in Cape Town.

Westgate is a health hazard. People there have to survive amid wet streets and much dirt.

It is a typical black market place where you can buy anything from fruit and vegetables to raw meat, even after supermarkets and shops have closed.

The hawkers and others who sell goods there without permits have learnt to survive the terrible conditions, but still live under constant fear of the authorities who, according to one woman we talked to, harass them almost daily.

This woman, who refused to identify herself, agreed to tell us her story.

She said she was from the Nqutu district in Natal and had been supported by her husband, whom she said was at Bedfordview.

But her husband stopped sending her and her six children money and they almost starved.

Through the little she earned as a farm labourer she managed to send her children to school.

But things got worse and she decided to come to the Golden City in the hope of finding better employment, but to no avail.

Ten years ago she gave up hope of finding a job and started selling home-made beer.

She said she made no real profit from selling the beer at 50 cents for a normal-size tin can – just enough to keep her and her children going.

She said that because she had no money to rent a room in the township and was constantly chased away by landlords because she could sometimes not afford to pay her rent, she decided to make the veld just outside the station her permanent home.

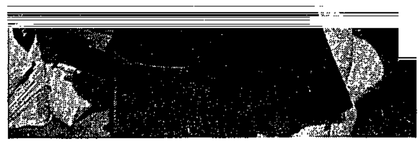
Asked how she coped with the cold, she said she had become so used to it that she did not worry much about colds and flu.

All she was constantly worried about was the authorities who, when they arrived, would spill her beer or perhaps arrest her.

She has lived this way for the past 10 years.

She said that with the high rate of unemployment in most of the country, she had given up hope of finding a job and nothing would stop her selling her beer as long as there were customers and she was healthy enough to brew more.





A Westgate resident downs her home-brew.

Another person we managed to talk to was Pule Motsia, of Orlando East in Soweto, who looked much younger than his 42 years.

He said he had worked for the Johannesburg City Council as a pruner and in 1978 had been cut by an automatic saw. He lost the index finger on his left hand and had to undergo a series of operations.

He lost his job.

Motsia said that from then on he had lived on temporary jobs and always came to Westgate Station in the hope that white men would come and pick him up for odd jobs.

He said he always drank home-made beer because it was the cheapest, and it always provided temporary relief from his worries.

He said he was unhappy about the way he lived, but could do nothing to change the hardship.

As we near the end of this freezing winter, life continues as always for the shelterless souls at Westgate Station.

They live on in the hope that someday their prayers will be heard and somehow their problems will be solved.



A smokes and matches vendor hawks his wares at the Westgate complex.

PFP challenges CP on Hillbrow

The political slanging match in Hillbrow has been further fuelled by a Progressive Federal Party challenge to the Conservative Party to spell out how it would carry out its threat to move 70 000 illegal blacks from the area.

Mrs Gene Gunther (PFP Ward 26), Mr Clifford Garrun (PFP Ward 31) and Mr James Dryja (PFP Ward 30) called on the Government to "stop pussy-footing around" about the greying of the area and remove uncertainty for the residents.

They also tackled Mr Fred Rundle, CP regional chairman and candidate in Ward 30 (Joubert Park) to come clean on making the area a whites only suburb. — Municipal Reporter.

SUGAR OTHER B — Page 2

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"THE proposed legislation makes homelessness a crime and the offenders liable to penalties heavier than those meted out to violent criminals".

ANOTHER FORM OF INFLUX CONTROL

FOCUS

By THEMBA MOLEFE

"WE are not people who are visiting or people who are passing through. We were born here. Another place we have not seen. We were born right here on this farm."

These words, said by farmworker Mr Aaron Zwane, are recorded in a publication of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) entitled *A Toehold on the Land, May 1988.*

Mr Zwane, not his real name because he still works on the farm, is one of the millions of blacks directly affected by the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Slums Bill and the Group Areas Amendment Bill presently before Parliament.

The Bills deal with housing and the resettlement of people in the rural areas and in the cities.

In its publication Trac quotes a farmworker who is part of a generation that has lived on the farm and who does not want to leave for the cities.

"The blacks were on the farm first. The Boers came later. They got the land by fighting; through the wars.

"They arrived and found our homesteads and made the law that we should work under them. The men must plough and the women must work in the kitchens.

"The law became 'hey you, come and load the trucks'. Yet you don't get a cent for that and you must wake up early in the morning and sleep late."

The Black Sash Urbanisation Group in its analysis of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill concludes that families of farmworkers are now threatened with even greater insecurity than they have experienced before.

The group says that at the moment it is an offence to enter land or a building without lawful reason and to remain there without the permission of the lawful owner.

If a person is charged with such an offence the State must prove he did not have a lawful reason or the necessary permission.

The amendment completely changes this. The accused will have to prove he did have lawful reason or the necessary permission.

"This is an absolute denial of the principle of law and justice that the State must prove the case against an accused," says Black Sash.

It says the penalties on conviction will be doubled to a possible fine of R2 000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both plus R20 or 14 days for every day on which the offence is continued after convicition.

Farmworkers and their children fall outside the jurisdiction of local authorities. In such cases special committees may be established and if they believed that people who are not employees of the owner of the land are living there they must appoint an official to investigate.

Such people may be ordered to leave the land within 30 days.

An owner who fails to evict such people is liable to a fine of up to R10 000 or five years' imprisonment or both in terms of the proposed legislation.

"This threatens the families of farmworkers who are not employees of the farm owner," says the Black Sash Urbanisation Group.

Trac says: "The effects of this amendment are that people in rural areas who lose their jobs will be vulnerable to eviction and criminal prosecution while they look for other jobs.

"The law is non-racial but is most unlikely that the committees will order the eviction of white non-employees who live in the rural areas.

"After all, all white pensioners, farmers, contractors and unemployed people all have the vote and must be treated with respect."

Trac comments further: "We fear that the Bill will be used selectively to evict people and that it heralds a return to the Nationalist dream that only those blacks who are economically active should be allowed in the white areas."

The Black Sash says more than five million people in the country are homeless. More than one million families do not have proper shelter.

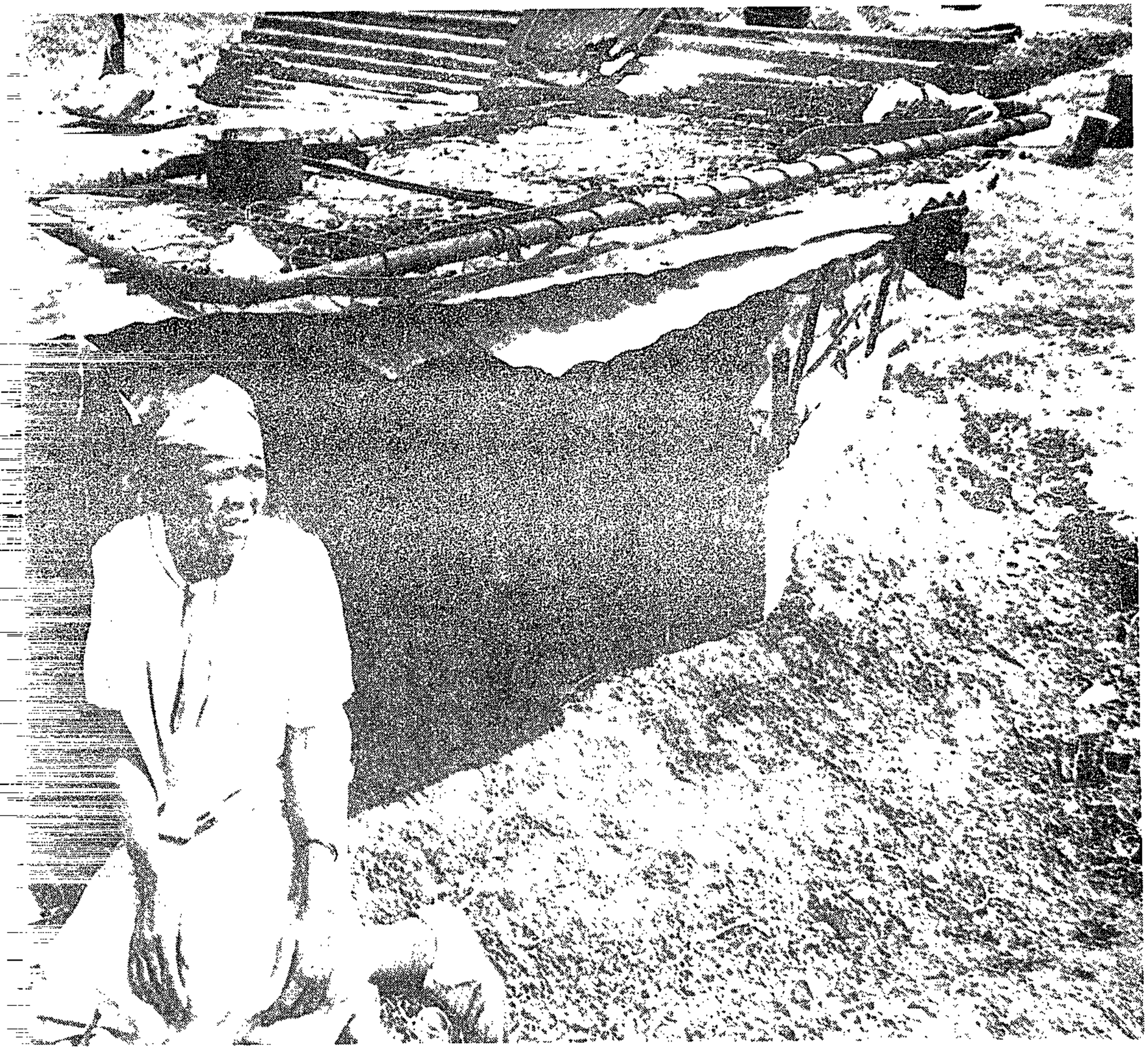
"Homelessness is arguably the most serious problem in South Africa at this time and is Africa at this time and what is the Government doing about it?" the organisation asks.

"It is proposing to deal with the problem by:

- Breaking down houses;
- Removing people from where they are without providing any other place for them to be; and
- Re-introducing influx control with increased severity."

The Black Sash quotes the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, as saying in

Black Sash view of 3 new Bills



... shack on the open veld. Researchers estimate there are 1,5 million squatters living in the PWV area.

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Here are some examples of the findings:

- For the most part squatters comprise the poor and the very poor, with just a small number earning above the poverty line. In the open-field settlements at Katlehong and Thokoza the estimated per capita monthly income was in the R40 to R100 range.
- Squatters — whether in backyards or open fields, living in defiance of the authorities or under their direct control — are almost universally accommodated in overcrowded circumstances, with only the most primitive of services.

In the backyards of Thokoza there are as many as 16 to 20 households per stand. In Katlehong, railway camp people spend three to four hours a day queueing for water trucked in by the SADF.

In the Thokoza shanty town half the population finds itself having to compete with 150 others for use of a single tap. A total of 20 toilets serve the whole community of about 10 000 people.

In Alexandra township nearly a quarter of those interviewed said they shared a single tap with 51 to 75 other people.

- Unemployment is a permanent condition for a large proportion of squatters. For instance, in Thokoza/Katlehong about 40 percent of those in informal housing were jobless and another 12,8 percent survived through casual or part-time work. In parts of Thokoza joblessness was found to be as high as 67 percent.

In Tembisa joblessness was in the 42 to 47 percent range. In the three Soweto emergency camps about 41,5 percent of workers were jobless. More than ... percent of the unemployed had been without job... for more than a year.

The study takes account of a vibrant informal economy — embracing hawkers, trades, liquor sellers, prostitutes, dressmakers, builders — which provides sustenance to a large proportion of residents in informal housing. It points to the existence of kinship and neighbourhood networks which ensure a rudimentary form of social security.

Dr Frankel asserts that the decision of squatters to take to informal housing is an act of survival and an attempt to overcome some of the worst social disadvantages to which they are subject.

More than that the shanty settlements are a product of the central dynamic of political change in South Africa and may indeed become a critical factor in determining the course of such change.

Health 2000 in urgent call for clinic

HEALTH 2000 has called on the Bekkersdal authorities to build a curative clinic urgently to avoid a health crisis.

Health 2000 was formed earlier in the year to look at the needs of the poor. Since then, it has conducted clinics at various places such as Mzimhlope Hostel, Naledi Old Age Home and Etwatwa in the East Rand.

Volunteers

It is composed of a group of doctors, paramedics, nurses and volunteers.

The call was made at the weekend after a free health clinic was conducted among the squatter community.

According to the co-ordinator of Health 2000, Dr Abu Asvat, about 200 squatters in the area were examined.

Deficiency

He said: "A number of children were found to be underweight as a result of under-nutrition. While among adults, a high rate of vitamin deficiency was discovered."

Infrastructure was also a matter that needed to be seriously looked into, he added.

Squatters on move!

NORMAN CHANDLER

IF YOU think squatters are nothing but a disorganised bunch of layabouts who come from over the hill to sit rent-free on your land, think again.

Sit on your land they might and disorganised they may once have been. But not any more.

This week the Isolomzi Peoples' Union broke cover to state that the nation's estimated 5,2 million squatters are about to be led to their "promised land", although promised by whom no one is quite sure.

Nevertheless, the IPU has already gone a long way towards getting its act together. It is now on the point of making representations to Government, is negotiating for finance with a major institution — and is publishing its own eight-page monthly newsletter.



SQUATTERS' RIGHTS: The men who are organising 5,2 million squatters into a national group — Mr Pheello Mofokeng (left) and Mr Eric Ntshiqela.

Individual sites

But that's not all. The IPU is in the process of establishing its own townships, where, we are told, squatters will be able to leave behind forever their tin, mud and wattle, plastic sheeting and cardbox shanties, and move into more conventional housing.

The first of these will be known as Zakhelizwe, situated on a 28 ha site near Roodepoort and which eventually will be home to about 600 families on individual sites of 200 sq m. A second township is being planned for the Randfontein area, with others in the future in the Transvaal, Natal and Free State.

Limited services will be provided with attention being given to full servicing in the future.

Application for proclamation of the land is underway at present, and it is hoped that the first homes will go up in the early part of next year.

Talks on innovative financing arrangements are to take place soon with a major financial institution. Financing will be done in such a way that no township resident will repay mortgages to the institution — to safeguard mortgage finance, a lump sum repayment will be made by the Zakhelizwe Association.

The financing arrangements follow closely suggestions by Mr D Meiring, senior divisional manager of First National Bank, at a housing conference held in Pretoria recently that new methods of making money available should be found.

He said that the bank was working with the Development Bank of Southern Africa on innovative financing.

Five million people show their muscle

Secretary-General of IPU, Mr Pheello Mofokeng; told Saturday Star: "Something needed to be done. So we formed ourselves into a group to ensure that we could work for a better life for our people."

The IPU grew out of the Isolomzi shack project, which was established in February last year by squatters at Protea South, Soweto.

The shack project attracted considerable support from Protea South residents who had illegally moved (squatted) into homes which had formerly been occupied by coloured people, who had been relocated in Ennerdale.

But the homes were scheduled for demolition, and Soweto City Council's decision to do so within a seven-day period resulted in the formation of IPU to fight the move.

That was in May 1987, and since then IPU has made it its business, working at grassroots level, to help the homeless with representations to local authorities, legal aid, land development, promoting cultural, social or sporting events to "build a spirit of unity", and setting up a building fund for the not-to-distant future, when they will be able to help members get their own conventional homes.

On September 11, IPU is convening a meeting in Johannesburg of all squatter camp committees throughout the country.

A delegation will also be elected to make representations to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, on the plight of squatters and to tell him that proposed new legislation about squatters is not acceptable to millions of people.

"We must do this to prevent any problem which could eventuate as a result of the State's intentions," Mr Mofokeng said.

area, Ngcolosi, is very broken, with [illegible] people about to face [illegible] force, went through their areas a[illegible]

You're saved, they said, while the flames licked the shacks ...

CARMEL RICKARD reports on the destruction of a squatter community

THE 3 000 squatters of Emzomusha, near Durban, learnt on Friday that the government had found land for them. There was no rejoicing. For that very morning, their landowner was busy burning their shacks.

For many of the squatters it was the third time in less than a year that their homes were destroyed — a number were victims of last year's flood; after moving to Emzomusha their homes were demolished by the landowner in early August and the re-built shacks were finally razed on August 26.

They had also been given conflicting information about whether they could continue living on the site.

Landowner Grant Trebble said that for six months he tried to persuade the people to move so he could begin development for a "coloured" or Indian housing estate. However, no-one appeared to take any notice of him and the people stayed on.

The squatters on the other hand say that a "kwaZulu leader" — they claim it would be dangerous to name him — informed them it was permissable to stay. He allegedly charged them rent and "protection money" so that they would not be moved.

Earlier this month Trebble, frustrated at making no headway, demolished many of the squatters' homes. He was due to return last Monday but was persuaded by Progressive Federal Party MPs Roger Burrows and Mike Ellis to agree to a few days' grace while they tried to get officials to identify alternative land.

By Thursday evening when there had been no definite announcement, Trebble said he was getting ready to return, and on Friday morning his team moved in.

At midday the Department of Development Aid issued a statement that land had been found. It was too late for the squatters at Emzomusha — also known as Lovezone — whose homes were already burning.

Some of them tried to resist the demolishers and tension ran high.

By evening everything had been flattened and the squatters left.

Some have simply disappeared "into the bush", others were housed in a hall in Newlands East, while a third group moved to temporary accommodation at Richmond Farm. Heavy rain over the weekend added to the discomfort of those who were camping in the open, keeping watch over the possessions they were able to save from burning.

This week the Department of Development Aid and the Natal Provincial Administration issued a joint statement that land was being prepared with "rudimentary facilities" for the squatters, but officials now face the problem of how to find the people they are offering to accommodate.

"We will just have to go out and try to locate them," said an NPA official.

Both Ellis and Burrows have criticised the DDA and NPA for not acting with more speed.

"If they had taken the situation seriously the misery of the squatters and the destruction of their property could have been avoided," they said.

Meanwhile Trebble could be faced with another problem. Durban's Legal Resources Centre is investigating the possibility of the squatters suing him for damages they sustained during Friday's "burn out".

Lawyers said that in their understanding the law entitled a landowner to demolish shacks but did not confer the right to destroy property. They have taken about 100 statements from people who claim to have lost clothing, furniture, building material and other property at Emzomusha.



While shacks burn, a squatter attempts to salvage his smouldering possessions
Picture: Afrapix

Mob killings: 11 appeal today

BY MZIMKULU MALUNGA

LAWYERS for 11 Tumahole youths charged with murdering a municipal policeman will today file for leave to appeal against sentences ranging from community service to death.

The charges stem from May 1986 when a mob killed the policeman, Joseph Mokoena, and burnt his house. Another policeman's house was also stoned, and a shop owned by relatives of Lekoa mayor Esau Mahlatsi was looted.

The incidents occurred after residents of Parys's Tumahole township called for a one day stayaway to protest against municipal policemen's destruction of their community parks. The parks were constructed as part of the civic association's clean-up campaign.

Three of the 11 residents — Israel Machasa, 25, Jerry Molobeng, 25, and Johannes Mono, 23 — were convicted of murder and received the death sentence. They were also sentenced to two years' imprisonment for public violence.

Charles Ramakhoase, 18, and Johannes Mpshe, 19, were sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for murder and one year's jail for public violence.

Lucas Nthoroane, 20, and Paul Korope, 21, were sentenced to two years' jail for public violence.

The four others — Elias Mogokane, 19, Africa Molatedi, 18, Henry Nkhi, 18, and a minor — were convicted of public violence and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Their sentences was suspended for five years provided they served two years' community service at the Tumanhole Clinic under the supervision of a matron.

Lawyers said if the 11 were refused leave to appeal, they would petition the state president.



YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU
at a meeting on
CONSCRIPTION
Saturday September 3,
11am, St Aiden's,
Regent St, Yeoville.
We will look at conscription today through the eyes of a conscript and an objector, a township resident and a political scientist, a lawyer and a businessman.
We'll then look at alternatives for the future. Bring your sons and husbands, brothers and friends.

THE BLACK SASH

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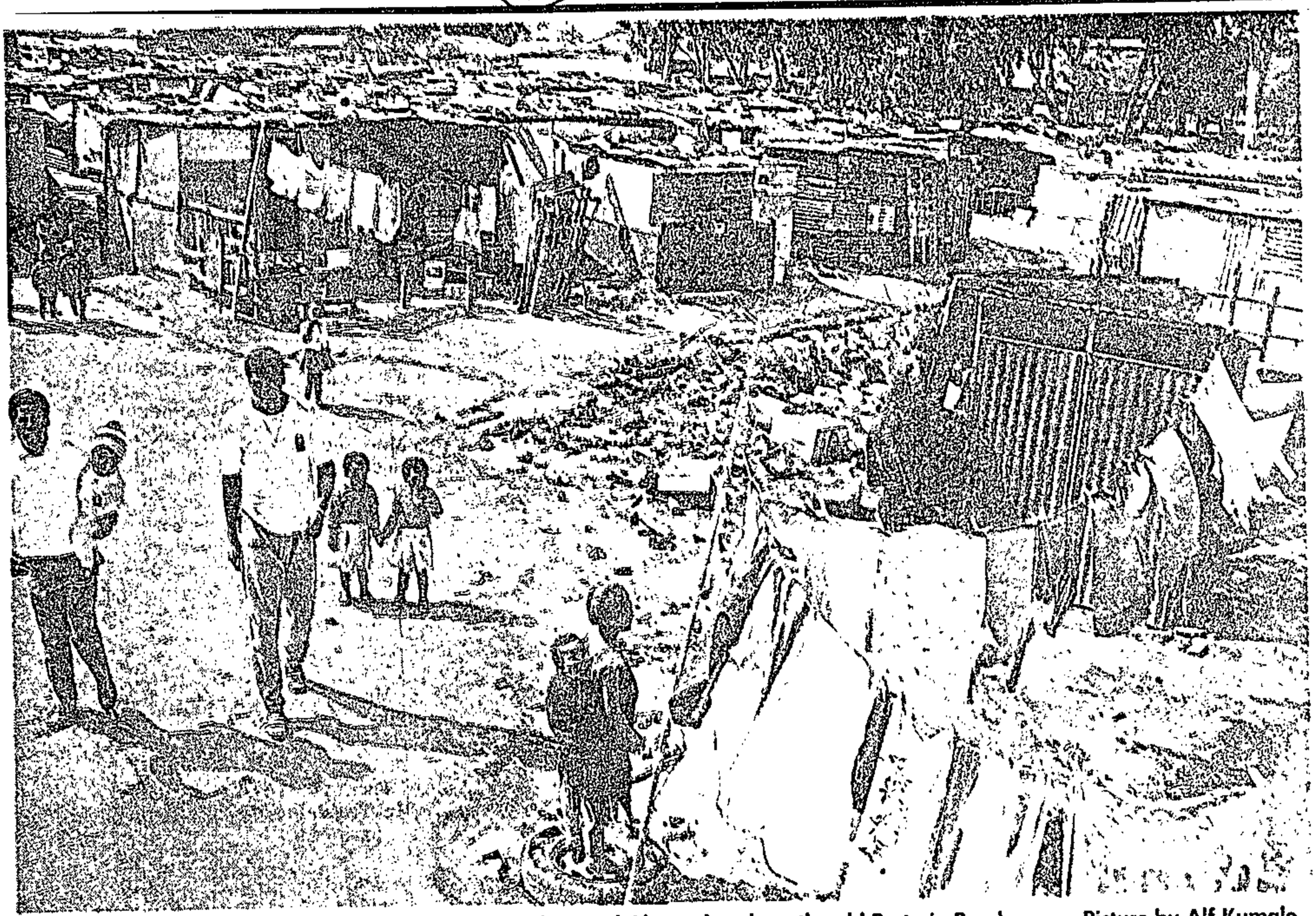


The squatter camp in Wynberg on the border of Sandton and Alexandra along the old Pretoria Road. Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Wynberg squatters 'agreed to be resettled'

By Stan Hlophe

People living at the emergency squatter camp in Wynberg on the border of Sandton and Alexandra are to be resettled at Orange Farm near Grasmere following an agreement between TPA officials, the Alexandra Council and a residents' committee, a spokesman for the squatters said yesterday.

The chairman of the 3 000 squatters, Mr Thembinkosi Ndebele, said they were scheduled to be moved to Grasmere tomorrow providing they received written notices from TPA officials.

Mr Ndebele, who with his Committee of Seven battled for the squatters to find a suitable area, said they had agreed to be resettled at Orange Farm.

"It is better than living in such sub-human conditions."

The squatters, who come from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Gazankulu, Pietersburg and kwaZulu, settled at "Ka Green" camp, named after the property owners, a Mr M S Green and Mrs E Gavshon, in February last year.

They had one thing in common — they were evicted from Alexandra township.

"We decided to settle here and were accommodated by a shrewd black businessman who charged us a protection fee of R50. When we first moved in we were about 100 but the number grew within three months.

"It was then the officials got wind of the camp and harassed us. We told them we got the rights of settling here from a certain Simon, a local businessman.

"Simon was prosecuted and we were ordered to move out. We stood our ground and agreed to move if we were refunded our monies and expenses we incurred for erecting the shacks."

It was then the committee was formed and consulted the Black Sash which organised legal representation for the squatters. Representations to the TPA and Wynberg and Alexandra councils led to a temporary reprieve for the squatters.

Some of the conditions were that all the squatters should register with the Alexandra Council and agree that they would be moved to Grasmere.

A representative of the TPA, Mr J S Erasmus, suggested to Sandton Town Council that it investigate the possibility of acquiring land for the resettlement of the squatters in Wynberg because of the shortage of land in Alexandra, or house the squatters itself.

"ET" Tshabalala. The media dubbed the place Mshenguville, after Mr Tshabalala whose clan name is Mshengu.

Report:
KAIZER NYATSUMBA
Pictures:
RUVAN BOSHOFF

Today Mshenguville is bustling with life and has become a "town" whose inhabitants languish in poverty.

Residents of the new "town" told Saturday Star that desperation drove them there. Some of them had been on the housing waiting list for years they said.

Visiting Soweto to launch an anti-pollution campaign last week, the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Michael Veldman, said the conditions at Mshenguville were totally unacceptable.

Accompanied by the mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile, Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan, Soweto health officer Dr W Matsie and Mr Martin Lloyd, who has been monitoring air pollution in Soweto for a year, Dr Veldman toured Soweto and visited clinics and schools in the township.

"Soweto is not yet a health hazard, but it could easily develop into one if the situation is not monitored. The conditions at the Mshengu squatter camp are totally unacceptable.

Smoke pollution problem

"The lack of accommodation at Baragwanath Hospital is totally unacceptable. The smoke pollution level in Soweto during winter is also totally unacceptable," Dr Veldman said.

In a telephone interview, Soweto mayor Mr Nelson Botile said he also found conditions at Mshenguville unacceptable and thought it was a health hazard.

Mr Botile lashed out at his predecessor, Mr Tshabalala, for allowing a place like that to exist.

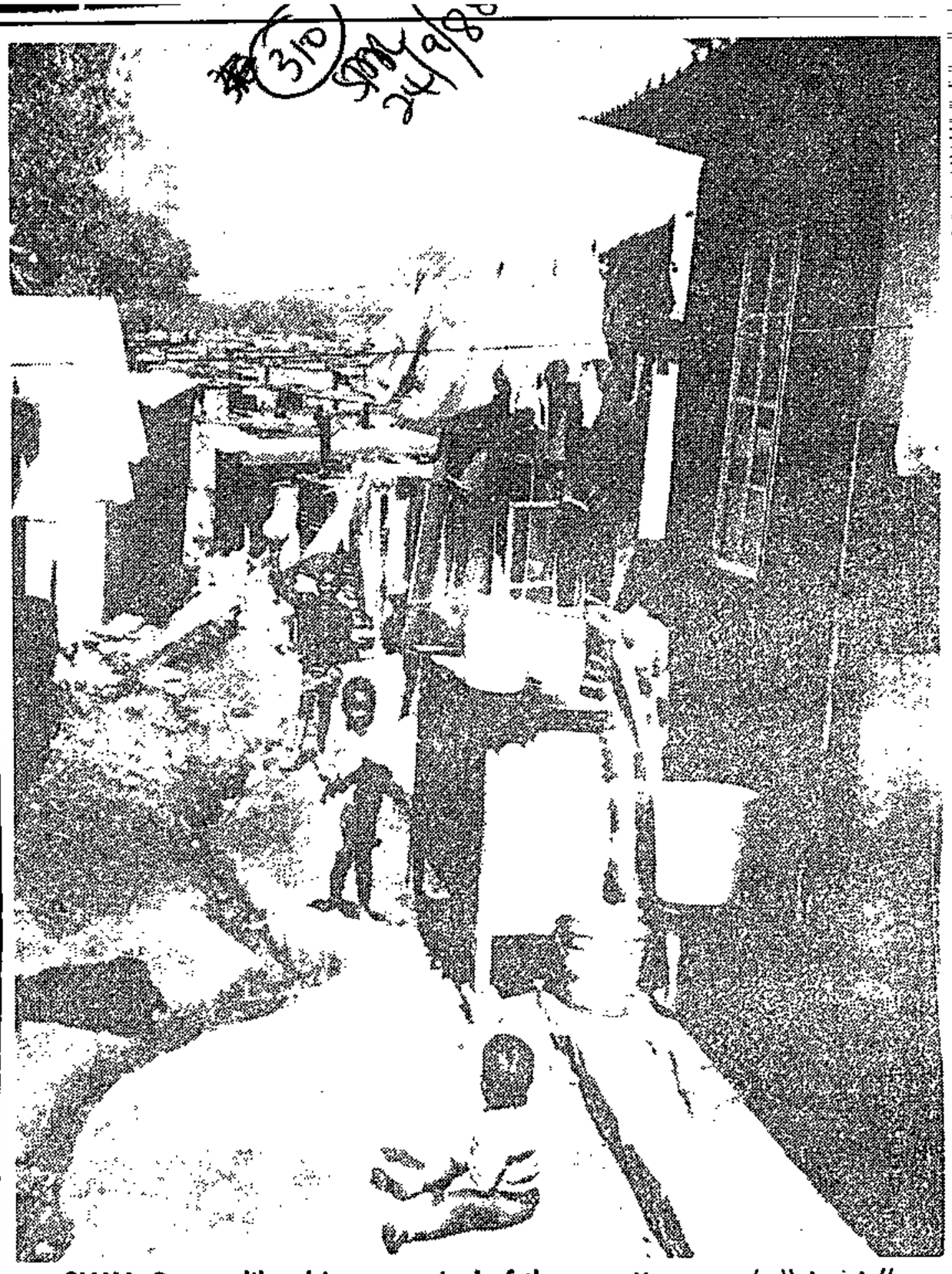
Mr Botile said: "The place is a health hazard. No human being can live in that place and I think any leader or any person who claims to be a leader and yet allows his people to live in those unhealthy conditions is not a leader.

"Mr Tshabalala should have chosen a better place for the people and not that one. I therefor condemn the establishment of Mshenguville in the first place."

The Soweto town council had asked the Government for more land so the people could be moved to a new area, according to Mr Botile. Should their request be granted, the town council would contact the South African Housing Trust with a view to securing cheaper housing for the people, said Mr Botile.

"We have passed the time of asking for shacks for our people," Mr Botile said.

Mr Tshabalala could not be reached for comment.



SLUM: Scenes like this are typical of the squatter camp's "streets".

Mshenguville: slum that shouldn't exist

IT HAS been called names — from health hazard to human dump — yet it stands unabashedly behind Eyethu Cinema in Mofolo, Soweto.

Mshenguville, as the place is known, is home to at least 3 000 people who, owing to the acute shortage of housing in Soweto, erected shacks in the area.

To many it is a place the existence of which they would rather wish away. Yet to many others it is the only place they can call home — a place they are prepared to even fight for.

Unlike many other squatter camps mushrooming daily around Johannesburg, Mshenguville came into existence almost five years ago with the bless-



DUMP: Children frequent the scrapheap which has developed in Mshenguville and contains everything from derelict motor car parts to household refuse



Spooktown's children forced to make the best of a playground strewn with uncollected rubbish.

Spooktown poses major health fears

In amongst the filth, garbage and sewage no ambulance available to see to the sick

By SOPHIE TEMA

THERE is a critical backlog of health services in Westonaria's black township, Bekkersdal, and residents in the area are putting up with the continuous pungent smell of rotten rubbish heaps and clogged communal toilets.

Medical men said the squatter area near the cemetery, known as "Spooktown", has been transformed into a complete slum and is facing a health crisis.

This week co-ordinator for Health 2000, Dr Abu-Baker Asvat, urgently appealed to Bekkersdal authorities to build a clinic to avoid a health crisis.

Health 2000 – a group of doctors, paramedics, nurses and other volunteers – conducts free health clinics and looks after the needs of the poor.

Last week Health 2000 conducted a clinic in the area and discovered there were no ambulances to ferry the sick to hospital.

A local resident has converted his minibus into an ambulance and charges R40 a trip to Leratong hospital.

Bekkersdal residents prefer the makeshift ambulance to the council one which they say used to charge R60 a trip.

A spokesperson at the local clinic confirmed that it was at their request that DM Lebewane offered his minibus for use as an ambulance.

She said: "We haven't got a single ambulance operating in the area and the reason we were given by the authorities is that they have all broken down."

Asvat said: "When Health 2000 held its clinic in the area they examined about 200 squatters and found that a number of children were underweight as a result of lack of nutrition.

"We also found that there was a high rate of vitamin deficiency among some of the adults."

The first wave of a massive influx of people now resident at the camp began about four years ago when about 40 homeless families were settled near the Paul Nel hall in Bekkersdal by permission of the local council.

Besides those living in the squatter camp, authorities estimate there are on average six backyard shacks for each authorised township house and have warned that this posed a major threat to stability.

While the existence of squatter families in "Spooktown" has been acknowledged, they have not been allocated housing and the area is devoid of basic services.

The squatter: a bird that will always return to roost

Star 1/10/78

310

PATRICK LAURENCE

ORIEL Monogoaha hardly merits a footnote in the orthodox histories of South Africa. But his words compel attention on the eve of the latest round in the long-standing struggle between white authority and black squatters.

"The Government is beaten," he declared more than 40 years ago. "It is like a man who has a cornfield which is invaded by birds. He chases the birds from one part of the field and they alight in another ... we squatters are the birds."

Monogoaha was one of several resourceful black squatter leaders who clashed with the white-controlled Johannesburg City Council in the 1940s.

He was a contemporary of James "Sofasonke" Mpanza, whose followers honoured him with the title of "king". Today Mapanza is regarded in some quarters as the founder of South Africa's largest black township, Soweto.

It is debatable who won the tussle between the city council and the squatters in what was to become Soweto. It depends on how the contest is assessed.

For a brief period, the squatter movements of the 1940s established their own largely autonomous societies with their own courts, police and administration.

The squatter camps, as Professor Alf Stadler, of the University of the Witwatersrand, notes in an illuminating analysis, were "a state within a state into which no white could go except under squatter escort".

They were the social incubators of revolutionary developments so abhorred by the authorities today: people's courts and people's power

But, to quote Professor Stadler on the 1940 squatters again: "Eventually they were netted and caged, first in the emergency camp and (then in) the housing schemes developed by local and central Government."

If, as Professor Stadler concludes, the squatters were absorbed into the stabilised black community on the outskirts of Johannesburg, they were not totally defeated. They were never driven out. They had to be accommodated.

Today, more than four decades later, South Africa's rulers face another challenge from squatters and, ignoring the advice of the Government of the 1940s, they are preparing for a campaign of eviction and expulsion.

In the mid-1940s the central Government cautioned Johannesburg's City Council against its plan to prosecute the squatters.

Its advice was summarised thus in evidence to a commission of inquiry into the "disturbances" in 1947 at an emergency camp in Moroka: "Nothing could be gained by chasing people from a spot where they were settled unless the authorities know of a place where they could go."

The present Government, however, is assembling a new piece of legal weaponry — the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill — in a bid to win a decisive battle against the omnipresent squatters.

The Bill dispenses with the existing presumption of innocence in favour of alleged squatters, sharply raises maximum penalties for offenders (who may be squatters or landlords who allow squatting for consider ations of compassion or profit), and removes the discretion of the courts (previously courts were not obliged to order the eviction of convicted squatters and the demolition of the shacks).

The extent of the squatter problem is the subject of extensive research conducted or commissioned by the Urban Foundation, some of it supervised by Professor Stadler's colleague, Dr Philip Frankel.

In South Africa's densely populated industrial heartland, the PWV region, between 1,6 million and 2,4 million people live in backyard shacks, garages and "informal settlements". Most of these squatters have lived in the PWV area for more than five years, having moved into their abodes from within the metropolitan region.

The primary reason for the problem in the urban areas lies in the shortage of approved accommodation. There are 26 000 families on the official waiting list for houses in Soweto.

As the SA Institute of Race Relations notes: "All the townships in the PWV area have several thousand families on the waiting list. Many of these have resorted to squatting."

It recalls that all attempts to prevent squatting in the Western Cape, including repeated demolition of squatter shacks, failed. Squatter camps such as Modderdam, Unibel and Werkgenot were wiped out. But the biggest, Crossroads, survived and grew, spawning a bevy of satellite camps in the process.

The institute deduces that removal of squatters at gunpoint is a short-term remedy only: in 1983, 65 000 squatters were removed from the East Rand; today, in one East Rand township alone, Tokoza, there are about 70 000 squatters. Squatters, it concludes, are so determined to live in the cities that no sooner are they removed than they return.

Oriel Monogoaha was indeed a perspicacious man.

Project will upgrade community services

Star 6/10/88 By Helen Grange

The Leadership Institute, a non-profit body formed to train leaders of Soweto community organisations to improve community services, was launched in Soweto yesterday.

The Institute plans to help community organisations define priority problems in each community and strengthen available resources.

This involves the provision of job-related skills and work opportunities for the unemployed, provision of health facilities, particularly in squatter areas, provision of low-cost housing and management training for leaders of rural communities.

ADVISORY SERVICES

Mr Dave Jackson, founder and board member, said the Institute would offer a wide range of training and advisory services to community organisations to enable improved research methods, budget drafting, publicity and fundraising for projects.

"The Institute's consultants will meet with the leadership teams of organisations and conduct an initial analysis of particular problems. This will be followed by a management workshop and the implementation of plans and decisions," Mr Jackson said.

The Institute would depend on grants from the private sector and overseas funding agencies, and would charge nominal amounts for its services. It would not accept funding from the government or from agencies "supporting the system of apartheid".

Mr Jackson said the institute planned to limit its activities initially to the Witwatersrand.

Squatters receive medical treatment

By Jovial Rantao 310

A team of volunteers, operating under the auspices of Health 2000, conducted a free health clinic at a squatter camp between Finetown and Grasmere south of Johannesburg yesterday. Star 11/10/88

The camp, which started a year ago, is occupied by about 500 homeless people.

The health team was made up of eight people from Lenasia, Eldorado Park and Soweto.

Dr Abubaker Asvat, who heads Health 2000, said about 60 adults were treated.

One case of high blood pressure was detected.

Five people who had urinary problems were treated.

One child who was greatly underweight was referred to hospital for further treatment.

People living in the area, supported by outside groups, provided water and other necessities for the team.

"People were apprehensive about the proposed Squatter Act. They felt that if they were left where they were, they would improve their modest structures and upgrade their limited facilities," Dr Asvat said.

to visit Moscow. him one of the most controversial Ameri- president

Disused mine shaft is home for squatters

Cart Trg #5 19/10/88 310

JOHANNESBURG. — People going to work through Crown Mines on the Soweto freeway, daily drive past an enormous mine shaft unaware that it houses scores of derelict squatters living underground.

In the 2 000-metre-deep shaft, men and women live in the most squalid conditions.

It is dark and dingy and no light or air penetrates the hole they sleep in. They have no water or toilet facilities and use the veld to answer nature's calls.

They come from all parts of the country.

Among them are two pregnant women. One of them, Thobeka Fanta, is very sick and two months pregnant.

Thobeka said she had no other place to go and was expecting her baby to be born either in hospital or in the shaft.

If the child was born in hospital she would return with it to the shaft once they were discharged.

Asked what would happen if one of them died in the shaft, some said: "We will just call the police and have the body removed for a pauper's burial if we do not know any of the dead person's relatives.

"If the relatives are known, we will inform them."

During the day the men and most of the women spend their time near Westgate station, drinking liquor and scavenging scraps of food from rubbish bins.

Most of the shaft-dwellers are young girls who left their homes and throng the streets of the city to seek their "fortunes".

A similar case is that of more than 20 men and women who sleep under trees just off the freeway about a kilometre from Shareworld.

They are often spotted in the early morning standing between the trees washing themselves.

They sleep in "bedrooms" made from pieces of plastic, sacks and carpet cut-offs.

They are all unemployed and during the day move into the area near Booysens, where they visit backyards of shops searching for food from the rubbish bins while others scavenge on dumping grounds.

They all claim their families live outside Johannesburg and some claim to come from as far as Cape Town.

They use old tin cans for cooking and cardboard boxes as mattresses. — Sapa

Transvaal squatters to get serviced sites

Star 25/10/84

Pretoria Correspondent (310)

Projects providing for the servicing of 57 609 sites to accommodate squatters in the southern and western Transvaal were announced by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the South African Housing Trust (SAHT) yesterday.

The R800 million agreement was signed by both parties to formalise the project, which involves the development of just over 1 400 ha in the Wildebeestfontein-Orange Farm-Evaton North area, 850 ha in the Welverdiend-Stinkhoutboom area, about 620 ha in Rietvallei and 600 ha at Carletonville.

The agreement was signed by a Transvaal MEC, Mr J Mavuso, the Provincial Secretary, Mr A Corneliusen, and the managing director and general manager of the SAHT, Mr J Taylor and Mr S L le Roux.

The projects are mainly to provide housing in the range up to R20 000.

LOW COST HOUSING

"We are investigating all types of low-cost housing, as we are committed to offering the black population in these areas affordable accommodation," said Mr Taylor.

The three tracts of land would be supplied with services and sold for R500 or more.

Mr Mavuso said that no decision had been reached as to whether Orange Farm and the Wildebeestfontein area would be incorporated into an existing local authority or whether a new local authority would be established.

The Rietvallei area would be incorporated into the Kagiso local authority.

The Stinkhoutboom and Welverdiend development would provide alternative accommodation for an estimated 4 700 families squatting in surrounding Carletonville.

Land for new housing 'prone to sinkholes'

Star 26/10/82

By Norman Chandler

310

There was cautious approval yesterday of a plan announced on Monday to service nearly 3 000 ha of undeveloped land in a bid to alleviate the squatter problem in the southern and western Transvaal, but a geologist has also warned that many of the proposed stands are on sinkhole-prone land.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration and the South African Housing Trust signed an agreement in Pretoria allowing for 57 609 stands to be serviced in the Wildebeestfontein, Orange Farm, Evaton North, Welverdiend, Stinkhoutboom and Rietvalei areas at a cost of R800 million.

Mr Joe Taylor, managing director of the Housing Trust, said: "We are investigating all types of low-cost housing, as we are committed to offering the black population in these areas affordable accommodation."

The serviced land is to be sold at prices ranging from R500 upwards.

Reacting today, the Black Sash said in a statement that the announcement was a sign of the administration's intention to cope with the results of the policies of nearly 30 years which had brought about the crisis of the homeless.

The organisation said it must be viewed only as a start and the delivery of land would have to be stepped up.

It said: "The land involved is about 32 percent of the current estimated backlog of units required in the central, west and Vaal Triangle regions. It is about 15 percent of the estimated requirements for the same areas up to the year 2000.

"The housing envisaged is said to be in the R20 000 range and lower. Will the very people most requiring accommodation in fact be afforded access to the land being serviced at a capital cost of R500 a site?

"In addition, there will be monthly payments for service charges and these have been reported in the region of R37 a month. Affordability is critical, and the Government must address itself to how it is going to apply the necessary subsidies to the land price and service charges."

A leading geologist, Dr Tony Brink, who first warned the Government earlier this year that thousands of hectare being put aside for mass housing developments for blacks were on dolomitic land, told The Star: "Stinkhoutboom and Welverdiend, in the Carletonville area, are on dolomite land. They are adjacent to Khutsong township, where nine sinkholes have occured since it was established.

"It is impossible to predict where sinkholes can occur. The establishment of high-density, low-cost housing, with services which are of a lower standard than usual, as would be the case in informal housing schemes such as this, increases the danger. I am on record as saying this and I repeat it."

Dr Brink said that Wildebeesfontein, Orange Farm, Evaton North and Rietvalei were acceptable for housing purposes.

Mr Amos Cebekhulu, director of the Johannesburg Advice Office of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches, said today that the R800 million agreement should "not be seen as an excuse to enact" squatter Bills.

He said suggestions by the Urban Foundation for an agency to be formed to implement a housing policy were still valid and the WCC called for such an agency to come into being.

Police

SQUATTERS FATE

Sowetan 4/11/88

ABOUT 1500 squatters in Alexandra Township, near Johannesburg, will be moved to Evaton early next year, the town council announced yesterday.

The council had threatened to demolish the squaters' shacks this week, but following protests from the homeless families and the Isolomzi People's Union, formed by the squatters, the council decided to abandon its plans.

Town Clerk of Alexandra, Mr R. Genis, yesterday said there was not enough land in the township to build houses for all the squatter families. 310

"Some of them may be accommodated in Alexandra but the majority will be moved to Evaton. The council is aware that most of the squatters work around Johannesburg, but we could only get them land in Evaton," said Mr Genis.

Mr Mike Mabuza, president of Isolomzi People's Union, said they were against squatters being resettled in Evaton.

"We are against this

• To page 2

Fate of squatters

Sowetan 4/11/88

• From page 1 310

move and we have told council officials that we want them to build us houses in Alexandra. Most of the squatters work in Johannesburg and surrounding areas and if they are resettled in Evaton, they will experience transport problems," said Mr Mabuza.

, November 6, 1988

Oukasie residents stay put

Emergency camp defiants will not be relocated to Lethlabile

By SOL MORATHI

THE fetid odour of water-borne sewerage, the periodic disconnection of water and the rubble that lines the streets are an everday feature of Oukasie township at Brits.

It seems that local residents will have to continue living under such conditions unless the South African government sets aside some money to upgrade the township.

A week ago, Transvaal Provincial Administration director of black affairs, John Mavuso, told Oukasie residents that the government had not budgeted for the upgrading of Oukasie.

Mavuso said though the government would not move Oukasie residents against their wishes. He, however, urged them to apply for residential permits in Soshanguve, Mamelodi or Atteridgeville if they did not want to move to Letlhabile – a resettlement area 25km north of Brits.

The residents view the government's actions as a ploy to discourage them from continuing to stay in the township.

They say they found it unreasonable that the government refused to upgrade the township after reprieving it from forced removal.

"Everything is in shambles. The authorities want to discouraged us. But we won't deviate from our original standpoint.

"We won't move an inch," said Mike Shongwe of the Brits Action Committee.

"Despite the terrible conditions Oukasie residents are faced with, they still stand united against the government's plans to move them."

This week, water was disconnected in some parts of the township without residents being notified beforehand.

"We often experience such things. This is not new. We have on many occasions approached the authorities in this regard, but nothing has changed," Shongwe said.

Officially, Oukasie is no longer a township

It was deproclaimed in 1986, making those who refused to go to Letlhabile illegal squatters in the place they had occupied for more than 55 years.

Almost 7 000 people then moved to Letlhabile, an area on the edge of Bophuthatswana, after giving in to government pressure.

In May this year, the government proclaimed it an emergency camp, using the Squatters Act against some 800 remaining families of an original 10 000 who refused to be resettled in Letlhabile.

Soon thereafter, the residents had a taste of things to come. A heavy contingent of security forces entered the area, camped on the the sports ground and began taking a census of the inhabitants.

It was announced that the township would be sealed from all non-residents from June this year. This excluded health workers, soldiers and State officials.

From then on, residents were to be issued with permits and were to seek the superintendent's permission to carry out extensions or renovations on buildings, to keep animals or to have overnight guests.

Anybody wishing to move to Oukasie for more than a year had to get permission to do so.

As yet, no final government decision has been made on Oukasie.

Squatters vow to fight demolition

By STAN MHLONGO

SCORES of Alexandra squatters this week adopted the slogan "an eviction to one, is an eviction to all" in their battle against the demolition of their shacks.

Isolomzi People's Union president Mike Mabuza said the slogan was adopted at a meeting called by the organisation at the Entokozweni Community Centre, Alexandra, this week.

Mabuza said squatters resolved to fight against losing their homes.

"They have challenged the authorities to demolish all the shacks in Alexandra – and not be selective about demolition," said Mabuza.

Mabuza said both the Group Areas Act and the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill had to be scrapped – "after all, it was the acute shortage of housing that forced people to become squatters, not their free will".

Mabuza said much of the housing trouble being faced by blacks was caused by the government.

"Blacks were considered temporary sojourners in the urban areas – no town planning was done. As a result, many black areas don't have an adequate infrastructure," Mabuza said.

310 6/11/88
Chem

35 families squat near town council

(310)

East Rand Bureau

At least 35 families without accommodation have been camping with their belongings near the offices of the Daveyton Town Council for the past few days.

The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, said they had been given notice to vacate the area because they were squatting on private property.

Mr Sinaba said the families had refused alternative accommodation in the township and have insisted they should be giving their own sites.

He confirmed he had been approached by Bishop S Nkoane of the Anglican Church to offer them accommodation.

Mr Sinaba added the council could not give preference to these families when it already had many people on its waiting list for houses.

Squatters in the cold

3/10/10/11/84 Sowetan

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

MORE than 80 squatters are still in the open, three weeks after the Daveyton Town Council pulled down their shacks in a crackdown on the homeless people.

The 84 squatters, including babies, have been sleeping in the open next to the council offices after their building material and furniture was confiscated by council policemen when their shacks were demolished.

The squatters lived at Daveyton's Etwatwa East section.

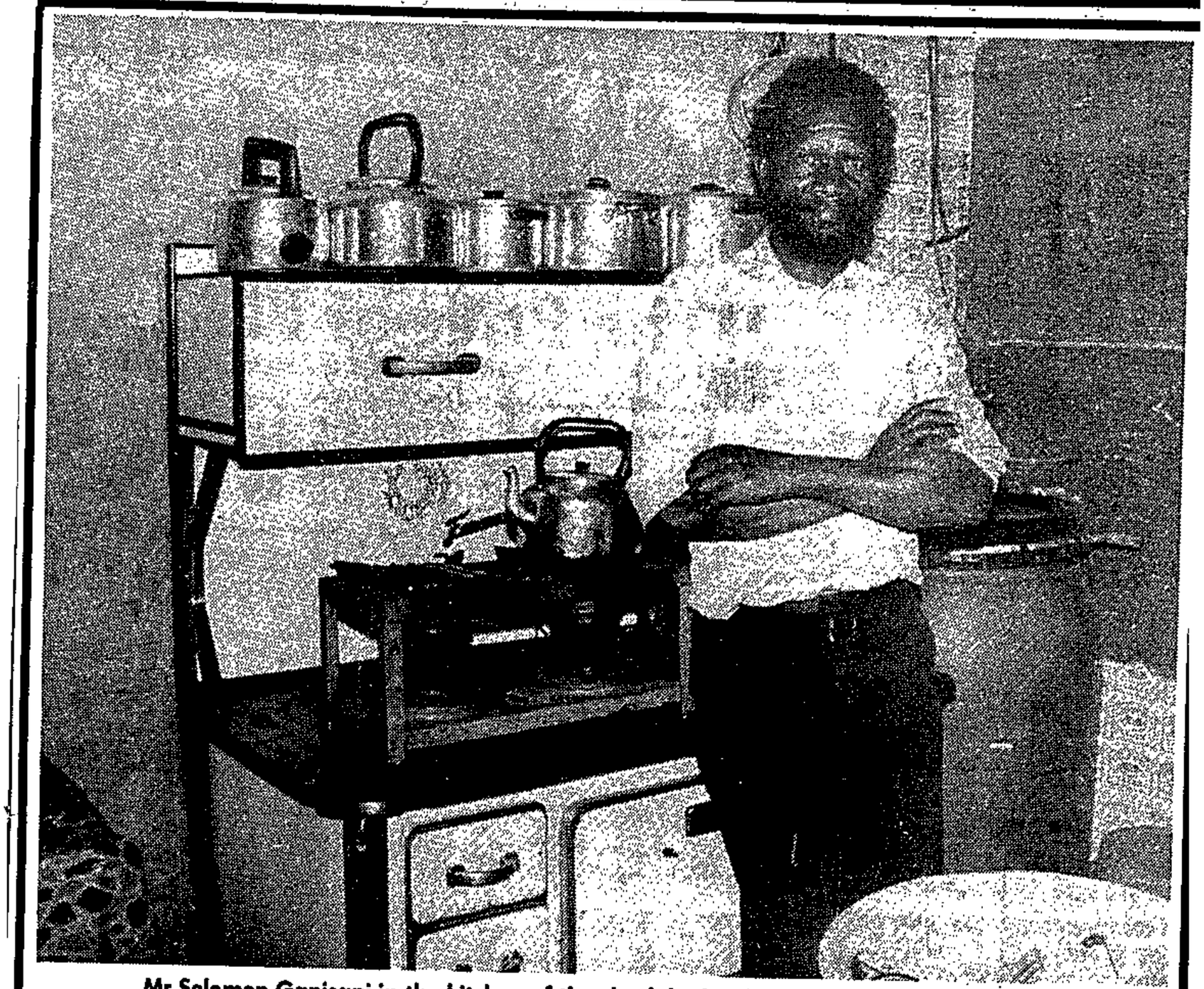
The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, yesterday said he was not aware of the squatters plight.

"I know nothing about these squatters and there is nothing the council can do to help them," said Mr Sinaba.

Mr William Mdlalose, a spokesman for the squatters, said they approached the council last week concerning their plight and that the council had promised to provide them with alternative accommodation.

Mr Mdlalose said the families would continue sleeping in the open until the council found them alternative accommodation.

He said: "All we are asking from the council is to be treated like all human beings and be provided with shelter for our families."



Mr Solomon Ganisani in the kitchen of the shack he has built for his family in Tokhoza.

Dreaming of running water and a loo

By Winnie Graham

Running water and a proper toilet — a man who wants more from life has never gone without these basic needs.

