SQUATTERS — TRANSVAAL

1993

Diepsloot ruling appealed

Watershed for orderly urbanisation, says TPA

Star 21/1/93 (310)

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration can settle the Zevenfontein community at Diepsloot, north-west of Johannesburg, the Pretoria Supreme Court has ruled.

The TPA said it welcomed the "watershed" judgment delivered on Thursday, and called on Diepsloot landowners and the Zevenfontein community to co-operate to ensure a peaceful and orderly urbanisation process.

In a 2½-half hour judgment, Mr Justice McCreath dismissed, with costs, the Diepsloot and Laezonia residents' application to have the TPA interdicted from settling the Zevenfontein community there.

TPA deputy director-general of community development Len Dekker said the administration had agreed with Laezonia residents that the settlers would not be moved on to the site until sewerage facilities had been provided. Tenders for this would be invited next week, which meant that settlement of the Zevenfontein squatters to their new sitescould start towards the end of March.

Dekker, who attended the judgment, said the ruling was a watershed event. "This judgment is a most important judgment not only for the TPA but for all four provincial administrations concerned with urbanisation," he said.

"This sets certain legal principles for urbanisation, providing for the rights of those who have rights and those acquiring rights. The TPA has been vindicated in that the judge has found that the TPA has taken all reasonable and practical steps that could have been expected in these circumstances."

Dekker said two Zevenfontein community leaders had offered their full co-operation to ensure the settlement process was peaceful and orderly. He said he trusted that the Diepsloot and Laezonia residents' organisations would urge their followers to co-operate with the TPA.

Unlawfully interfere

The residents' associations had said that the settlement process would unlawfully interfere with their rights, causing, among other things, increased air and water pollution, and an increase in crime. They applied to have the TPA restrained from settling the community in their areas.

Mr Justice McCreath "made the point that whenever one has an increase in density it is inevitable there will be an increase in crime irrespective of the nature of the settlement. It is an inevitable consequence of any township establishment," Dekker said.

There was no direct evidence that crime in the area could be linked to the Zevenfontein community. The same applied to pollution, Dekker said.

It was common cause that between 40 and 80 percent of property values would be affected but the law was clear that only the owners of expropriated land were to be compensated.

Whether the expropriation of land interfered with property values was one of the facts that had to be taken into account when such a decision was made, the court said.

The court found it had been a reasonable decision to settle the community at Diepsloot.

Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association chairman Stuart Aitchison said his organistion would consider appealing against the order.

"Two judges took opposing stands on the same issue and this leaves us with no option but to appeal," he said.

Chairman of the Laezonia Residents' and Landowners' Association, Dave Ware, said the order against Diepsloot residents was unfair.

"The judge acceded that many of the residents' objections were legitimate and to award the TPA costs, is a bit unfair."

However, Ware said his organistion would try to ensure that the relocation process was peaceful.

He said he would hold a meeting between Laezonia and Zevenfontein residents and the ANC soon to try and work out the relocation process. — Sapa.

Call to 'oppressed masses'

THE Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) issued a call to "the oppressed masses" on Saturday to get organised in anticipation of elections for a constituent assembly later this year.

In a statement issued to Sapa by Cast president Khabisi Mosunkutu, the organisation called on township residents to establish an election committee in each street to ensure that residents were in possession of identity documents and informed about the modalities involved.

Mosunkutu said that Cast would examine the election campaigns of the different liberation movements. It would voice its support for the party whose programme most suited its needs and which was most likely to defeat the NP at the ballot box.

However, pressed on the point, he said that Cast would allow individuals freedom of choice when it came to the vote.

Referring to proposals tabled in the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber aimed at bringing together the municipalities of Johannesburg and surrounding townships, Mosunkutu said Cast believed any interim arrangements in this regard should emerge from guidelines drawn up at a national negotiating forum.

"It is important to have a national consensus framework worked out at a national negotiating forum for the interim," the statement said.

"We believe the civics involved in such a move would need to review their stance very carefully."

He added: "All civics must support the national negotiating forum, which would help bring about uniformity in negotiations at local level." — Sapa.

Another day in court for Vermaas

DIRK HARTFORD

BUSINESSMAN Albert Vermaas, who has been in jail for three weeks awaiting trial on currency charges, will appear in court tomorrow.

Vermaas, who is also expected to appear in the Transvaal Supreme Court in Pretoria on January 25 on fraud and theft charges involving R134m, was arrested on December 10 after police staked out a meeting between himself and a Norman Sparrow at Shell Ultra City on the highway between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

After a dramatic helicopter and car chase, Vermaas was arrested. He was found with a $1 note in his possession — which he said he kept as a good luck charm. Sparrow was found later, allegedly with $30 000 in the boot of his car.

Vermaas has made two unsuccessful appeals to be released on bail. Details of Sparrow's involvement in the alleged currency deal are expected to emerge in tomorrow's trial.

It is expected that Vermaas's trial on the currency charges will be completed before his long-running trial in the Supreme Court resumes.

17 000 families housed in year

ADRIAN HADLAND

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration had provided 17 000 families with homes during 1992 but there was still a shortfall of almost 500 000 serviced premises, TPA Administrator Danie Hough said last week.

Hough said one of the TPA's greatest challenges during the year had been trying to keep pace with the process of urbanisation.

By the year 2010, about 69% of the black population in SA (33,2-million people) would have moved to the urban areas, the President's Council economic committee has estimated.

The TPA had spent R223m during 1992 on the provision of land and serviced plots for low-income groups in the Transvaal, Hough said.

He added that the granting of a maximum R7 500 discount on houses falling within the National Sales Campaign, announced recently by government, had helped tenants to purchase their own homes.

"The most important benefit is that full home ownership has now become a reality for many people."

Hough said that as a result of the announcement, more than 150 000 houses in the Transvaal, including 50 000 in Greater Soweto, had become eligible for the discount.

The prevention of illegal squatting and the provision of housing for the homeless had resulted in the TPA, which employed 88 000 people, becoming one of the largest town establishers in the country, said Hough.

Court supports TPA's settlement

Sowetan 4/1/93 (310)

■ Zevenfontein squatters may be settled at Deipsloot:

THE TRANSVAAL Provincial Administration may settle the Zevenfontein community at Diepsloot, north-west of Johannesburg, the Pretoria Supreme Court has ruled.

The TPA said it welcomed this "watershed" judgment, and called on Diepsloot landowners and the Zevenfontein community to co-operate to ensure a peaceful and orderly urbanisation process.

In a two-and-a-half hour judgment, Mr Justice McCreath dismissed, with costs, the Diepsloot and Laezonia residents' application to have the TPA interdicted from settling the Zevenfontein community there.

The Zevenfontein squatters, whose fate has been uncertain for more than six months as debate has raged about where they should be allowed to settle, may well be able to have more sites prepared for them by March.

The TPA's deputy director general of community development, Mr Len Dekker, said the administration had agreed with Laezonia residents that the "settlers" would not be moved on to the site until sewerage facilities had been provided. Tenders for this would be invited this week, which meant the settlement could commence towards the end of March.

Dekker, who attended the hearing, said the ruling was a watershed event.

"This is a most important judgment not only for the TPA but for all four provincial administrations concerned with urbanisation," he said.

"This sets certain legal principles for urbanisation, providing for the rights of those who have rights and for those who are acquiring rights. - *Sapa.*

TPA hails ruling on squatters

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Squatter ruling 'spells doom'

Staff Reporter (310) Star 6/1/93.

The rejection of an application for a court interdict preventing the Transvaal Provincial Administration from settling Zevenfontein squatters at Diepsloot is likely to sharply reduce property prices in the area, according to estate agents.

De Huizemark managing director Piet Hamman said last week's Pretoria Supreme Court judgment "spelt doom" for homeowners who had invested large amounts of money in the area, as close proximity of squatter camps would "very definitely have a dampening effect" on property prices.

"It is a pity that there is no form of compensation for homeowners," he said.

Howard and Decker estate agency managing director Graham Levin said it was difficult to determine to what extent the ruling would cause property prices to drop. "Sometimes the market falls away completely, making it difficult to sell the house at any price."

However, the price reductions also offered home buyers the opportunity to pick up bargains, Levin said.

Some residents of areas around Diepsloot said in interviews they were very disappointed with the decision.

"Naturally everybody is very disappointed", said resident Len Facius.

He said residents still had to decide whether to appeal against the ruling.

But another resident, Ken Boyce, said he accepted squatter settlement as inevitable although he believed the settlement should be properly planned and constructed.

He believed residents should respond positively to the changes and spend their money on constructive development instead of expensive court cases.

Squatters wreck stadium

■ Pilfered materials used to build homes:

310

By Joshua Raboroko

A SQUATTER camp has been established by more than 100 homeless families who broke down the George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville for building materials.

The caretaker's house, the Press box, corrugated iron covering the stadium and other materials inside have been removed, rendering the Vaal Triangle's once "premier sports arena" unusable.

The families orginally erected shacks on the football ground adjoining the stadium, but were evicted by the local authorities on the grounds that they would halt sporting activities.

People call the new squatter camp near the local cemetery, Phuma-Sibethane (come out and let us fight).

The stripping of the stadium means sporting activities, especially those involving top local soccer team Vaal Professionals which plays in the first division of the National Soccer League, have ground to a halt.

Professionals' manager Mr Mokhethi Phathang said they did not have a stadium to accommodate thousands of supporters because "our venue has been razed". As a result they now played at Kwa-Masiza Stadium.

Squatters sue for R60 000 after shooting

Sowetan 13/11/93.

KIDS WOUNDED Racecourse residents seek damages after alleged attack:

310

By Tsale Makam

ELEVEN residents of a squatter camp near Soweto, who were allegedly shot by police last year, are suing Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel for a total of R60 000.

The 11, who include a seven-year-old girl, attended a civil hearing at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The action arises from an incident on February 1, last year, when police, who were said to have been chasing car thieves, allegedly fired pellets at residents of Racecourse squatter camp.

Several of them, including children, were injured.

Counsel for the police, Mr HF de Waal, said he would prove that the assault was lawful and the police had fired in self-defence.

Mr Hugh Dilkin, for the residents, said he would show that his clients were attacked without provocation and that most were shot in the back.

A surgeon, Dr Joseph Katz, testified that most of the injured had multiple pellet wounds on various parts of their bodies ,including the back.

If the pellets were left in the body for a long period, depending on where they were lodged, they could cause complications.

If they were just under the skin, they were likely to simply cause irritation because "no-one wants to live with a nodule in his body," he said.

Some of the people still had the pellets in their bodies and X-rays would be needed to determine their location.

Most of the injured had told him they could not afford medical expenses.

The hearing continues today.

Large-scale urbanisation of green belt 'inevitable'

BIOAry 13/1/93 310

KATHRYN STRACHAN

LARGE-scale urbanisation in the green belt northwest of Johannesburg was inevitable, and the question before the Demarcation Board was which structure would be best equipped to handle the flood, TPA deputy director of community development Len Dekker said yesterday.

In his opening address to the Demarcation Board hearing in Krugersdorp, Dekker said a balance had to be struck between protecting the rights of residents already living in the area, and creating new rights for those communities which had been deprived for so long.

The TPA had suggested that the six municipalities administer the area between them as it was better for local authorities to decide how the urbanisation would go ahead rather than for the decision to be made in Pretoria, Dekker said. He added that the councils had been discussing the plan for several years.

The six municipalities — Verwoerdburg, Midrand, Randburg, Sandton, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp — have submitted applications to the Board to divide between them the 80km² northwest of the borders up to the Hartebeespoort Dam.

The Greenbelt Action Group, which represents residents in the area, has proposed an alternative to the carve-up — a self-funding rural municipality which will protect the green belt area against forced urbanisation. They fear squatters will be placed on site-and-service stands rather than in low-cost housing schemes which they are proposing.

The municipalities believe their skills and resources would allow them to handle urbanisation in the area in a more controlled way, and would ensure that nature reserves and environmentally sensitive areas were preserved.

Dekker told the board the problem of urbanisation was so vast that developing the areas within existing municipal boundaries would only satisfy a small percentage of the need — and it was therefore imperative that the greater area be considered.

He stressed that the question before the board was to decide whether the flood of urbanisation would best be administered through the institution of a new local authority, through smaller viable local management committees, or through the extension of the existing municipal boundaries.

"The TPA has already adopted the standpoint that as far as informal towns for the low income group are concerned, it will take the initiative to adress the urgent need in two new towns, namely Diepsloot and Nietgedacht," he said.

Further identification of land for informal towns would be done by the local authorities themselves.

Provision would also have to be made for commercial and industrial areas that would create work opportunities in the region.

The conservation of agricultural and natural reserves, especially north of the Krugersdorp highway (R28), would be central to the plan, Dekker said, and the TPA believed a local authorities could provide better protection for the area than individuals or organised interest groups.

He said factors that could inhibit development of low-cost settlements in the area included the traditional perception that the entire area be preserved as an open "green" area, the relative lack of a physical infrastructure and the lack of mass transportation in the region.

Squatters sue Minister over police shooting

B/DAY 13/1/93

GAVIN DU VENAGE

A GROUP of squatters is suing Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel for R60 000 in the Johannesburg Regional Court over an alleged indiscriminate shooting in Kliptown last year.

The 11 plaintiffs, all from the Racecourse squatter camp near Kliptown, were injured in February when police, in pursuit of a stolen vehicle, opened fire on people who they alleged were about to attack them.

Ten people were injured with buckshot, and one man was arrested and held in prison for several days before being released without charges.

Dr Joseph Katz told the court he had examined the plaintiffs on the day of the shooting, and that all had metal pellets embedded in their bodies.

Some had wounds in their buttocks and the back of their legs, indicating they had been facing away from the policemen at the time, said Katz.

He said that although it was unlikely that these wounds would seriously impair the health of the plaintiffs, they could lead to constant pain, and treating them would in some cases cost more than R500.

In extreme cases pellets could enter an artery and cause severe complications, said Katz.

Appearing for the plaintiffs, H Diskin called several witnesses, including a seven-year-old girl who had been hit in the neck.

All denied that they had been part of a mob, as alleged by the police.

Hawker Obed Gwebu, 54, told how he was standing by his fruit stall when he was struck by shotgun fire. He said no warning had been given.

The case continues today.

Councils looking for 'squatter dump'

-Star 14/11/93.

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE "big six" councils wanting to incorporate large tracts of land were looking for a dumping ground for squatters, so they would not have to accommodate them in their own areas, the Demarcation Board was told yesterday.

Local Government Affairs Council (LGAC) representative Werner Zybrands told the board, which is sitting in Krugersdorp and is considering proposals on whether to incorporate the area northwest of Johannesburg in the six metropolitan councils, that demand for low cost housing had triggered the issue.

LGAC urban planner Nico Kriek told the board the councils were guilty of a "not in my backyard" attitude, and that it was the fear of another Bloubosrand that had led them to support the incorporation.

Kriek said the green belt area was unsuited to urbanisation as it had poor infrastructure, no railway lines and few roads. Job seekers would be far from central business districts, between 22km and 27km away from places of work, he said. There was little labour intensive industry in the area.

The LGAC was not opposed to development in the area, he said, but this should be left to market forces and should not depend on outside stimulation.

Kriek said the councils had room to accommodate many more people; in the case of Randburg, enough land to house double its population. "They have not developed their potential for low cost housing," he said.

Another difficulty the councils would face was integrating and co-ordinating development in an area larger than Johannesburg.

Kriek added that the area had unique characteristics, including three rivers, many nature reserves and a "micro climate" that could not be found anywhere else in the Transvaal.

However, Sandton and Randburg representative David Osborn said these assertions were "flawed". The TPA had undertaken to provide necessary infrastructure for informal housing settlements, he said.

The councils would do their best to ensure the rights and concerns of landowners were respected.

Urbanisation was inevitable, said Osborn, and would take place with or without planning. "The reality is that squatting will occur on the outside of urban areas."

By the end of this century, 60% of the black population would be urbanised, and a decade later, the PWV area would have to accommodate 16-million people.

Osborn said the Zevenfontein issue was an example of how settlements would occur on the periphery of an urban area, and that local authority planning was necessary to keep the process under control.

It was not a question of stimulating urbanisation through planning, but of controlling black urbanisation that was inevitable.

And while the opinions of the people living in the green belt had to be taken into account, a voice of reason was needed, said Osborn.

Roodepoort representative Fritz van Oosten denied that the councils were looking for room to accommodate squatters. He said low cost housing would remain below the R28 highway in the medium term, and the essential character of the green belt would remain undisturbed.

should be relocated. However, it's not quite as cut and dried as that. The Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association has given notice that it intends to appeal against the judgment. Certainly, it won't be until March at the earliest that the Zevenfontein homeless can move to the site. Apart from legal complications which could arise over the appeal, essential services still have to be installed.

Described by the Transvaal Provincial Administration's deputy director of community development Len Dekker as a "watershed" decision, the judgment certainly has wide-reaching implications for North Rand property owners — not to say all SA property owners. By dismissing the residents' association's attempt to interdict the TPA from settling the squatters in the area on the grounds that their presence would, among other things, interfere with the rights of established landowners and result in an increase in crime and pollution, the judge has sent a signal that the homeless also have rights.

Diepsloot residents and plot-holders immediately predicted that the value of their properties would drop dramatically in the wake of the judgment. Equally responsive were the major lending institutions, which announced a cessation on the granting of loans in the Diepsloot area until the "long-term future value of the properties in the area could be determined."

That the value of properties in the Diepsloot area will drop in the wake of the ruling is not a matter of debate for property economist Erwin Rode. "Property prices look set to tumble in the short term," he says. "In the longer term, it's difficult to predict where they will level off."

Earlier research done by Rode into property prices at nearby Bloubosrand, which early last year was mooted as an alternative site for the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters, showed that house prices were down by an average of 11% within six months of the announcement. Stand prices were down even further — by about 20%. However, after vigorous resistance by the community to the resettlement plans and the decision by the TPA to relocate the homeless to the Nooitgedacht and Diepsloot areas instead, property prices were back almost to their previous levels by the year's end.

Rode says he feels sorry for the residents of Diepsloot, but the reality is that the need to locate the homeless in areas close to places of employment is not going to go away. In this respect, he says, any homeowner living on the periphery of any major town in SA could be at risk. Certainly, similar problems have arisen with the growing informal settlement at Hout Bay and the squatters in Durban's Block AK.

Rode blames government for the mess. He says that when influx control was abolished in 1986, government should have foreseen that the Group Areas Act would also have to go and should have started planning accordingly. Early identification of sites destined for informal settlement, he says, would have allowed market forces to come into play — which would have channelled formal housing development elsewhere.

Though a shack-type settlement is being contemplated for the Zevenfontein people and the Diepsloot residents cited lower standards of hygiene and a rising crime rate among their objections, Rode insists that it would be simplistic to see the issue as inherently racist.

"It doesn't necessarily have to do with race," he says. "It's the kind of conflict you get when you have people of different classes living cheek by jowl. I suspect you would have a similar outcry if you had a population of low-class whites living next door to Houghton."

Whatever the psychology, it's another case of bad planning — or rather, no planning at all. ■

URBANISATION FM 15/1/93 (310)

Where next?

The new South Africa came right to the doorstep of property owners in Diepsloot, northwest of Johannesburg, earlier this month, with the decision by the Pretoria Supreme Court to allow the Zevenfontein squatters to be settled there.

The court ruling seemingly brought to an end the long wrangle over where the 5 000-odd members of the displaced community

How to squeeze Jo'burg's northern suburbs

By PATRICK BOND

A RED menace is spreading through the leafy northern suburbs of Johannesburg: not communists in the shrubbery but bank "redlining" policies in which a figurative line demarcates a no-lend area.

Once an inner-city phenomenon, redlining has now reached the outer reaches of Johannesburg. The Transvaal Provincial Administration's (TPA) recent supreme court victory in the Zevenfontein case increases the likelihood of shack settlements sprouting near suburbs like Diepsloot.

In the first major effect of the case, banks have redlined Diepsloot, the Council of South African Banks has confirmed. Simultaneously, six metropolitan municipalities led by Randburg and Sandton have applied to the Demarcation Board to incorporate land northwest of Johannesburg — as a "dumping ground for squatters", according to Werner Zybrands of the Local Government Affairs Council.

Estate agents report that, geographically, this will further squeeze the terrain that is open for bank loans. A survey of Johannesburg agents and bankers confirms that redlining is now a severe problem in central areas — Joubert Park, Hillbrow and Berea — and is permeating even trendy Yeoville and Bellevue.

According to Clive Babb, of First National Bank's Valuations Division, FNB valuers will not even bother looking at central city properties, and the only Berea properties he will value are those adjoining Louis Botha Avenue or Harrow Road. FNB's Hillbrow branch home loan officer Rudolf Breytenbach confirms that Joubert Park, Hillbrow and Berea are off-limits.

Near Louis Botha Avenue in Bellevue, just north of Rockey Street, Hometeam Estate Agents say bonds are still available for homes in some streets from two banks, but warn that if the property needs repairs or is next to a block of flats, it becomes nearly impossible to get a bond. Areas to the immediate east of the central business district — Bertrams, Lorentzville, Judith's Paarl, even Bez Valley — are patchily redlined at present and face a greater threat in the future.

But the news for in-town borrowers is not all bad. Late last year tenants in the Hillbrow-Joubert Park "Seven Buildings Project" gained in-principle agreements for bank financing, thanks to the support of Anglo American Properties and the Urban Foundation.

Funds will be lent on the condition that normal collateral is enhanced by a "zero-coupon bond". This lowers the banks' exposure to the co-operative housing venture in the event of a default. The Central Johannesburg Partnership, which will help underwrite the deal, requires R2,5-million in grant financing subsidies for the R10-million purchase-rehabilitation.

This raises a thorny issue for policy-makers in the future: whether such subsidies should go to the supply side (collateral to the banks) or to the demand side (lower monthly payments for tenant-purchasers). Proponents of the Partnership financial model, which was designed by UAL Merchant Bank, say that the banks need more external security before they end redlining policies. But this may ultimately make it harder for other borrowers who do not have the zero-coupon bond collateral.

Seven Buildings tenant leader Sandi Mgidlana calls for a general prohibition on redlining policies: "Now the white residents who are affected should consider organising and pooling resources so that we can keep property prices from falling and also ensure fair housing for all."

Mgidlana says his organisation's sister agency in the United States (Washington Inner-City Self-Help) has been successful with such strategies in recent years, lobbying bankers for tens of millions of dollars' worth of loans for racially integrated residential development.

Even in the most drab, impoverished circumstances, informal settlers have found the creativity to transform unlikely materials, bringing some warmth and colour to their shacks. By BARBARA LUDMAN

At the roadside wall of Simon Magadla's home-cum-shop in Mandela Park near Katlehong. You can pick up ordinary corrugated iron in several lengths or stronger IBR sheeting, useful for roofs. Poles cost R5 or R14, depending on length and condition. New two-by-four planks go for R11,50-R14. WMail 15/1-21/1/93

Six months ago Magadla bought a bakkie and added building supplies to the beer, sweets and other essentials he sells in his spaza shop. He hasn't looked back. "There's a demand," he says. "People need scrap things like this, like it or not."

Laying a cement floor, polishing it black, red or green and building a corrugated shelter on it is only the beginning. People add on to their shacks, divide them into rooms, construct outbuildings, shops and

Lucas Ntlathi's children see the Simba lion last thing at night and first thing in the morning, because he's decorated the walls of his Mandela Park shack with Simba posters. The children sleep in a room just large enough for two iron bedsteads and a full-length mirror in between, divided with masonite from their parents' bedroom/sitting room. In the kitchen, bags of corn puffs, shortbread and popcorn hang from a string, waiting for customers.

Ntlathi worked on pump motors at a factory in Germiston until he was retrenched a year ago. His wife, Aslina Ntlathi, minds the store while he tries to find work. In between unsuccessful job-seeking forays he's painted his shack a lovely, restful blue: unhappy with the shades on offer, he mixed his own paint.

The Mandela Park shack settlement sprung up across the veld from the Alrode industrial park. Rubbish is piled high at the edge of the veld; only a narrow dirt road separates the trash from the shacks.

Nobody should have to live like this, sheltering in a tiny tin space across the road from an ad hoc rubbish tip. But millions do — and many have tried to turn their backs on the filth and the violence, concentrating instead on bringing a bit of beauty into their home lives.

Nothing typifies that response as well as Bennett Shezi's shack, surrounded by a fence topped with razor wire and decorated with his Rastafarian drawings. 310

Inside, the wallpaper is gold with a narrow vibrant blue stripe — and the stripe reads "Cadbury's".

Outside, the ground has been cleared, a small patch of grass planted and edged with stones, a dog house built out of bricks and masonite.

Shezi worked on a welding machine until the factory that employed him went under last June. "Jah loves I," he says. God will look after him. He's made room for a friend whose factory has also closed. He'd like to get married, he says — he's got a fiancée

[illegible] lives elsewhere — but not until he has a bit of "power" — money, and a job.

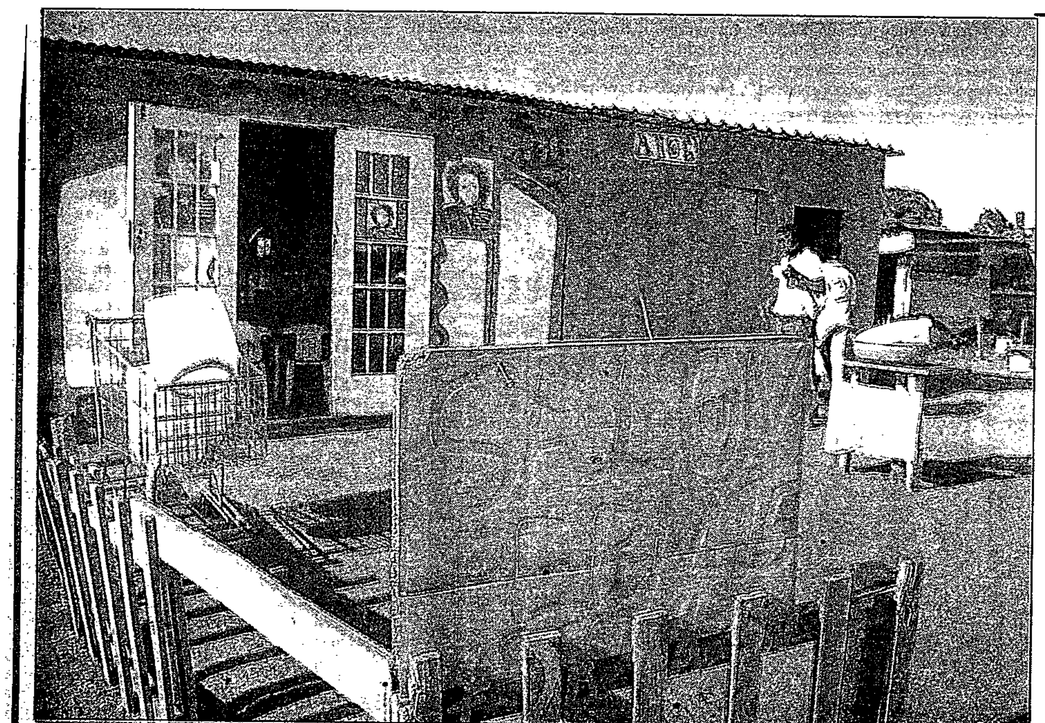
Generally the shops are the fanciest, painted in wonderful patterns to attract custom. But here and there among the unpainted zinc there's a patchwork of shades of brown, beige, tan, or a black and white geometic design. Here and there is a fence made not of chicken wire but of palettes painted orange or red or white.

A drawing of an eagle takes flight next to the doorway of a white-painted shack; there's a row of plants in white plastic pots set out on the red-polished stoep of a shack on the next street. A two-dimensional tin sculpture of a flowering tree takes on a certain elegance and richness when it's fixed inside a front window like a piece of stained glass. A newly planted patch of earth with terraces in concentric circles making the most of constricted space turns earth into garden. WMail 15/1-21/1/93

And while many shack-dwellers grow mealies or spinach in the front garden, suddenly there are flowers.

"It's easier to fetch water for the garden than it used to be," says Jeffrey Moreki of Extension 9 near Lenasia. It's defined as a transit camp by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, which has installed 110 taps, but only on the periphery, because the settlement occupies dolomitic ground and there's a danger of sinkholes. A few hundred chemical toilets, one for every four houses, have been brought in.

Why grow flowers instead of vegetables? "We like the flowers," he says simply — and when he comes home from his job at a nearby garage he's greeted by the splash of colour they provide.



Perm palace ... A brightly coloured hair salon in Katlehong

The luxury of flushing

WMail 15/1-21/1/93.

YOU wouldn't expect to find a flush toilet in a shack settlement — even one that's made good, like Orange Farm. 310

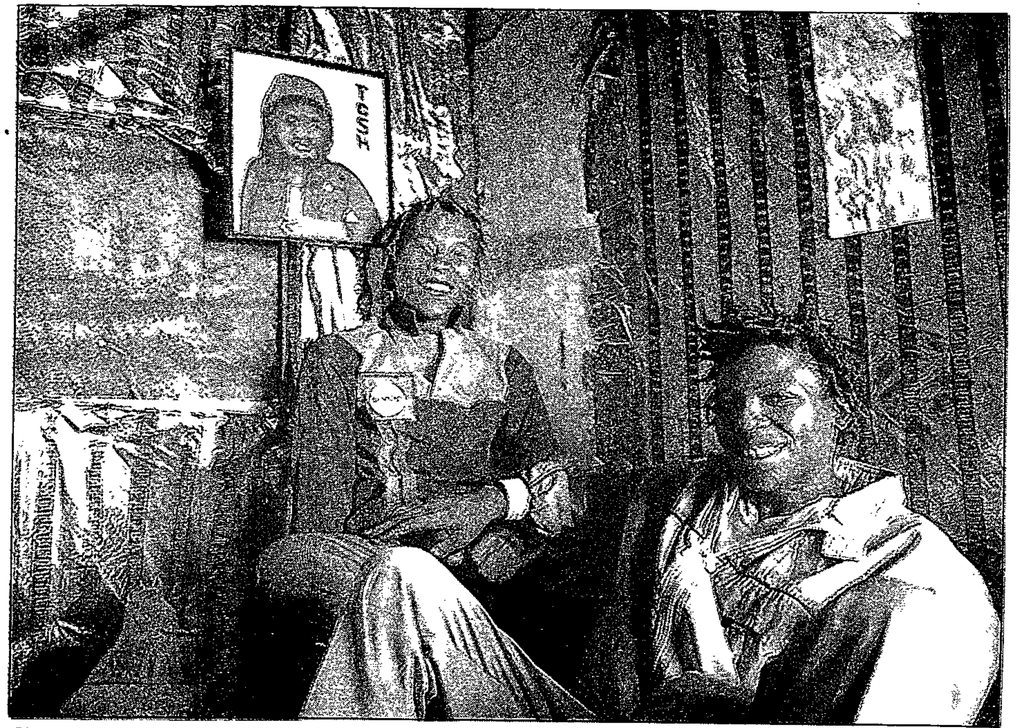
Orange Farm has electricity, and building constantly going on, with more houses than shacks. But it doesn't have water-borne sewerage, and the water has only been piped as far as the road.

All the same, Sipho Xesha has built two flush toilets — and both work.

Xesha, a builder-turned-shopowner, took a course in toilet-building at the Wilgespruit Centre in Roodepoort before starting construction.

The toilet is installed in a tin shack outside his small, self-built house. A great washtub stands by the outhouse, filled in relays from the tap. After every flush, the user scoops up a bucket of water from the washtub and pours it into the cistern, ready for the next time.

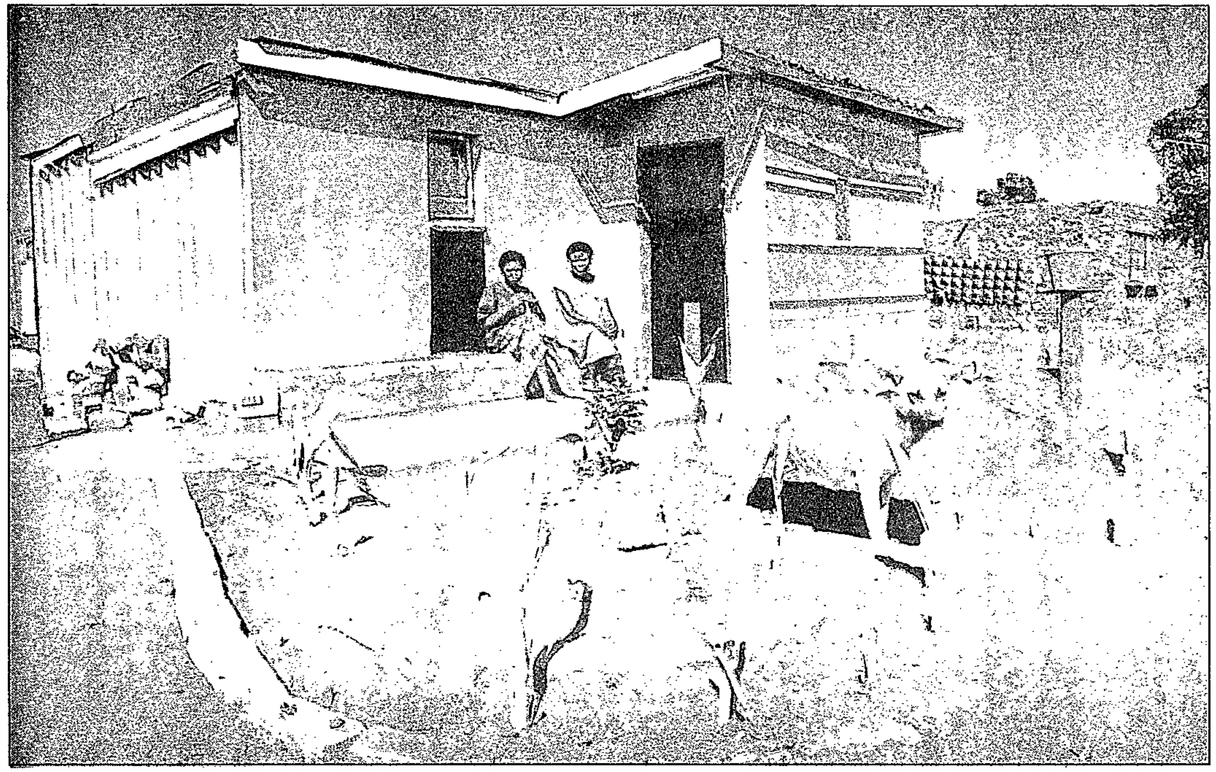
The toilet is connected to a septic tank; the ground above it has been cordoned off. It's bare at the moment, the subject of discussion in the Xesha household. Xesha wants vegetables; his wife wants flowers. They'll probably plant both.



Chocolate box ... These Rastafarians have used sweet wrappers as wallpaper and painted portraits of reggae favourites

Scont.

Bringing some beauty into shanty-town



Garden and home ... From the dust of a settlement in Extension 9, Lenasia, these women have built up a garden

When the chips are down ... Lucas Ntlathi's imaginatively decorated home in Mandela Park

Photos: KEVIN CARTER

Finding the value in all that junk

For the growing subculture of ragpickers municipal waste dumps present mounds of possibilities.

By **ROSE TELELA**

Never mind the grunge ... Rummaging through the rubbish can be rewarding
Photo: SYLVIA MORESCHE

A RAGGED but neatly dressed man walks among piles of debris, glancing here and there and poking into mounds with his stick. He picks something out, examines it and throws it away shaking his head. Then he kneels, scoops up an empty Coke bottle and puts it in his plastic bag — the first item of his day's treasure.

Koos Roberts, a rag picker who operates at a dump between Kliptown and Chiawelo, is a slightly built man. He wears brown pants that are too big, tied tightly around his waist with an old belt, and a clean white T-shirt. When he picks, he trudges around in old white takkies that have become brown with dirt and age. But he smiles often and when he does, he reveals two missing teeth.

Roberts lives in a run-down house in Kliptown with his family of five. He has been out of work for four years and survives by raiding the dumps and begging. "The stuff I pick up sometimes does not help much, but most times it is very helpful," he says. "Old shoes and clothes I can take home to my family or have my wife wash so I can sell them to squatters."

Other items in his picking catalogue include bottles that can be sold, old toys, broken chairs and utensils that can be fixed to use or sell. "Sometimes there is a bottle of alcohol that is half full. This is when I think of myself as lucky," he says.

Dumps in the township are less regulated than city dumps and therefore a picking heaven for people like Roberts. Municipal dump sites have strict regulations about dumping and scavenging. A city dump in Turffontein is surrounded by a high wall and guarded by municipal police. At another dump near West Park Cemetery, people hang around outside, but say they are not rag pickers. Municipal police say pickers are not allowed into the dump. Others say pickers are let in after 5.30pm on weekends.

Township dumps are little pockets scattered throughout the vast expanse of the different areas. Dumping is done by both residents of townships and squatters. Roberts benefits mostly from the refuse of township residents. "What the squatter residents throw out is generally stuff that cannot be reused or sold."

Rag picking can be a highly territorial occupation, often resulting in fierce duels for prime dumping ground. Some pickers claim certain spots as their beat, but if there is nothing of use on a certain day they move on to other pieces of land. Often squabbles erupt.

"Veteran rag pickers often win the fight," says Thami Dlamini, a 50-year-old picker from the nearby squatter camp. He remembers how yielding dumps were for the enterprising rag picker before people built shacks. "It was just one big mountain of ash and rubbish," he says. "Now all you find are small dumps everywhere. You have to work from one to the next and there are always people at each dump you go to — too many people," he adds.

For Dlamimi, it is easier to live off other people's cast-off's than to beg. "I can't find a job and these days people are stingy with food and money. In *e mathikhitwane* (the dump) everything is for free." He says it not hard to find things among all that rubble. "If you have been in this as long as I have, you would know exactly where to find things you can use or sell."

Nevertheless, this kind of life is not easy. There are times when there is nothing worthwhile to pick. "And people look at you as if you're mad. Others give you a pitiful look, as if you're an orphan and ridicule you — especially children," he says.

There are special difficulties if you are a woman. "They (men) think they can either claim you or take you under their wing. They don't consider the fact that you are married and you are doing this because your husband is an *isidagwa* (drunkard) and you have to feed your children," says Joyce, who also lives off the refuse. She is obliged to live off cast-off's in order to survive. "I'm not ashamed of it. What else can you do if you can't find a job and your husband is not working?"

FOCUS *Zevenfontein squatters fear their rightwing neighbours*

focus on squatters

Whites riding scooters and on horseback have become a nightmare for the squatters looking forward to resettlement in Diepsloot following the killing of two people since November. **Mzimasi Ngudle** reports on: Sowetan 21/1/93 (310)

A PRELUDE TO THE GREAT trek of the Zevenfontein squatters has struck an ominous chord.

At least, that is how many squatters felt after an unidentified man's body was found lying face down at the Jukskei River on which Zevenfontein verges.

Contrary to police suspicion that he drowned, squatters suspect that he was killed by whites who were seen riding scooters along the banks of the river before his body was found.

His death occurred within two months of another squatter reportedly being shot dead by whites riding horses along the same river banks in November last year.

Squatters said horse rides and scooter drives inevitably preceded the death of many a squatter.

They are convinced that more trouble awaits them following a court verdict sanctioning the Transvaal Provincial Administration's decision to resettle them in Diepsloot.

The decision thwarted a bid by landowners in Diepsloot and Laezonia to stop their resettlement.

Rubbing salt into their wounds is the ogre of rightwing hostility that has laid siege to their future.

Last year, a coterie of Afrikaner *bittereinders*, led by Boerestaat Party leader Mr Robert van Tonder, cried foul to the settlement of "filthy" squatters next to their plush suburbs.

This year the reaction was a little milder and diplomatic, a far cry from attacks that haunted the Zevenfontein community.

Mr Anton Duigan, chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group, an umbrella body of local white residents associations, emphatically denied any racial hatred towards the squatters.

Echoing the words of Mr Stuart Aitchison of the Diepsloot Residents Association, Duigan cited, among others, lack of proper consultation, municipal infrastructure and the threat of pollution as the root of discontent.

"The matter should have been left to the squatters and residents instead of the TPA acting unilaterally," Duigan said.

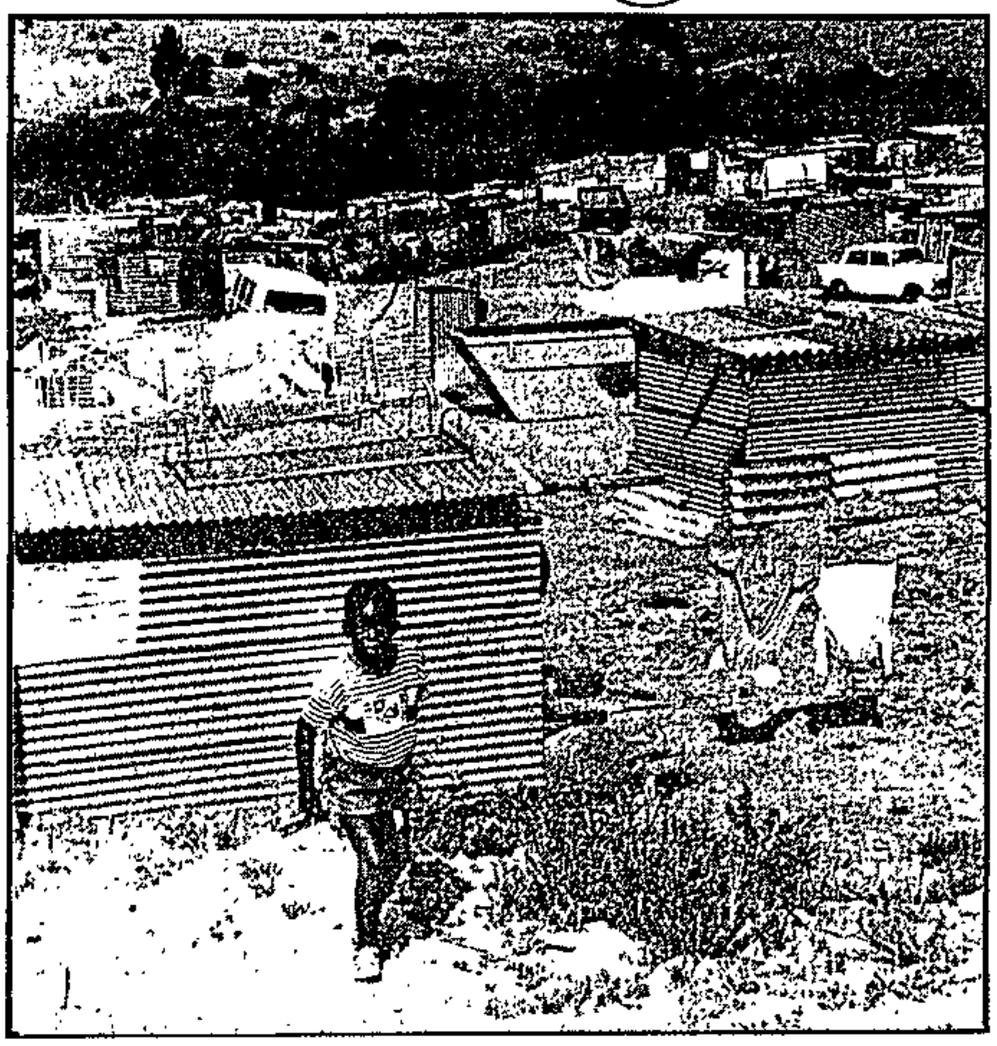
"The area falls outside local municipal boundaries and settling them here will cost the tax payer a fortune.