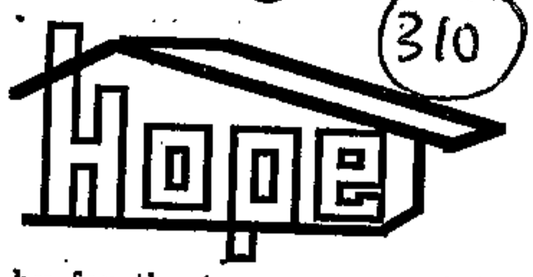
So says Mr Solomon Ganisani, a security guard who built a shelter for his family in the squatter settlement at Tokhoza three years ago.

His shack is remarkably sturdy. The corrugated iron and wood structure comprises a kitchen and two bedrooms, one for his three children — two girls aged 20 and 10 and a son of 13 — and the other for his wife and himself.

There is barely space for the beds in the tiny rooms but that does not concern him unduly.

The kitchen has a gas stove, a table and a corner niche where the dishes are washed. It is clean and neat. A makeshift water supply has been installed in the kitchen. At night a paraffin lamp provides light.

There is even a school near-



by for the two younger children.

On the face of it, the squatter camp at Tokhoza — 20 km from the heart of Johannesburg — is close enough to civilisation to provide rudimentary services. Unfortunately, it doesn't.

But Mr Ganisani's simple shack provides adequate shelter — even though it is bitterly cold in winter and hot in summer. It would "do" — if only it had water and a toilet.

But, in Tokhoza, even money cannot buy these facilities.

Anyone who wants water has to fetch it from an overcrowded hostel almost 400 m away. The six toilets there, overused by literally thousands of people, have become unusuable.

Mr Ganisani, an enterprising man, can usually adjust circumstances to suit his family's convenience. But the squatter camp simply grew from the veld. It has no infrastructure whatsoever and men like Mr Ganisani can do nothing to change the environment.

But that does not stop him dreaming.

"The man who wants a big house and a car has never suffered," Mr Ganisani says. "These count for nothing without water and a lavatory.

"This is what we want most but can't have. If we want a bath, we have to fetch water in big plastic bottles which we carry in a wheelbarrow.

"The toilet is a bigger problem. We have nowhere to go — other than the veld. If someone gets sick, we have a real problem."

So the Ganisani family makes do. Tomorrow things may be better.

R1,2m for squatter camps

(310) B/day

EDYTH BULBRING 18/11/88.

THE Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council this week set aside more than R1,2m for the infrastructural development of two Soweto emergency squatter camps.

The RSC decided on Tuesday to spend R960 000 on 13 ablution blocks, storm water control measures and access roads to the farm Klipspruit.

The Klipspruit site has still to be laid out, but it is intended to satisfy the "very low income housing market" by allocating sites for 890 shacks. The site will be converted in the future to a formal township.

About R275 000 was allocated to the Fred Clark camp, which has been in existence for several years.

Project for 'low income' market

R2,5-m to upgrade Soweto's camps

Star 21/11/88

310

By Stan Hlophe

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) has set aside R2,5 million for upgrading four Soweto emergency squatter camps.

According to Dr J G Mortimer, chief executive officer of the RSC, they were approached by the Soweto council to provide them with finance to improve living conditions in the four squatter camps.

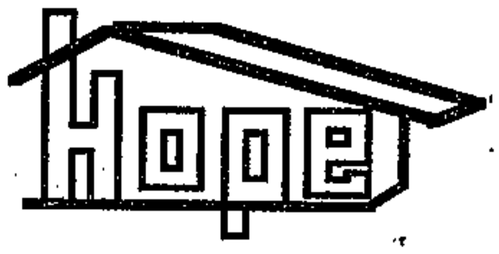
The squatter areas are: Dlamini (phase 3), Naledi, Klipspruit near the cemetery towards Kliptown and Fred Clarke old farm.

Work has already started in Dlamini and Naledi and other areas are still to be tendered.

Dr Mortimer said the development was intended to satisfy the "very low income" housing market.

He said a total of 382 sites would be developed at a cost of R700 000. In Naledi, 650 sites at a cost of R70 000 would be developed.

In Klipspruit, 285 sites are to be developed at a cost of R275 000, and at Fred Clarke, 890 sites are to be developed at a cost of R960 000.



Dr Mortimer said the development would include roads, ablution blocks, storm water system, toilet and bucket systems.

Build own houses

He said in last year's report the RSC had planned to spend R1,7 million and in the year 1989/90 it planned to spend R2,5 million.

In June next year a total of R1,7 million would have been spent.

The whole project is expected to be completed in June 1990.

He said after the infrastructural development, the people in these areas would be able to build houses according to their means.

Asked about Mshenguville which consists of about 3 000 families, he said it was not to be developed as the area was situated near a stream which would flood in heavy rain.

Also, the camp was situated under a powerline which was not safe.

Dr Mortimer said the people at Mshenguville would have to be moved to another developed area, which had not yet been identified by the Soweto council.

● Mr Ephraim Tshabalala is on record as saying at the last public meeting of the Sofasonke Party during the October municipal elections, that the Mshenguville (named after Mr Tshabalala) squatter camp people would be moved to either Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, and Grasmere, near Vereeniging.

Mr Tshabalala said people would be able to buy houses at a cost of not more than R7 000 after paying a deposit of R500.

Examinations

Squatters set up a temporary home from home just a stone's throw from upmarket hotel

Side by side but worlds apart ... the two faces of Sandton

(310)

Star 1/12/88

Story and picture: WINNIE GRAHAM

The squatters of Sandton have erected their shacks in the best part of town. But that, of course, is to be expected. Doesn't everyone who's anyone in Sandton want a good address?

These shacks are just a stone's throw from the five-star luxury of the Sandton Sun and within easy walking distance of some of the richest people in South Africa.

The rather neat cluster development comprises about 20 tiny "houses", all of which are a little on the small side. But the situation couldn't be bettered.

The little "properties" have been well placed beneath tall trees and shrubs, among the remnants of once proud Sandton gardens.

At least one owner is an environmentalist. He has built his shack round a tree. The huge trunk occupies most of the interior, but it also acts as something of a wardrobe.

The squatters have every reason to feel pleased with their homes. Seemingly aware that the land they have selected for their shacks is, perhaps, the most expensive real estate in South Africa, they have gone out of their way to do a good job and remain as inconspicious as possible.

More class

Their one-room shacks are not the usual corrugated iron and cardboard shacks. No, the Sandton squatters have more class than that. Their shacks are built of prefabricated slabs — the kind used to erect highrise buildings.

There are piles of the things lying round Sandton building sites and the people have "borrowed" these for their homes.

In any event, they won't be taking the slabs with them when they finally go: They're far too heavy for people always on the move.

Squatting, of course, is a hazardous lifestyle. There is no way of knowing how long you can stay at any given address.

For the moment, however, life in the Sandton squatter camp is quite pleasant, rather like camping. If you pop in round lunchtime or even suppertime, the chances are you'll find a cauldron on the boil over an open fire.

If one of the women isn't stirring the pot, or nursing her baby, or bending over a tub doing the washing, or hanging the nappies out to dry, she might offer you a crate on which to sit.

The children play round their mothers. The men stand in the doorways watching. The older men enjoy cans of their favourite brew under the trees.

They are a friendly lot, actually. These squatters like nothing more than stopping for a chat. Probably the first question you'll be asked is a simple: "Can you give me a job?"

Four women asked me that in a space of just three minutes earlier this week.

The first was Angie, a young woman who was feeling bruised and hurt when I spoke to her. She had had her head shaved so that a gaping wound could be treated.

"My husband, no, my boyfriend, hit me," she explained, lifting her dress to reveal her bruised legs.

"My boyfriend is my husband. He hit me because I didn't cook the pork. On Monday he bought meat and told me to cook a piece every day.

"On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I did that. On Friday there were 'goggas' in the meat. I couldn't cook it. It made me sick."

But Angie didn't tell her "husband" when he came home. They had a few drinks together and only when he asked for his plate of food, did she tell him there wouldn't be any. The meat was rotten.

So the fight started.

But that is what life is all about in the shacks whether they are in upmarket Sandton or downtown Thokoza.

Sandton's squatters have no more to look forward to at the end of the day than those in the slums. But life is what you make it.

Three women were dancing to a tune blaring forth from a portable radio. Mavis (17) approached and asked if I had a job for her. Dressed in a tattered frock, she seemed too young for the life of a vagrant but she hung her head and refused to answer when questioned about her parents.

She said she could read and write English but was having difficult finding work.

Her two companions interjected: they, too, wanted jobs. The oldest women couldn't speak English but, she indicated, she could "work in the garden".

A good-looking young man approached. His name, he said, was Jerome and he lived in a rusted rainwater tank over which he'd erected a plastic "roof".

"I'm waiting for a job on the building site," he said. "I stay here all the time, just in case something comes up."

The Sandton squatters are all rather nice, perhaps not quite the right neighbours but then they won't be staying long. The stands they occupy are earmarked for development and the buldozers will soon be moving in.

Until then, these people wait and hope for homes and jobs, and a brighter 1989.



From the sublime to the ridiculous . . . a squatter's shack stands in ironic contrast to the backdrop of highrise Sandton.

C/Pres 4/12/88

The 'Seaweto' squatters are forcibly moved

CP Correspondent

RESIDENTS of Soweto-by-the-sea, in Port Elizabeth, are being forcibly moved to a transit camp of tiny zinc shacks to make way for "development".

It was resolved at the Ibhayi City Council meeting this week that 400 emergency houses, costing R920 000, be built for the Soweto residents. Upgrading of Soweto and Red Location would begin immediately, it was announced.

But Ibhayi mayor, William Jemsana, said he did not know what would happen to the residents eventually.

"We don't know where they will be accommodated in the end. We are negotiating for additional land."

Asked if they would be moved to Motherwell, a new township outside Port Elizabeth, he said: "We have no intention of moving them outside our jurisdiction."

About 60 families in "Seaweto" were this week told to move, and residents interviewed expressed strong opposition against their removal. Fifty-three of the affected families have already been moved.

"We were told to move by the authorities," said resident Eveline Xoshamba. "They said they would bring the bulldozers if we did not move."

According to a Port Elizabeth anti-removals spokesperson, Melanie Preedy, the residents were registered rent payers and should have demanded a rent eviction notice before being moved.

The 3m-by-5m shacks they have moved to have no ablution facilities, and the yards are too small for the families to extend their shacks.

Jemsana admitted there was inadequate space for "extended families", but said the council was trying to make accommodation possible.

In February this year, the town clerk of Ibhayi, Edward Pullen, said: "The elimination of shacks is a dream which all local authorities hold." He added that "resettlement" would be undertaken in consultation with the residents. However, Soweto residents were not consulted and were not given assistance.

Other residents facing removal are the "cemetery squatters" – shack dwellers who erected their houses in the local graveyard after their shacks were razed to the ground by fire.

Residents were taken to Silvertown and their land has been earmarked for the erection of a creche.

They also expressed unanimous opposition to being moved to Motherwell, but legally have no choice.

Eric Vanda described the conditions they must live under for R10 a month: "We must make our own floors. We have no water supply or toilets. There are always long queues for facilities in the nearby hall."

Jemsana said there were enough toilets and taps for residents, but could not say how many per number of houses.

John Swartbooi, 67, said his wife, six children and brothers had to live in a one-roomed structure.

The removals follow an announcement by Constitutional Development and Planning Minister, Chris Heunis, in September this year, that 93 282 Port Elizabeth residents would be moved from Soweto, New Brighton, KwaZakhele and Walmer townships. — Pen.

Making the best of bleak Botshabelo

CHRISTOPHER TUCHER

IN BOTSHABELO — the sprawling black township 60km east of Bloemfontein — the SA Development Trust Corporation has pumped R111m into an industrial park that has become one of the most successful job creation schemes of government's decentralisation programme.

Figures released by the Decentralisation Board show the new Botshabelo factories will provide 26 000 jobs at a cost per job of less than R4 500, the lowest of any industrial development point in the country.

But inexpensive job creation alone will not solve the problems of Botshabelo, where 250 000 blacks live on 51km² of land.

Most of the dwellings are of mud or corrugated metal, and except for 1 000 new high-price homes near the industrial park, none have electricity. Each row of huts is equipped with a tap from which residents fetch water. The dirt roads are treacherous for cars, but few in Botshabelo can afford cars anyway.

Every evening outside the industrial park, throngs of women dressed in factory smocks of bright green, pink or yellow queue for buses.

The buses are run by the Jacaranda Bus Company. Those with jobs in Bloemfontein rely on them to get to work. For servicing Botshabelo, Jacaranda is subsidised to the tune of R 12m per annum, says Transport Department regional director Koos Cotzee.

Now the SA Development Trust Corporation (called by its Afrikaans acronym STK) is bringing jobs to Botshabelo.

Chinese

Lured by government incentives that subsidise 70% of factory rent and 95% of wages, more than 80 companies have already started production.

Half of them are from Hong Kong or Taiwan, and the sign on STK's office-door includes a Chinese translation. At closing time, Chinese managers weave their Mercedes through the parade of homeward-bound black workers.

STK GM Fred Baard says the park's 118 factories will employ more than 26 000 people.

That is quite formidable, considering that formal business in Botshabelo consists of just a few small stores and an STK shopping centre. Except for the taxis and hawkers, Botshabelo appears too poor to support much of an informal sector.

Baard says STK's R111m investment is the cost of buildings and infrastructure and loans to the industrialists.

The industrialists have invested R276m in plant and equipment, and most of the shoes, shirts and magnetic tapes are manufactured for export, Baard says.

This will bolster SA's balance of payments, but it will not accommodate Botshabelo's booming population. Botshabelo, twice the size of either Bloemfontein or its black township Mangaune, is the largest town in the OFS. Ten years ago it did not exist.

Official estimates had put Botshabelo's population at more than 500 000. But OFS University researcher Skip Krige says a new aerial survey indicates a number only half that. The previous estimates had mistakenly assumed a level of backyard squatting similar to that in urban areas like Soweto.

Botshabelo is part of SA, but its history is tangled in homeland politics.

When Bophutatswana accepted independence in 1977, it did so on condition that Thaba'Nchu — an old Tswana enclave near the Lesotho border — be included in the deal.

Thousands of Sotho-speaking people fled or were removed to a nearby farm, Onverwacht. Pretoria purchased Onverwacht and Botshabelo — Sotho for "sanctuary" — was born.

Now the township faces another homeland battle. Last December, after several assurances to the contrary, Ministers Chris Heunis and Gerrit Viljoen announced the incorporation of Botshabelo into QwaQwa, the tiny Sotho homeland 270km away.

QwaQwa President T K Mopeli said Botshabelo residents danced in the streets in celebration. But SACC organiser James Moshounyane says Botshabelo on the day of the incorporation was less a scene of dancing than of police roadblocks, SADF Casspirs, and burning buses.

Many feared that government, by doubling the size of QwaQwa with the incorporation of Botshabelo, would persuade Mopeli to accept independence.

Local schoolteacher Lawrence Lefuo took President P W Botha to court over the incorporation — and won. He said rural QwaQwa lacked the resources to administer a town the size of Botshabelo and warned the violence that had erupted prior to incorporation would continue. Last August, the courts returned Botshabelo to SA.

Botshabelo union leaders, churchmen and teachers back Lefuo in his claim to have represented the majority of township residents.

Although the court ruling may have delivered Botshabelo from incorporation into QwaQwa, it has not yet paved the way for trade unions in its industrial park.

SA trade unions are prohibited in the homelands (independent or not) and SA labour legislation does not apply.

Union leaders in Bloemfontein say factory bosses have refused to negotiate until a pending appeal has been resolved. That will take over a year, they say.

Shortly after the court ruling, workers at two factories downed tools and called for recognition of the unions.

Yichihoo, a Taiwanese shoe factory, sacked 2 300 employees after violent strike incidents in October.

Detained

It later reinstated 2 080 female workers but refused the men on the grounds that they had instigated the violence and led the call for unionisation.

A second strike erupted when the Electronic Magnetic Association refused to discuss recognition of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU). EMA fired more than 100 workers, including all shop stewards and, weeks later, TGWU regional organiser Thamsanqa Mfazwe was detained.

An average worker in the industrial park starts off with a wage of R40 per month, says STK's Botshabelo director Etienne Fourie.

In the absence of minimum wage laws, Fourie says STK can only ask its tenant companies to reach an "acceptable minimum".

Fourie insists STK is only a landlord. "We just don't want to get involved," he answers when asked about wages, working conditions, and union activity in the factories across the street from his office.

"The Botshabelo community was an unplanned settlement. The STK found it like this and we're making the best of it," says Fourie.

Star 21/12/88 (310) (10)

Zeph Mothopeng visits squatter camp

By Montshiwa Moroke

The president of the outlawed Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Zephania Mothopeng, yesterday visited squatter camps in Soweto and came away three hours later describing them as "startling".

Mr Mothopeng was met at Mshenguville, in Mofolo, by a barrage of local and international media representatives at the start of the tour.

The 75-year-old veteran leader later visited the Naledi transit camp and the Dlamini squatter camp.

Grassroots organisation

He was accompanied by the president of the National Congress of Trade Unions, Mr James Mndaweni, and members of the Azanian National Youth Unity.

Later, back at his Orlando West home, Mr Mothopeng, who was recently released from long-term imprisonment, said he had undertaken the visits to familiarise himself with the situation and to meet the grassroots people, "because we are a grassroots organisation".

"The purpose was to meet the man in the street and to acquire first-hand information and thereafter formulate my own opinion."

'Horrible conditions'

"It was startling, to say the least that people can live under such horrible conditions. The conditions were absolutely appalling. I would have wanted to wish those families a merry Christmas, but no one can be happy under those conditions," Mr Mothopeng said.

The PAC leader walked hand-in-hand with his 66-year-old wife, Urbania, who walked with the support of a stick, as he walked through Mshenguville, stopping here and there to shake hands and speak to families who told of their hardships.

He inspected a row of communal toilets and stood in disbelief to gaze at a dumping lot with a stagnant pool in the middle where a strong stench greeted the entourage.

Curious shack-dwellers came out of the tiny homes to have a glimpse of Mr Mothopeng. Children followed behind.

Mrs Abigail Mafudlula, a mother of six, told Mr Mothopeng her family had been forced to live there with her husband Edwin and their children, whose ages range from 17 years to five months, because they could not find accommodation elsewhere in Soweto.

A woman carrying a baby on her back came to the door of her tin shack and said: "Our children are suffering from double pneumonia".

APPALLING

Sowetan 22/12/84 (310)

THE president of the banned PAC, Mr Zeph Mothopeng, yesterday said conditions in Soweto's squatter camps were "appalling" following his visit to two camps.

Mr Mothopeng (75) who was recently released from long-term imprisonment apparently for health reasons, visited the Naledi transit camp and the Dlamini squatter camp with his wife Urbania, the president of the National Congress of Trade Unions, Mr James Mndaweni, and members of the Azanian National Youth Unity.

He said in a statement to Sapa that conditions in the squatter camps were "appalling and need immediate attention."

The situation was unhealthy and unsafe, "even for animals," Mr Mothopeng said.

He had established from squatter camp residents that they were there because they had no money to buy "expensive" houses and thus had nowehere to go. Most were unemployed and living on pensions.

"They see it as the duty of the Government to provide them with accommodation. They complain of being overcrowded, of health hazards and lack of recreational space for children to play in."

The PAC president said he had visited the squatter camps because, "I, as president of these people, need to sleep, eat, and be with them at all times." — Sapa.

SQUATTERS — TVL 1989

JAN —— DECEMBER

Oukasie fights camp status

JOHANNESBURG — Residents of Oukasie near Brits, where some 6 000 people are threatened with removal, are going to take court action against their settlement being declared an "emergency camp", Legal Resources Centre director Mr Geoff Budlender said yesterday.

The "emergency camp" ruling came some months after the township had been de-proclaimed a black urban area. If the case succeeds, new rents, rates and other regulations which came into effect as a result of the proclamation will be lifted. — Sapa

Steel 'house' costing R12 000 is mooted as answer to squatting

(310)

By Winnie Graham Star 16/11/84

The squatters of Sandton who live in make-shift shacks just a few hundred metres from the five-star luxury of one of South Africa's top hotels have inspired a Germiston steel factory to design and construct a modular panel house to help alleviate the problems of homelessness.

The design and construction of the house came about as a result of an article in The Star late last year in which the plight of the Sandton squatters was highlighted.

Mr John Salkow, a sales manager for Abkin Steel, said after reading the article he started thinking what could be done to improve the lot of squatters. Aware that there was a shortage of at least 800 000 houses, he and Mr Jimmy Abrahams, the firm's structural engineer, set about designing an inexpensive but acceptable house.

"We believe we have produced the answer to the shack," he said.

In just a few weeks the two men have produced an all-steel house with double panelled insulated walls, two bedrooms, bathroom with basin, toilet and shower, kitchen with sink and a lounge. The roof has a slight pitch and little steel canopies have been erected above the doors and windows, giving the house a cosy look.

EASY ASSEMBLY

The floor comprises paved concrete blocks on a waterproof membrane, but the surface can also be a concrete slab — or wooden blocks, depending on available resources. The house comes with five bulkhead electric lights and four plug points. In addition a water heating unit is provided and provision made for water and sewerage connections.

To make for easy assembly, all the parts have been predrilled and the firm will provide screws, rivets and a hand-rivet gun. No flammable materials have been used in the construction of the building.

Mr Salkow said it would take about three days to erect the house single-handed.

"If people like the house, we can produce 140 units a day off just one assembly line," he added.

The factory model has won praise from structural engineers and housing experts. Iscor and the South African Bureau of Standards have been invited to view it and Ellerines, a furniture firm, have offered to decorate the "show house".

Mr Salkow added: "It was important for us to produce a simple house which could be erected without much difficulty. The model consists basically of ten panels which makes it possible to extend the house when necessary. We did not spare expenses when we designed the unit."

Estimates have yet to be completed but the 37,5 sq m house will probably cost about R12 000.

P. T. O for pictures

A FLICKER OF HOPE AT MOGOPA ... BUT FOR MILLIONS OF OTHERS, EVICTION COULD LOOM SOON

The sounds of voices as old Mogopa comes back to life ...

Mogopa, silent and overgrown with weeds after its population was removed in 1984, came back to life when a few villagers were allowed to go back. EDDIE KOCH reports

FOUR months ago a run-down lorry unloaded Joseph Kgatitsoe and his few sheets of rusty corrugated iron beside the ruins of Mogopa in the Western Transvaal.

Kgatitsoe began building a tin shanty amid the banks of bricks that bulldozers left behind when they flattened the settlement a few years ago. After nailing the last sheet into place the 62-year-old man placed a few rocks on the roof to keep out the summer rains and went to inspect the graves on the slopes of a nearby hill.

The next morning he woke early and after eating a plate of dry porridge, set out for the cemetery so that he could begin clearing the weeds and veld that had grown over the graves.

Since Kgatitsoe's homecoming the ruins of Mogopa, site of South Africa's most controversial forced removal in recent times, have slowly come to life with the sound of human voices and song.

The old man was followed by a small group from Onderstepoort, the barren site near Zeerust where they had been resettled.

This return was made possible because Development Aid Minister Gerrit Viljoen in September last year grudgingly gave the community permission to send a team to live on the site and renovate the graves of their forebearers.

"The main reason we are here," says the old man, "is our ancestors are here. We feel part of them. They were here when we were removed. And because of them it still rings in our heads that Mogopa is our home."

Every morning the people hurriedly eat a meal of porridge and cooked cabbage, bought with funds collected by the community at Onderstepoort, and gather at the cemetery.

They work there until 11am and then collect water from the only hand-pump that still works and make minor repairs to their shacks. Towards sunset they gather under a tree that marks their new meeting place to sing hymns and hear 90-year-old Abraham Pooe pray that one day the land will be returned to them.



Two of the men of Mogopa take a break under shade after returning to the land from which they were evicted in 1984 Picture: GILL DE VLIEG, Afrapix

Viljoen's agreement to allow the grave-cleaning community to live at Mogopa was the latest in a series of tough talks that have taken place between Mogopa's people and the Department of Development Aid since the 5 000-strong community was evicted from the land their grandfathers had purchased 73 years earlier.

In the aftermath of the 1984 removal members of the community were scattered across the Western Transvaal. One group went to live at the Pachsdraai resettlement camp while another chose to stay at Bethanie, the home of their paramount chief.

But late in 1987 the bulk of the residents said conditions in both areas were intolerable and vowed to march back to Mogopa. This dramatic move was averted when Viljoen offered the people a temporary site at Onderstepoort.

Viljoen has since offered to upgrade Onderstepoort and make the area a permanent place of refuge for the displaced community. This, and offers of other pieces of land, has been rejected by Mogopa's people.

"We do not like living in Onderstepoort because it is close to Bophuthatswana and we fear the government will make it part of the homeland," says Kgatitsoe. "There's no rain there. The people cannot plough and the land is too small for all of us."

The next round of talks between Mogopa's people and the Department of Development Aid is due to take place at the end of next month, where it is expected that Viljoen will make a final offer to make Onderstepoort a permanent residential area.

"My feeling is that it is a waste of time to go back to the meeting in February. I myself have been here for four months and I do not think I will go back to Onderstepoort. I am prepared to stay here and die here. People should come and live here with us and see if the government will remove us again," says Kgatitsoe.

There are signs that this spirit of defiance is growing among Mogopa's grave cleaners. Each week more people arrive to work in the cemetery in the morning and to sing with Pooe in the evening.

The ancestors of Mogopa's people are infusing a community that was thought to be dead with a new life and vitality. The question is how long it will be before they are told to move again.

The shadow that hangs over nine million 'squatters'

The controversial 'orderly urbanisation' legislation, awaiting only a signature from Chris Heunis, could change the lives of up to nine million people. GAYE DAVIS reports

AWAITING only the state president's signature to render it law, the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act Amendment Bill looms over the futures of some nine million people.

Described by the National Committee Against Removals as a "monstrous piece of legislation", the Bill extends the sweeping powers of local authorities and landowners and further limits the discretion of the courts.

For example, farmworkers are now brought under its aegis: in terms of the Bill, only those employed by a farmer have the right to be on his land. Dependents and retired farmworkers are classified as squatters.

The President's Council committee expressed reservations about the Bill — but recommended that it become law in spite of its "shortcomings".

It queried the five-fold increase in penalties — to a maximum R10 000 fine or five years' jail — for those who allowed people to build or occupy illegal structures on their land.

It also urged that guidelines be issued to police, detailing a policy to be adopted in terms of the Act.

This, says the NCAR, amounted to a "clear recognition of the gross implications of the Act — that the legislature is being sidelined and the courts cannot play a role in either determining policy or regulating the process of the Act".

But two recent judgements by the supreme court offer some hope, civil rights lawyers believe.

The bulwark they provide against a landowner demolishing homes on his land rests on two central issues — whether he has consented to their presence and whether their right to seek relief in the courts is ousted.

The first judgement is that of Vena and Another v the George municipality in 1987, which resulted in the local authority being ordered to rebuild a room it had torn down belonging to Lawaaikamp resident Ellen Vena.

Vena's application challenged two sections of the Illegal Squatting Act. Section 3B(1) (a) allows a landowner to demolish, without a court order, anything built on his land without his consent. Section 3B(4) (a), the ouster clause, prevents people whose structures are thus being demolished from seeking relief in the courts — and prevents the courts from granting such relief — unless they can prove they are lawful occupants.

The court found the municipality had no right to demolish Vena's structure without a court order.

The George municipality appealed against the Vena judgement but it was upheld by the Appellate Division, Mr Justice Milne commenting that "the right of any person in possession of property ... not to be disturbed in his possession except by legal process is one recognised by most civilised systems of law".

Justice Milne held that consent need not be formally given but may be given "expressly or impliedly, orally or in writing or by conduct".

Because this was a judgement of the AD it is binding on all courts.

The second judgement was handed down this month by Mr Justice HL Berman on Joseph Luwalala and Others v the Port Nolloth municipality. The municipality was restrained from removing tents or demolishing buildings occupied by Luwalala and other squatters in Tentedorp and Bloukamp, without getting a court order.

Justice Berman found it was common cause that Tentedorp residents erected and occupied their homes with the consent of the municipality.

The municipality could not rely on the ouster provision. And the ouster provision did not apply where the structure was a tent, which could not be demolished but had to be struck.

He also found that where a landowner had allowed people to live on land, and then withdrew that consent, the law could not have intended allowing him to demolish without so much as a "by-your-leave".

The judgement is binding in the Cape and only of persuasive value elsewhere.

Kate O'Regan, senior researcher at the University of Cape Town's Labour Law Unit, says the two judgements have slightly curbed landowners' rights of summary demolition.

Where squatters have built structures on land with the consent of a landowner, even if that consent is tacit rather than actual, she said, a court order would be needed to evict them before the landowner can demolish.

Nevertheless, the proposed Bill is considered harsh. It provides that where people are affected by a demolition, they will not be able to apply to the supreme court for relief unless they can prove that the demolition is unlawful and in bad faith.

Police move in bid to foil farm squatters

Star 30/11/89

By Jo-Anne Collinge (310)

A large contingent of police pitched camp on the western Transvaal farm of Mogopa late last week, and about 60 of the original residents of the property, who have returned there five years after their forced removal, have been told once more to clear off.

Information about Friday night's police move was released by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), but police denied a "camp" had been established, saying only that two roadblocks had been set up on the Ventersdorp road to prevent an influx of people to Mogopa.

A Trac spokesman said the people living at Mogopa had been given until the end of the weekend to demolish their shacks and move off the land. She said there were at least 60 people living there.

Residents blame authorities for inaction

Tempers rise as Lenasia squatter camp expands

Sfav 22/2/84 (310)

By Helen Grange

A growing squatter camp in the middle of a wealthy residential area in Lenasia is the focus of heightening conflict that has led civic groups to threaten legal action against "ineffectual" local authorities.

The camp, on open ground between Lenasia extensions 9 and 10, has grown almost daily since the first resident arrived there in August last year.

It now houses more than 1 000 people in shacks made from any materials at hand.

The squatters, represented by Chief Eliot Ntlakani of the Sofasonke Party, are without proper water, sewerage or rubbish removal facilities. However, the community is adamant that it is staying where it is.

But surrounding Indian residents, who have formed the Committee of Concerned Residents, regard the camp as an infringement of their property rights, as well as a responsibility which the authorities have "continually tried to pass on to one another, resulting in nothing being done."

The committee, headed by Mr Hussain Bismilla, is "sympathetic to the understanding that forced removal is no longer Government policy, but has pleaded with the House of Delegates (the owner of the land), the Peri-Urban Board (the administrators) and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to come up with a solution before legal action becomes necessary."

The committee says

In terms of the Slums Act of 1979, it is the duty of the Peri-Urban Board to ensure the provision of suitable housing or land for the squatters.

The Act allows for the Peri-Urban Board to recover expenses from the owners of the land, the House of Delegates.

If the Peri-Urban Board refuses to make an effort to remedy the situation, we will petition on the theme of total rejection of the board as a local authority on the grounds of incompetence, and ask to be incorporated under the Johannesburg City Council.

The squatters should be advised urgently of development plans in the area, namely the sports facilities budgeted for by the House of Delegates.

The sheer disinterest of the House and the Peri-Urban Board may leave us no alternative but to consider the issue with our attorneys and bring pressure to bear on these administrations, focusing attention on their inability to convert leasehold to freehold, as well as the fact that the quality of life is affected by the squatter camp.

The courts can then regulate the issue of the squatter camp to the satisfaction of the settled communities and the squatters themselves.

At the moment, the health hazards created by the camp are growing increasingly worrisome, as the camp grows in size without any attempt to curb it.

Our suburbs remain unproclaimed ten years since their inception. This is an intolerable situation and an embarrassment to the House of Delegates.

The squatters say

(With Chief Ntlakani as spokesman).

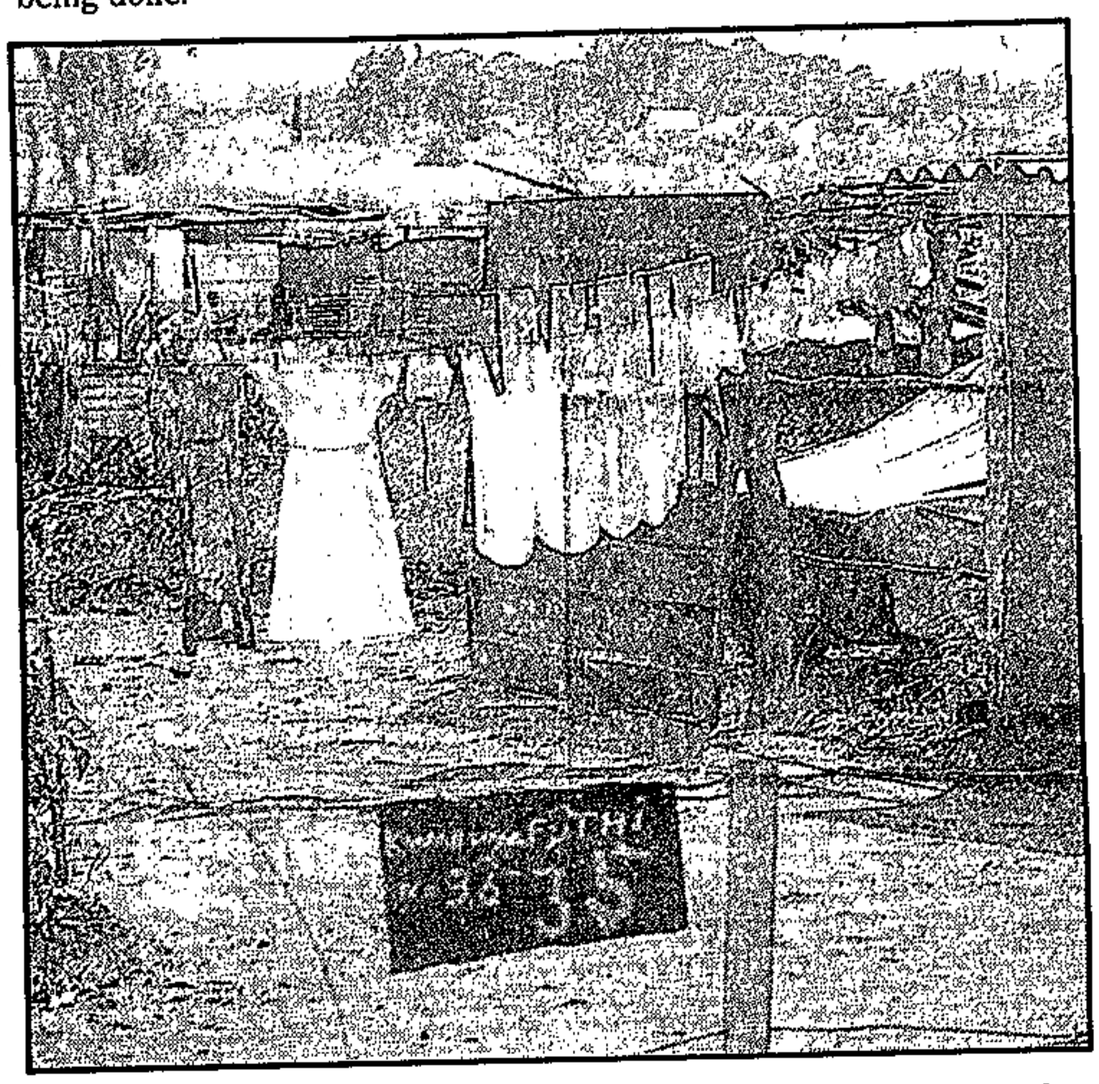
We came here because we had nowhere else to go. Why should we be subject to the desires of the Indian House of Delegates when we are all South Africans living in this land? I cannot give credence to people of one race claiming a piece of land as their own.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has offered us accommodation in Orange Farm or Evaton North (Wildebeesfontein). They say if we move to Orange Farm, we only have to start paying monthly charges from July 1 as a special concession.

It will cost R500 to buy property at Orange Farm, and R7 000 at Evaton North. This is because there are more services at Evaton North.

We cannot afford this kind of deal, and the residents here are opposed to moving.

If we could buy the land here, we would upgrade it ourselves through funds from the Sofasonke Party. The shacks we have built are temporary because our future is uncertain.



The squatter camp . . . health hazards are increasing as the camp grows, say nearby Lenasia residents.

Residents blame authorities for inaction

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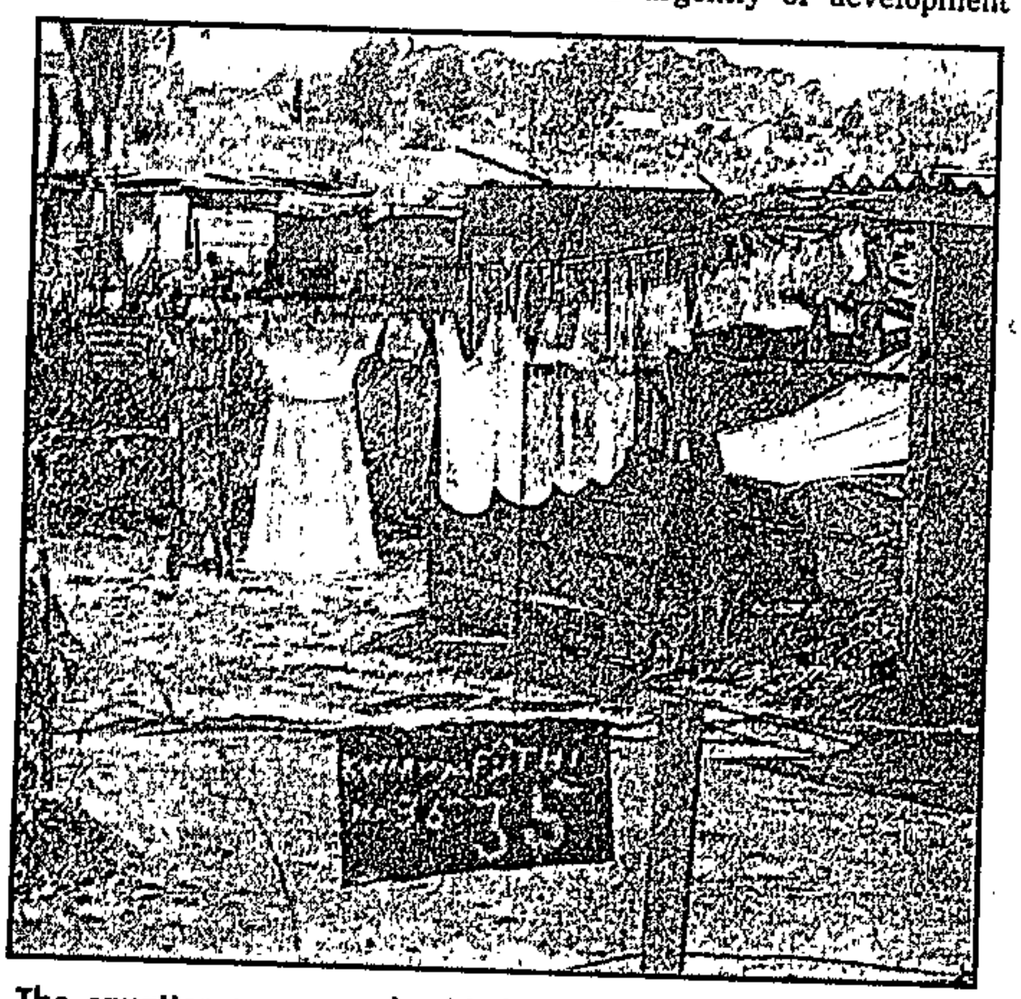

The squatter camp ... health hazards are increasing as the camp grows, say nearby Lenasia residents.

Row over future of squatter camp

Star 6/3/89 By Helen Grange 310

A heated political dispute has arisen among residents in one of Lenasia's wealthy areas over whether a burgeoning squatter camp should be left alone or if action should be taken against it.

The camp, on open ground between Lenasia extensions 9 and 10, has grown almost daily since the first resident arrived there in August. It now houses more than 1 000 shack dwellers.

The squatters, who are adamant about staying on the land, although it is owned by the House of Delegates, have become the focus of a division between conservative and left-leaning Indian residents living in the surrounding affluent suburb.

While one residents' committee has approached local authorities to provide alternative housing for the squatters, another residents' committee is arguing that the squatters should be allowed to remain on the ground without interference.

Squatters seen as spenders

TANIA LEVY

SQUATTERS are seen by Markinor as a market estimated to be worth many millions of rands a year.

Director Arthur Mzozoyana, quoting Amps figures at the Window on the Third World seminar in Johannesburg last week, said urban development efforts were neither extensive nor fast enough to cater for the estimated 3,7-million squatters in and around major cities and towns.

He added about 250 000 people would continue to flock into urban areas each year until rural living standards improved and there were more jobs.

Mzozoyana said 33% of squatters were well-off by black standards and most earned a living.

He said the demand was there and marketers should not ignored it.

Many sectors already appeared to be benefiting from squatters.

Mzozoyana said if government could be persuaded to grant residential rights to informal settlements the building and ancillary industries would be the most likely to benefit.

Warning on shacks

Sowetan 21/3/89

THE Katlehong Town Council has warned local residents to demolish shacks in their backyards by today.

This warning is carried in notices issued to dozens of residents in the townships's Khumalo and Siluma sections a week ago.

The council has threatened to take legal action against home owners who ignore the ultimatum.

The Katlehong Residents' Organisation (KRO), said in a statement yesterday that it would fight "tooth and nail" to stop the municipality from demolishing shacks in the area.

Enon Management Board	0,1
Total	100,00

WESTERN CAPE REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL

	% Voting Power
Municipality Bellville	3,96
Municipality Durbanville	1,04
Municipality Goodwood	2,78
Municipality Cape Town	35,32
Municipality Milnerton	3,20
Municipality Parow	3,83
Municipality Pinelands	1,06
Municipality Simonstown	0,99
Municipality Vishoek	1,12
Municipality Franschoek	0,12
Municipality Kraaifontein	1,80
Municipality Paarl	1,71
Municipality Wellington	0,64
Municipality Brackenfell	0,76
Municipality Gordonsbaai	0,83
Municipality Kuilsrivier	0,66
Municipality Somerset West	1,26
Municipality Stellenbosch	1,59
Municipality Strand	1,09
Atlantis Management Committee	0,91
Elsiesrivier Management Committee	2,19
Grassy Park Management Committee	2,25
Matroosfontein Management Committee	0,89
Ocean View Management Committee	0,21
Cravenby Management Committee	0,14
Macassar Management Committee	0,33
Meltonrose Management Committee	1,17
Scottsdene Management Committee	0,18
Sir Lowry's Pass Management Committee	0,01
Proteaville Management Committee	0,53
Morningstar Management Committee	0,02
Groendal Management Committee	0,08
Kraaifontein Management Committee	0,89
Athlone and District Management Committee	4,89
Kensington Management Committee	1,41
Wittebome/Wynberg Management Committee	1,19
Rylands-landgoed Management Committee	0,52
Sarepta Management Committee	0,26
Paarl Management Committee	0,67
Ravensmead Management Committee	0,60
Cloetesville/Idasvalley Management Committee	0,39
Strand Management Committee	0,20
Wellington Management Committee	0,64
Ikapa Town Council	10,96
Mfuleni Town Committee	0,24
Mbekweni Town Committee	0,39
Kaya Mandi Town Committee	0,19
Crossroads Town Committee	3,02
Lingelethu West Town Committee	0,48
Lwandle Town Committee	0,21
Pniel Town Committee	0,02
Mamre Town Committee	0,16
Total	100,00

WALVIS BAY REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL

	% Voting Power
Walvis Bay Municipality	68,47
Narraville Coloured Management Committee	11,44
Kuisebmond Town Council	20,09
Total	100,00

Freehold title registration for Blacks

28. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether any enabling legislation, including regulations, providing for freehold title registration for Blacks has been promulgated; if not, why not; if so, (a) what legislation and (b) when was it promulgated;

(2) whether any Black persons had gained freehold rights at deeds offices by 16 May 1988; if so, (a) how many and (b) at which deeds offices;

(3) how many Black persons had registered freehold title at each deeds office in the Republic as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

B75E

The ACTING MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

Section 41(1) of the Black Communities Development Act, 1984 (Act 4 of 1984), which came into operation on 15 September 1986 provides that land or premises in a development area may be acquired by a competent person.

"acquire" as defined in section 1 of the said Act means to acquire in any manner or to hire and thus includes acquisition by means of a right of leasehold as well as ownership (freehold).

The enabling provisions in respect of the development areas are the Regulations relating to Township Establishment and Land Use which were published in Government Notice R.1897 dated 12 September 1986 which came into operation on 15 September 1986. Further enabling legislation which provides for the registration of ownership for Blacks are sections 35(3) and 35A of the Black Communities Development Act, 1984 (Act 4 of 1984), which came in operation on 15 April 1988 and which provides for the opening of township registers for certain townships at the instance of the Minister for Constitutional Development and Planning.

The abovementioned provisions deal mainly with township establishment and the opening of township registers. The opening of a township register is a prerequisite for the registration of ownership. Black persons however can acquire leasehold in respect of erven in townships whether township registers have been opened or not.

In terms of section 57A of the Black Communities Development Act, 1984 (Act 4 of 1984), any right of leasehold in respect of a leasehold site may be converted into ownership by registration of the ownership in a registration office. The manner of conversion is prescribed in section 16B of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act 47 of 1937), which section came into operation on 15 September 1986. The acquisition of a leasehold right therefore also grants the owner thereof the right to convert it into ownership (freehold) if he or she wishes to do so and if a township register has been opened.

(2) Yes.

(a) By 16 May 1988, 42 transfers of ownership were registered.

(b) Johannesburg Deeds Office.

(3) By 17 February 1989, 817 transfers of ownership were registered in development areas of which 606 were registered in Johannesburg, 162 in Pretoria and 49 in Cape Town. At the end of December 1988, 90 622 rights of leasehold were registered in development areas of which 27 815 were registered in Pretoria, 38 950 in Johannesburg, 1 301 in Pietermaritzburg, 1 203 in Cape Town, 8 441 in Port Elizabeth, 1 896 in Kimberley, 271 in Vryburg, 284 in King William's Town and 10 461 in Bloemfontein.

Oukasie: residents/squatter structures

54. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(a) How many Blacks (i) were resident in Oukasie near Brits at deproclamation and (ii) are resident there at present, (b) how many squatter structures are there in Oukasie at present and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B149E

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Transvaal and he furnished the following information:

(a) (i): Approximately 3 500.

(ii): 5 270.

After the deproclamation of the township on 17 October 1986 no formal control could be exercised and consequently an influx of squatters took place. As a result of a Supreme Court verdict during April 1986 the Administration could not demolish dwellings vacated by residents who moved to Letlhabile and immigrants occupied these homes. By April 1988 approximately 5 770 residents were already living in the area — an increase of about 2 500. The situation posed a potential health risk and consequently an emergency camp was established on 26 April 1988 in terms of section 6 of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act. Because of the settlement of residents in Letlhabile the number of residents has since

Oukasie's population is now 5 270

The population of Oukasie township near Brits had grown by 1 770 people since being de-proclaimed on October 17 1986, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said yesterday. Star 22/3/89

In a written reply to a question from Mr Andrew Gerber (Conservative Party, Brits), the Minister stated that the approximate population of Oukasie was 5 270 at present.

After de-proclamation no formal control could be exercised and consequently an influx of squatters had taken place. 310 895

As a result of a Supreme Court verdict in April 1986, the administration could not demolish dwellings vacated by residents who moved to Letlhabile, and other people had occupied these homes.

Star 28/3/89 310

Too little done and Rand squatter legions growing — Black Sash

Home crisis among poor getting worse

By Winnie Graham

South Africa's "shadow people" — the homeless — are growing in number and virtually nothing has been done to house them.

This is the finding of the Black Sash Transvaal Region Urban Removals and Homelessness Group and the Community Research and Information Network who have published an "A - Z Guide to Homelessness on the Witwatersrand."

The report looks at the squatter "problem" and finds that two years into the orderly urbanisation policy there are more poor people without homes than ever and they are still living in shacks and informal settlements.

The report adds that there has been a "flurry of activity" from developers — but they are interested only in building homes for people who can afford to pay R20 000 or more for houses.

Northern suburbs

It points out that even the South African Housing Trust and the Family Housing Association can only manage to provide housing in the R20 000 range and low-level serviced sites at round R6 000.

"It is estimated that at least 60 percent of the region's population cannot afford these houses," the report reads.

The homeless squat not only in the townships but in all the white areas of the north where urbanised domestic workers, many of whom now have their families with them, have no place to live.

Municipalities north of Johannesburg have taken care not to allow squatting, as a result of which there are few of the larger settlements found on unguarded Government land in the south.

Johannesburg's two northern neighbours, Randburg and Sandton, are condemned for their complete lack of action in helping to solve the problem.

According to the report, Randburg has maintained excellent vigilance and reports the successful demolition of shacks to its council.

A recommendation by a TPA official that Sandton establish an emergency camp as a temporary solution has not been acted upon, and the homeless are under threat of removal to Orange Farm south of Johannesburg.

The report points out that the Sandton Municipality and the police have been involved in different efforts to get shackdwellers off two business sites in Wynberg where informal settlements have been sprung up.

The town councils of Randburg, Sandton and Midrand, the report continues, appear to place responsibility for homeless blacks on other authorities: Sandton on the adjacent black council of Alexandra, and Randburg and Midrand on the regional/provincial/central government.

"They are not legally competent to deal with urbanisation," the report says. "They are only legally competent to eradicate squatters."

According to statistics published in the report, more than 60 percent of the squatters have been on the Witwatersrand for more than 15 years, 19 percent between six and 14 years and the rest up to five years.

The report says there is expressed resistance on the part of black local authorities to make provision for controlled site and service to accommodate poor people.

These local authorities are resisting the settlement of low income residents within their boundaries because they see them as a drain on their resources.

The report adds: "The combined but contradictory notions of upgraded areas and 'viable but separate' may prove to be the Achilles heel of the orderly urbanisation policy ...

"The policy must be accepted that the community at large is responsible for ensuring that land and resouces are equitably re-allocated so that the poorer residents (who are the majority) are included."



Depressing shacks like this one are the only home for growing thousands of the poorest. Black Sash suggests that some white councils are part of the problem.



Minister is urged to look into squatting

By Melody McDougall,
Vereeniging Bureau

Vereeniging Town Council has requested Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Law and Order, to investigate a squatting problem apparently rearing its head within the town's boundaries.

This was disclosed by Dr Mario Milani, chairman of Vereeniging's management committee, last night.

He said the squatter problem had been identified during a recent tour of the Waterdal agricultural holdings north of Vereeniging.

He said the issue demanded immediate and urgent attention.

Although he refused to elaborate on the extent of the problem, he said it appeared the squatters were "spilling over" from the neighbouring Sebokeng township.

Dr Milani said the squatters would have to be transferred to other suitable housing in black or coloured areas in the most humane way, following a survey in the Waterdal area.

He said the town council had notified Mr Meyer of the problem and requested him to consult the town council and inspect the area in question as soon as possible.

SHOWDOWN LOOMS AT RIVER OF DOGS

Sowetan 31/3/89

310

SCORES of families living on the farm Hondsrivier, near Bronkhorstspruit, have been threatened with eviction, lawyers representing them said yesterday.

Notices issued by the Bronkhorstspruit Town Council and the town committee of Zithobeni were served on more than

By MONK NKOMO

52 families on February 2. They were told to vacate the farm by February 28, according to Mr J B Sibanyoni, an attorney representing the families.

A spokesman for the Bronkhorstspruit council, Mr D J van Zyl, yesterday confirmed that the families had been served with notices informing them that they were staying illegally on the farm Hondsrivier.

Mr van Zyl said they had asked the Administrator to approve a recommendation by the council that the families be resettled at Rethabiseng, which, according to Mr Sibanyoni, is situated about 20km from Hondsrivier.

Mr van Zyl said the area was near Ekangala. "There are already houses, empty stands, sewerage and water available there," he said.

Mr Sibanyoni told the *Sowetan* that the families, three quarters of whom were squatters in Zithobeni township, and the others staying on the property of the Bronkhorstspruit council, did not want to be resettled in Rethabiseng.

"They are apparently given a wrong impression that they were going to be resettled at a place about 4km from where they are presently staying," said Mr Sibanyoni.

Braklaagte: living in the twilight zone

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

THERE seems to be no end to the twilight life of the Braklaagte community – South Africa does not want them and, in turn, they do not want to be incorporated in Bophuthatswana.

On March 10 they lost their case challenging incorporation into the homeland. And 13 days later a large contingent of Bop police and army personnel entered Braklaagte and set up a camp in the middle of the village.

A roadblock was also set up at the entrance of the village.

When schoolchildren came home from Zeerust one evening, their bus was stopped at the roadblock and they were ordered off the bus and made to stand in two lines.

They were asked individually if they supported Bop or South Africa.

All those who said they were South Africans, were beaten by soldiers with rifle butts. The beatings were so severe that their blood-soaked shirts stuck to their backs.

Because of the assaults, tensions ran high and acting Chief Pupsey Sebogodi called a meeting with the commanding officer.

It was agreed that the assaults on the schoolchildren were uncalled for and should not be repeated. There was also agreement that soldiers would remove the roadblock. However, this was not done.

When *City Press* spoke to Col David George of the Bop Police, he said he was not aware schoolchildren had been assaulted. He said police and army personnel were there to maintain law and order.

George declined to say anything about the arrest of Rev George Mogosi, 55, and subsequent assaults on him.

It is believed that Mogosi was assaulted to such an extent that when Sebogodi and 63 others went to court, he (Mogosi) was taken to the Lefurutsho Hospital.

He had been severely beaten with sjamboks. His back was criss-crossed with welts and bleeding sores. While the beating went on, the detained people were not given food.

When lawyers acting for the community wanted to see their clients, permission was refused, although the Criminal Procedures Act gives people that right.

He declined to comment about the arrest of Sebogodi and 63 others, saying they were in the hands of the Bop prison authorities.

George said they were facing charges of public violence, arson and malicious damage to property.

The situation is said to be so tense that many villagers – some more than 70 years old – are hiding in the bush, and some are said to be on their way to the Reef.

Things came to head over the Easter weekend, when returning migrant workers sought to find out what was happening in their village. They were teargassed, sjambokked and had dogs set on them.

Chief Lucas Mangope has made it clear that communities who refuse to join Bop are traitors.

This is why the Braklaagte community fear they may be harassed and persecuted. The community's main fear is that the chief will be replaced by someone favoured by Mangope.

TPA aware of the plight of squatters — Hough

The Transvaal Provincial Administration would deal with the squatting problem in a humane fashion, because it was profoundly aware of the plight of squatters, the Administrator, Mr Danie Hough, said yesterday.