"The aqua privy toilets which the TPA provides will pollute underground water supplies which farmers rely on.

Duigan said the residents resolved to appeal against the court decision. They have until the January 23 to lodge notice of an application to appeal.

Meanwhile, the rustic squatter camp is gradually dissipating. Tents donated by the Red Cross are slowly shredding, while the debris of building materials severed from the shacks by blowing winds is scattered all over.

Only the sky covered a makeshift creche that last year had a canvas roof.



Zevenfontein squatter camp before the big trek.

Rivulets of water dripping from 100 tanks around the camp are sucked up by the parched ground that slopes gently towards the Jukskei River.

At midday the scorching heat from the blazing sun sends the squatters scuttling into their stuffy, congested shacks.

People we spoke to are evidently delighted that they will own homes at last. However, their delight has been turned into fear by rightwing terrorism in the promised land.

FACTFILE

- The 1 500 squatters settled in Zevenfontein in 1990 after Charles Ras, owner of a farm on which they lived, "peacefully" evicted them.
- An outcry from neighbouring white residents, protests and court interdicts frustrate the TPA move to resettle them at Diepsloot.

Green belt arguments end as hearing closes

B|Day 21|1|93

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE Demarcation Board hearing in Krugersdorp on whether an area larger than Johannesburg should be divided between six councils came to a close yesterday.

The board is considering whether the green belt area northwest of Johannesburg should be partitioned and included in the boundaries of Krugersdorp, Roodepoort, Randburg, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdburg. Midrand has backed the argument that the area be administered by a new local authority.

The board, under chairman Jan Brand, will spend the next four weeks considering arguments for and against incorporation, presented over a five-day period. It will then present its findings to TPA administrator Danie Hough who will make a final decision.

Opposing the application are several local administration committees representing communities in the area, with the support of the Local Government Authority Council, a statutory body that oversees the functioning of the administration committees.

The board will also consider the local authority council's proposal that the area be administered under a separate authority, assisted by a new, expanded Witwatersrand Regional Services Council.

The board has also been asked to make a finding over a dispute between Midrand and Sandton. Both councils wish to incorporate patches land that separate them.

The councils argued that urbanisation pressure and an expected influx of eight million people during the next decade meant additional land was urgently needed.

Randburg and Sandton representative David Osborn denied the land would be used as a "dumping ground" for squatters, saying it would be systematically developed. Urban infrastructure would be put in place for an economic mix of low- to high-income housing and industry.

Werner Zybrands, representing the local authority councils, said the rural character of the area would be destroyed if the councils began haphazard and uncoordinated development.

Chiefs seek order on demolitions

Sowetan 25/1/93

SUPREME COURT Bid by residents to stop Bop police from razing shacks:

By Monk Nkomo

CHIEFS OF THE Amandebele-a-Lebelo in Hammanskraal have filed an urgent application in the Mmabatho Supreme Court seeking an order stopping the police from demolishing shacks in Marokolong.

The application is due to be heard at 10am today. The applicants are Chief Maxwell Silas Kekana, Mr Moses Motileng and Mrs Kate Dichabe.

The respondents are Bophuthatswana President Chief Lucas Mangope, who is also minister of law and order, and TMNS (Pty) Ltd, a private company.

Mr Willie Seriti of Seriti, Mavundla and Partners, who represent the applicants, yesterday confirmed they had filed an urgent application in the Mmabatho Supreme Court.

The action followed the demolition of shacks in Marokolong by the Bophuthatswana police.

Seriti said they would seek an order restraining Mangope from demolishing any property in the affected area on the farm Leeuwkraal.

Lawyers would also seek an order directing the respondents to immediately rebuild property damaged during two raids this month.

Seriti said they would also seek an order stopping the respondents from further demolishing any property there "without due process of law", restraining TMNS (Pty) Ltd from erecting a building on the said property.

Several families were evicted from Marokolong village and their shacks demolished by the Bophuthatswana police in two separate raids this month.

Press liaison officer for the homeland police, Colonel David George, said the raids were conducted because residents occupied land belonging to the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation.

Seriti said Dichabe had been staying in the area since she was born in 1914. Motileng's family had been staying there since 1902.

Several residents had their furniture and other valuables damaged during the two raids. A number of political and community organisations condemned the raids that left thousands of people homeless, accusing the homeland government of being insensitive to the plight of the homeless.

How 'Mr Fixit' put the twinkle in Orange Farm

STAR 28/11/93.

By Abdul Milazi

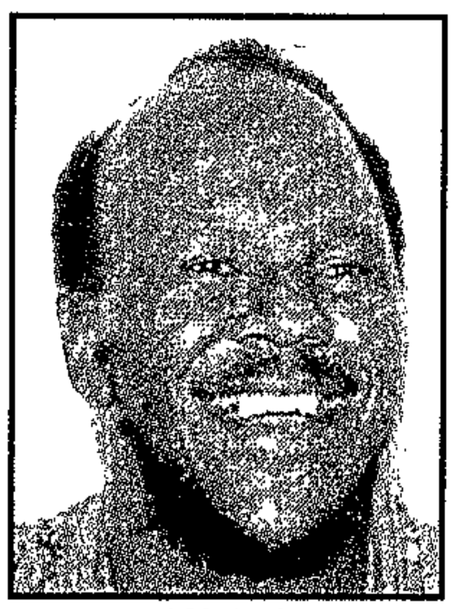
Until "Mr Fixit" arrived, the squatter settlement of Orange Farm south of Johannesburg did not twinkle at night, and telephones were only children's toys.

Quietly-spoken paraplegic Thami Majozi (42) began a community effort which resulted in Orange Farm now boasting electricity in 18 000 shacks, while 155 homes have telephones. More telephones and electricity installation are in the pipeline.

Majozi left Soweto in 1983 to settle at Orange Farm because the backyard room he occupied behind his parents' home became too small for his family of five.

He dreamt of turning the Orange Farm settlement into a livable home and threw himself into community activities, quickly earning himself the nickname of "Mr Fixit".

"When I settled here, I met residents and we looked at the needs of the community. We examined all the aspects of our physical, social, health, welfare and business needs, and then looked at ways to improve all this," said Majozi.



Thami Majozi . . . a go-ahead leader.

The Orange Farm Creative Group (OFCG), which facilitates development in the area, was born and things started happening.

Making Orange Farm a livable home meant challenging and winning the battle against apartheid prejudices and oppression, said Majozi, who also chairs the Orange Farm traders', taverners' and disabled people's associations.

"Squatters are always looked down upon by authorities and people in general. Who would have thought shacks could be electrified? These services are available to us because we did not sit back and accept that we could not have electricity," said Majozi.

When the OFCG decided to approach Eskom in 1990, it received a prompt response.

"Eskom came to do surveys and approved the project. The following year, they started installing electricity in our shacks."

Because the shacks were close together, and for ease of maintenance, Eskom decided to install overhead, rather than underground, electricity cables with ancillary cables branching off to the individual shacks.

When the OFCG later approached Telkom to supply a telephone service to the area, the poles carrying the electric cable were used to carry the telephone wires.

Bills are sent to a common post box used by the whole community. A volunteer "postman" then delivers the post.

"The post box was opened in the name of the OFCG and is administered by it.

"We are an extremely communal and very organised community.

"Even when we approached Telkom for telephones, we only had to explain to them who we were and how we work as a com-

● To Page 3

'Squatters' 'Mr Fixit'

310

STAR 28/11/93.

● From Page 1

munity. They installed the phones in a short period of time," said Majozi.

Eskom and Telkom said they had not experienced problems with payments since they started servicing the area.

Eskom southern Vaal region customer service manager Dave Crumm said electric dispensers instead of meters were installed in the shacks for the squatters' convenience.

"With dispensers, residents buy units and use cards to switch on. When all the electricity purchased has been used, the red light on the dispenser will go off.

"The resident then has to buy more units. The dispenser also displays how much of the purchased electricity is still available. A person can use it sparingly," said Crumm.

But for "Mr Fixit", more work lies ahead. Majozi is not yet satisfied with his achievements and is working on plans to build a centre for the disabled.

"Since I came to Orange Farm I have concentrated all my efforts on improving the general community and I neglected my fellow disabled. Now is the time to do something for them.

"There is also the issue of schools. We have not got enough schools for the ever-increasing community. Schools use old municipal buses as extra classrooms," said Majozi.

Mr Fixit lights up lives of shack dwellers

310
Arg 29/1/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Until Mr Fixit arrived, the squatter settlement of Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, did not twinkle at night and the only telephones were children's toys.

Quietly-spoken paraplegic Mr Thami Majozi, 42, launched a community effort and now Orange Farm has electricity in 18 000 shacks and 155 have telephones.

Mr Majozi left Soweto in 1983 to settle at Orange Farm because his room in the backyard of his parents' home was too small for his family of five.

He dreamt of turning the settlement into a livable home and threw himself into community activities, quickly earning the nickname of Mr Fixit.

"When I settled here, I met residents and we looked at the needs of the community. We examined all the aspects of our physical, social, health, welfare and business needs, and then looked at ways to improve all this," said Mr Majozi.

The Orange Farm Creative Group was born, and immediately started fighting the battle against apartheid prejudices and oppression, said Mr Majozi, who also chairs the Orange Farm traders', taverners' and disabled people's associations.

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The group approached Eskom in 1990 and the following year work began on installing electricity.

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Mr Fixit is now working on plans for a centre for disabled people.

FROM SLUM TO SHTETL TO SLUM

IN a cave hollowed out of the foundations of an old Johannesburg home, a young Zulu mother croons gently to her baby.

Outside, where children once collected acorns, drug deals are being negotiated.

Bertrams, a small Johannesburg suburb, is in its latest incarnation, having gone from slum to shtetl (village) to slum in 60 years.

In the 30s, Jewish refugees from Lithuania or Germany smoused poultry to housewives. Now refugees from homelands, townships and Natal's deathlands crowd the houses and the streets don't feel safe.

Inside large old homes black families live crammed together. One house in Terrace Street is shared by an estimated 140 people.

In her dark hole beneath 24 Ascot Road, Mrs Zodwa Duze, 26, stirs her pot of porridge on a small paraffin stove, seemingly oblivious to the noise of people walking around on the boards above her.

She shares the dilapidated four-bedroomed house with 62 people. Although she is unhappy in the hovel — for which her husband pays R180 a month — she is trapped. Driven from Natal by unemployment and poverty, she and her husband brought their family to Johannesburg two years ago.

He soon found a job in a hardware store, but with the lack of housing in the city he was forced to move his family into the makeshift "home".

Bertrams has survived many changes since it was proclaimed a township in 1889. In 1930 blacks were given permits to live in the suburb, but five years later they were relocated and the area declared a slum.

Terrible

Coloured families moved in in 1935. They resisted removal for two years before they made way for a white rehousing scheme.

Bertrams became home to many middle-class Jews, most of them German and Lithuanian refugees who fled to South Africa in the late 30s.

Many of the Jewish settlers built grand homes: it is these homes, which today have become virtual squatter camps under one roof.

From around the mid-50s, the Jewish community was replaced by a burgeoning Portuguese community.

In 30 years Portuguese numbers dwindled as coloured and Indian people moved back. Now they too are leaving as poor black families move into the area to be closer to work.

Inside the house on Ascot Road is a maze of beds and partitions. The owner, Mr GJ Zuchowski, who has not been heard of for months, has ingeniously divided every room to accommodate as many people as possible.

Residents live under appalling conditions, with only one working toilet — two more are blocked and overflowing — two cold water taps and no electricity.

The self-appointed caretaker of the house, Mrs Joyce Dlamini, 27, said the number of people who sleep at the house increases to at least 100 over weekends.

"The conditions are terrible, but most of the people who live here only want a place to stay so that they can keep their jobs.

"The owner of the house has made a fortune out of us.

"This house is falling apart. I am afraid that it will collapse on Zodwa. Everything is damp, no one will ever fix this house, it will eventually have to be demolished — then where will we live?"

From the rooms marked 1 to 19 in the house, people share single beds and sleep on the floor.

Three years ago Mrs Anna Mvelase, 50, and her husband Enoch, 58, paid a deposit of R360 to Mr Zuchowski for their space, which is the size of two single beds.

"We moved into the dining room which he divided into three sections. There are 10 people living with us and the only things that give us a little privacy are the low wooden partitions and our curtains.

Afraid

"We do not want to live like this, but we have no other place," said Mrs Mvelase.

In the kitchen, which has a partition across the centre, four people live. The sink is used to store milk and other food, while the former pantry is packed with plastic drums which will be taken back to the homelands.

On top of the garage five rooms have been slapped together with cement, cardboard, corrugated iron and wood.

One section which is less than two metres wide is home to a family of six.

During the day everything that is on the floor is put on the bed so that there is space to move and cook food.

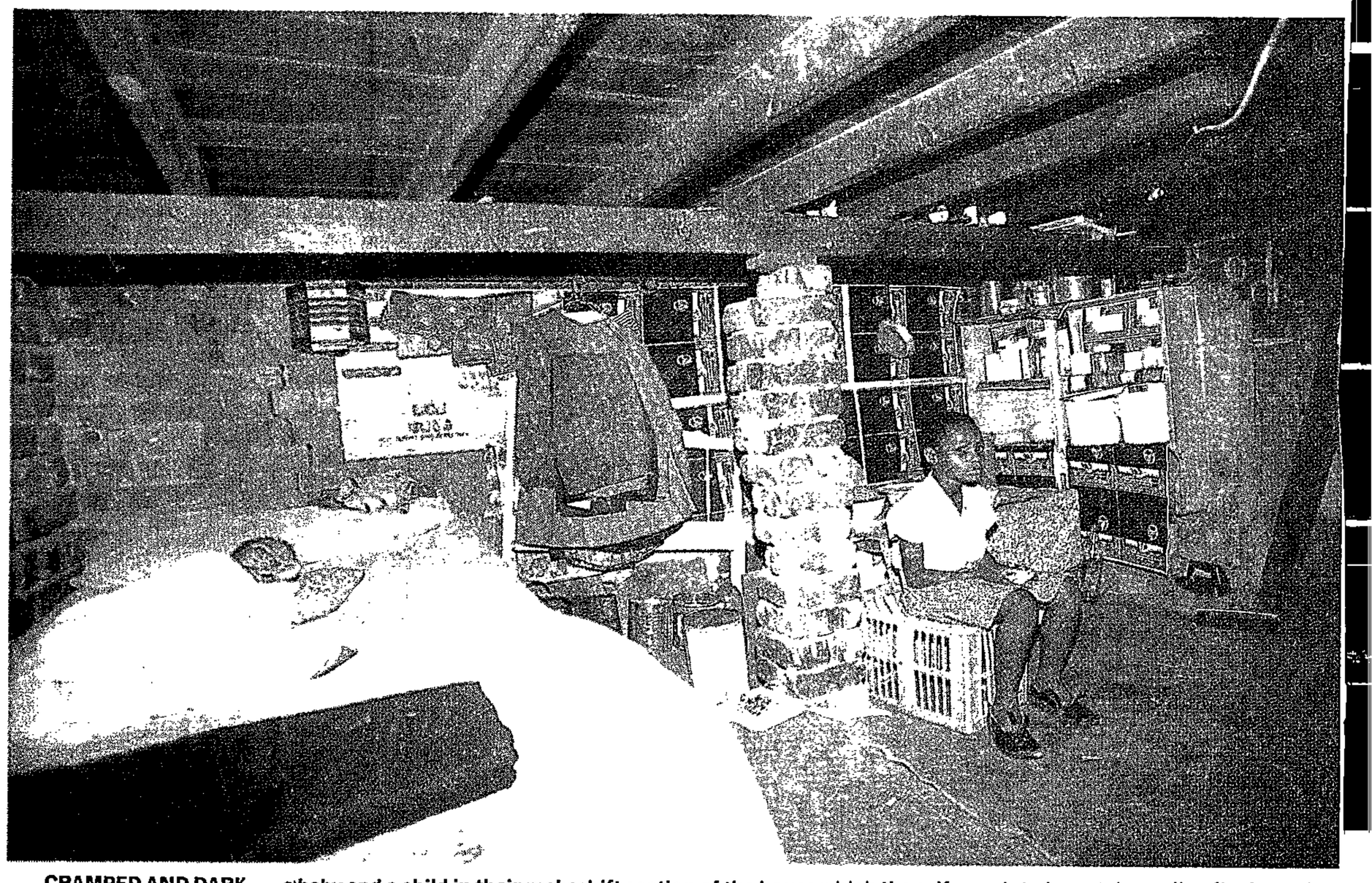
Mrs Dlamini is afraid the house could burn down.

"All the women use paraffin stoves and many people smoke. If this house catches fire many people will die. If they do not die in the flames the place is so overcrowded they will kill each other trying to get out," she said.

This is 24 Ascot Road. People are living here ... sixty-three in fact

● Words: JOCELYN MAKER ● Pictures: HERBERT MABUZA

SQUALID ... the house where up to 100 people stay in appalling conditions



CRAMPED AND DARK ... a baby and a child in their makeshift section of the house which the self-appointed caretaker calls a fire hazard

Peculiar commands link cops to killing – lawyer

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

STARTLING evidence was heard in the Rand Supreme Court this week, of a police captain who was ordered by his Pretoria bosses to investigate the Swanieville massacre – but not police activities on the day.

These revelations were made by defence counsel AS Burger during his argument in a trial-within-a-trial of seven alleged Inkatha members.

The seven pleaded not guilty to 28 counts of murder, 39 of attempted murder, and burning and looting of shacks on May 12 last year.

Accused

The seven accused are Vumisani Majola, 35, Siswe Majola, 48, Joseph Khanyile, 42, Bhakithi Dlamini, 29, Bhekowakhe Mdlalose, 29, Pheyi Nhlapo, 49, all of Kagiso Hostel, and Mzanywa Sithole from Wattville Hostel.

Five of the seven men alleged they were forced into making statements. One said he told a magistrate that he was tortured.

Burger said it was strange how after the massacre a Col Langenhoven came all the way from Pretoria to instruct the investigating officer, a Capt Johnson, to investigate the case – but not the police's actions.

He said the instructions from Langenhoven alone were proof enough that police did take part in the massacre, "otherwise, if not, why were such orders made?"

Burger told Judge C Botha, sitting with two assessors, that about 80 to 100 people, including the police, had taken part in the Swanieville attack, and not 800 or 1 000 hostel dwellers as police had testified in court.

He also said police took part in the Swanieville massacre but had tried to blame nearby hostel dwellers for the murder.

Burger argued that police did not call for reinforcements because they were the ones who carried out the attack.

He said the relationship between police and squatters went sour after reports that police were to be attacked by Swanieville squatters. A month before the attack on squatters, senior policemen had issued a warning to the police patrolling Swanieville to be cautious as there were people in the squatter camp who wanted to kill policemen.

The case continues.

Thursday February 4 1993 SOWETAN

PEOPLE ARE DYING ...found in new child-proof paraffin

Danger lurks in cool drink bottles

Soweton 4/2/93

By Pearl Majola

■ MISTAKEN IDENTITY *Paraffin poisoning rife in townships without electricity:*

PETUNIA LETSOLO COULD BE playing happily with her peers in the dusty streets of Doornkop squatter camp in Dobsonville, Soweto, but her red, tear-filled eyes tell a different story.

She has been like that for the past four months.

Her mother Mabel is convinced that the trouble with Petunia's eyes is a result of paraffin poisoning to which the two-year-old fell victim in September last year.

It was about 8pm and the Letsolo family had just finished supper. Suddenly the baby, Petunia, was screaming and spewing all over the place.

"When I saw the vinegar bottle which had contained paraffin lying empty on the floor, I realised what she had done and gave her milk to drink," recalls Mabel. "I rushed out looking for transport to take her to hospital. There are no ambulances here. My baby could have died."

Petunia was admitted to the Leratong Hospital an hour later and remained there for three more days. Since then her eyes have never been the same.

Like hundreds of children about her age countrywide, Petunia drank half a mug of paraffin mistaking it for water or cool drink because it was within her reach and in a container which she could easily open and drink from.

The Doornkop squatter camp was electrified in December but the children are still threatened by paraffin poisoning because the electricity is out most of the time and the community still relies on paraffin for cooking and lighting.

However, the danger has been reduced by the new child-proof paraffin containers which consumers are advised to buy.

Realising the growing problem, the Zola Voluntary Health Care Workers, an organisation which compuses about 10 women, decided to do something to curb it.

Meanwhile, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa, with help from the Medical Research Council and Shell, were on a similar campaign to find a solution to the problem.

Now an effort is being made countrywide to distribute safe, child-proof paraffin containers.

The one and five litre plastic containers have a cap which children cannot open. They also have a warning in English, Zulu and Afrikaans that paraffin is not to be taken, must be kept out of reach of children and that it is highly flammable.

Paraffin Poisoning

- At Bara, at least 198 children were treated for paraffin poisoning in 1992.
- No fewer than 10 children a were treated a month.
- In 1990, 436 children were treated in hospitals and clinics around the Cape Peninsula. Of these, 63 percent were boys and over 80 percent were under three.
- Though statistics are not available, children are known to have died from paraffin poisoning or illnesses resulting from it.
- Children between one and three years old are most vulnerable.
- Paraffin poisoning is more rife in summer than in winter.

PEOPLE'S LIVES Solution found in new child-proof paraffin containers now available

Danger lurks in cool drink bottles

Soweton 4/2/93.

By Pearl Majola

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- At Bara, at least 198 children were treated for paraffin poisoning in 1992.
- No fewer than 10 children a were treated a month.
- In 1990, 436 children were treated in hospitals and clinics around the Cape Peninsula. Of these, 63 percent were boys and over 80 percent were under three years old.
- Though statistics are not available, children are known to have died from paraffin poisoning or illnesses resulting from it.
- Children between one and three years old are most vulnerable. Paraffin poisoning is more rife in summer than in winter.

What to do

Precautions:

- **Keep paraffin out of reach of children and store in labelled, tightly closed containers.**
- **Avoid cool drink bottles as containers.**

In case of poisoning:

- **Take the child to a hospital or doctor immediately.**
- **Give the child a glass of milk to drink.**
- **Don't let the child vomit.**

NEWS Government rocked by anoth

Squatters shocked by electricity bills

Soweten 9/2/93

(310)

By Tsale Makam

■ Excitement soured barely two months after service was provided:

EXCITEMENT about the installation of electricity at a squatter camp in Dobsonville, Soweto, was short-lived when residents were faced with increased bills.

The residents have fought for electricity since about 1981. But what they thought was a blessing also brought unexpected financial hardships.

Mr Peter Borias of the local civic association said yesterday: "When the area was lit up in December we were paying R66 for 97,4 units of electricity. All of a sudden the same amount buys only 88,5 units."

He said what angered them most was that Eskom did not even inform them of the increase. People only discovered it when they went to pay."

Residents say their rent is high and electricity is expensive, although it is a necessary convenience. But electrifying the shacks is forcing the people to face up to the problem of shabbily constructed shacks.

When it rains water sometimes gets into the main switch, which renders the people vulnerable to electrocution. "A child was shocked by electricity last month," Borias said.

Orange farm squatters also spent a bright Christmas after their area was electrified.

Some of the residents even have telephones.

That is the next step for the Roodepoort squatters. "We have already handed applications in," said Miss Rebecca Swarts.

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JACKSON LEADS ... The Reverend Jesse Jackson (centre) leads a silent march through Miami's Little Haiti on Sunday commemorating the second anniversary of ousted Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide's inauguration. He urged the crowd to keep putting pressure on the Clinton administration to return Aristide to power.

No shacks . . . but plenty of squatters

Star 10/2/93

By Jo-Anne Collinge

There may be hardly a shack in sight in Newclare and Westbury, says Robert van Wyk of the Westbury Residents' Action Committee, but there are still plenty of squatters. It's just that they are indoor squatters.

Like Hilda Botha and her three children, who took shelter as sub-tenants in 4301 Gerald Flats, Westbury, about five years ago. When the registered tenant moved out, they were left exposed to eviction by the Johannesburg municipality.

The eviction notice arrived — on New Year's Eve — telling Botha she could not take over the tenancy as "you only applied (for a council flat) in February 1991". She would have to make way for someone higher up on the housing waiting list.

Or like Johannes Bankies of Ida Road, who lived with his wife and four daughters in two tiny rooms in an abandoned building. A week ago the building caught alight, forcing a half-dozen families into make-shift shelters. They hope the fire will prove an improbable lucky stroke — and catapult them up the waiting list.

Bankies says his application for a home was made in 1985. The wait has tested his endurance — at one time the family lived in an abandoned vehicle. Ida Road was also no treat. "We sleep on top of each other like rabbits. And the rats! You can't store any food here. The rats are nearly as big as goats."

Florrie Daniels, also of the residents' committee, is a fragile-seeming grandmother who tackles the endless housing problems of her neighbours. For Daniels it goes bitterly against the grain to solve one family's problem by throwing another family on to the street. She reflects that the scrapping of the Group Areas Act has not improved the lot of people in the former coloured group areas of Johannesburg.

"We sit with the same problems as we had when we started this organisation in 1981 — in fact I've still got applications from 1981/2 where people haven't been housed."

Indoor squatters . . . Ida Road residents before fire forced them into the open. Picture: George Mashinini

(310)

Johannesburg's director of housing, Ian Taitz, says the lifting of racial housing restrictions has had contradictory effects. On the positive side, "we can now allocate on merit, not on a basis of race", he says. But the downside is that the waiting list has grown alarmingly — from 15 000 families two years ago to 25 000 families today.

With only about 600 units falling vacant in the course of a year, the demand grows and grows. A couple of years ago the council stopped its programme of direct housing development, Taitz says. So the municipal housing stock is static.

Although the city council helps developers become involved in providing low-cost housing, commercial developers have little interest in the rental market and non-governmental non-profit housing schemes have yet to bear fruit.

There are constant allegations of irregular allocation of public housing. After an inquiry two years ago, the provincial authorities decided to divest the South West Management Committee of its powers to allocate housing, and all units in Newclare and Westbury were handled by Johannesburg officials.

A central computerised housing list, where priority is determined according to a set formula, is in the pipeline. Household heads who live or work in the PWV and who earn under R1 200 a month are eligible for a council house, says Taitz.

The applicant's order of priority will be determined by the number of "points" to which his or her circumstances entitle the family. Applicants who both live and work in Johannesburg win extra points.

The earlier the date of application, the more points allocated. Particular social and health problems, as established by council doctors and social workers, chalk up additional points.

Taitz realises that dispassionate systems of allocation are always under threat when demand so hugely outstrips supply.

The council does not relish evicting sub-tenants or "indoor squatters", he says, but "you certainly can't have a situation where, because a person is a sub-tenant, he automatically gets allocated a free unit".

Van Wyk says the homeless gain little comfort from the fact that a computer rather than a clerk works out the odds on their getting homes. "The council is just sophisticating the problem," he says.

Star 12/2/93

Row over shack defused

Mediators from the National Peace Committee yesterday defused a confrontation between residents of Newclare, Johannesburg, and municipal security officers who had received orders to demolish a shack in a park in Ida Road.

The makeshift tin shelter was built by the community to house 13 families, left homeless when a fire last week destroyed the abandoned house in which they had been living.

Municipal security chief Colonel Phillip du Plessis told the residents he had orders to demolish the shack as it was an illegal structure in a public park.

National Peace Committee mediators Edwin Molahleli and Suzanne Nossel drew Du Plessis and Newclare Residents' Action Committee member Shahem Ismail aside. Du Plessis agreed not to go ahead with the demolition until after the mediators had negotiated with the council.

Johannesburg's director of housing Ian Taitz agreed to postpone the demolition until Monday. — Staff Reporter.

TPA spends R252m on squatter camps

B/DAY 15/2/93

THE TPA spent a total of R252m on squatter settlements in the Transvaal last year. And rapid urbanisation is likely to make greater demands on provincial resources this year.

The TPA's annual report, released on Friday, said providing opportunities for settlement of lower income groups had become a priority.

Land had been provided at several sites.

Urbanisation director Johan du Plessis said he hoped his department would receive a higher allocation in the next financial year.

However, with many pressing demands — such as health and education — on the GNP, he did not believe the allocation for housing could be increased substantially.

As part of the TPA urbanisation programme, about 5 000ha had been purchased for R200m. At a further cost of R52m, 21 000 serviced erven had been made available to low income groups.

"To address the problem of illegal squatting, the TPA has developed into one of the largest town developers in SA," the annual report stated.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

Because of the strain the urbanisation process placed on financial and manpower resources of the TPA, appeals had been made to the private sector.

Private consultants for town and regional planning had become involved in managing many facets of the problem.

The report said another drain on TPA resources had been the funding of "non-viable" black townships.

"Due to the shortage of funds, black local governments could not meet their commitments for services such as water, sewage and refuse removal," the report said.

Inter-governmental grants of about R588,7m had been made available to black local governments to compensate for the non-viability of these towns — and not as support for boycotts, the report stated.

The TPA said it had spent more than R225m on its road network, but the shortage of funds had limited its focus to maintaining existing roads, rather than building new ones.

Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

Govt slated on land disposals

MARIANNE MERTEN

GOVERNMENT was disposing of unallocated state land too rapidly, the Association of Rural Advancement said at the weekend.

This was in reaction to the announcement of plans by the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation for the disposal of 250 000ha of state land adjoining Lebowa and Qwa Qwa.

The land in question was handed to the commission after a controversial agreement on land transfer and joint administration between government and the homelands.

The commission had become a participant in government's manipulation of land allocation, a statement by the association said.

It said the commission planned to proceed with the reallocation of about 500 000ha of state land in Natal despite the fact that the Goldstone commission had recommended a halt to land disposals in the province because of the likelihood it would fuel violence.

The ANC said at the weekend it would not honour any allocations made. B/DAY 15/2/93.

It also reiterated its call for a moratorium on the allocation of state land until an interim government came to power.

lkom says it ill do better

MARCIA KLEIN

OM is to spend R7,5m over rt 18 months on an advertis- mpaign which admits it has mistakes and pledges to do in the future.

campaign will include TV wspaper ads, with the first mmercial flighted today.

advertisement, by ad agen- ilvy & Mather RS-T & M, es Telkom MD Danie du ddressing 64 000 employees kom's past shortcomings.

ays many people were un- that Telkom did not stop es sooner, that it "didn't put lines in more places quick- d because it "didn't appear e them the phone service e paid for".

Telkom was "working to things better".

om senior GM, finance, Erasmus said on Friday as n looked back on 16 months ublic company, "we have to at 1992 was a most disap- g year".

culture change process was longer than expected, the rvice turned out to be "a ete debacle" and there had ncreased client demands.

Motivating new voters must be central goal, says report

B/DAY 15/2/93.

SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON — To ensure a high turnout, newly enfranchised South Africans must be convinced that simply by going to the polls on election day and completing a ballot they will guarantee themselves better schools, houses and job prospects.

This is the conclusion of Washington polling firm Peter Hart Research Associates, hired by the National Democratic Institute to develop a strategy for its US taxpayer-financed South African voter education programme.

"Motivating" new voters, many of whom are not only ignorant of voting procedures but also fear intimidation and do not believe elections will make much difference in their lives, must be a central goal, according to the firm's Dr Fred Hartwig.

Another key issue that must be addressed in negotiations is voter IDs, Hartwig says in his report to the National Democratic Institute.

"Requiring non-whites to obtain any form of documentation from the present government" would be "the government's most effective way to suppress voting by non-whites".

He argues against the use of traditional leaders as voter trainers on the grounds that they have "a vested interest . . . in the status quo".

Hartwig conducted focus groups with paid black volunteers around the country last September. Sites included Pietersburg, Richards Bay, Umtata and Grahamstown, and Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Bloemfontein townships.

His findings were used to develop multilingual election "kits" to be distributed as part of Project Vote, a joint venture of the National Democratic Institute and the University of the Western Cape's Centre for Development Studies. Project finance includes a $1m grant for the US Agency for International Development.

The institute is a subgroup of the National Endowment for Democracy, a government chartered entity established during the Reagan administration to promote democracy.

The "kit" contains an instruction manual for community voter trainers urging them to adopt slogans identifying voting with education, jobs, housing and peace.

Forty-four of the 205 focus group participants found this message "convincing".

Thirty-three preferred "Vote for Democracy", 29 "Vote for a Better Future for Our Children". Only 15 liked "Vote to End Apartheid Forever". Eight backed "Vote to Support your candidate and your party". These findings are reflected in Voting Times, a pamphlet Project Vote has prepared for mass dissemination.

Squatters accuse police

STAR 26/2/93, 310

By Philip Zoio

Residents of a Vanderbijl Park squatter camp are angry at police who allegedly injured an innocent woman by shooting wildly at shacks while chasing a murder suspect on Tuesday night.

Maki Anna Lethila (20) was sleeping in her shack in the Chris Hani squatter camp in Bophelong at 1.30 am when one of the stray police bullets penetrated her dwelling and went into her upper thigh, according to her husband, William Molefe.

Lethila was taken to hospital that night and discharged on Wednesday, but she was still in severe pain when visited by The Star yesterday.

About 50 m away from Lethila's shack, another police round just missed George Mahlaba's head, according to his sister, Selina Mahlaba.

Vaal police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said the suspect was arrested in Bophelong on Tuesday in connection with the murder of Barend Lindeque (73) and his wife Miriam (68).

The suspect attempted to escape from police custody by running through the squatter camp. The man then tried to assault a policeman with a spade before he was shot dead by police, Van Deventer said.

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Joburg becoming 'squatter city'

CT 4/3/93

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — This city will deteriorate into a typical Third World "squatter megacity" unless immediate steps are taken to address housing needs and upgrade and electrify townships, experts said at the weekend.

Anglo American scenario planner Mr Clem Sunter said the city would become like Sao Paulo in Brazil if steps were not taken to improve inner-city areas.

A big effort would also be needed to improve roads, sewerage and electricity in surrounding townships.

An urban housing consultant said Johannesburg was fast heading for squatter city status. "It is a magnet for people under the illusion that there are jobs here," he said.

South Africa's housing shortage now stood at 1,2 million houses and this was growing by 200 000 a year.

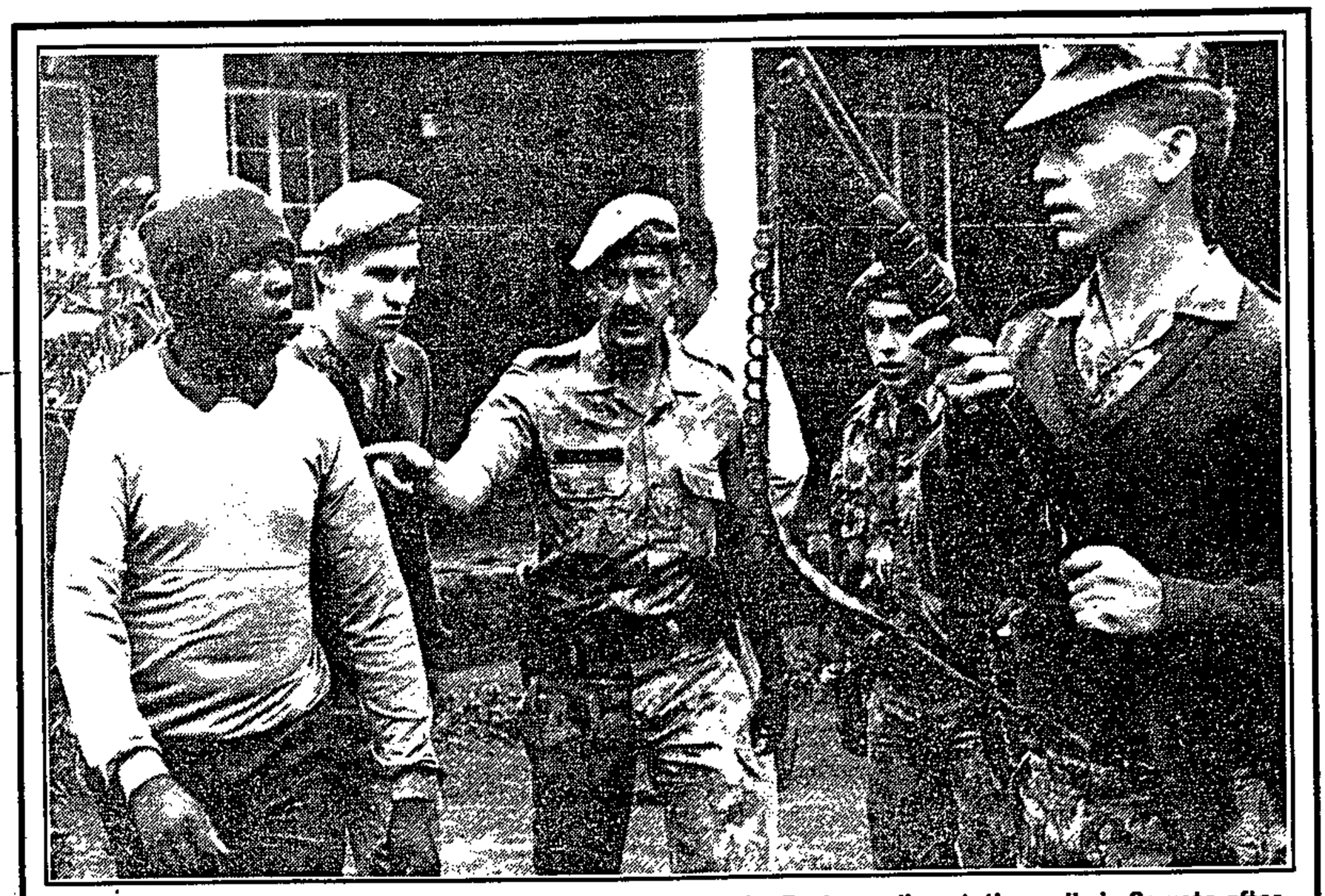
However, only 20 000 new houses had been built in the past year.

Banks were not interested in financing developments aimed at creating low-cost housing for around R30 000 a unit and were insisting on at least five percent deposit for houses under R50 000.

People who wished to buy houses at this price usually earned around R1 500 a month and could not put up cash deposits.

Mr Sunter said Johannesburg's inner-city would have to be developed to mix work and residential areas and to make it more friendly to the informal sector.

ers leaves four dead ● Mob attacks sound engineers



Members of the Internal Stability Unit escort a student to the Protea police station cells in Soweto after Diepkloof students demonstrated and disrupted proceedings in a number of courtrooms. The students were demanding the release of colleagues arrested last week. Four students were arrested yesterday and the rest were escorted out of the Protea Magistrate Court premises. PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

Four squatters die in faction fighting

Sowetan 2/3/93

By Isaac Moledi

GUNSHOT WOUNDS Shacks set alight in feud between squatters camps:

FOUR PEOPLE WERE SHOT AND hacked to death, five others seriously injured and several shacks set alight when a fight broke out between factions at two squatter camps on the East Rand on Sunday night.

Police confirmed yesterday that three people were shot and hacked to death on Sunday night and the body of another man was found yesterday morning.

Hundreds of people fled their shacks at about 7.30pm on Sunday as a faction, believed to have come from the Mandela squatter camp, attacked residents of the Holomisa camp near Katlehong.

Residents of Holomisa said the fight may have been caused by elections which were scheduled for Sunday to oust the old residents' committee.

Representatives of the Mandela camp, who dominate the committee, were said to be refusing to quit their posts.

Residents of the Holomisa camp said yesterday the death toll could be higher because many residents who fled the area during the attack could not be traced.

A number of shacks were vacant when *Sowetan* visited the Holomisa camp at around 10am yesterday.

Tent shelter offered to evicted 50

Star 3/3/93

310

By Abdul Milazi

A Lanseria construction manager yesterday came to the rescue of a group of destitute people after they were evicted by court order from a workers' compound near the airport.

Lonerock Construction managing director Fred Poggenpoel offered four family tents for a week to the 50 people — mostly women and children — after they were evicted by police.

They had been staying in the compound while it was being leased by Alert Security from agents Guvon Investments.

When Alert's lease expired in January, Guvon gave the occupants eight days to pack and leave, said a tenant, Nelson Kave.

The court had ordered the tenants to vacate the premises last Friday, but changed its ruling after their lawyer asked for an extension of time to allow them to move their belongings.

Guvon Investments was not available for comment at the time of going to press.

NEWS We've had enough — sound men ● Drug squad hunts escaped smuggler

Court move to oust squatters rejected

Sowetan 5/3/93. 310

By Josias Charle

THE Pretoria Supreme Court has rejected an application for leave to appeal against an earlier decision to allow Zevenfontein squatters to settle on a piece of land in Diepsloot.

The appeal bid was brought by the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners' Association which is opposed to Zevenfontein squatters being resettled on a site in Diepsloot.

Mr Justice McCreath dismissed the application for an appeal by the white landowners with costs yesterday. In December last year he also rejected the landowners' initial application.

The action started last year with an application for an interdict restraining the Transvaal Provincial Administration from resettling the squatters on the proposed site.

■ **Development will begin at Diepsloot soon:**

In terms of the latest decision the TPA will now go ahead with plans to resettle the Zevenfontein community at Diepsloot.

In a statement released yesterday Transvaal MEC Mr John Mavuso said: "The Zevenfontein community had lived in a state of uncertainty regarding their future and under unacceptable conditions with only the most rudimentary of services."

He said in terms of yesterday's judgment, the TPA would now set the physical development of the site in Diepsloot in motion.

Music festivals face sound boycott

■ **WILD MEN** Sound hire firms fed up with rioting fans and danger to lives:

By Kenosi Modisane

SOUND hire companies have threatened a blackout on music festivals after last weekend's riots that caused more than R620 000 in damaged equipment at three shows.

Four major sound and lighting companies — Sound Hire Unlimited, Admusic, PA Sound Hire and Mega Music — warned yesterday they would withdraw their services from live shows.

The threat to black out festivals follows last week's incidents when pop singer Brenda Fassie was billed to appear at four music festivals and failed to honour one at the Malamule Stadium in Gazankulu. She was also blamed for the chaos at the KaNyamazana Stadium in Nelspruit, allegedly pulling singer Rebecca Malope's band off the stage because she was in a hurry to honour another engagement.

Two engineers were seriously injured and equipment damaged in the rioting.

Mr Derek Woolridge of Mega Music said: "We see this as the beginning of the end for music festivals. What happened at the weekend shows greed, selfishness and disrespect for the paying public and safety of the engineers."

Cocaine drama at airport

■ **Nigerian citizen has operation after swallowing drugs:**

Sowetan Correspondent

A Nigerian citizen swallowed half a kilogram of cocaine packed in balloons at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday to try and escape arrest from police monitoring an incoming flight from South America.

Detectives rushed him to Hydromed Clinic where an emergency operation was performed to get the drugs - worth R150 000 - out of his stomach.

But police were less successful when a Surinamese drug smuggler on the same flight, carrying cocaine worth R510 000, escaped after he had been arrested. The man broke free and fled into the parking area where he disappeared. Police confiscated the drugs.

Alleged killer did not confess

Sowetan 5/3/93

■ **Sequel to attack on train commuters:**

By Tsale Makam

MR Albert Dlamini who is accused of leading an attack on train commuters in the East Rand on October 9 1991, did not make a statement to a magistrate, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Major J Kritse, who took the statement, said as far as he was concerned it was not a confession and that was why he did not take Dlamini to a magistrate to make a sworn statement.

Dlamini (30) is facing three charges of murder charges and nine of attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty and is on a R2 000 bail.

Mr Ernest Hutchinson, for Dlamini, told the court that his client did not speak "a word of Afrikaans or English".

Three witnesses have identified Dlamini as having been one of the attackers on the Katlehong to Germiston train on that day.

Lighting up our lives

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

About two years ago, Eskom set up negotiations with local authorities about the right of supply. As correspondent JENNIFER GRIFFIN reports, it was at this point Eskom began their nationwide "Electricity for All" PR campaign.

A MINI-VAN kicks up a cloud of red dust as it bounces along the uneven dirt road that winds its way through Orange Farm.

Johan du Plessis travels this route several times a week to survey Eskom's massive electrification project, which has provided power to more than 70 000 self-built homes in the past two years.

New billboards line the road and advertise the many uses of electricity in Orange Farm, which Eskom predicts will accommodate more than 250 000 homes in the next two years.

For years the government neglected township residents and did not provide them with basic services like electricity. But with the dawning of a "new SA", Eskom is moving into townships to meet the needs of the people.

Cl Press 7/3/93

In 1990, with the disintegration of apartheid, Eskom began negotiating with local authorities about the right of supply. It then began a massive public relations campaign for its nationwide electrification scheme with the motto: "Electricity for All."

"As a state-protected monopoly, Eskom has had guaranteed investment over the years," said Frank Vorhies, an American economist who runs Eco Plus, an independent environment and economic consultancy in Johannesburg.

"They now need to create demand so they've begun a huge public relations campaign.

"It's a new ploy on the part of Eskom to gather subsidies from the government," he added.

"It's much better since we had electricity," said Gloria Khumalo, 32, whose tin shack now has a bright light hanging above its front door. "We had to use candles before."

Electrification has the potential to create demand for locally manufactured electric goods that don't exist on a large scale. Increased consumer demand could help the country's economic recession.

"How do you start a business with a paraffin lamp," asked William Cobbett, the ANC's representative on the National Electrification Forum, a body which includes Eskom.

The metering system Eskom has installed in newly electrified homes is simple. Each family buys a certain amount of electricity at the beginning of the month. "It puts the customer in control of the consumption," said Du Plessis.

It also puts Eskom in control of its customer. Since 1984 when Soweto's residents resorted to non-payment boycotts to protest against apartheid and the township's substandard services, businesses and banks have been nervous about investing in these areas. Eskom has reduced the risk of non-payment by having its customers pay for electricity before they use it.

"With the card system, people aren't able to boycott Eskom if they think the rates are unfair," said Mashupye Matlala, a planner for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee. "People are concerned about losing their bargaining power because of the new metering system."

Eskom hopes to convince more township residents to substitute electricity for the coal and wood they became accustomed to.

Eskom claims electricity pollutes the environment less than coal does. But Vorhies said in 1990, townships used only six percent of the coal burned in SA, while Eskom used 53 percent to run its electrical plants.

"Because Eskom dominates the system you don't necessarily get the most cost-effective output or efficiently-run business," said Vorhies, who proposed looking at alternative sources of energy, including solar panels and hydro-electric power.

The ANC, however, is not concerned about the company's monopoly status. It supports the rapid electrification of SA.

Zanardi, Carrouse's Eric Comas and his wife Brunella, and Philippe and Dominique Alliot.

Deeds office inspection

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Irregularities found during an inspection at the Cape Town Deeds Office would probably require disciplinary steps under the Civil Service Act, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers said at the weekend.

The nature of the departmental action had yet to be decided upon, but De Villiers said the evidence presented so far did not warrant criminal investigation. While De Villiers did not specify the nature of the irregularities, it is believed they did not involve state finances.

The inspection commenced on March 1, following evidence presented to the Nel commission of inquiry into the collapse of Masterbond. It was alleged that officials of the Cape Town Deeds office received R19 500 over a period of three years from law firm Hazell & Rabie for pre-examining deeds and expediting their registration.

Hazell & Rabie undertook the conveyancing work for Masterbond companies and its partner. Robin Hazell alleged under cross examination that paying deeds officials was common among Cape Town law firms.

Grand Prix

PREPARATIONS for next Sund SA Grand Prix shifted into top over the weekend as race organi put the finishing touches to the media room, the grandstands and pit area.

The pit floors of the McLaren Ferrari teams were being carp at the request of the teams and phone and television links were b installed in private lounges adjoi all the pits, said Motor Racing En prises official Colin Burford.

Another special green carpet being laid beneath an elaborate w canopy adjoining the starting gri the exclusive Paddock Club, w well-heeled members travel ac the world to watch all 16 Grand races live.

"It's a very exclusive club. I

TPA in new bid to move Zevenfontein squatters

RAY HARTLEY

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) would try to move squatters from Zevenfontein into the Diepsloot area by the end of this month, the TPA said at the weekend.

But a last ditch bid by Diepsloot residents to halt the move might delay the much prolonged process yet again.

The Pretoria Supreme Court last week denied the Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association the right to appeal against a judgment upholding the TPA decision.

The residents have expressed bitter disappointment at the judgment and say they will petition the Chief Justice for the right to appeal.

The judgment was welcomed by the TPA. Spokesman John Mavuso said the case had "implications for the whole process of planned and orderly urbanisation in the PWV region.

"The TPA is clearly delighted with the court's decision and believes it will provide the necessary certainty for all concerned.

"The TPA is now in a position to give effect to the earlier judgment in this matter and the physical development process of the Diepsloot site is now being set in motion," he said.

Residents' association chairman Stuart Aitchison accused Judge S McCreath, who handed down the judgment last week, of "at best playing with words".

"Where Judge I de Villiers (who handed down the original judgment) appears to have worked from a legal framework and argument to his interpretation of the Act, McCreath appears to have done the opposite and has viewed the Act as a self-contained entity," he said.

Aitchison said his association had repeatedly stated the issue had nothing to do with "race, or with not wanting to have blacks living in the area".

He accused government of continuing the social engineering of apartheid under a different guise: "Changing the name of something, doesn't alter its nature."

"In view of the gravity of the issues involved in and affected by this case and the judgement, the association has no choice but to continue with legal action.

"We will be petitioning the Chief Justice for the matter to be taken to appeal," Aitchison said.

Star 9/3/93

Sun power for squatters

310

LIGHT ON HORIZON
People who live in squatter communities may soon become regular consumers of electricity, thanks to the power of the sun. **ZINGISA MKHUMA** reports.

WHEN next you drive past a squatter camp at night, don't be surprised to see rows of brightly lit tin structures instead of the more familiar dark shadows.

For millions of squatters who have been in the dark because of a lack of electricity, there is light on the horizon.

A new solar electricity system will bring a spark of light to the lives of squatters and make it possible for them to discard time-consuming methods of generating power and electricity, for a cheaper and more natural form of light and power supply, says Issy Dinat, director of a non-profit-making community based company that installs the system.

He says solar electricity could replace costly diesel, paraffin, candles and other methods of power supply used by an estimated 7 million squatters.

The system is being used in Bekkersdal on the West Rand and in a few other squatter communities to generate electricity for households and spaza shops.

Solar lighting will make rural schools more accessible for adult evening literacy classes and social functions. The lighting system will not only make it possible for squatters to light up their humble homes, it will also brighten the streets at night. Dinat says this will improve the quality of life, and also improve security.

Many households use car batteries for their television sets, and the batteries often have to be taken into the city to be recharged at a cost. Solar panels, Dinat says, can do the recharging on site.

Solar electricity can also be used to generate power for water pumps used to extract and purify drinking water for people and animals, and to supply water for irrigation schemes in rural areas, he says.

And in remote clinics, where the lack of electricity makes it impossible for effective immunisations to be carried out, the system can be used to cool refrigerators where vaccine drugs can be stored.

The system consists of a solar panel with a maintenance-free battery, fitted on roof-tops for maximum exposure to the sun.

Initial financial outlay for the system is heavy, but Dinat believes it is more than offset by future savings, and convenience.

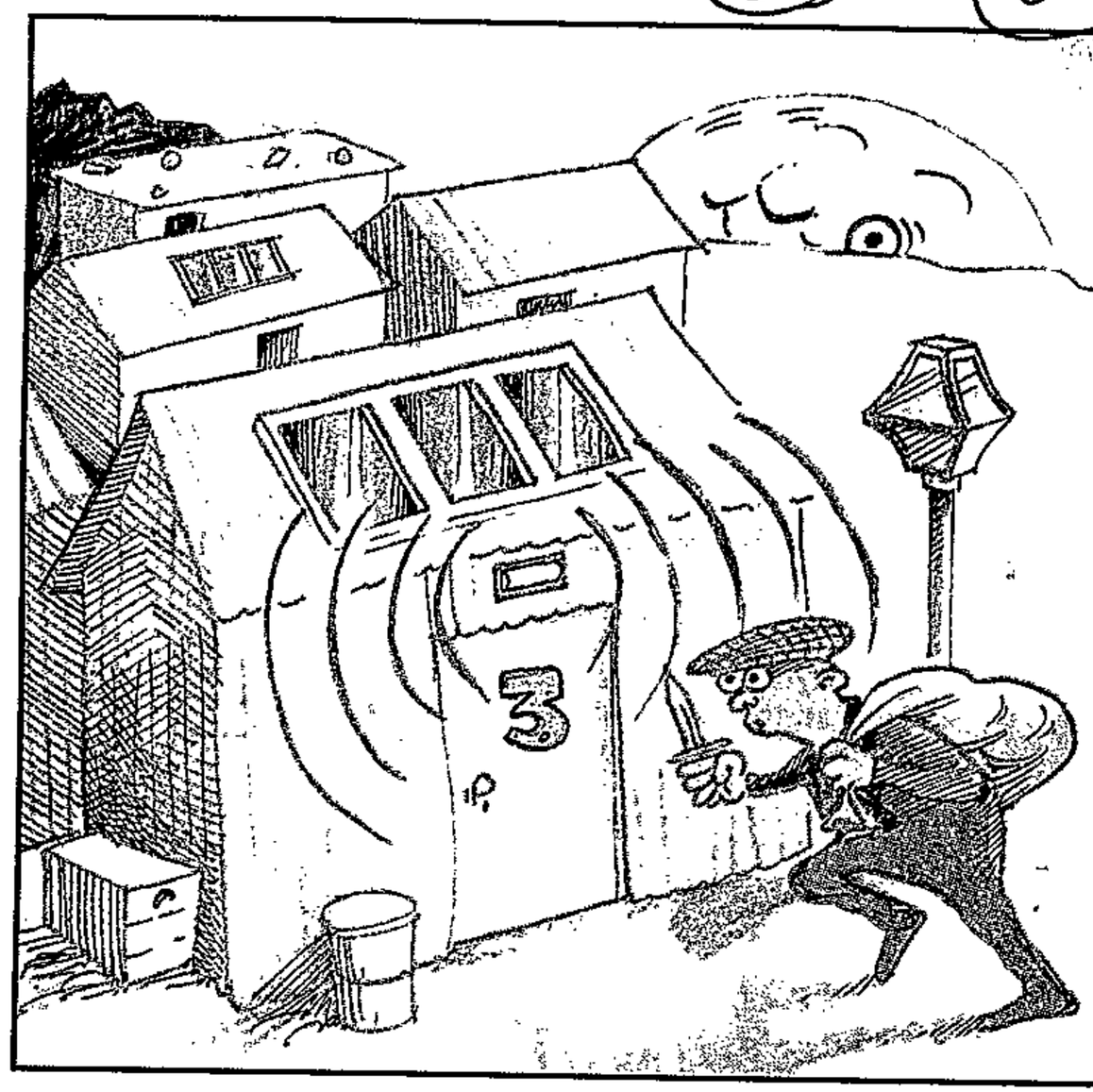
"We arrange subsidies through banks and other financial institutions to enable the communities to pay a nominal rental and installation fee of R29 a month for the first year. The amount would increase by 10 percent during the first year to cover maintenance costs. The system is guaranteed for up to 10 years," Dinat says.

The panel can be used with appliances other than lighting, including a security alarm system which is ideal for squatter camps that have, in the past, been targets for violent attacks.

"The attackers had in the past used the cover of darkness to spring on the unsuspecting communities. It is for these reasons that use of the security system was being discussed with the National Peace Secretariat.

"A light system can also be installed that lights up automatically when somebody walks in the yard at night, to ward off intruders."

●For more information contact the Solar Electric Resource Centre at (011) 413-1537.



Mobile lamp for security

CONSUMERS can now enjoy security flood-lighting anywhere in their yard without hiring an electrician to move the lamp around, thanks to a new product on the market that converts sunlight into electricity.

The lamp, which is attached to a solar panel, can be positioned on a wall, under an eave or on a pole and will light up automatically at night when anyone approaches.

The light has a fluorescent bulb with a five-year lifespan, and rechargeable battery. It is available through a local mail order company, and costs R499,95.

Bop warned to stop war on squatters

Cl Press 14/8/93

310

By THEMBA KHUMALO

THE Central Transvaal Civics Association has warned the Bophuthatswana government to stop demolishing shacks in Moretele and Odi in Hammanskraal in a desperate attempt to end squatting in the homeland.

Tempers have been further raised by a "shoot to kill" order allegedly made by Odi police divisional commissioner Col Jerry Mokubyane, who is stationed in GaRankuwa.

A strongly worded statement issued by the association on Friday said they had reliable information that homeland authorities had started a coherent programme to divide and spark violence among the communities so that the police had a reason to shoot people.

"We want to warn the Bop regime over its recent spate of forced removals in the two regions. Our disadvantaged communities have been subjected to severe harassment, detention and forced removals by the notorious police and army. Such inhuman actions have been condoned by a so-called Christian parliament," Cetca said.

The civics group alleged that the evictions and forced removals were started with a heavy army raid monitored by helicopter.

A recent secret meeting of chiefs and governors in GaRankuwa fuelled fears that the homeland authorities were plotting something big against the residents, Cetca said.

Even more alarming was a notice sent by the homeland's Minister of Local Government HF Tlou to the squatters at Boekenhoutfontein near Mabopane in which he gave them until Thursday to demolish their shacks and leave the area.

Cetca general secretary Star Vilakazi said he did not doubt that the Minister would carry out the threats by demolishing the shacks.

The Minister's threats came barely a month after the Erasmus Civic Association won a court appeal in Mmabatho in which the homeland police were ordered to halt the demolitions and barred them from harassing locals.

Association chairman Job Mokgotsi said the residents were angry with the Bop authorities for their "callous" actions and were gradually turning their backs on "Mangope's dictatorship" to join his association.

Ex-Minister's case settled

AN application brought by dismissed Ciskei minister of foreign affairs Tamsanqa Linda was settled out of court in Bisho yesterday. Sowetan

Linda was demanding that his ministerial home and government vehicle — confiscated after his dismissal - be returned to him. 16/3/93.

An attorney representing him said the conditions of the settlement were confidential and declined to comment further on the issue.

Police probe boy's death

310

Sowetan 16/3/93

■ A-G to decide on prosecution of cops:

TWO Alberton policemen have been suspended following the fatal shooting of a six-year-old boy in an East Rand squatter camp in February this year.

Constables JM Deysel and SM Nkambule were suspended on Tuesday last week, East Rand police spokesman Major Ida van Zweel announced on Monday.

The two officers were allegedly firing off rounds in an open veld near the Tintwa squatter camp, near Tokoza, Alberton, when the child, Johannes Lebakeng, was struck inside a shack by a stray bullet. The incident happened at 10am on February 26, Van Zweel said.

She said initial reports that a man had got out of a blue Ford Meteor car and had opened fire on the shack had been refuted on investigation.

The police probe was continuing and the case would be referred to the Attorney-General for possible prosecution, Van Zweel said. — *Sapa.*

S

Cops beat 3 - Cosas

■ Mamelodi pupils allegedly assaulted while in police custody:

Sowetan 16/3/93

By Alinah Dube

THREE Mamelodi pupil leaders were allegedly assaulted while in police custody, the Congress of South African Students claimed yesterday.

Branch secretary of Cosas Mr Michael Nkosi, two other members, Mr Harold Milanzi, and Mr Philemon Mokoena sustained injuries after allegedly being assaulted by police while in custody, Cosas charged.

Police spokesman Colonel Royce Merton could neither confirm nor deny the claims yesterday. He promised to investigate.

The three pupils were allegedly arrested last Thursday night. They were each released on R100 bail at the weekend.

Six other Cosas members were allegedly arrested at the Mamelodi Magistrate's Court yesterday during the brief appearance of the three.

Protest march

HUNDREDS of people took part in a peaceful march yesterday to protest against the planned removal of the Zevenfontein squatter community.

The marchers dispersed after handing a memorandum to officials at the Transvaal Provincial Administration offices in Randburg. (310)

S/Times 21/3/93.

Education bodies plan to avert universities' collapse

BDAY 24/3/93

EDUCATION organisations said yesterday they would take urgent steps to prevent the "financial collapse" of black universities, including appealing to President F W de Klerk to intervene.

The National Education Co-ordination Committee (NECC) told a news conference that outstanding fees for last year at black universities exceeded R50m and thousands of students had insufficient funds to register for this academic year.

A forum representing seven black universities, the NECC, the Independent Development Trust, the Kagiso Trust, the Education Development Trust and the Bursary Council of SA was formed two weeks ago to address the crisis and to salvage the 1993 academic year.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

At a meeting yesterday, the forum decided to meet major funders of black universities to develop a collective approach to funding financially disadvantaged students. Thereafter, it would meet De Klerk to secure his support for, among other things, the correcting of the historical imbalances in government funding arrangements.

The forum also decided to hold a number of donor conferences with key international institutions and the private sector, and to establish a committee of experts to visit black universities to identify ways of strenghtening institutional capacity.

NECC general secretary James Maseko told the news briefing that the 1993 academic year had already been lost to several thousand students who could not attend classes until registration fees, which they could not afford, were paid.

He said although white universities were also experiencing problems, by comparison the problems at black universities were acute.

"Some are literally unable to pay salaries and to provide basic services," he said.

Maseko said the forum would have talks with the IDT and the Kagiso Trust before a possible meeting with De Klerk.

The trusts and government are black universities' major funders.

The universities facing financial problems are those of Zululand, of Durban-Westville, the North, the Western Cape, Fort Hare, Transkei, Venda, Bophuthatswana and Medunsa.

Zevenfontein squatters halt TPA talks until demands met

BDAY 24/3/93 (310)

THE Zevenfontein squatters have called off all resettlement talks with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) until a wide range of demands — including the immediate incorporation of the relocation sites into Randburg and Randfontein municipalities — are met.

Other demands are the supply of new tents to squatter families, a mobile clinic, toilet facilities to each family, an office building for leaders of the community and additional water tanks to be erected at the current Zevenfontein site.

If these demands were not met by Friday, the squatters would march on the office of the President, squatter spokesman Mathole Motshekga said.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

A request by the TPA to discuss development plans of the Diepsloot resettlement area had been rejected on the same grounds, Motshekga said.

He said no talks would be held with the TPA unless the demands were met.

About 680 squatter families will be moved from Zevenfontein to Diepsloot.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said the decision by the Zevenfontein community was regrettable, but the TPA would continue with the planning of the Diepsloot site.

He denied the TPA had been dragging its heels over the relocation of the squatters, and said the planned resettlement date of March 31 had been delayed by a temporary Supreme Court interdict issued after a court action late last year by Diepsloot residents.

This had halted the development of the Diepsloot site.

Although the court found in favour of the TPA to continue with the resettlement of the squatters, Diepsloot residents appealed against the court finding.

They had lost the appeal, but had until March 25 to petition the Chief Justice to reverse the appeal court finding.

Until then, Wilken said, the TPA's hands were tied.

"We are committed to find a solution and regard the Zevenfontein community's participation in planning the Diepsloot site of the utmost importance," he said.

About the incorporation of the Diepsloot and Nietgedacht sites into existing municipalities, he said the administrator was awaiting the recommendations of the Demarcation Board — which recently met on the extension of municipal borders in the area.

THE BREAKWATER LODGE
IN THE HEART OF CAPE TOWN'S V & A WATERFRONT
FROM ONLY

Mpofu faces fraud charge

BDAY 24/3/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

FORMER ANC welfare department deputy head Dali Mpofu's career at the Johannesburg Bar could hinge on the outcome of his trial on a fraud charge.

Mpofu was admitted as a pupil to the Bar two weeks ago, but was arrested earlier this week on a charge of attempted cheque fraud involving R50 000.

Johannesburg Bar Council chairman Wim Trengove SC said Mpofu immediately informed the council about his arrest on Monday.

"If he is found guilty, we would definitely take action," said Trengove.

It is alleged that Mpofu illegally issued a R50 000 ANC cheque to a ficticious person and attempted to lodge it in a bank account. But a law firm brought this to the police's attention.

Mpofu appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Monday, but no charges were put to him and he was not asked to plead. The matter was postponed to April 22.

PEANUTS

Hundreds in squatter demo

CT 2013/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Hundreds of marchers presented a memorandum to the Transvaal Provincial Administration on Saturday to protest against the TPA's "unilateral" planning of the removal of the Zevenfontein squatter community to Diepsloot and Niedgedacht, north of Johannesburg.

An ANC spokesman said the ANC was not, however, opposed to the actual removal of the squatters. — Sapa

(310)

TPA wants a dash of speed over squatters

By Cyril Madlala

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has called for an urgent meeting with the Zevenfontein community to finalise its resettlement in Diepsloot, north-west of Johannesburg.

Director of community development Zakkie Lombard said this week that the TPA was doing everything in its power to expedite the move.

"We believe that joint planning regarding the development of the Diepsloot site can best be advanced by way of a joint working group," he said.

"This forum will enable us to discuss timetables and finalise any outstanding aspects, including suggestions regarding the existing layout plan."

The Zevenfontein community sent a petition to the TPA at the weekend, accusing it of dragging its heels.

Plans for relocation were delayed last year when the Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association applied for a court interdict to prevent the move, fearing property prices would plummet.

The Pretoria Supreme Court ruled that the TPA could settle the Zevenfontein community in Diepsloot.

Leave to appeal was dismissed with costs this year.

● The Laezonia Landowners' Association (LLA) has complained to TPA housing MEC John Mavuso about "irresponsible" TPA statements suggesting the squatters would be relocated before the end of the month.

LLA chairman Dave Ware said in terms of the Pretoria Supreme Court decision, no resettlement could take place before basic services had been established on site.

According to the ruling, no more than 1 324 families would be settled in Diepsloot West, where there were no basic facilities, he said.

'Mummy' comes to Phola Park

W|Mail 26|3-1|4|93

Phola Park squatter camp now has water. It will soon have a school — not as the result of development agencies but because of the work of Winnie Mandela.

By **FERIAL HAFFAJEE**

THERE are no matches and tyre jokes about Winnie Mandela in Phola Park. To the thousands of residents of the East Rand squatter camp she is not just "Winnie" — she is "Mrs Mandela" or "mummy".

"Haai, haai, haai, when she comes here, she won't even get time to speak to reporters," says Sally Peterson, Mandela's representative in the squatter camp — illustrating how throngs of Phola Park people crowd around Mandela when she visits "two or three times a week".

She undoubtedly has a political agenda — but Mandela is doing for Phola Park what a clutch of development consultants seems to have failed to do.

They are simple things, but to people who have few material possessions and no power, they appear the work of a saint. She has, for example, negotiated with Telkom to put in a few more telephone lines. Now the caravan clinic has a phone and so has the hardware store, which the residents' committee uses as a meeting place.

She pays half the store's telephone bill, "so that the community has a phone".

Her meetings with the Alberton Town Council have yielded taps in each of the camp's eight sections, as well as 300 portable toilets.

Through her organisation, the Co-ordinated Anti-Poverty Programmes (Capp), she plans to start a tent school — Phola Park has no schools — and already talks are under way with the Department of Education and Training to supply teachers. And while school hasn't started, myriad khaki tents stand sentinel in a muddy open space.

Mandela has won hearts and minds by responding to bread and butter needs — she's lifted morale and brought a modicum of peace to battered Phola Park.

The camp's 30 000 residents have been hard hit by war with surrounding hostel dwellers and an internal struggle between the former residents' committee and a notorious self-defence unit which put an end to any development work.

Mandela started a new residents' association, which represents the African National Congress, the ANC Youth League, the ANC Women's League and the Pan Africanist Congress, to oversee development. But her strongest drawcard is that she is always around — during *The Weekly Mail's* visit to Phola Park this week, Peterson pointed to a shining white Mercedes, saying "there goes mummy's Benz."

Peterson runs the Phola Park branch of Capp from a green Zozo hut on the border of the camp. The organisation's head office is in Braamfontein and Mandela is its director, but beyond that Capp is a bit of a mystery. Its attorney, Wenzel Kerreman, this week said: "We are not at liberty to discuss any matters at this stage."

Rumours of large international funders for Capp appear pie in the sky, but the Independent Development Trust is considering working with Capp. The IDT still has R24-million set aside for developing Phola Park.

"Capp clearly now has an important role," said IDT consultant Mike Morkell.

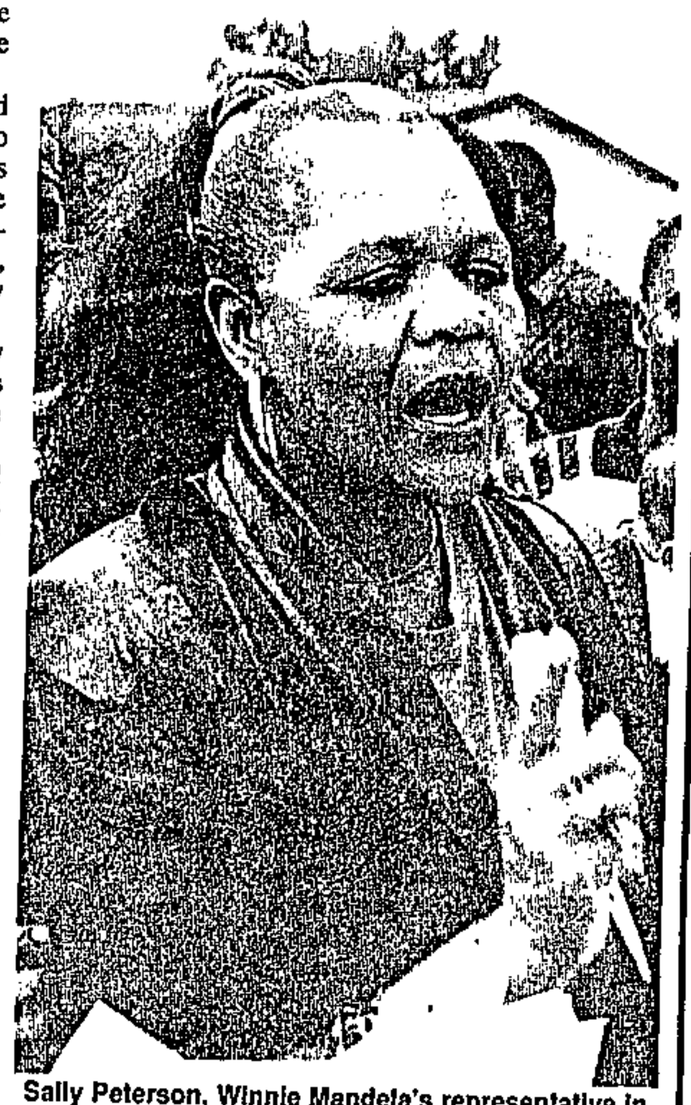
"And if it emerges that the joint structure has a high level of participation, we will work with them."

A Capp representative said they "often" met international delegations, but had not yet secured funds.

By investing a little money and time, Mandela has won the unquestioning support (and votes) of the Phola Park residents. And all indications are that the Phola Park programme is one she is repeating in townships across the east Rand, stretching as far as Ratanda near Heidelberg.

Like those who support her, Winnie Mandela clearly intends to *phola hier* — to stay here.

Tapping into a political agenda ... Phola Park residents collect water courtesy of Winnie Mandela Photo: KEVIN CARTER



Sally Peterson, Winnie Mandela's representative in Phola Park squatter camp Photo: KEVIN CARTER

MANDELA APPEALS AGAINST KIDNAPPING, ASSAULT CHARGES

WINNIE MANDELA'S appeal against a five-year jail sentence for kidnapping began in the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein this week with none of the drama of her Johannesburg appearances.

She did not attend court, although it was still packed and police maintained a high profile.

The state will ask a full bench of five judges to confirm her conviction on kidnapping and to also find her guilty on four counts of assault.

Bizos' plea will focus on the argument that there is insufficient reliable evidence to support the state's case. W|Mail 26|3 — 1|4|93

He resurrected his controversial argument that Mandela could reasonably have assumed that there was homosexual activity at the Methodist church manse of Paul Verryn, where the youths were being held.

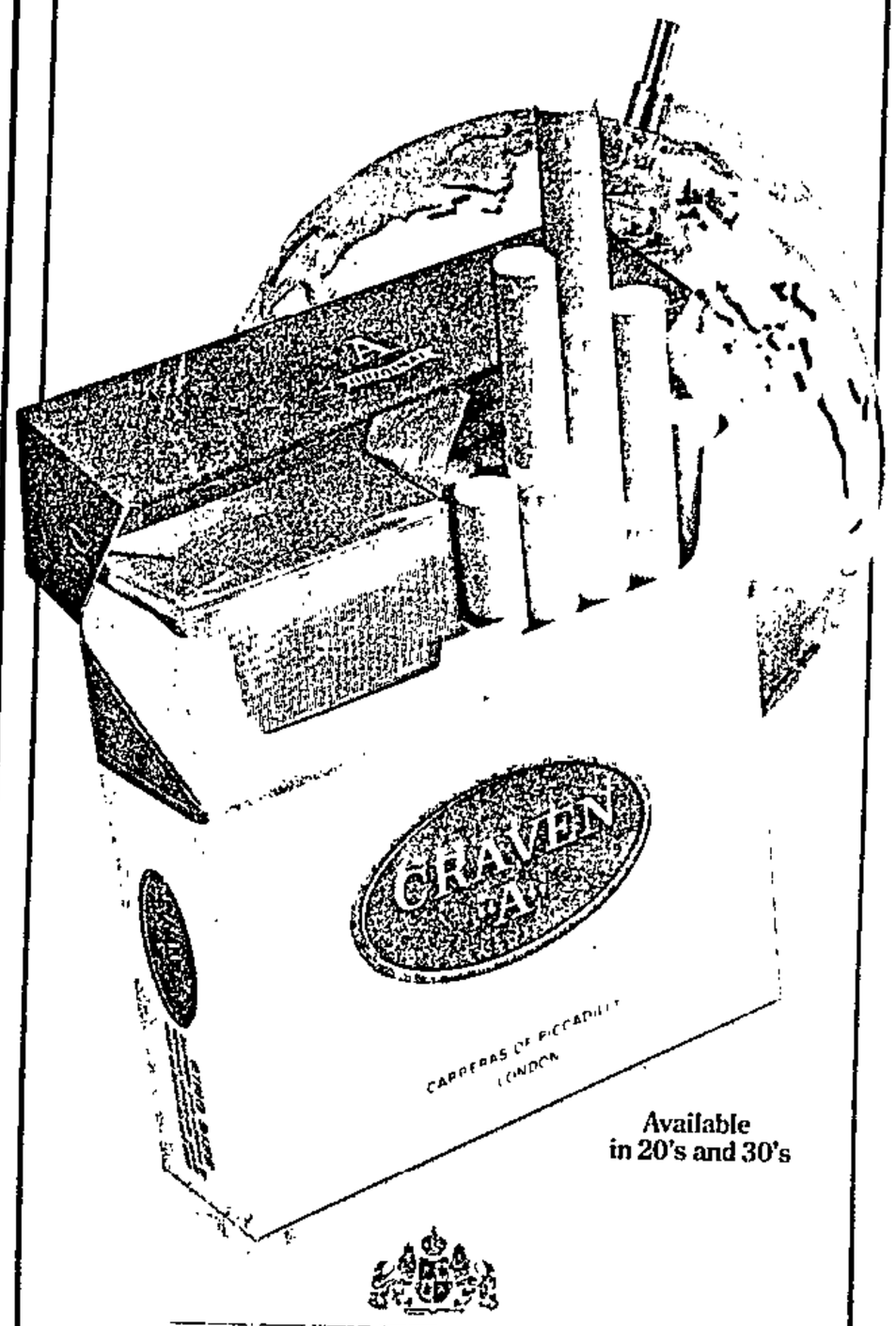
He added that the trial judge had erred by not calling Verryn to give evidence.

Appealing with her are her co-accused, Xoliswa Falati and John Morgan.

World-famous

CRAVEN "A"

MENTHOL FRESH TASTE



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Craven "A" cigarettes are made in Europe, North America and South Africa

CAG18/EU

Omhle faces police probe

Squatters paid fees to live on targeted property

By JUSTICE MOHALE

CONFLICT between two branches of Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Omhle) could lead to violence and the forced removal of illegal shacks in Doornkop, on the outskirts of Dobsonville.

The Dobsonville and Doornkop branches of Omhle are locked in a power struggle over control of site allocation at the Doornkop informal settlement.

The branches have accused each other of corruption and wanting to control the allocation of existing sites and new sites in Doornkop Extension 4, which will be opened for settlement at the end of this month.

Conflict is also brewing over the erection of dozens of illegal shacks on land which has been earmarked for community buildings.

Tens of thousands of rands could have been misappropriated by executive members of the Dobsonville branch of Omhle.

Membership

The police are investigating charges of fraud, theft and intimidation against members of the branch executive.

City Press has copies of several affidavits by Doornkop community members who allege they paid between R25 and R750 to Dobsonville Omhle officials for membership and sites at Doornkop.

At a recent branch meeting, executive members refused to divulge details of what had happened to the money and said it was none of City Press' business to enquire into the branch's financial affairs.

Executive members Zachariah "Killer" Moruledi and Zweli Majova admitted that membership fees of R25 were collected and City Press witnessed several people paying this amount at the meeting.

Moruledi and Majova said the Dobsonville Omhle branch boasted 15 000 members and showed City Press filing cabinets bulging with membership forms.

If this membership figure is true, and R25 was paid by each member, more than R300 000 has been collected by Dobsonville Omhle.

The executive refused to show City Press financial statements, bank books or other proof of what had happened to money collected from members, except to say some was used to buy food for executive members who went to town to negotiate with the TPA about Doornkop.

"Killer" introduced a City Press reporter to the meeting of about 3 000 members as having been "sent by the sellouts".

The crowd responded angrily, insulting and threatening the reporter.

Japhta "Mr Clean" Lekgeto, who was at the meeting but who holds no position in Omhle, intervened and placated the crowd.

Omhle president Dan Moshugi denied the reporter had been harassed, although it appeared he was not at the meeting.

Moshugi confirmed the Dobsonville branch collected R25 membership fees but said there were only 6 086, not 15 000 members.

He said the branch had R5 370 in its bank account.

Moshugi said membership fees totalled about R750 per month.

Last June, 215 people joined and fees of R5 375 were collected.

Omhle general secretary Keith Montsisi confirmed the Omhle constitution allowed individual branches to hold bank accounts, as long as the national office was aware of such arrangements.

Montsisi said it was well known that Omhle did not have any membership fees but that plastic membership cards cost R5 each.

He had not received any money from Dobsonville Omhle branch for such membership cards, and had not ordered any plastic cards for Dobsonville people.

Meanwhile, dozens of homeless people are erecting shacks on communal land allocated for schools, clinics and churches in Doornkop.

Removed

People interviewed this week confirmed they had paid fees to the Dobsonville and Doornkop branches of Omhle before moving onto the communal land.

Some said they had paid R25 membership fees to the Dobsonville branch and a further R10 to the organisation's Doornkop branch, which was formed recently, causing divisions within Omhle's national structure.

A spokesman for the TPA said the settlement on non-residential sites is being monitored by the TPA and "these squatters will be removed by the TPA's squatter control".

The TPA denied they reached an agreement with Omhle allowing homeless people to temporarily occupy these sites in anticipation of being allocated serviced sites when Doornkop Ext 4 is opened for settlement.

The TPA said a selection committee of TPA, Omhle and the Doornkop Civic Association was still to be formed and this committee would decide who would occupy sites in Extension 4.

LIVING SPACE ... Squatters erect shacks on land earmarked for community development. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

mitted to the Deputy Minister (to whom the authority has been granted) who takes a decision on the application. This procedure is followed in all cases, including Pretoria.

(2) Although no specific procedure for consulting the public is prescribed in the Act, the above-mentioned procedure is in most cases preceded by a wide and inclusive consultation process, which can include, amongst others the holding of public meetings where all interested parties can make their point.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Document sent to Chief of Army

*9. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether, with reference to certain information and a copy of a certain document which have been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, a certain handwritten document was sent to the Chief of the Army; if so, (a) by whom was it signed and (b) what was the response of the Chief of the Army to this communication;

(2) whether this document was discussed by the State Security Council or its Secretariat;

(3) whether a certain professor was consulted on the plan set out in this document; if so, why;

(4) whether this professor was a member of or served as an adviser to any committee, subcommittee or body forming part of the State Security Council network at that time? B566E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) to (4). The hon member is referred to the State President's reply to an unprepared question of the hon member for Alra Park on 24 March 1993. The inquest in this regard is in process and therefore I am not prepared to reply to any questions concerning the matter at this stage.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Informal settlements: schools

*10. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training:

(1) Whether any schools were provided by his Department in informal settlement areas in 1992; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many and (b) in which areas;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B568E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes.

(a) Twelve

(b) Daveyton, Benoni
Kwa-Guqa, Witbank
Embalenhle, Secunda
Kathlehong, Alberton
Khayelitsha, Wynberg (two schools)
Philippi, Wynberg
Orange Farm, Vanderbijlpark (two schools)
Kutlwanong, Odendaalsrus
Meqheleng, Ficksburg
Thabong, Welkom.

(2) At the eleven primary schools and the one secondary school which have been provided, there are 253 classrooms for primary pupils and twenty for secondary pupils.

SADTU/NAPTOSA: recognition

*11. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 4 on 19 February 1992, he has given consideration to recognizing the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) and the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA) for the purposes of negotiation on education; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether these bodies have been so recognized; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) under what conditions and (c) what number of teachers is represented by each;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B569E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(a) NAPTOSA was recognised in May 1992.
SADTU was recognised in November 1992.

(b) Recognition, in terms of Section 1 of the National Policy for General Education Affairs Act, 1984 (Act No 76 of 1984), is granted with the concurrence of the Ministers of departments of State responsible for education. This concurrence has, in some cases, been preceded by agreements which may contain conditions between these teachers' organisations and the education departments. In considering recognition, I took cognizance of the need for the organisation to represent a substantial number of educators employed by the State and that the organisation has a constitution that can ensure that it is correctly managed and is able to serve the best interests of its members.

(c) NAPTOSA represents approximately 116 500 teachers.
Final, verified membership figures for SADTU are not yet available. However, SADTU claims a membership of 60 000.

(3) No.

Philippi: murders/assaults

*12. Mr R V CARLISLE 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, was in any way implicated or referred to in any (a) inquests and/or (b) criminal proceedings relating to (i) deaths, (ii) assaults and/or (iii) the use of firearms in the Philippi area during the period 1 January 1980 to 31 March 1993; if so, what are the relevant details? B571E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a), (b) (i–iii) Yes.

On 15 February 1989, Mr Bock shot and killed a man who was stealing vegetables on his farm with a shotgun. An inquest found that no person was responsible for the death of the man, because Mr Bock was protecting himself and his property.

On 2 November 1992, Mr Bock caught a man who was stealing potatoes on his farm. The man ran away, whereupon Mr Bock wounded him with a firearm. The person was charged and found guilty of attempted theft.

On 21 February 1993, Mr Bock, after noticing that potatoes were being stolen from his farm, lay in wait for the suspected thieves, and caught them redhanded whilst they were stealing potatoes. He approached and warned them, whereupon they ran away. He fired a shot at each of them and killed two men and wounded another two. A murder docket is currently with the Attorney-General for a decision. Mr Bock's firearm was seized and referred for ballistic investigation. A case of attempted theft is being investigated against the two wounded suspects.