He told the Extended Public Committee meeting on Provincial Affairs in Pretoria that the province was committed to establishing informal towns where homeless immigrants from the rural areas might build new lives for themselves.

RENTS

He said the Administration would act against anybody found charging squatters exploitative rents.

The province had provided 4 300 erven in Orange Farm and 3 000 erven in Evaton North for the establishment of informal towns. It had made land available to the South African Housing Trust for a further 25 000 erven in Evaton and 11 000 erven in Khutson.

The private sector lodged township applications providing for 156 603 erven, of which 3 150 erven had already been approved, he said. — Sapa.

Priest's shack razed

AN AUXILIARY priest of the St John's Faith Mission in Orlando West, Soweto, the Rev Edison Magasela, has been kicked out of a shack he has occupied in the churchyard for the past two-and-a-half years.

By ALI MPHAKI

The priest in charge of the premises, the Rev Paulos Kubheka, allegedly came with members of the SAP on Sunday morning to have Mr Magasela evicted.

Mr Magasela's shack was demolished and his belongings have since been in the open.

Attempts to obtain a comment from the Rev Kubheka drew a blank yesterday when his wife told reporters to go to Mshenguville if they want to discuss shacks.

"This is church premises and we cannot have a shack in the yard," she said before locking herself away from reporters.

"This was done without the consent of the church committee and the Rev Kubheka has even refused to meet the committee to discuss the matter," said Mr Mr Magasela.



A woman who has been on the waiting list for a home in Zithobeni for 20 years.

Pics EVANS MBOWENI

SAY BAAS!

Squatters outlawed in dusty dorp

By SAMKELO KUMALO and JAPIE MOKWEBO

BRONKHORSTSPRUIT is a rural one-horse town hardly visible on the map.

The town's name does not conjure a picture of street lights, skyscrapers or even a tarred road. Yet it has these – and a supermarket, too. The latest 24-hour banking facilities are dragging the dorp into the 20th Century.

Like all rural dorpies, particularly in the Transvaal, it is a stronghold of rightwing Afrikaner organisations and most of its inhabitants hack a living from the surrounding land.

This is a conservative town where a black man knows his place. There is no way for a black man to address a white man other than saying baas.

The town is a mere 45 minutes from Pretoria and Johannesburg, and many black residents work in these cities.

When Soweto and other townships around the country were burning and KwaNdebele, a few kilometres away, was having its share of the riots, Bronkhorstspruit's black township was as peaceful as paradise itself.

A sticker on the rear window of a bakkie drives the message home. It proclaims *Ons Ondersteun Treurnicht* (We support Treurnicht). The bakkie is driven by a black man.

Despite the expanse of empty land around Bronkhorstspruit, there is no land allocated for new black housing.

Like all other rural towns, this dorp has its own labour dormitory – Zithobeni, with 483 houses, established in 1953. It is unbelievable that there is housing shortage and the township looks like an islet in an ocean of open land.

A railway line cuts Zithobeni off from the growing shack settlement shared by more than 52 families.

Two types of residents live in these shacks: those who are on the waiting list for houses and were living in backyard shacks, and those who have been displaced from surrounding farms and were lucky enough to get employment in Bronkhorstspruit industries.

Faces of anguish stared at us as we entered the tiny and dusty shack location. Perched on a nearby koppie near a sewage dam were a dozen youths, reminiscent of sentries waiting for the bulldozers to come and demolish their makeshift homes.

They had to be on alert as their parents had been told that on this day they would be removed to KwaNdebele, some 20km away.

The 52 families staying in the shacks have reason to despair when seeing strangers as they had been rejected by the Bronkhorstspruit and Zithobeni town councils.

"No one wants us. We have been told in no uncertain terms that we must go some 20km away as a place has been found for us," said one resident.

What seems to worry everyone is why the authorities cannot accommodate them at Zithobeni when the township has less than 500 houses and vast open land.

A number of houses were built by the Zithobeni council last year, and a few shack-dwellers were given homes. The mayor of the place is alleged to have said no more houses would be built again.

Towards the end of last year the first batch crossed the railway line to erect shacks on what was believed to be no-man's land.

They chose the site they are at now because there is a fresh water tap at the nearby sewage dam. As soon as they settled down, the authorities refused them the right to draw water from the tap.

They had to go cap in hand begging for water from the township. The allegations are that some of the township residents refuse to allow the shack-dwellers to draw water from their taps. Water from the nearby stream is used for washing.

Pauline X said the Bronkhorstspruit council made them sign forms agreeing to be removed.

"When we were told about our pending removal we were given the impression that we were to be settled in or near the township. To our surprise we have just discovered that we are to be taken to Rethabisent (Restfontein) in KwaNdebele.

"If those are the conditions, we will not move an inch from here," she said.

The Bronkhorstspruit council sent the shack-dwellers notices of eviction early this year in which they were told they were told to leave the farm by February 28.

The reasons given were that the place was unhealthy.

Prayer day for shack people

(310)

Sowetan 10/4/89

THE Isolomzi People's Union of SA, a union representing shack-dwellers countrywide, will hold a prayer meeting in Johannesburg on April 22.

By KENOSI MODISANE

The union, which was started by Thokoza shack dwellers, was formed in 1987. Today it boasts membership in all shack villages throughout the country.

"Our main objective is to protect and represent shack owners in matters relating to the existing "squatter problems." We have so far managed to halt demolition of shacks at places like Alexandra and Protea," said Mr Eric Njiqela, national organiser of the union.

He added that the union was apolitical and would like to work with any organisation representing black people.

"So far we have made contact with the SACC, lawyers for Human Rights, the Black Lawyers' Association and Actstop, who will all be sending delegates to the prayer service," said Mr Njiqela, a shack dweller himself.

The meeting will be held at the Methodist Church in President Street at 1,30pm. Phone for more information at (011) 29-6884/5.

Johannesburg's urgent plea to Govt

Star 11/4/89 (310)

Identification of land for squatters sought

Municipal Reporter

The Johannesburg City Council has called on the Government to urgently identify land for a site and service scheme to accommodate squatters within the boundaries of the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council.

The council has urged that all local authorities' efforts to relieve squatting in the region should be co-ordinated and the provincial authorities have been informed that the main concern is for the entire area as the problem is not confined to Johannesburg's municipal area.

A council spokesman said housing director Mr F W Robins had been appointed the city's delegate on the Transvaal's regional co-ordinating committee dealing with illegal squatting.

Medical Officer of Health Dr Hilliard Hurwitz would study the public health and social needs of squatters particularly as far as water, sanitation and refuse disposal were concerned, but for the present the existing instructions about the removal of squatters from council-owned property still stood, the spokesman said.

Councillors were awaiting a report on their legal powers to control squatting, he added.

● Sapa reports that a Bill which will enable regional services councils to take over urban transport functions was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

A memorandum attached to the Urban Transport Amendment Bill says that where an RSC is charged with a land use and transport planning function, it will become the "core city" of every metropolitan transport area within its region.

Such an RSC will be allowed to appoint a metropolitan transport advisory board, or to itself perform the functions entrusted to a board in terms of the Urban Transport Act.

The Bill will also allow the Urban Transport Fund to be used to provide urban transport infrastructure in black areas in self-governing territories and adjacent to metropolitan transport areas.

Thousands of squatters out in the cold

By Winnie Graham

No one wants the hundreds of thousands of poor homeless people in South Africa.

Not only are white towns totally opposed to squatters in their open spaces but, it seems, even black local authorities are resisting the settlement of low-income residents because they are seen as a drain on their resources.

A study prepared by the Black Sash Transvaal Region Urban Removals and Homelessnes Group and the Community Research and Information Network shows informal settlements are mushrooming on the Witwatersrand.

The study quotes government spokesmen as saying it is the intention to create "viable urban communities. This is interpreted to mean that local authorities and their ratepayers will have to bear the costs of upgrading settlements of low-income residents within their boundaries.

The report believes the overriding implication of the "viable" local authority concept is the squeezing out of the poor.

Yet, in spite of their exclusion, it is unlikely the poor will leave the metropole which they perceive as the only place where they can make a living.

The study shows that nearly two-thirds of the people on the Witwatersrand have been there unlawfully for more than 15 years. Only 48 percent have regular employment while the rest find piece work, are unemployed or work in the informal sector.

Of the 100 people interviewed in October 1988, 40 percent earned R150 a month or less, 34 percent earned between R151 and R300 and 25 percent earned R300 or more. The average household income was R247.

Matters are expected to be aggravated as rural and homeland economies deteriorate and existing townships "spill over".

"The political and socio-economic consequences of not facing up to the problem now are obvious," the report states.

"The orderly urbanisation policy which should at least be applying an alleviating mechanism to the crisis of homelessness may ... aggravate the stark realities of urbanisation."

A land deal by Mavuso divides the squatters

An official offer of land to squatters at disputed Weiler's Farm has split the squatters in two. And the dispute has even led to violence, reports MZIMKULU MALUNGA

DEEP divisions have emerged among Weiler's Farm squatters following the Transvaal Provincial Administration's recent offer to resettle them.

In a clear instance of the government's new policy of "resettlement by persuasion", TPA executive member John Mavuso last month addressed a public meeting in the community, west of Johannesburg. He told the squatters that land had been made available for them at Orange Farm 10km away.

Residents say Mavuso told them Weiler's Farm was reserved for farming and could not be used for residential purposes. Two thousand sites had been set aside at Orange Farm, he said.

According to the TPA, about 226 of the 1 200 Weilers Farm families had moved to Orange Farm by the beginning of April.

The TPA offer has split the Weiler's Farm residents. Two squatter groupsings — the Weilers Farm Residents' Committee (WFRC) and the Masakhane Residents' Association (MRA) — are quarrelling over whether to negotiate with the TPA over the removals.

The MRA, which opposes the resettlement scheme, accuses the WFRC of collaborating with the authorities. The latter accuses the MRA of being "negative" and failing to address the problems of the squatters.

On Sunday this week, a residents' meeting had to be cancelled after a man who was present was nearly attacked. The man, Wilford Koko of the MRA, alleges that the residents were incited by WFRC members — a claim which is vehemently denied by WFRC leader Olga Lutu.

The WFRC's Lutu insists the squatters are moving to the new area on their own initiative, and that her organisation is not actively encouraging them to go.

However, she says the WFRC commands majority support at Weiler's Farm, and that most of the squatters are in favour of "voluntary removal".

"We are looking to the future. What will those who are against the move say if the government closes this camp?" she asked.

The regional director of the TPA, Jacobus Joubert, told the *Weekly Mail* Weiler's Farm was not included in the black urban area development plan of the Department of Constitutional Planning and Development and "cannot remain there forever".

Joubert said the TPA had held several meetings with the residents informing them that they had to move. Although the authorities had not set a deadline, the squatters would have to move as soon as possible, he added.

The TPA says the Orange Farm sites will be sold for R500 each. For those who cannot afford to buy, rented sites will be made available.

Weiler's Farm has 16 water outlets for an estimated population of more than 12 000 — but the TPA has promised residents a better water supply at the new site.

"They are talking about one tap for every 30 houses. That is still not sufficient," commented lawyer Geoff Budlender, of the Legal Resource Centre, who has been working with the squatters for the past four years.

After the farm was declared an emergency camp under the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act in December 1987, residents were issued with permits. They were expected to pay a R40 monthly "service charge".

Residents say several people were subsequently arrested for not paying rent.

NEW HOME



MSHENGUVILLE . . . golf course will be restored after squatters are moved.

Sowetan 14/4/89 310

Squatters go to Zuurbekom

THE Soweto City Council yesterday disclosed plans to resettle the more than 30 000 residents of the Mshenguville squatter camp in Mofolo, Soweto.

Soweto mayor, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, said Mshenguville residents will be resettled at the Orange Farm and Zuurbekom on the outskirts of Soweto. If the installation of water taps and provision of toilets proceeds faster then the resettlement programme may start before the end of this year.

But Mr Mkhwanazi said he still had to hold meetings with Mshenguville residents to find out



SOWETO mayor Sam Mkwanazi.

if they were willing to move to the serviced sites at the two areas.

Go ahead

"The Government has given us the go ahead. I am negotiating for money to fund the servicing of the sites. We can accommodate all the families at Mshenguville but some may not be willing to be moved," said Mr Mkhwanazi.

Mshenguville was "not suitable" for building houses as the area was on swamp ground. Shacks were flooded during rainy days in February this year.

"The two areas identified for Mshenguville residents are planned for people who cannot afford to buy houses costing R40 000. We are negotiating with the government to fund the servicing of the sites because the majority of Soweto residents, cannot afford high cost housing," Mr Mkhwanazi said.

He said those moving into the serviced sites at Zuurbekom and Orange Farm would build their own shacks while saving money to build decent homes. Most would be able to build decent houses for R15 000 if the South African Housing Trust granted them loans.

Deputy mayor took bribe commission is told — See Page 4

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3rd soldier dies

A THIRD servicemen, Rifleman K G Hermanus, 20, of Noupoort, died in 2 Military Hospital, Wynberg, last night following the accident in Macassar on Wednesday night in which 42 servicemen were injured.

Squatters resettled

JOHANNESBURG. — Soweto City Council has disclosed plans to resettle more than 30 000 residents of the Mshenguville squatter camp in Mofolo, Soweto, Sowetan reported yesterday.



Bida Nene and little Mfihlene – who was born in the bush – were left homeless after their hut was demolished.

Court to decide the fate of rural squatters

Weenen workers challenge eviction

CP Correspondent

A TEST case expected to decide the fate of thousands of farm workers is being heard today in the Maritzburg Supreme Court.

It involves a Weenen farmer who was earlier restrained from demolishing workers' huts

In a hearing on March 14 the farmer, Sakkie Pretorious, the new owner of Blaau Krants Farm near Weenen, was temporarily restrained from demolising more huts after he had already destroyed six.

The court ordered him to show by March 22 why he should not be:

- Finally interdicted from destroying or damaging the huts.
- Ordered to rebuild the destroyed huts.
- Made to pay the costs.

However, on that date Pretorious lodged an appeal which led to the present court hearing.

In papers before the court, one of the farm workers, Amon Dlamini – who said he had been living on the farm all his life – said Pretorious arrived on March 13 with tractors and a front-end loader.

He first destroyed two huts which belonged to Danisile Ngubane, who was not there at the time, after removing her possessions.

He then proceeded to Dlamini's household of seven huts and had started removing furniture when Ngubane – who had heard about the demolition – arrived with the police.

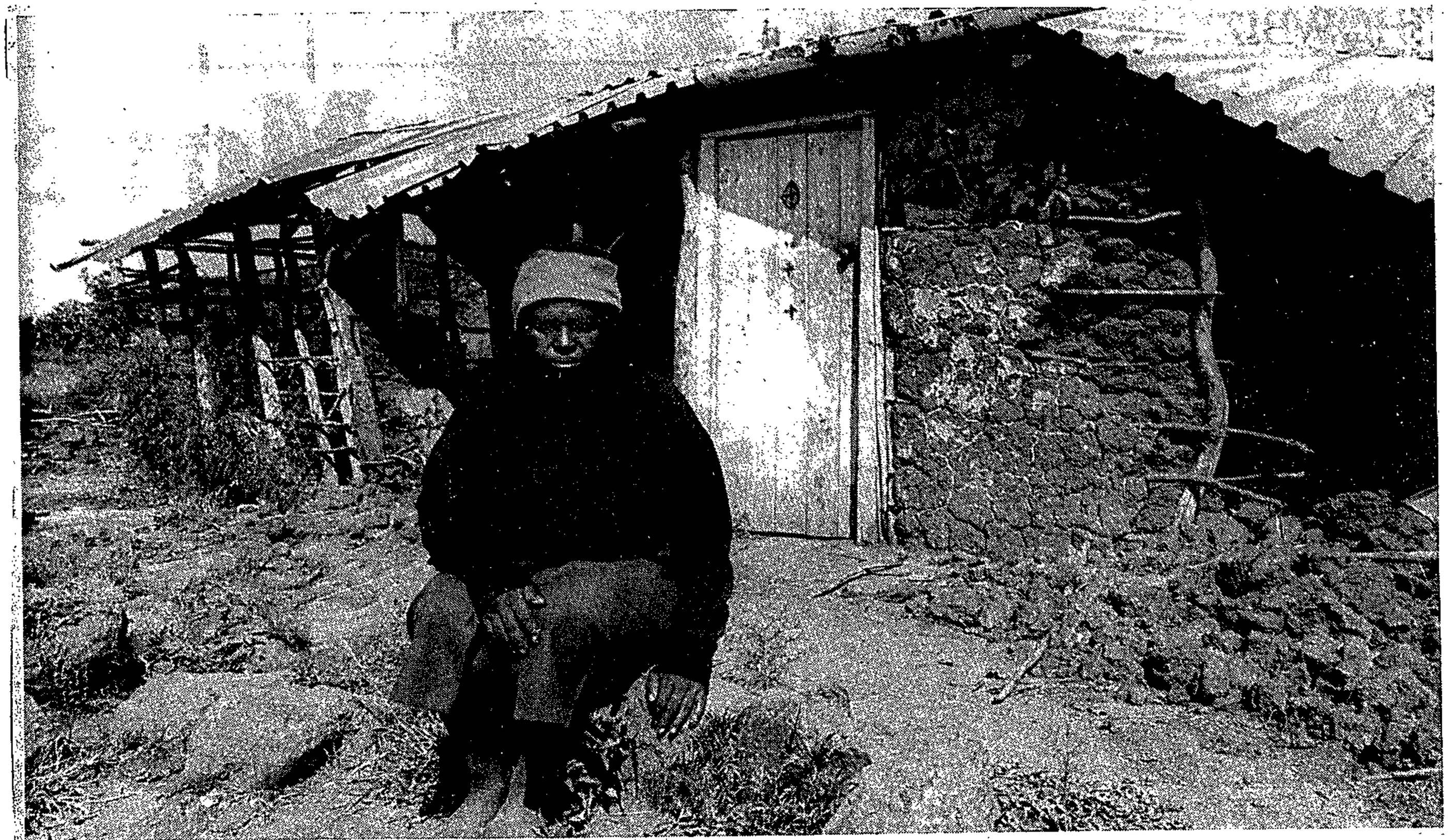
The police could not stop Pretorious.

Pretorious has maintained that the Prevention of Illegal Squatters Act entitles the owner of a property to destroy such structures.

However, the farm workers' lawyer, Ilan Lax; said he will argue that no one has the right the demolish without a court order from a magistrate.

Prior to an amendment to the Act in January, the magistrate had to find alternative housing for evicted people, but is no longer obliged to.

P.T.O for Pictures



Judith Nchunu sits in front of the ruins of her Weenen-district house, which was demolished by the farm-owner.

Shack folks are raided

Sowetan 20/9/89

310

OVER 20 squatters in Denver, Johannesburg, were left homeless when their makeshift shacks were burnt down during a raid on Monday morning.

The raid lasted for an hour during which squatters' belongings and cardboards and plastic used for walls were burnt down.

"The raids which are followed by destruction of our shacks, the spilling of liquor and arrests have become part of our life," said a squatter who identified himself only as "City" for fear of victimisation.

"They are usually conducted by a white man with a beard. We have nicknamed him *Ntshebe*. I have been a squatter here for five years and I have been raided and have had my belongings burnt countless times."

The police, the traffic and security department and the Johannesburg municipality denied any knowledge of the raid.

According to the squatters the raids are conducted by people in blue uniforms "like those of municipal police or instant constables."

mixed feelings about the slum's removal

wounds after a clash with the police who tore down my shack in 1986. I fought them not because I love this place, but because it is all I have. We need low cost houses not another shanty town.

"I have never heard of Zuurbekom or Orange Farm. We have children who attend school here. We will not have money to transport them to school or even to go job hunting. I cannot afford to buy new corrugated irons for a shack," he said.

On visiting the slum camp one is met with "I love a clean Soweto" stickers pinned on dilapidating walls. Although the area lacks any tarred streets, a few residents built stoeps at their doors and keep them shiny.

For the children of Mshenguville life goes on *normally*. They play games, tease each other, dance and greet strangers. Half of them do not wear warm vests on their young bodies as the grey, unhealthy smoke from the chimneys and braziers blanket the town built by Soweto's ex-mayor and top businessman, Mr Tshabalala.

Mshenguville, a home to about 30 000 of 320 000 Soweto's squatters, mushroomed three years ago and has since been a controversial point in town council meetings.

It has been torn down by the police a number of times. The former deputy Minister of Health, Mr Michael Veldman, once described it as "a health hazard and totally unacceptable".



MR JOHN MADONSELA, a father of four ... "It's a miracle an epidemic has not broken out."

Mofolo residents have sent delegations to the council to protest about the camp and to ask for it to be resettled.

Even Mr Tshabalala recently told the camp residents' committee: "Your place stinks, it is dirty and is a fertile ground for criminals."

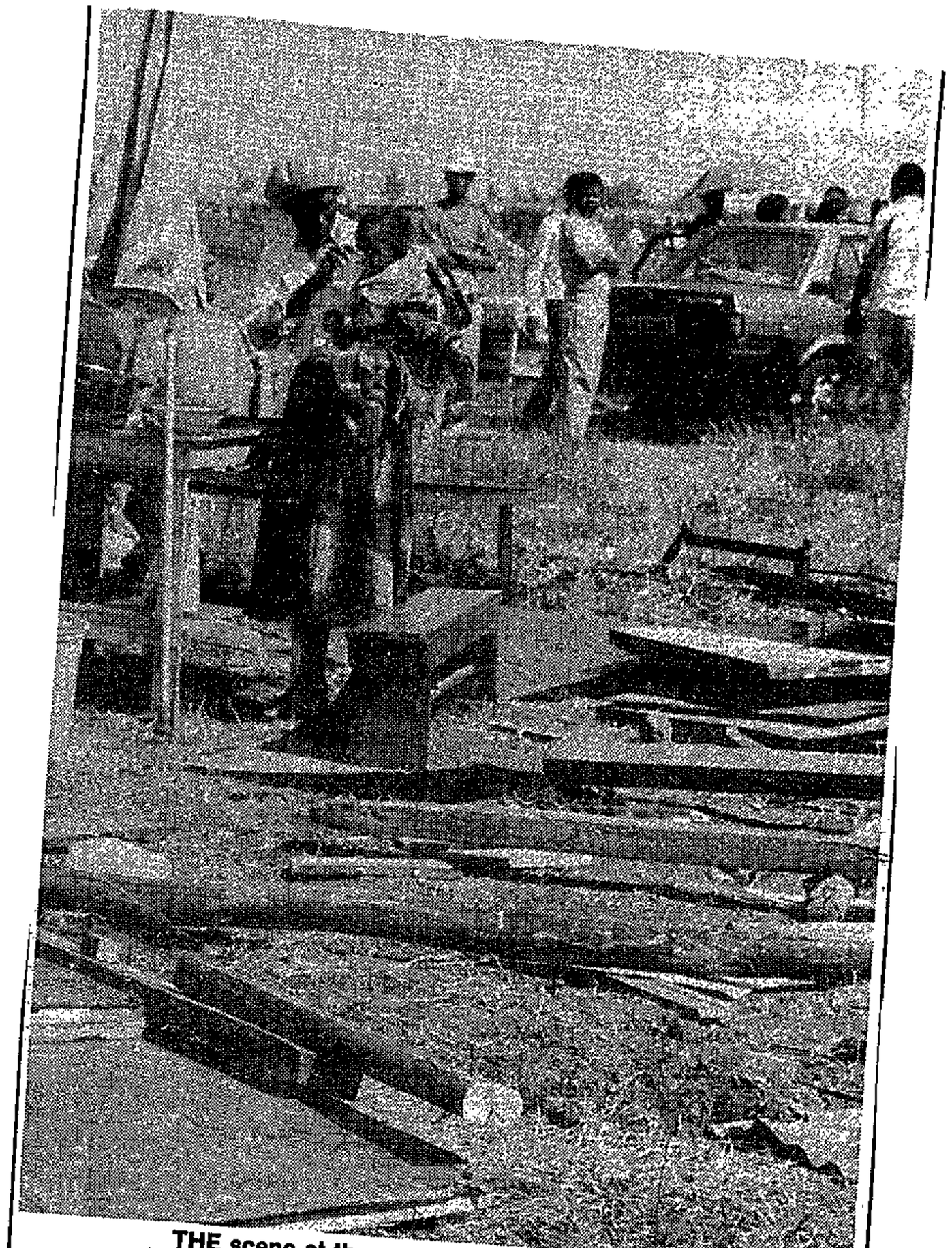
The camp, erected on a swampy area, is riddled with streams carrying excrement. The streams also act as a sewerage system for the blocks that are far from the rented toilets.

"There is no good day at Mshenguville. On hot days it stinks and on cold and rainy days we have water up to our knees inside our shacks," said Mr John Madonsela, a father of two. "After heavy rain one cannot eat because of what we sweep out of our houses.

"It is a miracle that an epidemic has not broken out. Our children's health and lives are at risk. There is nothing we can do. We do not have jobs to uplift our standard of living."



THE children of Mshenguville seem oblivious to the suffering and poverty that surrounds them as they play their games with smiles on their faces.



THE scene at the squatter camp yesterday.

FAMILIES STRANDED

MORE than 30 Tokoza squatter families spent a bitter night out in the cold after a contingent of municipal policemen demolished their shacks in Area 6, commonly called Ditankeng, yesterday.

A top council official confirmed the demolition of shacks in the area. He said the squatter families had been given written notice to move out of the area within 24 hours.

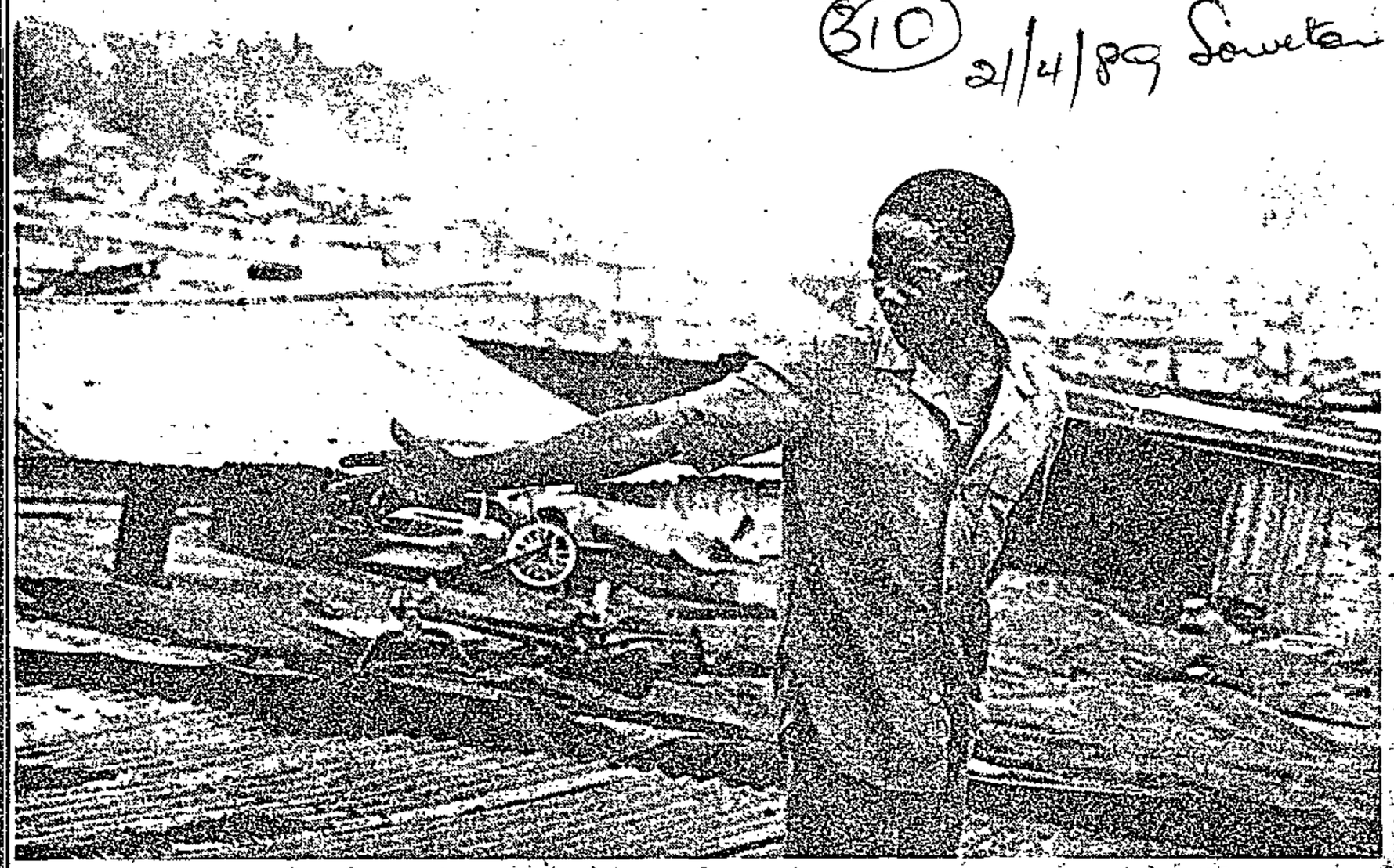
The area on which the people had settled had already been allocated to a developer who is to build houses there soon.

As a bitterly cold breeze swept across the Reef late yesterday the families tried to rebuild the roots of the shacks. Most of their property, including corrugated iron had been damaged beyond repair, allegedly during the demolition process. Many stranded families had scores of children in their homes.

When *Sowetan* visited the area squatter families milled around the ruins of their former houses helplessly. They said they could not rebuild the houses as the municipal policemen had warned that they would strike once more this morning.

Mshenguville residents rave

Some welcome the move, others question it



MR NIMROD THWALA ... "I got five bullet wounds for this." Mr Thwala was shot during a clash with police. In the background is Mshenguville with its daily blanket of smoke hanging over it.

MSHENGUVILLE, Soweto's worst slum area, is nearing its end after three years of being a health hazard and an eyesore to Soweto residents.

It has also been an embarrassment to its "father", Mr Ephraim Tshabalala and the authorities.

The Soweto City Council's decision to resettle the 30 000 squatters in better serviced areas in Zuurbekom and Orange Farm was met with mixed feelings by the slum camp residents.

Some of the residents welcomed the change to be moved to "a place with decent conditions, normal-sized streets and yards and ablution facilities". However most people expressed disappointment at being moved from "a zozo to a zozo".

"I have spent more than half of my life living in tin shacks," said Mrs Peggy Baloyi, a *sangoma* who shares a two-roomed shack with 10 members of her family including a three-month-old baby.

Story by PHANGISILE MTSHALI

Pictures by LEN KUMALO

"I am tired of being moved from a zozo to a zozo. Before I came here I was at MacDonalds Farm and it was not any better there. If I move to a new place I will not afford to buy the site and pay for a decent house."

"The council is aware that most of us are unemployed and we will not be able to build our own houses," said Mr Nimrod Thwala of Block 3.

"I spent days in hospital with five bullet



ALEXANDRA

FREE HOLD SECTIONAL TITLE

FLATS

Taps running again in CP town



MAYORS of Balfour and Siyathemba, Mr M J Claasen and Mr Daniel Mophohosho, holding a jar of water to symbolise the new spirit of sharing.

THE acute water shortage at Siyathemba township in Balfour was the result of the abolition of influx control laws and the flood of squatters to the township.

This was said by the Conservative Party-controlled Balfour Town Council.

The council denied that it deliberately stopped the water supply to Siyathemba and yesterday took the Press on a tour of the area.

Journalists were shown a new system which it said would increase the supply to the township by 400 kilolitres a day.

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Balfour mayor Mr M J Claasen said the town had been having water problems for the last 25 years and that it was not connected to the Rand Water Board supply system.

He said the CP had nothing to do with the running of the council because the council is responsible to the community.

Replying to a question whether there was any difference between the Balfour council and the Boksburg Town Council, Mr Claasen said: "The difference is that we have not done what Boksburg did." He would not answer questions on whether his council would open all facilities to people of all races.

Mr David Maphohosho, the mayor of Siyathemba, denied that the squatter problem aggravated the shortage and pointed out that Siyathemba's population was 24 000 and that only 800 families lived in shacks in the township.

He criticised the

• To Page 2

Taps are running

• From Page 1

Balfour Council has having delayed negotiations over the crisis and accused whites in the town of refusing to let Siyathemba residents draw water from their taps.

Mr Maphohosho said the crisis was still real in Siyathemba but that water was running again from taps in the area.

The Balfour Council also dismissed claims that the water supplied in tanks to the "black" residents was dirty and blamed the "black Press" for writing sensational articles about the crisis.

Squatters seek God's help to find shelter

310
Mae 23/4/89

By LULAMA LUTI

A NATIONAL prayer meeting for more than 18 000 squatters throughout the country is to be held at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg tomorrow afternoon.

The meeting has been organised by the Iso Lomzi People's Union, which represents the squatters.

The union's chief organiser, Eric Ntshiqela, said the purpose of the meeting was to pray for the homeless and to provide them with shelter. "This is an appeal to God, the Creator and Father of all", to enter the hearts of South Africa's leaders and to get them to consider the squatters' problems.

The gathering will be led by the Anglican Bishop Suffragan for Johannesburg East, Bishop Simeon Nkoane, and representatives of Actstop, the Black Lawyers' Association, Lawyers for Human Rights and the SA Council of Churches will address the meeting.

The union was formed at Soweto's Protea South in 1987 after squatters in the area were issued with notices to demolish their shacks.

Their case was successfully taken up with the Soweto Council. The squatters, under the banner of Iso Lomzi, then decided to share their experiences with others around the country.

To date, Iso Lomzi has successfully come to the aid of squatters whose shacks were threatened with demolition at Alexandra and Thokoza, near Alberton.

Ntshiqela said the main objectives of the union, which is not a trade union, were "to organise all homeless people in South Africa to form one body and to represent squatters at council and higher levels".



Eric Ntshiqela, chief organiser of the squatters' union.



An old squatter woman fills a basin from a stagnant stream.

'Declare settlement an emergency'

Reports by Helen Grange

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) has been called on to declare a squatter settlement situated between Lenasia Extensions 9 and 10 an emergency camp in an effort to "curtail its growth and limit health hazards".

The appeal was made by the Peri-Urban Board after it was established that the squatters were not prepared to move to Orange Farm or Evaton North as proposed by the TPA.

After months of correspondence between Lenasia residence committees, the TPA, the Peri-Urban Board and the House of Delegates, the future of the squatter camp has been firmly placed in the hands of the House of Delegates' department of local government, housing and agriculture.

The Committee of Concerned Residents of Extensions 9 and 10 has appealed to the House of Delegates to "acknowledge its responsibility".

The committee wants the House to proclaim a suitable piece of land a Free Settlement area for the squatters as well as provide funds to develop suitable housing as an attractive inducement to the squatters.

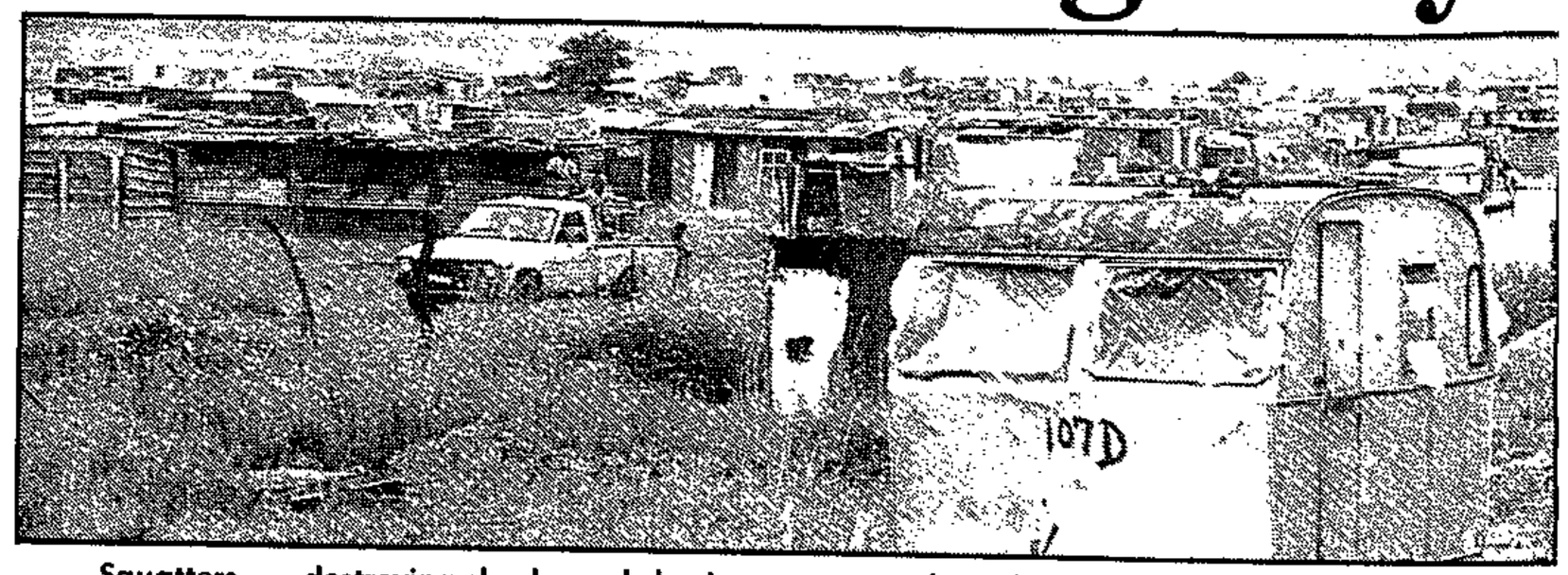
"We reiterate that tens of millions of rands in unused budgeted funds were returned by the House of Delegates to the treasury last year which surfaced in the infamous James Commission hearings, as well as the R2 billion in excess taxes flowing into the Treasury as against budgeted expectations," committee spokesman, Mr Hussain Bismilla said.

Mr Bismilla further pointed out that is was also the duty of the Peri-Urban Board to ensure the provision of suitable housing for the squatters and claim the cost from the House of Delegates.

He added that he was concerned at the TPA's delay in declaring the settlement an emergency camp.

"The camp is expanding rapidly, with no contingent plans of any sort forthcoming from authorities. To ignore the seriousness of the situation is an abdication of responsibility by both the House of Delegates and the Transvaal Provincial Administration," he said.

Mr Bismilla's committee has called for an urgent meeting between the authorities to settle the controversy over the squatters, who have occupied the land since early last year.



Squatters . . . destroying shacks and chasing away people with nowhere to go is no solution.

Squatters at high risk of diseases

Squatters who are forced to live without proper shelter in overcrowded conditions run a high risk of developing acute skin disease and related ailments.

This is the finding of a recent investigation into the health of squatters in the Port Elizabeth township of kwaZakhele.

The health screening programme was conducted by a team of doctors and voluntary workers from the Port Elizabeth Anti-Removal Committee (PARC).

Of the 22 children examined, six were found to have scabies, another six were suffering from impetigo (a contagious disease of the skin), two had ear infections, four gastro-enteritis, while 11 had contracted chest ailments.

The PARC report added that the shocking health of the squatters was aggravated by overcrowding and inadequate shelter and sanitation.

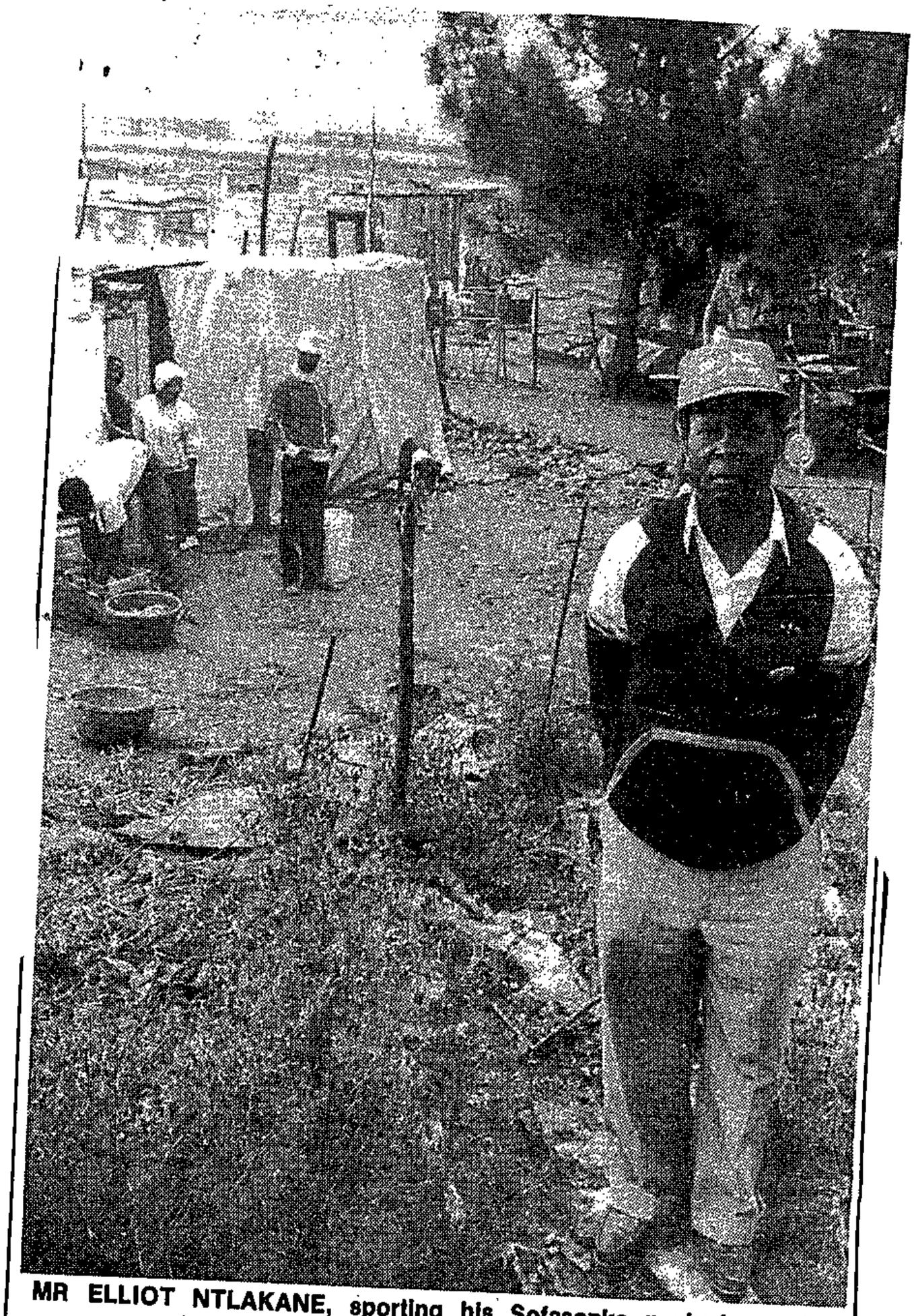
"The skin diseases, especially impetigo, if left untreated and undetected, could lead to acute renal disease," the report said.

It further notes that the unstable and temporary nature of the squatters' abode makes it difficult to administer proper treatment.

Two adults were found to have been suffering from heart disease and epilepsy. Both ailments require long-term treatment.

"Because of the inadequate shelter, squatters are exposed to extreme temperatures, rain and wind. This exposes them to nose, ear and throat infections. Chest and other infections could also develop.

"Overcrowding also poses a problem as the risk of spreading infectious diseases like tuberculosis is dangerously high," the report said.



MR ELLIOT NTLAKANE, sporting his Sofasonke peaked cap is adamant. His community is going nowhere . . .
Pic: ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

SQUATTERS WORRY COUNCIL

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

A SMALL squatter community standing on House of Delegates-owned land which is earmarked for a R80 million sports complex is giving the Lenasia Management Committee problems.

"The camp must go," says Mr Lloyd Naidoo, vice chairman of the LMC. "It is a health hazard," he says. "There are no facilities and there have been reports of molestation. Schoolchildren have to pass by the camp every day and there is even a rumour of rape.

Mr Lloyd has campaigned for the installation of running water, water-borne sewerage and high mast lighting. Thus far he has had no success. "I wanted it for them until they were rehoused elsewhere."

Indignant

About the molestation claims and the alleged rape, the people of Bedsider, as the camp is known, are indignant. Says Mr Elliot Ntlakane, the community leader: "They can't blame us for something that happened over there," (indicating a couple of hundred metres into an open field). "If they want to offer us new land we will gladly accept it right here."

The children of Bedsider attend school in nearby Eikenhof and most of the people are employed in the area. Mr Ntlakane has asked a nearby industry to install a tap and administer the camp. "The people pay R25 a month rent and I use it for the toilets and security."

The management committee of Lenasia is considering having the people moved to Wheeler's Farm in the Vaal Triangle.

Rushing for his Sofasonke Party hat for a photo opportunity, Mr Ntlakane said: "Wheeler's Farm is private property too."

The war with kwaNdebele is hardly over, and Moutse faces a new suitor: Lebowa

Memories of Moutse's bitter battle against kwaNdebele are still fresh, but a strong lobby of Moutse businessmen is urging incorporation into another homeland: Lebowa

MZIMKULU MALUNGA reports



Moutse residents contemplate their future at Saturday's mass meeting

Picture: KENDRIDGE MATHABATHE

MOUTSE won the struggle against incorporation into kwaNdebele. Now it faces another battle: the threat of inclusion in Lebowa.

A group of business personalities, led by former Lebowa MP Godfrey Mathebe, is mobilising support for Moutse to be re-incorporated into Lebowa.

For more than two years the residents of Moutse, a large settlement about 80km north of Pretoria, fought against incorporation into kwaNdebele. Last year the Appelate Division ruled against incorporation, and the Rumpff Commission was appointed to investigate the future of the area.

Moutse has long been of interest to different "homelands": in 1968 it was a part of Lebowa but was returned to the central government in 1980. Then the dispute over incorporation into kwaNdebele arose in 1985. During the dispute the Lebowa government tried and failed to have the area re-incorporated into the "homeland".

This weekend more than 3 000 Moutse residents gathered at the Simpupuru showgrounds to hear Mathebe present his case.

At the start of the meeting there was a sudden quietness.

It appeared that Mathebe, who was accompanied by some officials from the Lebowa government, had won the support of the acting chief and chairman of the Moutse Regional Authority (MRA), Chief Tlokwe Mathebe.

Tlokwe Mathebe, in his opening speech, indicated that he favoured incorporation.

"Last year when we were meeting at this place, I told you now that the war is over and I want to go back to Lebowa, but there was confusion as some said yes and others said no," Tlokwe Mathebe said.

But the debate heated up and members of the Moutse Civic Association (MCA) and the Federation of Moutse Youth Congresses (Fedmoyco) invaded the platform to state their opposition.

Cries of "Moutse! Moutse!" filled the air and clenched fists were raised to the cloudy sky.

It was clear that any resolution taken in favour of incorporation would create trouble among residents who were still nursing wounds from the struggle against kwaNdebele.

"We don't oppose this just because it concerns Lebowa, we are against being put under any 'homeland' government. KwaNdebele, Lebowa or QwaQwa are the same," argued Isaac Ditshego of the MCA.

"In kwaNdebele there is *Mbokotho* (a vigilante group) and there is *Thari Ea Sechaba* in Lebowa which plays the same role as *Mbokotho*," he said.

He warned that if Moutse, which has a population of more than 120 000, was placed under a "homeland" authority, the chances were that residents would "re-experience the bitterness of 1985/86".

Ditshego said opponents of the MCA had given residents the wrong idea about the association and its functions.

The MCA's emergence as an effective opposition at the meeting unsettled *Khudu Thamaga*, the name the residents use to describe Mathebe's associates. In the middle of the talks *Khudu Thamaga* members left their seats on the stage to hold a separate discussion with Lebowa officials.

Many people at the main meeting expressed the view that *Khudu Thamaga* was a "group of rich people who wanted to get even more rich at the expense of the people of Moutse".

The meeting nearly came to an abrupt end when a man, whom residents say is an employee of the kwaNdebele Department of Works and who was apparently not a resident of Moutse, occupied the stage and started shouting "Lebowa! Lebowa!".

Indignant members of the civic association and the youth congress jumped up from their chairs and shouted "*Tsamaea! rona haree koo!*" (Go! We are not going there!).

Godfrey Mathebe's supporters, who appeared to be mostly old people, repeated the cry of "Lebowa!".

Tlokwe Mathebe appealed for calm and the meeting continued.

Godfrey Mathebe, who represented Moutse in the Lebowa parliament for 13 years, made a passionate plea near the end of the meeting: it was safer to be under Lebowa than to remain under the central administration.

In front of him was last week's newspaper which contained information on the new Alteration of Boundaries of Self-Governing Territories Bill, which is likely to affect more than half-a-million people — Moutse included.

"If this Bill is passed, we are in trouble. This area can be incorporated into kwaNdebele," Godfrey Mathebe said, lifting the paper into the air. He added: "You know, recently I went down to Cape Town with officials of the Lebowa government, and PW Botha stated categorically that he did not want us under his government.

"That is why I am suggesting that we go to Lebowa because there we will be safe."

Modifying his approval of incorporation into Lebowa, Tlokwe Mathebe said that in view of strong opposition from the youth congress and the MCA discussions needed to be taken further. He also appealed for unity among his people.

SOWETAN Friday April 28 1989

310.

NOW A REPRIEVE

Tokoza's homeless can live in tents

THE Tokoza Town Council has agreed to allow homeless families at Ditankeng to remain there temporarily provided they lived in tents.

The agreement was reached after an hour-long meeting at the council chambers between the council officials led by the mayor, Mr E Matsoso, and a delegation representing several civil rights groups.

Among them were the Lawyers for Human Rights, Isolomzi People's Union, Kwasa Community Project, a priest from the Catholic Church and a legal representative from a firm of attorneys.

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

Council agreed

The council agreed that the Witwatersrand Council of Churches could erect 70 tents for the families already at the place. The council would inform the families and their representatives when the area would be developed by a concern which bought the sites.

Mr Matsoso told the representatives of the homeless families that the Tokoza council was "bottled in" by Katlehong township, the Natalspruit Hospital, Eden Park and the Danusa transit camp and had "no land to accommodate" them.

He said there were 4 500 families at Danusa Squatter Families Transit Camp and people were living at an average of four to five families in every four-roomed house in Tokoza.

31D Citizen 30/4/89.

Govt told to return land to Magopas

THE expropriation of land on which the Mogopa tribe has lived for several decades is not valid in terms of the Development Trust and Land Act, a packed Pretoria Supreme Court heard this week.

Counsel for the respondents, Jules Browde, SC, was arguing in the trial of 70 members of the Mogopa tribe who face an eviction order from the 3 840ha Zwartrand farm in the Western Transvaal.

The Supreme Court earlier this year passed an interim order stipulating that no members of the tribe – except those presently on the farm – may trespass on the land and no structures may be erected.

Acting Judge Human said the farm belonged to the government and the Mogopa tribe had no right to it.

The urgent application was brought against the tribe leaders, Daniel Molefi, Matthew Mpshe, Peter Chief More and Jacob More, by the Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs and the Minister of Education and Development Aid.

The applicants had asked the court to order the Ventersdorp police to assist them in evicting the tribe and their possessions within three days of a final order being made.

The basis of the application rests on the proposition that although the Mogopa tribe previously owned the farm Zwartrand and the neighbouring farm Hartbeeslaagt – which they purchased in 1916 and 1931 respectively – the government is now the owner, by expropriation.

Zwartrand is presently leased by the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs to the Koster and Ventersdorp district agricultural unions.

Browde told Judge WJ van der Merwe the government refused to sell the farm to the tribe, regardless of what they were prepared to pay.

He argued that the expropriation was invalid because it was not effected for "public purposes" as required by Section 2 (1) of the Expropriation Act of 1975, and "it was effected in bad faith and for an ulterior purpose".

He added that the policy on which the applicants relied as justifying an expropriation "for public purposes" arose from an entirely different state that had nothing to do with expropriation.

Browde submitted that "every legal power must have legal limits otherwise there is dictatorship".

Browde said no valid reasons for the expropriation were given, except for an affidavit made by Dirk Minnaar, the assistant director of the financial section of the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs, who had said he was informed "the situation had become explosive".

Browde went on to quote what he cited as a similar case, "Mathebe vs the Government of South Africa," where the court ruled that the incorporation of Moutse into KwaNdebele was void because the decision was taken "with a view to administrative convenience".

The hearing continues. – Sapa



Bishop SB Linako of Katlehong pleads for more awareness of dangers facing the homeless.

Squatters brave cold to pray for land to build homes

THAT there is a shortage of land on which to build houses for squatters is a myth existing only in the hearts of the authorities, a prayer meeting in Johannesburg was told.

Addressing the service at the Central Methodist Church to pray for squatters, the chief organiser of Iso Lomzi People's Union, Eric Ntshiqela, said it was about time squatters were treated the same as other people by the authorities.

Story: LULAMA LUTI
Pics: EVANS MBOWENI

"We are all paying taxes, just like those who own houses. We demand to be treated equally by those in authority," he said.

More than 150 representatives of squatters from the Reef braved the cold, damp weather last weekend to attend the service, which was led by the Anglican Bishop Suffragan for Johannesburg East, Bishop Simeon Nkoane.

Squatter representatives said most shack-dwellers became the victims of ill-treatment by landlords because they were desperate.

Stories were recounted of the dangers presented by the cramped conditions in which the squatters live.

Nkoane said the problems of homelessness among blacks was one that had always brought pain to clergy.

Nkoane added that there was no reason for people to remain homeless in the country of their birth.

The congregation – comprising mainly women – punctuated the service with occassional moans and outbursts.

Expressing his gratitude to Iso Lomzi, Nkoane urged the squatters not only to pray but to work tirelessly.

Father Peter Hortop of the Catholic Church in Thokoza attacked the South African system of government and dubbed it the most evil in the world.

Said Father Hortop: "God is on our side and we must not complain. We know that God will help us. We have no doubt about it."

Sharing their experiences, the shack-dwellers urged each other to persevere and unite in their bid to find shelter.



A member of the congregation loses herself during singing at the meeting held to pray for squatters.

Bad air still hangs over scrapped Act

THE highest levels of air pollution in South Africa are recorded in the Vaal Triangle. And, says Mr Martin Lloyd, the director of air pollution at the Department of Health, the black townships and the absence of influx control are responsible for more than seventy percent of it.

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

Because of the High Pressure System prevalent over the Highveld, particularly in winter, pollutants emitted into the air cannot escape. This High Pressure System, causes what scientists call Temperature Inversion — thus "sealing" daily emissions in the atmosphere overnight.