Note:

Details of cases which occurred before 1989 are not available, as records in this regard have, according to instructions, already been destroyed.

Transnet: accommodation in Transnet Park

*13. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Public Enterprises:

What was the occupancy cost to Transnet of accommodation leased at Transnet Park as at the latest date for which figures are available? B572E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director or Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

The rent for February 1993 amounted to R467 913.

RSA mercenaries in Angola

*14. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether the Government has taken or

cont'd

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Star 11/4/93

Weeping while TPA destroys squatter shacks

About a dozen shacks near Weiler's Farm south of Johannesburg were destroyed yesterday before Transvaal Provincial Administration officials ceased demolitions.

A photographer from The Star, George Mashinini, who arrived shortly after the demolitions began, said he had seen about 10 shacks flattened. He also witnessed a shack being smashed as a woman occupant looked on and wept.

Provincial officials, policemen and soldiers left after a foreign television crew arrived, he said.

A TPA spokesman said the demolitions were carried out because the shacks had been erected illegally outside the "controlled squatting" area. — Staff Reporters.

Going up .. a child watches her home being erected at a new site by her father and family friends.
Picture: Gary Bernard

Squatter camp residents are flushing with joy

Star 5/4/93

310

By Zingisa Mkhuma

Few can imagine the joy of a commmunity which after years of pit latrines now has flush toilets.

For residents of the Mandela Park squatter settlement near Daveyton on the East Rand, the building of toilets outside their shacks has occasioned deep satisfaction.

Although the project to build toilets and to install taps in all the 1 500 shacks is near completion, some of the residents expect a fairly long wait before they are also plugged into to the new facilities.

Members of the Mandela Residents' Committee are assisting contractors complete the project that would provide toilets and taps for the 500 informal dwellers from Extention 8.

The project is being carried out by the SA Housing Trust and is being financed by the Independent Development Trust. It would also provide bulk services to the stands in Extention 8 and 21.

And the muddy streets that separate the shacks are also going to be replaced by 15 000 m of gravel roads.

With the help of Mandela Residents' Committee members, the contractors said they were able to complete the project a month earlier than scheduled.

The area was busy when The Star visited last week. A group of workers was helping owners dismantle their structures before re-erecting them on allocated sites.

Most residents interviewed said that they had occupied the land in 1990. They came from the nearby Etwatwa township while others were from Benoni and Pretoria.

The residents have a history of defiance and feel very proud that they had twice disregarded Daveyton Town Council officials' instructions to move from the area.

The officials twice ordered the razing of their tin structures, only to see the residents rebuild them.

They even named the settlement after ANC President Nelson Mandela, because they compared his struggle and their struggle to remain in the area.

Star 5/4/93

Stinkwater's plight aired

310

More than 2 000 villagers, including rural chiefs and activists, met at Mandela Village in Moretele near Hammanskraal yesterday, to discuss the plight of the nearby Stinkwater community, African National Congress spokesman Mathole Motshekga said. Motshekga said the Stinkwater community was being denied basic services.

NEWS FEATURE *The pitiful residents of an East Rand resettlement camp are boycotting rent*

A view of successful squalor

Sowetan 7/4/93

By Mzimasi Ngudle

■ **CRACKED WALLS** *Mpumelelo is riven by structural damage as it is built on clay and lacks water and toilets:* 310

LILIES of the field fade in beauty as you drive into the rustic community of Mpumelelo, a settlement of the victims of forced removals near Devon on the East Rand.

Scars from the blight of the Group Areas Act fester into sores in the form of crumbling matchbox houses, a scant water supply, garbage filth and attendant health hazards.

More than 800 forlorn families that make up the township were visibly irked about their plight, putting the blame on the town council administration.

Settled more than three kilometres from Devon, from where they were forcibly moved, the residents have lost all hope that their fate will ever change.

A small-scale earthquake or mild storms would crush many houses, the walls of which are cracking wide open day by day.

More than 500 units that make up the Mpumelelo township, clearly display structural damage that haunts residents daily.

Infrastructural decay was much in evidence during a brief survey of the township.

From inside Mr Isaac Mthembu's house, we saw, through cracked walls, young lads playing in the streets.

"It's better now that it's warm. On cold and rainy days it is freezing," Mrs Mthembu said.

A stone's throw away a hostel turned into a secondary school displayed cracks, with pupils congested into ten classrooms.

School principal Mr Themba Maseko said the roof leaked and attendance figures dropped during rainy weather.

Structural damage

Town clerk Mr Phillip Pailane conceded that structural damage to the houses was inevitable as they were built on clay soil.

He said the best solution would be to demolish the township and settle the residents elsewhere — which would be very costly.

"We are on clay soil. Whatever you build will start having wall cracks after three months. The only remedy is to move them out," he said.

Regarding services Pailane denied that services were poor and alternatively attributed this to rent arrears.

On March 31 residents embarked on a rent boycott, a decision taken at a mass meeting of more than 400 residents held last Sunday.

Residents demand a flat rate of R20 and R10 for township houses and shacks respectively instead of the present rate of between R38 and R50, which includes water and electricity.

No councillor has faced any criminal charges but residents allege that council officials accept bribes and practice nepotism. Pailane denied this.

However, all this recedes into the background as hundreds of squatter families on the doorstep of Mpumelelo township face more appalling health hazards due to poor services.

Only two water taps and eighteen toilets are available for more than 350 squatter families whose settlement is spawned by loamy undrivable roads.

In contrast to what the civic leaders showed us, Pailane said there were 30 toilets and 8 water taps in the squatter camp.

"They are very fortunate compared to other squatter camps where there is no water and no toilets," he said.

Six spaza shop owners fetch their Coca-Cola deliveries from the edge of the squatter camp because the truck cannot drive in.

Unattended water carriers formed a queue towards the swampy ground next to the two water taps that inordinately sneeze out water drops.

Local civic leader Mr Jabu Mbonani said residents had to wait for about ten hours to get water.

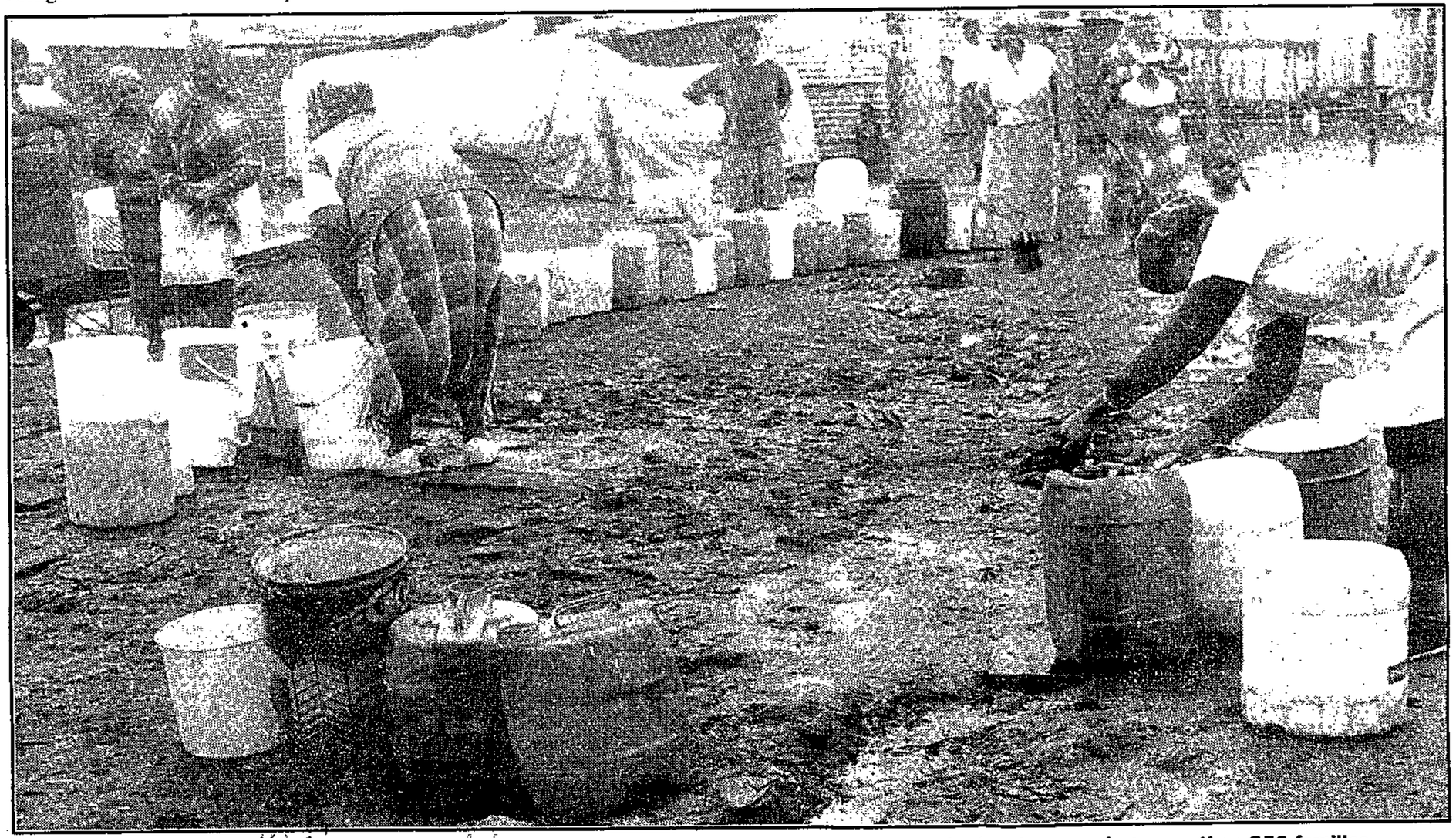
"There is only one tap for about every 50 families. The toilets are not cleaned regularly and are far from shacks," he said.

Residents walk up to 500m to the toilets. Shortening this distance at night, residents mused, would seem to be clearly indicated.

Mbonani said there was no proper sewerage system and that more than 10 families shared a toilet.

"It is paradoxical that the place is called Mpumelelo (Success) because the place is dead and comatose," Mbonani said.

Boys push a water container towards a watering point.



MUD EVERYWHERE ... Forlorn Mpumelelo squatters wait patiently in the marsh for water from the two taps serving more than 350 families.
PICS: MBUZENI ZULU

Local bodies are awarded extra land

Star 8/4/93

310

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Four major municipalities are to divide the bulk of the land lying between the Randburg-Sandton complex and the R28 Krugersdorp-Pretoria highway, the Transvaal Provincial Administration has decided.

The decision confirms the recommendations of the Demarcation Board, which sat earlier this year under the chairmanship of J G Brand.

Announcing the awards of land to Randburg, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdburg yesterday evening, MEC for Local Government Burger Lategan made it clear that the TPA now expected these municipalities to move rapidly "to identify land for low cost housing".

Conflict generated by the need to find a permanent location for homeless people squatting at Zevenfontein was a major factor prompting the Demarcation Board hearing.

With one minor exception, the province has not acceded to any city's representations for land in the area north of the R28, extending almost to Hartbeespoort Dam.

Instead, it has decided to ask the Local Government Affairs Council to consult residents in this area on the form of local representation that would best suit them and to submit its conclusion to the Pelser Committee, which is investigating local government systems in rural areas.

This move would seem to accommodate the demands of some of the property owners' organisations which argued heatedly against urban development.

The exception to the principle of confining urbanisation south of the R28 is the area around Lanseria airport, which has been allocated to Randburg.

TPA director-general Len Dekker explained this decision had been made in the light of the fact that "development around Lanseria is of such a nature that it requires inclusion within the jurisdiction of a strong, existing local authority".

The municipal boundary recommendations made by the Demarcation Board, and endorsed by the province, are as follows:

- No additional land should be incorporated into Roodepoort and Krugersdorp although both municipalities made representations. Officials explained that the decision had been influenced by the fact that these cities had land available to the south of them for development.
- Randburg should be granted the area including Zandspruit, Nietgedacht, Lanseria Airport and Chartwell Agricultural Holdings.
- Parts of Diepsloot and the whole of Zevenfontein should be included in Sandton, except for the Johannesburg waste water works and the nature reserve.
- Midrand should gain Witpoort.
- The southern section of Knopjeslaagte should be incorporated into Verwoerdburg.
- Nooitgedacht should become part of the Muldersdrift Local Area Committee.

It was also recommended that the areas of jurisdiction of the Central Witwatersrand and Pretoria regional services councils be extended to cover the areas earmarked for inclusion in Randburg and Midrand respectively.

Lategan said that the province had been guided by the notions of "balanced development to fulfil the needs of residents in the high, middle and low income groups" and "the protection, as far as possible, of existing rights of ownership and value of property".

He said the idea was to promote development in existing towns with strong local government and to achieve more dense settlement, which would ensure better use of "inadequately utilised infrastructure".

The boundary adjustments would soon be put into effect by proclamation.

Land schemes ANC warns it could reverse incorporation plan at right time

Parks and outcry

PLANS to extend the boundaries of Randburg, Sandton, Verwoerdburg and Midrand have run into a wall of opposition headed by the ANC, which warned it may "at the appropriate time" reverse attempts to incorporate land south of the R28 highway into the four towns.

The ANC's concern is shared by hundreds of affected smallholders who flatly reject incorporation into the Big Four — but for vastly different reasons.

Mathole Motshega, chairman of the ANC's local regional government commission in the PWV, dismissed this week's recommendations by the Demarcation Board on land allocation as "unilateral government action".

He claimed it was part of a bigger scheme to rush things through before a new government was in place and said the decision ignored the views of the existing local government negotiating forum, which had already placed the question of boundaries on its agenda.

Conflict

The Transvaal Provincial Administration this week announced its acceptance of the board's suggestions to bring land south of the Krugersdoep/Pretoria highway under the jurisdiction of the four municipalities.

MEC for local government Burger Lategan stressed the TPA expected these municipalities to move rapidly "to identify land for low-cost housing".

Conflict generated by the need to find a permanent location for homeless people squatting at Zevenfontein was a major factor prompting the Demarcation Board hearing.

The board's recommendations are as follows:

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SHIRLEY WOODGATE
and
JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Stuart Aitcheson, chairman of Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association said: "The board's decision, which co-incides with long-standing TPA plans, has set us back six years to the old Norweto days."

Claiming collusion between the board and the TPA, he accused Randburg and Sandton of being guilty of "continued apartheid planning" after literally being given the go-ahead to dump their low-cost housing on land they had set their sights on all along. Smallholders could offer housing to thousands of workers working on the plots, without the official intervention of Randburg, he said.

The TPA's Norweto design for black housing, followed by their 13 low-cost housing sites identified by The Star in 1991 had once again, after various window-dressing exercises, been given the official go-ahead under a new guise.

"This is a political, not a planning, decision which has cost smallholders dear in property devaluation," he said.

Garden Triangle Action Group chairman Robert van Tonder said the incorporation had been approved to cover up for Randburg's failure to provide land for black housing.

They now planned to pollute the smallholdings on their northern boundaries with factories, refuse dumps and sewerage installations. The GTA had not been consulted on incorporation into Randburg, which it rejected totally.

Petition

The group planned to petition the administrator to appoint a commission to investigate the launch of a separate local authority to control land in the disputed triangle bordering Randburg, Midrand and up to Broederstroom.

Greenbelt Action Group chairman Anthony Duigan said the wishes of landowners, specifically those in Diepsloot, had been 100 percent rejected.

In the final analysis, the TPA's decisions were a clear case of looking after the interests of Randburg and Sandton, which could ultimately be united into a single metropolitan area larger than the entire Johannnesburg region.

Squatters threatened by health crisis

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE impoverished Kliptown squatter community is fighting a war against water-related diseases.

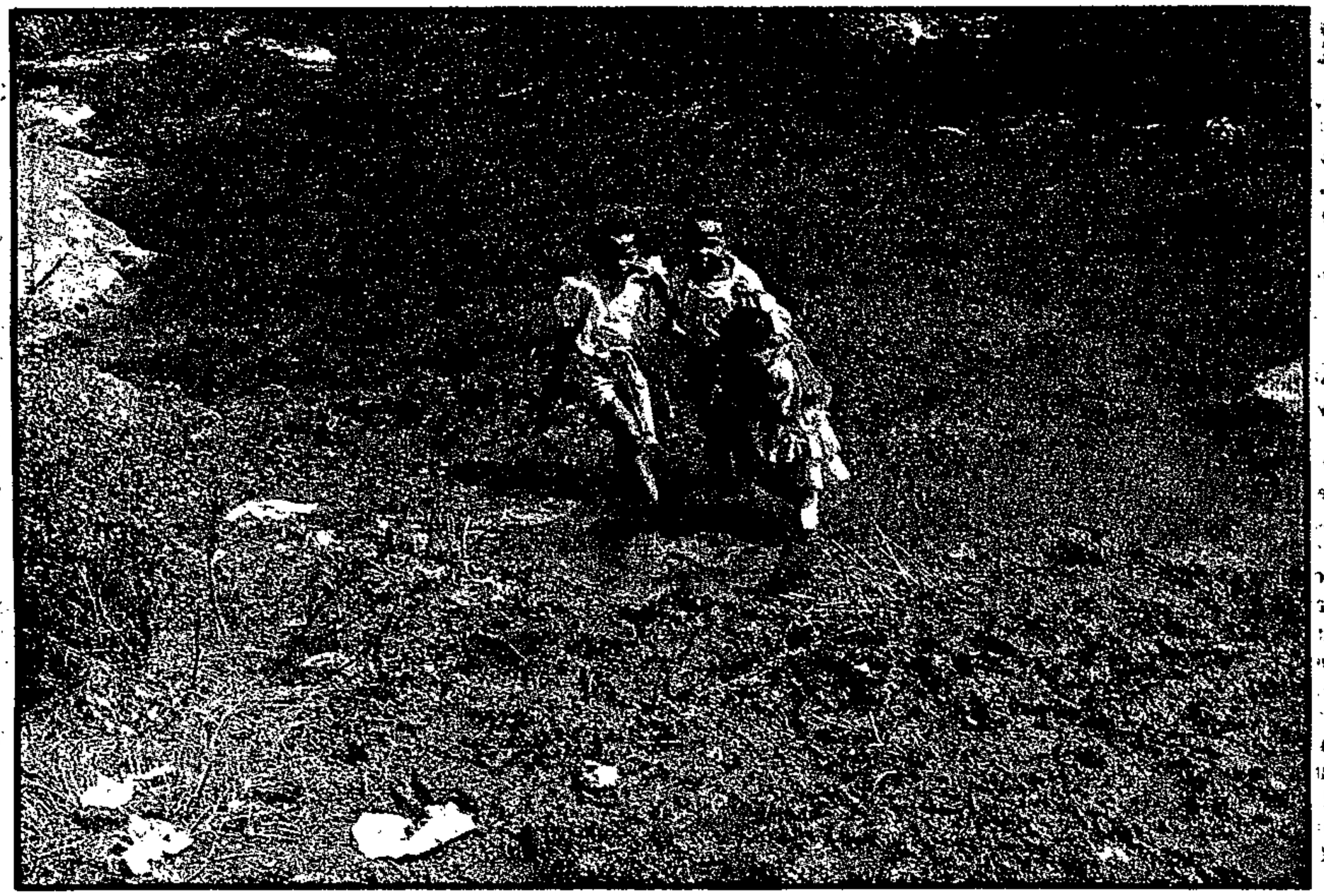
Dozens of residents in the informal settlement just outside Soweto, draw their water for house use from the nearby river not knowing it is infested with filth from an open sewerage system.

When City Press visited the area this week, children were playing in the small trenches in which sewage water runs.

The area, which poses a serious health hazard, smelled strongly of human excrement and other rotten substances.

Community leader Mothela Masithi, also an organiser for Sizanani Homeless Organisation, said although the authorities were doing nothing to improve living conditions in the area, residents were prepared to improve conditions on their own.

This month residents, under the auspices of Sizanani, will launch a cleaning campaign geared at making the squatter camp a healthier place.



DANGER PLAY ... Carefree Kliptown children play in a river loaded with sewage and debris. Squatter camp residents plan to clean up the area before disease spreads. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

C/Press 11/4/93

"We want to motivate our people to develop a sense of responsibility by giving them food parcels donated by sympathetic businessmen.

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"We will ask the local town council to help us with trucks, though we will do the actual cleaning as the authorities are either unwilling or unable to clean this area," said Masithi.

He said major problems in the area were the lack of toilets, water and electricity.

He said the "Easy Loos" in the area were not serviced and most of them were full. The remaining few were locked by individuals who claimed to have bought them.

Masithi said that as a result, most people used the veld near the river as a toilet, adding that they did not seem to realise that the filth was deposited in the river after heavy rains.

"Some residents use river water for washing and for cooking and this is a health risk," said Masithi.

Those interested in assisting can contact Sizanani on (011) 988-1278. Masithi added that any assistance to fight the degeneration of the area would be appreciated.

Star 15/4/93

Still no city shelter for homeless

By Cyril Madlala

Although the Reef has had its first taste of winter, Johannesburg City Council has not finalised plans to set up a shelter for the city's homeless.

The urbanisation department said last year it would convert the former pass office building at 80 Albert Street into a shelter for about 350 homeless of all races.

But it had not found a suitable organisation to run the project, said urbanisation acting director Cedric de Beer.

The council appealed last year for proposals from service and community organisations that wished to run the shelter in the four-storey building, which housed the former West Rand Administration Board.

It is hoped to have the centre operating before winter.

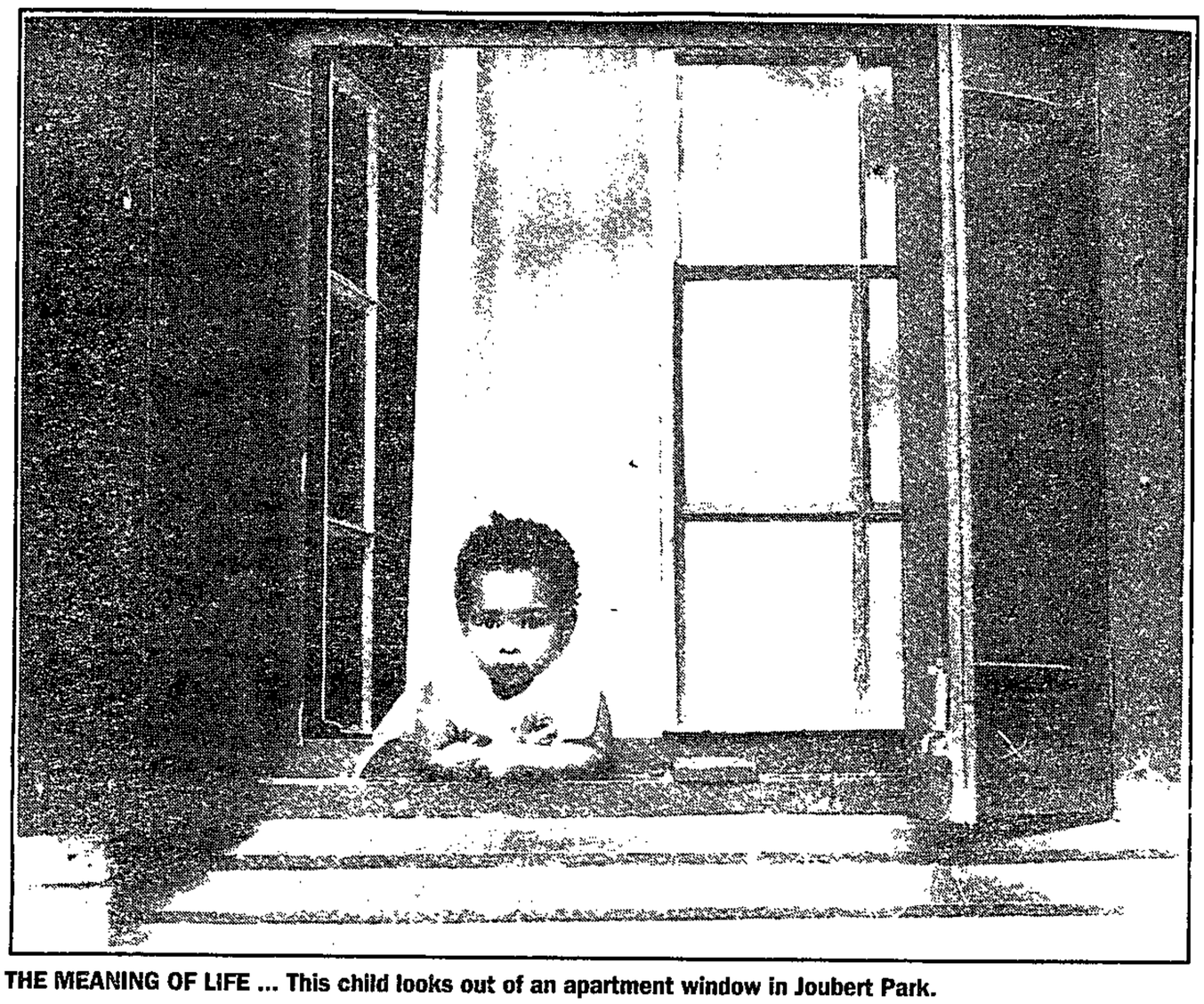
A survey by the department in September showed there were at least 2 500 homeless in central Johanneburg.

De Beer said the council made another call in March for proposals from organisations able to run the shelter. An adjudication panel would consider them later this month, he said.

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council had allocated R10 million to the city council for urbanisation projects, including shelters. The council had asked for R42 million.

He could not say when a shelter would be provided.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Providing shelter and proper housing is one of the tasks facing Jo'burg city*



THE MEANING OF LIFE ... This child looks out of an apartment window in Joubert Park.

TOP: The paint is peeling off in this flat. When white people occupied these places, landlords mantained them.
BELOW: Tshlawelo flats provide shelter for thousands of township residents.

Johannesburg - a city that needs rebuilding

Sowetan 3/5/93

By Musa Zondi

SITUATION VACANT *The heart of South Africa's economy desperately needs people with vision to stop the decay:* 310

JOHANNESBURG IS a city that desperately needs rebuilding.

There are at least 2,5 million people in and around the city who do not have a place to live. Thousands more do not have jobs.

Squatter camps encircle the city like a web. The city centre is decaying. The flats, while charging exorbitant fees, are rundown.

In many flats, electricity has been cut off as residents refuse to pay for neglected apartments.

Most of these areas are infested with cockroaches, roofs are leaking and refuse greets you as you enter.

In some blocks of flats, more than five families share one apartment. The roofs are leaking. Conditions are, in fact, worse than in some squatter camps in the black townships.

This is despite the fact that Johannesburg is the heart of South Africa's economy — up to 60 percent of the country's economy is generated in or around the city.

Violence and crime, that have made this city one of the most dangerous in the world, are the direct result of this decay.

What is being done about this? Who is to blame?

These are the question posed in today's TSS programme called *People*. While looking at the problem, the programme also looks at the solutions and what has been done or is being done to improve the conditions.

The decay is the result of apartheid laws which decreed that black people were just temporary sojourners in the cities of this country.

Influx laws

What has since happened is that people have flocked to the city after the influx laws were repealed and settled anywhere as long as they could raise a shelter. A number of people do not have any shelter at all.

Various groups realise the need to address the problem. One of these groups is the Central Johannesburg Partnership.

The group is made up of the city council, the business community and other communities who live in the flats in the city centre.

CJP raises money from the business community with the aim of rebuilding the dilapidated flats.

This is done with the residents who eventually buy the flats. One of the shining examples of this project is Navarone Court, which has been repainted and made into healthy living quarters.

Mr Cas Coovadia, publicity secretary of Actstop, says landlords should bear the biggest blame for the decay in the city centre.

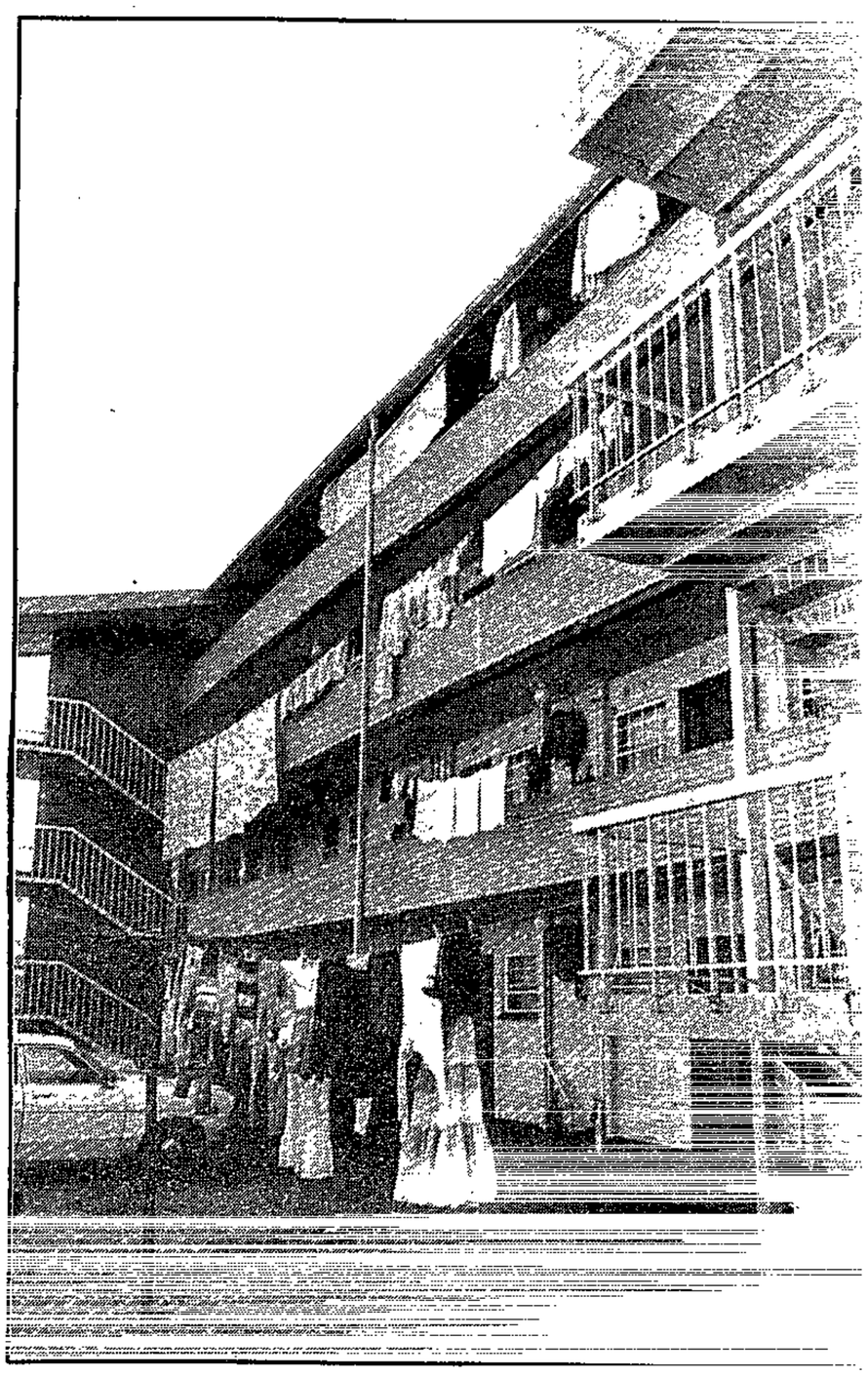
"Apartheid created conditions for unscupulous landlords to exploit people who needed accommodation," he says.

The programme tonight also looks at the Usindiso Christian Centre, a "stopover point for people who want to get on their feet again and get on with life".

The home provides a hot meal, a shower and a bed for the city's unemployed.

By providing a shower for these people, organisers say they want to give them a chance to be presentable when they go out looking for jobs.

Throngs of unemployed people of all colours and persuasions start queueing for a meal that is served at 5.30pm. It may not be much, but it is a godsend for the destitute.



Self-help is the name of this game

Star 3/5/93

By Shirley Woodgate

A grand plan has taken root in the middle of the drought-stunted mealie fields linking the power stations of the south-eastern Transvaal.

The modest creche taking shape for the 5 500 black inhabitants of Sivukile is nothing short of a miracle come true.

Self-help is the name of the game.

Behind the project stand east German immigrant Norbert Bleckert and his wife Eve, who launched their own business in Randburg with R750 and a lot of chutzpah.

Detour

Seven months ago, equipped with a R2 050 brick-making machine and a dream of ploughing their self-taught know-how into a poor community in the townships along the road where they conducted their steel business, they detoured into Sivukile.

Into the picture came George Makanya (29), a polio victim who had also served a brief political jail sentence.

He listened, then called the people to decide on a project.

He lined up some unskilled workers, who set about learning the tricks of the trade from brickmaking at 15-a-time to digging foundations for a 200-sq-m building, then laying the bricks.

Today, they are up to roof level, the bulk of the advice and materials provided by the Bleckerts, who also helped Juliet Radebe to organise a backyard candle-making business and a knitting school to augment minimum wages.

Sivukile is alongside Morgenzon which, 10 years ago, attained worldwide notoriety when Oranjewerkers targeted it as the heart of their since-aborted all-white Afrikaner homeland.

The rightwingers are now gingerly rewarding their black neighbours' ingenuity.

A hardware shop throws in a little for free and sometimes the locals hand out food for the workers.

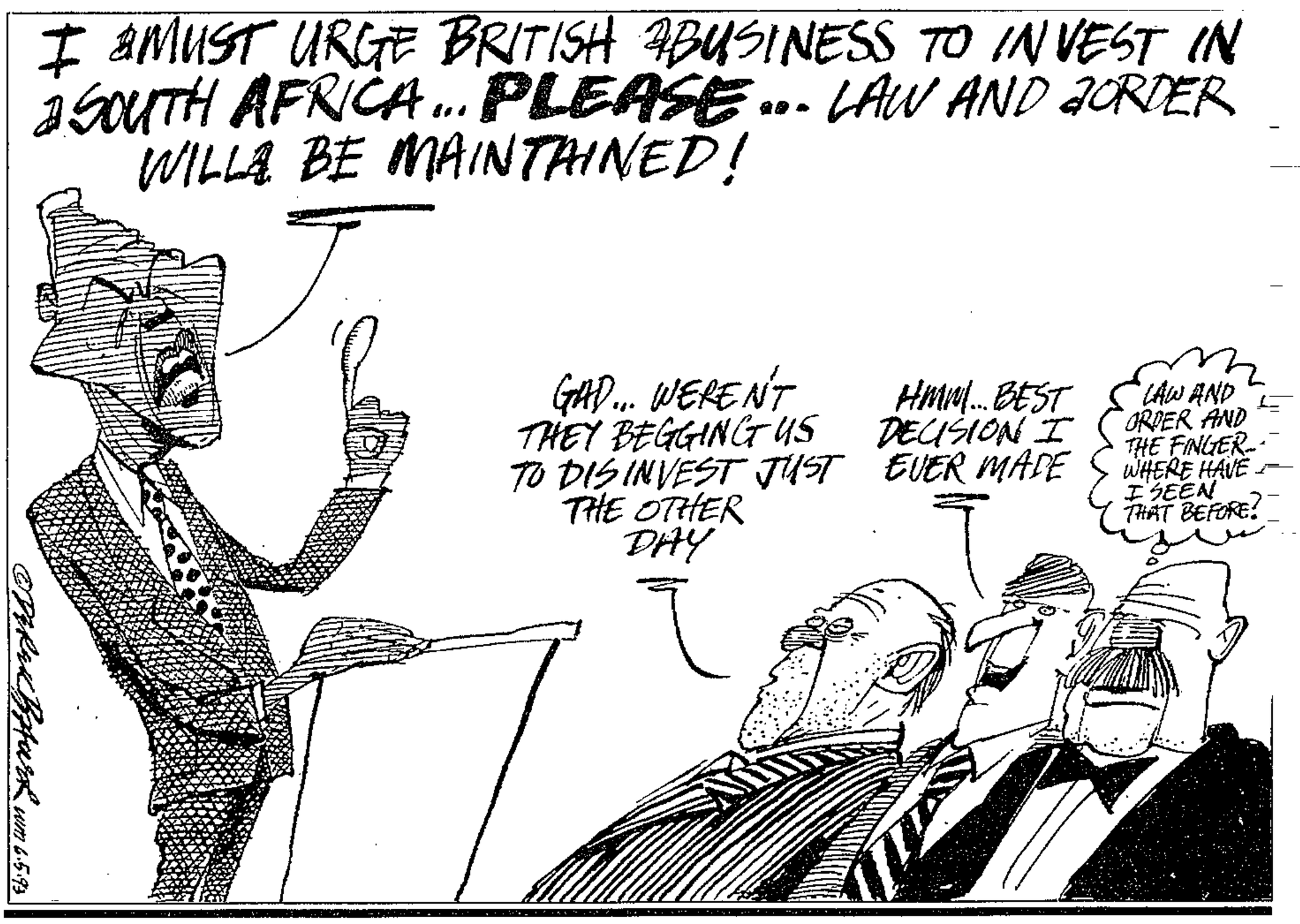
But the first prize is a grant of R25 000 from the Independent Development Trust and the promise of help from the United States embassy.

"This is the best creche in the whole of the eastern Transvaal," said Makanya, who has developed into a top community leader.

"When we have looked after our children who are our future, the people want an old age home to care for our past," he said.

Township administrator and mayor of Morgenzon Rudi van Dyk said the people's effort had earned them respect.

"The country is violence-torn but we are at peace. If Sivukile prospers, Morgenzon will be proud."



Trying to please all the people all the time

Money is available for improving the lot of squatters — if communities participate. But people speaking for the people aren't speaking for all the people. And those left out can disrupt upgrading projects.

By **BARBARA LUDMAN**

RESIDENTS of a shack settlement on the east Rand needs amenities desperately, everything from lights to water, so a residents' committee calls in Planact, a major service group. Once it's satisfied that the residents' committee was freely elected, Planact makes all the right moves, setting up a development committee and "canvassing options" to see what the people want. The answer seems to be a site-and-service scheme with roads and street lights. The Independent Development Trust chips in with a large grant to get it going.

That's when everything falls apart.

The implementation of the scheme "set in motion a train of events which culminated in the committee's removal — reportedly at gunpoint — and a period of severe conflict", writes Steven Friedman, director of the Centre for Policy Studies, in a research report entitled *The Elusive "Community": The dynamics of negotiated urban development.*

Although Friedman doesn't identify the community in his report, it bears a striking resemblance to Phola Park, near Thokoza, where 18 months of development groundwork by Planact and the residents' committee blew up in March last year when 16 armed men hijacked a committee meeting and threw out the incumbents.

"What went wrong?" Friedman writes. "Later assessment revealed the existence within the settlement of groups which had remained beyond the reach either of the committee or the planning process, but to whom the project was a threat." Among them were illegal immigrants and criminals.

Neither group went to meetings to elect the committees, nor did they participate in any of the endless discussions of various development proposals. But when it became clear a scheme was on the way, the illegal immigrants "feared that the formalisation of the settlement's status could prompt a process in which quasi-official persons might begin requesting residents' documentation to determine eligibility for sites". Both foreigners and criminals began to mobilise opposition to development.

Phola Park's encounter with standard-issue development illustrates a major thesis in Friedman's report: that organisations which claim community representivity are likely to represent only the stronger elements in a community — and that the weaker elements left out can destroy the best-laid development schemes.

Friedman interviewed 32 participants engaged in development — bankers, consultants, funders, civics — to determine, broadly, whether communities were beginning to participate in "shaping their development future".

The issue is as much practical as ideological. Agencies such as the IDT and the Development Bank of Southern Africa insist on community participation before dispensing funds. "Private and public developers have attempted to reconcile this requirement with the need for quick results by identifying particular groups as 'community representatives' and then engaging exclusively with them ... Often it consists of making contact with the most visible leadership group outside official structures, usually a civic."

Friedman quotes a DBSA "participation specialist" as saying that identification of the major actors in a community is relatively straightforward since there's "an amazing degree of consensus" on who they are.

But the process is far more complex. "To name but one example, attendance at meetings is often taken as a guide to the degree of community participation in projects," he writes. Black local authorities have passed off their own employees as community or even civic association representatives.

As for genuine civics, it is hard to determine how inclusive or how large their constituency is. Born during the liberation struggle, few civics maintain formal membership lists and, Friedman notes, "claims to representiveness are unverifiable; they are often based on elections conducted at mass meetings in venues which can clearly accommodate only a fraction of the community". Levels of participation vary considerably: in some cases, it is confined to "a small group of activists". The same could be said about Inkatha's claims to representativeness in hostels and some residential areas.

"In the main," he writes, "civics are, like other pressure groups, collections of committed individuals who feel strongly about issues and are willing to devote considerable time to them. Most other residents ... are content to get on with their lives and to rally around the civic's campaigns if and when they identify with the issue."

Does that matter? Cas Coovadia, of the Civic Association of Johannesburg, acknowledges the importance of inclusivity, says Friedman, while Dan Mofokeng, general secretary of the Civic Association of the Transvaal, rejects that view on the ground that civics are the sole authentic representatives of community needs.

In some informal settlements and townships there are two competing civics to choose between. The civic left out can destabilise the project. At the very least, it won't participate in a project seen to belong to a rival: because the Northern Joint Negotiating Forum includes the Alexandra Civic Organisation, other groups in Alex initially steered clear of it.

The civic chosen often engages in "gatekeeping", in which the "community representative" — whether a civic or Inkatha — interposes itself between the beneficiaries and the development agency; "the aim is not only to prevent contact with rival constituencies, but also with the organisation's own".

Friedman distinguishes between inclusivity — the extent to which a process includes all interests — and representativeness — the extent to which beneficiaries of development are represented or merely spoken for, and finds problems with both.

The IDT won't fund a project if any party that can destabilise it is excluded. The Urban Foundation insists on formal procedures building in checks and balances and says greater inclusiveness and accountability also influence substance: "Consumers," says Friedman, "are usually more pragmatic than leadership groups."

Since judging inclusivity requires "a sensitivity to community dynamics ... agencies employ social consultants to make the judgements for them" — but, he adds, "the most competent consultants are quick to acknowledge that they are continually learning from mistakes".