Responding to Mr Lloyd's claim, the president of the United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa), Mr Tom Boya says his organisation takes "great exceptions to the remark."

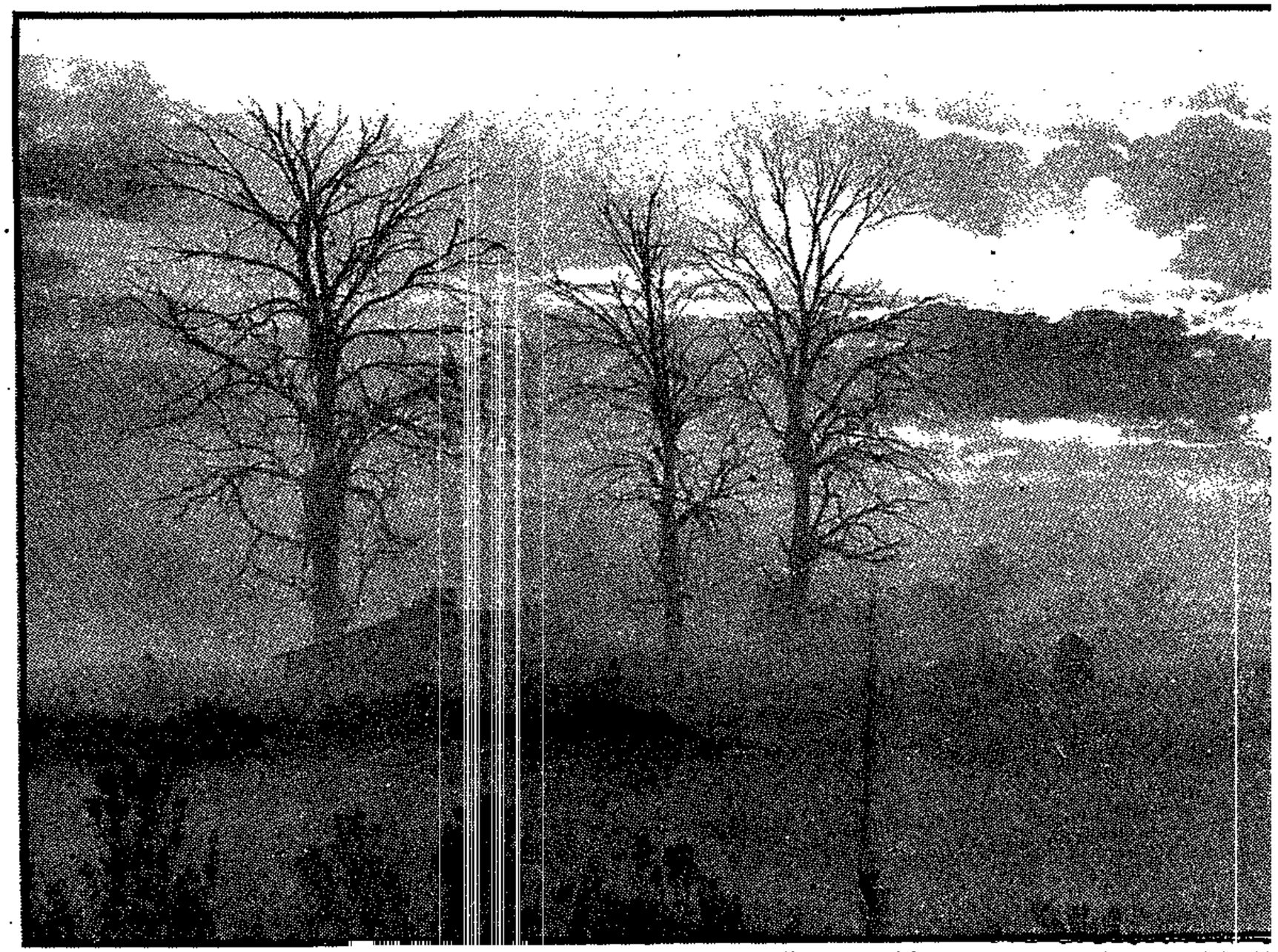
The lack of infrastructure and electricity in the townships are largely responsible for people here living in Third World conditions. "People are forced to use braziers and any other type of heat they can find."

"It has become a trend to blame everything possible on the abolishment of Influx Control, which was clearly a positive move by the Government," says Mr Boya.

The situation was worse before the abolishment of the Act. "If you look at residential areas created after the repeal of this law — places like Spruitview, Hospital View and Diepkloof Extension — there is virtually no sign of pollution," Mr Boya said.

Ignorance, says Mr Lloyd, is why industry is blamed as the main source. The Vaal Triangle is one of the most densely populated areas with the highest ratio of cars and industry in South Africa. Because people see smoke bellowing from industries in the area, they say it is the main cause."

"The townships cause more than seventy percent of the pollution," estimates Mr Lloyd. He says there is an Air Pollution Act which provides for the "cleaning up of industrial air pollution". Since the inception of the Act in 1976, his department has monitored pollution and



... convinced that "they have cleaned up".

"Because of rapid urbanisation — you know, Influx Control — most people don't even have stoves and build fires in tin drums". This he says, emits more harmful gasses than the neighbouring industries. "People don't see this plume of smoke from the black township, but readily blame the industries."

"We have done research which proves that even if the townships are electrified the people there won't get rid of their stoves because they need it for space heating as electricity is very expensive."

"It would cost the country hundreds of millions, and what do you do with all the old stoves?"

... the day smoke settles over the townships in the Vaal Triangle in a dense fog reducing visibility to a couple of hundred metres.

Pics: ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

Influx and control of chronic pollution



SMOKE engulfs residents of townships in the Vaal Triangle.

TPA denies Weiler's Farm residents will be forcibly removed



Squatters living at Weiler's Farm are being offered a "better environment" in which to live, says the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Squatters offered 'perks' to move

By Winnie Graham

A total of 2 000 stands, a school, a mobile clinic and a training centre — these are some of the perks the Transvaal Provincial Administration is offering squatters who move from Weiler's Farm to Orange Farm and Wildebeesfontein.

The school would be ready at Orange Farm from the third term, said Mr P P C van der Hoven, chief director of planning and development of the TPA's Community Development branch.

Mr van der Hoven was commenting on allegations that the TPA had done "virtually nothing to house the homeless" and that squatters "are under threat of removal to Orange Farm".

The allegations were contained in a recently published report compiled by the Black Sash Urban Removals and Homelessness Group and the Community Research and Information Network.

He said the TPA had spent more than R7,3 million on township development since June 1988 and, in addition, had established services in Evaton North. A further R7 million would be spent on the main water supply to the Evaton North area in the coming financial year.

He added: "The TPA would like to state emphatically that it will not threaten people who are legally settled, or force people to move.

"A constant effort is also made to reach those who are squatting illegally on land not earmarked for residential purposes and, through negotiation and effective communication, persuade them to move to a better environment where they can settle permanently and legally."

Discussing the development of Orange Farm, he said a task group comprising representatives of the TPA regional office in Johannesburg, the Development Bank, the building technology division of the CSIR, the SA Housing Trust, the University of the Witwatersrand, the Small Business Development Corporation and the Vaal Triangle Reginal Services Council was giving urgent attention to the establishment of a "full-grown settlement."

Mr van der Hoven said it was no longer Government policy to erect houses for black people. Experience had shown that when squatters were provided with serviced stands, many were eventually capable of providing their own houses, either at their own expense or with assistance.



MEC Mr Olaus van Zyl



MEC Mr John Mavuso

Ten years ago, he said, stands were made available in the Daveyton area. Today, 90 percent of them were developed with brick houses which the residents themselves had provided.

During the past few months the TPA had made land available for black townships in various places. Stands were provided so that people could obtain ownership by means of leasehold.

There were, for example, about 2 000 families at Letlhabile outside Brits who had moved voluntarily from Oukasie. At Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, 4 300 stands were now available with many more to follow later. A further 11 000 stands were available at Khutsong and 3 000 at Evaton North.

At Rietvallei 12 000 stands would eventually be available.

Mr van der Hoven added: "The TPA supplies these stands with basic services such as water, refuse removal and graded roads. At Brits there is also a subsidised bus service while at Evaton North the stands have been provided with flush sanitation and high-mast lighting. There is a 'wet core', with toilet and wash-basin with running water, on every stand at Evaton North."

He said Mr John Mavuso, MEC, and Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC, had met the Weiler's Farm residents' committee and, in response to a question, had told them the people could not stay in the area because it had not been "identified by the Government for urbanisation and township development (following an extensive investigation by a consortium of professional town planners of the private sector)".

He added the farm could, therefore, not be developed as a permanent town, and upgrading of services would not be undertaken. For the same reason, ownership of stands could not be obtained.

"Orange Farm, on the other hand, is inside the boundaries of the area earmarked for township development, ownership of land is possible, and all the services and privileges attached to formal townships will eventually be available to all residents," he said.

The stands were available for people from squatter settlements in the surrounding areas, such as Doornkuil, Vlakfontein and those in the Lenasia and Ennerdale areas.

Owners want white area declared a township

By Helen Grange

Residents of Orange Farm near Grasmere, Johannesburg, have appealed to the government to declare it a township development area.

Most of Orange Farm, except for about 300 ha on the west, is occupied by squatters, many of them having been moved there from surrounding areas.

Residents say their properties have been devalued substantially and are "continually being destroyed".

"On one occasion, a roof was stolen, and because many of the homeowners live and work in town, they have no control over theft or destruction.

"We cannot find tenants to live in our houses because of lack of security in the area.

"White home buyers are not interested in purchasing the properties and we are not allowed to sell to any other race in terms of the Group Areas Act," said Mr Henry Wienand, a resident at Orange Farm.

Mr Wienand said white home owners on Orange Farm wanted the whole area declared a development area so they could sell their houses either to the Government or to black, Indian or coloured buyers.

SHACKS TORN DOWN

Police raid on squatters in Alex



PART of the crowd of students who attended the memorial service for slain activist Dr David Webster at Wits University yesterday. See Page 3.

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

ABOUT 65 families in Alexandra township are homeless after their tin shacks were torn down and set on fire by municipal police yesterday.

Some of the families have been sleeping in the open since Monday when squads of policemen flattened their homes.

The demolition of shacks along different avenues began after the expiry of a notice served on the residents last week.

Sold

"We were told to vacate the area because it has been sold to other people," said Mr Zizwe Mbatha. "They did not tell us where to go," he added.

Some of the families are now sleeping in already crowded shacks with other people.

The mayor of Alexandra, Mrs Agnes Pooe, said she was aware of the shack demolition in the township but had not authorised it.

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FESTIVE CHICKEN

Alex shacks torn down

● From page 1

"I know that some of the sites were bought by certain churches before the squatters moved in," she said.

"In Alexandra we are still having a huge influx of squatters, mainly from Transkei.

"They do not come through the right channels. They just erect their shacks wherever there is a space," she said.

The town clerk of Alexandra, Mr P J Genis, was not available for a comment "as he was out of town for a week."

Star 11/5/84

Squatters 310 left homeless

About 65 families in Alexandra township were this week left homeless after their shacks were torn down and set alight by municipal police — leaving them without alternative accommodation.

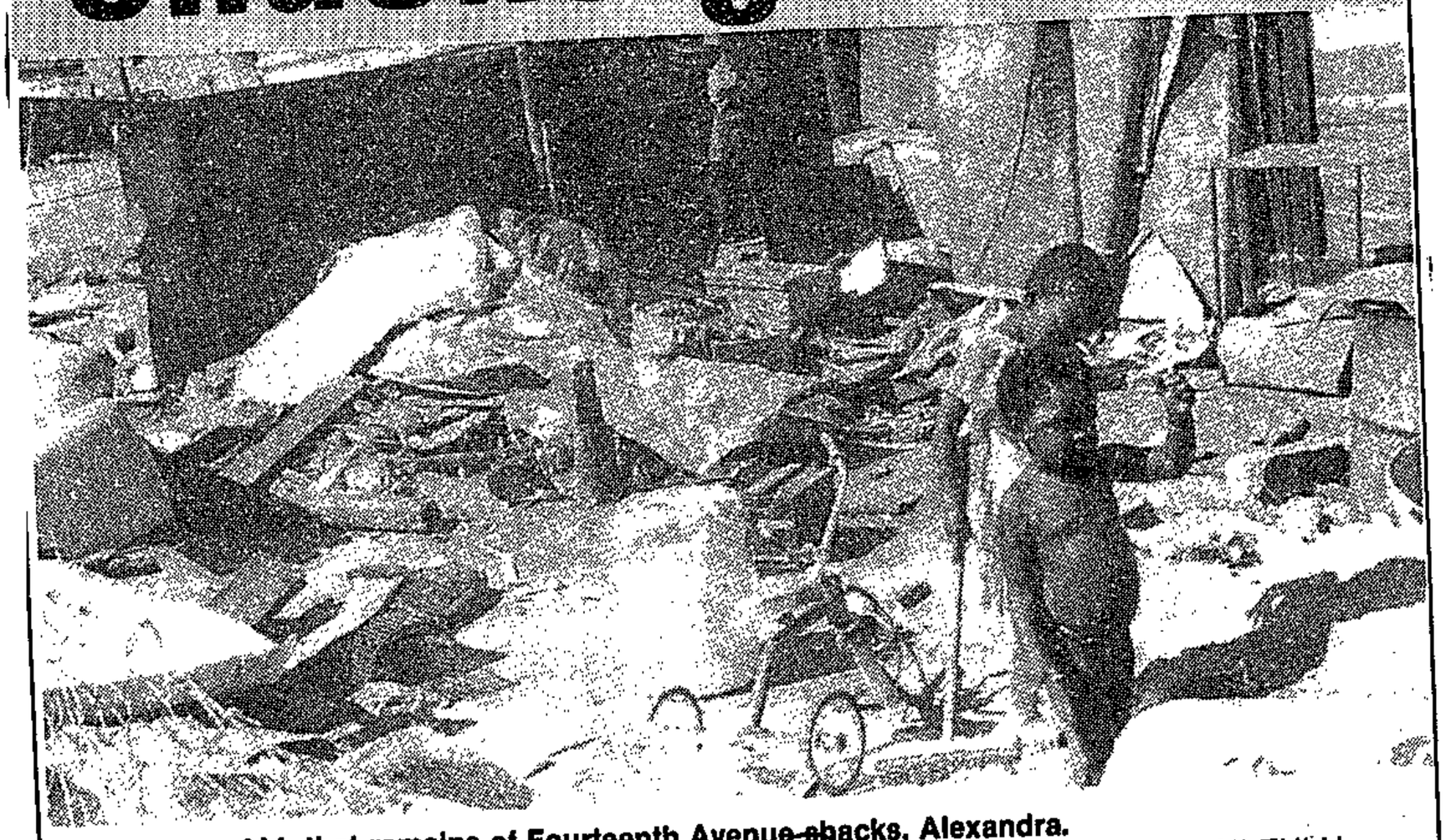
Some of the families have been sleeping in the open since Monday when squads of policemen flattened their homes.

The demolition of shacks along different avenues, follows the expiry of a notice served on the shack dwellers last week.

"We were told to vacate the area because it has been sold to other people," said Mr Zizwe Mbatha.

The mayor of Alexandra, Mrs Agnes Pooe said she was aware of the shack demolition in the township but had not authorised it. "I know that some sites were bought by certain churches before the squatters moved in."

Destruction of shacks goes on



ALL that remains of Fourteenth Avenue shacks, Alexandra. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

Sowetan 12/5/89

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By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

THE number of homeless people in Alexandra rose yesterday as municipal demolition squads continued destroying squatters' homes.

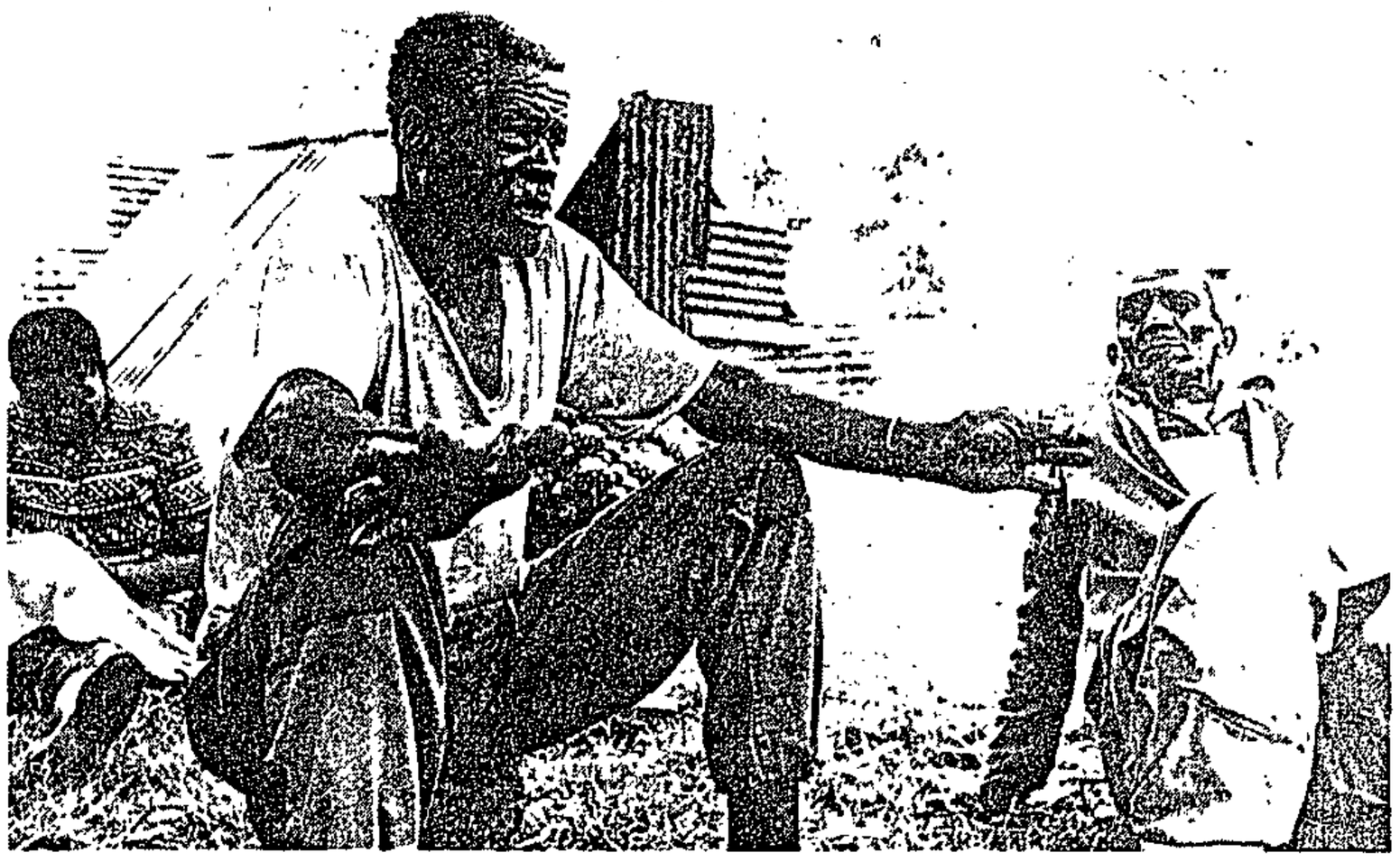
Yesterday about 20 more shacks were destroyed and building material was taken away in a sequel to demolitions that were started on Monday by the Alexandra municipal police.

All the families who had their shacks torn down are members of the Isolomzi People's Union, an organisation that "fights against the destruction of shacks without alternative housing and serviced land for the homeless".

The union's national organiser, Mr Eric Ntshiqela, said the tearing down of shacks in Alexandra was "an inhuman act prompted to scare squatters from joining the union".

"In an emergency meeting held at the Council Chambers on Wednesday we were told the 'shacks were being destroyed because their owners were waving the union's membership cards in the faces of the town officials," said Mr Ntshiqela.

The Alexandra town clerk, Mr P J Genis, said he knew about the demolitions and he had told squatters that they had alternative housing at Orange Farm.



DETERMINED NOT TO MOVE. Daniel Ndefe, 64, speaking at a meeting at Mogopa

D-Day for tribesmen

JOHANNESBURG. — Friday is D-Day for the residents of Mogopa, victims of a forced removals drama which has dragged on for five years.

The Pretoria Supreme Court is expected to rule on an application by Agriculture and Water Affairs Minister Greyling Wentzel and Education and Development Aid Minister Gerrit Viljoen to have about 70 tribesmen evicted from the farm they had re-occupied after the community of 4 000 had been forcibly removed five years ago.

Judgment in favour of the ministers would mean a serious blow to the Mogopa community.

Judgment against the ministers could see a mass return to the land the residents had lived on since the beginning of the century.

Trespass

Earlier this year Mr Acting Justice Human granted a temporary order stipulating that no members of the tribe, except those presently on the farm, may trespass on the land and no structures may be erected.

Human said the farm belonged to the government and the Mogopa tribe had no right to it.

In their defence, counsel for the 70 tribesmen told a packed court that the expropriation of land on which the Mogopa tribe had lived for several decades was not valid in terms of the Development Trust and Land Act.

The urgent application was brought against the tribe's leaders, Daniel Molefe, Matthew Moshe, Peter Chief More and Jacob More.

The applicants asked the Supreme Court to order the Ventersdorp police to assist them in evicting the tribe and their possessions within three days of a final order being granted.

They argued that although the Mogopa tribe previously owned the farm Zwartrand and the neighbouring farm Hartbeeslaagte — which they purchased in 1916 and 1931 respectively — the government is now the owner, having acquired it by expropriation.

Zwartrand is presently leased by the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs to the Koster and Ventersdorp District Agricultural Unions.

But, removals' watchdogs believe, the government's tough stance against the shanty dwellers at Mogopa was probably motivated by the fact that the farm is in an area dominated by the Conservative Party.

Mr Jules Browde, appearing for the tribesmen, told Mr Justice WJ van der Merwe the government refused to sell the farm to the tribe, even if they were prepared to pay the highest price.

He argued that the expropriation "was effected in bad faith and for an ulterior motive".

Browde said no valid reasons for expropriation were given, except for an affidavit made by Mr Dirk Minnaar, the assistant director (finance) of the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs, who said he had been informed "the situation at Zwartrand had become explosive".

Some tribesmen told SOUTH they would appeal if they lost the case.

"If we win, we will all return to our land," they said.

They, however, suspect that the government would try other attempts to eject them.

Legal experts on forced removals said the alternative to the court saga was a "political solution".

They claimed the incorporation strategy of the government was a total failure and that "the only way is negotiation".

The original removal from Mogopa and the expropriation of the land was one of the most serious indictments of the forced removal policy, said a spokesman for the Transvaal Rural Committee (TRAC)

Some 4 000 tribesmen were forcibly removed from Mogopa in February 1983 in the face of world comdemnation and the land leased to local white farming unions.

Since the removal, residents have been dispersed throughout the Western Transvaal. Segments of the community now live at Pachsdraai near Zeerust, Bethanie near Brits and Onderstepoort near Rustenburg.

In1985 the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein ruled that the removal was illegal because parliament had failed to specify an alternative place for the community to live.

But Viljoen used alternative powers to expropriate the land and prevent people from returning.

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VACANCY

CENTRE LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR

The Sached Trust, an independent non-racial educational institution has a vacancy in the library and information service department at it's Cape Town centre

Europe sends a stinging diplomatic rebuke over Mogopa

By EDDIE KOCH

TWELVE European governments yesterday delivered a joint démarche — one of the sternest forms of diplomatic protest — to the foreign ministry in a bid to stall government plans to evict black villagers forcibly from the Western Transvaal community of Mogopa.

The unusual protest by European Community members was presented to Foreign Minister Pik Botha's office in Cape Town late yesterday afternoon by the Spanish ambassador, Federico Garayalde.

This follows a Supreme Court decision last week to grant the government an order to evict between 60 and 70 people who have been living on the Mogopa farm and restoring their ancestral graveyard.

It was feared the court's ruling would open the way for a repeat of the forced removal of February 1984 in which some 4 000 Mogopa residents were trucked out of their farm.

This week a number of embassy officials and human rights activists visited Mogopa to express their solidarity with the threatened group.

Peter Ruthman, first secretary at the German Embassy in Pretoria, said: "The destruction of the Mogopa village in a clandestine night raid showed clearly how the South African government treats peace-loving people who had lived on their land for more than 70 years. It's cynical and inhuman. It's an eradication of human rights."

Yesterday's démarche was initiated by the West German government.

Meanwhile lawyers for the Mogopa community, who have appealed against the court ruling, this week failed to obtain an assurance from the government that they would not evict the grave cleaners until the appeal was heard.

"Instead of trying to redress the harm done to the Mogopa people by their unlawful action (in 1984), the government seems determined to head into another conflict situation," the Black

●To PAGE 2

Threat to move Mogopa angers the Europeans

●From PAGE 1

Sash's Transvaal Rural Action Committee said last night.

"Mogopa as a symbol of forced removal is again becoming a symbol of international outrage. A simple undertaking by the government not to interfere with the people until the legal process has taken its course would have taken the heat out of the present crisis."

In court papers to support its application for an eviction order, the government claimed the grave-cleaners had abused official permission for a small group of villagers to live on the land and restore the cemetery. Development Aid Minister Gerrit Viljoen said the agreement had been used by the community to stage a "methodical reoccupation" of the farm.

Community leader Daniel Molefe asked the court not to grant the eviction order because the original expropriation of the Mogopa people's farms in 1984 was invalid. Molefe claimed that:

- Viljoen was also the trustee for the community and by removing the people from their land he had breached his legal responsibility for their welfare.
- The removal was so unreasonable and carried out in such an arbitrary manner that it suggested the minister was acting in bad faith or with ulterior motives.

"Over the years the Bakwena baMogopa developed into a stable self-supporting community. Members of the tribe built homes, schools and churches on the two farms ... During the Second World War, the tribe raised £600 which it donated to the Union government to assist in the purchase of an aircraft and members of the tribe served in the South African armed forces," said Molefe.

"It is cold comfort that the second applicant (Viljoen) professes that he has suspended the policy of forced removals and that he has allowed other tribes to reside on their land in otherwise white areas."

Since their removal Mogopa's people have been dispersed throughout the western Transvaal. Segments of the community now live at Pachsdraai near Zeerust, Bethanie near Brits and Onderstepoort near Rustenburg.

Mogopa community leaders have offered to buy back the farm with money they raised since the removal. This has been refused by the government, which wants the villagers to accept an alternative piece of land.

16/5/89

→ cont.

Families left destitute in Alexandra after their homes are destroyed

310



Mothers and children sit in the ruins of their homes in Alexandra with no place to go.

DESTITUTE families hung around ruins of what were once their homes in Alexandra township as more and more shacks were being razed to the ground.

Children kept watch over family belongings stacked against piles of corrugated iron while parents moved around in the township seeking alternative accommodation.

They were each given seven days notice to move from the premises, but did not believe that the council would act against them. Some of them had been squatting in the area for more than five years.

By SIZA KOOMA

"My family has lived here for the past five years. We have not had problems with the council until two weeks ago when they served us with notices to leave," said Miss Lulama Yozi.

"We ignored those notices because we thought they were just bluffing. But five days after the notices expired they came."

About 65 shacks were razed on the first day and more were brought down daily.

Lulama, an expectant mother of two, shares her shack with three other families. She is due to deliver any time this month and prays that she does not go into labour while her immediate future is still so uncertain.

"I had terrible contractions the night after they first came. I thought I was going into labour. I was really worried because it would have been very inconvenient. I only hope m baby does not come no when there is so mucl confusion in my life."



Mr Buzizwi Mbatha with his daughter Ntombethemba who was hit by a pot on the head while her home was being destroyed.

Mrs Bonakele Madon sela from KwaZulu i staying with her husban while her 10-month-ol twins are being treated i hospital. She is living i fear of being kicked ou of her shack and does no know where she will sta for the rest of th treatment.

"Both kids have beer sickly from birth. I cam here because I could no get medical help at home They have gastr enteritis and their organ are swollen.

16/5/89
3/0



Mrs Lulama Yozi is pregnant and uncertain of her future in Alexandra.

"They have been in hospital on drips and they have not been discharged yet. I don't see myself moving up and down the streets with sick children," she said.

Mr Buzizwi Mbatha, who has lived in Alexandra for 19 years and been in a shack for five years, said his 16-month-old daughter was nearly killed when his shack was brought down.

"We were both in the house when household stuff started flying. A stainless steel pot hit the baby on the head. I was very furious. I grabbed the child and dashed out. Later the shack was burnt down. My clothes and some of my wife's dresses were burnt," Mbatha said.

He said that his family and their belongings spent the night in the open. His wife was away at work as Mbatha, who is unemployed looked for a place to keep their belongings in the township.

Some of their neighbours, whose shacks had not yet been destroyed, had offered them temporary accommodation.

"This is the humiliation we have to live with in the urban areas. I wouldn't have come here if I was not desperate for work. I cannot go back home because my family will starve. I therefore have to endure hardship so that they can live.

"I have tried to get a decent, legal place to stay but all was in vain."

Among the families whose shacks have been destroyed are people who were born in the township. They live in the area legally.

They had no option but to live in the shack because their cries for decent housing were not heeded.

"I was born in Alexandra and all my children were born here too. When they destroy my home I do not know where they expect me to go," said Mrs Gladys Kuni.

"I have been to the council chambers more than I can remember. I was put on the housing waiting list three years ago. I had no alternative but to live in the shack while I waited for the house."

'Mother of sickly 10-month-old twins lives in fear that her children might die . . .'



GETTING DOWN TO IT: The digging of trenches for a sewerage system amid the squatters shacks is just one of the signs of the upgrading programme.

Alexandra squatters 'will face the bulldozers'

Star 20/5/84 (310)

PAT DEVEREAUX

RECENT attempts to bulldoze hundreds of Alexandra squatters out of the township will be met with strong resistance, Alexandra residents have warned.

In the past fortnight, squatters shacks have been torn down and their belongings set alight as squads of municipal policemen have demolished their homes to make way for storm water drains and sewerage systems.

In the past two years Alexandra has been undergoing a massive facelift which, by the time it is complete in 1990, will have cost the Government and private sector at least R130 million.

However, it appears that the Government's upgrading plan has not taken into account the resistance from thousands of squatters who want to remain in the 2 km square township, which is populated by an estimated 140 000 people.

On Thursday, squatters living in shacks along the township's 8th Avenue vowed they would remain in the area despite municipal police efforts to forcibly remove them.

"We have nowhere else to go. If the council wants to move us they will have to find somewhere for us to stay," said Mr Percy Nyaku, who has lived in Alexandra for 15 years.

Others said those whose homes had been flattened recently had not moved away. "They are sleeping in the open and share facilities with those whose shacks are still standing in the vast squatting camp," said Mr Simon Hlope.

"They want to move us to make way for the building of houses which we cannot afford. But we will not be lured by empty promises of Zozo huts or Orange farm — a controlled squatting area," he added.

Squatters fears were confirmed by a researcher, Mr Andrew Borraine, who said: "The upgrading strategy is deliberately selective, favouring a few at the expense of many."

He stressed it was not the Government's National Security Management System strategy to win the hearts or buy the support of all people in the township.

Ultimately, divisions would be created between middle-class home-owners in elite suburbs and working class people in council housing and backyard shacks, said Mr Borraine.

Although the Government was now recognising black material grievances as legitimate, township activists believed it was using a combination of direct security action and economic upgrading to keep the control of the township out of the hands of legitimate leaders.

Mr Borraine added that a major weakness of township upgrading was that it did not address the central question of black political rights.

The Black Sash agreed that indications were that Government policy for Alexandra was aimed mainly at upper-income black people. They said it was not yet clear how the upgrading schemes would affect working class people, both the employed and the unemployed as well as those in the formal or informal settlements.

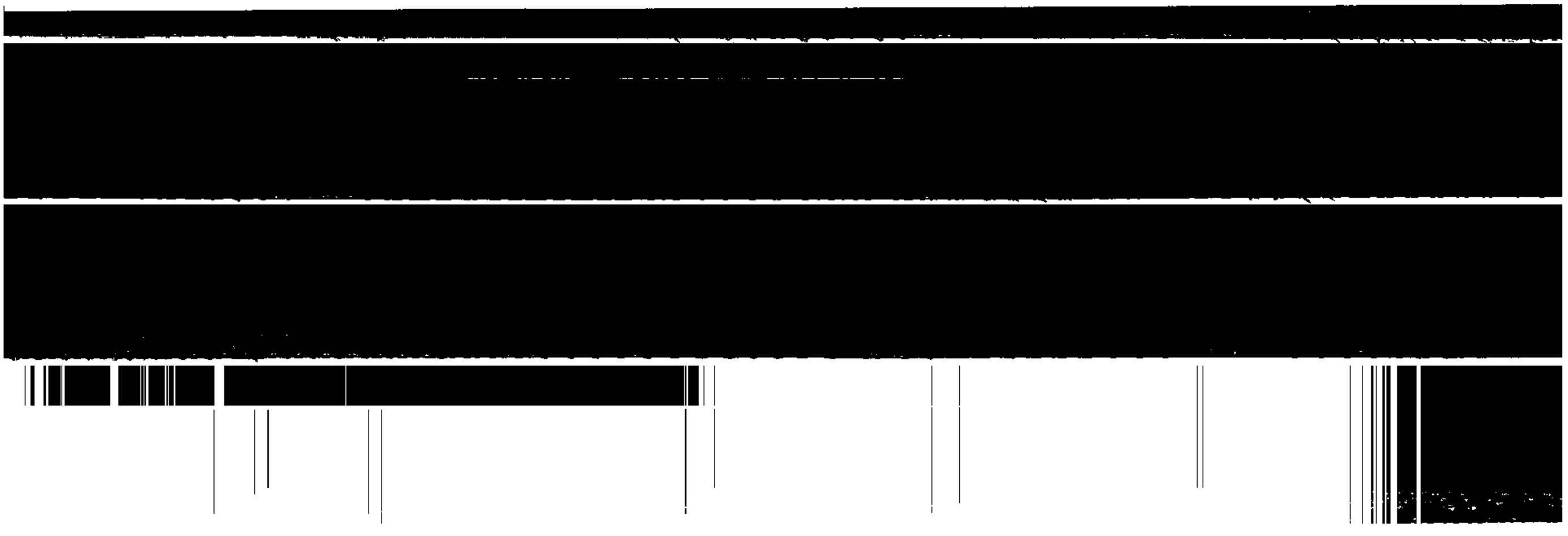
The group criticised the upgrading programme for the following reasons:

- Not everyone who is a tenant (of houses formerly owned) will be able to buy their houses.
- Not everyone who is a permit holder in a dwelling on an "old stand" will be able to purchase one of the new sites with a privatised house on it because there is likely to be a shortage of sites and houses available.
- The Black Sash also questioned whether those who occupy shacks, some of whom have permits to do so, will be able to find a place they can afford to live once the township is upgraded.

Research on homelessness done by the Black Sash shows that 53 percent of Alexandra residents are unemployed. Other surveys give averages of 10,5 people to every dwelling.

Alexandra's town clerk, Mr P Genis, has already pointed out that more than a thousand squatters from Alexandra would have to be moved to Evaton in the south during 1989, even though most of the people work in the Johannesburg-Sandton area.

Yesterday, Mr Genis said he could not give exact figures of how many squatters had already been moved to make way for upgrading. He added that squatters had so far been moved to camps inside the township and they would only be moved to Evaton if they formally applied to go there.



Attack on Alex council

THE Alexandra Action Committee has condemned the Alexandra Town Council for pulling down and burning shacks that left over 450 people without shelter last week.

In a statement sent to the *Sowetan*, the committee said they were consulting their legal advisers about helping Alexandra shack dwellers and to stop evictions, removals and destruction of shacks.

"The constant violence by the Alexandra Town Council against the people is abhorrent and not acceptable. The people of Alexandra are entitled to decent treatment and proper accommodation," the statement said.

According to the action committee chairman, Mr Moses Mayekiso, the organisation is demanding a meeting with the council to discuss the problems in the township.

The organisation is also reviving "community structures" consisting of yard, block and street committees.

RESIDENTS WELCOME INQUIRY

THE appointment of a commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities by local councillors was welcomed at a meeting attended by hundreds of residents at Thokoza Extension 2 at the weekend.

The spokesman for the Thokoza Residents Unity, Mr Paul Ngobeni, said residents were delighted that they were being given an opportunity to voice their grievances.

The main complaint by residents at the weekend meeting was the increase of tariffs in the township last month. They said that when the council imposed the R5 levy on shacks in the backyards in 1984 it said the money was to be used for a fund to attract developers to build sub-economic houses (2-3 roomed houses) in the township.

The council last month increased the shack rent to R20 a shack but has not built sub-economic houses as promised.

Thokoza has about 50 000 shack dwellers and more than 45 000 squatters.

The Thokoza Residents Unity last month wrote to the Transvaal Provincial Administration protesting the recent suspension of town clerk, Mr M Combrinck. The organisation asked the TPA to intervene.

Another meeting will be held at the church hall on Sunday at 9am.

Families left homeless by fire

MORE than 50 squatter families were left homeless when fires razed their shacks in Alexandra yesterday.

According to eye-witnesses, the fire started in one of the shacks after its occupants allegedly left a candle burning when they left for work yesterday morning.

Ms Maureen Masoleni (22) whose face still showed minor burns she received while trying to save her belongings from her burning shack, told *Sowetan*: "I was in my shack preparing breakfast when I heard shouts of 'fire' from my neighbours. I dashed out and saw a billow of smoking fire from the shack just next to mine.

By NUNKA MKHALIPE

"I ran back into my shack and started throwing my belongings outside. In the process, my shack caught fire, then the next shack and all hell broke loose as more shacks burnt."

Two fire engines from the neigbouring Sandton municipality came to put out the fire.

Nobody died.

Meanwhile, a man and his son died when a shack full of paint cans burst into flames in Tokoza on Wednesday.

Mr Ben Mathebula's body was burnt beyond recognition. His wife, Elissa, and their year-old son were rushed to hospital where the child died.

Mrs Patroni Kubayi, a cousin who lives in the same yard, said Mrs Mathebula told her the paint cans toppled off the wall at 8,30pm.

"My cousin struck a match to find out what was wrong," Mrs Kubayi said.

"A great ball of fire engulfed the bed. We noticed the flames and tried to get them out.

They had locked the door with a big bolt and we could not get it open. Eventually, one neighbour smashed the door down and Elissa crawled out.

"I do not know when the funeral will be because we all come from Giyani. Mr Mathebula's brothers and an uncle said they would inform the family back home."

The *Sowetan* counted eleven containers of paint and several bottles of a disolvent in the shack. The landlady said the family had only been there a week.

Bruised accused

A DISTRICT surgeon who examined terrorism accused Tony Yengeni, found bruises on his face, stomach and left arms and a cut lower lip hours after he was allegedly kicked in the face and assaulted during his detention, the Supreme Court, Cape Town, heard yesterday.

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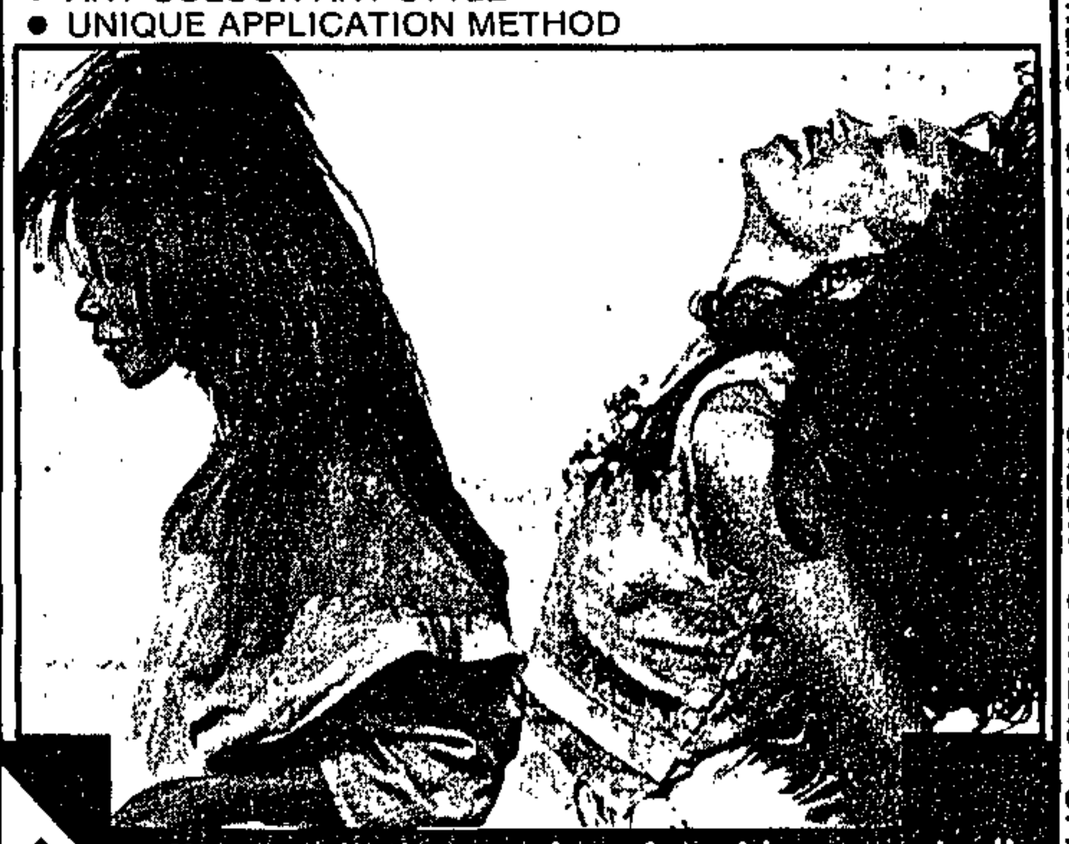

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S 576

Nuclear alarm is sounded

THE test firing earlier this week of an Indian missile with a reported potential range of 2 500km highlights an area of arms proliferation of growing concern to western governments.

The spread of ballistic missile programmes in the last two years is a main focus of the latest strategic survey published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

More than 20 developing countries have missile programmes and more than a dozen possess operational ballistic missiles, the report says.

Some of the weapons have longer ranges than some of those being removed from Europe and destroyed under the US-Soviet Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

The IISS calls for co-ordinated action by the US and the Soviet Union to stop the spread. Although it says neither is directly threatened, it warns of the risk of local flare-ups.

Both missiles and chemical arms are rapidly proliferating in areas where animosities are high and relations are tense, it says.

Israel, with possible chemical and nuclear arms capabilities, could reach Soviet Black Sea bases with its Jericho missile, said to have a range of up to 1 450km, it says. Arab states, although not thought to be nuclear-capable, have been buying missiles and chemical weapons at an increasing rate.

The report also cites Saudi Arabia's purchase of Chinese 2 200km CSS-2 missiles, which could reach Israel or the Soviet Union, and Egypt's co-operation with Argentina, with Iraqi backing, in developing the 800km Condor II. This could reach the Falklands from the Argentine mainland.

It also quotes reports that Libya has been seeking 950km-range missiles from Brazil.

India, with its new Agni missile, and Pakistan, which has tested a 300km weapon, could conceivably use these missiles to deliver nuclear warheads, the IISS warns.

Longer-range missiles like the Agni are difficult to justify unless they carry nuclear weapons, it says.

Except for China, no Third World country is thought capable of making intercontinental weapons before the end of the century, but space-launch vehicles being developed in Brazil, India, Israel and Argentina could lead to long-range missiles in the future.

Meanwhile, the effectiveness of short-range missiles can be increased with new non-nuclear warheads cluster bombs or fuel/air explosives (spread in a cloud and then detonated) or chemical munitions. Missiles of under 500km, considered short-range by Nato, may be able to reach strategic targets in several regional situations, the report cautions.

An informal undertaking by six Western countries and Japan to restrict technology exports that could assist missile or space launch vehicle programmes, the missile technology control regime, has failed to attract support from other nations.

Both the Soviet Union and China have meanwhile continued their missile exports, the Soviet Union more selectively and the Chinese virtually without consideration of political or security implications, the report says. It describes China as something of a rogue elephant in the arms trade.

On East-West relations, the institute repeats its earlier, but apparently fruitless, calls for new and imaginative western thinking. While the world appears to be a safer, saner place than it has been for many decades, it is coming under different strains.



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* AMPS '88 Black Interim Report

Star 27/5/89

Squatters at Weiler's 'on the move'

(310)

Barend

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration is slowly clearing Weiler's Farm, the squatter camp where Barend Strydom claimed his first victim.

Mr John Mavuso, MEC for Housing and Community Development, said a quarter of the original residents of the "Weiler's Farm transit area" had been moved to a new development at Orange Farm.

A total of 296 structures had been shifted from Weiler's Farm up to May 20. Another 827 were scheduled to be moved.

Mr Mavuso emphasised that the TPA would not threaten or force people to leave Weiler's Farm, but "sustained attempts are being made to communicate with those who are squatting illegally on land not intended for residential purposes, and to persuade them to move to a better environment where they may settle permanently and lawfully".

He also said that squatters need not move to Orange Farm, but could settle at, say, Evaton North, "where better services are also available".

Mr Mavuso said that when "various community

NORMAN CHANDLER

facilities were established at Orange Farm by the TPA and other organisations, they had an encouraging effect on the resettlement of Weiler's Farm squatters.

"This was obvious from the heightened interest in resettlement shown by the residents during the past couple of months."

Facilities so far included administration offices, a mobile clinic, a school, a football field and a netball court. An athletics track is being prepared.

The clinic was to soon become permanent, and the school would by the third quarter of the teaching year have facilities for 900 pupils.

The TPA had asked the South African Transport Services to upgrade the railway service to Orange Farm.

The 4 300 stands there were made available in October. From December to mid-March, 159 families had moved. In the past two months, that figure had almost doubled.

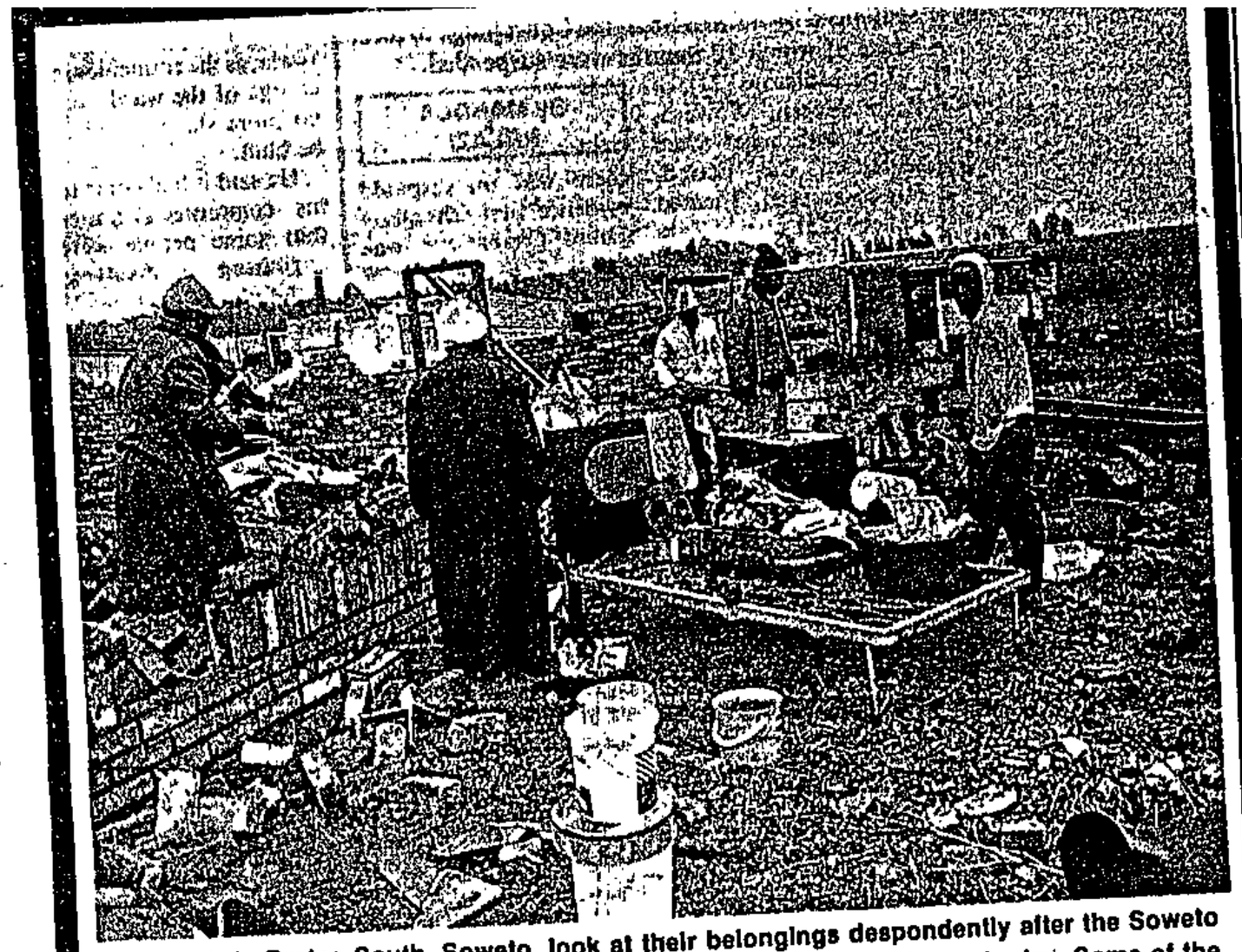
"The TPA is doing everything in its power to make the move easier," said Mr Mavuso.

He added that free transport was available for residents.

Help is given with the breaking down of structures and their re-erection at Orange Farm.

In certain circumstances, the province also supplied building materials to the homeless.

No rents or service charges are being levied until the end of June to aid those who are short if money.



Squatters in Protea South, Soweto, look at their belongings despondently after the Soweto Council employees demolished 36 corrugated iron and brick shacks yesterday. Some of the squatters had to spend a night in freezing cold.

Pic By MOFFAT ZUNGU

NIGHT IN THE COLD

Sowetan 30/5/89

(310)

Council destroys shacks

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

A NUMBER of families living at Protea South in Soweto spent last night in freezing cold after the Soweto City Council demolished their shacks.

Many residents of the "squatter town" which mushroomed about three months ago watched helplessly as the council employees, accompanied by armed municipal police, destroyed their corrugated iron shacks.

Mr Johan van der Westhuizen, the public relations officer of the Soweto council, confirmed yesterday that 36 shacks were pulled down. He stressed that the shacks demolished were either incomplete or unoccupied.

"The decision to demolish those shacks followed a resolution passed at the council's executive committee meeting last Monday. As officials we are only executing a decision," he said.

People living in the area said they were surprised to see four municipal vans arrive at their squatter camp at 6.30am. Without any warning several shacks were destroyed with hammers.

The people claimed they had been given permission by a Sofasonke Party councillor, Mr Zakhele Twala — who is also in charge of the ward — to erect shacks there.

Some said they had even paid site rental ranging from R12 to R30. They also had to pay an amount as high as R40 for hired toilet facilities.

• To Page 2

Sowetan 30/5/89

(310)

Night in the cold

• From page 1

Mr Mbutana Tshabalala, chairman of the council's executive committee, said yesterday that the council had last Friday told Mr twala, as the councillor in charge of the ward, that no more shacks were to be built.

He said it had come to his committee's notice that some people were enriching themselves, without the knowledge of the council or the Sofasonke Party, by allocating sites in the area.

"There are legal squatters living in that area because they have been allowed by the council.

"The shacks that were destroyed were built over the weekend after we had given a warning. It is high time the people know that only the Soweto council has the right to allocate land.

Chance to win R44 000 taxi bus – Page 3

Star 30/5/84. (310)

Witbank squatters move

But not to land of milk and honey

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

WITBANK — "Welcome to the promised land" says a sign greeting the 7 000 squatters who are being moved from Witbank's nearby Thala squatter camp.

The "promised land" is called Exodus, an informal settlement area belonging to the kwaGupa town council about 7 km west of Witbank.

Without schools or shops and close to a steel plant which is known as one of the highveld's worst industrial pollutors, Exodus seems anything but a "promised land."

But it is compared with how the squatters were living in Thala, says kwaGuqa's mayor, Mr Chief Masango.

"The Thala area was congested, without streets, toilets or water. The area was a huge health hazard as it was very swampy with no proper drainage.

"We were very concerned that disease would break out among the people".

Exodus, on the other hand, is laid out with wide streets, water borne sewerage — toilet blocks are laid out every 250 m — and water points.

According to Mrs Elizabeth Nkosi, who was moved to Exodus with her elderly mother and two primary schoolgoing children last week, the biggest problem is that there are no shops.

"When we lived in Thala there were Indian shops close by where we could buy food cheaply. Also we were close to Witbank.

"Here there are no shops, and if you have no money for a taxi you have to walk along the highway to buy anything."

It as also going to cost her considerably more each day to get to her job in town as a domestic worker — R3,20 return instead of R1,60.

She said she was equally worried about schooling.

Before, her children were minutes away from school. Now they have to walk 7 km each way if she cannot find the money for their taxi fares.

Consequently, it seems that some of the younger children at Exodus are not going to school at all.

Mr Masango said his council had already spoken to the Department of Education and Training about the Exodus school problem.

"We have been told that schools will be built in the area, with a high school being started next year.

"We are negotiating with Highveld Steel to help transport our children in their buses along the N4 to kwaGuqa township."

The council would also be negotiating with taxi owners and a bus company to get special rates for schoolchildren.

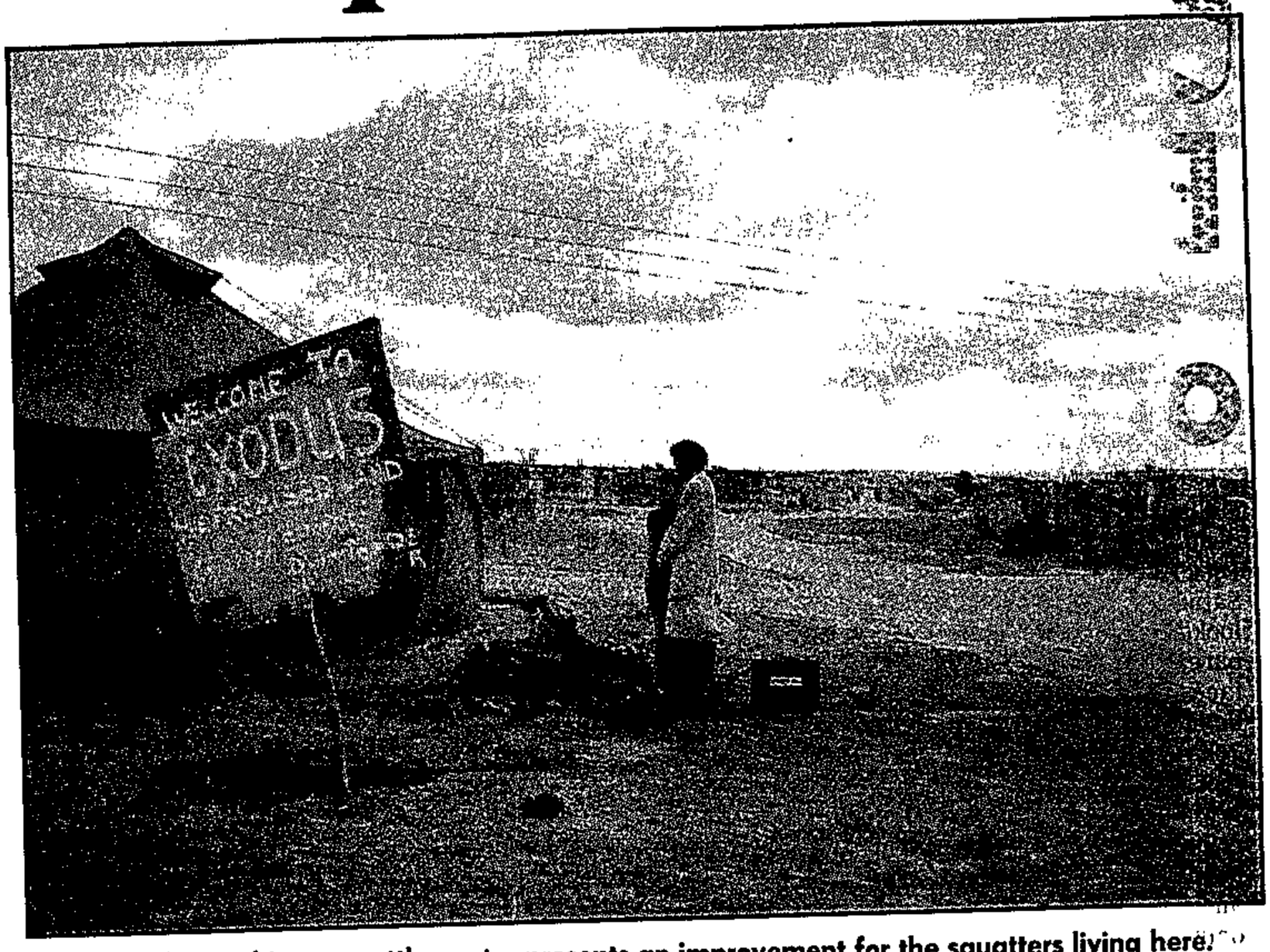
The squatters have been told that they will be charged R45 monthly for their site.

But Mr Masango says this was "an administrative figure" and the council was aiming at lowering the amount.

Mr Masango says the Witbank and kwaGuqa authorities had reached an agreement that if Thala was cleared, the white municipal authority would make the land available for sub-economic housing.

Although on the perimeter of Witbank's KwaGuqa township, the Thala site is owned by Witbank Town Council.

Says Mr Masango: "It is far better for the people at the new area, but it is going to take some time to get established."



Officials say this new settlement represents an improvement for the squatters living here.

Families freeze after shacks demolished

Own Correspondent

A number of families living at Protea South in Soweto spent last night in freezing cold after the Soweto City Council demolished their shacks.

Residents of the squatter town, which mushroomed about three months ago, watched helplessly as council employees, accompanied by armed municipal police, destroyed their corrugated iron shacks.

Mr Johannes van der Westhuizen, the public relations officer of the Soweto council, confirmed yesterday 36 shacks were pulled down but said they were either incomplete or unoccupied.

"The decision to demolish those shacks followed a resolution passed at the council's executive committee meeting last Monday. As officials, we are only executing a decision," he said.

People living in the area said they were surprised to see four municipal vans arrive at their squatter camp at 6.30 am. Without any warning several shacks were destroyed with hammers.

The people claimed they had been given permission by a Sofasonke Party councillor, Mr Zakhele Twala to erect the shacks.

Some said they had even paid rent ranging from R12 to R30. They also had to pay an amount as high as R40 for hired toilet facilities.

All Magopa tribe has left is a prayer to stay

Star 3/6/84 (310)

MOGOPA — Every morning Mr Daniel Molefe, a Mogopa tribesman, walks to a hilltop behind his tin shack to pray for the fall of the South African Government so that he can remain on the land where he was born.

"But the more I pray, the more the Government becomes stronger and the more black people suffer," he said.

Five years ago, on St Valentine's Day, Pretoria sent bulldozers guarded by soldiers and armed police with dogs to flatten Mr Molefe's home town.

They knocked down houses, churches, schools and clinics, demolishing everything the tribe had built in this rural village of Mogopa, 200 km west of Johannesburg.

Then the Government sold the land to white farmers. Police forced the people of Mogopa at gunpoint to move to arid land some 200 km away.

The tribe settled legally in Mogopa 80 years ago. After the National Party came to power in 1948, the area was designated as white farming land under the Government's laws.

Their presence was declared illegal because the old laws which had enabled blacks to own land had been repealed.

Tears rolled down Mr Molefe's face as he recalled how his once closely-knit community had been forced out.

They have moved three times in the past five years, seeking a place where they can settle and rear their families.

After the Government relocated them in the arid bushveld at a place called Pachsdraai in the far western Transvaal on February 14 1984, a small section of the community trekked to another barren land called Bethanie.

"We chose Bethanie because it was near the PWV industrial area, where our people could find jobs," said the tribe's headman, Mr Lucas Kgatitsoe.

But a few months after they arrived in Bethanie, Pretoria incorporated their new home into Bophuthatswana, one of 10 nominally independent mini-states created under South Africa's apartheid race policies.

This meant the Mogopa people would lose their South African citizenship and be forced to become citizens of a country whose sovereignty is recognised by Pretoria alone.

The case provoked an international outcry. Foreign diplomats visited the tribe's leaders and the Mogopa community launched a legal bid to have their land returned to them.

The Government has blocked every legal action the community has taken.

Last September Pretoria gave Mr Molefe, Mr Kgatitsoe and 70 others permission to go back to Mogopa to restore and clean family graves. When they arrived they built tin shacks where they had lived before and refused to leave.

Parliamentary debate

Pretoria sought a Supreme Court order to evict them. With the help of human rights lawyers, the tribe contested the application, but lost.

Lawyers told the court that under the law originally used to evict the Mogopa community, the matter should have been debated in Parliament.

The Mogopa tribe again took the matter to court. But, while the case was being heard, Pretoria used another law to expropriate the land retroactively. The tribe now faces a second forced removal.

Every morning the tribal elders assemble to pray that the Government will change its mind and let them rebuild their homes.

Earlier this month the 12-nation European Community sent a protest to South Africa's foreign ministry, about the Government's treatment of the Mogopa people. — Reuter.

Star 5/6/89

Mid-winter evictions in townships

Removals calculated for cruelty SACC

310

By Junior Motsei

The crackdown on rent defaulters at Daveyton and the demolition of shacks at Protea South in Soweto last week was calculated to achieve maximum cruelty and hardship, according to the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

At least nine families were left out in the cold by the Daveyton Town Council when evictions were carried out by municipal police. This followed a court order to the council in August last year to eject residents in rent arrears.

And 36 shacks were pulled down at Protea South by the Soweto City Council employees, accompanied by armed municipal police. The decision to demolish those shacks followed a resolution passed at the council's executive committee meeting last Monday.

Ms Brigalia Bam, deputy general secretary of the SACC, said: "The demolition of shacks and the evictions happened during the coldest nights of winter. This is the height of mercilessness. We continue to oppose all forms of forced removal. This is unspeakable inhumanity."

Ms Bam appealed for Government intervention. "We call upon the Government to exercise Christian charity and to ensure that these people are not left destitute and without shelter. In the name of God, we implore for the stoppage of forced removals," she said.

'Real savagery'

Community leader Dr Nthato Motlana, who had just arrived in the country fom New York, also appealed to the Government to step in. "May the Government do something about this barbaric act," he said."How can people be harassed like this in the middle of winter. This is real savagery. Sufficient land should be provided for people."

It was reported in a daily morning newspaper that evictions in Daveyton have started rows between house owners and and their backyard shack tenants who were evicted.

The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, refused to comment, saying he had to get the feedback from the department concerned with evictions.

At Protea South, the people claimed they had been given permission by the Sofasonke Party Councillor, Mr Zakhele Twala, to erect shacks there.

Mr Jabu Mguni, the deputy chairman of Soweto City Council, said Mr Twala would be called before the disciplinary committee of the council to explain why he gave people permission to erect the shacks.

Families have been sleeping in the open since the demolition of shacks and they said they had nowhere to go. They said they were surprised at the demolitions because they had paid Mr Twala the money he asked for.

Labour expert on Anglo board

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Mr Bobby Godsell (37) has become the first labour relations executive to be appointed a director of Anglo American Corporation.

Mr Godsell said he was pleased with his appointment to the board, but said his functions would not change.

"I see it as an acknowledgment of labour relations being given a very high priority in business."

Mr Godsell was born in Durban. He attended Grosvenor Boys' High School and read for a BA at Natal University.

He joined Anglo American in 1974 as an "employment practices consultant".

StarStyle

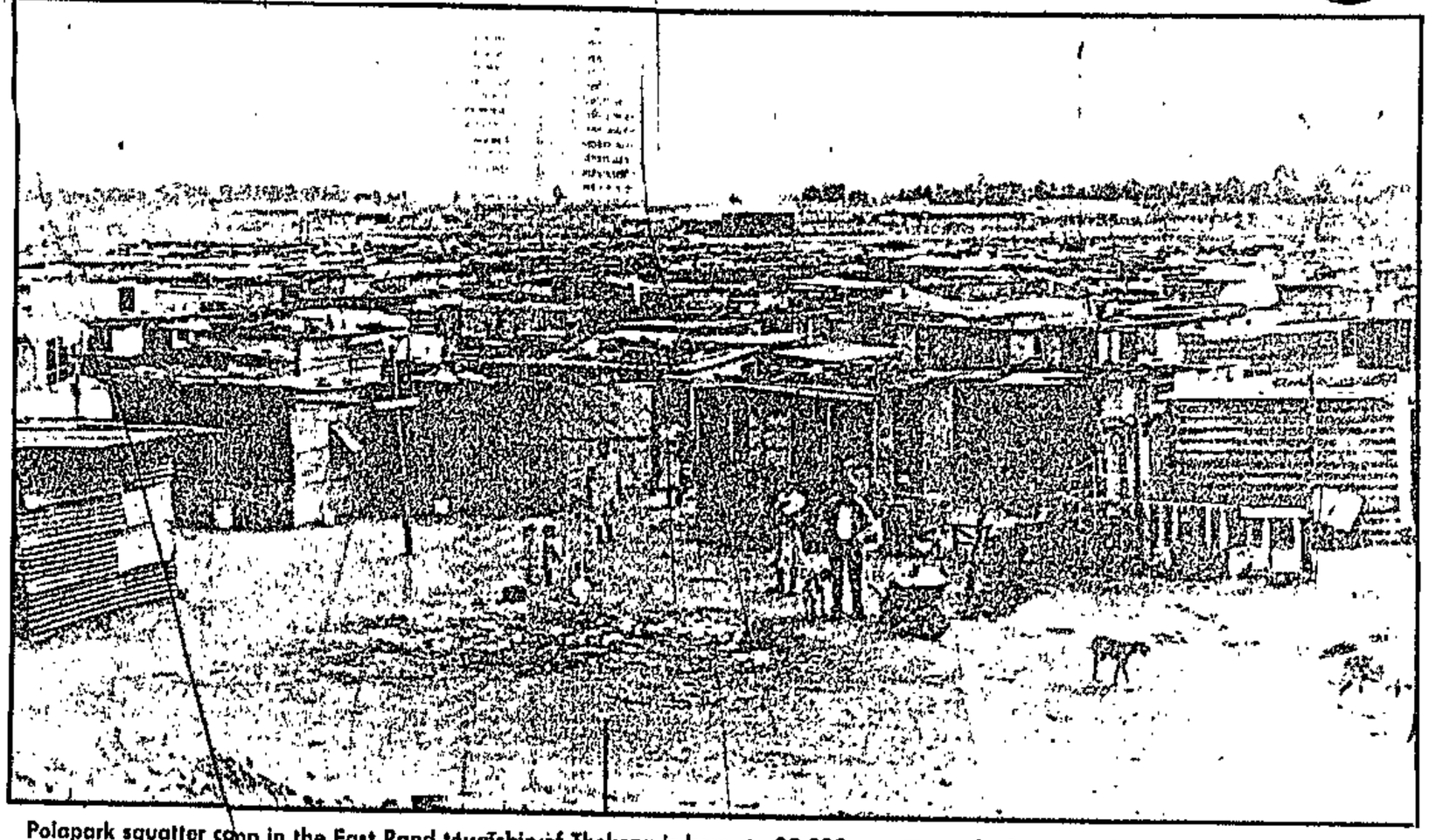
Star 6/6/89

310

Women are main movers of East Rand's Polapark

Making the best out of nothing

Life in a squatter camp is dismal by comparison with even the poorest South African black township area. But some of the women in these camps refuse to let their environs get the better of them. StarStyle reporter SHEHNAAZ BULBULIA looks at how they make the best out of nothing.



Polapark squatter camp in the East Rand township of Thokoza is home to 30 000 squatters who live in makeshift tin and plastic shacks and have to walk a kilometre to fetch water. ● Pictures by Peter Mogaki.

The ability to keep making something out of nothing is what keeps the women of the East Rand squatter camp, Polapark, going.

Polapark, situated in the township of Thokoza, is a bustling, overpopulated "city" without the luxury of modern facilities, and is home to over 30 000 people. It is in the process of being declared an "emergency camp".

Three years ago Polapark experienced a massive housing crisis. It became a human dumping ground with over 70 000 squatters dwelling in backyards, fields, at the back of factories — wherever a shack could be erected.

Many of the camp's occupants are women so it is understandable that they are the key movers in the community.

Ms Tunkie Jonas (26), a mother of two, executive member of the Polapark Squatter Camp Committee (PSCC) and head of the women's section, says the majority of residents are unemployed, but they are not content to sit back and let life get the better of them.

Sewing

A resident since its inception, Ms Jonas says: "Jobs are scarce, so the women decided to take control. We all pitched in some money and bought four sewing machines."

Regular sewing classes are held, she says: "In this way women will not only earn a little money, but they will also develop a skill."

But unemployment is just one of many problems, says Ms Jonas: "We are not only fighting for land, but for the right to live decently. Our starting point is getting what many take for granted — water to drink."

When people arrived at Polapark camp, which in Zulu means a "resting place for free", it was just barren land with no electricity, water or sewerage system; now there are 29 mobile toilets.

Residents have to walk over a kilometre to fetch water from a nearby men's hostel.

"The women are scared of being molested. But we are desperate and we have to take chances," says Ms Jonas.

A constant stream of squatters lines up outside the committee's offices, which are located at the entrance of the camp.

Says Ms Jonas: "Sometimes a husband and wife have problems then I have to get legal advice for them, but our biggest problem is hungry people."

The community decided to demarcate 15 zones in the camp each with a soup kitchen.

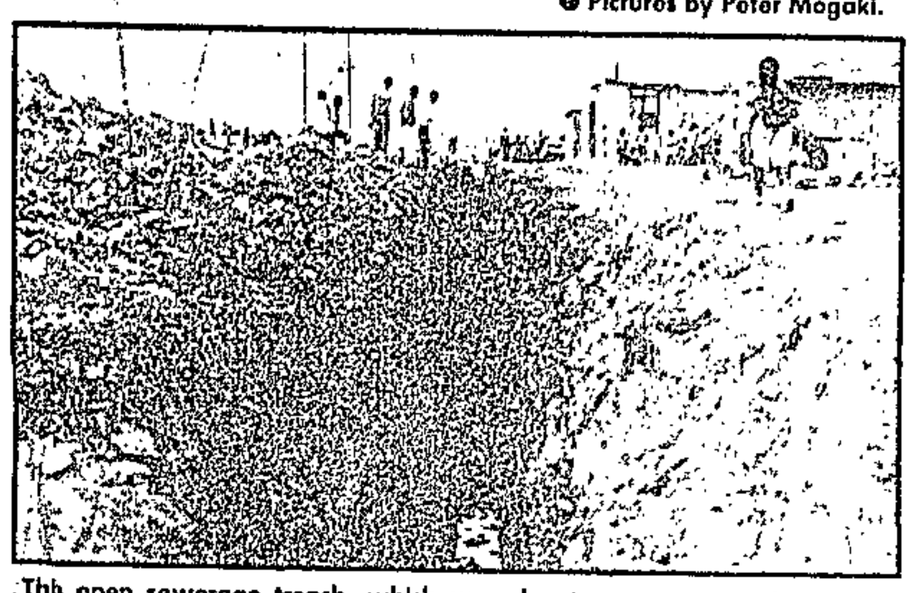
"The women volunteered to cook a meal a day, and everyone gives a little money monthly so that food can be shared," says Ms Jonas.

Squatters pool their resources, whether it's to form patrol units or collect funds for funeral expenses, she says.

The makeshift shacks of corrugated tin and plastic are erected less than a metre apart, stand boldly in uniformed rows suggesting a sense of permanence.



Mrs Christina Thibedi runs a creche for pre-schoolers from her home. This enables mothers from the camp to work.



The open sewerage trench, which was dug two years ago, is another hazard for mothers trying to raise their children in safety.



Ms Tunkie Jonas, executive member of the Polapark committee and colleague Mr Prince Mhlambi, who attend to day-to-day problems.

Threat

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Mrs Christina Thibedi (66), a child-minder and resident of the camp, runs one of the two creches in the camp.

The only signs of a creche are the chalk-writings on her tin-walled shack and empty cans sprawled on her bare floor which are used as toys.

She looks after 30 children ranging from seven months to seven years, one of whom is mentally retarded.

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Ms Thibedi tends to the children from 7 am to 4.30 pm daily, feeding and bathing them.

She says: "I used to walk four times a day to fetch water from the hostel but now I have a wheelbarrow and it makes life a lot easier."

A local mobile clinic visits the children regularly for health check-ups.

But Ms Thibedi's concern for the children goes beyond their health. "I want them to grow up clever, so I teach the alphabet, numbers and rhymes in both Zulu and English."

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Women are main movers of East Rand's Polapark

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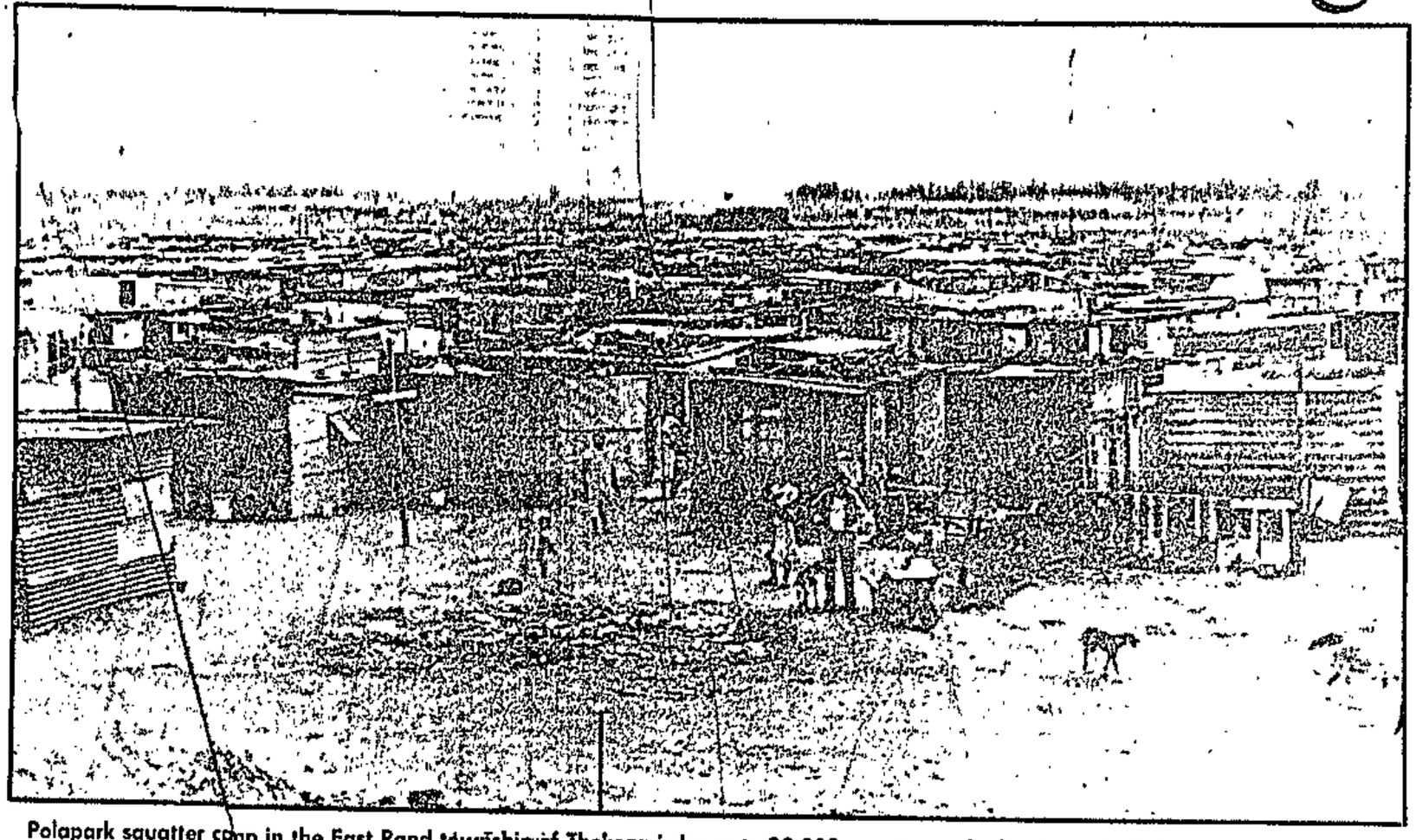

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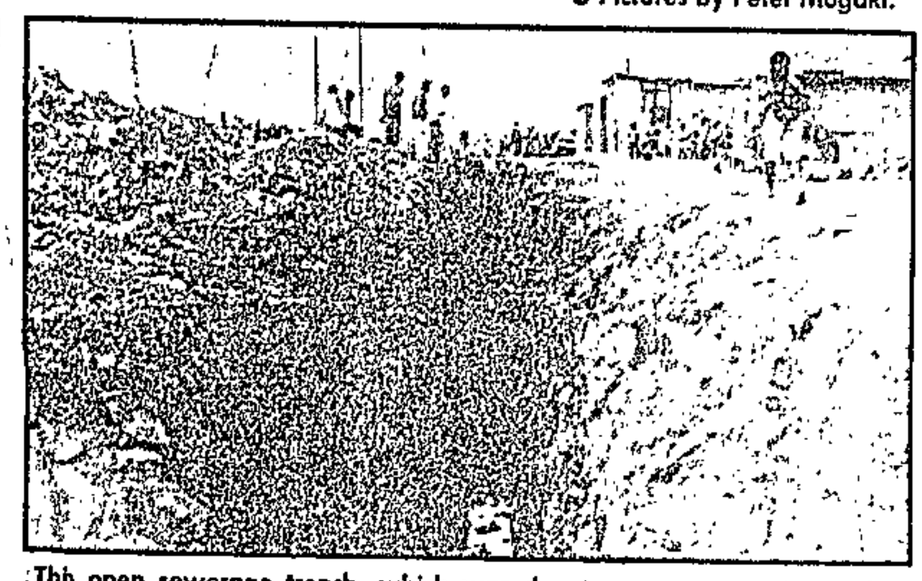

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Soda ash funding accord

An agreement signed in Gaborone at the weekend will provide a substantial part of the funding for the Sua Pan soda ash and salt project in northeast Botswana.

Signatories were Soda Ash Botswana (SAB) and a consortium of banks consisting of First National Bank of Southern Africa, Standard Bank of South Africa and UAL Merchant Bank.

The loan will be guaranteed by major SAB shareholders — the Botswana government, AECI, Anglo American and De Beers Holdings.

The banks will provide export credit and commercial loan facilities totalling R425 million, which is almost half of the total finance required for the project.

Target date for completion of the plant is early 1991.— Sapa.

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EPI seeks listing for its mining ventures

Equity Participation Investments Limited (EPI), the holding company for a number of venture capital projects, is to seek a listing on the JSE for its gold, diamond mining and exploration operations, it was announced today.

"We have been wanting to list some of our operations for some time now, including possibly going the VCM route," says the managing director Roy Sellers.

EPI would form a new mining and exploration company which would include their revenue producing gold recovery from dumps at Nigel and Klerksdorp as well as the subsidiary which processes gold for their own and other companies.

The new company would, in all probability, include Qinset Diamond Corporation Limited as well as the rights to prospect for and mine gold in several Western and Eastern Transvaal locations.

"We currently have consolidated gold and diamond reserves conservatively valued at R570 million. While we will seek a listing in the exploration sector, one of the positive aspects for us is the fact that we will be bringing revenue producing operations to the market as well," says Mr Sellers. — Sapa.

Alex residents demand 'affordable housing'

Sowetan 9/6/87

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THE Alexandra Town Council delegation led by mayor, Mrs Agnes Pooe, yesterday asked for time to consider demands and grievances of shackdwellers in the area presented by a five-man delegation of the Alexandra Action Committee at the council chambers yesterday.

The AAC was led by trade unionist and chairman, Mr Moses Mayekiso. The meeting was part of the AAC's "Affordable Housing for All Campaign" which was launched early this week.

Alexandra residents demanded proper and affordable houses and were opposed to the sale of old stands (sites) to private owners without consultation with present tenants.

They also demanded that houses for low-income families be built on the extended East Bank area, the AAC said.

Anglo gives black businesses a boost

By Jabulani Sikhakhane

Anglo American has ordered goods worth R1,2 million from black businesses over the last five months, with others worth R600 000 still being decided on.

The intention is to place R400 000 worth of new business each month, on a competitive basis, with black businesses.

Gareth Penny, co-ordinator of Anglo's small business unit, told the "Spotlight on the Black Market" conference in Johannesburg yesterday that Anglo had recently established the unit to make use of smaller companies to a greater degree.

"The philosophy behind the corporation's encouragement of small business is not one of philanthropy.

"It is based on sensible and rational business decisions aimed at improving profitability, at least in the longer term," he said.

Anglo's initial experience was that there were distinct benefits to be had by buying goods from and subcontracting services to small businesses.

"We estimate that cost savings of five to 10 percent on average are currently being achieved."

Problems occurred with existing major suppliers, he said, and one could not expect a flawless relationship with new small businesses, which may be crossing the threshold into formal business.

"Small businesses, too, must rise to meet the challenges given to them. If they prove capable of doing so, within a short period of time we will attain in South Africa the kind of synergy which has been the basis for the economic success in the newly industrialised countries of the Far East," he said.

In dealing with smaller firms a number of problems had to be dealt with, he said.

Many entrepreneurs required assistance with costing and pricing.

Frequently they quoted prices too low to be viable.

The second problem was the purchase of raw materials.

Small businesses were at a disadvantage when it came to bulk-buying. To alleviate the problem, Anglo had established a fund to buy materials for businesses with which it had contracts.

Other problems included the storage of bulk items, transport of goods, lack of cash-flow to survive 60- or 90-day payment dates.

Another problem relating to payment was the need to teach entrepreneurs accounting procedures.

Anglo had standardised waybills, invoices and statements and provided contractors with specific instructions on what paperwork had to be completed before delivery and payments could take place, he said.

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Shack dwellers begin to re-erect demolished homes as winter bites

SHACK dwellers in Protea South, Soweto, began re-erecting their homes this week in a desperate bid to secure shelter from the winter cold after council officials demolished them two weeks ago.

Confusion surrounds which council official gave the go-ahead for the demolition of the 36 shacks and the squatters appear to be caught in the middle of a growing rift between councillors over the treatment of shack dwellers.

The squatters said they had been granted permission to stay there by councillor Mr Zakhele Twala, and paid amounts ranging from R40 and R52 to a Mr Gumede for the use of mobile toilets which were erected for them.

Soweto Mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi said he was away in Canada when the shacks were demolished and he had not been consulted about the matter. When he returned early this week he told the squatters they could re-erect their homes.

Mr Twala, a Sofasonke Party member, said: "I am angry that they demolished the homes," adding that a full council meeting was not held when the decision was taken.

It was reported earlier that Mr Jabu Mguni, chairman of the executive committee, threatened Mr Twala with disciplinary action for granting them permission to erect the shacks, but Mr Mkhwanazi said this week no action would be taken against him.

The squatters say they have received no compensation for damage to their furniture and belongings.

JANET HEARD

Mr Mkhwanazi said the matter of compensation had not been raised with the council and therefore there was nothing he could do to help them. He said he would call a meeting to discuss the problem.

When the Saturday Star visited the camp this week, some residents had already completed erecting their corrugated iron shacks. Other shacks stood empty and the windows were shattered.

There were a number of brick houses being built, an unusual site at a squatter camp.

The shack dwellers seemed hesitant to speak in fear of losing their homes.

Mr Twala said the people obtained the bricks from a nearby building which had been demolished.

Shack dweller, Ms Doreen Hlungwani, said she was very upset at the demolition. She said she had been granted permission to live there and before building the corrugated iron shack, she paid R52 to Mr Gumede to stay there.

Mr Twala said Mr Gumede was a Sofasonke Party committee member and accepted R20 a month for the use of the toilets. He said neither he nor Mr Gumede accepted money from the squatters for personal gain.

Mr Gumede was on the site when the Saturday Star visited the camp. He did not wish to speak, but said the squatters only paid him for the use of the rented toilets he had erected for them.

Another woman said she paid Mr Gumede R40 for the use of the toilets.

Mr Twala said members of the Sofasonke Party visited the camp to ask for R12 donations for the party. The squatters were asked to pay R5 for membership cards.

The Soweto Council PRO said the council would monitor the area closely to ensure that no new shacks were erected in the area once those whose homes were demolished were re-erected.

Mr Mkhwanazi said: "I do not agree with these demolitions because we have a shortage of houses. However, I do not encourage the erection of new shacks. We cannot stop them at the moment, but as soon as I acquire new land to build houses, then I will be able to stop them."

In the city's shadow, a piece of the Third World

Muxolisi Zulu was born under a highway in downtown Johannesburg 18 months ago.

He was not the first baby born to the women who work and sleep in the vacant area under the Anderson Street off-ramp at City and Suburban. Some of the babies live, others die.

Muxolisi's mother came to Johannesburg from Tugela Ferry, Natal, six years ago. Her husband was killed in a faction fight and Mrs Agnes Zulu was desperate for money. She joined the women from her village eking out a living sewing pillows under the highway.

A trip to this surprising hive of activity is a trip to the Third World. Despite being smack bang in the middle of Johannesburg, the atmosphere is pure Africa.

The women sit in small groups (usually with others from their home towns), between heaps of cloth and foam rubber, cutting cloth, crumbling foam and stitching by hand or on old manual sewing machines.



Under the Anderson Street off-ramp there is a hive of activity — hundreds of women live and work there, sewing and selling pillows. ● Pictures by Karen Fletcher.

FAR AFIELD

They come from as far afield as Natal, the northern Transvaal and Swaziland. Some have been there for more years than they can remember, selling their goods on the spot.

On a good day they can make up as many as 10 pillows and, if they're lucky, sell six. No one is entirely sure how much she makes or what her outlay is, but at R6 a pillow, the money dribbles in.

The "pillow people" are wary of strangers. They speak little English; they don't have beds and most sleep outside or with friends in a nearby hostel. They work seven days a week and some freeze to death in winter.

Ask them about their men and they roll with laughter.

"My husband is dead.

"Hers? He found a new wife when he came to work in the city a long time ago."

The lives of these women are a constant battle for survival. One long trudge to the factory to buy off-cuts of cloth and foam. One long dream of villages in the hills of Swaziland or Natal where their children are.

Their biggest adversary is the authorities. Raids are frequent and their pillows are confiscated and seldom seen again.

The women had been raided only hours before The Star arrived this week. Pillows had been taken and the women chased away.

"They came and chased us away at 6 o'clock. They took some pillows, but they never try to catch us," says Mrs Elizabeth Ndela, of Newcastle.

Hours after the raid the pillow-makers were back in their places and back at work.

Swazi-born Mrs Sophie Mhatlaba (46) puts their industriousness down to the simple will to survive. "We need the money. Otherwise we will die."

"Happy?" she asks. "How can you be happy in a place like this? The only happiness is to know that the place you came from is worse."

She came from Swaziland in 1960 as a domestic. She could earn more money sewing pillows, and 14 years ago joined what was then a handful of women.

One of the first women to start the industry was Mrs Fezzie who hit on the idea of making pillows when she found pieces of foam rubber while searching for scraps of food.

Another founder was Mrs Beauty Hadebe, of Ladysmith. She doesn't know how many years she's been there — but she's had 10 children in that time.

The idea of the pillows came from the "Nkulu nkulu" she says, pointing at the sky.

She works to stay alive. She cannot afford the R40 taxi fare back home, and if even if she could there would be no work there.

Legal spokesman for the Small Business Development Corporation, Mr David Unterhalter, said the type of work done by the women contributed to stimulating trade in the city and making it an attractive place.

The actions of local authorities towards street vendors was often questionable, he said.

According to Mr Unterhalter, the only basis for confiscation is to afford evidence if charges are pressed. The owners of the goods were entitled to have their goods back if they pay admission of guilt fines or after appearing in court.

A Johannesburg Traffic Department spokesman could not be reached.

The underside of the highways and byways in Johannesburg are home to hundreds of people. Out of the poverty and squalor has sprung a burgeoning industry. Hundreds of unskilled women are working as hard as they know how sewing and selling pillows. Despite constant raids by the authorities and adverse conditions they persevere. **Dawn Barkhuizen** reports.

Mrs Elizabeth Ndela, of Newcastle, cares for her 18-month-old baby, Presida, as she sews pillows under the highway. She has been there for six years.

(310) Argus 18/6/89.

Bloody strife tears Oukasie apart

By CHARLES MOGALE

FOUR men have been arrested as a bloody black-on-black conflict threatens to tear apart the community of Oukasie near Brits.

Already, a man has been killed and another seriously injured during fighting between factions of the local action committee.

The chairman of the committee, Marshal Buys, has become the latest victim of the internal strife. Disagreement within the committee – which has been resisting the relocation of Oukasie to Mothotlung – began when several members of the executive refused to be re-elected. Fresh elections were called soon after the government restricted the organisation.

The dispute arose after certain members felt the action committee could not function under restrictions. Others said it had not outlived its purpose.

Speaking from a hide-out this week, treasurer Moshe Mahlaela recounted how he narrowly escaped death when attacked by an opposing faction.

"I was leaving a friend's home on a Sunday evening when I was accosted by a man I know very well. The man grabbed my hand and said: "Dis hy."

"I turned around and saw a member of the action committee armed with a panga. He wasted no time . . . he started hacking me. I sustained wounds to the head, shoulder and back. I ran to Marshal's house to seek refuge," Mahlaela said.

Before the doors were shut, the gang lunged for Buys.

They dragged him off and he was repeatedly stabbed and stoned. He died instantly.

At the house, stones and other missiles were hurled at the occupants.

"We crouched in there, with the lights off. I was bleeding badly. When we peeped outside, we realised there was a minibus which collected stones and dropped them near the house for the gang to use," Mahlaela said.

After four hours, Mahlaela was rescued by his friend, Abel Molokoane.

Molokoane described the rescue: "I got my younger brother to surprise the assailants and train his car lights on them. I then appeared from the dark and saw this fellow committee member armed with a panga.

"I told them a brother of mine was inside the house and if he were to die, I would make it known they were his assailants.

"They said they only wanted to kill Mahlaela. They accused him of organising the youth against them. My argument was that if that was true, they should have attacked Mahlaela on his own, without involving the whole community in their fight. After some persuasion they left."

Mahlaela was rushed to the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital where he was treated for six stab wounds. A knife blade had to be removed from his body.

The attack on Mahlaela is the second in two years. Last September he was attacked by a gang and sustained injuries to his head and arms. He spent a night in hospital.

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-ening ablutions from a bucket, only a stone's throw from the Bryanston golf course.

● Picture by Peter Mogaki.

Drudgery of jobless, homeless squatters in hiding

A new squatter is emerging in the city — a person without the means to put up a shack or a person who simply cannot find a place to build one. They sleep in the veld or in parks, drain pipes or construction sites. At daybreak they mingle with commuters but they are not vagrants or layabouts — they are genuine work seekers. **JULIENNE DU TOIT and DAWN BARKHUIZEN** report.

Mr Hudson Mlandu came to Johannesburg three years ago with hope in his eyes.

Hope of work. Hope of sending money to his family in Transkei. Hope of making something of himself in the city.

Johannesburg would be a way out of the wretched poverty, he thought.

But Hudson Mlandu was wrong.

He lost his family. All his possessions are in a small plastic bag. His slight frame is 10 kg lighter. He has one pair of pants, a shirt and jacket. He has no blanket, no shelter and no work. He is poorer than he ever dreamed of and his hope has just about run dry.

Three years ago he joined the ongoing exodus from the rural areas. But he has been "swallowed up" to become one of the invisible homeless people now living in the city's white suburbs.

He sleeps in drains, open lots, building sites, cardboard boxes and petrol drums in Johannesburg's white suburbs, walking the streets in his only set of clothes in constant search of a job during the day.

Hudson Mlandu is not a vagrant. Not a drinker of methylated spirits. He is a man with a little education.

Squatters in hiding

He is a homeless, jobless "squatter in hiding" — one who disappears when the sun comes up. A gentle, dignified man who still has some hope.

If he had R30 he would build a tin shanty and join the seven million "conventional" squatters in the country. If he had R27 he would try to put his name on a waiting list at one of the city's four jam-packed municipal hostels even though the lists run into thousands.

He is one of the 70-odd men accepting a meal from Father Crooymans over his backyard gate in Belgravia every morning.

Another man in the food queue is Mr Mtsalane Zikhali (51). He is a little luckier — he sometimes works as a security guard by night. But he too cannot find accommodation. By day he cat-naps in parks and alleys in Hillbrow and on koppies in Belgravia.

Yet another man is retrenched sign-writer Mr Michael Tungwane (27) of Hammanskraal who has been without a job since 1986. He never sleeps at night, but keeps walking, avoiding the police, trying to keep warm. He steals his sleep in video arcades or parks during the day.

The problem of homeless men and women stretches right out into Johannesburg's northern suburbs. In almost every vacant lot, riverside, building lot and on every golf course there are people who come after dark and disappear with the morning light. Some are domestic workers, gardeners or they have "piece jobs".

In Greenside, alongside a river, The Star found a mattress beside warm coals and an old tin on bricks, but no sign of the firemakers.

In Bryanston The Star found members of a group of people living metres away from luxury homes. Most members of the group had already gone to work. Among those that remained was a heavily pregnant woman with a three-year-old child.

Mr C F du Plessis, head of the Environmental Control Department for Sandton, estimates there are between 300 and 400 "unconventional squatters" living in bushes and construction sites in his municipality. These are genuine work seekers — and their numbers are growing.

His council was attempting to handle the situation with sensitivity, he said, finding alternative accommodation at Orange Farm to the south of Johannesburg.

The problem was exacerbated as large companies moved to the suburbs, according to Mr Mlungisi Ntsele, spokesman on hunger and relief for the South African Council of Churches.

"So-called equal opportunities companies are moving to places like Randburg, Rosebank and Sandton without making any housing provision for their staff.

"Some employees sleep in basements or rooms more poisonous than you would find in the worst squatter settlement. Others sleep in the veld," he said.

The chances of obtaining one of the 10 500 beds in Johannesburg's four municipal hostels are slight. Generally less than six people move out each month, according to a municipal offical.

The official waiting list for each hostel has 200 names, but there are thousands of applications. To qualify one must be employed and pay R27 a month for dormitory accommodation. This does not include food.

Frequent hostel raids

Even the hostels have problems with squatters who creep in despite the strict security system. As a result, raids, which can see as many as 600 illegals turned out of one hostel in one night, are frequent.

The problem has come to the attention of Johannesburg's acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr Nicky Padayachee, who is concerned about health problems in such conditions.

He said social workers had recently been appointed specifically to attend to the homeless and a sanctuary with 200 beds had been established in Hillbrow.

The Urban Foundation has estimated that there are about seven million conventional squatters in South Africa. It is understood that about five percent of these are the utterly destitute.

Mr Ntsele said: "There is among them a strong sense of community and they usually share what little they have."

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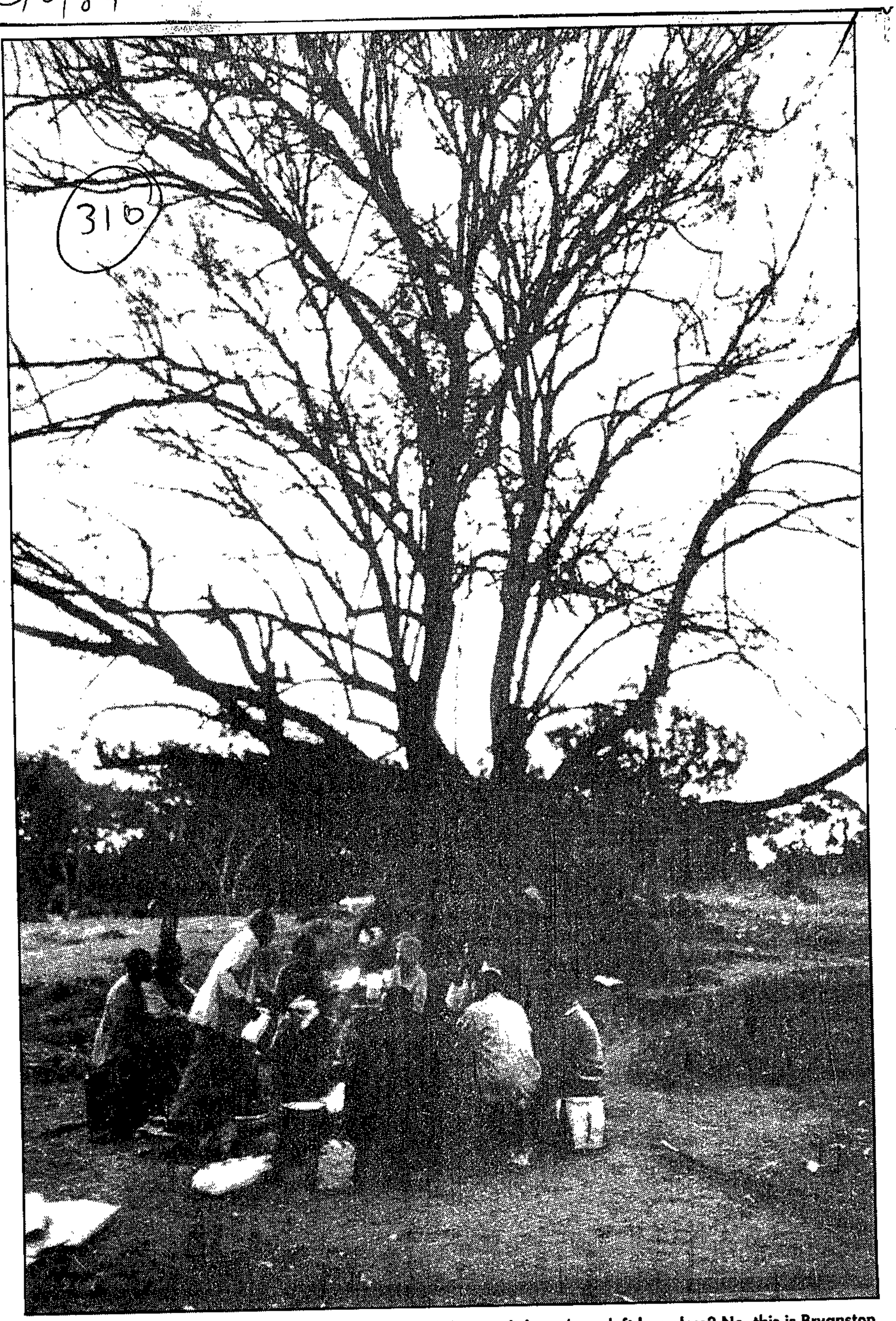
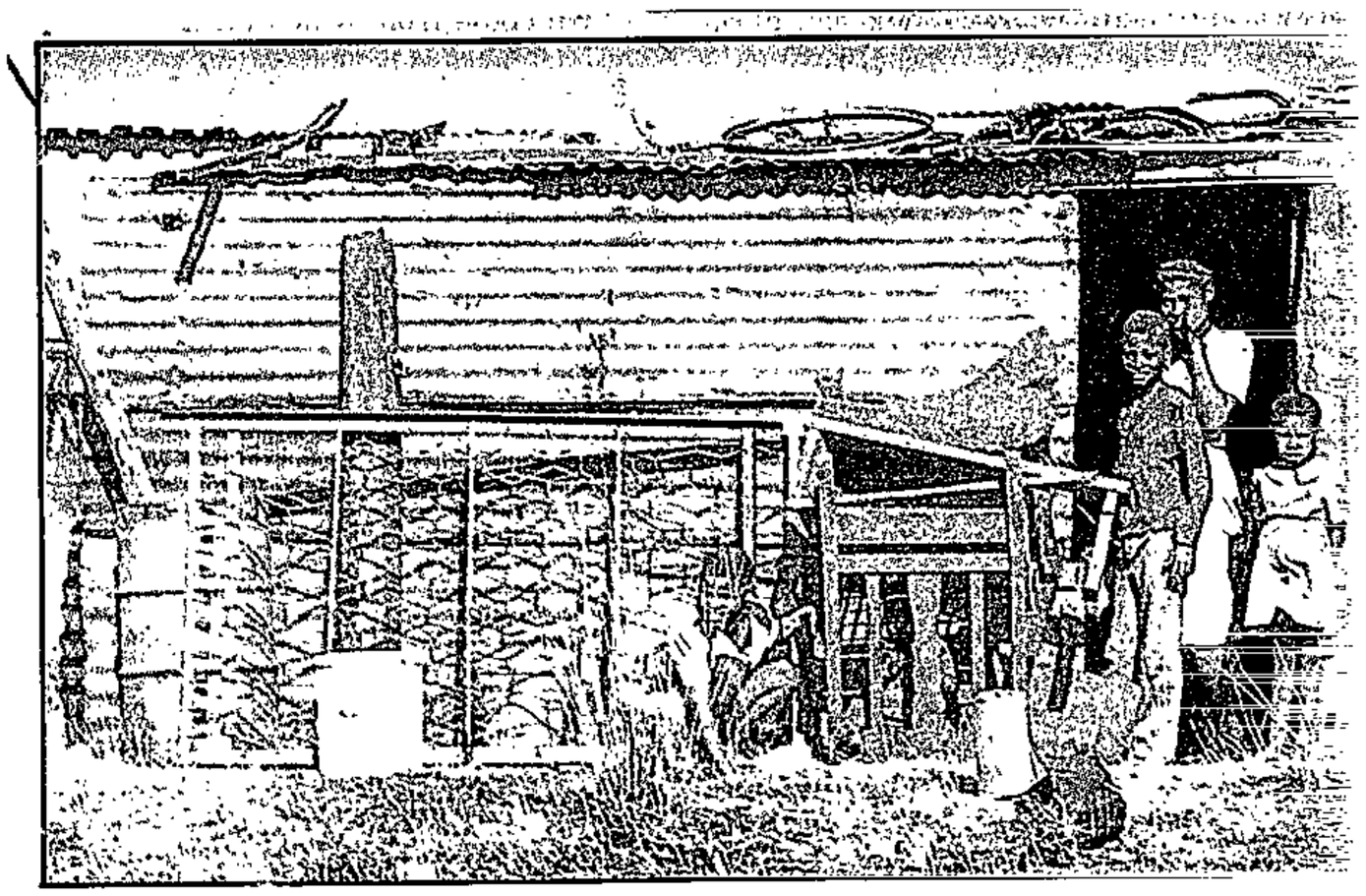


A scene from battle-scarred Mozambique where tens of thousands have been left homeless? No, this is Bryanston at dusk, where "hidden squatters" set up home for the evening. ● Picture by Alf Kumalo.



Home sweet home! A typical shack at Tamboekiesfontein, near Heidelberg.



New town arises as squatters flock to urban areas

(310)

Star 27/6/89.

A new town is taking shape among the hills at Tamboekiesfontein, a 25-minute drive south-east of Johannesburg.

In a matter of months, on veld where sheep once safely grazed, 650 little shacks have arisen, each housing one or even two families. More than 3 300 people are now settled there.

By Winnie Graham

The residents have paid R40 to R60 a site for the privilege of building, and their monthly rent is R20, paid to a coloured man who says the land belongs to his father.

No services are provided in spite of the landowner's estimated monthly income of R13 000, but the people do not complain. They feel secure because they have acquired a few square metres of their own land.

These people are an insignificant but typical fraction of one of the greatest mass movements in South Africa's history.

The upheavals resulting from Zulu aggression, the Great Trek, the discovery of Witwatersrand gold — all these population movements are tiny compared to today's rush to the cities. The Witwatersrand and Durban are magnets which, some people say, are luring people to settle at the rate of one new square kilometre of land every month.

In the 1930s, whites flocked from the platteland to the cities. Today, South Africa "is confronted once again with the challenge of an expanding population concentrating in urban areas, of large-scale rural urban migration ..."

These are the words of Ms Ann Bernstein, policy director (urbanisation) of the Urban Foundation. She sees this migration as one of the major challenges facing the country today.

In August last year, just a handful of shacks stood at "Tamboekies" (as the people call their town between Johannesburg and Heidelberg). The picture has changed fast. Today, there are people everywhere ... and children for Africa.

Boys and girls play games in the dusty roads, dogs at their heels. Youths loiter near the Botshabela "store" — a shack selling essential groceries, fruit and vegetables. A soccer game machine, standing on uneven, hardened ground, keeps youngsters entertained.

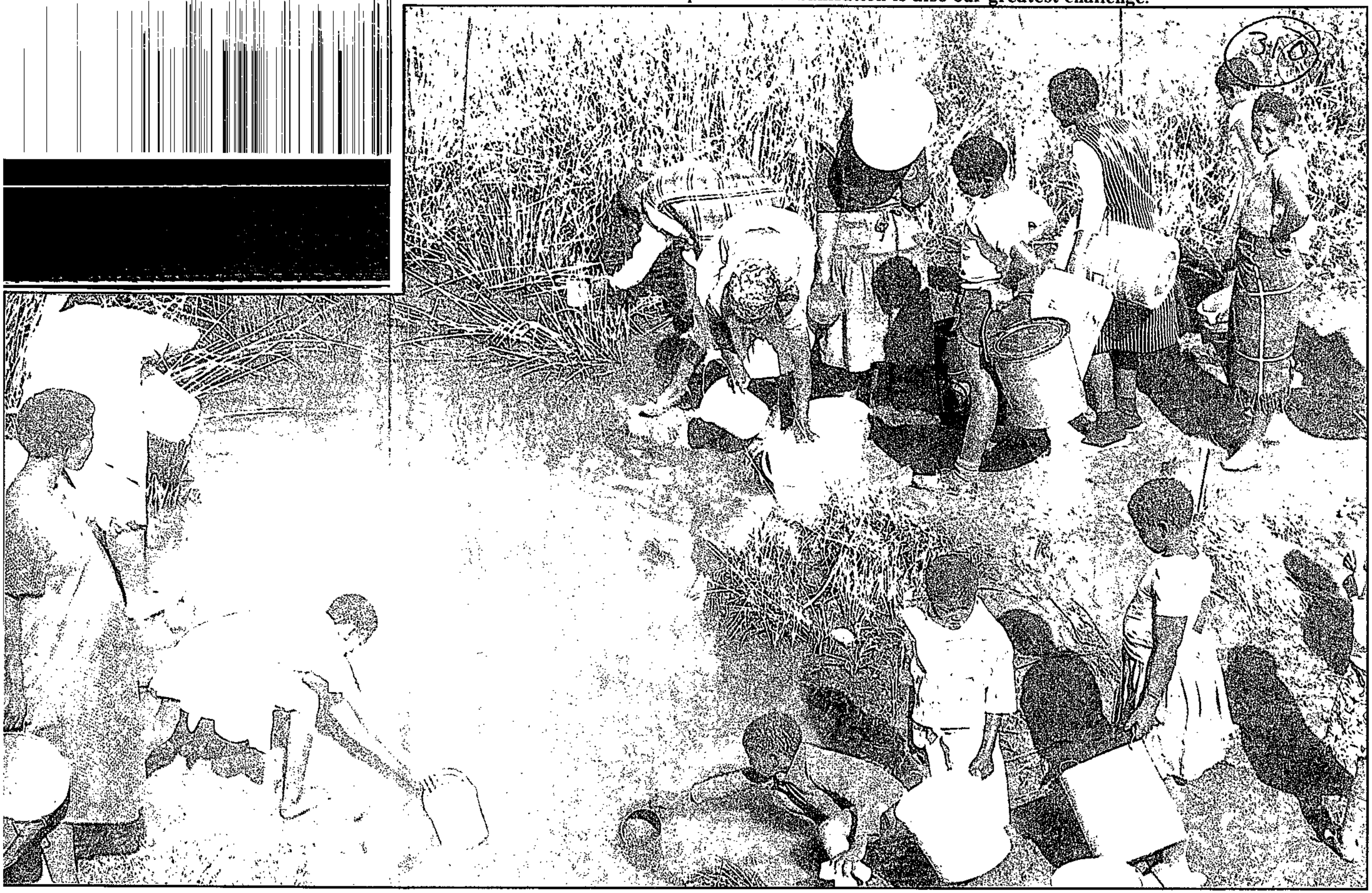
Typically, there is no water in the town. Women and children fill containers from a muddy stream in the valley. They make light of the steep climb up and down the embankment, buckets perched precariously on their heads.

The stream has become a social gathering place where women chat as they wait their turn to fill buckets.