Friedman describes the way Planact specialist Julian Baskin applied the lessons learned from the Phola Park debacle when the group tackled a Transvaal hostel upgrade project. "The first task of the project was to convince (the hostel residents' association) that, despite the fact that it was elected, it could not be assumed to be representative of all affected interests in the 4 000-bed complex ... because there were almost certainly interests and concerns which were beyond its reach." An investigation revealed 11 different interests of which the committee had not been aware.

Friedman calls for a realisation that "none of the actors are representative of the weakest interests; that community dynamics are complex and inpenetrable ... that a great deal of trial and error will be needed before workable processes emerge. Given the scale of the problem and the limited supply of solution, co-operation between all the major actors is necessary...

"This approach would require humility — a recognition on one side that claims to representativeness are unproven and, on the other, that claims to expertise and disinterest cannot be taken at face value."

It's a top priority: Jo'burg wrestles with homes backlog

By Cyril Madlala

Providing housing in a post-apartheid city is one of the most daunting tasks facing the Johannesburg City Council, reckons housing director Ian Taitz.

Not only has housing become a sensitive, politicised issue — as the council is very much aware — it is complicated by financial institutions shunning the financing of purchases in "red-lined" areas close to the CBD.

Taitz agrees that housing is widely perceived to be "number one" priority at city and national level. Alleviation of the housing backlog, the council believes, will contribute to social stability.

Although Johannesburg's focus is on inner city housing, there is the understanding that the need is much broader and the council has some involvement in other housing projects in Greater Johannesburg.

Unlike many development initiatives, providing inner city housing is not a neatly contained, finite activity.

"Inner city housing is more of a process than a project," says Taitz.

Drastic changes in legislation, particularly the removal of the Group Areas and Influx Control Acts, have had a big impact on decision-making about housing.

"The abolition of this legislation has given people freedom of choice to live in the inner city. We have to create a stable environment for them to live in, and balance economic ventures with the residential component," says Taitz.

"Previously, the city centre never allowed high population of residential accommodation. By popular demand, we are reversing that now," says Taitz, who explains that this may entail converting commercial buildings to residential.

To house more people, the council is investigating using vacant plots.

"We are also looking at gearing private enterprise into the process. We would like to assist building societies in alleviating red lining because it is a big problem. We don't have a solution, but we can sit down with them and discuss it," Taitz says.

Excited

Red lining is the bank and building society practice of drawing a "red line" around certain areas, particularly the impoverished inner city areas, to signify that mortgage bonds will not be granted there.

Taitz is excited about the council's involvement with private enterprise in the Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP) which recently formed the Inner City Housing Upgrading Trust, which will, among other things, tackle red lining.

"The long-term objective is to supply sustainable housing and security of tenure to people who live in the inner city, and make it possible for them to purchase their places," says Taitz.

Chief among council-linked housing projects is the Golden Highway Development Trust, which is developing a site east of Eldorado Park, between the Golden Highway and the Motorway bypass.

Star 13/5/93

Alleged assault on squatters

A dozen men, two of whom were wearing police uniforms while the rest were dressed in blue overalls, allegedly beat up squatters at a settlement near the Brakpan drive-in in the town on Tuesday night. East Rand police said they received a report that four vehicles including a yellow SAP bakkie pulled up at the settlement at 10 pm. The men armed with sticks, knobkerries and pipes ordered the people out of their shacks and assaulted them. — East Rand Bureau.

SOH slams council for the setback

■ Trucks fail to remove rubbish:

THE Sizanani Organisation for the Homeless yesterday castigated the Soweto council for failing to remove rubbish collected by residents of the Kliptown squatter area during a clean up campaign 10 days ago.

SOH spokesman Mr Adolphus Masithi said the council had promised to send in two refuse removal trucks during the cleanup campaign but this had not happened.

"People were out in their hundreds but the trucks were not there. The plastics full of rubbish were piled along streets in the hope that the trucks would at least appear on Monday, but to date nothing has happened.

The council, which is faced with a crippling rent boycott, was yesterday unavailable for comment.

(See page 14)

The big cleanup

Sowetan 24/5/93.

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

■ SELF-HELP *Community is facing challenge of surviving in an informal settlement*

THE WOMEN, who made up the bulk of the labour force, did not sing any freedom songs.

Instead they went about singing hymns. Hymns of sorrow, hope and thankfulness for life.

But what a life.

The scene was the Kliptown shack settlement, otherwise also known as Kliptown squatter area.

It was Saturday and a cleanup campaign was underway. Late February I had attended a funeral of a friend's child and had been shocked by the filth and the all-pervasive stench that enveloped the area.

I had then written a story about the conditions there, a story that spurred the Sizanani Organisation for the Homeless to move in.

SOH co-ordinator Mr Adolphus "Motel" Masithi organised local business, the community and other commercial forces to help clean up the area.

And Saturday morning found the community geared up for this collective effort to make their dusty and stench-ridden surroundings a better place to live in.

Plastic bags were provided by a generous sponsor, locals brought their own spades and shovels. The *Sowetan* had also pitched in with posters announcing the campaign and Kliptown's business community donated fruit, bread, cakes and drinks to soothe the parched throats of the volunteers.

The enthusiasm was evident everywhere as people jostled for plastics and posters that they were to keep in their homes as constant reminders that cleanliness is not an occasional thing but an everyday responsibility.

The community of cleaners, singing hymns, spread out through the settlement area, Kliptown shopping centre and the railway station, leaving in their wake an area much improved but far from being actually clean.

"There is no way you can actually clean up this place in one day. We are dealing here with an accumulation of dirt over a long period.

"But ... the dirt was thrown all over by us as residents of this area. So as we embark on this cleaning-up process, we realise that unless we as residents change our attitude towards our environment, nothing will ever change," Masithi said.

He said as a part of the campaign, Sizanani would be hosting similar campaigns every six weeks, would hold seminars and workshops on cleanliness and how self-help projects can uplift the area.

The buoyant spirit of the campaign was marred by the absence of trucks to carry the hundreds of rubbish parcels away. Soweto city council had promised to send two.

By the end of the day, as the tired workers trudged back to the centre for refreshments, many more were still coming forward to look for plastic carriers to do the job. But they had run out.

Kliptown looked cleaner but did not as yet smell better. It is this hurdle that Sizanani is also looking into, piping the area and cleaning up the easy toilets more regularly.

But a start had been made. And perhaps in the spirit of nation building, or reconstruction, or development, or self help, or self upliftment, the Kliptown community is facing up to the challenge of surviving as a community in an informal settlement. And if Saturday was anything to go by, this community and Sizanani are bound to transform the dusty stench-ridden area into a habitable area that can be a model to other areas.

Squatters in the cold

■ NO HOPE New cash plan does not look as though it will provide any real help:

Sowetan 28/5/93

By Joshua Raboroko

MOST blacks living in informal settlements have little chance of benefiting from the housing subsidy announced by the Government recently.

According to a survey conducted in most of the squatter camps in the PWV area, *Sowetan* established that most squatters were either unemployed or had earnings below the Household Subsistence Level of R1 000.

Those who were employed earned an average of R800 or less. On this basis they may be disqualified from taking advantage of the 33,3 percent Government subsidy announced last month.

The new Government subsidy has been extended to cover a wider section of the black population. R99,3 million has been allocated for the 1993-94 Budget to carry out the scheme.

The subsidy is based on 33,3 percent of the interest payable over the initial five years of the loan period. The maximum loan of R40 000 is payable in monthly instalments over seven years.

The value of the property the homebuyer intends buying should not exceed R65 000.

To qualify for the interest subsidy the homeowner must earn less than R3 500 a month and have owned a house or flat. The owner must not receive any subsidy from any other source.

A general qualifying criterium for bond repayment is that it must not exceed 25 percent of the income of the applicant.

The amount of subsidy may be added to this figure, thus increasing the affordable amount. A squatter at Mandela Park on the East Rand, Mr Boy Baduza Dlamini (41), said he was unemployed for two years and could not afford to pay a bond.

He has never owned a house. He stayed in backyard rooms and shacks in Vosloorus on the East Rand. He came to Mandela Park last year after he could no longer afford to pay rent. "I will be unable to buy a house worth R65 000 or less. I will probably stay here for the rest of my life. But I would be happy if the Government could help."

Destitute Dlamini operates a shebeen to earn a living and to support his wife, Maria, and their three school-going children. Another squatter, Mrs Letta Mahlangu, said her chances of owning a house were nil.

She said: "My husband is in jail and I have been left to look after our five children. "My parents send me food and my brother-in-law buys clothes and helps me to bring up the children. I can definitely not afford to buy a house."

Sanco lashes at camp raids

THE South African National Civics Organisation yesterday criticised joint raids by the SA Defence Force and the police on two squatter camps near Klipspruit, Soweto, at the weekend.

Police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said about 200 security force members had searched the Gumba-Gumba squatter camp at Power Park on Saturday and yesterday.

He said this was part of a crime prevention exercises in the area. He said police and the SADF had acted on information that there may be weapons there. However, no weapons were found.

Sanco official Mr Khabisi Mosunkutu criticised the raids.

"In the past such raids preceded vigilante attacks in our townships and we believe there is something going on. We believe the raids are also meant to harass our people and the only way to have a security force which is not biased is to have joint control over such a force."

Squatters: Diepsloot residents can appeal

Star 21/6/93

The Diepsloot Resdents and Landowners Association, and Diepsloot resident Stuart Aitchison, have been granted leave to appeal against the dismissal of their application to prevent expropriation of land to resettle the Zevenfontein squatters. (329)

This development, six months after the Transvaal Supreme Court judgment, will delay by several addi tional months the development of a site for the permanent settlement of the Zevenfontein community in the "green belt" area north of Johannesburg. (310)

The Transvaal Provincial Administration indicated recently that, if leave to appeal were granted to the landowners' association, it would oppose the action.

But the TPA would be powerless to begin laying on services at Diepsloot until the legality of the expropriation was finally settled. — Sapa.

Sowetan 21/6/93

Leave to appeal given

THE Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association and a Diepsloot resident, Mr Stuart Aitchison, have received leave from the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein to appeal against the

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in brief

Sowetan 21/6/93.

310

dismissal of their application to prevent expropriation of land to resettle the Zevenfontein squatters.

The application — brought against the Administrator of the Transvaal — was dismissed by Mr Justice SW McCreath in the Transvaal Supreme Court on December 31 1992.

Better life for squatter community

Star 46193

By Gien Elsas
West Rand Bureau

About 300 families who lived in the Swanieville squatter camp near Leratong Hospital on the West Rand have been relocated to an upgraded and serviced area just behind the present camp.

Swanieville has been home to about 750 families for the past few years. (310)

Transvaal Provincial Administration MEC for physical planning and development John Mavuso said yesterday that all the 750 families would be moved to the Riet Vallei area.

Benefits included water to each plot, flushing toilets, a refuse removal service and electricity.

The financing comes from a R9,345 million loan from the National Housing Commission and R5,106 million from the West Rand Regional Services Council.

3/0 7/6/93

Star 7/16/93

metro

Squatters' new home, new life

310

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Two years after a bloody massacre and threats from the right wing tore their community apart, the Swanieville squatters on the West Rand are moving to Lusaka.

Lusaka, South Africa, that is. A resident said the name of their new home indicated peace and safety. And the running water, flushing toilets, refuse removal service and graded roads in the new development represented another chance.

On May 12 1991, 53 people were killed and 83 shacks burnt in Swanieville. Residents alleged that the IFP had been responsible for the attack. Squatters were also threatened with removal by the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

Now residents are moving of their own free will with the help of the TPA.

Donations

Situated about 1 km away from Swanieville squatter camp and its bitter memories, the Lusaka development has been financed by loans and donations from the National Housing Commission and the West Rand Regional Services Council.

Each day, a truck moves about 25 squatter families to the new area. By the end of the year all the Swanieville residents should be living in Lusaka.

Clutching a handful of nails while TPA employees loaded her dismantled shack on to a truck, Caroline Kula smiled broadly. She said she had lived in Swanieville for eight years and was very happy to be moving to the serviced area.

Picture: Gary Bernard

Moving house . . . residents of Swanieville squatter camp pack up to move to the Lusaka camp.

Removal truck driver and Swanieville resident Butman Dlule said residents had always feared further attacks on the squatter camp, and felt safe in the new area. "There is safety because there are plenty of people and houses," he said.

Moray Hathorn of the Legal Resources Centre has been involved in the negotiations between the TPA and the Swanieville-Lusaka community. He said the development was "in accordance with the expressed wishes of the community" and he was satisfied that the residents' future has been secured.

An issue that may have to be addressed in the future is service charges, which some have said are too high. According to Amos Makokomale, a committee member of the local civic association, R92 for services and R20 for water was far too much to expect, considering the high level of unemployment in the area.

Others said many residents approved of the fees. It was important that the previously demoralised community was now safe, Makokomale said.

The head of the ANC in the area, Elijah Moaba, also felt the service charges were too high. "At least we are moving to a serviced place, although we have certain things to get right," he said.

Residents also told The Star that the community was plagued by local vigilantes as well as various political differences.

São Paulo is cleaner, safer, more beautiful and more efficient, writes **Keith Campbell**

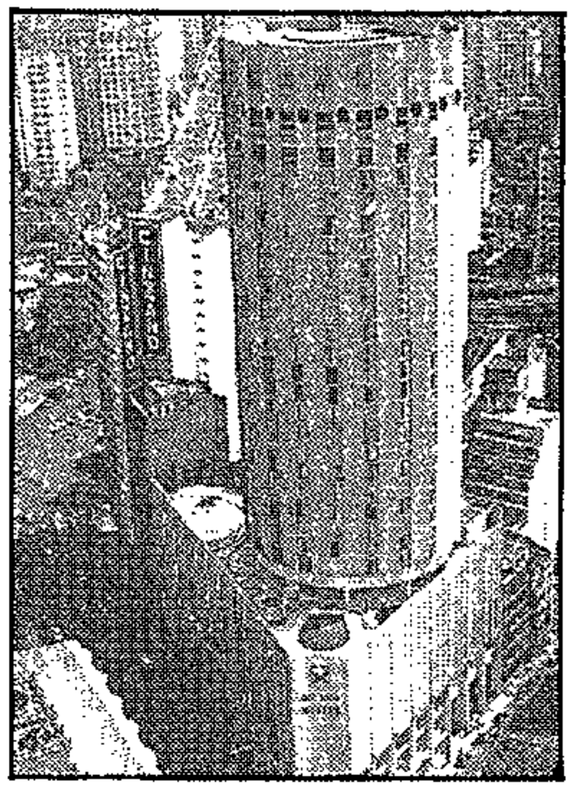
Jo'burg lags 'squatter' city

Star 8/6/93 (310)

A WHILE back it was widely reported that Johannesburg "was in danger of becoming a squatter megapolis like São Paulo". Having just returned from Brazil, and having stayed in São Paulo, I can confidently state that Johannesburg has little chance of becoming like São Paulo — unfortunately.

The term "squatter megapolis" (coupled, as it was, with the word "danger") conjures up visions of a complex of huge, sprawling camps; of squalor and poverty on a gigantic scale; of a very basic infrastructure near collapse — if it has not already collapsed. As far as São Paulo is concerned, this is the opposite of the truth. The Brazilian city is years, if not decades, ahead of Johannesburg.

São Paulo IS a megapolis — the second-largest city in the world today, after Tokyo. But São Paulo, like Tokyo, is a developed megapolis. To all practical intents and purposes, it is a "First World" city. Of course, there are squatters in São Paulo, but they form only a small minority of the city's population, and equivalent communities can be found in cities such as London, New York and Paris.



São Paulo . . . "squatter megapolis" is an attractive city.

And make no mistake, São Paulo is one of the great cities in the world.

Despite its huge population — more than 15 million — São Paulo is both cleaner and safer than Johannesburg. For a fair comparison between the cities, one should include Alexandra and Soweto in Johannesburg. But even if you exclude them, São Paulo is still much cleaner and safer.

The Brazilian city is a cultural centre of global significance; it proudly guards its long history (it was founded in 1554), preserving its monuments and old buildings while confidently placing itself on the cutting edge of modernity.

Its public transport system is far superior to Johannesburg's; a huge fleet of buses ensures very frequent services. These are complemented by modern trolley buses (yes, they had the sense to keep and update theirs) and an underground railway (only three lines so far, but being expanded). Then there are the suburban trains.

And the private sector complements all these modes of public transport with an innumerable fleet of reasonably priced taxis.

Not only do people live in the centre of São Paulo, they find a high standard of living there, enjoying extensive pedestrian malls and elegant squares; historic and modern buildings standing cheek-by-jowl; and many monuments and (working) fountains. People walk in the CBD on Sunday afternoons for the sheer pleasure of it. Johannesburg has as much chance of turning into another São Paulo as it has of turning into another London.

Of course, São Paulo has certain advantages. First, there is the system of directly elected executive mayors, called prefects in Brazilian terminology. This means there is a clearly identifiable figure, answerable to the city population as a whole, who can be held ultimately responsible for the state of the city.

A prefect who performs badly will be evicted from office by the voters, his future in politics ruined. A successful prefect can not only expect re-election; he can aim for higher office. São Paulo's incumbent prefect, Paulo Maluf, is widely believed to be aiming for the presidency in the next election (1995).

In Johannesburg, the British system of rotating, purely symbolic mayors and various committees makes it very difficult to hold elected officials responsible for the state of the city. This is the great flaw of the British system of civic government — it is representative, but not responsible; the infamous "looney Left" councils in England are the extreme manifestation of this problem.

São Paulo's second great advantage is that Brazil is a federation. São Paulo city is also the capital of São Paulo state. Consequently, on many basic issues the city can rely on the support of the state government. The wellbeing of its primary city will always be a matter of great concern to any state government.

Decay and crime in Johannesburg has never, and will never, affect the electoral chances of a South African government. It would affect the chances of re-election of a PWV state government, if one existed.

This can be illustrated by looking at another Brazilian city and state. Rio de Janeiro city, though much smaller than São Paulo, has always had a far higher crime rate. In recent years, this reached such a level that it began to directly affect tourists. This, of course, damaged the city's tourist trade. This tourist trade, in turn, is one of the most important economic assets of Rio de Janeiro state, whose capital is the quiet town of Niteroi (across the bay from Rio city).

Finally, Rio state governor Leonel Brizola had enough. He permanently drafted substantial police reinforcements into Rio city (police forces are either federal or state in Brazil.) All of Rio city's tourist areas are now heavily and conspicuously policed. Areas once abandoned to muggers are again firmly under the control of the authorities. The centre of the city, and the tourist areas, are now safer than they have been for years.

The experience in Brazil, and other countries, suggests that South Africa needs to make its civic government responsible to the voters, and to create regional governments which have real powers. Otherwise, cities like Johannesburg will continue to decline.□

● *Keith Campbell is a Johannesburg journalist.*

Islands of uncertain refuge

Star 9/6/93

Eviction axe hovers over squatter settlements

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Many Little Zevenfonteins sprout in the increasingly urban "green belt" north of Johannesburg.

They are more sturdily built than the shacks and tents of Zevenfontein, the community which threw surrounding landowners into defence of their property values last year. But all lack official status. And none offers security of tenure.

They are islands of uncertain refuge in territory where the poor and the workers have only a toehold.

Within weeks, more than 40 families must vacate a settlement known as Cochrain's Farm near Lanseria. It is an assortment of one-room prefab huts and farm buildings, on a scrupulously litter-free site.

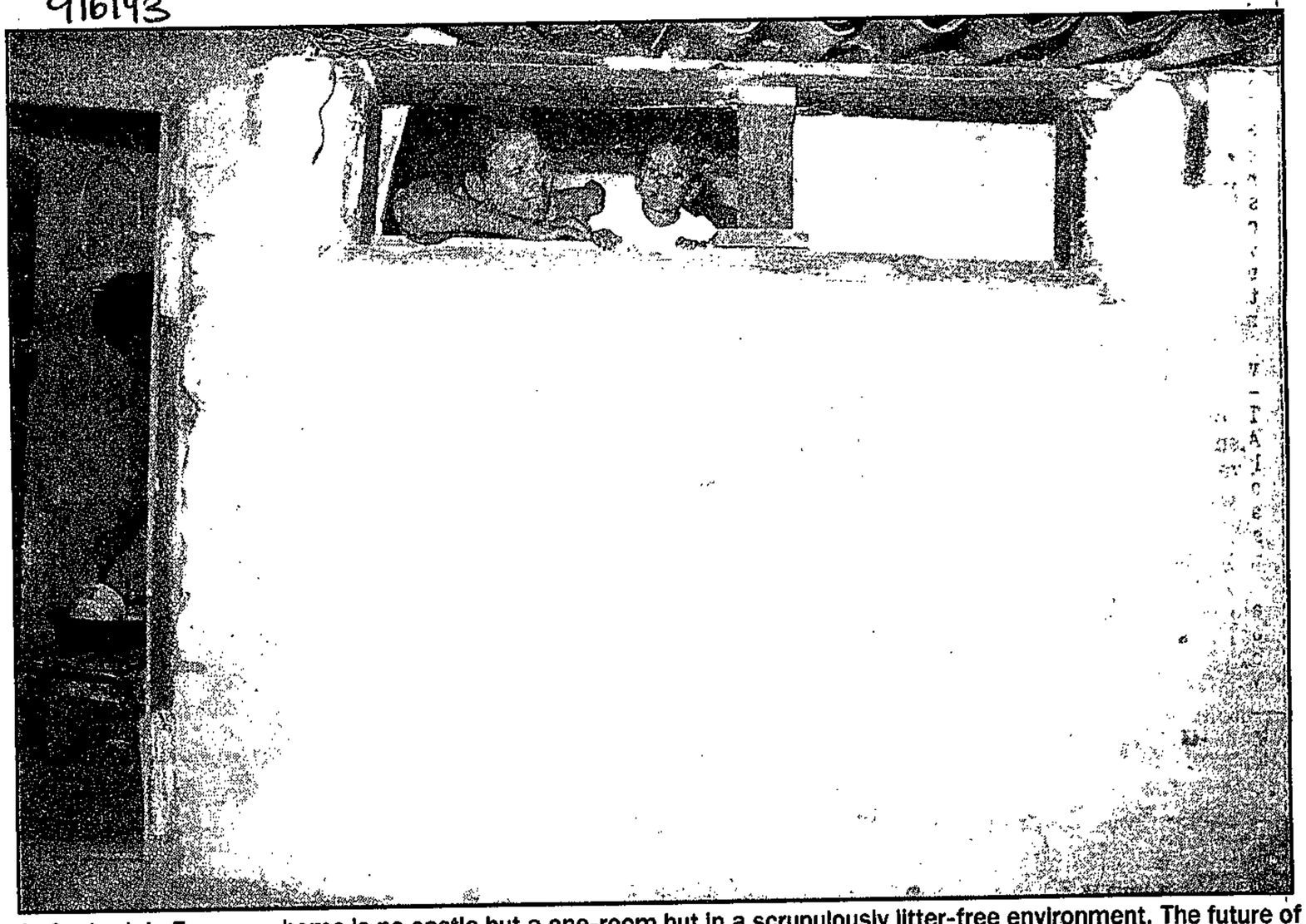
Tenants have been under threat of eviction since February, when their landlord — under pressure from neighbours — gave them notice. After this, tenants began a partial rent boycott which only strengthened the owner's resolve to evict them.

Although many resumed paying the monthly rent of R235 after recent negotiations, time seems to have run out. The owner's attorney confirmed that tenants had to be off the land by month-end.

None has any idea where to turn — and many still hope the Crocodile Valley Rural and Civic Association will win them a further reprieve.

Another landlord in the area, the Rev Reg Bendixen, contends that the big stick is no answer. "If I evict the families living here, most people would have to give up their jobs — or simply find other illegal accommodation."

Not that Bendixen wants to lose any of the 60 families who live in converted stables on his property at Riverbend. It is a peaceful place in the after-work dusk, with a hum of human sounds emanating from the close rows of rooms.



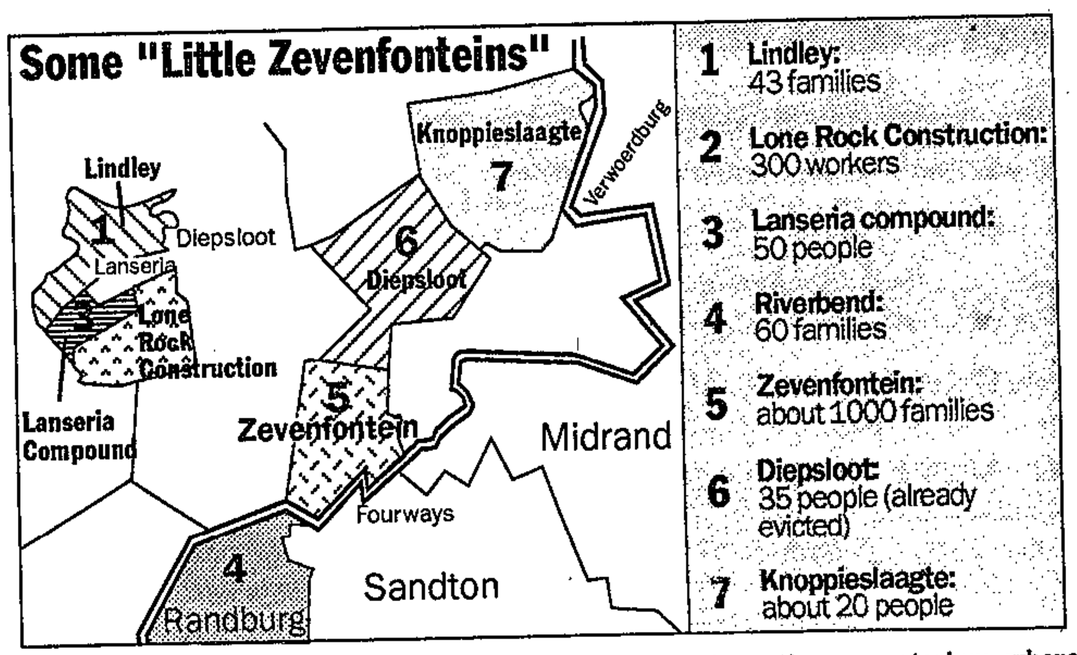
At Cochrain's Farm . . . home is no castle but a one-room hut in a scrupulously litter-free environment. The future of the residents is at best uncertain. Picture: George Mashinini.

And landlord Bendixen, balding and paternal, says: "I've learnt more about the thinking of black South Africans here in this yard than anywhere else — even after years in the ministry."

He says he has been repeatedly fined for breaking Randburg's by-laws and been taken to the Supreme Court since he acceded to factory owners' requests to house their workers.

Bendixen is not quite a lone voice among land owners. Since the Zevenfontein debacle, the civic association, together with regional and local ANC structures, has struck up a working relationship with property owners belonging to the Jukskei Crocodile Catchment Association (JCCA).

What binds them together is the conviction that parties directly affected by planning must participate in the decisions taken — whether these be the siting of low-cost housing or defining municipal boundaries. In this spirit they have launched the Crocodile Valley Negotiating Forum.



Mathole Motshekga, vice-chairman of the ANC's PWV region, believes strongly that there should be a moratorium on evictions in the area and has attempted to secure Transvaal Provincial Administration backing.

He stresses that a comprehensive solution to homelessness in the region is needed and that piecemeal evictions are no answer. Apart from Zevenfontein, whose relocation has again been delayed by court action, the civic association is working in five small settlements whose future is uncertain.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken points out that the province cannot enforce an evictions moratorium where private landlords are concerned, but it can facilitate solutions.

"At this point we don't have developed land in the area on which to settle people. So we would try to arrange that tenants continue to live on the farms where they are until other accommodation is available. But we oppose owners 'farming' with people".

It will be payable on the following basis for proven expenses that are incurred for security measures:

* 20% on a maximum expenditure level of R20 000,00 with a minimum of R1 000,00 per occupied property.

Grasmere Toll Plaza: squatter camp

*7. Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister for National Housing:†

(1) Whether a squatter camp is being erected approximately 1 kilometre south of the Grasmere Toll Plaza; if so, (a) what is the exact situation of this camp and (b) how far is it situated from the N1 freeway;

(2) whether he was informed in advance that a squatter camp was to be erected there; if so, what was his reaction to that;

(3) whether there are any incidents of murder, assault and/or stone-throwing in this area; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether his Department intends taking steps to ensure the safety of motorists and residents in this area; if not, why not; if so, what steps? B908E

The MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) No. Squatting has occurred for a long period of time within an existing town, known as Finetown, that has been designated for low cost housing development.

(a) The portion of the town designated for the development of housing for squatters is situated approximately 1 km south of the Grasmere Toll Plaza, west of the N1 freeway.

(b) 10 meters from the road reserve of the N1 freeway.

(2) Falls away.

(3) and (4) Steps are being taken to assure the safety of motorists and residents of the area by means of increased patrolling and improved liaison between the SA Police and the Traffic Department of the TPA.

Further, an investigation is being undertaken into the possibility of erecting pedestrian bridges as well as road safety education for communities in the area.

INTERPELLATION

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

Own Affairs:

Durban College of Education: closure

1. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether he or his Department intends closing the Durban College of Education; if so, why; if not,

(2) whether any steps are being contemplated to raise the lecturer/student ratio from the present 1:4,4; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B928E.INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, the department has no intention of closing the Durban College of Education or any other college under the jurisdiction of the department within the boundaries of Natal.

When the internal rationalisation of colleges in Natal was planned during the latter part of the eighties, the closure of some of these colleges was given serious consideration because the teacher needs of this department could have been met by a single college of education housed on any one of the three existing campuses.

This was not done for three principal reasons. Firstly, community support could not be mobilised. Secondly, closure of the Durban College of Education would mean that there would be no facilities in Natal for the training of Afrikaans-speaking teachers. Thirdly, the vast backlog reported to exist in the KwaZulu region was said to require the maintenance of our department's colleges as institutions of excellence. To my mind most of these reasons, or all of them, are still valid.

On the question of the lecturer-student ratio, the position of the department is clear. The unsatisfactory ratio must be addressed. As a matter of fact, steps have already been taken to address the problem.

It must, however, be kept in mind that all colleges of education must offer certain basic disciplines and therefore require a basic staff

irrespective of the size of the college. The Durban College of Education is no exception to this rule.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, the reason for this interpellation was to elicit information as to what is intended with the Durban College of Education. The DP—let me make it clear—wishes it to remain open as a college of education. Hon members must have no doubt about that. That has been our position consistently with regard to other colleges as well.

However, that college and its new extensions, which are worth about R6 million or R7 million, are so tremendously underutilised that this department has to apply its mind very rapidly, otherwise there will be great pressure to close it. It has, for example, 224 students and 51 lecturers. Potchefstroom, which also falls under this department, has 552 students and 47 lecturers. If I were at Potchefstroom, I would be screaming blue murder about what was happening in Durban.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Or go to Natal.

Mr R M BURROWS: Or go to Natal, precisely!

We accept 100% the necessity of having an Afrikaans-medium college available in Natal. We also accept the linkage that has been established between Dokkies and the University of the Orange Free State. It is a very important linkage, but the same question must be asked.

There is a demand for teachers generally, and figures indicate that simply to achieve a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:35 for the whole of Natal-KwaZulu would require an additional 11 000 teachers immediately. That is not going to happen, but what we have not seen in Natal is any effort at Dokkies to create a dual-medium college—which is what we are going to have to have—with broadly a non-White English-medium population.

This is a sensitive area. We accept that, but bearing in mind the situation at the House of Representatives college Bechet, which is housed in what was an unacceptable building, or Springfield, which is under pressure, and at Edgewood, which is growing in numbers because of Zulu students coming in from the KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture, we would like to know from the department what they intend putting into place at Dokkies.

No, we do not want Dokkies closed, but we do want it fully utilised. It is because of that important relationship between student and lecturer that one can begin to bring in students in service this year to make full use of those lecturers. Certainly, from the beginning of next year, that college should be far better utilised than it is now.

*Mr A GERBER: Mr Chairman, the intention of the hon member for Pinetown is quite clear. The Durban College of Education, the only tertiary educational institution for Afrikaners in Natal, must be forced to accommodate so many people from other cultures that it will eventually lose its Afrikaner character.

I want to make it clear this afternoon that the Afrikaner community in Natal, like other communities, has a right to such a college of education. It would be an injustice to take that college away from them. The fact is that most of the student teachers who obtain their qualifications in other provinces are lost to Natal. They usually enter service in the area where they were trained.

I am sorry to say that the hon member for Pinetown and his party create the impression that they begrudge the Afrikaner everything. [Interjections.] Why the constant bickering about Afrikaner colleges and schools that are struggling to survive? Why does the hon member not rather request an interpellation about the standpoints of the University of Natal if the issue is the admission policy and discrimination? He is a member of the board of that university. That university's admission policy at the medical school and hostels operates according to a quota system on a racial basis. [Interjections.]

In 1989 a pamphlet was distributed that stated that admission to hostels would not be granted primarily on the basis of academic achievement, but on the basis of need. *The Daily News* reported on 5 March 1990:

> The secondary factor of academic achievement would be applied differentially with greater stress on Whites and Indians than Blacks.

I now politely ask the hon member and his party to sweep before their own door. They must leave the Afrikaner educational institutions alone. They are scratching where it is not itching. The Afrikaner community in Natal has a

Orange teachers boycott classes

■ Angry staff demand three months arrears pay:

Sowetan 10/6/93

By Bongani Mavuso

ANGRY teachers at Voice Education Centre at Orange Farm are boycotting classes after the owner, Mr MA Khumalo, allegedly failed to pay their salaries for three months.

Teachers said yesterday pupils were becoming "restless and violent because they want to return to class".

The centre is registered as a private school with the Department of Education and Training, DET Orange Vaal region spokesman Mr W Gravett confirmed on Tuesday.

It comprises a pre-school, four primary schools and two secondary schools. Annual fees are R30 for the primary schools, R35 for higher primary and R40 for the secondary schools.

Teacher Mr Albert Sibanda yesterday alleged that Khumalo told them there was no money to pay their salaries "because the Government was refusing to release the money".

However, DET spokeswoman in Pretoria Miss Kim McEvilly dismissed this, saying: "The responsibility for paying the teachers' salaries lies with their employer".

Attempts to contact Khumalo, a businessman, yesterday and on Tuesday were unsuccessful. When *Sowetan* visited his office teachers said he had left early in the morning "to look for money". Several calls to his office went unanswered.

About 79 teachers are employed by the centre.

They said their salaries ranged between R300 and R1 200 a month and claimed Khumalo spent about R50 000 for the official opening of the centre in March.

ANC 3 slain at Quattro

Sowetan 10/6/93

■ Commander admits death penalty was exercised:

THREE ANC prisoners who were killed for crimes allegedly committed against the organisation were yesterday named at the Motsuenyane Commission into alleged human rights abuses at ANC camps in exile.

The men, their names given as Piper, Mahamba and David Dumela, were executed by the ANC, the commission was told by Mr Gabriel Mthembu, a former camp commander at Quattro camp in Angola. Asked by commission chairman Mr Sam Motsuenyane what had happened to Mahamba, Mthembu replied: "I think he was part of those that were given capital punishment by the movement."

Motsuenyane: "Does that mean executed?" Mthembu: "Yes."

Asked for reasons for Mahamba's execution, Mthembu said he had committed crimes "deemed serious" by the movement.

Star 15/6/93

Sandton sets R3-m aside for poorer neighbours

By Anna Cox

In preparation for the post-apartheid era, the Sandton Town Council, for the first time in its history, set aside R3 million to help underdeveloped neighbouring areas with their infrastructure.

Announcing the R321 million budget last night, management committee chairman Peter Gardiner said Sandton needed to take the lead in restoring trust between communities seriously handicapped by social and economic injustice. He said political settlements could only be successful if they were underpinned by sustainable economic expansion.

The 1993-94 budget brings a rates increase of 13 percent to owners of 1 000 sq m stands, 14 percent on 2 000 sq m stands and 18 percent on 4 000 sq m properties.

The three-year revaluation of Sandton properties increased its total rates base by 52 percent to R7 billion. Business site values increased by 47 percent and their contribution to the rates base is now 24 percent.

Private-sector investment, according to Gardiner, is on the increase with 3 000 building plans with a value of R597,7 million approved between July 1992 and May 1993.

"Rapidly escalating property values are in line with Sandton's rating as one of the four fastest growing centres in the Republic," said Gardiner.

Among the major expenses are R22,3 million for parks, libraries and the art gallery, R24,6 million for health services, R146,5 million for engineering services and R30,6 million for ambulance, fire protection road safety, traffic control and the crisis control centre.

An amount of R20,3 million had been budgeted for developing the new civic centre.

Although the town's operating budget had increased by 21,9 percent, said Gardiner, the two main factors influencing this were the delayed payments for ambulance and fire services to Alexandra by the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Regional Services Council, and the overreading of Sandton's water consumption by the Rand Water Board due to a faulty meter.

Fearful squatters to invade vacant land

By Cyril Madala

As Lenasia squatter community, whose lives are threatened by the possible invasion of a sinkhole, erect shacks on nearby vacant land tomorrow.

The site has been earmarked for Thembalihle and Extension 13 to house squatters from Lenasia South and Eldorado Park.

There is a stand-off between the Housing Department (HOD) and Lenasia residents over the development of Extension 13.

Residents say they are not opposed to the development of the land, but want houses built for the poor before the rich.

Geologists have told the HOD that the 20 000-odd squatters in the camps are living on a time bomb.

Lenasia's extensions 9 and 10 that they are built on dolomite land which is unstable.

Danie Bouwer, chairman of the Residents' Association, said Lenasia was "under immediate threat".

Community forum, Mohamed Vawda, said the squatters would invade Lenasia South 13 because it had been standing vacant for at least three years.

Criticism

A comprising 20 civic, religious, welfare and political organisations met at the weekend and criticised the development.

It accused the Housing Department of failing to take into account the history and complexity of the Lenasia community and its broader implications.

"The community of Lenasia is not going to sit idly by while the area into a squatter camp.

We intend to mobilise the broadest possible opposition to the HOD's proposal.

Together possible opposition, we can present a united front."

The forum said in a memorandum to the HOD:

"The community wants Extension 13 to be developed for low-income housing to place a moratorium on all development in the area.

Star 17/6/93

Occupation bid fails

About 2 000 residents of a Lenasia squatter community, whose lives are threatened by the possible formation of a sinkhole, failed yesterday in their bid to invade vacant serviced land. Instead, they handed a memorandum to the House of Delegates.

Thembalihle Homeless Residents' Committee chairman Daniel Bovu told residents early yesterday that police had warned they would not allow any occupation of the land in Extension 13.

310 2-11

Violence erupts as squatters told to go

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Zevenfontein's 1 000 families are now trapped by pincer-style court action. They face a renewed application for an order to evict them from their present site and an Appeal Court hearing which effectively prohibits them moving to the resettlement area of Diepsloot.

Violence flared briefly in the settlement north of Johannesburg yesterday after the sheriff of the court arrived to serve papers on the community regarding the eviction order sought by the Chartwell North Action Group.

Residents refused to accept the papers in the absence of their committee and eventually burnt the "pamphlets" when the sheriff insisted they take them.

Police accompanied the sheriff into Zevenfontein and, according to youth leader Jan Mahlangu, refused to allow residents to go to Four Ways to hold a meeting with drivers.

Mahlángu said police used teargas and that some residents in turn set fire to the nearby veld to dispel teargas fumes. He denied that residents had thrown stones at the SAP.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Major Eugene Opperman said police were forced to use teargas and rubber bullets after the residents stoned taxis and set fire to the nearby veld.

At least one Zevenfontein resident faced The Star with a bloodied shirt and swollen face. He said he had been struck by a policeman.

Opperman said it was possible that police had to use physical force to disperse the crowd.

ANC PWV vice-chairman Mathole Motshekga, who is also Zevenfontein's legal adviser, arrived in the settlement at about 4 pm. As residents clustered around to have the mystery "pamphlet" explained, Motshekga said: "We will defend this action, both in court and politically. I have no doubt that this application has no basis in law and in morality."

Chartwell residents are asking for a Supreme Court ruling compelling the TPA to evict the people from the Zevenfontein site and empowering the sheriff to do so should the TPA fail.

Diepsloot residents, on the other hand, have appealed against a Supreme Court judgment which failed to uphold their contention that the TPA's expropriation of land at Diepsloot was illegal.

This land is intended for the resettlement of Zevenfontein. Until the appeal is heard, the TPA has dropped all plans to develop the site.

Motshekga said Zevenfontein illustrated "the problems we are going to face if the 'local option' put forward by (Minister of Local Government) Tertius Delport is implemented".

If each little ward were empowered to protect its interests at the expense of solving broader problems, "people like the Zevenfontein community will be pushed from pillar to post and no government will have the right to redress the legacy of apartheid".

NEWS FEATURE *Verwoerdian dictates reversed as Murray and Roberts start workers' village*

Soweten 21/6/93

Let us go to Graceland

By Joe Mdhlela

WORKERS' VILLAGE *Houses of hope:*

HOW DOES IT FEEL to wake up early in the morning and know you are within whispering distance from your workplace?

Surely, it must feel good.

That is how workers employed in Wadeville industrial areas will soon feel in what will reverse the old Verwoerdian dictates that forced workers, especially underpaid black workers, must live far from their workplaces.

Three cheers to Bernhardt, Dunstan and Associates for conceiving the idea, and to Murray and Roberts Engineering for making it concrete.

Unique project

But what makes the project unique by South African standards is that there was consultation right across the spectrum. The old paternalistic approach hitherto adopted by those who own capital gave way to more consultation.

The workers, or "the people" if you like, have been thoroughly consulted. And what do you know, they gave their approval, making the concept of a "workers' village" theirs.

To be called Graceland, this model workers' village, to be situated in Wadeville, near Germiston, will give employees an opportunity to live close to their workplaces.

"In fact, employees will need to either walk or cycle to be on time to start work," chief executive officer of Murray and Roberts Mr Ian Colepepe said at the sod-turning of the village three weeks ago.

First formal house

Listen to Mr Albert Hane, who has never known what it means to stay in a formal house, has to say about the new scheme.

"It has my blessing. My wife, my children and I will now not only be able to own a home we will call ours but will be within walking distance of our places of employment."

Hane, who lives at Mandela squatter camp in Katlehong, works in Wadeville. For many years he has been forced to travel to work either by train or taxi.

Like many other black South Africans who live on the Reef, Hane knows very well how dangerous it has become to travel by train. Much as he would like to use trains because of the their affordability, he would rather forgo that for taxis.