Even on a Monday morning the town is alive with activity. Women wash their laundry in tin tubs, seemingly oblivious of the effort it has taken to

● To Page 2 M

The migration of blacks to the cities is changing the face of South Africa. Some see the enormous influx of work-seekers as a "problem" exacerbated by the critical shortage of housing, schools, health services and jobs. Yet the inexorable process of urbanisation is also our greatest challenge.



This is not the village pump, nor even the well of Jacob, but a rather polluted stream where the people of Tamboekiesfontein collect water for cooking and cleaning.

● Pictures by Herbert Mabuza.

Squatters near Heidelberg not allowed to stay

People who have made homes at Tamboekiesfontein, near Heidelberg, will not be allowed to stay permanently.

Mr P P C van der Hoven, chief director, planning and development, of the Provincial Administration's community development branch, said land occupied by the squatters did not fall inside the area designated by Government for township development.

Upgrading of the terrain as a permanent residential area could not, therefore, be considered.

Mr van der Hoven had been asked for reaction to the development of the new squatter town of "Tamboekies". He said the Provincial Administration was seeking a court order to stop the further influx of squatters to Tamboekiesfontein to prevent a health hazard.

NO EVICTIONS

No evictions would be asked for in the order.

The land, Mr van der Hoven said, was owned by I Fortuin, L Moses, C Williams and R Gabo. The TPA was compelled to acquire alternative land for permanent settlement of the squatters.

This would be on the farm Rietfontein, about five or six kilometres from Tamboekiesfontein, where about 4 000 serviced stands would be available for squatters from nearby Tokhoza and Katlehong, as well as for the people of Tamboekiesfontein.

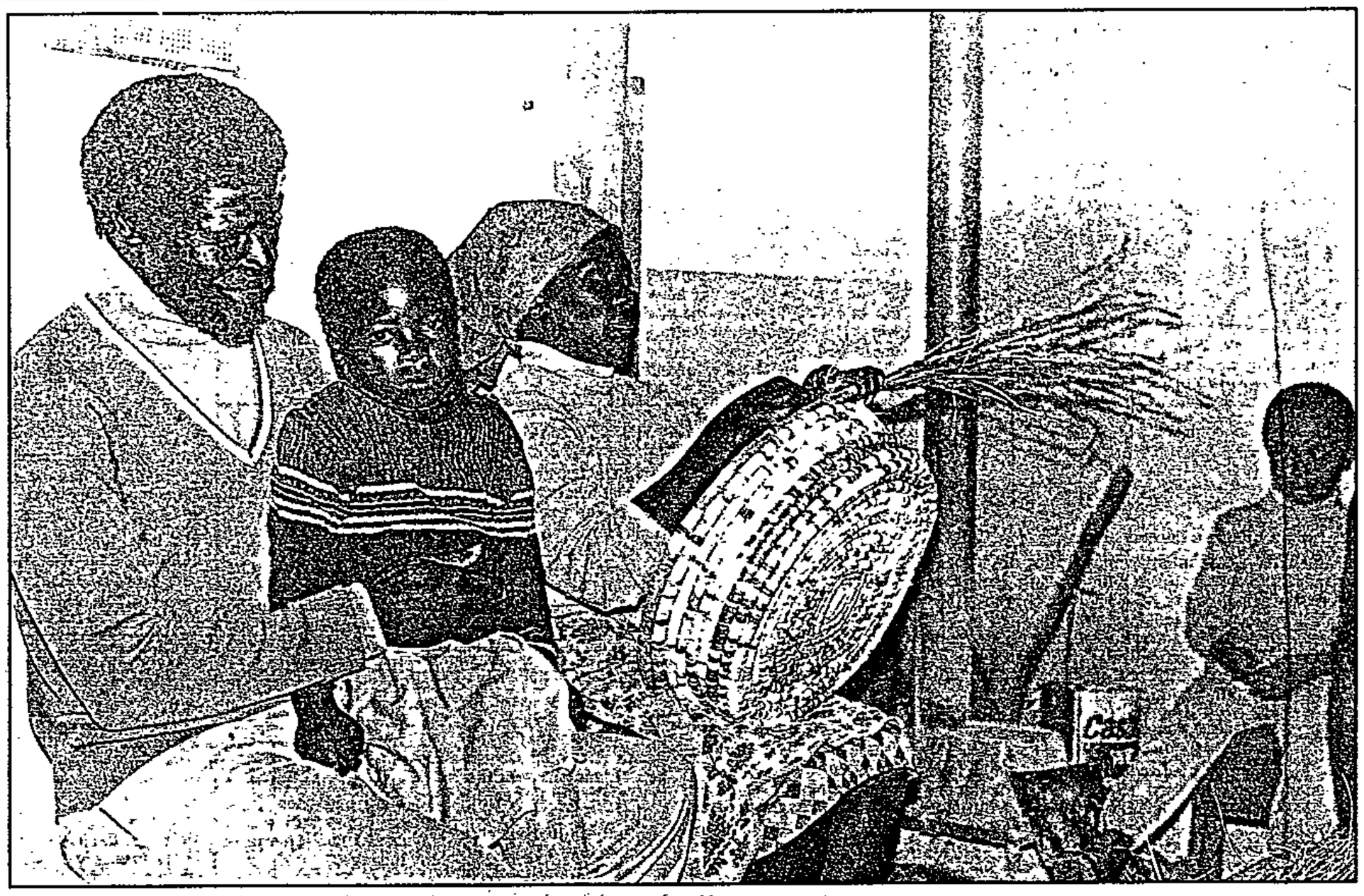
"As for the remaining squatters, more land will be acquired," he said. "Stands at Rietfontein and the other area will be sold and people will be able to settle permanently on their own properties with better living conditions."

ter se..lemen.. ..er o ..o..... o.. blacks are moving to the urban areas, yet most white South Africans have little idea of where they come from, how they live and what they dream about. John Nzimande may or may not be a typical squatter — but here is his story.

The sad man who waits and hopes

Star 29/6/89. (310)

Urbanisation



Domestic bliss . . . Mr John Nzimande, his wife, Irene, and two of their children relax next to the tiny stove in their shack near the township of Thokoza. Mrs Nzimande is weaving a basket from grass and plastic bags. ● Picture by Winnie Graham.

By Winnie Graham

John Nzimande (47), a man who waits hoping for a job in his little shack at Pola Park (also known as Dunuza) on the East Rand, grew up on the edge of the playing fields of Michaelhouse.

As the child of a cleaner at the elite Natal school, he could play on the fields with rich white boys. Once a week he was able to join Michaelhouse youngsters at soccer, rugby, softball, hockey or tennis.

"It was my favourite day," he recalled.

Today, the bright black youngster of the early 50s is an unemployed father of seven, struggling to survive in a tiny three-room shack. His family have, at most, two meals a day, go barefoot round the squatter camp and have never known the luxury of a flush toilet or a hot bath.

Yet the boy who once played with some of today's best-known business and professional men accepts his lot philosophically.

"If I had had an education, my life would have been different, too," he said.

Mr Nzimande is typical of the 7 million blacks who, the Urban Foundation estimates, are living in "informal circumstances". Some stands in formal black townships accommodate up to 10 or 12 additional shacks.

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC, estimates that 90 percent of the squatters in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area are accommodated in the backyards of black townships.

As the flow of people to the cities continues, more shanty "towns" are growing in the veld, providing makeshift homes for new settlers.

Mr Nzimande's father, Zeblon (or Tangie, as the boys called him), worked in the Michaelhouse sanitorium.

The college arranged for the children of staff to attend their own school, but the weekly get-togethers on the playing fields were highlights the boy never forgot. That and the good meals from the kitchen make him think kindly of the college.

John Nzimande's schooling came to an abrupt end when he was 12 years old and his mother died. His father, then earning R10 a month, remarried, and suggested his son find a job. He had just passed Std 2, but he managed to get work at a hotel in Nottingham Road near Maritzburg.

More money

He came to Johannesburg in 1963 "because I heard there was more money here" and found a job as a waiter at the Wayside Hotel in Malvern. Then, 17 years ago, he took a job in a plastic engineering works, a firm which has since moved to Alrode.

Mr Nzimande loved his job as a pigment mixer. He watched with pride as the firm grew "from three machines to 19". He believed he would work there permanently.

By the time he was 30, he had fathered two children. By now, he had saved enough to get married and he and his bride set up home in Dundee. Once a month he travelled to Natal to visit his family.

When influx control was lifted three years ago, he decided it was time his wife, Irene, and his younger children joined him on the Reef. He needed a house, so he approached his employer for help. In spite of repeated requests for help, nothing came of his application. He grew increasingly frustrated.

In March last year, union members went on strike for higher wages. Mr Nzimande said they were offered an increase of 41 cents but, after a ballot, the workers decided to hold out for 60 cents. Negotiations broke down and the men lost their jobs.

Mr Nzimande has not worked for nine months. He and his family survive on a R200 grant from the Witwatersrand Council of Churches. He dreams of getting his job back.

"If my employer will take me back, I will go," he said. "He did what he had to do, just as we did, but I will tell him what was in my heart, why I was cross."

John Nzimande rises daily at 5 am, lights the fire in his shack and makes coffee for himself and his wife. Breakfast — bread — comes later. He and his family have found it hard to survive on short rations.

He wants above all to provide his family with a decent home.

"I want my children to have a chance in life," he said.

He is saddened by the fact that he hasn't the money to buy his 13-year-old daughter a pair of shoes. He has kept his children out of school this year because he cannot afford books and transport costs. Times are tough, but his spirit is unbroken.

"I may not have much, but I am better off than my neighbours," he said.

Educationists: improve your thinking skills

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800 left homeless in Tokoza

Sowetan 2 9 16 89

ABOUT 800 people were left homeless when the Tokoza Town Council demolished their newly erected shacks at the Dunusa squatter camp. (310)

The 150 shacks were erected three weeks ago when people were thrown out of their backyard rooms for defaulting on rent.

"We came to this camp because we do not have anywhere else to go," Mr Samuel Mangali, a member of the squatter's committee, said.

The shacks were demolished by municipal and South African policemen, who brought with them notices to squatters that they should pay R50 rent for the provision of toilets, water and for the general cleansing of the area including garbage removal.

The homeless resolved to form vigilante groups to watch over their belongings.

The blitz on Dunusa squatter camp and the demand for R50 rental coincided with rental increases in Tokoza hostels. Inmates have been notified that their rent will increase from R12,50 to R35,75 from July.

The mayor of Tokoza, Mr E C Matsoso, was not available for comment as he was out of the office.

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TRADE

More powers delegated to combat slums

Political Correspondent

The Government is poised to hand white local authorities extensive powers to clear or prevent slums in their areas.

The Minister of Local Government and Housing, Mr Amie Venter, said yesterday it was intended that legislation to this effect would become operative on August 1.

"The termination of slums or nuisances is seen primarily as the function and responsibility of local authorities," he told the National Party federal congress in Pretoria.

Mr Venter also said own residential areas would be retained through the Group Areas Act until an effective and acceptable alternative was found.

Mr Venter said the National Party placed a high premium on protecting the rights of communities who wanted their own community life in their own areas with their own schools.

He spelt out in detail how the NP's "Plan of Action" would protect own group areas.

This was a "practical, humane" plan for continuing to apply the Group Areas Act "sensitively, fairly and decently".

The first step in the plan was that reporting points would be established where inhabitants of a community could report transgressors of the Group Areas Act.

This was a sensitive matter and it was important that immediate investigations should be conducted into the validity of the complaints.

If they were valid, a serious attempt would be made to solve the problem by negotiation and the provision of help.

If an agreement could not be reached, the charges would be referred to the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs to negotiate with the transgressors over alternative housing in an appropriate area.

A special housing division had already been set up in the department for this purpose.

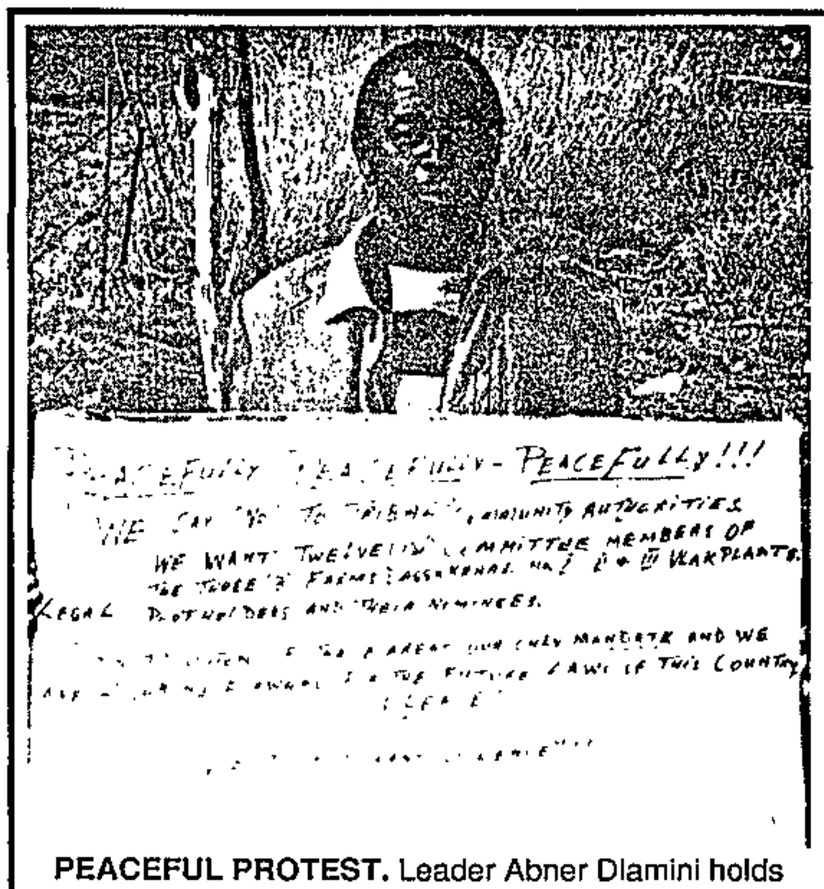
Squatters who lose shacks fear arrest

By Noel Ndhlovu

Thokoza shack dwellers, whose shacks were demolished by the Thokoza Municipal Council near Germiston yesterday, are living in fear of being arrested.

Former residents of the 150 demolished shacks said municipal police promised to arrest them if they did not remove their belongings from the area.

The shacks were erected after a number of people were thrown out of their backyard rooms for not paying their rent. The demolitions, which apparently started on Friday, followed council notices to squatters to pay R50 rent for the provision of toilets, water and for the removal of garbage.



PEACEFUL PROTEST. Leader Abner Dlamini holds a placard with his community's demands



NOT WELCOME. Daggakraal residents tell Constitutional Development and Planning Commissioner FJC Piek they do not want a community council

Rural poll standoff

The government came off worst in a standoff with the Transvaal rural community of Daggakraal last month. As in many other parts of the country, the government is attempting to foist a community council on this Eastern Transvaal community. But the people of Daggakraal, which successfully resisted forced removals several years ago, are equally adamant in their rejection of community councils. MONO BADELA reports:

JOHANNESBURG. — The government made a mistake to choose the battle-hardened community of Daggakraal as a first target for a "rural community council".

And it was not surprising that an official of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning was chased away by angry landowners in Daggakraal as he tried to conduct elections in the community two weeks ago.

Daggakraal is one of several communities which resisted forced removal and among the few which still enjoy freehold rights.

The commissioner for the Amersfoort district, Mr FJC Piek, had to postpone the elections to July 22 when he failed to control the angry crowd.

At a meeting attended mostly by elderly landowners, Piek was told, amid shouts and heckling, that he did not have a mandate from the 45 000 strong community to conduct elections in Daggakraal.

The government had failed since 1912 to recognise Daggakraal's leadership structures and negotiate with their democratically-elected "Committee of Twelve" nor recognise its constitution.

The elections, according to Piek, was supposed to be held in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act.

Meanwhile, more than 340 angry Daggakraal landowners waited for Piek to come and put his case.

Toll of sweat

Some of them carried placards which called on Piek to "Leave Us Alone in Peace", "We want no authority from you" and "We have our own Committee of Twelve".

In an interview, Mr Abner Dlamini, 70, a leader among the landowners, said a decision had been taken against the introduction of a black local authority for the area.

Dlamini, whose father, Alexander Dlamini, was the general-secretary of the African Farmers Association when its chairman and ANC co-founder, Pixley Ka Seme, bought the land in 1912, said his forebears had bought the farms through toil and sweat.

"We shall maintain our unity in defence of these farms against any outsider who threatens to either remove us forcefully or impose upon us any method of administering our farms.

"We reject both the Tribal Authority and the Community Act which the government is ramming down our throats."

He said the landowners were doing so in favour of their own "Committee of Twelve" elected by the people to administer their land.

"The government wants to sub-divide the Daggakraal and Vlakplaats land and turn them into townships where migrant workers from the mines and factories can rent houses built by the government.

"It also wants to introduce the unpopular system of councillors in those townships. The government will simply nullify our title deeds.

"We have free-hold title deeds for our plots. The people are adamant that they want to continue under our constitution," Dlamini said.

Another prominent landowner at Daggakraal Two, Chief Popo Moloi, said:

"We realised that should the Community Act plan succeed at Daggakraal, it would weaken the people of Driefontein who are also resisting this kind of Act."

Chief Moloi said the community favoured the "Committee of Twelve" which had administered the three Daggakraal farms since the late Pixley Ka Seme drew up their constitution.

"Our people have peacefully occupied their land for 77 years and their wish is for their descendants to inherit this land.

"We will strongly resist any disruption or interference with the present patterns of ownership and occupation," Chief Moloi said.

No subsidy

"We have received very little or no government support or subsidy.

"We've provided our own water supply, school buildings and roads.These have been sufficient to the extent that the community has been relatively healthy notwithstanding the lack of a basic health services," Moloi added.

Overcrowding is a big problem in Daggakraal.

This was because Daggakraal had been used as a "dumping ground" for black tenants evicted from neighbouring white-owned farmlands, Moloi said.

But the residents are strongly attached to Daggakraal as "their home". Not only is it ancestral land, but has provided a relatively good life for them.

It is one of the rare rural areas in South Africa where black people can own land outside the homelands.

This accounted for the strong resistance to removal several years ago when their land was threatened by the Bantu Authorities Act.

In January last year the government announced that the people of Daggakraal would not be removed.

The reasons given were flimsy, said Dlamini.

The area is only now returning to normal — although both the community and the land itself still bear the scars of the period when the future seemed insecure.

"Now the government is trying to force down our throats the system of town councils. But it will happen over our dead bodies," said Moloi.



LANDOWNER. Chief Popo Moloi



WATER. Children at one of the many boreholes at Daggakraal

controversial chemical.

An interdict is being sought by Natal ... permanent ban on the use of 2,4-D, and he called for a temporary suspension of its use in Natal.

Squatters haven't budged

By Thabo Leshilo Star 6/7/89

Only a handful of about 800 Wynberg squatters, who were supposed to be relocated to Orange Farm near Grasmere at the end of June, have left the area.

It is not clear what action the Sandton Town Council, under whose jurisdiction the camp falls, will take. Chairman of Sandton's management committee Mr Peter Gardiner referred The Star to Mr Steve Burger of the Alexandra Town Council who declined to comment.

The camp is on property owned by a Mr Max Green and is earmarked for industrial development.

It is called "kwa—Green" (Green's Place) and is divided into two stands, Stjwetla and Greenside.

Greenside has no water, electricity or toilets, and the squatters do not pay rent.

Although as overcrowded as Greenside, Stjwetla receives some electricity from a derelict factory and has water and communal toilets but no refuse removal. Residents pay R35 monthly to the Alexandra Town Council.

Relocation will cause upheaveals. Many squatters work in Sandton and their children go to school in Alexandra.

310

HAVE TO PAY

Mr Johannes Lebogo of Stjwetla said they would have to pay R8 to get to work whereas now they walk or pay at the most a rand a day.

Publicity secretary of the Alexandra Action Committee, Mr Obed Bapela, said claims of a land shortage in Alexandra were not true.

Quoting findings of research conducted by his committee, he said 120 000 people in Alexandra lived on 380 ha of land but in nearby Eastbank 260 ha of the total 320 ha was vacant.

SA grip on Swazi farming

Star 6/7/89

The Star Bureau

LONDON — South Africa is dumping ...ade produce in Swaziland, ... there cannot compete, ...ort in *The Finan-*

...Madeley, ...mall ...n) ...ying ...how- ...troduc- ...xpected

to lead to a 40 percent rise in vegetable output this year, and maize output is expected to increase a further 15 percent on last year's 14 percent.

The new marketing structure is trying to give Swazi farmers a central and organised outlet for their produce. The country's first wholesale fresh produce market has been set up about 30 km from Mbabane, and others are expected to follow.

The market's manager, Mr Mike Dlamini, hopes that as Swazi farmers see they have a market for their produce, they will grow and sell more and so reduce the amount coming in from the Republic, the report adds.

Register squatters are urged

SOWETO councillors have urged about 2000 Mshenguville residents to register for permits with the council so that they could be listed for allocation of sites at Orange Farm and other serviced squatter camp settlements.

The meeting was addressed by ward councillor Mr Payne Tshabalala, Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi and Sofasonke Party vice president Mr M Mazibuko.

The councillors told the residents to prepare themselves for resettlement in areas specifically provided to accommodate low-income families on the outskirts of Soweto.

Some Mshenguville residents have told the Soweto council that they will only move if they are given a firm undertaking for a serviced site where they can build their own low-cost houses. They also asked for cheap loans for building low-cost houses.

City nomads suffer in winter

ONE-MONTH-OLD Phumla Nozikhakhane has never known a real home. She is among 30 people who have been living like nomads in the heart of Johannesburg since she was born.

Phumla and her mother, Dudu, were evicted from Allandene Residential in Berea together with 70 other families following a court order at the beginning of June.

The families, now reduced to 20, have been shunted from one emergency shelter to the next all over the city in a bid to keep the cold away.

The "Berea nomads" have formed themselves into a unique community where everything is shared including food and household chores.

Their journey started with a tent camp outside the dilapidated building that has been their home for over two years.

Pregnant

When the Johannesburg Traffic Department pulled the tents down, the families were housed at the Christ Church in Hillbrow, for two days. From there they were given shelter by the St George's Presbyterian Church in Joubert Park until last weekend.

They have now moved to the Methodist Church in Albert Street, where they can stay for a week.

"What will happen to us when the week is over?" asked Miss Nomvula Magxala who is pregnant.

"We have spent this whole winter out in the cold. Some of us have come down with flu and others serious illnesses and had to be hospitalised."

The homeless community have five babies among them aged from a month to a year.

"This is no life at all," said Mr Saxon Dlamini, who is employed and could afford to pay rent.

Housing

"It is sad and difficult to watch these young babies shiver in the cold. We do not enjoy living like vagabonds but there are no houses for us."

A Johannesburg councillor and member of the management committee, Mr Cecil Long, said he sympathised with the stranded families but there was nothing that the council could do to help them. He was speaking in his personal capacity.

"They brought it on themselves. They did not fulfil their financial obligations. They also allowed themselves to be misled by an irresponsible organisation, Actstop. It should find them a place to stay."

A spokesman for Actstop said it was the responsibility of the government and the local authorities to provide proper housing for the people.

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Squatters protest against R50 rental

Demolished shacks leave 600 homeless

By Winnie Graham

The squatter camp on the edge of Tokoza, near Alberton, home of between 15 000 and 20 000 people, is in turmoil following the demolition of 65 shacks and the local council's insistence that people pay a R50 monthly rental a shack.

More than 600 people were left without shelter on Wednesday night after a combined force of SAP and Tokoza municipal police used iron bars to destroy the shacks at the edge of the camp.

The destruction of the shacks followed a weekend of ferment when nine people were arrested — two for allegedly stoning a police car and seven for allegedly disturbing the peace.

An informant said the trouble started when the shack dwellers learned some people had already paid the R50 rental which, they claimed, was illegally levied.

"The people felt the R50 rental too high and planned to contest it," he said. "They were angry when they learned some of the squatters had already paid it."

Those who had paid were accused of being "sell-outs" and told to get out of the camp. The arrests followed the arrival of the police.

Tokoza's acting town clerk, Mr Kingsley Qwabe, confirmed yesterday that the shacks had been destroyed, but said the residents had been given a day's notice.

"We don't know these new squatters," he said. "They simply arrived, mostly from Transkei and Ciskei, and erected shacks. They built on marshy land which is flooded in the rainy season."

Residents vow to rebuild homes

By Jovial Rantao

Scores of men from Polar Park, Tokoza, came home on Wednesday to find their families sleeping in the open after local municipal policemen demolished about 100 shacks for the third time in six months.

Families said they had been issued with 24-hour notices by council officials who referred to them as "illegal" squatters. They said the council had not offered them alternative accommodation or a reason why they had to move.

The families said the officials, who demolished the shacks, had not given them time to remove their household goods which were damaged in the process.

An unsigned notice said: "You are hereby given notice that all new illegal shacks will be demolished. You are therefore given 24-hours, ie until 10 am on June 12 to demolish your shacks. Thereafter no notices will be given."

Families vowed to rebuild their structures because they had nowhere else to go.

Ms Ethel Makhubalo, who stays with her husband and their two year-old son, said: "I'm going to rebuild my shack because the council just destroyed our homes without offering us alternative accommodation. Our children risk the danger of becoming ill by sleeping in the open during cold days like these."

Tokoza Council's acting-town clerk, Mr Kingsley Qwabe, said the council had decided to demolish the shacks because the squatters were not properly registered with the council.

He said the area was swampy and it was impossible for the council to provide services.

On the question of alternative accommodation, Mr Qwabe said some of the "registered" squatters would be moved to Rietspruit farm in mid-September.

Basic facilities

Mr Qwabe confirmed the R50 rental. He was aware the levying of the fee had not been promulgated in the *Government Gazette*. The money was needed to provide basic facilities such as piped water and portable lavatories.

According to a survey undertaken for the Alberton Industries Assocation and World Vision there is an average of nine people in each shack and the average income is R174,28 per household.

affairs.

Blox competition. See tomorrow's *Sowetan*.

65 families homeless

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

SIXTY-FIVE families are still without accommodation following the demolition of their shacks by the Tokoza town council last week.

It was the third time in six months that shacks at Dunusa or Phola Park were demolished. Council officials said the shacks were demolished because they had been erected at the wrong place.

Deputy chairman of the council's management committee Mr Abraham Mzizi said: "Nobody is allowed to build shacks in that area because it is a swamp. When it rains, the place looks like a lake. We are not going to allow people to live there."

Mzizi said the council was still looking for an alternative place to accommodate the families.

By yesterday, the families were still in the open despite the council's promise that they would be sheltered.

Mzizi also announced that rent in Dunusa had been increased to R50 a month from July 1. Residents used to pay about R35 a month. There are 3 750 squatter families living in the area.

He said rent was increased so the council could provide basic facilities like water and portable lavatories.

Residents have rejected the increases.

... children

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(News by David Braun, 6807 Montivideo Sq Ct, Falls Church, Virginia, USA.)

...ord levels, so, too, did Johannesburg's street crime.

...that snowfalls are expected on the Drakensberg and other high ground.

...of the emergency regulations.



Happiness is . . . an Operation Snowball blanket.

Freezing squatters are given blankets

Star 20 Feb 89

By Winnie Graham (310)

The young mother sat in the early morning sunshine trying to keep warm as she breastfed her baby. Children, some barefoot and jerseyless, warmed their hands at a coal brazier.

This was the scene at an East Rand squatter camp yesterday morning when Operation Snowball delivered blankets.

Whoever crochetted the colourful woollen blanket given to Mrs Lilian Dlephu would have rejoiced at her smile.

She, her husband and two small children had survived a bitterly cold night without adequate cover. She did not own a jersey and wasn't too sure where her next meal was coming from. Her husband is unemployed.

Nearby, Mr Paulus Shongwe (75) had only the weak rays of the sun to warm him. After receiving a blanket, tears rolled down his face.

Send your gifts to Operation Snowball, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.



(310)

Piped water provided and clinic is planned in upliftment campaign

Alberton industrialists helping squatters

By Winnie Graham

Industrialists at Alberton, moved by the plight of workers who live in the over-crowded squatter camp next to Tokoza, are working closely with shack-dwellers to improve living conditions.

They have provided piped water and are planning a clinic, making the Alberton Industries Association (AIA) the first South African industrial body to work for the upliftment of a squatter camp in its area.

Immediate need

Mr Paul Glover, chairman of AIA, said this week that when the association realised a number of its workers came from the Pola Park squatter camp, it decided to see where it could help.

The immediate need was for water, so the industrialists — representing 100 companies — raised between R15 000 and R20 000 to provide the people with eight taps.

The residents devised a system of controlling the water supply themselves. The taps were enclosed in a fenced container and people issued with vouchers which they exchanged for water.

"There have been a few hiccups, mainly because the water pressure is not what it should be, but we are about to install an electric pump," Mr Glover added.

When the AIA decided to become involved, representatives went to the Provincial Administration to inform the authorities.

They then approached the community committee at Pola Park.

Aware there was much to be done in the squatter camp, the industrialists wanted to consult the people rather than "impose" improvements on them.

With the co-operation of World Vision, a researcher, assisted by two members of the local community, was asked to carry out a survey of needs.

Ms Cathryn Collingwood, assistant to the Natal regional training facilitator, came to Alberton to train Ms Hevis Jonas and Ms Magdeline Molefe and to administer the programme.

A questionnaire was jointly devised in English, Zulu and Sotho, a map of the area prepared and a sampling of 100 shacks decided.

A preliminary report revealed that a clinic, more toilets, refuse removal, creche, school and old age home were the main needs in order of priority.



A keen gardener at the squatter camp.

The researchers found that, in spite of great hardship, the community, through its committee's initiative, had attempted to meet its own needs. It had established a soup kitchen, adult night classes and sewing projects.

The report recommended that the AIA finance the establishment of a clinic and that the remaining funds be set aside for further research into community needs and lifestyle.

"People also requested training in committee skills for the Pola Park committee so it could serve the community more effectively," the report said.

It showed that an average of nine people lived in each shack in Pola Park. The average monthly income was R174,24.

Mr Glover said the provision of a clinic building was the least of the AIA's problems: the staffing, maintenance and control of drugs was causing more headaches.

He added: "We have informed the medical superintendent of Natalspruit Hospital, the Provincial Administration and the Alberton Town Council of our intention to provide a clinic and we have their full support. Initially, the clinic will serve only mothers and children."

Research, he added, had shown that malnutrition and kwashiorkor remained a problem.

Inadequate toilet facilities have been a major cause for concern in the camp, especially as pit latrines are not allowed. When the Red Cross withdrew its mobile toilets, however, the Tokoza council provided additional toilets.

Miss Karen Aucamp, a one-time social worker and a leading member of the AIA, said most of the squatters were ordinary people who had nowhere else to live.

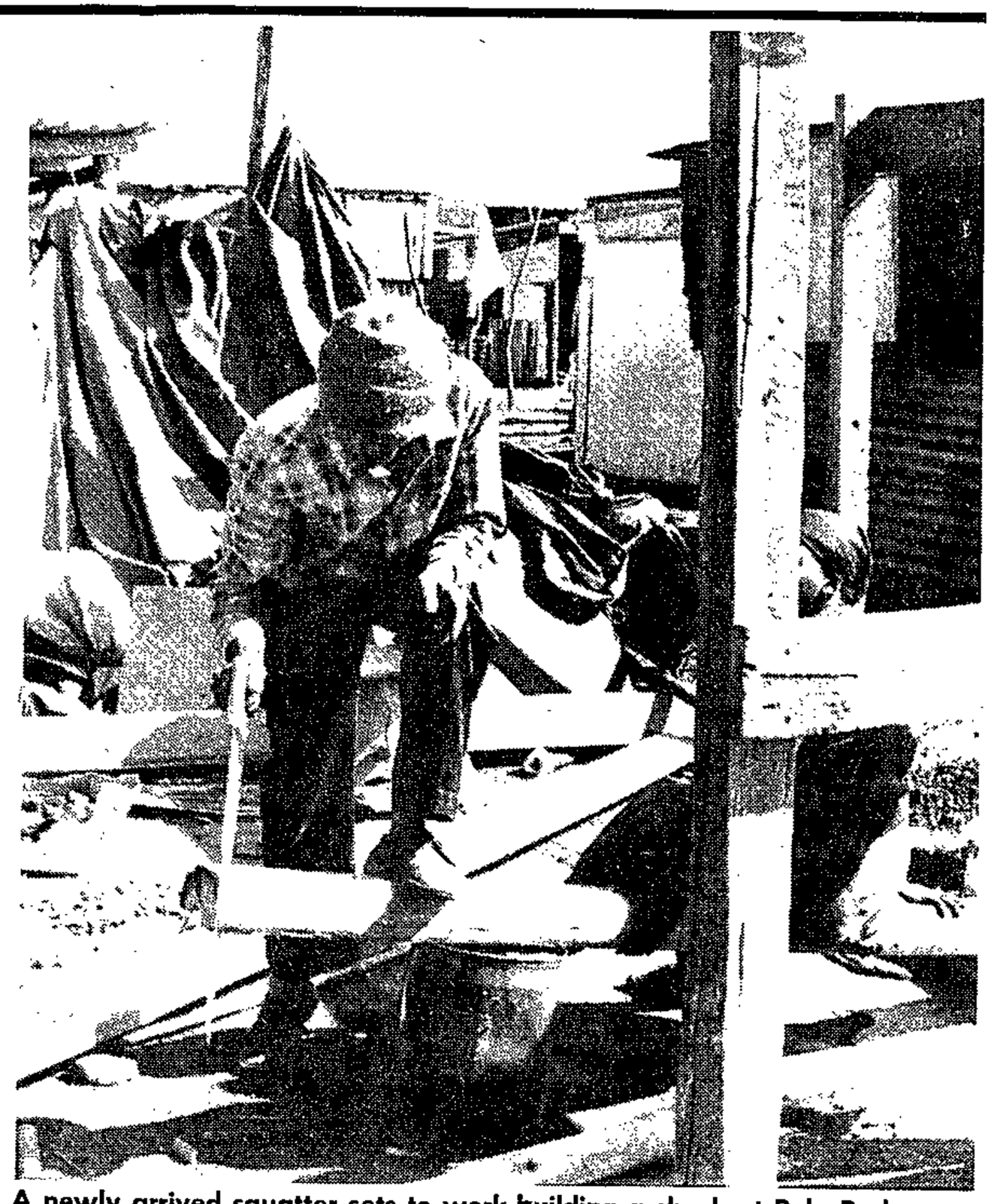
"Much of our workforce comes from Tokoza," she said. "We were moved to help them."

● The squatter camp was hit by turmoil earlier this month following the demolition of 65 shacks and the local council's insistence that people pay a R50 monthly rental per shack. More than 600 people were left without shelter after SA Police and Tokoza municipal police destroyed shacks at the edge of the camp.

Given notice

The acting town clerk of Tokoza, Mr Kingsley Qwabe, confirmed that the shacks had been destroyed, but said the residents had been given notice the day before. He said the shacks had been demolished before but had been rebuilt.

Asked what was to become of the squatters who had lost their homes, Mr Qwabe said he did not know. Site and service stands were being prepared for Tokoza squatters near Tamboekiesfontein and would be ready from September.



A newly arrived squatter sets to work building a shack at Pola Park near Alberton.

Govt may shelve plan for squatter resettlement

By Sven Lünsche

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

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

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

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

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

The new "megacity" to the south of Johannesburg, if approved, would encompass Grasmere and Evaton and could be the size of Johannesburg.

800 homeless families defy council

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

ABOUT 800 homeless families in Duduza on the East Rand have defied the local town council and erected shacks on the outskirts of the township.

Council police were confronted by angry shack dwellers last week when they tried to demolish the first shacks to be erected.

Yesterday more shacks were erected by desperate families at the Dunusa squatter camp.

The camp has no toilet facilities and families share two communal taps.

The mayor of Duduza, Mr Kebane Moloi, said they were aware the families had erected shacks in the area without the council's permission.

More taps and toilet buckets were to be provided this week.

Trust

According to him, the South Africa Housing Trust was to build about 1 200 houses for the low-income group at the squatter site. Building would start early next year.

He said: "The council met representatives of the families last Wednesday and it was agreed that only those on the housing waiting list be allowed to build shacks."

As from August 1, the families would be charged R17,20 for site rent and R12,80 for service charges. Service charges include the removal of refuse and toilet buckets.



A family arriving at Dunusa on Friday evening to erect their shack.

SES IN
☐ SHOE REPAIRS
☐ ELECTRONICS
☐ UPHOLSTERY
☐ WELDING
☐ SECURITY
☐ DRESSMAKING
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SUCCESS
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De Klerk sowing division

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu has accused the National Party leader, Mr F W de Klerk, of trying to drive a wedge between Mr Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress.

According to a statement released by the Archbishop, he was responding to a speech at the Cape congress of the National Party at the weekend in which De Klerk reportedly asked whether the ANC was "prepared to follow the lead given by Mandela and commit itself to the pursuit of peaceful solutions."

"Our liberation movements have sought change peacefully since before 1910 (the date of union)," he said in the statement.

"It is his government which forced the ANC and PAC to turn to violence by banning them and it is his government wrong.

Star 28/7/89 (310)

Bid to cater for squatters

Govt to set up new town in west

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

Rustenburg is to get a giant neighbouring town to house black people.

To be built on an area almost as large as the existing town, it is to be developed on the farm "Paardekraal", close to the local airport and adjoining the Bophuthatswana border.

Mining activity

The Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday that 1 300 ha of the 3 400 ha site would be used for housing. The remainder would be utilised for other services because it was not suitable for housing due to mining activity.

"In developing this land, the urgent need for the housing of blacks who work in Rustenburg as well as in its vicinity can be satisfied.

"By doing so, the squatting problem in the area can be properly addressed and the needs of industrialists, business undertakings and the mines in respect of the housing of their workers can be catered for," Mr Meyer said.

The area being set aside for the town straddles the Rustenburg-Thabazimbi road, which is the main route to Sun City in Bophuthatswana.

Areas which already house blacks in the Rustenburg district include the Bophuthatswana town of Tlhabane and other neighbouring villages and squatter settlements.

had conducted the investigation and pointed out that she had not even investigating contravention of section 17 of the police force rules which Chief Minister, Mr M N Ramodike, who is an arch foe of Duba.

Help for squatters

Sowetan 25/7/89

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE Alberton Industries Association has come to the rescue of about 20 000 squatters in Tokoza, Alberton, by installing eight communal taps for them.

Chairman of the AIA, Mr Paul Glover, said his organisation was also planning to provide a clinic for the 3 700 families at Dunusa squatter camp.

"We are still working on the project. I cannot say when it will be ready," said Glover.

One hundred companies affiliated to the AIA donated between R15 000 and R20 000 each for the provision of taps and the building of a clinic.

Levy

310

On July 1 the council imposed a R50 a month service levy on squatters for the provision of water, portable toilets and refuse removal.

The squatters have rejected the new tariffs as unreasanable. The council is still using water tanks to deliver water to the camp.

Two weeks ago, the council demolished 65 shacks after that the area was unsuitable because it was in a swamp.

The squatters were promised alternative accommodation by the council but by yesterday they were still without the promised sccommodation.

The deputy chairman of the council's management committee, Mr Abraham Mzizi, said the families must first obtain permits to build their shacks in the camp.

Star 26/7/89. (310)

Alleged assault on squatters: no lawsuits

The Attorney-General of the Transvaal has declined to prosecute following the reported assault on squatters at the Chicken Farm settlement on the outskirts of Soweto in July 1987.

The police liaison officer for Soweto, Major Noel Hartwell, said yesterday the docket had been closed because, after SAP investigations, no one could be found who was responsible for the alleged assaults.

The Star published photographs showing Mrs Lola Morris (28) being assaulted, dragged and thrown to the ground by a municipal policeman. — Staff Reporter.

VANISHING CATS END UP IN POTS

WASHING vanishes from clotheslines, milk bottles are swiped off doorsteps and pet cats disappear never to be seen again.

SOWETAN Reporter

Residents of the Johannesburg suburb of Belgravia blame it all on "tent people" who live under the stars on Langerman Kop.

The doings of the "tent people," who erect plastic shelters in Alexander Park above Belgravia and beg money from the residents, were disclosed at Tuesday night's Johannesburg City Council meeting by NP councillor, Mr Richard MacArthur.

Chief among the rumours, he said, are that the vanishing cats go into cooking pots.

Children

"There are very young children among them and they are neglected and hungry," said MacArthur of the squatters. "At night you can see the fires that keep them warm flickering on the koppie.

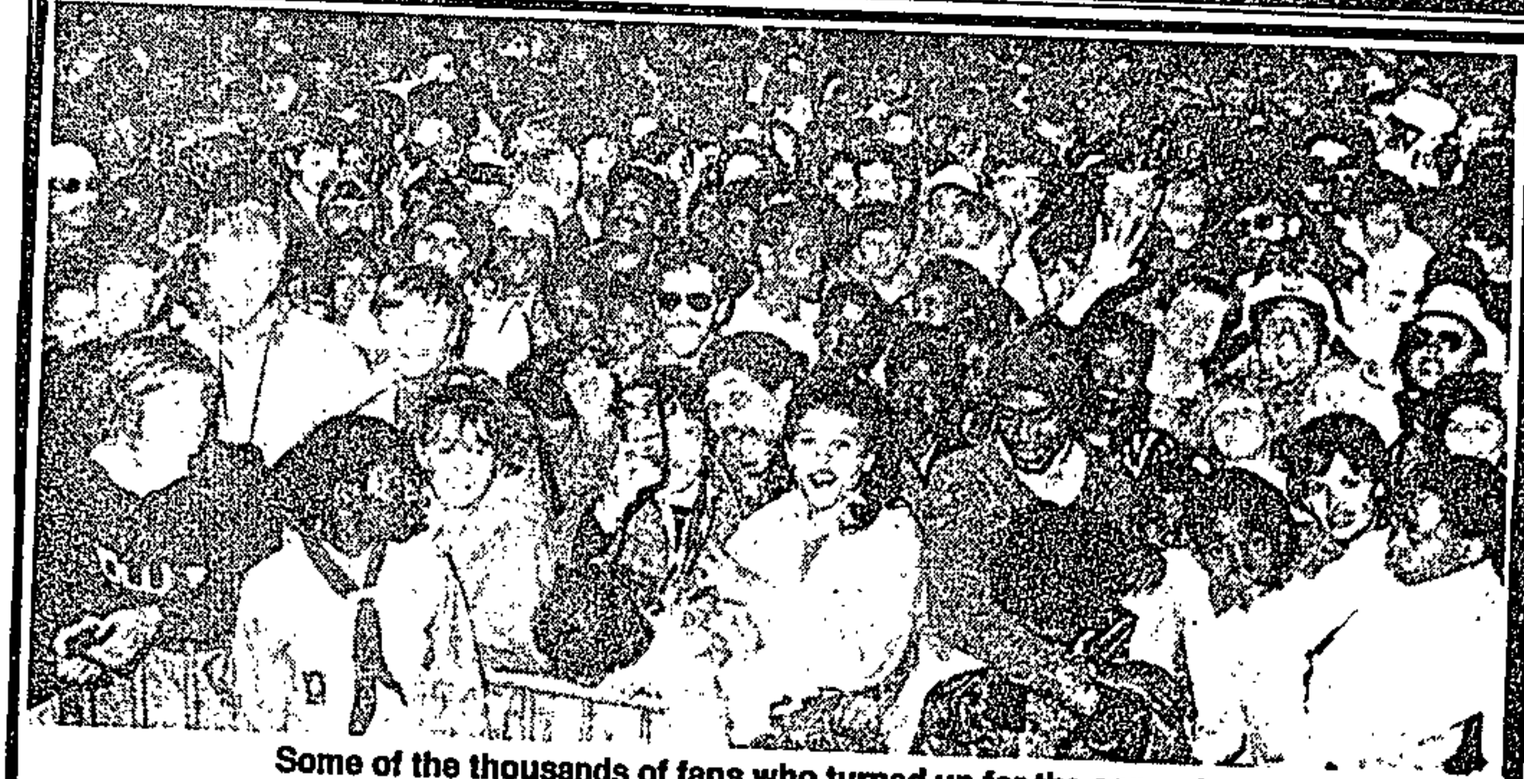
"The squatters say living on the koppie in winter is cold, but in summer it's great and they have one of the finest views in Johannesburg," said MacArthur.

The "tent people" have been there for over a year and although some have accepted food and shelter from a clergyman, others have refused similar help offered by the Salvation Army.

Food

"Sometimes residents give the tent people food but complain that it is not eaten because the squatters are more interested in money to buy alcohol," said MacArthur, who baulks at the idea of the "tent people" being uprooted and dumped somewhere else.

He feels it is a council responsibility to sit down and explain to them the advantages of permanent shelter, food and schooling for the children.



Some of the thousands of fans who turned up for the concert.

Swazi thrash a big success

MBABANE - Swinging Swaziland is recovering from the three-day concert which ended on Sunday and the organisers have said they are thinking of staging another.

Authorities dismissed reports of chaos at border posts where waiting of up to 10 hours were reported by visitors from South Africa.

The authorities said these delays happened on the South African side of the border, and traffic flowed freely in Swaziland itself.

As the mammoth pop spectacular was being assessed the organisers called a Press conference and said they were so happy about it that they are tentatively planning another, for some in November.

It would be a day-long affair, but they could not give the name of possible star attractions.

Last weekend's concert was organised by the King's Trust committee to raise funds to help jobless young people, but the next concert would not necessarily be under the King's Trust banner, organisers said.

Auditors are still calculating how much had been taken at the gates and balancing it against expenses, so it was still too early to estimate the profit for the King's Trust, organisers said. The figure could be known by tomorrow, they said.

Squatters to move

MORE than 50 000 squatters from three camps in Tokoza and Katlehong townships will be resettled at Rietfontein in the East Rand in August.

It was disclosed by Transvaal Provincial Administration MEC, Mr John Mavuso, who is heading the Government's resettlement programme.

He said Rietfontein was being serviced by the Government which will provide water, taps and self-service sites.

Tokoza Town Council's acting town clerk, Mr Sydney Qwabe, yesterday said the project does not include people living in backyards but only those temporarily accommodated at the squatter camps in the area.

Katlehong's town clerk, Mr Fannie Marais, said his council would meet Mr Mavuso on Monday for futher talks.

Bid to prevent slums

Council proposes landlord controls

By Joe Openshaw

New slums regulations to control overcrowding in Johannesburg buildings and to monitor letting practices in suburban backyards were accepted by the City Council last night.

The regulations, which will be sent to the administrator for approval, were introduced by Mrs Marietta Marx, chairman of the Health and Housing Committee and deputy chairman of the management committee. They set fines for overcrowding at a maximum of R500 instead of the R200 in the old regulations promulgated in 1939.

Mrs Marx said the regulations were needed because of the serious cases of overcrowding in Johannesburg buildings and would prevent landlords from exploiting the less fortunate. She said they were non-racial.

They give the City Health Department wider powers to control health and sanitation in city buildings and to prevent deterioration of accommodation.

They will control letting of garages and storerooms in the suburbs and overcrowding in servants' quarters.

"The regulations do not only apply to Hillbrow and Berea but to the whole of the municipality. We are talking about homeowners, landlords and estate agents," said Mrs Marx.

She said the Health Department was geared up to follow up the provisions of the regulations and whenever any person had been convicted of an offence in terms of them, any continuation of the contravention after conviction would constitute a new offence.

"Landlords won't be able to budget against the financial inconvenience of the regulations," she said.

Provision is made for adequate floor space and free air space for tenants.

Other provisions of the regulations are:

- Landlords will not be allowed to permit people to sleep or live in latrines, passages, staircases, landings, bathrooms, cupboards, out buildings, garages, stables, lean-to sheds, cellars or storerooms without approval of the health authorities.
- Landlords will not be able to let premises where there is no facility for preparing and cooking food.
- The owner of any premises will have to provide one or more shower, bath or other ablution facilities.
- The owner will have to ensure proper and sufficient hot water.
- Premises will have to be clean and notice could be served on owners if any premises are found to be unhealthy, unhygenic and unfit for human habitation.
- Baths, showers and wash basins will have to be provided in boarding houses.
- Landlords will not be permitted to let adjoining rooms with connecting doors to more than one family unless each room is provided independently with light and ventilation.
- Sanitary fittings, boilers, lighting and fire extinguishing equipment will have to be in proper working order.
- Premises must be kept free of refuse, rubber and litter and measures taken to prevent breeding of rodents, flies and vermin.
- The premises must be kept in a good state of repair.
- Rooms must be supplied with electricity for lighting and power and passageways, stairways and lifts must be adequately lit.

7 000 sites for the homeless

Sowetan 27/7/89 (310)

THE mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, yesterday said he had secured 7 000 sites at Orange Farm for Soweto's low-income families, especially Mshenguville residents.

He said residents wishing to be allocated sites at Orange Farm should report to his office at the Jabulani chambers today.

He has arranged a bus to take residents to Orange Farm to inspect the place and buses which will leave Mshenguville on Sunday, July 30, at 10 am. Orange Farm is near Grasmere, on the way to Evaton.

There is a train station near Orange Farm and buses and taxis drive past the area from Evaton and Sebokeng, said Mkhwanazi.

"I would like all residents of Mshenguville to apply for sites at Orange Farm as this is the council's last resort in resettling them. Those who fail to apply for sites will never get a chance as the council has no other land to accommodate people," said Mkhwanazi.

He said 1 000 sites will be reserved specifically for Mshenguville residents. Residents should have at least R50 deposit for the sites they apply for.

The 7 000 sites will be serviced by the Government which is presently installing water taps and providing ablution facilities.

Residents of the 1 000 sites are expected to build their own temporary accommodation and to build houses of their own choice later.

The other 6 000 sites will be developed for low income and middle-income families. Residents can buy the houses which will be priced from R20 000 and more.

Life is hard in tents

310
Sowetan
27/7/89

THE 30 evicted Weenen (near Estcourt) farmworker families who were removed on Monday from the roadside site they have occupied since their civil ejectment at the beginning of June, say they do not want to be at their new settlement camp.

They say that it is a lie that it will be just a temporary measure.

SOWETAN Correspondent

The evicted workers were moved to the new site adjacent to the Weenen emergency camp on Monday afternoon.

A large number of policemen, Natal Provincial Administration workers and other unidentified officials arrived at the roadside site and allegedly told them that they had to leave.

The farmworkers said they had refused to pack their belongings and workers in orange NPA overalls had then begun collecting all their possessions for them.

After the NPA workers had packed everything into boxes, the displaced workers were then told to get into two buses which had been brought for the purpose of transporting them.

When they refused, some were allegedly pushed into the buses. Two ambulances were also allegedly at the scene.

The farmworkers are now being accommodated in about 50 tents provided by the NPA. There are 10 portable toilets on site, as well as a large water tank.

The families complained about the tents, which they say leaked water and were colder than the Red Cross tents they had received last week.

Down go shacks - then residents put them up

By SIZWE ZONDANI

THE Ibhayi Council's efforts to demolish the Soweto shantytown, outside Port Elizabeth, ran aground last week when residents ignored eviction notices and rebuilt their demolished shacks.

The forced removal has been condemned as "immoral" by the Methodist Bishop of Port Elizabeth, George Irvine, who pointed out that the shanty-dwellers had lived in the area for eight years.

Fourteen council officials and four municipal police arrived in the area on Friday last week and knocked down a number of shacks. Members of the shantytown's housing committee claim that the council officials and municipal police climbed back into their cars and vans and drove off when they approached them.

The eviction notices received by residents said that people were being removed so that Soweto could be upgraded.

Sowetan 28/7/89

Squatters move to camp

310

MORE than 50 000 squatters from three squatter camps in Tokoza and Katlehong townships will be resettled at the Rietfontein resettlement camp on the East Rand during August.

The resettlement of the squatters was disclosed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration MEC, Mr John Mavuso, who is heading the Government's squatter resettlement project.

He said Rietfontein was being serviced by the Government which is to provide water taps and ablution facilities before allocating self-service sites.

The largest number of squatters will be from Dunusa in Tokoza which presently has more than 20 000 people. The Katlehong squatter camp is home to more than 16 000 squatters.

The rest will come from Tambokiesfontein which is on the outskirts of Tokoza.

Tokoza Town Council's acting town clerk Mr Sydney Qwabe yesterday said the resettlement project did not include people living in backyards.

LET US SHARE



Beauty and brains go together — so seems to say the lovely face of 22-year-old Unibo student, Mumsie Molefe.

Iscor's offer to workers

The State and Iscor Company are offering all employees of the giant steel producer - black and white - shares in a bid to encourage wider share ownership among all South Africans later this year.

At a press conference in Pretoria yesterday, Iscor's manpower manager, Mr Johan Prinsloo, they were offering employees an attractive package of 150-million shares at the listing of the giant steel company.

Participation in the share scheme by Iscor's 58 000 employees is entirely voluntary and will be extended to all full-time employees who are working for the company and its subsidiaries on August 31, 1989 and who are still in service when the offer opens, according to Mr Prinsloo.

The decision was taken after the company negotiated with major trade unions, including the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union.

The package consists of three offers. Firstly 100 free shares will be offered to all full-time employees of Iscor and its subsidiaries, the full cost of which will be carried by the State.

Secondly, all employees will be offered shares at a 20 percent discount on optional, deferred payment terms over a maximum period of three years. The number of shares offered to each employee will depend on job grading,he said.

Thirdly, the State is also setting aside almost 5 percent of Iscor's issued shares for staff on a preferential basis. Allocation will be equal to the number of shares for which eacxh employees qualifies under the discount scheme.

The 100 free shar and 20 percent discount shares will make up 50 percent of the 150-million shares offered to employees, with the prefrential shares making up the other 50 percent.

"Iscor management is going out of its way to communicate details of the employee share offer scheme to its staff, and among other things, will establish public information offices at all its centres," Prinsloo said.

Rip off is alleged

Sowetan 28/7/89.

AFRICAN National Congress commanders and leaders are allegedly selling off supplies intended for insurgents inside South Africa police say.

This information was said to have been gleaned from various ANC defectors during questioning by the security forces.

According to the SAP public relations directorate, the defectors say the supplies from Scandinavian countries were being seized by key ANC personnel and then sold for hard cash.

A ready market is said to exist on the black market in countries such as Zambia for these high-quality goods which are in short supply. Cash is then said to be pocketed by the ANC black marketeers, the sources said.

"Damelin makes it easy!"
Mr. J.P. Brummer, Principal, Damelin Correspondence College.

Alberton industrialists give aid to the Tokoza squatters

Alberton Industries Association will spend about R50 000 to provide the people at the Tokoza squatter camps with water and health facilities.