"That is a choice one has to make. But with the introduction of the new complex in Wadeville, God has answered our prayers. I am looking forward to the day this project is completed," he said.

Director for BDA Jo Dunstan said the success of the project has been underpinned by working in partnership with trade unions, workers, black builders, local authorities and financial institutions.

"To make the project work and keep on working you need to keep all parties satisfied," Dunstan said.

She said it was important to create a suburb, and not a township.

"The point that must be made clear is that this will not be a corporate-owned housing scheme where employees rent their houses. The concept will be that the land, owned presently by Murray and Roberts Engineering, will be passed to the village once all the units have been purchased by owners," she said.

Planned suburb

She added that the village would not be "some soulless housing estate" but a planned suburb with facilities that would add value to the village life.

Accommodation would vary from bedsitters, suitable for singles, to three-bedroomed homes for larger families. There would also be walk-up apartments with a small private yard space.

The village will also have double-storey houses, where families will have small private gardens. The village will have trees to make it more attractive.

Watch TSS today at 9pm for more details about this scheme.

Final move ... the new workers' village will bring stability and some form of security for people who have never lived in a proper house.

... and relief ... these squatters will soon know comfort as a new village is being built to house workers nearer their places of employment.

This space was made possible by the support of the Positive Development News Initiative, which seeks to document a unique development model that is evolving in South Africa where people from all walks of life — Business, Labour, Grassroots, Democratic Structures, Development Agencies and Communities themselves — are coming together in focused alliances, to play a powerful role in reconstruction and reconciliation to build a common future that will provide the foundation of a peaceful and prosperous inclusive society in this wonderful land of ours.

Core founders of this initiative are:

The D G Murray Trust
Independent Development Trust
Kagiso Trust
The Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund
Eskom
Murray & Roberts
Nedcor Chairman Fund
Facet Film & Television

R10489

Removal of shacks postponed

BTDay 24/6/93

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) had decided to postpone the removal of the remaining illegal shacks in the Ivory Park area, a TPA statement released yesterday said.

A TPA spokesman also denied that the shacks were occupied. He denied allegations of assault and arson. (B10)

The decision to postpone the removal had been taken because of "mounting tensions" following a call for a general stayaway and a march by the ANC PWV region in nearby Tembisa, the TPA statement said.

The march to the local police station in Tembisa, attended by about 8 000 people and adressed by ANC regional head Tokyo Sexwale, had proceeded without serious incident, a police spokesman said. He added that fears of conflict with Inkatha members had not materialised.

STEPHEN COPLAN

The march was planned to protest against continuing violence in the township, an ANC statement said.

The TPA statement claimed that demonstrators had broken down shacks and erected barricades to prevent official vehicles from removing shack remnants.

The statement also said some shacks had been set alight by demonstrators, creating the impression that TPA officials were committing arson.

About 20 shacks were still to be removed. The TPA said this would take place at a "suitable later date".

The decision to postpone the removal of these shacks had been taken in the interests of "general peace and calm" and not in response to yesterday's demonstrations or to claims on rights to the land.

Plea for squatters' plight

Star 25/6/93

(310)

Court Reporter

Ivory Park shacks are being demolished as fast as they are erected, leaving homeless squatters to face the mid-winter chill as they sleep in the veld, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Ten squatters, whose shacks were destroyed on Tuesday shortly after being told to move, brought an urgent application to force the TPA to re-erect their shacks.

The squatters, who occupied the land on Friday, have also asked the court to interdict the TPA from demolishing shacks.

Mr Justice W P Schutz allowed the matter to stand down till today.

Peet Coetsee, SC, for the TPA, said his client would dispute the squatters' allegations.

Margie Victor, appearing for the squatters, described the TPA's action as "inhuman" and urged the judge to order that the SADF erect tents for the applicants pending the outcome of the appliaction.

Pointing out the squatters in the public gallery, Victor said: "There are babies and women. They are scantily dressed. They need somewhere to sleep."

The judge said that if he made an order before today it would have the potential of opening the doors to other people "occupying land and claiming it for the indefinite future".

HOUSING FEATURE Squatter plight in the spotlight • Residents of camps will benefit

Water shortage ... Mr Bibi Mabaso, a resident of the Pumasibethane squatter camp, fills his can with water from a common tap near the demolished George Thabe Stadium, Sharpeville.

Cry from the heart for a piece of land

Sowetan 25/6/93

30

SOME HOPE Ray of light is cash injection to boost low-cost housing:

AN ESTIMATED 100 000 destitute people live in squalid squatter camps in Vaal Triangle townships with no hope of getting homes.

Hundreds of other homeless families stay in backyard shacks and claim their landlords demand high rent at a time when unemployment is escalating at an alarming rate in the area.

A Port Elizabeth University survey says more than 100 000 black people are unemployed in the Vaal Triangle.

The cry from the hearts of squatters is for a piece of land they can call their own. *Sowetan* has established that the population in these squatter camps grows daily. Furniture is just dropped at a spot and a shack built around it.

Mr Bibi Mabaso, who squats in Pumasibethane in Sharpeville, has not been so lucky. He stayed in a backyard and was thrown out as he could not pay the rent. He has been unemployed for the past 10 years since being retrenched.

"I could not afford to pay high rent and decided to build a shelter for my family of six in an open lot outside the township," he said.

Destitute families broke down the George Thabe Stadium and used the materials for building shacks outside what was once the "mecca of soccer" in the Vaal Triangle. They have now built a shack complex housing 1 000 people opposite the stadium.

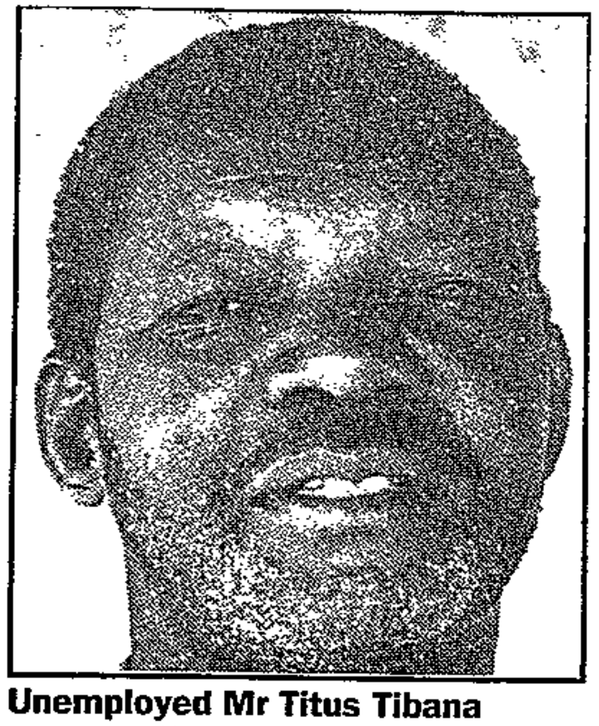
Mabaso said their greatest problem was lack of water, sewerage, proper systems of sanitation, roads, toilets, stormwater drainage and refuse removal.

Sharpeville local council spokesman Mr John Matsoso said informal housing was fast becoming recognised as an integral part of a national programme in South Africa.

It was essential, though, to ensure that this did not condemn people to live in poorly serviced shack settlements on the urban periphery for the rest of their lives, he added. The council had tried to house people in an Independent Development Trust programme in Sharpeville but as soon as they left Pumasibethane others occupied the vacated shacks.

Bophelong administrator Mr Piet van der Walt said there were 1 539 shack dwellers around the township.

However, there is a ray of light at the end of this dark tunnel with the announcement that the Government is to inject R268 million into low-cost housing. The Government has also announced a new subsidy extended to cover a wider section of the black population. R99,3 million has been allocated in the 1993-94 Budget to carry out the scheme.



Unemployed Mr Titus Tibana cannot afford to buy a house.

(310)

Squatters seek order to stop shack demolition

ARG 29/6/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Ivory Park shacks are being demolished as fast as they are erected, leaving homeless squatters to face the mid-winter cold as they sleep in the veld, the Rand Supreme Court has heard.

Ten squatters, whose shacks were destroyed on Tuesday less than two hours after they were told to move, brought an urgent application to force the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to re-erect the dwellings.

The squatters, who occupied the land on Friday, have also asked the court to interdict the TPA from demolishing shacks.

Mr Justice Schutz allowed the matter to stand down until today so that the TPA could respond.

Expressing sympathy with the plight of the squatters, the judge said that if he made an order before today, it would have the potential of opening doors to other people "occupying land and claiming it for the indefinite future".

The Samaritan whose warnings went unheeded

W/Mail 25/6 - 7/1/93 · (310)

A man who frantically tried to alert police to a murderous gang of gunmen says he was brushed aside and sent on a wild goosechase — resulting in the loss of innocent lives.

By **STEPHEN LAUFER**

SIXTY-year-old Madala Vayise, an assistant truck driver from the Orange Farm shack settlement, has emerged as the hidden — but tragically frustrated — hero of the Eikenhof massacre.

A simple, reticent man, Vayise tried desperately and repeatedly to warn police the attack was happening — only to be sent from pillar to post and finally badly beaten up and arrested by policemen.

On his way to work in the early hours of March 19, the BMW Vayise was travelling in was hijacked by masked men armed with AK47s. He then set about desperately trying to warn police of the attack.

A police patrol shrugged him off. When he rushed to work and borrowed a car to report the matter to the Langlaagte police station, the officers said he should go to the Ennerdale police station.

Before he got there, he heard that the hijackers had fired on white motorists in Eikenhof, killing 35-year-old Sandra Mitchley and her 14-year-old son, Sean Nel. Thirteen-year-old Clare Silberbauer, who was wounded in the attack, later died of her injuries.

His reward for his attempts to be a good citizen, he told *The Weekly Mail,* was a vicious assault a week later at the hands of policemen investigating the Eikenhof killings. He said they had kicked down the door of his shack, scattered his meagre possessions and accused him of complicity in the attack. He suffered a perforated eardrum, and is now unable to do his job.

Speaking through an interpreter, with tears streaming down his cheeks, Vayise said he had been travelling to work at a dairy in Mayfair with his friend Nelson Mpunga, the owner of the BMW, when four men stopped them on the Golden Highway, kicked him in the face and threw him in the back seat of the car.

Madala Vayise ... Ignored

By the time he was ordered out of the BMW after a meandering dawn journey through Orange Farm, Vayise had spent the best part of two hours with the gunmen. "I knew they were dangerous — not just because I had seen their guns, but because they had talked about what they planned to do," he said.

Vayise later reported to police that the apparent commander of the gunmen had referred to a massacre in Natal immediately before their action, saying: "We need 50 dead whites to sort out South Africa."

The "commander" had also said: "We don't want blacks. We are Apla, we want whites. We don't need you, we need your car." The gunmen demanded his name and address, warning they would kill him if he went to the police.

Ordered out of the car in Sebokeng's Zone 10, Vayise flagged down a police bakkie — well before the killings. But when he tried to describe his experience, he was brushed aside by the black three-man crew. "I immediately stopped them and said they must chase the BMW. They said, 'Oh, we saw it.' But they wouldn't do anything without a registration number, and I didn't know it because the car belongs to Nelson," Vayise said. When he had the number, he was told, he should report to a police station.

For Vayise, a shy and respectful man who speaks little English, another odyssey was under way. He took a minibus taxi to his workplace, a ride of more than an hour. The gate guard at the dairy gave him the registration number and management supplied a bakkie in which he drove to Langlaagte police station.

There he was told to report to the Ennerdale police station. On the way, he stopped at Orange Farm to look for Mpunga. Told that he was at Orange Farm police station, he went there. It was here that he first learnt of the Eikenhof killings.

Police took no formal statement, but instead drove Vayise around Orange Farm in a Casspir, stopping people at random and repeatedly asking him whether this was one of the killers. "I was unable to help them because the gunmen had worn balaclavas or knitted hats," said Vayise. Later, he was taken home.

A week after the incident, Vayise said, he had just arrived home from work when five police vehicles stopped in front of his house. Two plainclothes policemen, one carrying an automatic rifle, entered his tin shack and told him to come with them.

"We drove for a long way on the Golden Highway. Then the convoy stopped under a bridge on the concrete road to Vanderbijlpark. A tall policeman pulled me out of the car and started beating me with fists. Others joined in." Vayise said he fell down and was kicked in the genitals, kidneys, stomach and head. "They were shouting at me in Afrikaans, saying: *'Jy moet mooi praat, kaffir'* (You must talk nicely, kaffir)."

Vayise, who hails from Umtata, told them he knew nothing about Apla. "But they kept on, saying I was a liar, because people from Transkei are Apla."

Handcuffed hand and foot to a chair, he spent the night in the Vanderbijlpark police station. At 3.30am, he was taken for a long drive in a car, his head covered with a black nylon bag. On returning to the police station, he was asked to make a formal statement for the first time. "As they asked their questions, they kept hitting me." Finally, he was allowed to go home.

Vayise explained that he still suffered pain as a result of the police assault. Left with a perforated eardrum and other physical side-effects, he is unable to cope with the manual labour he did before the attack.

"My wages have been been reduced from R 1 000 a month to R600," he said. He supports a family of nine in Transkei.

Asked to comment on the allegations, Vaal SAP spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said they were being investigated. He refused to comment further.

Vayise and his lawyer, Sheila Tyacke, have brought the matter to the attention of the Goldstone Commission. Vayise has also been called as a state witness in the trial of three men charged with murder in relation to the Eikenhof attack.

OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ... An Ivory Park mother and child survey their bleak world after their flimsy home was ripped apart by TPA heavies this week. The administration attacked 300 homes. Was it also necessary to burn the people's meagre possessions, critics have asked. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUFI

TPA's heartless solution: smash and burn

By MOSES MAMAILA

"WE are being punished because we are poor."

These were the anguished words of Ivory Park squatter Sam Makgatlela after TPA officials launched a brutal raid on their illegal sites.

The officials spared nothing – not even the impoverished people's meagre possessions – which were set alight. CTPress 27/6/93

Betty Phala, whose shack was demolished with more than 300 other shelters this week, said TPA officials gave her five minutes to leave the area.

Phala is just one of scores of Ivory Park residents who were left in the freezing cold when their shacks were demolished.

The TPA said in a statement that warnings could not be served to some of the Thembisa squatters because they were not in their dwellings.

It added that most of the shacks were still empty and had been built over the past few days.

An impoverished mother of six told City Press: "At about noon on Tuesday armed men gave us notices to leave. Five minutes later, the men destroyed our homes, burning them and our property."

A week ago squatters, who were fed up with being boaders of other squatters at Ivory Park, occupied the land on the other side of the dusty road. 310

The squatters said they hated paying R27 in rent to other squatter who had been allocated sites.

On the legality issue, Phala said the law had "very little meaning" for people in their circumstances.

She asked: "Do we really have a choice? Do people really think we are staying in these terrible conditions because we want to?"

She said all her belongings had been destroyed by the TPA men who had showed the people "no mercy".

"Those people were ruthless."

But Phala, like the other squatters, had refused to leave the area because they had nowhere to go.

Squatters, most of whom were unemployed, said after they had been boarders of other people "for years", the time had arrived to "do anything necessary to find a place to stay".

The TPA action, which left hundreds of families homeless, was launched a few days after the residents had come to believe they finally owned their pieces of land.

City Press visited the area on Wednesday. Dozens of women and children were out in the open guarding their small piles of belongings.

Sam Makgatlela vowed to leave the area only after the TPA had provided him with alternative accommodation. He said the people had slept in the open on Tuesday night.

"The sky was our roof. We do not know for how long will this continue," he declared.

The TPA said it was "forced to" take action against the illegal squatters.

It said the administration would do "everything possible" to facilitate the acquisition of alternative accommodation for the squatters.

more than one town, falls way below estimates of

... housing director Ian Raitz said that for the past three

... provide about 3 000 units in a few years' time.

... lived in shacks in the area. Magoro said there was no

... a house was built in Dobsonville was in 1984.

Squatters still out in the cold

Star 28/6/93

Staff Reporter (310)

Ivory Park residents whose shacks were demolished by the TPA last week were yesterday still without shelter.

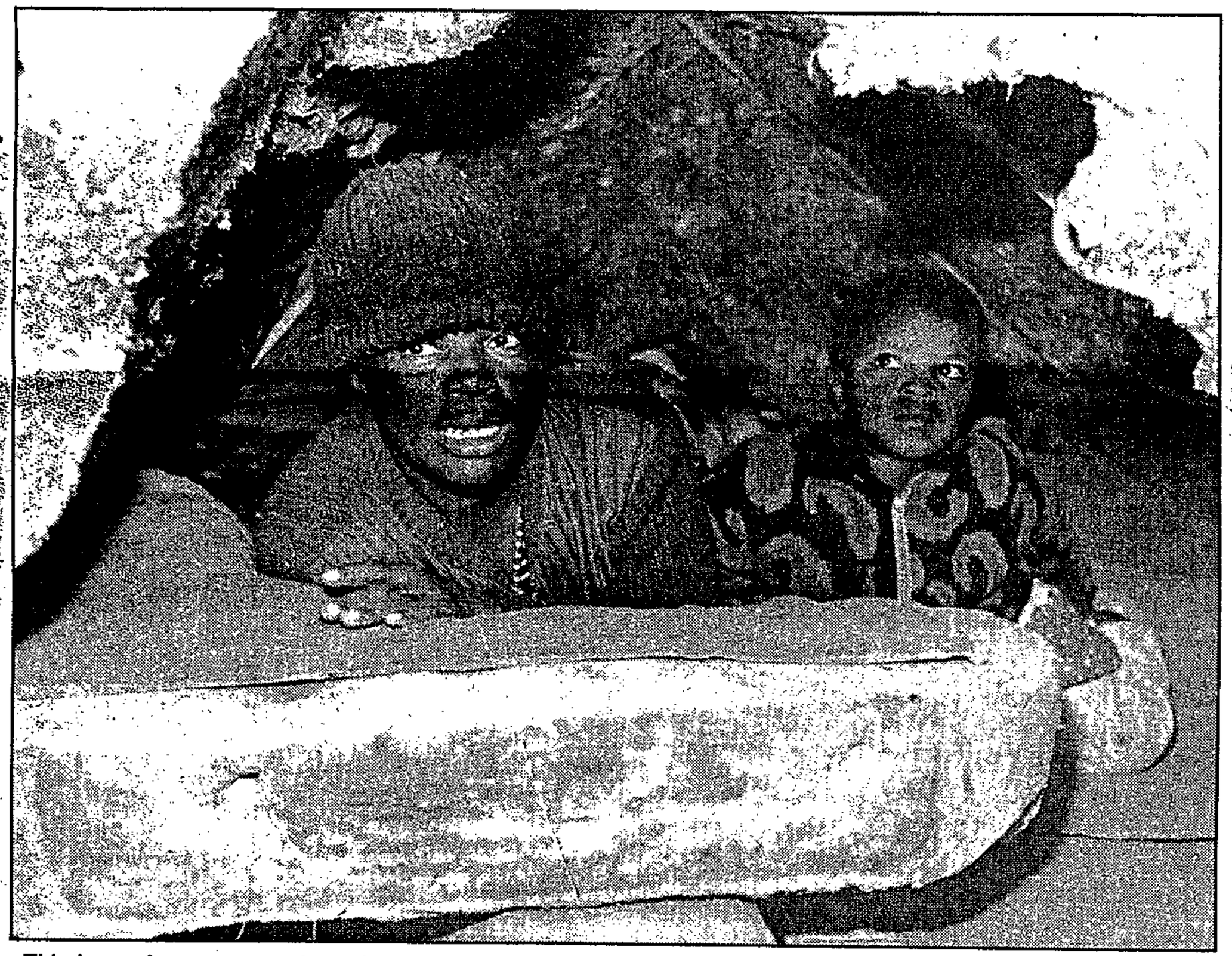
As temperatures plummeted they prepared to spend another icy night under makeshift cardboard and plastic structures while a legal wrangle over the demolitions continues.

On Friday the Rand Supreme Court postponed until Wednesday their application to be allowed to remain on the land from which they were evicted. The TPA says the land adjoining Ivory Park is earmarked for light industrial development.

Residents claim they lost belongings when the shacks were torn down and burnt.

The TPA denies it burnt down shacks and says "the TPA took action to remove 300 unattended and empty illegal structures".

Yesterday Jane Mahlaba (44) said she had slept under a small makeshift structure of cardboard and carpet underfelt since Tuesday.



This is our home . . . an Ivory Park woman, Jane Mahlaba, and five-year-old Nomzekelo under a cardboard structure that has been their home since the TPA demolished their shack. Picture: George Mashinini

TPA demolishes shacks

STEPHEN COPLAN BlDay 28 16/4

THE Babylon area of Ivory Park near Johannesburg was again the scene of shack demolitions at the weekend as police and the TPA removed structures put up overnight, a TPA spokesman said.

An urgent application by 10 squatters was due to be heard on Friday by the Supreme Court but had been postponed, the group's legal representative said at the weekend. The matter would appear before the court on Wednesday, he said. A request for an interim order restoring possession of the site pending the outcome of the application had been turned down. (288)

The TPA started removing shacks in Ivory Park last week, saying that permission for their erection had not been granted. It said the structures were not being lived in when they were torn down, but this was disputed by the local civic association. (310)

Armed right-wingers bar blacks from town

BIDay 29/6/93

DIRK VAN EEDEN

ABOUT 300 armed right-wingers stood guard at the roadside yesterday morning, barring black people from entering the conservative town of Koppies in the northern Free State.

A committee of residents and police were locked in talks throughout the day, trying to iron out the racial confrontation which began two weeks ago when the ANC Women's League was prevented from entering Koppies for a protest march.

A consumer boycott was subsequently called by the ANC's branch in KwaKwatsi, the township adjacent to Koppies.

Yesterday's action was part of an attempt to force blacks to end their consumer boycott.

Police spokesman Capt Johlene van der Merwe said yesterday police reinforcements had been called in and the situation was "extremely tense".

However, there had been no reports of violence.

Van der Merwe said the police team of negotiators also held talks with the residents of KwaKwatsi, and was trying to get the opposing groups together last night for joint negotiations.

The right-wingers took up their posts at 4.30am yesterday. They were mostly armed with sideguns, although a few had shotguns, she said.

Koppies Action Committee chairman Louw Badenhorst, representing residents and businessmen of the town, said the action would continue until the ANC acceded to the town council's demand that the ANC abide by the peace accord.

The committee also distributed leaflets in English and Sotho, calling for an end to the boycott.

Badenhorst said that even though the roads were blocked, people in need of medical attention were allowed through.

A reported blockade on the road between Koppies and KwaKwatsi had turned out to be the result of municipal road workings. It had been removed, Van der Merwe said.

Badenhorst said that even though Koppies was home to a large number of AWB supporters, no single political party could be held responsible for the blockade.

The blockade of the town follows a similar one earlier this year in Vrede when a black consumer boycott of the town, which lasted nearly two weeks, was called off after meetings between the town's residents and those of the neighbouring township.

Investigation into shootings

STEPHEN COPLAN

POLICE are investigating alleged shootings in the Babylon area of Ivory Park at the weekend. 29/6/93

Squatters said they had been fired on by two white men travelling in a bakkie.

Police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said yesterday the bakkie belonged to the Transport Department, but the people using it on Sunday still had to be traced.

A spokesman for the local civic association said there were no injuries and no damage to property.

Local peace committee officials in the area said the TPA yesterday continued to demolish shacks in Babylon, near Midrand. Many had been re-erected at the weekend following the demolition of illegal structures last week.

Peace committee official Roger Oxley said hundreds of people had been left homeless. (310)

An urgent application by 10 squatters to remain on the land was postponed until tomorrow. The land has been earmarked by the TPA for light industrial development. BIDay

LIMITED

LTS

MARCH 1993

arch 1993 is as follows:

E SHEET	1993 R'000	1992 R'000
hareholders'	128 204	94 320
ulsorily convertible shares	14 434	14 434
	142 638	108 754
le preference ers' interest in	20 000	20 000
areholders' subsidiaries	2	2
ers' funds	162 640	128 756
liabilities	31 320	34 784

Demolished shacks unoccupied – TPA

Star 30/6/93

By Jacqueline Myburgh

There is confusion over the repeated demolition of shacks in Ivory Park by the TPA, with the local authority insisting that the structures were unoccupied but community leaders saying 700 people have been left homeless. (280)

Last Friday and on Monday, the TPA demolished shacks on a piece of land adjoining Ivory Park which they said had been earmarked for light industrial development. (310)

Ten squatters have brought a court application to prevent the TPA from demolishing their shacks.

A church leader who helped to obtain food and blankets for the homeless in Ivory Park, the Rev David Monokoane, told The Star earlier that his workers had noticed a difference between the number of people who slept in the area where the shacks were demolished, and the number who demonstrated there during the day. He intended to have the numbers checked by his staff.

But Paulos Sithole, a civic leader in Ivory Park, says people are sleeping in the veld because their shacks have been demolished.

He said these people, who had previously squatted in the back yards of Ivory Park, insisted that the TPA provide them with land.

Louis Venter of the TPA said the local authority had photographic evidence that the shacks were not occupied. He said between 50 and 70 shacks had been taken away on Monday, but he did not understand why they were erected when no one was staying there.

Bid to find land for squatters

Star 1/7/93

By Susan Smuts

While thousands of Ivory Park squatters faced yet another bitterly cold night in the veld after moving on to open land almost two weeks ago, the Transvaal Provincial Administration has undertaken to meet local authorities in a bid to find alternative land.

A Rand Supreme Court interdict brought by 10 of the squatters against the TPA was postponed yesterday for two weeks. Affidavits filed by the squatters and the TPA contained too many disputes of fact for the matter to be resolved on paper and Mr Justice P Blieden ordered that oral evidence be led.

One of the disputes concerns an undertaking the squatters claim the TPA gave them that shacks would not be demolished until the TPA and the squatters had met to discuss the situation.

Another issue is whether the squatters had been entitled to build shacks on the land, and whether they had occupied them by the time the TPA demolished them.

Counsel for the TPA, Peet Coetsee, SC, told the court the TPA was prepared to facilitate meetings with local authorities to find alternative land.

A meeting had been arranged with the town councils of Midrand and Kempton Park for Tuesday.

The land the squatters occupied had been allocated for light industrial use.

Squatter dispute stays unresolved

THE civil case of the Ivory Park squatters, who were left homeless when the TPA demolished their shacks, is to hear oral evidence. Cl Res D

Legal Resources Centre lawyers representing the squatters confirmed this week that evidence will be heard on July 16 in the Rand Supreme Court after both parties agreed there were fundamental differences between them. 41-193

The dispute between the Ivory Park squatters and TPA arose after the administration demolished shacks a week ago. The TPA later claimed that it demolished only "empty" shacks. It added that the shacks were erected on land reserved for industry. These claims were disputed by the squatters. (30)

Star 6/7/93

Squatters 'to take action'

The Ivory Park squatters whose shacks were demolished for the fourth time yesterday have threatened to take action against the TPA to strengthen their demand for land.

Civic leader, Victor Mabulane, did not wish to elaborate on their plans.

Yesterday morning about 200 shacks in Ivory Park Extension 2 were again demolished and the materials taken away by the TPA.

Jeffrey Mkwakwa (32) told The Star he had watched his shelter being demolished four times. He said a lot of the original squatters had left. — Staff Reporter.

(~~300~~) (310)

NEWS FEATURE *Tenants pay between R70 and R150 for a room or garage*

Homeless are over-charged

Sowetan 12/7/93

EXORBITANT RENT *Owners show no mercy towards poor people in PWV:*

By Joshua Raboroko

Hundreds of homeless people living in shacks and backyard rooms in the PWV area are being ripped off by landlords who charge them exorbitant amounts in rent and for other services.

The people maintain that this happens despite the fact that the owners are themselves not paying local authorities for services as a result of the rent boycott.

They pay rates ranging between R70 and R90 for a shack and R90 andR150 a month for a backyard room or garage. These rates often exclude electricity and water supply.

They may not boycott paying rates because they face the threat of being evicted.

However, the landlords argue that they are faced with the problems of trying to help homeless people at a time when the country has an acute shortage of homes.

Two million homeless

According to a survey by the Institute of Race Relations for 1992-93, there are more than 2 million homeless people in the PWV area.

This state of affairs has resulted in hundreds of the homeless quitting shacks, backyard rooms and "garages" and flocking to settle in the mushrooming squatter camps on the periphery of townships.

The majority of these squatters are on the borders of townships in Soweto, the Vaal Triangle, Tembisa, Tokoza, Katlehong, Duduza, Daveyton, Soshanguve and Mabopane, to mention just a few.

A Sharpeville father of six, Mr Titus Tibana, said he was forced to quit a backyard room because he paid R80 a month to his landlord.

"I am jobless and cannot cope with paying the high rent as well as supporting my children," he said. He is one of the more than 1 000 people who built shacks in the squatter camp outside the township.

A Dube resident living in a backyard room, Mr Martin Sithole, who came to look for employment in Johannesburg 10 years ago, said he could not get a home because of the housing shortage.

"I am paying R100 a month in rent, electricity and water for staying in the room," he said. "I do not know what my landlord does with the money because he is not paying rent himself."

"I once tried to boycott paying when many residents refused to pay rent but he threatened to evict me," he said.

310

Squalid conditions

Mr Sydney Mofolo, who lives in a shack in Orlando East, said he was paying R70 for living in squalid conditions, without electricity and proper water supply in his makeshift home.

"The conditions are really bad. But what can I do. I have a family and I have to find shelter for them," he said.

The situation is worse in Evaton where many people still have freehold title deeds and have at least 10 to 15 people living in shacks on their plots.

The tenants claimed stand-owners were enriching themselves by charging high rent ranging from R60 to R70 a month, without electricity, proper toilets or sewerage and sanitation.

One tenant said: "We have to dig holes and build structures around them for toilet purposes. Ten of us use one tap for water. The landlords do not pay rent."

A Soweto landlord, who did not want to be named, said he was still paying a bank loan for building a garage for his car. Two families requested him to use the garage as a refuge because they did not have homes.

He said: "I am not rich and can't afford to have people staying on my premises without paying."

An Evaton stand-owner, who has six four-roomed houses on his plot and is charging R90 a month for each, also claimed he was paying off a bond.

He said; "If I fail to pay the bank will repossess my property and I will be left out in the cold. These people must understand our plight while we are trying to help them."

The director of communications for the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Mr Gert de Jager, said tenants were being exploited by the owners of the backyard rooms.

Lenasia squatters to get real help

Star 15/7/93

By Cyril Madlala

About 4 000 families living in the Lenasia squatter camp south of Johannesburg and whose lives are threatened by the possible formation of a sinkhole, are to be relocated in the Golden Highway development area near Eldorado Park, it was confirmed yesterday. (310)

Golden Highway Development Corporation's chief executive officer Aziz Shaikh said yesterday his organisation had become involved after the squatter community planned to invade and accupy the land.

"Discussions have started with community representatives to determine how we can commence the planning process for the community's settlement," he said.

Crucial to the discussions is the formation of housing clubs through which the community will participate in planning the development of the new site.

Goldev Corporation would provide serviced sites for people earning between R1 000 and R3 500 per month.

"Our policy is to provide structures, not only a piece of land," Shaikh said.

The Golden Highway development area comprises 480 ha, owned by about 20 individuals. Negotiations to acquire the land are going on, but the Johannesburg city council has already offered its piece for development, and the Central Wits Regional Services Council has provided R3 million for the provision of bulk services.

Development will start early next year.

Sowetan 13/7/93

Squatter families to be relocated

ABOUT 4 000 families living in a squatter camp in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg - whose lives are threatened by the possible formation of a sinkhole - are to be recolated in the Golden Highway development area near Eldorado Park.

Plans by the endangered residents of the Thembalihle settlement to invade and occupy a vacant piece of land in Lenasia Extension 13 last month were foiled by the police who would not allow the marchers onto the site.

They decided to abandon the invasion plan and press for further negotiations with authorities. (310)

The chief executive officer of the Golden Highway Development Corporation, Mr Aziz Shaikh, said yesterday: "Discussions have started with community representatives to determine how we can commence the planning process for the community's settlement." — *Sowetan Correspondent.*

NEWS FEATURE *Violence and powerplay prevent R24 million development at Phola Park*

Upgrading of camps goes on

Sowetan 14/7/93

What is being done about the poor conditions in the townships which lead to violence? Sowetan has asked in its columns. **Jolyon Nutall**, *director of communications of the Independent Development Trust, responds:*

FLEEING VIOLENCE ... Residents of Dikole Section, which is near the Kwesine Hostel in Tokoza, flee the area. Mr Willie Msibi took his possessions and sought accommodation at the Twelve Apostles Church. PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

In a leading article on May 25 dealing with the intensity of the violence experienced on the East Rand *Sowetan* newspaper lamented of what it called "the slow delivery from development organisations like the Independent Development Trust".

It wrote: "It was hoped the IDT would turn the situation around in some townships which would then become models in the reconstruction period".

The *Sowetan* added: "We are sure there is an adequate explanation".

(310) (R24)

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to what was, in effect, a cry from the heart of the newspaper which suffers every time its readers suffer.

Let me start with one shocking fact. For nearly two years, R24 million of IDT money has been waiting to get into the ground in the heart of East Rand violence — Phola Park.

Violence and on-going power-play among community organisations have prevented even one cent being spent.

If the money had been allowed to go to work, Phola Park would have been — not a model township by any means — but a very different place from the turbulent squatter camp it remains today.

That money would have brought in ownership of 2 000 serviced sites, all of them equipped with clean, running water and flush toilets, plus stormwater drainage and tarred bus routes.

Pride of ownership would have led to shack upgrade, fences, lawns and vegetable gardens.

How does the IDT knows this? Because it has happened at 70 or 80 other subsidised projects around the country, some of them right smack on the East Rand.

Right now, 2 650 serviced sites at Moleleki, near Katlehong, have been handed over to their new owners who are living there in the houses they have inventively built.

Two projects involving 1 740 sites are well under way at KwaThema, one at Wattville, one at Tamboville, two at Tsakane, one at Vosloorus, another at Tembisa, one at Emaphupheni, one at Etwatwa.

Remarkable

Remarkably, the first phase of a project involving 1 685 sites at Tshepiso — between Boipatong and Sharpeville- is complete and the second phase is about to get underway.

Further afield, the names of successful projects ripple off the tongue: Botleng, Oukasie, Thabong, Mhluzi, Mbalenhle, Ikageng...

"It has been shown," says Jan Steyn, chairman of the IDT, "that it's much more difficult for violence to take hold where development has played a role in bringing people together."

In Phola Park, development has been poised to do so — the last occasion being on Sunday two weeks ago — violence intervenes.

And R24 million stagnates.

R2 000 million

Yet, we at the IDT, hear the *Sowetan*'s cry. We would love to be doing more. Our money — R800 million, from the founding grant of R2 000 million, allocated for housing, education, health and job creation — is sufficient to meet only 10 percent, maybe less, of the need.

In development terms delivery of our funds — unlike the *Sowetan*'s sad perception — has not been slow.

In all 72 projects out of 104 approved in principle less than two years ago are being implemented and 16 are complete.

Over 40 000 subsidies totalling R303 million have been paid out. A further 60 000 costing R500 million will follow over the next 12 months.

Vast experience and hard lessons have been acquired in the process.

And yet when we think of the task confronting us all, we echo the words of Cecil John Rhodes on his death bed: "So much to do, so little done."

Bekkersdal anger at spending decisions

Star 16/7/93

By Jo-Anne Collinge

A winding concrete fence around the West Rand's heavily-polluted Donaldson Dam has become the target of the Bekkersdal Civic Association's frustration and anger.

For the civic body, the fence — erected at a cost of R950 000 by the West and Central Wits Regional Services Councils — is just one example of an unacceptable spending pattern in the RSC.

"We don't actually have problems with the RSC putting up a fence, but about 2 km away we have up to 6 000 people sitting without toilets and water," says Isaac Rungu Mathambo, chairman of the civic association. "Th RSC has got its priorities wrong."

Washing

It is precisely this lack of services in the squatter camps of Mandela and Holomisa that accounts for the washing of human waste into the Donaldson Dam. With not a toilet in the camp, people simply use the veld. And two sets of four taps serve the entire area.

West Rand RSC chairman Dr Benoni van Graan argues that it is a bit late to be raising dust about the fence. "About R700 000 has already been spent," he says. "The civic should have been present in the council when that decision was taken."

And, if residents of black townships on the West Rand had paid their service fees they could have commanded greater voting power in the RSC and changed spending priorities, he reasons.

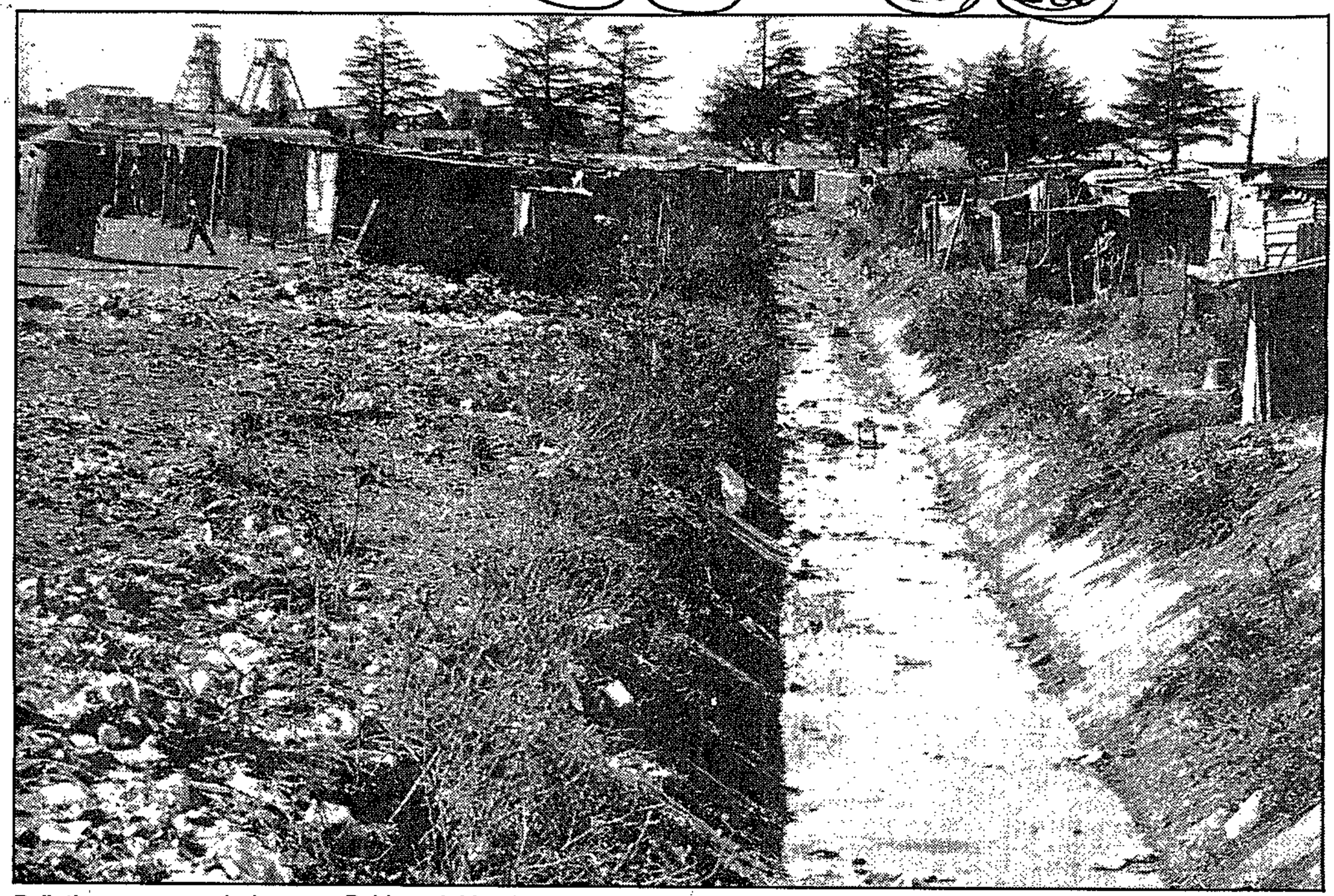
Mathambo and Van Graan are at least agreed on one thing: The total lack of services in the squatter camp poses a serious threat to public health in Bekkersdal.

With the onset of the rainy season the danger of disease will rise dramatically, as rain sweeps the waste down into the dam. Huge open drains incline down to the Donaldson Dam.

The danger was that people would begin fetching water for domestic use from the dam. Mathambo believes this is happening already.

Van Graan says a serious effort will be made to have some form of servicing in place before spring.

For the civic association it would be not a moment too soon. Mathambo says Bekkersdal residents have watched with amazement a new clinic complex taking shape in Westonaria, which already has a good clinic, while they are compelled to live in life-threatening squalor.



Pollution . . . open drains near Bekkersdal lead to the Donaldson Dam. Picture by George Mashinini

Star 23/7/93

Joy for 800 Ivory Park squatters

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Ivory Park squatters claimed victory yesterday after the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) — which on four occasions demolished their shacks — granted them land in the township to live on until they can be permanently settled.

Community leaders yesterday said the TPA had finally recognised the squatters. It had denied during the demolitions of the shacks that they were inhabited.

Yesterday 800 people were allowed to start moving their reconstructed homes to the areas which had been earmarked for their temporary occupation.

"The TPA now recognises the fact that there are 800 people here that need land," Sonnyboy Mmatli of the Ivory Park legal advice office said.

Smiling residents told The Star they were very happy that they could stay in Ivory Park for the time being.

According to an agreement between the Ivory Park Residents' Committee and the TPA, all legal action by residents against the TPA had been withdrawn, Mmatli said. TPA deputy director Louis Venter said the TPA had agreed to provide land, water, sanitary services and refuse removal services for the squatters.

Mmatli said there were still about 12 000 illegal "backyard" squatters in Ivory Park in need of land of their own.

His chief concern was that today's provision of land for the 800 squatters may attract thousands more homeless people to Ivory Park.

He said the township was also attractive because of its political stability, where community leaders "deal with bread and butter issues and there is no politics involved".

Justice Mbeka and Jeff Makwakwa of the Ivory Park Homeless Association said residents were very happy with the arrangement.