Mr Paul Glover, chairman of the association, said the squalor at the camp was shocking, adding that the industrialists would like to contribute towards alleviating the situation.

He said the squatters' needs were brought to the attention of the association by their committee.

Mr Glover said the association collected between R20 000 and R30 000 from industrialists last year and expected a similar amount this year.

He said at least eight water stands had been installed at the camp and the next step would be provision for a clinic within a month.

Mr Glover said the association would have to get a supply of medicines for the clinic as well as a number of volunteers to run it.

310

'Decent living conditions in all areas'

Council in bid to stop overcrowding

By Joe Openshaw

Johannesburg's new slum regulations would be used to control overcrowding and exploitation of tenants by landlords in future free settlement areas, Mrs Marietta Marx, chairman of the City Council's Health and Housing Committee, said yesterday.

The regulations were not intended just for high-density population areas such as Hillbrow, but to give health authorities the "power and teeth", to ensure decent living conditions in any area, even in outbuildings in backyards of affluent suburbs.

Mrs Marx was speaking at a media conference attended by Professor Hilliard Hurwitz, the city's Medical Officer of Health, and Mr Manie Venter, the Town Clerk.

"These regulations are aimed at preventing ghettos in any part of the city and future free-settlement areas.

"The regulations would be enforced as soon as approved of by the administrator and promulgated as by-laws," said Mrs Marx.

Structural deterioration of buildings and insanitary conditions will fall under a multi-disciplined and inter-departmental working committee made up of Government and local authority representatives.

The committee would welcome complaints of overcrowding, insanitary conditions and unacceptable living conditions from the public.

Mrs Marx gave the assurance that people would not be displaced.

Professor Hurwitz said overcrowding in Hillbrow was "grossly exaggerated".

"There are pockets of overcrowding but a Health Department survey shows occupancy in the area is not a great deal higher than otherwise expected.

"The problem is not overcrowding but neglect of buildings and lack of decent sanitation and living standards. Of 80 prosecutions recently, there was not a single one for overcrowding," he said.

There was a great deal of exploitation in Hillbrow where people were put into buildings not properly maintained and lifts and electric lights not working.

Complaints can be telephoned to Civil Defence, (011) 724-3248; and Sanitary Department, (011) 403-2626.

Oukasie restrictions are punitive – counsel

Pretoria Correspondent

Residents of Oukasie, the township near Brits where more than 5 000 people are threatened with removal, have brought an application against the Administrator of the Transvaal in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Yesterday, four residents — Mr Joseph Makana, Mrs Annah Maleka, Mr Kenneth Ranuga and Mr Daniel Mokami —. supported by many fellow-Oukasie residents came to Pretoria to fight the proclamation of the "emergency camp".

Mr Willem Cruywagen, then the Administrator of the Transvaal, who declared the emergency camp in 1988 in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, said at the time the emergency camp would accommodate homeless people of Portion 164 of the farm Roodekopjes or Zwartkopjes.

SET ASIDE

The application was launched for the setting aside of the decision to establish Oukasie as an emergency camp in terms of the Act and also asked for a declarator that the camp had not been established lawfully.

Counsel for the residents, Mr A Chaskalson, SC, said the Administrator had operated within the Act, but argued that the regulations made by the Administrator in respect of the emergency camp made a normal residential and social life become almost impossible.

The regulations were so restrictive, it was impossible to avoid the inference that the Administrator had deliberately tried to make life in Oukasie difficult.

The hearing continues.

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4-10/8/89.

'Kei party guests say police took pot-shots at them

By LOUISE FLANAGAN

RESIDENTS of Peelton, which was incorporated into the Ciskei a year ago, have accused Ciskei police of opening fire on guests at a party at the weekend.

The alleged shootings, in which no one was killed but people may have been injured, are the latest instance of police harassment of the Peelton community, which rejects incorporation.

At a press conference this week, residents said Ciskei police had arrived in the Nkqonkqweni village over the weekend, surrounded a house where a party was being held, ordered everyone out and opened fire.

As everyone was arrested, it is not clear how many were injured in the shooting. However, bloodstained clothing was later found in the house.

Residents said that despite a temporary interdict granted in November restraining Ciskei police, as well as current attempts to charge police with flouting the interdict, assaults were continuing.

The alleged attack comes only a month after Ciskei authorities gave a written undertaking in court not to act unlawfully in Nkqonkqweni until the contempt of court case was finalised.

The residents and their lawyers presented journalists with a 10-page list of Ciskei harassment of Peelton this year, ranging from police patrols and curfews to detentions and assaults.

Journalists were shown live ammunition, spent cartridges, teargas canisters and a Ciskei army beret found in their village over the past few weeks as further proof of harassment.

In one incident, Ciskei security police chief Brigadier B Ndevu allegedly told detainees that the army would be sent in and Nkqonkqweni would become "a bloodbath" if residents did not stop making trouble.

The South African ambassador to Ciskei, Chris van Aardt, this week accused Nkqonkqweni residents of harassing loyal Ciskei residents and announced that South Africans living in Ciskei would now get their pensions from the "homeland".

Residents have previously raised fears that Ciskei will use the payment of pensions as another method of control.

In response to a call from Nkqonkqweni residents for South African protection, Van Aardt said that since they lived in Ciskei they should by protected by Ciskei.

Local Democratic Party candidate Pat Rogers has hit out at South Africa's role.

"The South African government has abandoned its own people there," he said. "They just want to wash their hands of it." — Elnews

Despite promises, squatters must go

RESIDENTS of the Port Elizabeth squatter camp of Soweto this week prevented about 100 armed municipal police and Ibhayi City Council officials from taking building materials from seven shacks they had demolished.

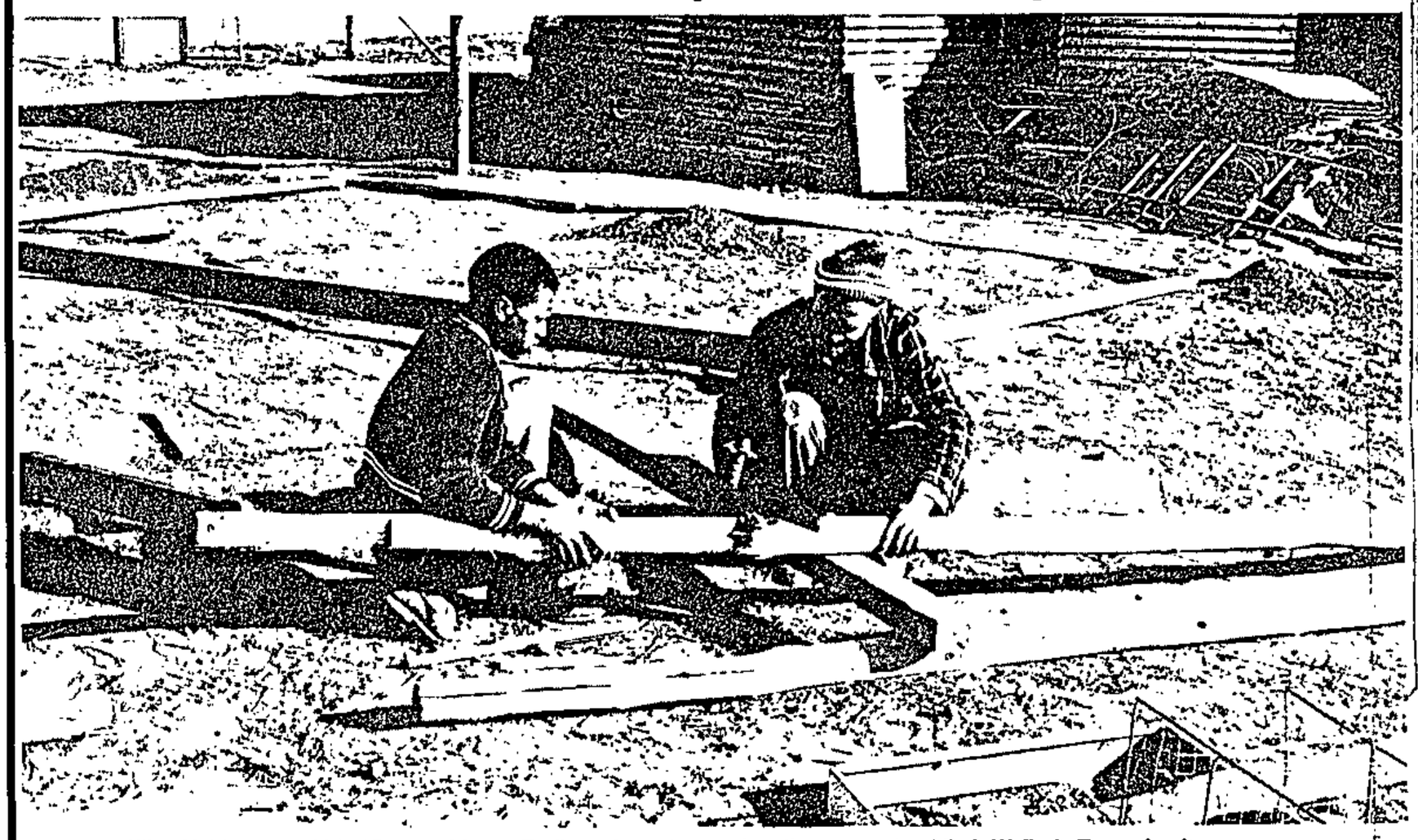
The municipal police were turned back by 300 residents in a gesture of support for the evicted families.

The council promised residents last week that it would not remove the squatters before a meeting had been held between the residents and the Ibhayi mayor, Mhlobo Jemsana, this week . The residents received 24-hour eviction notices the following day. The residents are opposed to being moved to the Silver Town shanty area.

The residents say 24 shacks in Silver Town, all occupied by victims of the forced removals, have been blown down by wind in the past week.

At the meeting this week between the mayor and the residents a compromise was forced and the council agreed not to move residents until the next meeting with Soweto residents committee. — PEN

Dawn. The family Mahlangu get up,



Squatter Elias Mahlangu and his 15-year-old son, Fezile, put saw to wood on the remnants of their Weiler's Farm shack

Ever moving, ever in trouble ... a week in the life of a squatter family

The story of the Mahlangu family is an all-too-typical one. The family has had many homes in the past 22 years, all iron shacks, and every time, just as they have settled down, they have been told to move on. Reporter **AUDREY BROWN** *spent a week living with the Mahlangus, a stay which ended in yet another eviction ...*

IT was cold and clear outside at 4am on Monday when Elizabeth Mahlangu woke her sickly husband and three teenage children to get on with the task of destroying their home.

They had done this often in the last 20 years, but the anguish this time was as real as it had been on the first occasion on a farm south-east of Johannesburg.

I stayed with the Mahlangu family for a week, sharing their life — and their hopes that this would be their last move.

A light drizzle on the day before the move had all of us standing outside, looking at the sky and hoping that it would subside. We went to bed at 8pm, and at 4am the alarm went off. Soon after, BabuMahlangu, the father of the house and Fezile, the only son left at home started hammering at their home, shaking his tardy younger sister, Barbara, out of bed.

Their mother, Elizabeth Mahlangu, brewed some tea to keep her diabetic husband going, and started packing the kitchen goods. She wrapped her crockery, which was given to her as wedding presents, in newspaper and packed it into boxes. Her ornaments, mostly presents from her children, received the same loving attention.

The sadness of the moment was concealed by the hustle and bustle and lightened by the occasional bit of humour as the shack slowly disintegrated. Fezile discovered Barbara's love-letters and threatened to read them out loud. MaMahlangu berated her daughters for not cleaning the house properly when long-lost articles emerged from behind furniture.

And neighbours, woken by the hammerings, came to help. The roof soon came off, and the pile of rusted corrugated iron grew as the skeleton of the shack emerged.

All too soon, furrows in the hard-packed clay were all that remained of shack E79. The Transvaal Provincial Administration truck arrived and their belongings were haphazardly thrown onto the back. We left Weiler's Farm on the back of the truck, holding on our laps the precious crockery, ready to be arranged in another kitchen. These little things are what made all the shacks of the last 22 years home for the Mahlangus.

For they have not had a home since 1967, only a series of temporary dwellings in one squatter camp after another.

On their last night at "Majassan", as the residents have named Weiler's Farm — after one of the former owners, who always wore a coat — the Mahlangus told me of the moves they had made over the past 22 years.

Their trek started in 1967 when the authorities threw them off a small farm south-east of Johannesburg. An application for a house went unanswered.

Elizabeth and Elias Mahlangu took their five young children to a relative's home in Soweto, while they carried on searching for another home where they could all stay together.

Home turned out to be another squatter camp — Ruspark, east of Johannesburg — but the rest promised by the name was not granted to the family. Three months later, their shack was broken down.

"We would just be told that we could not stay, with no explanation. Then we would break up our home and move to another spot," said Elizabeth Mahlangu.

They moved to MaMahlangu's parental home in the Magaliesburg where they stayed for a year, and in 1977 they moved to Stinkwater in Bophuthatswana.

Conditions were so bad — the name of the settlement comes from the lack of water in the area — that people were forced to move. "We had to use the same water to wash everything in the house, and then we would throw a bit of ash in it to clear it before using it all over again," they said.

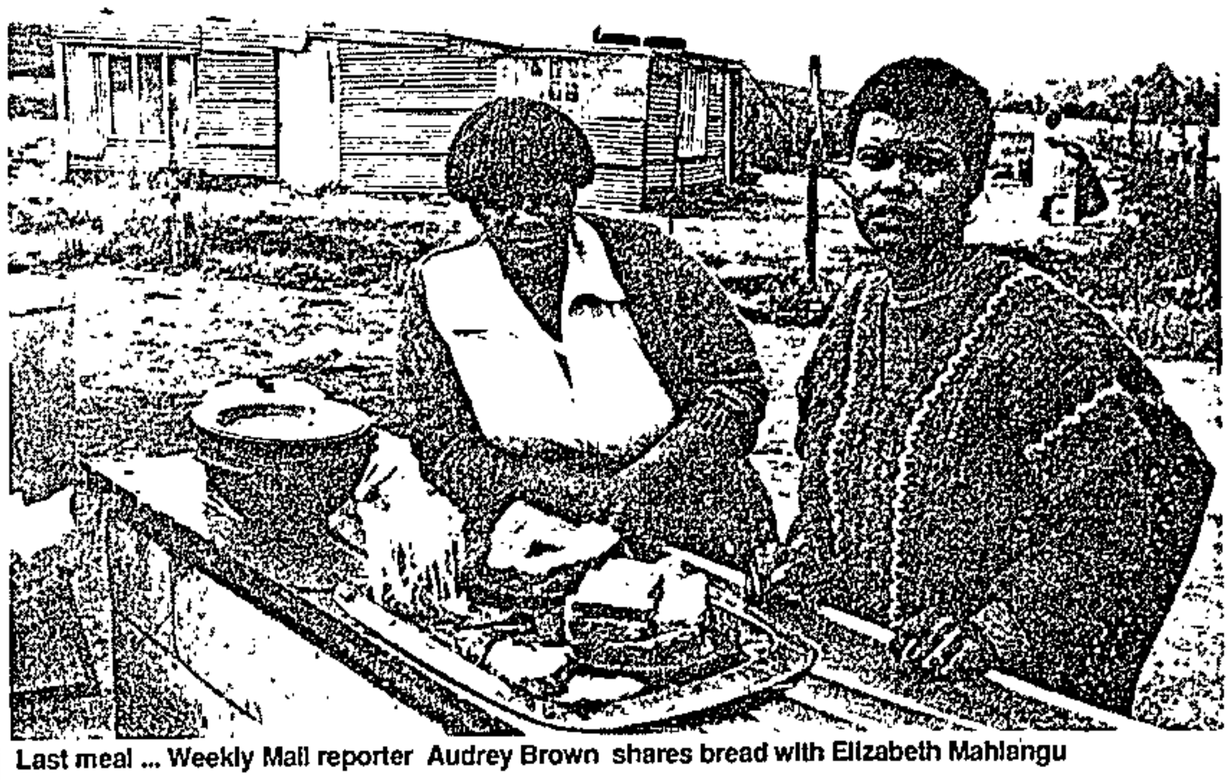
"When we got to Vlaklaagte No 1 in kwaNdebele we really thought it was to be our final resting place. We had moved there after hearing that a new camp was being opened. Someone took us there in a truck and left us in the middle of a bare veld. We made our homes from bricks that we made with our bare hands. We planted vegetables, and for the first time we felt we had a home."

Their newfound peace was shattered in 1986, when a vigilante group, Mbokodo (grinding-stone), started a campaign of nightly terror against the people at Vlaklaagte. Elizabeth Mahlangu and her family fell victim — one of her sons is still missing following a severe beating by the vigilantes.

They moved again — this time, to stand E79 on Weiler's Farm 30km south of Johannesburg.

Weiler's Farm has a typical Highveld setting — a plain covered with kakiebos surmounted by endless blue sky. The area is being developed, with coloured and Indian housing projects dotting the landscape like pastel bouquets.

Situated in the shadow of the Grasmere Plaza toll-booth, Weiler's Farm and other nearby squatter settlements create an interesting contrast with the controlled expansion. The settlement,



Last meal ... Weekly Mail reporter Audrey Brown shares bread with Elizabeth Mahlangu

p, get dressed, and smash the house down. Again.



Moving out ... TPA officials load up the Mahlangu's possessions

Pictures: ANNA ZIEMINSKI



Moving in ... Fezile Mahlangu and some neighbours carry the family goods into a temporary shelter

declared an emergency camp in 1987 after the community refused to be resettled, has the air of a rural village.

A long, tree-lined dirt road leads one into the camp, where pigs, chickens and children root around in large rubbish dumps. Huge blue-gum trees seal the impression of a rural village.

The Transvaal Provinicial Administration wants to resettle them at Orange Farm, a barren site 10km away, and many are taking up the offer. Their reasons are many and various.

Some fear that another killer in the mould of Barend Strydom — who killed a woman and wounded another in the settlement last year — may decide to use them as target practice. Others believe the South African Defence Force may "bulldoze" them out of their homes.

Some 350 families, a quarter of the community, have moved since March — despite the apparent permanence of the settlement, as evidenced by the vegetable gardens and the snow-white nappies fluttering on the lines.

My hosts at Weiler's Farm, Elizabeth and Elias Mahlangu, both in their mid-50s, were about to move from their three-roomed, windowless tin shack on stand E79 with three of their seven children.

The three eldest children, a daughter and two sons, live and work in Johannesburg. They were not aware that their parents were moving and I had to inform them as soon as I had access to a telephone. Another son disappeared in 1987.

Fezile, 15, Barbara, 13, Mavis, 12 and I shared a bedroom, while the parents slept in another. The largest room served as a kitchen-cum-living room.

The shack was made of tin, reinforced with cardboard and tattered cloth to keep out the cold. The kitchen was furnished with a coal stove, a couch with one broken leg, a table and four wooden chairs and a sink under which a plastic bucket had been placed to catch waste water.

The bedrooms were very small — two single beds filled one bedroom while the second room, even smaller, contained only one bed. Fezile slept on the linoleum-covered floor while I was there.

The walls were covered with religious posters, one of which read "Bless this house oh Lord we pray."

Despite the impending move, the Mahlangu family carried on with their daily routine. The children were on holiday when I was there. Despite this, they were woken at a very early hour to do chores around the house and yard.

Fezile would disappear with his friends after doing the bare minimum in the yard. MaMahlangu would complain bitterly about this, and was forever sending us out to call him from his games.

She would warn him to keep away from the youths gambling in huddles around the camp. The main form of recreation for them was playing dice and *zweepie*, a money game in which players have to bet heads or tails after a coin, usually a *zuka* (five cent piece, is spun and covered with a grubby hand. We often found Fezile in one of these huddles, and his sisters extracted various deals in return for their silence.

The girls remained within calling distance, as they were required to help with the preparation of food and other household chores that their mother seemed to concoct during the day to keep them from wandering off. One would often hear MaMahlangu yelling for them across the open veld where other shacks used to stand.

I would sit outside in the warm sun with the parents and neighbours, listening to their reminiscences about other places they had lived, while toddlers played noisy games in the big, clean swept yard. The young women, mostly the wives of migrant workers from the Transkei, would discuss their children, their pregnancies and their experiences in the Transvaal.

The question of whether to move or not to move was constantly broached, with everyone expressing mixed feelings. The fear of right-wing attacks was the most immediate. One of MaMahlangu's friends, Nomvuyo, a young woman from Lady Frere, lived three doors away from the house where Strydom went on his "oefenlopie".

We would sit outside until the afternoon grew cooler, and then preparation for the evening would start. First, Fezile would be extricated from his friends to chop wood and bring in coal for a fire. The girls and I would go off to the "small shop" to buy tinned fish or "pieces" — scraps of pork — bread and milk.

Usually, Barbara cooked, but in the time I was there, I cooked in exchange for her doing the dishes. MaMahlangu would devote herself to preparing the special diet her diabetic husband needed.

The family survives on contributions from the eldest children and BabuMahlangu's small disability grant — he also suffers from tuberculosis. He had to give his sister's address in Soweto to qualify for the award, as Weiler's Farm was not a residential area, the family told me, and such grants were not paid out there.

BabuMahlangu used to work for a printing company until he fell ill. MaMahlangu has not worked since 1969 when a doctor declared her unfit to work because of high blood pressure and angina.

The evenings were spent quietly by the warm coal-burning stove, listening to stories on Radio Bantu. The favourites were *Mama Zala* at 7.45, *Idla Izitelo Zakho* at 8.15 and *Modiso wa Tempele* at 8.45. Fezile would lord it over the radio, telling us all to be quiet. He filled me in on the story so far, and I was soon engrossed in the schemings of the evil "Mama Zala".

We usually went to bed after this, around 9pm. It was difficult to read because the light from the paraffin lamp disturbed those who wanted to rest, and the space in the kitchen was used to store the wheelbarrow and gardening tools.

The fire would warm the house, but late at night one could feel the cold gnawing at the edges of the room. Late-night visits to the loo were not lightly undertaken, as the toilet was outside, and one had to be desperate to venture out.

The family's fears — of right-wing violence, security force action and victimisation by the kwaNdebele police — were thrown into relief when a car stopped briefly outside the shack one night. As the light from its headlamps filtered through the cracks in the tin walls, they sat petrified.

Harassment at the hands of kwaNdebele police had not stopped, the family said. Until recently, they told me, policemen used to come around asking neighbours whether they'd seen the missing son.

They were hoping the harassment would stop once they reached their new home, they said.

Health care was a factor in their decision to move, as they had been promised access to a doctor at Orange Farm. The problem of interrupted schooling for growing children was another consideration.

But the most compelling reason was the desire for a permanent home. As BabuMahlangu put it: "I am tired of being chased away. All I want now is a place where I am allowed to stay by law. If this is not my last move, I'll spend the rest of my days sleeping like a rabbit — waiting to be chased by dogs to another place."



First night at Orange Farm ... the Mahlangu family keep warm around a brazier as the sun sets

Our first glimpse of Orange Farm was discouraging. Looking around the plot on which she would build her new home, MaMahlangu tried to reassure her children that soon this would feel like home.

After all, it is not the first time they have had to make new friends, a new life out of a barren patch of land.

Judgment on Oukasie tomorrow

By SOL MORATHI (310) Cover 6/8/89

JUDGMENT will be given in the Pretoria Supreme Court tomorrow in an application brought by residents of Oukasie against the Administrator of the Transvaal, Danie Hough.

The four Oukasie residents who brought the application – Joseph Makama, Anna Maleka, Kenneth Ranuga and David Mokami – dispute the position held by Hough that they are "homeless" because they live in an emergency camp.

They also want Judge Van Dijkhorst to set aside the proclamation declaring Oukasie an emergency camp.

7/8/89

More than 1 000 squeeze together on 1 industrial plot

John Mashaba, a builder, left his home in Bushbuckridge because people did not pay for work. He has come to Sandton to find his pot of gold, reports **WINNIE GRAHAM**

Like Dick Whittington who went to London because he heard the streets were paved with gold, so John Mashaba (37) came to Sandton some months ago.

He and his wife, Fancy, arrived in the town with only their dreams. They live in a shantytown in Wynberg, within sight of the glitzy Sandton City, sharing a shack with his brothers and several others.

Their little home is separated from South Africa's richest residential area by the old Pretoria road. On one side, the wealthy have space to spread themselves in huge mansions and parklike grounds.

On the other, squatters are crowded on to a piece of land no bigger than the average Sandton garden. Sandton town council officials claim about 1 000 people are living on the industrial site. The residents say there are 8 000.

Mr and Mrs Mashaba left their four children in Bushbuckridge to come to Sandton where, they hope, they will find their own pot of gold...

Heartbreaking decision

Their decision to leave their home and children, to be looked after by relatives, was a heartbreaking one.

A builder by trade, Mr Mashaba had no difficulty finding work in the Eastern Transvaal. The problem was money. Often grossly underpaid, he and his family lived from hand to mouth.

Sandton, he heard from somebody, was a rich town where people paid a man.

The Sandton shack is unbelievably small, even for one man. Yet John and his wife share it with others. Sharing, of course, is a way of life in the black community. Everybody must make sacrifices. John and Fancy Mashaba were accepted into the confined quarters and they accept the total lack of privacy. After all, it's only temporary, and at least they have a roof.

Now they have a more pressing problem: to find work.

Mr Mashaba's luck has fluctuated. Sometimes he finds "piece" jobs. He has no way of advertising his services.

Neither has Mrs Mashaba found a permanent job. Yet, somehow, they manage, and they live in hope.

"Something good can happen at any time," Mr Mashaba said.

That hope flourishes at all in the squatter camp is amazing. Sandton council officials describe conditions there as "appalling". The corrugated iron and hardboard shacks, erected cheek by jowl, are within sight of Sandton City.

It is something of an experience to visit the over-crowded little "town". The smell is the first thing that hits the visitor. It is obvious there are no toilets.

The little road into the shantytown is a quagmire, a mingling of mud and filth, but inside life seems more orderly.

Women do their washing in tin tubs while their toddlers play close by. Some sweep the dirt "road" with grass brooms. The slops are emptied into a furrow.

Typically one morning last week the shantytown was a hive of activity with women making beds, shaking out blankets, scrubbing and cleaning. Here and there a radio played.

A man approached and introduced himself as Themibinikosi Ndebele. He said he was a member of the camp's committee.

We walked down the narrow road, passed a group of men playing "murabaraba". At a nearby shack a mother had put her baby on a small mat in the sun.

We went into a tiny "yard" where a dog was fastened to a pole and then entered a corrugated iron room fitted with a comfortable old lounge suite. Our host invited us to be seated.

The people in the Wynberg squatter camp, he said, had elected a committee to run the "town". The committee was there to see to any problems which might arise, including the cleanliness of the camp and the safety of the people.

Most have jobs

"Most of the people who live here have jobs in Wynberg or Sandton," he added. "They do not want to move."

Mr Ndebele said the camp had been started three years earlier when 30 families moved to the vacant site.

He explained that the committee organised the cleaning of the shantytown, with women taking turns to "sweep" and clear away any litter. The Sandton municipality, he added, removed the garbage. He pointed to a huge pile awaiting removal. Children went to school in Alexandra.

What was their greatest need?

Water and toilets, he said. People bought water at 50 cents a bucket from Alexandra. Most of the "squatters", in fact, came from Alexandra.

Mr Mashaba wants to stay in Sandton. This, after all, is where the work and money is. He has an entrepreneur's outlook: he sees his present cirumstances as something of a temporary setback.

→ cont

Urbanisation



The Star 7/08/89

310

Shantytown: Sandton's DP council helpless

The squatter camp at a Wynberg industrial site has been described as a time bomb. WINNIE GRAHAM reports on the DP-controlled Sandton council's problems in finding alternative accommodation for the squatters.

The squatter community which built a shantytown on an industrial site in Wynberg, Sandton, has the local DP-controlled town council "with its back to the wall".

Sandton officials admit they do not know what to do about the people who moved on to the site "about 18 months ago" and now refuse to leave.

Sandton industrialists are putting pressure on the council to "solve the problem" but, officials claim, that although they have done their "darndest", they are no nearer to a solution. Estimates of the number of people living on the campsite vary from 1 000 to 8 000.

The head of the department of Environmental Affairs, Mr Corrie du Plessis, said: "We need help. People are living in the most appalling conditions. I hate to see human beings in such squalid surroundings. The place is not fit for pigs. To make matters worse, the shantytown is a major health hazard and a fire trap."

The squatters say they have been living on the vacant site for three years. Mr du Plessis, on the other hand, says it was just 18 months ago that 80 families simply erected shacks on the land — and stayed.

Time bomb

Mr du Plessis said the people had settled there illegally — the land is zoned for industry. His department has asked the Provincial Administration to provide alternative accommodation.

"About a month ago, the council made a bus available and took the people to Orange Farm, where site-and-service stands are available," Mr du Plessis said. "The reaction was positive. People liked the area and seemed pleased to move there. Just three or four days later they changed their minds."

He said if Sandton had the land, it would make it available to the people but the council did not have property it could use.

Mr du Plessis described the squatter camp as a "time bomb." The Health Department, he said, had two bulk containers on site to remove rubbish.

The only toilet facilities in the camp were "long-drops", built by the people. These, he added, were totally inadequate. The Sandton fire brigade had visited the site and reported that in the event of a fire the place would be a blazing inferno within minutes. There was no way in which fire engines would be able to get in.

"We cannot let them live under these conditions," he said. "We need help in solving the problem."

Silhouetted against the Sandton skyline, new Sandtonians while away the hours playing cards.

New judgment sets aside restrictions on Oukasie

310

The Times 8/86

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A Pretoria Supreme Court judge yesterday set aside the Administrator of the Transvaal's decision in May last year declaring the settlement of Oukasie, outside Brits, an emergency camp.

Mr Justice K van Dijkhorst also instructed the administrator to pay the cost of the application brought by four Oukasie residents, headed by Mr Joseph Makama. He granted the administrator's request for leave to appeal against the ruling.

The judgment means sharp increases in rent of almost 70% and tight controls on residents will be lifted. People outside Oukasie will be allowed to visit residents without requiring permits. Home renovations can be made without official permission.

About 6 000 people are living in Oukasie — an area settled more than 50 years ago — in defiance of authorities' attempts to move them to Letlhabile.

LATE EDITION

Govt's Oukasie plans scuttled

By Peter Fabricius and McKeed Kotlolo

Government plans to resettle more than 5 000 residents of the Oukasie township outside Brits have received a major setback through a Supreme Court decision yesterday.

Mr Justice K van Dijkhorst, in his judgment in Pretoria yesterday, set aside a proclamation made by the Administrator of the Transvaal in May last year declaring the area an emergency camp. The judgment gives residents time to mount a new campaign to stay where they are.

Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Mr Gene Louw said today he would not comment on the case until he had studied it.

Residents of Oukasie vowed at a report-back meeting attended by more than 2 000 people last night to fight their pending resettlement to Letlhabile township.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Johannesburg Legal Resources Centre, who gave a report-back on yesterday's judgment by Mr Justice van Dijkhorst, told the meeting the victory against the declaration was not for the four applicants alone "but for the whole community of Oukasie".

A member of the Brits Action Committee, Mr Leonard Brown, urged the crowd to fight for the development of Oukasie.

The Government was urged today to give an assurance to the people of Oukasie that they will be granted permanent occupation of their settlement. The appeal was made by Mr Peter Soal, Democratic Party spokesman on homelands and administration of black affairs.

DECISION WELCOMED

The court ruling means various extraordinary restrictions imposed on the settlement residents will be lifted.

Mr Soal said: "We welcome this decision because the whole Oukasie saga was nothing more than an attempt by the Government to implement apartheid."

Mr Andrew Gerber, Conservative Party MP for Brits, who has previously called for Oukasie to be removed, said today that he would prefer not to comment at length until the appeal against yesterday's decision had been heard.

● See Page 2.

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'Emergency camp' ruling overturned

Oukasie residents get court reprieve

Pretoria Correspondent

Residents of Oukasie — the township near Brits where more than 5 000 people are threatened with removal — yesterday won an application in the Pretoria Supreme Court against the decision of the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, to proclaim their settlement an "emergency camp".

Four Oukasie residents, headed by Mr Joseph Makana, brought the action against the proclamation of Oukasie as an emergency camp, and asked for a declaration that the camp had not been established lawfully or validly.

Mr Justice van Dijkhorst gave judgment setting aside the Administrator's decision to establish the emergency camp.

The regulations concerning the Brits emergency camp as proclaimed in the *Government Gazette*, were also declared null and void.

Costs of the applications by the residents were referred to the Administrator.

Homeless people

Mr Willem Cruywagen, the then Administrator of the Transvaal who declared the emergency camp last year in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, said at the time the emergency camp would accommodate homeless people of Portion 164 of the farm Roodekopjes or Zwartkopjes.

The Oukasie township was declared an emergency squatter camp in the *Government Gazette* on April 26 1988, in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

The counsel for the Administrator, Mr I W B de Villiers, SC, successfully applied for leave to appeal to the Appellate Division.

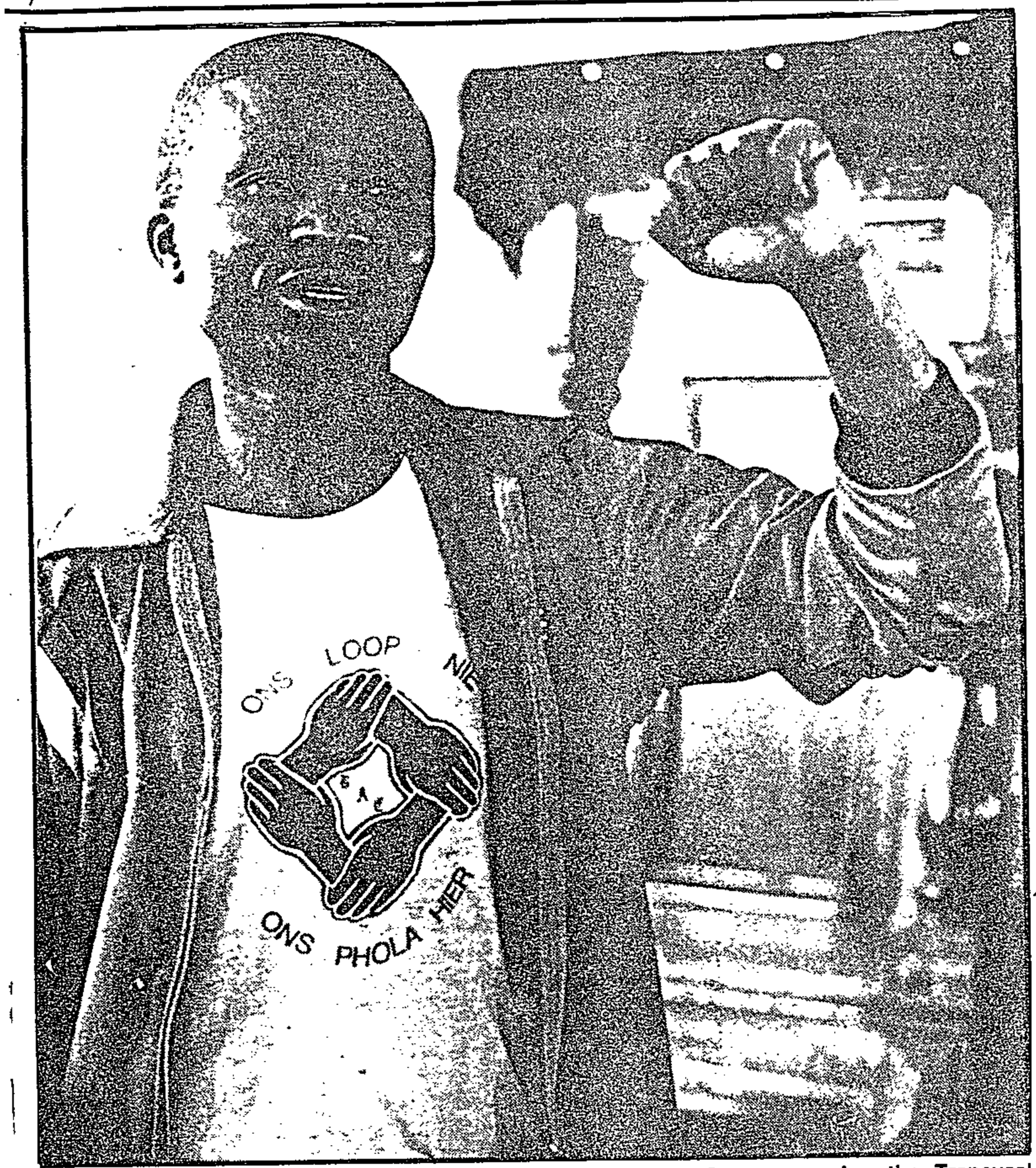
Mr Justice van Dijkhorst said this particular case was of great public importance and had to be heard by the Appellate Division.

● Four excited elderly residents of Oukasie yesterday thanked "God for being with us and our legal team".

Mr Kenneth Ranoka, Mrs Anna Maleka, Mr Joseph Makana and Mr Daniel Mokaneng brought the action.

After Mr Justice van Dijkhorst gave his judgment setting aside the decision, the applicants smiled and shook hands.

Murder trial told of sexual favours



An Oukasie community leader, Mr P Meme, leads the township folk in prayer and song at yesterday's service to celebrate their victory in the Supreme Court reversing the Transvaal Provincial Administration decision to declare the village an emergency camp.

Voices ring out as Oukasie says 'cheers'

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

A THOUSAND VOICES sang a thousand cheers in Oukasie yesterday when the people of this mid-western Transvaal township held a prayer service to celebrate their victory over the State's decision to turn their village into an emergency camp.

Overseas visitors from the Canadian Government, field workers and members of the Press were lauded and thanked for their support throughout the campaign to save the township.

The community was a fine example of what can be achieved through unity, a field worker for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), Ms Lydia Kompe said.

"Oukasie is going nowhere," Kompe said. "One day we will flush our toilets and turn on taps like people everywhere in the world. This is a right and not a favour –they're doing us," she said.

The legal representative for the community, Mr Geof Budlender, made a short and succinct speech. "It is not difficult to defend a community like Oukasie's," he said. "Their unity and courage is inspiring."

Budlender also read a statement from a multinational wherein the company expressed solidarity with the people of Oukasie and pledged further support in its fight to stay in the township.

The Transvaal Provincial Administrator has appealed against the decision. "We will go to Bloemfontein, and we will celebrate again," Budlender assured the people.

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Gerald Morkel

Oukasie folk vow to fight

(310 South)

From MONO BADELA

JOHANNESBURG. — Residents of Oukasie, a township near Brits, vowed this week to fight the pending resettlement of more than 5 000 people at Letlhabile.

The decision was taken at a report-back meeting attended by more than 2 000 residents at the local Dutch Reformed Church, following a successful Supreme Court application by four local residents against the proclamation of their area as an emergency camp.

The proclamation was passed by the Administrator of the Transvaal last April.

Speakers at the report-back meeting included members of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC), who urged the local residents to fight for unity and freedom of the township.

Civil rights lawyer Geoff Budlender of the Johannesburg Legal Resources Centre told the meeting that the victory against the proclamation was not for the four applicants alone, "but for the whole community of Oukasie".

He urged the chanting crowd to approach the authorities to re-establish Oukasie and develop it.

People who left Oukasie for Letlhabile during the forced removals are now trying to return because they cannot afford the high monthly rentals in Letlhabile.

10-16/8/89

310

Kliptown wars

4 are killed

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE

SQUATTERS at a camp in Kliptown, Soweto, are fleeing from the area after faction fighting broke out leaving four people dead and several others injured.

Those left behind live in fear of another battle "unless police intervene" to save the situation.

The names of those who died in last week's battles could not be confirmed but residents claimed the men could be members of a group called the Russians.

According to residents, a number of families have fled the camp to settle elsewhere in Soweto.

A police spokesman, Captain Joseph Ngobeni, said he was not aware of the incident because the matter had not been rep-orted to the police. He said investigations could only be made if relatives of the dead and injured reported the matter to their nearest police station.

Several shacks were deserted and a few others had been demolished when *Sowetan* visited the area.

Residents said two groups "turned the camp into a battlefield" for hours last Wednesday.

A 40-year-old man who withheld his name for fear of victimisation, said he heard several shots fired and later saw a man with stab wounds. He said he could identify some of the men who took part in the fight because they had called at his shack earlier and robbed him of R180.

He said the money was said to be protection fee.

She has since left for a safer place in another township and only comes during the day to check her belongings.

Squatter families evicted

Sowetan 18/8/89

310

ABOUT 600 families have been evicted from two squatter camps on the East Rand townships of Katlehong and Tokoza and are being resettled in Rietfontein, near Germiston.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

The removals started on Wednesday.

The families are from Dunusa in Tokoza and Crossroads, Katlehong. There are more than 12 000 families living in the squatter camps.

The removals were sanctioned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Negotiations between the TPA and the two councils for the evictions started two months ago and a decision was taken early this month to remove the families.

The squatters are complaining about lack of services and transport in Rietfontein. Most work in Alberton and Germiston.

Spokesmen for both the Katlehong and Tokoza town councils yesterday said the squatters were being removed because the land they had built their shacks on could not be developed.

"Houses cannot be built there," they said.

Yesterday workmen were still busy installing communal taps and constructing roads.

The deputy chairman of the Tokoza council's management committee, Mr Abraham Mzizi, said the families would be provided with portable toilets until a sewerage system was provided.

"This will take sometime," he said.

Only families with valid permits issued by his council would be accommodated in the new area. The same procedure applies in Katlehong.

Both councils said people without permits would have to find their own accommodation.

Mzizi said the local taxi association had agreed to provide transport in Rietfontein.

A spokeman for the Katlehong council said the removals were in "full swing" yesterday and that people were happy to be resettled in the new area. "We do not have prblems here," he said.

Be innovative, big business is urged

Talks planned on land for squatters

Star 21/8/89. 310

By Winnie Graham

The Government has asked top bankers, financiers, industrialists and building contractors to help solve the rapidly escalating squatter problem.

There are now 104 173 informal settlements housing more than one million people in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) area and thousands more are arriving almost daily in search of jobs and a better life.

Mr John Mavuso, MEC, confronted with this massive urbanisation problem, said this week he had arranged "heart-to-heart talks" in September with big business to discuss future land needs for squatters.

Ceiling no more than R7 000

Companies would be asked for innovative ideas in providing "really low-cost housing" for the poor. The ceiling for low-cost housing, he added, was "no more than R7 000".

Mr Mavuso said a number of contractors had already built showhouses in this category at Orange Farm — a new township south of Johannesburg where land was available for squatters.

"Enough land had been identified to cover immediate needs, but it is necessary to provide for the future," he added.

Mr Mavuso said the Government was always being asked to identify land for township use, but when it had done so in the area west of Soweto, land speculators had "climbed in and pushed prices sky high".

"We have to come up with another formula for finding cheaper land to address the needs of people in the low-income groups," he said.

"I am not concerned with the upper and middle classes. Private enterprise will look after their needs. I am, however, concerned with the low-income groups. There is no cheap land available and prices keep escalating."

Mr Mavuso did not say where land for black housing was being considered. Plans to build an upmarket township at Norweto, north of Johannesburg, were shelved a few years ago when local residents objected.

He said he had asked the Department of Land Use to arrange an "indaba" to ease the situation.

He stressed that government had moved away from the old idea of building houses for people. Instead, land with rudimentary services would initially be available on 99-year leasehold and would later be sold on freehold as soon as the town was properly established.

"At Orange Farm stands are available at R500 each, but with the price of land soaring it will not be possible to keep stands at this price."

Mr Mavuso said the squatters were not the responsibility of the Provincial Administration. Rather, local authorities who allowed "squatters in their backyard" were responsible for finding a solution to the problem.

"If these people have to be moved, it is the local authority's responsiblity to negotiate for their removal."

Case pending

The Act had been amended so that anyone who encouraged squatting could be charged. For this reason, a case was pending against the four owners of a farm at Tamboekiesfontein where "farming with people" was taking place.

Mr Mavuso said that in terms of the Government's housing policy, it was possible for farm owners to apply for the establishment of townships on their property. There were, however, certain procedures to be followed.

"It is our policy to promote private home ownership. The best we can do through the country's local authorities is to assist individuals to acquire land and leave them to develop."

Squatters 'eager' to move

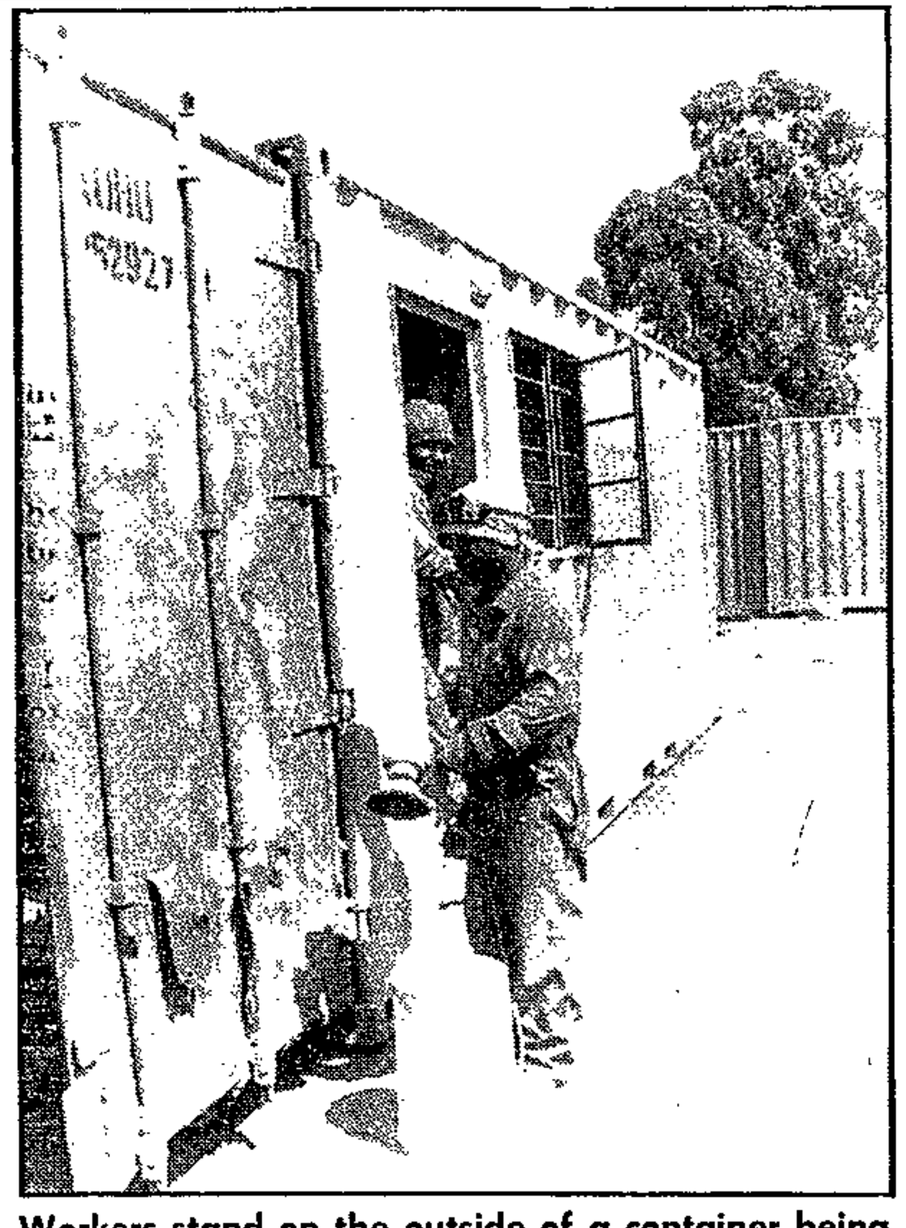
Star 1/9/89

The removal of squatters from Tamboekiesfontein, Katlehong and Tokoza to Rietfontein was going well, the Transvaal MEC charged with Housing and Community Development, Mr John Mavuso, said in Pretoria yesterday.

Rietfontein is situated on the south-eastern side of Katlehong, between Heidelberg and Germiston.

Mr Mavuso said the squatters would be able to settle permanently and enjoy better living conditions in Rietfontein. He said they were eager to move.

Eventually, 5700 erven would be available for residential use. — Sapa. (310)



Workers stand on the outside of a container being converted into a home. The container weighs two-and-a-half tons and can easily be loaded by crane on to a truck for removal.
● Picture by Peter Mogaki.

Shipping containers used as 'centres'

Bid to solve rural needs

By Sue Valentine

One solution to the desperate need for clinics, audio-visual resource centres and even housing in rural areas lies in converting shipping containers to meet these needs.

For some time now, Mr John Welch of St Anthony's Anglican Church, in collaboration with Mr Ivan Kinsey and Mr Baboo Mayet of Casalee Cargo, have been converting containers into resource centres, church halls, clinics and even homes.

Illiterate

"In rural regions where much of the population is illiterate, encouraging people to read in order to inform and educate themselves is futile," says Mr Welch.

"By joining two large containers we can construct a hall or cinema which can seat 160 people.

"Other containers are being used as libraries and resource centres with television and videos."

A large double container complete with screen, projector, generator and ventilation costs about R30 000, says Mr Kinsey. Setting up a clinic with a consulting room at one end of the container and a dispensary on the other costs about R18 000.

These clinics — staffed by one nurse in the dispensary and two others attending patients — serve between 400 and 600 patients daily in the various rural areas where they have been established.

They are also being used in squatter camps such as Tokoza.

Another use for the containers is to convert them into homes. A division welded inside with a sliding door separates the sleeping area from the rest.

The container's doors, which comprise a wall of the room, can be opened out. An awning of shade-netting attached above these doors offers a further area under which people can sit.

"At least if the bulldozers come in and squatters are forced to move they can take their home with them. It weighs about two-and-a-half tons and can be loaded easily on to a truck by a small crane," says Mr Welch.

"I rely on the embassies for support," says Mr Welch. "The Americans and British have bought several re-modelled containers and donated them to various rural communities."



Innovative container converter Mr John Welch stands inside two joined containers that can be used as a cinema, church or community hall.
● Picture by Peter Mogaki.

Stw 15/9/89 310

Squatters moving to Orange Farm

3 000 families agree to leave Mshenguville

By Winnie Graham

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

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

"This is not a forced removal," he stressed. "Many of the people have already paid for a site at Orange Farm and are looking forward to living in a more comfortable environment."

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

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

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

Railway station

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

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



The shacks come down as the squatters prepare to move to Orange Farm in the Vaal.

Sowetan 19/9/89

Move begins

• From Page 1

While there are more than 3 000 families in Mshenguville camp, "only those residents who want to move will be moved," a municipal worker said.

A spokesman for the community confirmed "the people were happy with the move." By early yesterday a dozen municipal trucks were moving into the dusty shanty town.

Children danced. Women ululated and pranced proudly with their possessions on their shoulders while a handful of white men filmed sections of the squatter camp.

Amidst the imminent move, a gaily coloured dwelling stood secure and tidy while the homeowner - if one can call her that - swept the loose soil in her yard into a river of effluent that runs around the camp.

It was also business as usual for the "rent a loo" company which services the portable toilets in the camp. The company's service truck shuffled alongside removal vans making an occasional stop at the blue structures...

ON THE MOVE

Sowetan 19/9/89.

A new life begins for Mshenguville people

SOWETAN Reporter

RESIDENTS of Mshenguville yesterday started their big move from the squatter camp to the 1000 plots secured for them earlier this year at Orange Farm in the Vaal by the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkwanazi.

• To page 2

Sowetan has a new telephone number and it is 474-0128

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

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Moving in . . . This is the new home of Mr John Ndaba, his wife, Jeanette, and their six children. The family moved to the R500 plot on Monday and appeared relaxed outside their dwelling yesterday. Among their belongings were several chickens.

● Picture by Jacoob Ryklife.

Squatters get a new lease on life

By Montshiwa Moroke

Families being moved from the Mshenguville squatter camp in Soweto to begin a new life at Orange Farm, about 50 km south of Johannesburg, said yesterday they were happy — except for the lack of toilet facilities.

The trek started on Monday when the Soweto Council assisted more 12 families to move from the squalid and the overcrowded area.

Yesterday, trucks continued to carry more families and their belongings to the open veld, near Evaton, that will become their new home.

The area was a hive of activity as the families arrived, and immediately began erecting their shack dwellings.

Already there are several "spaza" shops in another established shack dwelling nearby.

All the families The Star interviewed expressed relief at having moved from Mshenguville, which had become a sore in their lives.

Mrs Jeanette Ndaba, a mother of six, said she disliked Msheguville because of its filth and the lack of adequate toilet facilities.

"Here I feel satisfied because I feel I have a right to live here. We are at last going to build a home of our own for our children. The plots are bigger than where we come from and it is also airy here," Mrs Ndaba said.

Domestic worker, Ms Suzan Ncala, said: "We like this place. There is space and there is more water available than from where we came.

"It was so miserable at Mshenguville that many times when I returned from work I felt like running away. The place was too crowded. It was filthy and an unbearable smell was present all the time. We used to wake up with a headache because of the smell," said Ms Ncala.

310

SQUATTER RIP-OFF

TWO men appeared before a Johannesburg magistrate yesterday on charges of illegally selling sites and accepting money from squatters at Mshenguville in Soweto.

Several other cases, two of them involving Soweto councillors, will be heard in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court in the next two months.

The councillors involved are out on bail and will be appearing on October 3.

Mr Michael Mbalekelwa Mazibuko (49) was found guilty in court yesterday and sentenced to one year in jail or a fine of R1000 while the other, Mr Siphiwe Madondo, was warned to appear today.

Both men were charged with accepting large sums of money from squatters in Mshenguville between late last year and May this year.

Mazibuko, who originally faced ten counts totalling R1 274, was convicted of accepting a sum of R355 from two residents. The state withdrew eight charges as the complainants failed to give evidence.

An investigating officer in the case said the Soweto municipal police had to be called to safeguard the witnesses who testified. Other witnesses withdrew saying they were being intimidated. The officer said one of the witnesses was present at court but declined to testify because she had been threatened her shack would be "burned".



A "controlled" emergency camp in Soweto. Homeless people in Soweto are hiring small plots of ground for R25, where they can erect a shelter of their choice, but may not overstep the boundaries.

Mushrooming squatter camps pose vast problem

310

STAR 21/9/89

By Winnie Graham

More people are living in shacks and informal settlements within the Greater Soweto area than elsewhere on the Reef.

Since the movement of people from rural areas to cities gathering momentum a few years ago, more than two million have settled on the Witwatersrand. Squatter camps have sprung up all over the area.

But, said Dr John Mortimer, chief executive of the Witwatersrand Central Regional Services Council (WCRSC), nowhere had more people settled than in Diepmeadow, Soweto and Dobsonville.

Dismissing claims that squatters were "people nobody wanted", he said the black cities had gone out of their way to accommodate the homeless.

While many informal settlements like Mshenguville had developed, the Soweto Council had set aside several areas, similar to caravan camps, for people wanting to erect "informal" homes. Here proper stormwater drainage, toilet facilities, ablution blocks, roads and lighting were being provided.

"These are controlled emergency camps," Dr Mortimer said. "Some existing informal settlements, such as the Fred Clarke camp, have been upgraded to provide people with basic facilities."

He said the CWRSC had allocated R2,3 million to provide the camps with basic facilities.

The Soweto City Council, however, was not willing to upgrade Mshenguville because it was built on land than was within the 50-year floodline, was under pylons and on public open space.

The people who live in the "emergency camps", pay R25 a month for the hire of a site (about 50 sq m in extent) and may erect a shelter with whatever materials they chose.

Little water, no sewage, no paving or electricity but ...

'At least we're breathing fresh air'

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

THE Mshenguville squatters who are being moved to Orange Farm, a dust pan almost forty kilometres from Johannesburg, appear to be happy: "At last we're breathing fresh air," Mrs Beauty Tshabalala (45), said this week.

But it is not that simple, said another resident, who refused to be named. A single fare to Johannesburg by bus is R3.60, a taxi ride costs R3.00.

A stroll through the dusty streets reveals the odd tap - one for five families - no stormwater drainage, paving or electricity, and a railway station that's two kilometres away across the bushveld.

"There is no provision for sewage disposal - which will become a health hazard in the rainy season," she said.

While the residents are ambivalent, Soweto municipal trucks continue bussing in people with their belongings.

Rudimentary shelters are erected as rapidly as the galvanised metal sheets are offloaded.

A single plot costs R500, with a monthly service charge of R24. The Mshenguville arrivals join a four-year old community which initially came from Wheeler's Farm.

There is a shadow of an infrastructure in a tiny clinic, a tin schoolhouse and a scatterling of spaza shops. And everything possible has been done to ameliorate the conditions at Orange Farm.

In the old section, the settlers have erected semi-permanent homes of brick and mortar with vague outlines of gardens - or at least a demarcated piece of land with the number of the abode proudly displayed.

A couple of settlers who arrived in 1975 have erected a two-storey wooden structure and painted it in motley shades of pastel pink, purple and blue. Mr Billy Makhaza (38) and Mr Abraham Tsime (39) run a spaza shop from the bottom level with a bedroom above. Attached to the structure is a spacious home made of, well, tin and wood.

The feeling in Orange Farm is that in a couple of years the place will be a booming township. Entrepreneurs are said to be "looking at buying up plots and reselling them at higher prices later," another source said.

Meanwhile, those who have accepted the move from the effluent-riddled Mshenguville are pleased they have "more space (they can call their own) and fresh air", according to Mrs Joyce Khoza who works in Cresus and feels she received a fair deal.



Building a home from scratch. Mrs Joyce Khoza thinks she's been given a fair deal, being dumped almost 40 kilometres from Johannesburg on a peice of land with barely an infrastructure.

Pic: ISMAIL LAGARDIEN



Little Carol Tshabalala faces a lifetime of uncertainty on this dusty plain called Orange Farm where her family is erecting a home. The Tshabalala family arrived here from Mshenguville on Tuesday.

Pic: ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

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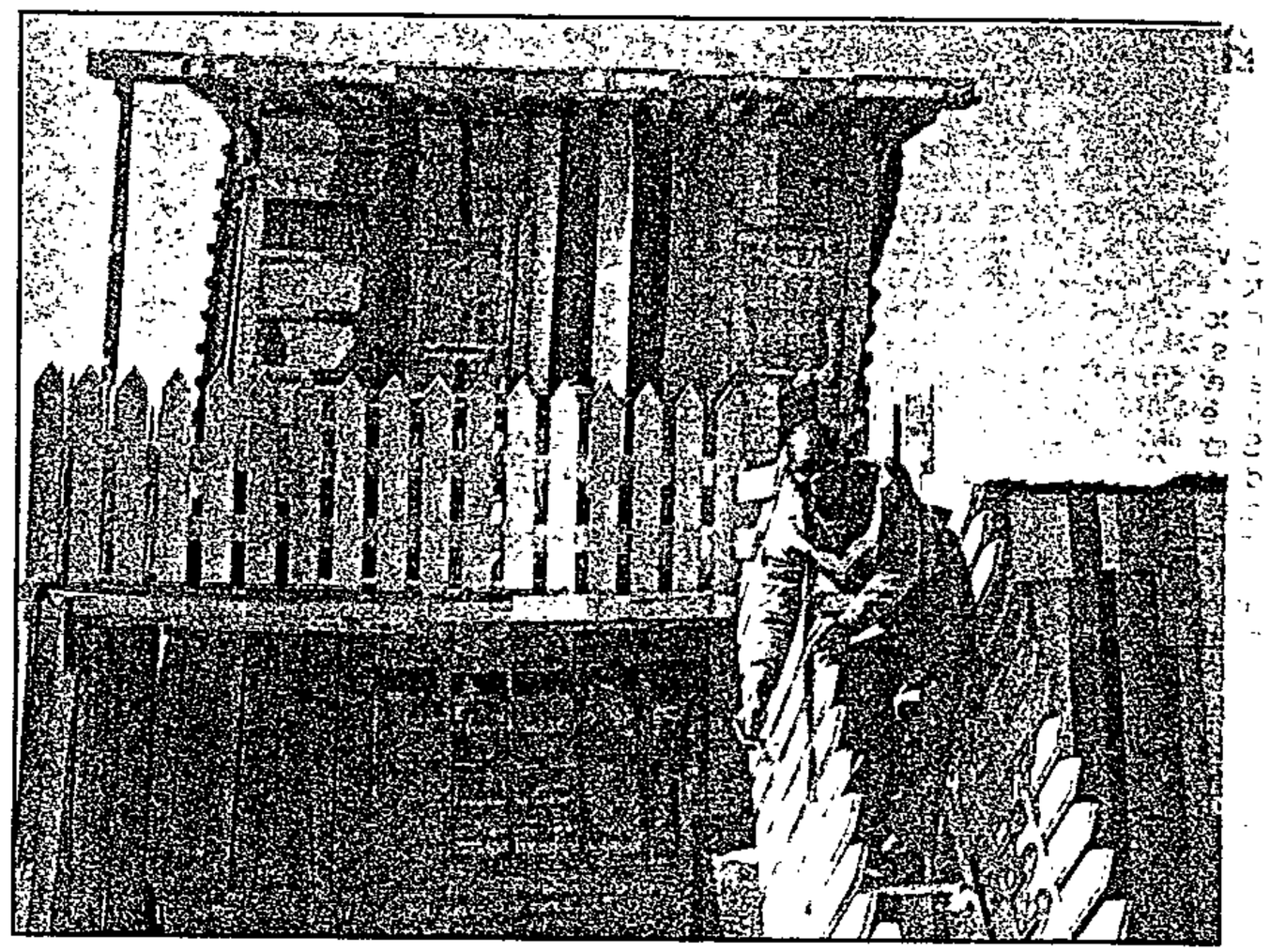


Billy Makhaza's colourful double-storey "spaza" shop is a centre of attraction at Orange Farm. Makhaza says he has found security at last. ■ Pics: ANDRIES MCINEKA

Mshenguville squatters head for Orange Farm sites

By SOPHIE TEMA

SQUALOR and hardship are coming to an end for residents of Soweto's squatter slum, Mshenguville.

This week the first group of squatters were moved to Orange Farm, a new permanent settlement near Evaton.

There are more than 35 000 squatters in Mshenguville, which has been called a health hazard.

The move, which started on Monday, is said to have been prompted by residents who decided they no longer wanted to live in Mshenguville. This time they were not harassed by police or bulldozers.

Soweto Council public relations officer Dr Johan van der Westhuizen said the decision to move came after residents had viewed Orange Farm, which is 45 kilometres from Soweto.

He said no arrangements had been made for squatters who did not want to move but stressed the council intended to restore the camp to the park and golf course it was before they moved there.

Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said that by the end of last week, 2 100 former squatters had moved on to fully paid-up sites at Orange Farm.

Except for a few "spaza" shops, Orange Farm has no butcheries, dairies or grocery stores. Residents have to do their shopping in Johannesburg or Vereeniging.

A school has been erected in the area and will open early next year.

Stratford station is two kilometres away. A few taxis operate from the station.

Street taps provide residents with running water but families will have to erect their own toilets around holes that have been dug.

Last year more than 1 000 families from Wheeler's Farm were resettled at Orange Farm. Many have already laid out vegetable gardens.

In the past month trucks have been rolling into the township with new arrivals from Wheeler's Farm, Sweet Waters and now Mshenguville.

Now the settlement is a hive of activity. Men can be seen hammering at corrugated sheets and digging with spades as women carry furniture around on their heads. Clouds of smoke billow from coal fires.

The area has no electricity. At night the streets are dark and families illuminate their shacks with candles.

They use primus stoves, braziers or coal stoves to cook their food. Women do their washing in washtubs.

Billy Makhaza, who came to Orange Farm from Wheeler's Farm last year, has built a multi-coloured double-storey shack.

He runs a profitable "spaza" shop and lives with his mother and seven other members of the family.

"We have at last found comfort far from the harassment of municipal officials," said Makhaza.

"One can spend a peaceful night with one's family without fear of being arrested."

Fall from train kills man

By STAN MHLONGO

ONE of the first people to move to Orange Farm from Soweto has died after allegedly being pushed off a crowded train.

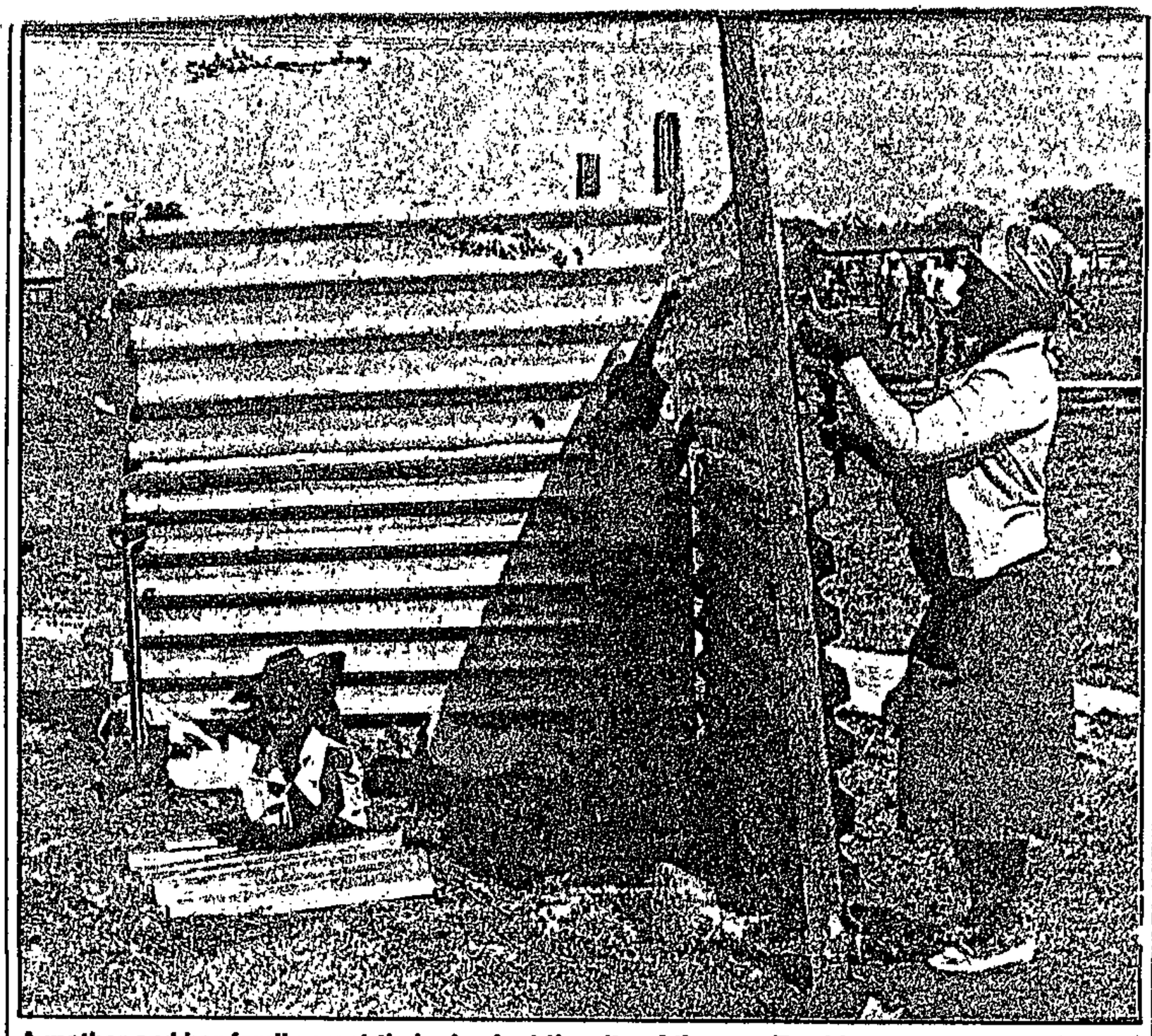
Maria Mbele, 75, watched in horror as her 79-year-old husband, Rebel, was "forced out of a moving train by the pressure of jostling commuters".

"He landed head first off the platform of Stratford Station, never to wake up again," said Maria, tears streaming down her face.

She said the train, which was travelling to Vereeniging on September 15, was tightly packed and there was no space to move.

"I managed to squeeze out of the crowded train and phone for an ambulance – but it was too late."

The Mbele's moved to Orange Farm two years ago from Meadowlands, Soweto – to start a new life in a more permanent environment.



A mother and her family erect their shack at the site of the new Tembisa squatter camp.

Homeless defy shack order

By CONNIE MOLUSI

MORE than 8 000 homeless people defied Tembisa's Town Council yesterday by erecting shacks in the veld bordering Oakmoore station.

The people decided to make homes for themselves after their pleas for land or accommodation went unheeded.

Old women, some assisted by children, were seen putting up makeshift homes in the barren veld. There are no water or toilet facilities.

People *City Press* spoke to said they were prepared for any eventuality from the authorities.

Some had been subtenants for more than 20 years and had been on waiting lists for houses for over 10 years.

Accommodation has been a problem in the area since 1986, when families began to share accomodation in four-roomed hostels with migrant workers.



after acti

skei reburial

Transkei President Kaizer Matanzima and buried outside Bumbane.

Sabata left Transkei in 1985 after he was deposed of his chieftainship by the Matanzima regime following his conviction on charges of undermining the authority of Matanzima.

The service, which starts at 9am, is expected to last nearly six hours. A major demonstration of support for the ANC is expected.

Meanwhile, lawyers acting for Sabata's family released the post-mortem report.

According to the report, the body was not manacled and there was no evidence of a gunshot wound in the head.

Holomisa meets Tambo

By S'BU MNGADI

TRANSKEI leader Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa has met ANC president Oliver Tambo, KwaZulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has disclosed.

Buthelezi made the claim in a letter to Transkei President Tutor Ndamase, snubbing an invitation from Transkei to talks between homeland leaders.

Holomisa said on Friday: "These days it is not an issue to write home about. Black and white South Africans have met Tambo and other ANC members."

he deep end now

Makeshift homes are bulldozed



A front-end loader at work during yesterday's demolition of shacks in Tembisa. These women (in the foreground) watched helplessly as their new home was flattened.

SHACK TOWN BLITZ

(310 Sowetan 4/9/89)

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

HUNDREDS of squatter families occupying land bordering Tembisa watched helplessly as scores of council policemen backed by members of the South African Police and soldiers on horseback razed down their makeshift homes.

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE

The demolition of the shacks started on Monday and residents claim that a five month old baby was killed when a shack was flattened by a front-end loader.

They also said a middle-aged man was hospitalised during the demolitions.

But the police version of the events conflicts sharply with the allegations made by residents.

Conflicts

The police said they viewed the alleged death of the baby as "most disturbing."

Sowetan could not confirm the death and injury with residents because security police es-

• To page 2

P.T.O.

Riot cops acted like wild dog pack court told - P5

SUPER MART



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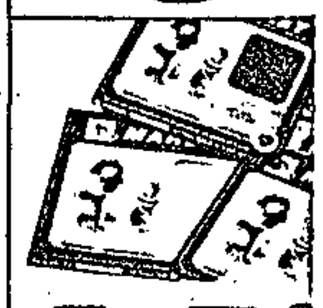

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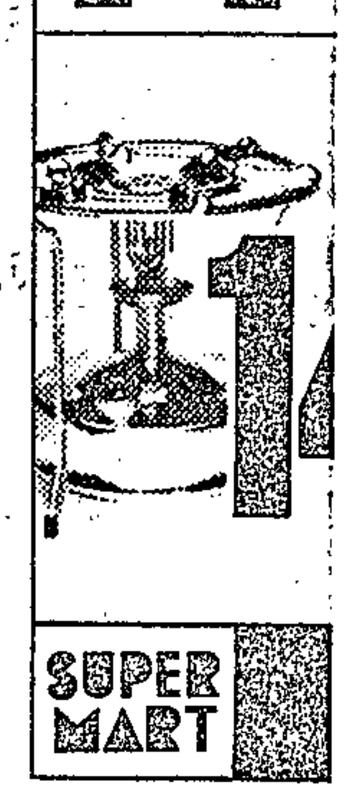


SUPER MART

Bulldozers flatten E Rand squatter camp

Homeless, desperate again . . .

By CONNIE MOLUSI and JAPIE MOKWEBO

ABOUT 10 000 homeless people built homes for themselves in Tembisa last weekend, but the Town Council knocked them down this week.

People stood helpless as municipal workers, police and members of the SADF this week demolished their shacks.

The shacks had hardly been up for 48 hours – they were defiantly built by residents last Saturday only to be demolished by the authorities two days later.

Babies on womens' backs cried when their mothers tried to save their furniture and other belongings.

Destitute squatters, some with newborn babies, had to sleep in the open veld after their shacks were demolished and their corrugated iron confiscated.

The homeless complained about the endless waiting list for houses.

The day-old shantytown was built after years of homelessness.

Residents decided at a meeting a week ago to defy the Council's order to wait for water and toilets. They had given the council a 14-day ultimatum to provide water and toilets – then they started building.

They claimed they had been promised the land, following negotiations with the Council dating back to 1986.

Among those who built their own shacks were families who were moved by the Council into men's hostels.

Occasionally there were bloody clashes between single hostel dwellers and families.

The most recent clash was in May when 1 000 single men attacked 200 families at Vusimusi hostel, leaving one person dead and several seriously injured in a fight lasting three days.

The Soweto-based Sofasonke Party and a former Tembisa councillor Samuel Songo mobilised people to demand land from the Town Council and start building shacks.

Residents were asked to pay R65, of which R60 would provide water and toilets, and R5 be paid into a legal fund in case of prosecution.

These plans were shattered on Monday when the authorities moved in.

Some people will now have to decide whether to go back to their backyard rooms and former landlords.

One person said he could not go back to his landlord as they had endless fights about the R150 rent he had to pay for a single room.

Some people lost building material. George Mashamaite lost all his corrugated iron and poles, which he bought for R800.

A 54-year-old mother of nine, Rebecca Moima, was found sitting near her belongings with eight of her children and four grandchildren.

Her family of 13 has been sleeping in the open since Monday. Pots, blankets, clothes and plates lay scattered.

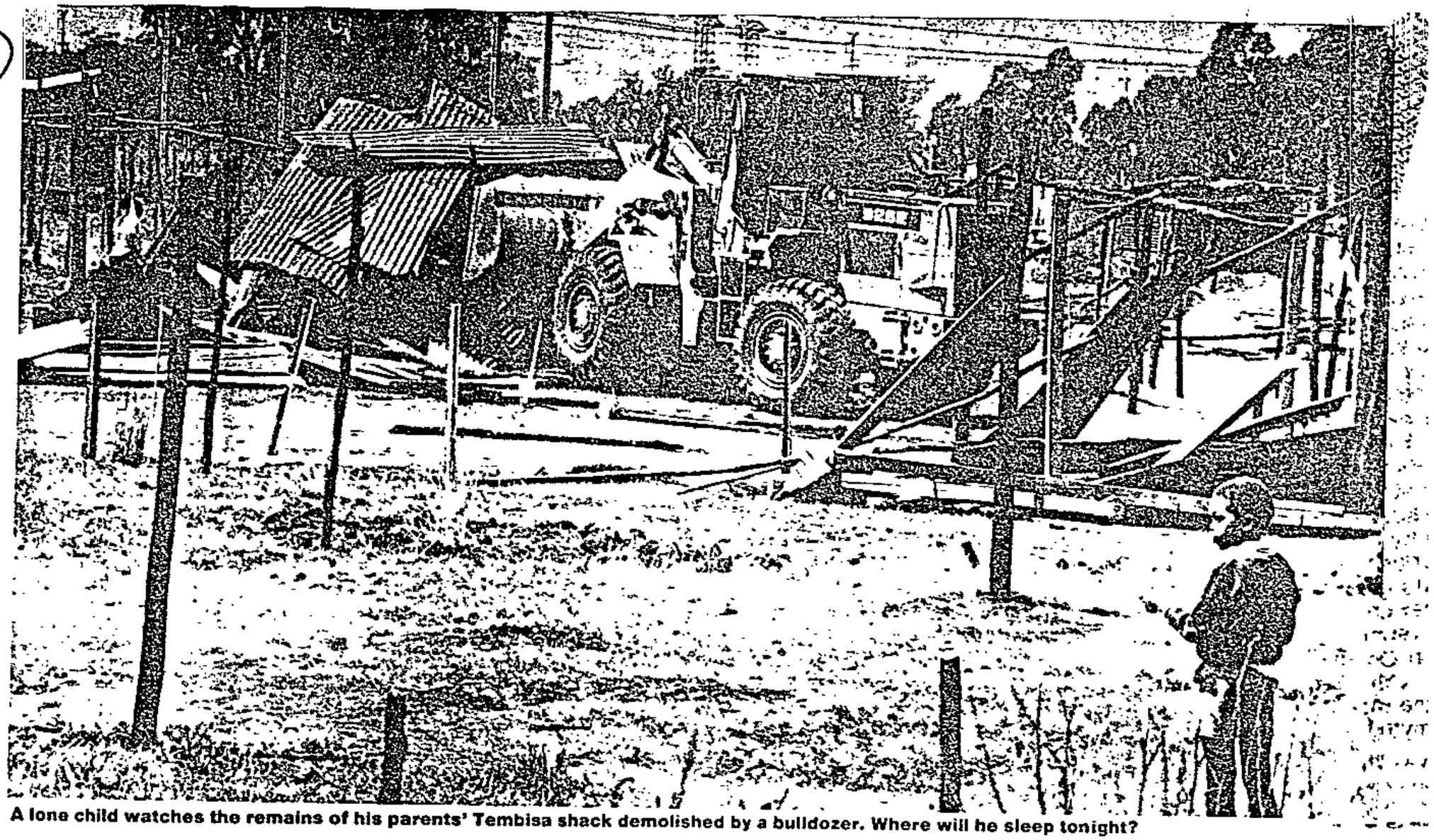
Rebecca, originally from Lebowa, said she had been on the waiting list for a house for nine years.

"I have been a sub-tenant all over the township with all these children of mine. I have nowhere to go as we are not employed and cannot afford rent.

"The police took all my metal sheets and demolished our shack. I am not going anywhere, I will rather die here with my children. We have suffered for years and I thought at last we had a place called home."

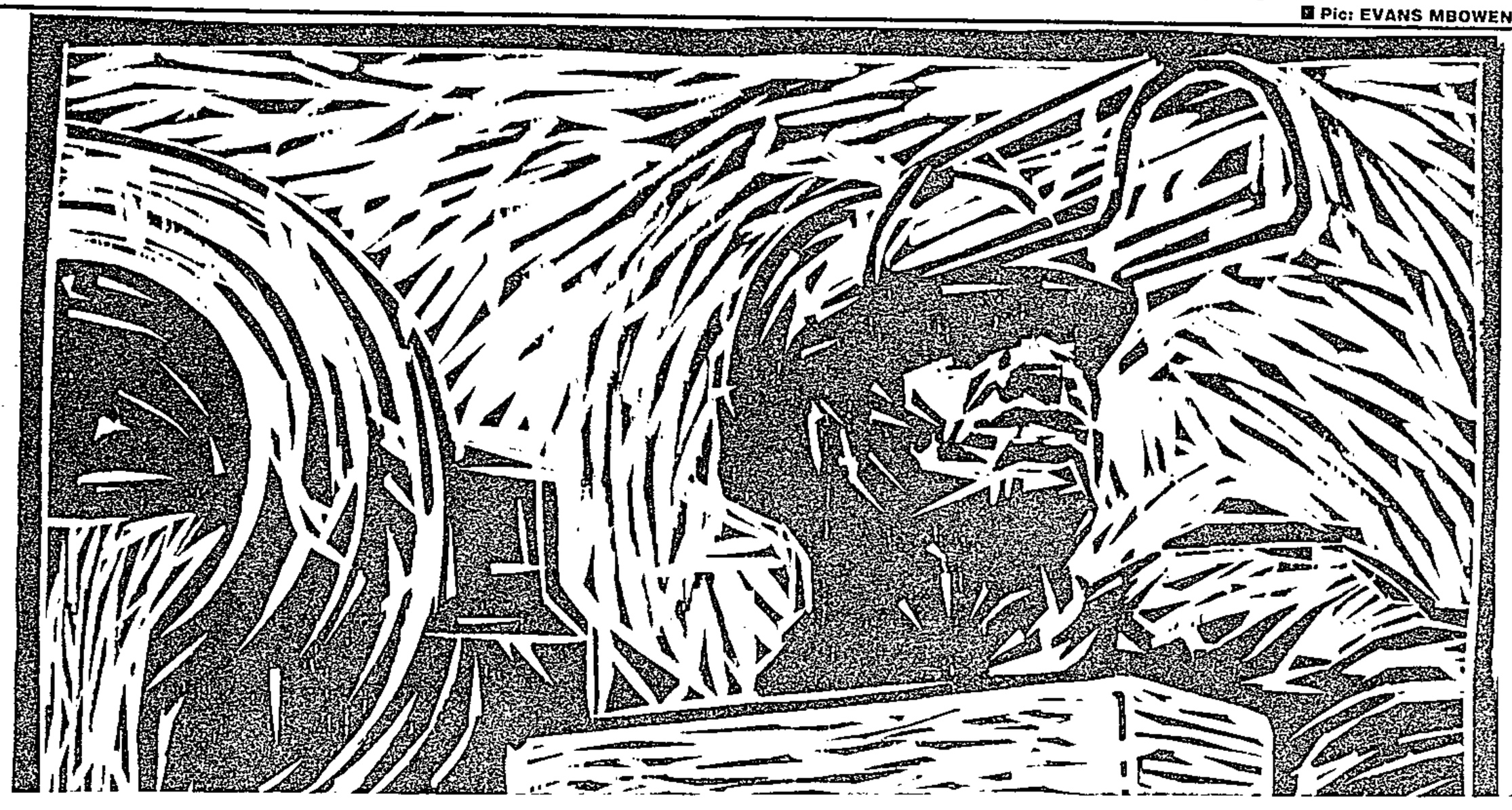
Twisted corrugated iron, broken asbestos roofing and poles lay strewn all over the barren six kilometre veld along the railway line next to Oakmoor station.

"We tried to explain to them that we have nowhere to stay and instead of listening to our plight, we were teargassed and had to flee for our lives," a shack dweller said."



A lone child watches the remains of his parents' Tembisa shack demolished by a bulldozer. Where will he sleep tonight?

■ Pic: EVANS MBOWENI



OUT ON THE TOWN

Tembisa fires stoked – squatters get cold fare



By The Way

THAMI MKHWANAZI

POCKETS of smoke billowed over a row of tents when I took my seat in front of the marquee at Mehlareng stadium in Tembisa on Wednesday.

A cold spell engulfed the atmosphere as the Melodi Choir thanked the Lord for blessing the East Rand township with its first trade fair. They sang: *Praise be to God.*

A white guard, a handgun in his holster, stoked the braai fire in the far end of the marquee. Another guard walked around the tent, watching people arriving at the launch.

Clad in cream and red frilled dresses, the women choristers stamped the dusty ground as they sang. Dressed in Afro shirts of the same colours, their male partners backed them in tenor and bass.

The Melodi Choir and the Holy Zion Choir, who were seated among the audience, interchangeably praised the Lord. In white shirts the Zion choir rose and did their piece in Xhosa: *Makabongwe uThixo.*

The scene, made conspicuous by the low turnout — an odd 200 people — and the absence of the local youth, was now set for the formal launch.

There were no goods on display in the tents on Wednesday night. The traders were going to start bringing in their wares the next morning, the kind of things that are manufactured in the backyard: burglar-proofing, furnitures, African dresses and handicrafts, like beads, that are made by women.

A Toyota vehicle would be on display the next day and a printing firm would also display its products.

But on Wednesday night the tents were still empty, although a host of VIPs was seated in the marquee, including the Tembisa Industrial Association executive, the Tembisa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the "mayor" of Tembisa, Solomon More, who was in full regalia, and members of his council.

The "mayor" and some councillors at the launch were not only civic leaders, but also businessmen and executive members in either of the two business organisations.

After introducing the VIPs, the master of ceremonies and Tembisa Industrial Association vice-chairman, Sello Namane, spelled out his organisation's objectives.

The audience of mainly businessmen, councillors, civic workers and their wives were told how the informal sector in the township's backyards were galvanised into a force that resulted in the creation of a trade fair.

"For more than five years the white authorities prevented us from starting a trade show, not in the white cities, but in our own township," Namane said.

Eventually the "mayor" rose to deliver the keynote address.

After he had spoken about his loyalty to the people of Tembisa, the "mayor" praised the local white town clerk: "Since blacks have not yet gained the necessary expertise, we should rely on white town clerks," he said. "Besides, white town clerks in black townships raise the image of our townships," he added.

The security guard again stoked the braai fire. Another carried the meat to the braaistand.

Enough fire had been stoked by the Tembisa council, I thought. I recalled news reports that day revealing that hundreds of shack dwellers whose homes had been razed to the ground that week were sleeping in the cold in the veld.

Scores of council policemen, backed by members of the South African Police and soldiers on horseback, had destroyed the makeshift homes on Monday and Tuesday.

The demolition of the structures had been carried out at the request of the town council, the police were reported as saying.

At the end of his speech, the "mayor" of Tembisa said — wearing his gold mayoral chain — "I declare this show officially open."

I had been waiting for the "mayor" to give some explanation during his speech of the events of that week. When the bulldozers were levelling the shack dwellers' homes, and the mayor was required for comment, he was said to be in Cape Town.

Surely this was his chance to come forward and account for the demolitions. After all, he had told the audience the community came first, and he after.

Or was he more interested in matters of the fair?

The Melodi Choir rose to its feet and rendered the piece, *Stimela,* as guests single-filed to the braaistand.

Forks in hand, the guards picked up the meat portions and off-loaded them on to disposable plates. Guests moved on to a table and collected bread rolls and canned cool drinks.

They returned to their seats where they downed the food amid performances from both choirs. The choirs were the last to queue.

Squatters still lack water and toilets

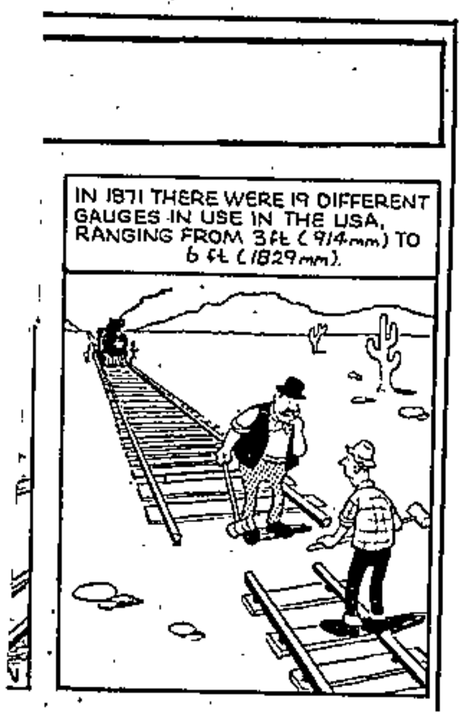
310 Saestar 24/10/89

WATER and toilets have not yet been supplied to Rietfontein squatter families.

The families, moved from Katlehong and Tokoza two months ago, were promised that water and sewerage systems would serve the area. Schools promised to the community have also not been built.

The removal of the 12000-strong community from their squatter camps was sanctioned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration. About 3000 families have been resettled in Rietfontein, 30km from Germiston.

They were removed



By MZIKAYISE EDOM

because the land they had built their shacks on could not be developed.

More than 20 squatter families now share one communal tap. For toilets the community has dug pits. Access to the area is poor as there are no proper roads.

School children have to spend about R3 for a single trip to go to school in Katlehong and Tokoza.

The squatters spend between R3 and R5 to go to Germiston and Alberton.

According to the deputy mayor of Katlehong, Mr Solly "Ntshebe" Lukhele, and the deputy chairman of the Tokoza council's management committee, Mr Abraham Mzizi, each shack will be provided with a tap and proper toilet next year.

They also said their councils were still negotiating with the Department of Education and Training and if all went according to plan, schools would be provided early next year.

Police and army evict Tembisa squatters

MORE than 200 people living in tin shacks in Tembisa, near Kempton Park, watched this week as police Casspirs knocked down their homes.

The people whose shelters were destroyed are only a few of the thousands of Tembisa residents who have been on the waiting list for houses for up to 10 years.

Last Saturday about 300 decided at a meeting to occupy the open land next to Oakmoor railway station on the outskirts of the East Rand township. On Sunday the poles were pitched and up went the structures.

On Monday the Tembisa town council issued an instruction that the shacks must come down.

Council police, the South African Police and the South African Defence Force were called in. They left furniture, clothes, pots and utensils scattered in the ruins.

"The police ... said they would give us five minutes to move away from the area and I replied that I had nowhere to go," said Florence Tebang, whose shack was one of the first to go down.

Suzanne Mokoena added: "They (police) did not say anything to me. I just saw this huge police truck moving slowly towards my shack and it ran it down."

By PHIL MOLEFE

According to a witness, the security forces arrived at the squatter camp at about 11.30am.

A small street leading up to the station separates two blocks of shacks. The first block went down on Monday. The next block was razed on Tuesday.

The squatters allege that on Tuesday members of the SADF were riding on horseback chasing residents.

"The soldiers, who were riding on horses, chased me towards the railway line, saying we were stubborn, we did not want to move when told to do so," said Freda Rachekhu.

On Tuesday afternoon, township people were going about their chores while their neighbours in the squatter setlement were salvaging what they could find after the demolitions.

At 7pm people started gathering in a huge open space: women in their blankets, some carrying their babies on their backs, men in their overalls and overcoats, young children barefoot in the biting cold.

"Phambili ngemikhukhu phambili (forward with shacks, forward)," roared a man on a makeshift stage to the applause of about 300 squatters who had gathered there.

Many of the shack dwellers complained that their property had been destroyed or they had lost it when the shacks were destroyed.

The numbers at the meeting swelled as workers returning from work got off the trains chanting :

Order was restored at about 8pm when the squatter leader Samuel Songo, president of the Tembisa Homeseekers' Association, arrived.

The squatters decided to rebuild their shacks because "we have nowhere to go". Songo said they would ask for an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court to stop the council from demolishing them.

But the registrar of the Rand Supreme Court yesterday told *Weekly Mail* no such application has been brought before the court.

South African Police representative Major Marius Bonthuys said police were involved in the demolition by request of the Tembisa town council, but they were there in a protective capacity only. He said in one incident on Monday, police dispersed an angry crowd by using teargas; the crowd had tried to prevent the removing of shacks.

Major Reg Crewe, also of the SAP public relations, said the police would investigate.

310 wmail 6-12/10/89

Fined over shacks

Soweto 310 9/11/89

PROTEA South councillor Alfred Twala was convicted on 41 counts under the Squatters Act when he appeared in the Johannesburg Mgistrate's Court yesterday.

He was fined R4 000 or two years imprisonment.

The magistrate, Mr C Erasmus, suspended half the sentence for five years on condition that Twala (51) was not found guilty of a similar offence.

Twala was found to have unlawfully given squatters in Protea South, Soweto, permission to build shacks on land belonging to the council.

Mr Erasmus said the evidence showed that Twala knew about illegal shacks that were erected in the area from the time he became councillor of the ward in October last year.

Mr Erasmus said it was difficult to sentence Twala who he did not regard as a criminal. He said he would accept Mr Milton Kanyile's plea in mitigation of sentence that Twala was a person of good standing in the community who loved to help people.

Mr Erasmus said he would consider that Twala did not take money from squatters for sites allocated to them and that the offences were not committed for monetary gain.

"There is an expression that you have to be cruel to be kind," he said.

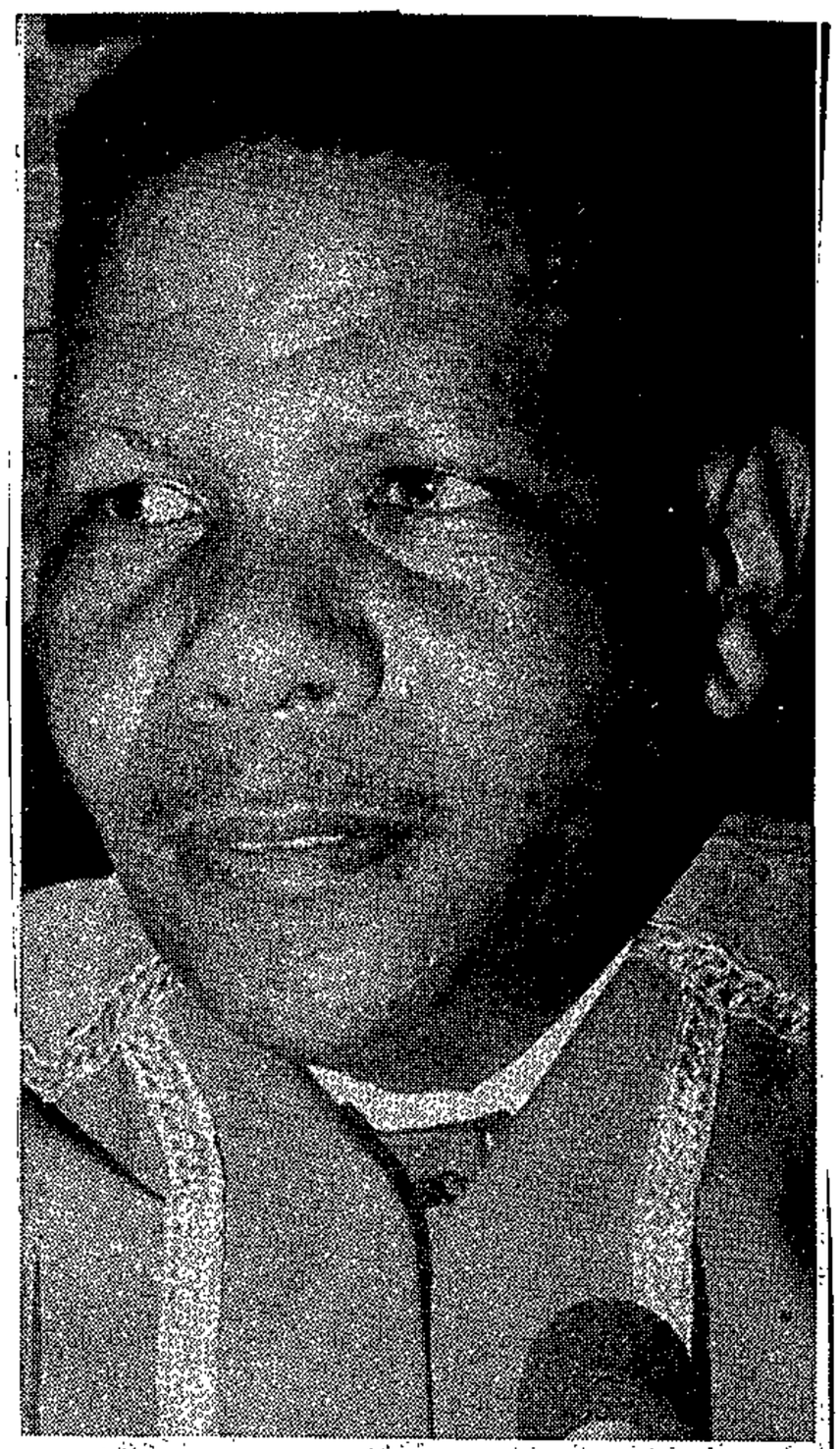
The investigating officer in the case, Detective Nicholas Hendrik Smith -Els told the court the number of shacks in Soweto increased by 5 670 from January to September this year and that there were now 42 374 shacks.

"If a person takes the average of three people per house, then there are at least 127 122 people living in shacks in Soweto," he said.

Plea fails

THE Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday dismissed an application to declare the KaNgwane Legislative Assembly unconstitutional.

The application, dismissed with costs by Mr Justice Eloff, was launched by Mr Robert Makhaza Khumalo and the opposition Insika National Party.



Mayor of Katlehong Mr Tau Molotsi.

Sowetan 10/11/89

35000 families to be moved

310

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE Katlehong Town Council on the East Rand has started with the removal of about 35000 squatter families to Rietfontein farm, about 30km from Germiston.

The township's mayor, Mr Tau Molotsi, said they were hoping to clear all the backyard shacks and those in Crossroads squatter camp by March next year.

About 50 families are presently being moved every week and resettled in the new area which has been renamed — — by the Katlehong council.

"As soon as we complete installing infrastructure in the new area, which includes water and sewerage facilities sometime in December, we will be moving more than 200 families," Molotsi said.

Families in — — will build their own houses. The council will help them raise loans of between R10000 and R15000 to build low-cost housing.

Molotsi said: "Squatting has been our major problem in the area for more than 10 years and we could not provide the families with proper housing because of lack of land. We secured the farm early this year."

He also announced that all houses in the township will have electricity by the end of March next year. The council started with the fourth and last phase of the electricity project last week.

The council is also spending R2-million to upgrade roads in the township.

Squatter camp tense

By SONTI MASEKO

TENSION was high at Mshenguville, a massive squatter camp in Mofolo, Soweto, yesterday after police disrupted a big march by the residents to the house of former mayor Mr Ephraim Tshabalala.

Saturday's march, organised by the Masakhane Mshenguville Squatters Committee, was supported by local residents and people from Evaton, Tembisa and Sebokeng.

A truck belonging to the TPA burnt yesterday morning and riot police were sent into the area.

A large number of people was believed to have been sjambokked and five were seriously hurt on Saturday after riot police told marchers to disperse.

money from the tellers' drawers into separate [illegible]

Squatters claim 5 killed in Alberton community

FIVE residents of a large squatter community near Alberton have been shot and killed in the past 17 months, Catholic community worker Prince Mhlambi says. Two of these were killed and another two injured in the past 10 days by gunmen. B1 Dun 24/11/87

All those shot were resisting the forced removal of their four-year-old community, he said.

Two women, whose names were not disclosed, were seriously

CHARLENE SMITH

wounded after being shot in Pholapark, a squatter community of 35 000 people near Thokoza, Alberton, on Wednesday night. (310)

Three nights before, a member of the community's executive committee, Lucky Sipho Nhlangothi, 30, was shot dead outside his home.

The week before, another committee member, Themba Mayaphi, 48, was also shot dead and mutilated after a residents' crime-watch patrol was attacked by gunmen.

Mhlambi said the first killing took place in June last year when residents began resisting removal. Two resident committee members were stabbed to death in February, and another two shot dead this month. (2+2=6)

The community claims "kitskonstabels' are responsible and have laid charges. The police deny this.

80% of squatters live in PWV area, says Danie Hough

GERALD REILLY 310

PRETORIA — About 1,4-million people in SA were living under squatter conditions and about 80% of those were in the PWV area, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said yesterday.

He said the biggest problem for urbanisation in SA was the lack of stands to meet the country's enormous demand for housing.

Speaking at Orange Farm squatter resettlement, he said not all squatters were without jobs, nor were all destitute.

The pattern was similar in other parts of the world.

Where there were serviced stands squatters were only too happy to pack up and move, he said.

Outlining government action, Hough said from January 1986 to April this year more than 25 000ha were reserved in terms of the Black Communities Development Act.

Of these, more than 17 000ha were in the PWV area.

Hough said the province saw it as an issue of great urgency to meet the land demand as quickly as possible.

He said "so-called informal towns" such as Orange Farm could prosper into fully fledged local authorities. B/Ibay 7/12/89

Hough gave Orange Farm residents an assurance that they were safe living there and no-one would "try to take you elsewhere".

Resettlement for squatters

By SOPHIE TEMA

MORE than 21 000 shack-dwellers from Orlando East and Chicken Farm may be moved to Orange Farm resettlement camp next year.

Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said his council would take a final decision next year.

The council would also decide on steps to take against Mshenguville squatters who objected to resettlement.

However, he said, Mshenguville residents would be given the option of whether to be resettled or not.

Meanwhile, it was reported this week that tension was growing between pro-resettlement squatters and those against the move.

This week, seven Mshenguville youths appeared in court on charges of trespassing. All were remanded in custody.

Mkhwanazi said the seven were arrested when police came to investigate a complaints that a Transvaal Provincial Adminstration truck, which was conveying residents from Mshenguville to Orange Farm, was fired upon.

Mkwanazi said the truck windscreen was shattered by a bullet which missed the driver and passengers.

He denied allegations that Sofasonke Party members were threatening residents who were refusing to move.

Mandla Majola, a member of the Soweto Civic Association, this week claimed he was brutally assaulted by police, accompanied by members of the Sofasonke Party.

Soweto police PRO Captain Joseph Ngobeni said he had no records of the arrested youths or Majola's assault.

B/Day 22/12/89 (310

Demolished shacks rebuilt immediately

EDYTH BULBRING

EIGHT shacks in Thokoza township on the East Rand were pulled down by municipal police (kitskonstabels) yesterday — and were immediately reconstructed by the shack dwellers.

Church community worker Prince Mhlambi said two SAP members and about 30 kitskonstabels arrived at about 7.30am yesterday.

They claimed that the permits for eight shacks were invalid and the shacks were pulled down.

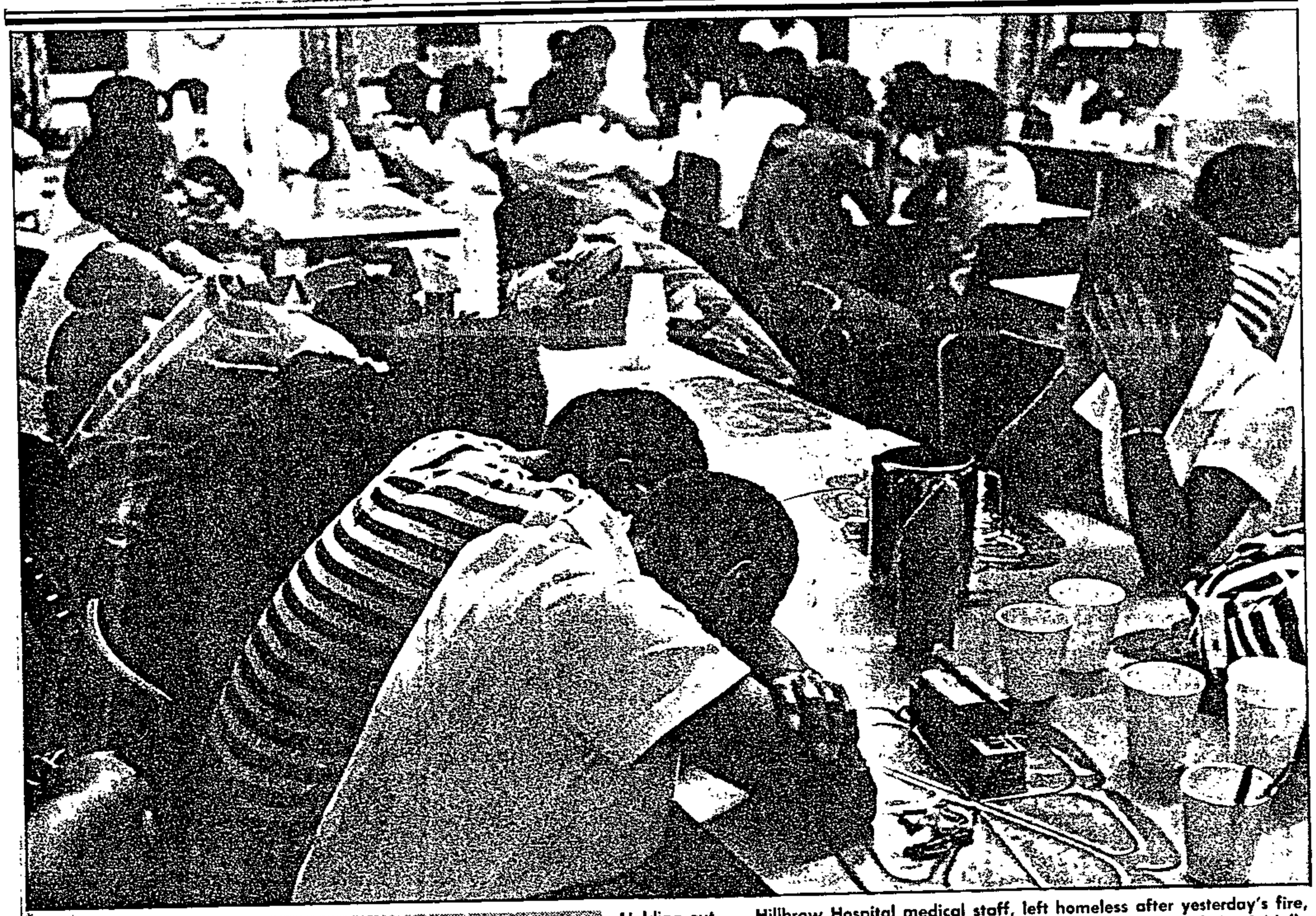
One of the shack dwellers, Nozatsha Quakaza, said she had produced her permit but was told it was invalid.

Mhlambi slammed the destruction, saying it contradicted President F W de Klerk's statements that things in SA were changing.

An East Rand police spokesman said the two SAP members were present to protect the public. The destruction of the shacks was authorised by the Provincial Board in Germiston, he said.

TPA regional director of community development Pieter du Toit said the department was not involved in pulling shacks down, only in resettling the homeless to a place called Rietvontein.

He said while he had heard of the destruction of the shacks yesterday morning, this was under the auspices of the Thokoza town clerk, who was unavailable for comment.



Holding out . . . Hillbrow Hospital medical staff, left homeless after yesterday's fire, stage a sit-in in a canteen last night in protest at alternative accommodation initially offered by the hospital authorities. ● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

Homeless after blaze

SOWK 23/12/89 (310)

Friend's screams saved my life, says Anna

Staff nurse Miss Anna Matsose (25), tearful and wearing only her dressing gown, described how a friend had rushed into the room where she was sleeping at the nurses' residence at Hillbrow Hospital yesterday and screamed at her to wake up as a fire blazed only metres away.

The blaze gutted the third floor, causing the roof to collapse.

"I had come off nightshift at 7 am," said Miss Matsose.

"I was fast asleep when I suddenly heard Bessie screaming that the building was on fire. I had time only to grab a dressing gown and my handbag.

"The corridor and stairwell were already full of smoke and the fire was spreading.

"I ran down the stairs choking on the smoke. If it hadn't been for Bessie I would still be inside," Miss Matsose said.

"Everything I owned was in that room. It's all been burnt."

Mrs Crazzy Sithole, a cleaner who moves about on crutches, said: "I heard people shouting 'Fire! fire!' while I was busy with my chores.

"I said a prayer and thought of my children.

"People were climbing out through broken windows. I could not follow as I am on crutches.

"A colleague carried me down the stairs on his back. When I reached the ground I said thank God."

Ms Alice Medi, a nursing sister, said: "I heard a lot of noise and looked out to see smoke. When I looked up I saw fire coming from the top of the building."

Another nurse said she had been trapped in the lift for about 15 minutes.

The director of hospital services, Mr J Olivier, said temporary accommodation had been provided at Baragwanath Hospital for 140 nurses.

STAR 27/12/89 (BOOK) (310)

New Race Relations findings

7-m South Africans defy squatting laws

Staff Reporter

Despite the anti-squatting laws, 7 million people were living in and around South African cities in self-erected housing, according to the recently-released SA Institute of Race Relations Survey.

The survey covers the last two years of the 1980's and provides a comprehensive list of statistics and facts on social, economic and political trends in South Africa.

High up on the agenda was education, and the survey said that a significant change was that black students who failed matric could now receive credit for subjects passed and rewrite only the subjects they failed.

It said that 36 percent of all black children between the ages of six and 14 in rural areas outside the homelands did not attend school; that if all vacant white classrooms were opened to blacks, the countrywide black classroom shortage would be reduced by only 20 percent and that last year there were 31 000 more black than white matriculants.

Other interesting findings were:

- 20 million people in SA do not have electricity.
- 4 012 people were killed in political violence between September 1984 and December 1988.
- Six trade union members are awaiting execution for killing fellow workers during strikes.
- Since 1980 the economy has grown by 0,7 percent while the economically active population has grown by 2,5 percent.

Segregation

- In at least nine towns controlled by the Conservative Party in the Transvaal it was not necessary to reintroduce segregation because municipalities had never been opened to all races.
- 520 Multinational companies have disinvested from SA and Namibia.
- Armscor has earned more than R2 billion from arms exports in the past 12 years and it exports to 39 countries.
- There are more than 100 unsolved assassinations of political activists in SA.
- A local division of the Supreme Court has said that trials could be declared unfair if the accused do not have legal representation.
- The average number of children per black woman is 2,8 in urban areas, 4,2 in semi-rural areas, 5,7 in rural areas and 6,3 in the "independent" homelands.
- There was a 29 percent drop in the number of executions in South Africa last year.
- The Human Rights Commission says the picture of detentions in the last 12 months is dominated by releases.
- South Africa's population is growing at a rate of 1 million a year.
- South Africa spends 5,8 percent of the gross national budget on health, 16 percent more than the World Health Organisation's target of 5 percent.