The two men, who had been involved in pressuring the TPA to provide land for the 800 people, yesterday called on all contractors who had left Ivory Park to return and continue development of the township.

Venter said the TPA was aware of the 12 000 squatters in Ivory Park alone, and there was "quite a lot of pressure" on local authorities to provide land for housing in the whole region.

Eight town councils north and east of Johannesburg meet this weekend to finalise plans to set aside land for urgently needed low-cost housing.

Staying on . . . Adelaide Lizo is one of 800 Ivory Park squatters to move to a temporary settlement within the township. There are still 12 000 squatters in need of land in the area.
Picture: Alf Kumalo

TPA vows to develop site for squatters

Star 21/8/93

The Transvaal Provincial Administration vowed yesterday to continue to oppose any legal action which aimed to prevent it from providing a permanent residence for the Zevenfontein squatters.

The TPA has faced a spate of interdicts aimed at preventing it from developing the Diepsloot site, north of Johannesburg, which was earmarked for the settlement of the community illegally occupying land on the nearby Zevenfontein farm. (310)

The Chartwell North Action Group has applied to the Supreme Court to have the Zevenfontein community removed from its temporary site, while no finality has been reached on the site earmarked for permanent settlement.

The TPA said it would oppose this application. The drawn-out issue began in 1991 when the Zevenfontein community was given notice to vacate the property. The community appealed for land in the same area for permanent settlement. — Sapa (246)

Star 6/8/93

Squatters now entrepreneurs

By Abdul Milazi

The Orange Farm squatter camp's Palestine Section, south of Johannesburg, may not be the land of milk and honey but it is a haven to its 150 000 squatters who recently witnessed the opening of a small business training centre in the area.

The Palestine Hive is Orange Farm Civic chairman Thami Majozi's latest triumph after he had organised the electrification of shacks and the installation of private telephones last year.

Being wheelchair-bound is no handicap for the soft-spoken 42-year-old Majozi, who has been nicknamed "Mr Fixit" by members of the community.

Majozi said that organising a business centre in the middle of a squatter camp had been difficult at first but the involvement of the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) had been a big help.

Within two days of its opening, the Hive was abuzz with people sorting out maize, making bricks, mixing fruit juice and processing cooking oil.

The Hive, which is owned and equipped by the SBDC, will train about 120 people a month, 30 of whom would be helped to start their own businesses.

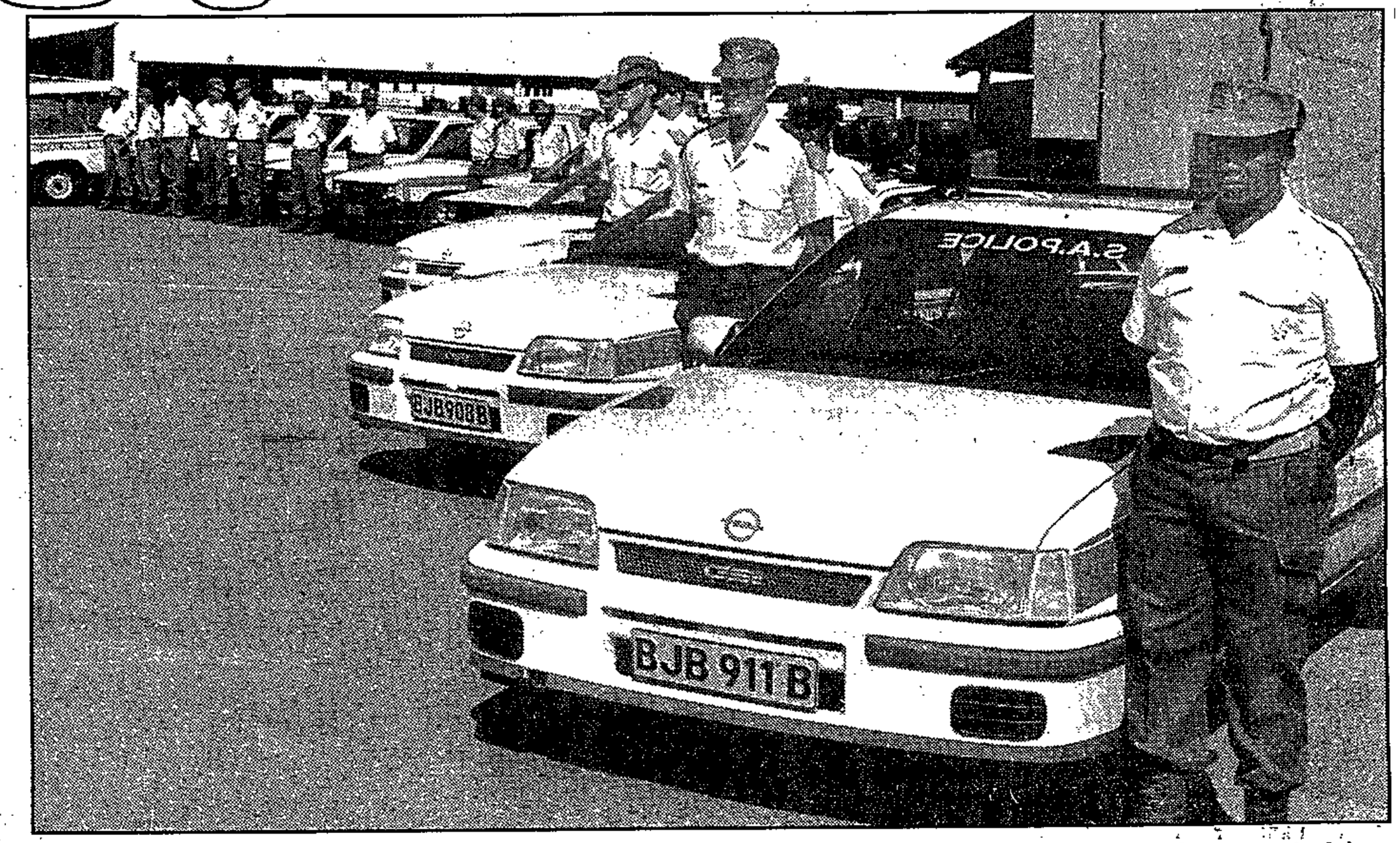
Majozi said: "These 30 people will in turn employ about three people each: that's 90 jobs a month."

He said that of the 120 people who were trained last month, 15 had already had their loans approved by the SBDC and were ready to start businesses.

"We are training people to provide for the needs of their community, so that the wealth generated here stays in the community and doesn't go out to already wealthy communities.

"It has been my dream, since I came to Orange Farm a few years ago, to make this community self-reliant and turn the area into a wonderland."

Majozi said the centre was only the beginning. His plans for a centre for the disabled were at an advanced stage.



Twenty squad cars . . . the SAP's Flying Squad unit for the Vaal Triangle area is inaugurated in Vereeniging yesterday. The elite squad will be manned by 62 experienced policemen. Picture: Jacoob Rykliff

Squatters must go, ~~Star~~ court rules

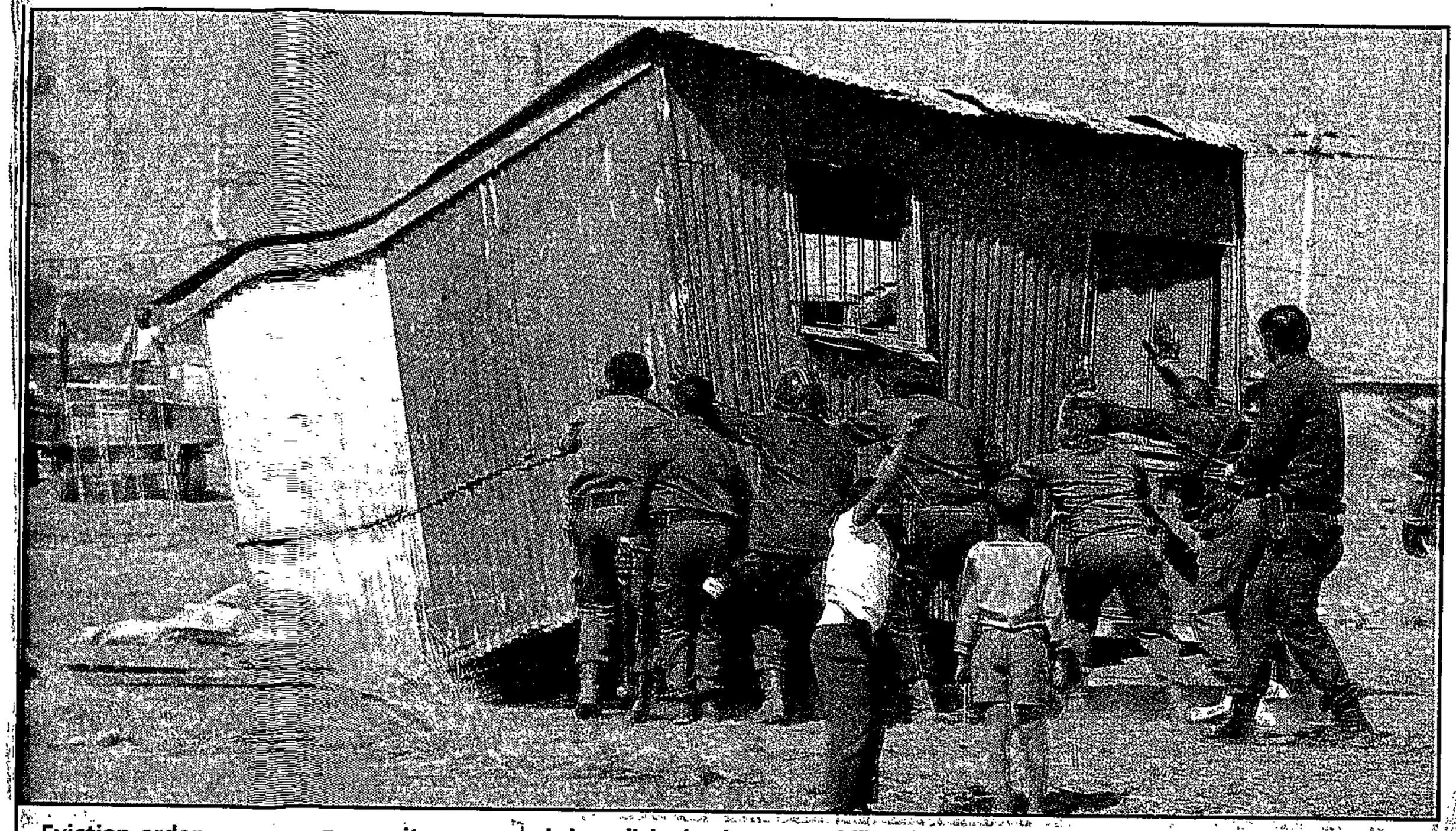
A Roodepoort mine yesterday obtained a Rand Supreme Court order to evict from the mine's property about 200 squatters living in unsanitary conditions near a slime dam. 18/8/93

Mr Justice J C Labuschagne granted the order to Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd in an unopposed urgent application.

The mine's general manager, Francois Weideman, said in an affidavit the squatters began to occupy the grounds on August 6. The number of squatters was increasing by about 40 a day.

Some had threatened mine employees. The site of their settlement was unfit for human occupation and had no services, he stated. — Court Reporter.

310



Eviction order . . . security personnel demolish shacks erected illegally on a Roodepoort mine property. Residents claim they were not aware of the court order to remove them. PICTURE: GARY BERNARD

Squatters' shacks demolished

Star 19/8/93

Roodepoort mine security personnel yesterday demolished about 200 shacks erected illegally on mine property.

On Tuesday the Rand Supreme Court granted Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd an order to evict the squatters living in unsanitary conditions near a slime dam. The urgent application was not opposed.

The mine's general manager, Francois Weideman, said in an affidavit the squatters, whose number was increasing by about 40 a day, began to occupy the grounds on August 6.

Mine security personnel demolished their homes yesterday. Residents claimed they had not been aware of the court move.

Some people were at work, and would arrive in the afternoon to find their shelters pulled down. (310)

Evicted people would move to another informal settlement across the road, The Star was told. — Metro Staff.

Court order to stop 'interference'

Sowetan 11/9/93

AN ORDER prohibiting an Atteridgeville resident from settling squatters on a site southwest of the township has been granted in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

The final order against Mr Jeffrey Ramothale was yesterday granted by Pretoria Supreme Court judge Mr Justice H Daniels. (310)

Ramothale was prohibited from interfering with the township development activities of the Transvaal Provincial Administration near the Jeffsville squatter area.

Ramothale was also prohibited from establishing a squatter area outside the borders of the present one or to grant permission to any person to settle in the area.

The TPA said in papers before Justice Daniels the area, known as Skurweberg, previously belonged to the South African Defence Force.

The area was handed to the TPA a few years ago and was earmarked for the building of low-cost houses. This could have resulted in the western extension of Atteridgeville.

"The houses were meant for residents in the squatter area."

The TPA said Ramothale had dug trenches at the squatter camp in an attempt to exercise control over the squatters.

"He gave himself the right to control the squatter area and threatens and intimidates residents with the help of his supporters."

Star 13/9/93

Squatter camp poser

BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

A squatter settlement which residents say numbers 2 000 people has sprung up virtually overnight on the south-eastern border of Johannesburg, next door to the Denver men's hostel.

City councillor Barry Dunne has accused the council of dragging its feet in improving conditions for the squatters, who have access to only two taps and have no toilet facilities.

However, Dunne has also threatened not to help the residents of the camp after two electricity workers from the council were shot at while they were working in the area (310)

The council's director of urbanisation, Cedric de Beer, said conditions in the settlement were being discussed by the management committee and negotiations with the squatters to determine their future would start soon.

De Beer said the council had calculated that there were 850 people living on the stretch of council land, which had been zoned for industrial use.

Joe Mbatha, a resident of Denver hostel who runs a car workshop in the squatter camp, said people had started moving in earlier this year.

Most of the residents were wives and children of men in the hostels, who had moved to Johannesburg from Natal.

Others had fled from the violence in townships, Mbatha said.

There was an urgent need for adequate sanitation in the settlement, he said, "but if people have to choose whether to suffer or die, they would rather suffer".

ounce, Ashanti made a record net pror-

'Mines need competitive tax system'

310

CT 13/9/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Chamber of mines chief, calling for investor-friendly policies towards mining under a post-apartheid government, said these should include an internationally competitive tax system.

Chamber President Bobby Godsell, addressing a mining conference, said: "It's going to have to make the tax system a lot more competitive than it is."

He sketched specific tax needs for the industry including a system that was stable and not subject to frequent or abrupt change, nor to retrospective implementation of measures.

He said the state's revenue from mining should be by way of taxation of profit, and not by way of indirect taxes and imposts such as regional levies and import surcharges which raise costs.

"This constitutes the fundamental principle accepted by the World Bank in its advice to countries in Africa," he declared.

He said the tax system should continue to make provision for accelerated or enhanced depreciation commensurate with the capital and time risk in mining.

It should also contain incentives to advance technology.

He said it should allow for renewal of mining resources both through further investment by the taxpayer and a sufficient portion of distributable profit that may be returned to shareholders.

Discriminatory measures, such as ring fencing a company's tax base, were neither justified nor wise, he said. — Reuter

The Magistrate at Kriel River dated May 21 1993

Prices plunge when shacks are in sight

Star 2/10/83

THE middle-class residents of Soweto's Protea South are convinced that the horseshoe-shaped encirclement of their homes by hundreds of derelict shacks is happening with the full knowledge and blessing of both the Soweto Council and the TPA.

"We have investigated this thing and we know that a corrupt councillor in the Soweto Council is involved in the 'sale' of these plots to the shack dwellers," said I R Mosebi, chairman of the Protea South Homeowners' Association.

"Most of these people come from outside South Africa — they are even calling the camp 'Maputo' because of the number of people who come from Mozambique." (184)(310)

Other shack dwellers, said Mosebi, came from Zimbabwe, Lebowa and Transkei. It is alleged that plots are being "sold" for between R200 and R300 by a well-known soweto councillor.

"So far, we have had no action on our plight," said Mosebi. "I have spoken to various mayors and TPA administrators over the years but nothing has happened — the squatters have just increased and now we're almost surrounded."

Predictably, crime has escalated in the area. David Mokgabuki, a member of the homeowners' association, reported that his house and spaza shop next to it had been broken into so may times he had lost count.

Offered peanuts

"On Monday night there was another break-in," he said. "Thieves broke into our shop and stole all the tinned goods, candles, and so on. How they got through the burglar alarm and the dogs, I can't explain to you."

Mokgabuki owns a beautiful home on the corner of Windsor and Trafford streets. He puts the value of his house at R230 000. Since crime has risen in the area, he has been trying to sell it.

"Every time a potential buyer comes here they get very excited by my home," he said, "but they take one look across at those shacks that have now come to within a few metres and they bolt.

"I've had to reduce my asking price to R170 000, then last year to R150 000, but people offer me peanuts to offset the danger presented by the shacks."

Protea South residents are at the end of their tether — many want to get out but cannot.

Their plight is reflected in many other PWV areas where squatters are living.

In Midrand, the creation of Ivory Park threatens the former coloured township of Rabie Ridge, the "white" residential area of President Park and the better parts of Tembisa.

"This is no longer a matter of race or exclusive area," Bob Davidson of the Midrand Ratepayers' Association told the Saturday Star.

"If nothing comes from our protests to the authorities, we're all going down the drain."

Squatters eye the East Bank

Star 2/10/93

CHARLES Mabe considers himself a reasonable man and he prides himself of his civic spirit.

He owns a neat little house in East Bank, across the Juksei River from Alexandra: three-bedroomed with a tiny garden with bright red geraniums planted all around, played off against a small but dazzling green lawn.

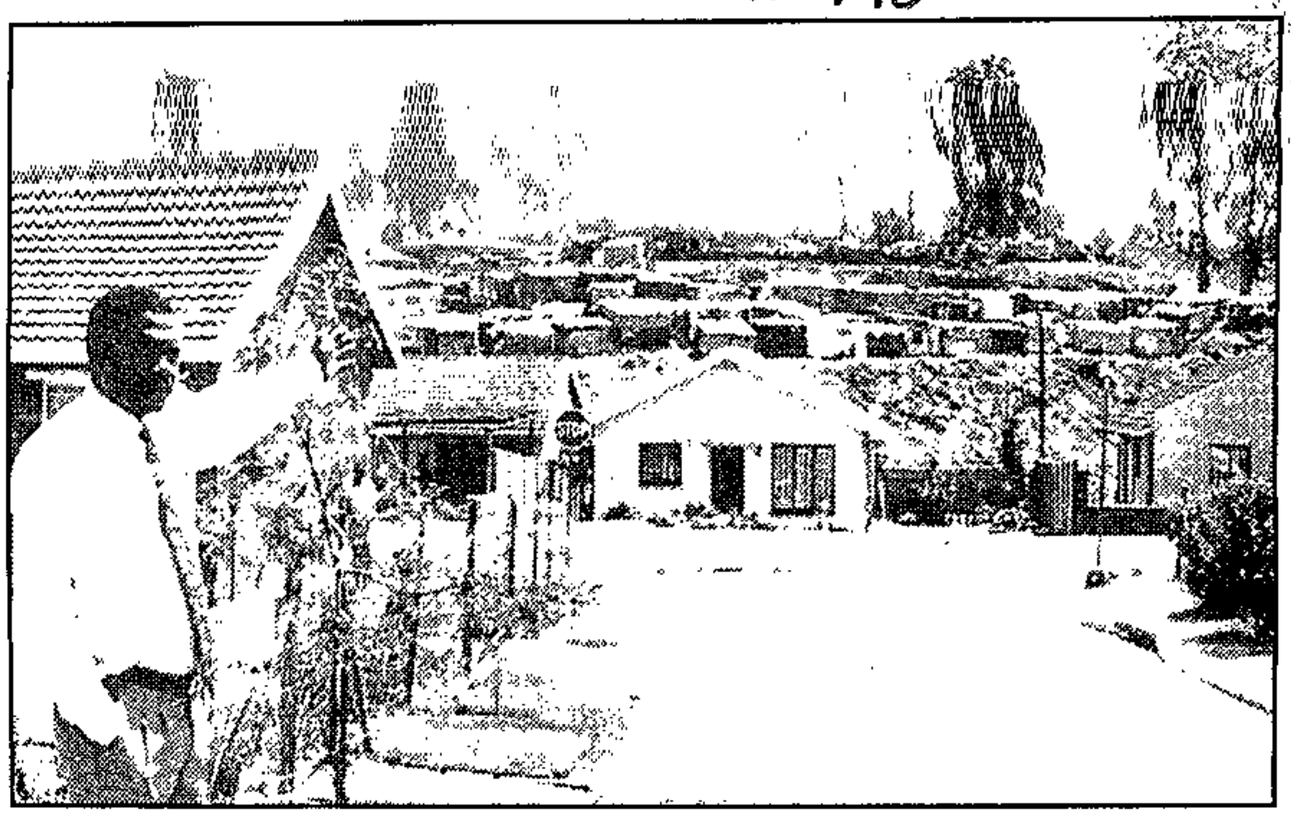
Mabe has, since 1989, spent in excess of R70 000 to get the place in line with his dreams.

Not too long ago, he, along with hundreds of other East Bank residents, teachers, doctors, businessmen and journalists — mostly upwardly mobile success stories out of Alexandra — decided to make their newly acquired freehold township a showpiece.

They spent thousands of rands improving their houses and their neighbourhood. And today East Bank is mostly tidy, charming and well kept. But it faces some serious threats and its survival as a community looks uncertain.

Looking across the Jukskei three years ago, Phil Nyamane, one of East Bank's first residents, saw the first *mkhukhu* go up and immediately recognised the beginning of a menace. "I told my wife, half-joking, 'There goes our house'," he says, "but I never expected what then happened."

The single shack seemed to multiply almost overnight, and over the next two years hundreds of shacks of all manner of construction — tar and paper, plastic and brick, zinc sheets on raw mud — appeared, poised precariously on the opposite river bank like a troop of elephants about to invade across the increasingly sewage-polluted stream.



ENCROACHING: Charles Mabe points out the row of huddling shacks hovering across the Jukskei River. Three years ago there was only one but now there are hundreds. ● **Photograph: JOE LOUW**

East Bank residents panicked and formed themselves into a residents' association to fight the menace.

"At first we tried to be tolerant, arguing with the authorities about the rights of people to be housed and pleading for them to find a place to put them.

"We explained our case, then we demonstrated. We wrote letters and held endless meetings — but to no avail," Aaron Sebonyane, current chairman of the East Bank Residents' Association, told the Saturday Star.

"The shacks multiplied even faster than the promises we received from the TPA and the municipal authorities — and nothing happened."

Today the shacks are more than a mere menace: the squatter camp has become a seedbed of crime.

Razor wire

Most houses along the river front have been burgled at least twice, razor wire and guard dogs notwithstanding.

Last week, the wife of a resident was raped as she came back from work in the evening.

But what bothers most residents is the value of their property. Most doubt they could remotely get their money back.

"After all the time we spent organising our township," said Sebonyane, "none of us really wants to move anywhere. That is not the solution to the problem; what we want is for the authorities to remove the squatters to a more suitable area."

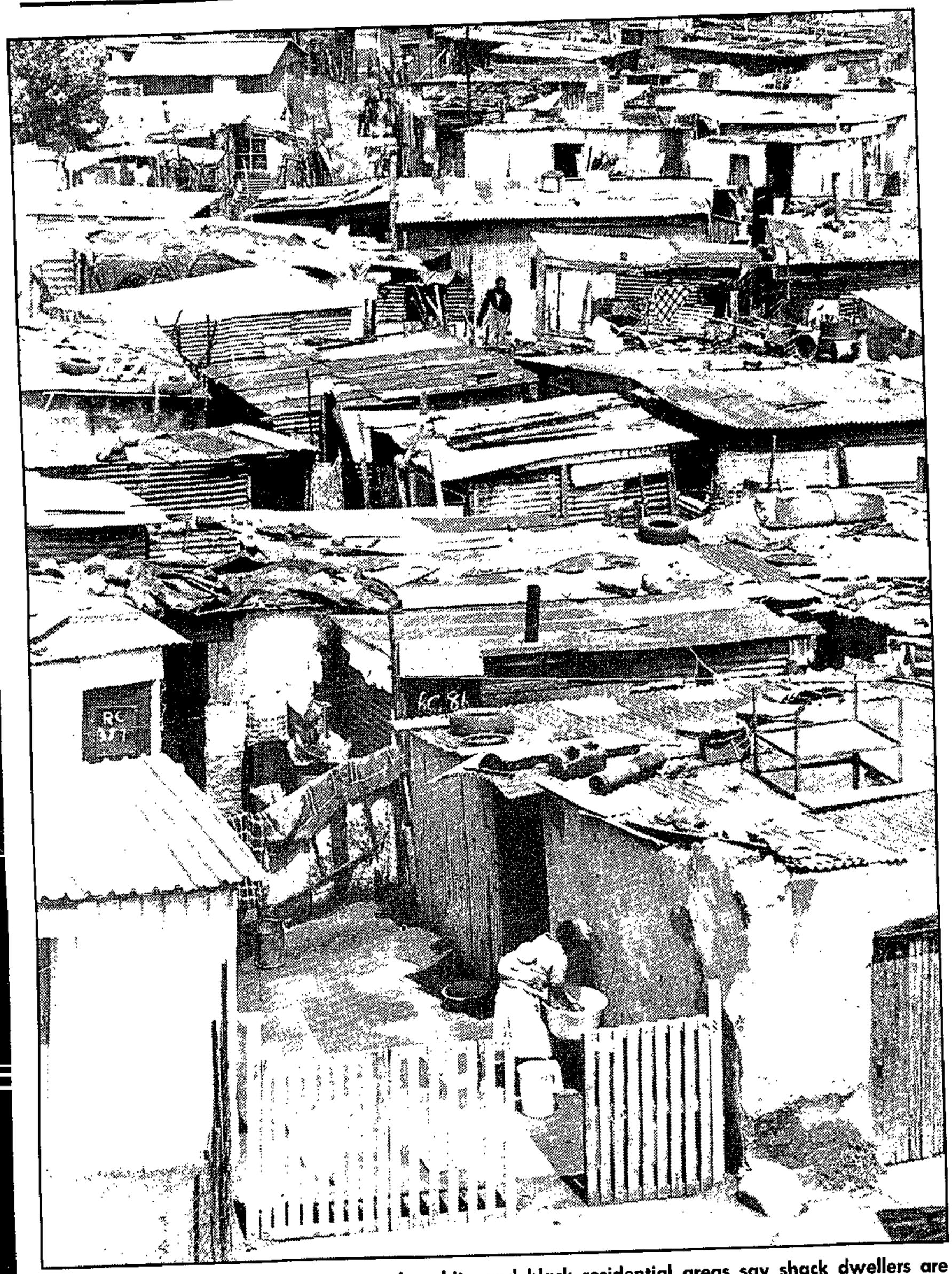
East Bank residents are now patrolling their area day and night. Earlier this year they formed a neighbourhood watch and took action against the first shack that "crossed over" to their side of the Jukskei.

"We just went and tore it down," Mabe said. "Those who want to tell us these people are our brothers, and that we should let them be, are talking nonsense.

"We don't mind living with our brothers but the responsibility of housing people rests on themselves and the Government.

"East Bank people are determined not to see their township dragged further and further down. The Government must act now to help us — if not, we'll make sure they're not around come next April."

IT'S a purely white urban nightmare, right? You dream that you look out of your suburban bungalow window one morning and see squatters stretching to the horizon. But Saturday Star reporter JOE LOUW has found that the squatter problem has moved — to Soweto — and is in reality a problem for everyone.



GROWING PROBLEM: Property owners in white and black residential areas say shack dwellers are responsible for high crime rates in their areas. ● Photograph: GARY BERNARD

Anti-squatter bid lost

JOHANNESBURG. — An urgent application by the Chartwell North Action Group to have the Zevenfontein squatter community removed from their present temporary site, north of Johannesburg, was rejected yesterday by the Rand Supreme Court (30) CT 7|10|93

Bop IGI move granted

MMABATHO. — The Bophuthatswana Supreme Court yesterday granted an application to appoint a provisional manager to control the affairs of IGI Bophuthatswana. CT 7|10|93

Squatter shacks wrecked by TPA

Star 8/11/93

■ STAFF REPORTER

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has confirmed that it demolished shacks in Zevenfontein, north-west of Johannesburg, last week.

But spokesman Piet Wilken denied claims by youth leader Jan Mahlangu that the shacks destroyed were those of local residents who had permission from the TPA to relocate to higher ground, further away from the Jukskei River.

According to Wilken, the demolished shacks had been erected by a group of youths who did not live in Zevenfontein and who went to the area to "bedevil relations". (310)

Agreement

After the TPA had destroyed the shacks, the youths themselves burnt the building materials, Wilken said.

Wilken said the TPA had an agreement with the residents that no additional shacks would be built in Zevenfontein.

Asked why the TPA had prevented The Star from visiting the settlement to investigate residents' claims last week, Wilken said the situation was dangerous as the youths were throwing stones and destroying vehicles.

He said damage estimated at thousands of rands was caused to six vehicles, and two officials were slightly injured.

Wilken said a meeting would be held today with the ANC's Mathole Motshekga.

NEWS

Soweto-type project rejected

'House squatters in cluster of villages'

Star 19/11/93

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

A string of small, low-cost housing villages north-west of Randburg has been proposed by the Crocodile Valley Rural Civic Association (Civarca) as a housing solution for the area's growing squatter population.

This follows Civarca's call on the Transvaal Provincial Administration to place a moratorium on ongoing evictions in the greater Muldersdrift area until suitable land had been allocated for affordable housing.

Condemning the Randburg Town Council for its failure to provide land for its labour force, Civarca chairman Greg Pickett said the TPA's attempt to move people to Orange Farm in the Vaal Triangle was unacceptable because of the distance (about 50 km) from Randburg.

Pickett identified five high-priority areas where workers would have to be suitably accommodated close to their workplaces: near the town's CBD, Strijdom Park, Kya Sands, Muldersdrift and Lanseria, where industrial growth is planned.

Rejecting a single, massive Soweto-type development for squatters, now estimated to exceed 30 000 in the greater Muldersdrift area alone, Pickett said: "Planners have worked out the minimum viable size of these settlements to consist of between 500 and 1 000 houses each on stands averaging 360-500 sq m.

"Service costs would be pushed to uneconomical levels if fewer stands were proclaimed," he said.

He rejected claims by Muldersdrift residents that they could solve their own squatter problems (127) (310)

Rural areas which fell under Civarca's unbrella would have to be incorporated under an objective local authority, Pickett said.

■ In December 1991 The Star revealed secret plans by the TPA to relocate squatters in an arc of 13 squatter villages in the north-western PWV.

The sites included Cosmo City and a township west of Lanseria Airport.

The plan was roundly condemned by the ANC, the Greenbelt Action Group, the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal, developers and smallholders.

NEWS FEATURE Council to use labour intensive co

R7,2-m project at squatter camp

Sowetan 25/11/93

By Joshua Raboroko

■ 15 000 RESIDENTS

Upgrading of sewerage and water services and provision of toilets:

THE KWAGUQA City Council in Witbank has received R7,2 million from the National Housing Commission to be used for upgrading sewerage, water services and building 2 600 toilets at Hlalanikahle squatter camp where 15 000 people live.

The sewer and water networks are insufficient to service the people who flocked to the area after the abolition of influx control laws.

The chairman of the Kwaguqa Civic Association, Mr Johannes Mochabang, said: "Urbanisation is gradually becoming a reality. The inflow to the cities cannot be stopped.

"Before the removal of influx control people came to the cities illegally, and almost as fast as they were expelled by authorities they returned."

Most of the people living at Hlalanikahle worked on the coal mines. After large-scale layoffs they and their families settled at Hlalanikahle.

Kwaguqa council engineer Mr Dolf van Rooyen said 30 percent of the blacks in the area were unemployed.

"It is hoped that jobs will be created with the implementation of the water and sewer projects," Van Rooyen said.

Hlalanikahle has no laid on water, no sewerage, no proper roads, no electricity, no facilities of any kind at all.

Civics and political groups look after the interests of the residents.

A local tailor, Mr James Kuzwayo (65) who lives with his wife and eight children said he came to the camp after he lost his job at the mines.

"The need for shelter is a fundamental human need. It is also increasingly recognised as a fundamental human right," he said.

"But in South Africa, apartheid has seen to it that these needs were not met," he added.

An article in the newsletter of the

Elizabeth Zulu

310

National Housing Forum says: "The current housing shortage is enormous and even conservative estimates indicate the need to provide 200 000 units each year by the year 2010.

"Millions of ordinary South African live in so-called informal settlements, usually without basic services like water or water-borne sewerage."

Kuzwayo says that major problems in the camp are supply of water and provision of sewerage.

"We travel long distances to fetch water from ablution blocks that are situated near broken toilets," he said.

Unemployed Mr Ludwick Boshielo said that some women have been raped while walking to these far away toilets at night.

"It is unsafe to walk at night. Sometimes these toilets are blocked and are unfit for use." he said.

"The inflow of people to the cities cannot be stopped"

Principal and owner of two preschools Mrs Elizabeth Zulu said the 95 children under care were in danger as they had to cross streets to get to the toilets.

Fascinating job

She started the creches in 1990 because of her love of young children. "I find caring for children to be a fascinating job." she added.

She intends opening another preschool because the population was growing.

Van Rooyen said: "The mission of the project is to provide an official individual water connection and fully furnished toilet for each stand.

The council will use labour intensive construction methods not only to create temporary local job opportunities, but to train and educate smaller local contractors to establish themselves as future businesses and job creators.

Mochabang, who is also chairman of the local civic organisation, welcomed the council's decision to upgrade facilities.

"The next move will be to install electricity, build more schools and provide recreational facilities," he said.

James Kuzwayo ... moved to Kwaguqa when he lost his job

Land conflict ... Squatter Selinah Lebetsa in her Nooitgedacht shack PHOTO: RUTH MOTAU

Farmers cash in on squatters

wm 30/12 BZ 6/1/94 310

Mduduzi ka Harvey

DESPITE crocodile tears and loud complaints over the drop in property values and rising crime rates brought by an influx of squatters, Nooitgedacht farmers are profiting from their presence and smiling all the way to the bank.

Squatters claim they are being milked by some farmers who are charging as much as R50 site rental for a single shack. "As there is no water in the squatter camp," says Solly Rsebotsa, "we are forced to buy water from neighbouring farms at R2 for a 25 litre container."

The squatters started settling on the land in June this year and their occupation intensified in October. They left neighbouring Rietfontein in search of work on the farms, to little avail.

With no shops in the area, squatters are forced to buy essentials from a local farmer's spaza shop at the edge of the camp. He is the only grocer in the area, and squatters charge that he has used unorthodox methods to maintain his trading monopoly.

Squatter Space Dube explains: "When some of the unemployed camp residents tried to sell their own liquor, he called in the police to stop them."

Nooitgedacht camp is a place of contradictions. Neither the squatters nor the landowners want it to stay, but nobody can agree on how to get rid of it. Squatters say they would leave tomorrow, if somebody would offer them an alternative site with better sanitation.

This is a squalid settlement consisting of about 100 dilapidated shacks scattered across an area the size of several football pitches on land owned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration. There is neither water, nor toilets, dumping areas nor schools. Local landowners fear the health hazards and declining property values associated with a shanty town.

This week, tensions were running high in the camp. Rumours abounded that the farmers had recruited Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging squads to evict the squatters, who formed a neighbourhood watch to oppose forced removal. Farmers denied calling in the heavies, but expressed frustration at bureaucratic delays in dealing with the problem.

The conflict was temporarily defused by the TPA, when negotiations with landowners and squatters got underway on how to relocate the squatters.

Landowners and Residents' Association chairman Peter Hewitt expressed frustration at the delay in getting negotiations going: "We have tried for the past six years to form an authority to solve these problems. Our attempts to create a structure responsible for regional planning and providing informal housing with proper facilities were rejected by the TPA."

Threat to evict Soweto squatters by force

Star 13/12/93

■ SOWETO BUREAU

Squatters on a vacant site in Diepkloof, Soweto, may be forcibly removed from the area if they do not leave voluntarily, Department of Public Works director-general T T P C van Robbroeck said at the weekend.

He was reacting to the withdrawal of the Johannesburg City Council's security department from the site.

Their role was to prevent the squatters from erecting structures on the vacant land.

The withdrawal came after the council discovered that the department was the de facto owner of the site.

Van Robbroeck said the department was not in favour of squatting on the site.

Earmarked 310

He said certain parts of the land had been "earmarked for expansion of facilities for the South African Police and the Department of Correctional Services, and a substantial portion will become available for other orderly urban development purposes in the near future".

A group of about 1 000 squatters moved on to the site two weeks ago.

The incursion was spearheaded by the Power Park Homeless Community, whose spokesman said the move was in response to several inconclusive meetings with the Johannesburg City Council, which initially believed it owned the site.

Squatter relocation headache

Star 3/12/93

Right-wing threats of violence and squatters' initial rejection of alternative land proposed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration leaves the Nooitgedacht squatter issue unresolved, the TPA said in a statement yesterday.

The TPA declined to say where the proposed land was, but the Crocodile Rural and Civics Association's Greg Pickett identified it as a plot near Rietvallei, 45 km from Nooitgedacht, north-west of Johannesburg.

The ANC's rural and civic association's PWV branch head, Motole Motshakga, has meanwhile labelled the TPA's proposal a form of "bantustanisation". He said the proposed land fell outside the TPA's jurisdiction, relieving the TPA of the problem in future. (310)

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager denied this. Demanding the squatters' relocation, Crocodile Ratepayers' Association chairman Dr Bruce Finnemore blamed the TPA and the "slow grinding of Government wheels" for the stalemate.

The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging has threatened to remove the squatters by force.

Internal Stability Division spokesman Colonel Happie Schutte told the squatters that Pienaar Fourie, on whose land the camp is situated, had the right to evict the squatters but if property was destroyed or physical assault committed, arrests would be made.

Motshakga said he believed the complaints were politically motivated. The property owners wanted the squatters evicted before next year's election, when the "perceived" political rights of blacks would act in favour of the squatters.

Property owners will discuss future action today. — Sapa.

Concern over evictions

Star 23/12/93

■ BY HAPPY NKHOMA

The Crocodile Valley Rural and Civic Association (Civarca) fears that squatters in Nooitgedacht may be evicted by the AWB.

Property owner Pienaar Fourie is determined to have the area cleared of squatters. He did not single out the AWB when approached by The Star, but said he would approach anybody who was willing to help and the "people would be evicted one way or another". (310)

Fourie said he had spoken to "some people who promised to help evict the squatters" but was cagey about revealing their names or the organisation.

Fourie said the eviction was a matter of urgency because the number of thefts, burglaries and other crimes in the area had increased since the squatters moved in. Moreover, it was his property they were occupying.

The people moved on to the property early this year when the TPA abandoned a plan to use the land for building a road.

Before the land could be reclaimed by Fourie, the homeless had settled in.

Police attempted to evict the squatters early last month and did not succeed.

Civarca chairman Greg Pickett said the land owners in the area were unreasonable.

"When the land owners complained of squatters, the TPA bought land in Nooitgedacht. But the landowners did not want the homeless to move in there," Pickett said.

The local peace committee was arranging a meeting between the squatters and the property owners to find a solution.

The AWB could not be reached for comment on the issue.

Oh for a home . . . children in the Power Park squatter camp in Diepkloof start rebuilding shelters which, residents claim, Johannesburg City Council workers forced them to tear down the night before. Most of the squatters had to spend Wednesday night in the rain and others had to flee. PICTURE: GARY BERNARD

Squatters allowed at Power Park

Star 10/12/93

■ STAFF REPORTERS

The Johannesburg City Council has decided to allow people who invaded State-owned land near Power Park to remain there temporarily.

The decision followed talks with a delegation led by the ANC alliance yesterday.

"These people are evidently refugees from strife and violence in informal settlements," said the council's newly appointed town clerk Nicky Padayachee.

He said the alliance had pleaded that the council allow the land invaders to put up tents.

As a result the council had decided to withdraw its Public Safety Directorate staff from late yesterday.

Padayachee said it was hoped that the central Government would move promptly to meet the needs of these homeless people.

Norman Prince, who headed the ANC alliance delegation, confirmed the agreement reached with Johannesburg.

Just hours before negotiations, the land invaders claimed that the council's security personnel had forced them to tear down their makeshift shelters.

A spokesman for the Power Park Homeless Community, who declined to be named, said two security men, who were keeping a 24-hour watch on the site, came to the camp at about 10 pm on Wednesday. (310)

"Both of them were armed and each wore a balaclava," he said. "One of them crawled on all fours towards us. They forced us to tear down our shelters. When we tried to reason with them they started attacking us, kicking the men with their heavy boots."

He said a number of people fled and were still not accounted for when The Star visited the camp about 11 am yesterday.

Until yesterday's decision by Johannesburg to permit the erection of shelters, only one small tent stood on the occupied land, housing mostly the elderly and women with children.

The squatter spokesman said they decided on the site because they had no other place to stay. "Some of us here have fled the old Power Park camp in Orlando because of violence," he said.

When The Star revisited the site late in the afternoon, security personnel were playing cricket in the searing heat while the squatters were holding their daily meeting about 300 m away.

Landowners threaten to evict squatters at Nooitgedacht

BIDON 30/12/93

GAVIN DU VENAGE

RESIDENTS north of Johannesburg are threatening to take action against the Nooitgedacht squatters because, they claim, the authorities are selling them out to the ANC.

A spokesman for a residents' association, who asked not to be named, said last night that residents were preparing trucks to forcibly remove squatters.

"We are trying to keep things under control but residents are getting ready to take matters into their own hands." He alleged that Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) officials involved in negotiations were more concerned with pandering to the ANC than taking into account the grievances of residents.

He said residents were prepared to get the assistance of the internal stability unit to oversee the eviction. The unit would protect workers moving squatters but also ensure the rights of squatters were not violated, he said.

The ANC PWV region condemned what it said were threats of forceful evictions by some right-wing landowners. The organisation rejected claims that the settlement was affecting property values or that it increased the crime rate.

PWV region head Mathole Motsekga said: "We want to warn these landowners against taking the law into their hands and further demand that they refrain from any interference with the squatters." (310)

Alternative accommodation was being negotiated with the TPA, he said, and an agreement had been reached to delay any action until Tuesday to give squatters time to discuss the latest TPA proposals.

The TPA had proposed the squatters move to Rietvlei, near Krugersdorp. Residents are to be informed of the TPA's proposal at a mass meeting on Sunday.

A TPA spokesman said although the squatters were living on the land illegally and could be lawfully evicted, this was not likely to happen. He said the TPA was hoping to reach a negotiated settlement with all parties.

"We are past the time of simply evicting people for living in an area illegally. We want to resolve this through discussions and arrive at solutions that are acceptable to the squatters and the community."

Defiant Ntombi won't budge from 'homeland'

Star 3/12/93

■ BY HAPPY NKHOMA

Despite mounting tension between Muldersdrift squatters and the owner of the land they are defiantly occupying north of Johannesburg, Ntombi Mokoena (62) is delighted that for the first time in her life she has a home, albeit a tiny, crude shack.

She is also determined not to leave what she regards as her homeland — Muldersdrift.

The owner of the plot, Pienaar Fourie, has given 400 squatters, including Mokoena, an ultimatum to leave within five days.

The disputed land was expropriated last year by the TPA to make way for a road. Construction was shelved shortly afterwards and the land remained unused.

Mokoena and other squatters moved on to the vacant land and they have now declared it their home.

DESPERATE for any place to settle, Muldersdrift's 400 squatters are prepared to fight for their space

(310)

She was born and brought up in a mud hut in Muldersdrift, not far from the place where she is now staying.

She said her troubles started in 1951 when a farmer sold the plot where she lived with her family.

The new owners ordered her to get off the farm because they would not tolerate too many black children on the property, she said.

"At the time, I had two daughters and had to find them a home as their father had died. I worked as a maid on a farm nearby and was allowed to build a mud hut for my children there," she explained.

The owners divorced and she had to find another place. Her life became nomadic. She moved from one plot to another, mainly because "too many children were not welcome" on some farms. The "pikininis" were supposed to find work and live where they worked.

"Although we stayed for more than 10 years in some places, we were not settled because our stay was at the mercy of the owners. The only permanent possession we had was the corrugated iron which has been our roof as we moved from one place to the other," she said.

In May this year, Mokoena saw the vacant land between occupied plots and heard that it belonged to the TPA.

"I was tired of working for the purpose of being given accomodation in return, so I joined fellow strugglers who had started to build their shacks here.

"Now this is my home," she declared proudly.

Mokoena, like most of her neighbours in the camp, had no other place to go to or claim as their homeland. Most of the squatters were born and brought up in Muldesdrift — the grandparents of some are buried in the area.

However, the land owners were concerned about the aspects of health and crime. Fourie is worst affected because the shacks are built on his property.

"The land belongs to me and not the TPA as the people claim," he said. "I called the police to get them out after the TPA had said it was my property and my responsibility. There was a minor skirmish but they would not move. Now I have given them five days' notice."

Nowhere else to go ... a new resident at the Muldersdrift squatter camp builds his crude home in sweltering heat. PICTURE: JOAO SILVA

NEWS FEATURE *Hate and mistrust flourish in one of the PWV's most beautiful settings*

Tragedy of the haves vs have-nots

Sowetan 31/12/93

■ SHANTY TOWNS *Wealthy whites don't want poor black neighbours:*

By Glenn McKenzie

IN ONE of the most beautiful settings in the PWV, an ugly conflict is brewing between residents who know each other only from a distance.

Hidden among rolling hills and back roads near Nooitgedacht, northwest of Johannesburg, two new communities have been born in the past six months. But they are unwanted by their neighbours.

Fourie. He wants to sell his property and says no one will buy it because of the squatters.

"At one time this place was worth R600 000. Now it is worthless," he said.

For months Fourie tried to pressure the government officials and police to move the community. But the people refused to go.

That's because they have nowhere else to go, squatter residents say. Here at least they have access to a butchery and water supply at a farm nearby. And some of them work at factories and

Gatekeeper . . . a resident of a squatter community on TPA property guards his people from possible attack by local landowners.

PICS: JOE MOLEFE

"They make such a racket. If they want

tres to the west, where another, smaller squatter community lies on an abandoned farm.

Here lies another potential conflict-in-the-making. Residents who live in

Friend said she asked the police several times to deal with the "problem". She has also contacted the TPA, who say they cannot take responsibility for the community since it is not on their land.

white landowners who say they are protecting their own safety, and their property values. On the other side are poor squatters living in tin huts, many unemployed, others eking out a living on piece jobs paying R15 a week.

At issue is the very existence of the communities in which the squatters live.

The first community sprung up in July on a strip of land that was set aside by the Transvaal Provincial Administration for the construction of a new tar road.

Biggest critics

The land was formerly owned by Pienaar Fourie, a well-known conductor with the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra. He still lives a few hundred metres from the new community, and is one of its biggest critics.

"These people are illegally trespassing on my land. It is plain and simple," said Fourie. In actual fact, neither the TPA or Fourie is sure exactly who owns the land since the TPA paid servitude for the building of the road.

But that is not the point, according to farms nearby.

"This place is all right for us. But we can move if we have water and a school in the new place," said 62-year-old Mrs Delta Mabusela. Other residents also said they would move if given a viable alternative. (310)

But so far there has been no alternative. In recent days, the dispute has come to a head. Fourie and other landowners have threatened to come in force and remove the squatters from the area if they don't leave on their own this week. The TPA has been looking for a new place for the squatters, but says no "unilateral" action will be taken without the approval of everyone concerned.

In the meantime, squatter residents say they have been told by the landowners that the AWB will "punish" them if they don't move. They have responded by setting up a gate at the entrance to the squatter camp with a 24-hour guard to prevent attack.

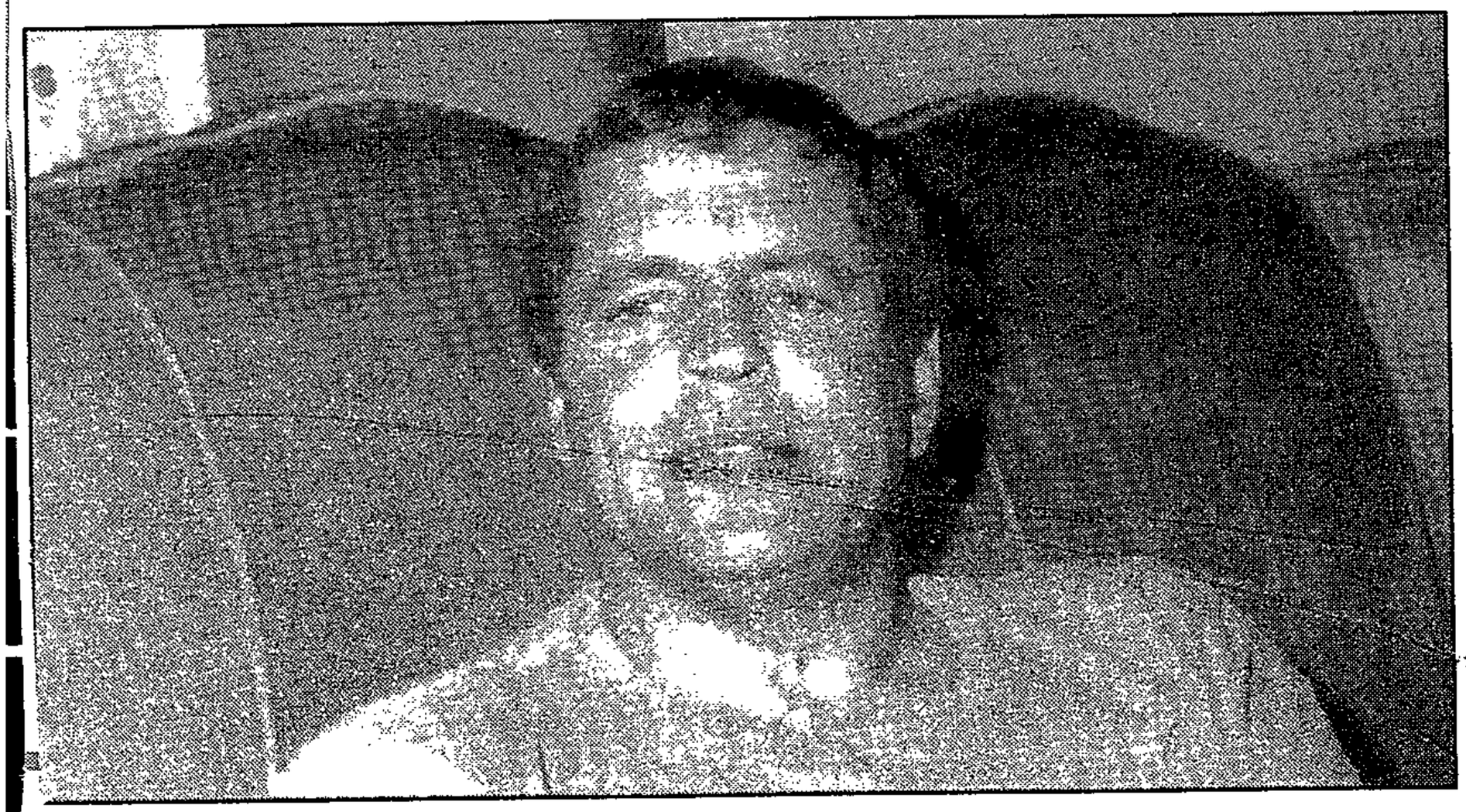
"We don't want to fight. But if they make trouble for us, we will make plans for them," said Mr Gilbert Mkhwananzi, a spokesman for the community.

to make noise let them go to Soweto. Just the other day they were making a noise and bothering my friends while we sat by the pool having a braai

Landowners like Fourie are also taking precautions.

"Oh I'm very scared. I don't go anywhere without my pistol now," he said. Other landowners have built electric fences around their property to prevent the squatters from entering.

While *Sowetan* was visiting the squatter camp, police and TPA officials arrived to hold talks with residents. After the visit, *Sowetan* followed police to yet another squatter camp a few kilometres away.



Determined to evict . . . landowner Pienaar Fourie threatened to use force to remove squatters from his doorstep.

squa.or sai[illegible] and told to leave by their more affluent neighbours.

About 25 families live in pig barns that were occupied by animals only months ago, and makeshift huts made out of plywood and sheet metal.

There are no sewerage facilities here, and residents have to travel to Nooitgedacht to buy water at R2 for every 25 litres.

And according to the squatters, each family pays R38 rent to a man who in turn hires the land from its owner. *Sowetan* was unable to trace the whereabouts of either the owner or the manager of the land.

Like its neighbour to the east, this "pig farm squatter community" is not welcomed by some rich white landowners.

Making a noise

"They make such a racket. If they want to make noise let them go to Soweto," said Ms Sheila Friend, who owns Bobshe Farms nearby.

"Just the other day they were making A noise and bothering my friends while we sat by the pool having a braai," she continued.

community" claimed they have been repeatedly harassed by police from nearby Muldersdrif. They say residents and police have threatened to bulldoze their homes if they don't leave.

Nowhere to go

The police officers who accompanied *Sowetan* to the camp would not identify themselves, and tried to take film from photographer Joe Molefe's camera. In the presence of journalists, they told the "pig farm" residents that they should stay away from the squatter camp to the east.

But after the officers left, the squatters said these were the same men who had told them repeatedly to leave their own homes in the past.

"We don't want to fight. But you can see that we have nothing. We have no where to go," came the familiar refrain from Mr David Ngwenya.

Squatters at the TPA road construction site are due to meet on Sunday to discuss whether they will accept a new piece of land offered yesterday by the TPA. But Mr Fourie reiterated that if the residents did not accept the offer their land owners would move them by force

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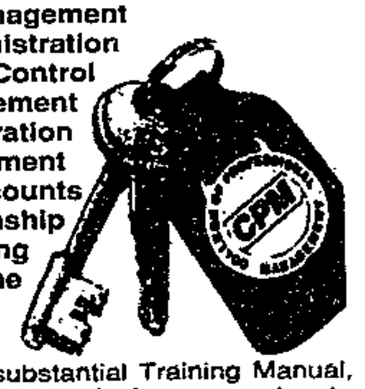

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TPA bid to solve squatter problem

Star 28/12/93

■ STAFF REPORTER

The Transvaal Provincial Administration is considering offering alternative land to 70 squatter families in the Nooitgedacht area in Muldersdrift in a bid to defuse tensions between the squatters and landowners (310)

The TPA announced it had persuaded the squatters and landowners' organisations to negotiate to solve their differences.

The squatters have occupied land belonging to local landowner Pienaar Fourie for the past four months. The TPA has said the land had been earmarked for a future road, and would not become available for other use.

But Nooitgedacht Residents' Association chairman Dr Bruce Finnemore said his organisation had not yet been formally approached by the TPA about the provision of alternative land.

Crocodile Valley Rural and Civic Association chairman Greg Pickett said landowners had threatened to call in the AWB to assist with evictions if the squatters did not move voluntarily.

Responding to this allegation, Finnemore said Fourie had been through the legal channels and was entitled to evict the squatters.

Pickett said squatters were prepared to move to suitable land nearby. Squatters would be meeting on January 4 to discuss the issue again.

Finnemore said legal action was pending against the TPA to prevent squatting in the area.

Squatter camp conflict eases off

Sowetan 3/12/93

By Glenn McKenzie

CONFLICT between residents of a Nooitgedacht squatter camp and local landowners has been put on hold as residents consider an offer by the Transvaal Provincial Association to move them to a piece of land near Azaadville, west of Kagiso.

The squatters have been arguing with local landowners over a strip of land claimed by the TPA for a road construction project.

30km away

Families occupying the land have said they will move if given land within 5km of the present site. The Azaadville site is more than 30km away.

Yesterday residents would not say if they would accept the proposed move.

They said they would meet the TPA and local landowners on Tuesday to negotiate a settlement. (310)

Local landowner Mr Pienaar Fourie, who is also a Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra conductor, said last Thursday that if the squatter community residents do not accept the current TPA offer, landowners would move them by force.

Yesterday Fourie said he and other landowners would be willing to wait until the TPA announced a decision regarding the squatters.

"My new year was a bit noisy because of the squatters, but it was all right," said Fourie.

"We are willing to wait for the TPA to make a move. But if they don't do anything then we will," he reiterated.

Another meeting is planned for tomorrow between squatters, the TPA, and African National Congress representatives.

TPA offers landless land

Sowetan 31/2/93

By Glenn McKenzie

SQUATTERS who are at odds with landowners near Nooitgedacht will meet on Sunday to decide if they will move to a new piece of land offered to them by the Transvaal Provincial Association, a spokesman for the TPA said yesterday. (310)

Earlier this week, local landowners demanded that the squatters leave the piece of land where they have lived for six months. But residents of the squatter camp say they won't leave unless they are offered new land within five kilometres of where they are now.

A spokesman for the TPA said he couldn't disclose the location of the new site offered to the squatters, but said that it was "very likely to be close to where they are now".

> **"Unlawful action by impatient residents would be foolhardy and not serve anyone"**

Squatters had demanded that they remain in the Nooitgedacht area to be close to their workplaces. They had also requested that any new site be near schools and a water supply.

The land where the squatters currently live has been designated for road construction by the TPA.

TPA spokesman Mr Sakkie van der Walt said that a committee of squatters would let the department know if they would move by next Tuesday.

On Wednesday landowners said that if the squatters did not begin moving by late yesterday they would "relocate the squatters" by force.

Yesterday Van der Walt said he hoped that "impatient residents would not embark on unlawful action".

"That would be foolhardy and would not benefit anyone," Van der Walt said.

● See page 7.

Land offered to squatters

CT 30/12/93 (310)

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A white ANC member wants to make available land on her farm to build homes for squatters, but red tape has held up the project.

Farmer and ANC member Ms Norma Sharples said yesterday she had made available about five acres on her smallholding for a cluster home complex for about 40 families.

Ms Sharples said the aim was to provide homes as well as security of tenure. Families would be able to buy their units with the assistance of first home owner loans.

She said the project had the backing of some local farmers, squatters, the ANC and development agencies.

However, the project had been held up by red tape. The area was now zoned for agriculture and needed to be rezoned for high density housing, she said. It was further complicated because of disputes over Sandton and Randburg boundaries in which the area fell. The project would have to wait until after the April 27 elections next year, said Ms Sharples.

Christmas truce over squatters

B1Day 27/12/93

MARIANNE MERTEN and
INGRID SALGADO

A TENSE standoff between squatters and landowners in the Nooitgedacht area at Muldersdrift, north of Johannesburg, has been temporarily defused by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) agreeing to relocate shack dwellers.

The Christmas Eve peace move came after squatters set up a permanent "community watch" to counter landowner threats to move them from the land on which they were illegally living.

Tensions were fuelled by rumours that landowners would ask the AWB to help throw the squatters out.

The TPA, landowners and squatter representatives of the Crocodile Valley Rural and Civic Association (Civarco) discussed possible relocation sites at a Friday meeting, facilitated by the area's peace secretariat.

In a weekend statement, the TPA said alternative accommodation would be offered in consultation with the squatter families. A "heavy-handed, unilateral eviction" was unlikely to solve the problem, it said.

Civarco chairman Greg Pickett said the squatters were prepared to move to other land within a 5km radius. Most squatters were employed in the area and their families and friends lived close by, he said.

Suitable sites are to be discussed again on January 4. (310)

The landowner umbrella organisation Nooitgedacht Residents' Association (NRA) has said it believes the squatters could be moved to nearby low-cost housing areas, such as Swanieville. But Civarco says most potential sites had been blocked by nearby residents' associations voicing similar objections.

The owner of the occupied land, Pienaar Fourie, said yesterday the TPA had told him the squatters would be moved after January 1.

Pickett said the squatters were not likely to be evicted between Christmas and New Year.

Earlier, NRA spokesman Bruce Finnemore said landowners objected to the area being used as an informal squatter settlement as it had led to an increase in crime and had devalued their properties.

"We don't believe squatting is a long-term solution. There is a lot of anger on the part of landowners and if anything happens about moving these people, it must not come as a surprise."

Finnemore said squatters were being used as pawns to test whether landowners would accept other informal settlements.

He could not confirm rumours concerning the AWB: "All I know is that if the squatters were removed, there would be a lot of people to help remove them."

Pickett said landowners did not realise this conflict could spread outside the region if they were to call in the AWB to help move the squatters.

In about four months, the settlement has grown to close on 100 shacks. Most of the squatters were evicted from local farms and others had been victims of displacement.

An agreement had been reached at Friday's meeting that no further building materials would be taken into the settlement, Pickett said.

Joint committee to discuss the future of Power Park

GAVIN DU VENAGE

A JOINT committee including representatives of the ANC, the Greater Soweto Peace Committee and the Public Works Department would be set up to discuss the future of Power Park squatters, ANC local government spokesman Mathole Motshekga said yesterday. 8/Dec/4

The squatters were threatened with eviction earlier this year as the land has substantial commercial value. 31/12/93

Motshekga said the committee would make recommendations on the land's future. A moratorium had been placed on its sale.

Meanwhile, the Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday that right-wing threats of violence and the squatters' initial rejection of alternative land proposed by the TPA had left the Nooitgedacht squatter issue unresolved, Sapa reports.

The TPA declined to say where the proposed land was but the Crocodile Rural and Civics Association's Greg Pickett identified it as a plot near Rietvallei, 45km from Nooitgedacht, northwest of Johannesburg.

Although squatters are prepared to move, on Wednesday they rejected Rietvallei as being too far from schools and workplaces.

Nevertheless, the squatters have agreed to discuss the TPA's proposal and will meet the TPA on Tuesday.

Motshekga has labelled the proposal "bantustanisation". He said the proposed land fell outside the TPA's jurisdiction and would relieve it of the problem in future. (310)

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said the TPA did control the land.

Goldstone rejects international force

BIDay 27/12/93

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE Goldstone commission has said it rejects the use of an international peacekeeping force for the April election, favouring locally trained and selected personnel.

Among its 51 recommendations aimed at curbing violence and intimidation during the election, it said these forces should be supplemented by external personnel to provide technical assistance, monitors and experts to help train the police and marshals.

Local marshals drawn from communities should help a specially formed peacekeeping service on polling day, the commission said.

This service "should be created under civilian control with a command structure drawn from senior and mid-level SAP officers and others, and staff drawn from current SAP, internal stability unit and other police personnel and, at a later stage, personnel recruited from party-affiliated forces".

The service would form a committee to coordinate peacekeeping functions especially as far as campaign marches, rallies and demonstrations were concerned.

It also recommended that the creation of a voter education programme be given the highest priority by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

It said voter education should concentrate on reassuring delegates of ballot secrecy, urging them to accept the election result, discouraging violence and encouraging participation in the political process.

Non-governmental organisations should also be urged to expand their voter education programmes. Other recommendations covered the role of the IEC and the police, and establishing a peacekeeping service.

The commission also recommended that the IEC employ the services of independent, non-paritsan organisations to conduct parallel vote counts.

"The IEC should develop a range of sanctions to be imposed for violations of the election to comply with the law and regulations."

Christmas truce over squatters

BIDay 27/12/93

MARIANNE MERTEN and INGRID SALGADO

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Benetton braced for storm over ads

INGRID SALGADO

INTERNATIONAL clothing manufacturer Benetton was bracing itself for controversy in SA when it launched its latest advertising campaign featuring the AIDS epidemic, a company spokesman said at the weekend.

The advertisements, one of which features photographs of a person's arm, backside and abdomen branded with the words "HIV positive", have already attracted lawsuits from two overseas AIDS organisations.

"I am sure we will have a reaction from SA AIDS organisations when the campaign kicks off," the spokesman said.

A strong public reaction was also expected when the adverts were aired in April.

In a statement last week, Benetton blamed moral outrage on adults whose mindset was "so inflexible" they could not reconcile Benetton's shock advertising tactics with the products being sold.

The company said it preferred spending money on AIDS and children's organisations than on unnecessary advertising.

Benetton SA had already worked with the local branch of the Red Cross in helping to donate clothes to underprivileged children. During this project, an advert showing company boss Luciano Benetton posing naked was used to raise extra funds.

The company preferred unusual advertising because "with other adverts you just have to change the label at the bottom of the page and you probably would not be able to tell the difference".

Eskom BIDay 27/12/

SQAUTTERS - T.V.L

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Bid to solve squatter issue at Nooitgedacht

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC PWV region said yesterday that a fresh bid would be made tomorrow to find a negotiated settlement to the stand-off between squatters and landowners at Nooitgedacht, north-west of here. (125)(52) CT 3/1/94

ANC regional deputy chairman Mr Mathole Motshekga said a committee formed yesterday, comprising ANC, civic and squatter leaders, would meet officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to decide the fate of the 300 squatters. (310)

The meeting would focus on the TPA's proposal that the squatters be resettled at Rietvlei, Krugersdorp, some 45km from their present location, and alternative proposals from the squatters and the local civics. — Sapa

Residents' roadblock checks shack-building

RESIDENTS of Nooitgedacht, north of Johannesburg, were manning overnight roadblocks to prevent squatters from bringing in building materials, Nooitgedacht Action Group spokesman Bruce Finnemore said yesterday.

Several loads of building material had been turned back since the weekend, he said. Patrols were monitoring the entrance to the squatter camp from 6pm to 6am and residents were also watching the settlement during the day.

He denied that water supplies or food were being kept out.

GAVIN DU VENAGE

Tension between the parties has grown during the past few weeks.

Finnemore said about 95 shacks had appeared on a local farmer's land since the middle of August.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) had undertaken to act but had failed to keep its promise, he said.

On Sunday the squatters met to discuss an alternative site proposed by the TPA.

The TPA, the ANC, civics and squatters would meet today to discuss whether the land was acceptable.

While the alternative site had been expropriated for a road, the TPA had not yet begun building on it.

Finnemore said the TPA had failed to administer the land properly.

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said the TPA was monitoring the land closely. There was a 12-hour access control point during the day, with spot checks at night. He could not confirm that residents were manning road blocks at night.

The squatters' representative could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Squatter talks continue today

ARG 7/1/94
310

JOHANNESBURG. — A meeting on the resettlement of residents of Nooitgedacht, north-west of Johannesburg, had failed to reach agreement and talks would continue today, a spokesman for the Wits/Vaal Peace Secretariat said.

The parties involved had set today as a deadline for the removal of squatters to a new site. Landowners say the squatters are a health hazard and are reducing the value of their properties. — Sapa.

whole page

Star 8/1/94

(310)

It's high noon in Nooitgedacht

SINCE the mushrooming of informal settlements, Nooitgedacht residents have experienced a sharp increase in crime, but it seems no one is prepared to do anything about the situation, writes JOE LOUW.

UNTIL a few years ago, most rural communities to the far north of Johannesburg were idylls of peaceful country living. Landowners galloped on horseback across rolling hills and crime was something only city folk worried about.

Nooitgedacht, a small community of some 1 700 properties, was such a place — until six months ago.

Two families — one of an unemployed painter, Albert Ramalatse (37) from Pietersburg, and the other of Patrick Tharie, a farmhand who had been evicted from a nearby farm — erected their tin and hessian shacks on a barren strip of land 500 m-wide running along the bottom of Pienaar Fourie's property. A new community was born.

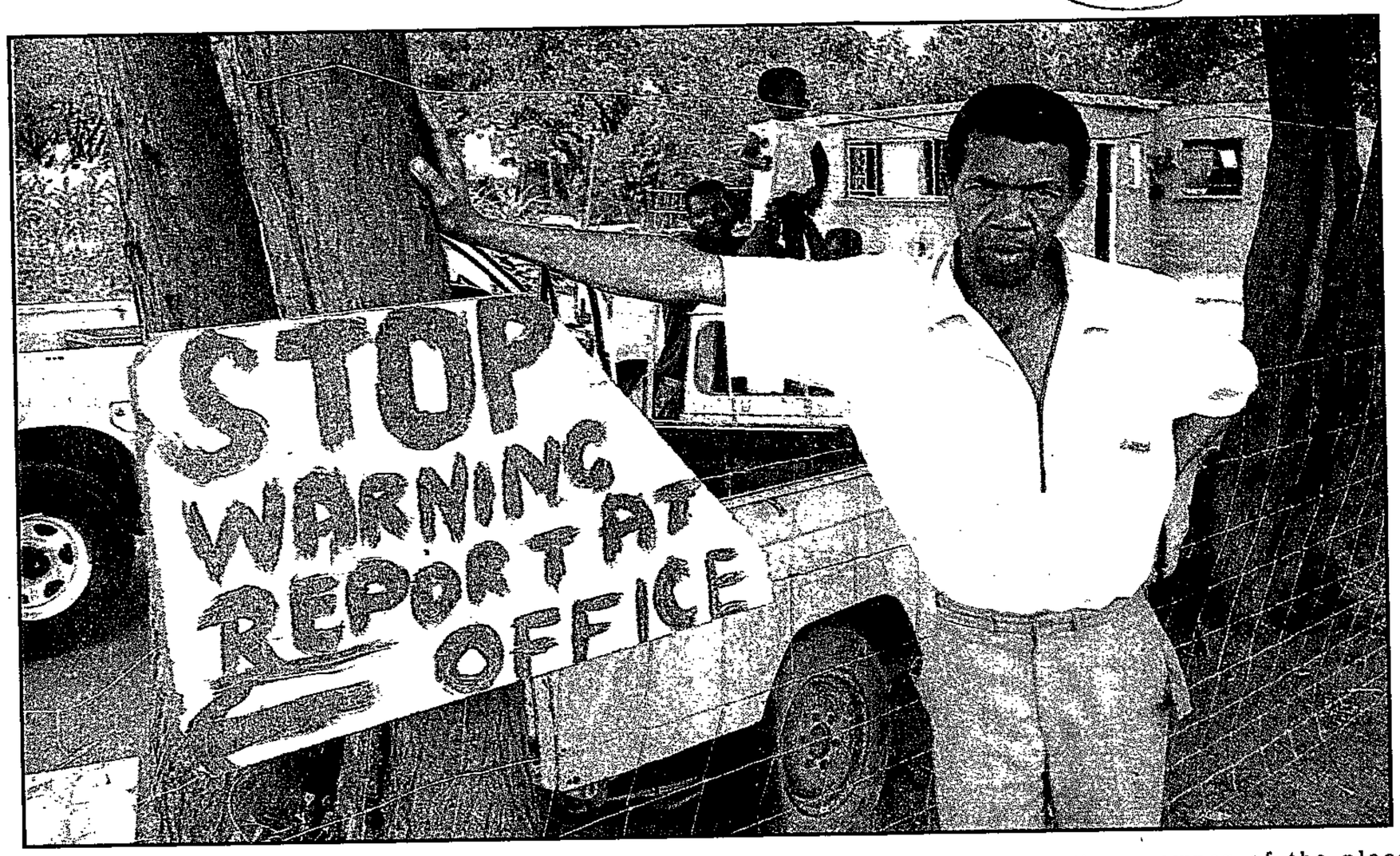
According to Fourie, more than 80 shacks were erected in the next two months, sending shock waves throughout the normally laid-back Nooitgedacht community. By the end of last year, the panic had spread to Lammermoor and other areas in the north-west.

"With this proliferation of squatters," says Fourie, a well-known conductor with the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, "we experienced an incredible increase in crime. Where there was no crime in the previous six months, we now had several burglaries. One house was broken into three times in one week.

"People around here lost cattle and sheep, their tools, and any corrugated iron lying about. Next, they stole the roof from an unoccupied cottage — even the poles used in horse-jumping were taken."

Suspicion pointed to the new, growing community. Fourie and his neighbours in the Nooitgedacht Block Watch complained to the TPA, owner of the land on which the squatters had settled.

Four years earlier, the TPA had paid the local landowners servitude rights for the building of a new tarred road — beacons marked out the 500 m strip running all the way from Nooitgedacht to Lanseria. Most landowners moved their fences back accordingly. So technically, the squatters were not trespassing.



Nooitgedacht Action Group spokesman Dr Bruce Finnemore says relations with the squatters were cordial at first. "We negotiated with them and promised to try and get the TPA to provide a better site for them.

"But after crime escalated and people's livestock started disappearing, the atmosphere changed. We had to do something about it."

Tensions between the two communities escalated. At a crossroads near the edge of Fourie's property, the squatters, under the leadership of Gilbert Mkhwananzi, who now acts as spokesman, set up a barrier and an "office" in an old caravan and demanded that any visitors report and explain the nature of their business in the camp.

owner of the place where we got water refused us water and threatened to charge us with trespassing if we crossed his property to reach the stream at the bottom of his place.

Activity

"They made it clear that they wanted us out of here."

To drive their point home, landowners threw up their own cordon — a flimsy wooden barrier which they manned 12 hours a day, with spot checks throughout the night. "We noticed a lot of activity at night with trucks moving and things being unloaded. We had to act," says Fourie.

Again tensions rose to breaking point and, according to Fourie, "sooner or later someone was going to get hurt".

But last week it looked as though the problem was finally about to be resolved. The TPA, the ANC, the civics and the squatters met to discuss a new site offered with water and toilets — the snag was that it was 45 km from the present site, at Leratong near Krugersdorp. A premature braai was organised to celebrate.

"The squatters seemed grateful and thanked us for our help," says Finnemore. "Things were cordial again."

But during the week, after another meeting, the squatters rejected the offer. Meeting with the TPA, they demanded a site nearer where they have been living "for decades".

Mkwananzi swore he would never move. "I work around here," he said. "We as a community know nobody around there in Krugersdorp. We won't move."

Meanwhile, the Nooitgedacht Action Group has given notice: "They have to move," says Fourie, "or else we will move them ourselves."

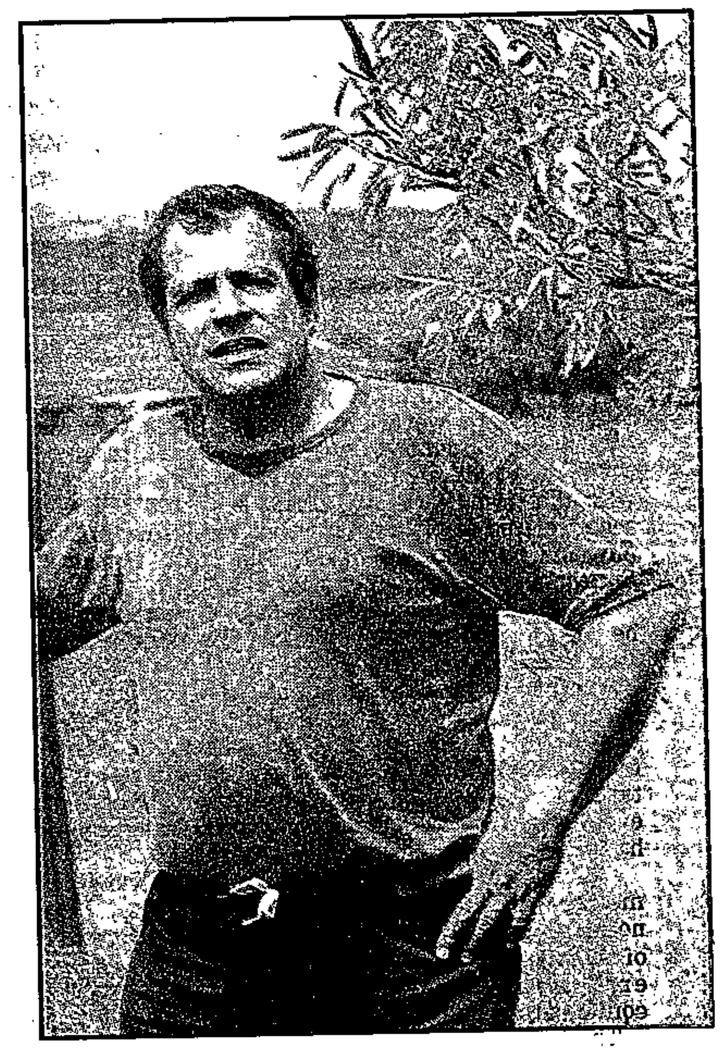
Bulldozers

At Fourie's house the group was planning to get trucks, organising bulldozers and making contingency plans.

In an attempt to clarify whether the landowners would be acting legally if they carried out their threat to evict the squatters "by force of arms if necessary", the TPA, until now understood by all parties to be the legal owner of the strip of land, issued a surprise "clarification" that, according to its roads department regulations, the land is still in the legal possession of the landowners.

"The TPA can't do anything about evicting the squatters," TPA spokesman Henley Delport told the Saturday Star. "The TPA did obtain surface rights to build the road. But there are no funds now to build the road, so we are informed by our roads department that the property therefore remains in the hands of the landowners.

"The property on which these people settled does belong to Fourie. But the TPA is doing its best to facilitate negotiations among all the major role-players in this dispute."



NO COMPROMISE: Chris Joseph Mandlakazi, chairman of the camp's residents' committee, swears the squatters will never move to a community where they don't know anyone. But Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra conductor Pienaar Fourie (right) says the situation has become unbearable and something has to be done. ● Photographs: MICHAEL NICOLAOU

We will not be moved, say squatters

NOWHERE TO GO: Delta Mokwena, surrounded by some of her 17 grandchildren, faces eviction for failing to pay her R15-a-month rent.

MAKING THE MOST OF IT: David Tlalampe, who owns a spaza shop at the Nooitgedacht camp, faces an uncertain future.

310 8/1/94

"At that time Fourie and his friends saw the writing on the wall.

"I spent more than 17 years developing my property," says Fourie. "It represents everything I own and worked for. At one time this place was worth R600 000. Now it's practically worthless."

For four months Fourie and his friends tried to pressure officials to move the community.

"We got absolutely nowhere," says Fourie. "We were shuttled from office to office. The TPA sent us to their roads department in Krugersdorp, who are supposed to deal with such problems. They promised to take action but nothing happened.

"I was then referred to the roads department in Pretoria. In November I was told the case was being handled by Community Development in Randfontein.

"Then shortly after that we were informed that the whole thing had been referred to the Johannesburg Community Development Department. Now the TPA is involved again. We've had numerous meetings with them and the ANC, the local police — everybody, yet this thing has not been resolved."

Fourie says the crunch for him came one night last year when five armed men gassed his watchdog, broke into his house and robbed him of "everything in the house" including his clothes, the wall clocks and a large mattress and then loaded it all into his combi and drove off after threatening to blow his head off.

"I died five times that night. They had tied my hands behind my back and they had their AKs pointed at the back of my head."

Neighbours and friends came together at a meeting of the Nooitgedacht Block Watch, which was joined by the Lammermoor Block Watch, and resolved to take action. By December, the squatter camp had grown to 102 shacks with nearly 300 men, women and children.

Chris Joseph Mandlakazi, chairman of the camp's residents' committee, says they were harassed by Nooitgedacht residents. "They came here armed and demanded that no more people settle here.

"They accused us of stealing and once, when we tried to dig a pit latrine for the community, they called in the police and said we had killed someone and were busy burying bodies there. The police came and found nothing.

"Then, later, the

DELTA Mokwena cannot remember how she got such an unusual name. But she is clear about the place and day she was born: "Driefontein, September 10 1931 — not far from here."

She was sitting in front of her zinc and cardboard shack in the Nooitgedacht settlement where she has been renting a small room for R15 a month. Now she is about to be evicted for non-payment of rent.

"I am an old woman," she told me, her eyes sparkling from under a bright yellow turban. "I have worked almost from the time I was born. Always for white people. Now I am just a Bantu woman. They take me for nothing. They can just throw me away — just like that. If I was white, they would do nothing to me."

Five grandchildren cluster around her, each holding on to some part of Delta's clothing hoping to be in the photograph with their *gogo*.

When I ask how many grandchildren she has, she covers her eyes with her hand, shakes her head, slaps her knee, giggles and starts counting. "Well, there is Zizwe, Noma-Thabo, Kuki ... too many." Finally she decides there are 17.

"I have lived here all my life and worked for these white people. Look at my hands." They are worn and callused. "What do they expect me to do?"

Chris Joseph Mandlakazi is, compared to the other squatters, still a young man. Even so he was elected their chairman mainly because, of all the squatters at Nooitgedacht, he had been around the longest.

"I was born near Cresta Centre," he says and, pointing to a pile of stones near the fence along the TPA road, adds: "My father was buried here."

He is adamant that the homeless people who settled on the proposed roadway have a right to be in the area.

"They want to move us to Rietvlei, 45 km away. We refuse. We want a site here — within 5 km. Most of us have never been further then Honeydew. Why should we move there when we know nobody and have no work?"

Mandlakazi, who speaks fluent Afrikaans, English, Zulu, Xhosa and Pedi, said that when homeless people in the farm areas realised that the 500 m area had been purchased from landowners and belonged to the TPA, they moved in.

"There were people around here who were sleeping under bridges, in the bush — with children. Pregnant women were giving birth to their babies in open fields.

"There were old people who were evicted, after giving a lifetime of service to the landowners around here. In 24 hours they ended up in the veld. Nobody cared.

"I personally supervised this place. I made sure that none of us were involved in thieving. When somebody broke into the butchery next door to us, I found it was an outsider, not one of us, and I reported it to the police."

But people at the squatter camp do have at least one sympathetic friend.

"Mr Tom has been kind to us," says Mandlakazi. "He allows us to do washing and to draw water from his place. It is an act of Christian kindness."

"Mr Tom" — Tom Mijs — is a large Dutch immigrant who runs a butchery right next to the disputed squatter camp.

He is clear about one thing: he does not want to get involved in anything — especially politics.

All he is prepared to say for himself is that he came from Rotterdam and is a businessman, prepared to live and let live.

Mijs has become the accidental hero of the Nooitgedacht stand-off.

When the landowners turned on the heat to try and get the squatters out, Mijs was not prepared to play ball with the rest.

His trade is to buy and sell animals and he established a small butchery on his plot.

"I'm not interested in getting myself into politics," he said. "The people around here have always been my customers. What I agreed with them is simple. They don't enter my place, don't cut my fence to steal my things or enter my property. And, as my customers, why should I refuse them water?"

Mijs's butchery was broken into over the Christmas holidays. But he refuses to blame the squatters. "Maybe the police should look in the other direction," he said.

Chaos as AWB forcibly evicts squatters

C1 Press 9/11/94

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

NOOITGEDACHT land owners forcibly removed squatters yesterday, reneging on a promise they made at a meeting in Pretoria on Friday.

At the meeting, land owners promised to wait until tomorrow's meeting before a decision could be taken about the squatters near Krugersdorp.

The meeting was attended by the land owners, squatter committee, Transvaal Provincial Administration and the ANC. (310)

But yesterday morning, all hell broke loose when land owners, accompanied by a group of armed AWB members, ambushed the squatters at about 5.30am, breaking down shacks and threatening to beat up the squatters.

Most of the squatters said yesterday they did not know where they were going to sleep.

They were dumped by AWB trucks without registration numbers on a "no man's land" near Kagiso in Krugersdorp.

Tempers flared when an ANC member at the scene, Greg Picket, was threatened with death and assault. He was manhandled and thrown into one of the rightwingers' cars for almost an hour.

After all the shacks were destroyed, Picket was told that if any shacks were put up in Nooitgedacht again, bulldozers and guns would be used to remove the squatters.

A member of the squatters negotiating team, Lydia Mogapi, said the no man's land was far from their places of work.

The squatters were also worried about schooling for their children, and their forefathers' graves which they had left behind.

Residents in pre-dawn raid on squatter camp

By NICK OLIVARI

MORE than 300 squatters were forcibly removed from a smallholding at Nooitgedacht, north of Johannesburg, by landowners after a pre-dawn raid yesterday.

Taking the law into their own hands, members of the Nooitgedacht Residents' Association and the Lammermoor Blockwatch set up four roadblocks on access roads to the plot owned by Mrs Pienaar Fourie.

Backed up by at least eight armed, khaki-clad men — who refused to allow the Sunday Times on to the property — they moved in and demolished the 102 shacks that have sprung up on the property in the past six months.

About 10 members of the SAP watched as the corrugated-iron sheets and contents of the shacks were loaded on to trucks provided by local farmers, for removal to the Swanieville squatter camp 40km away near Krugersdorp.

Nooitgedacht Residents' Association spokesman Dr Bruce Finnemore said he was unaware of the group of armed men who had manned the gate to the property.

Dr Finnemore admitted that the roadblocks set up by residents were illegal, but denied they were acting as vigilantes. ST Times

"We had to take precautions because we were told by the SAP that squatters had weapons hidden in the veld and we were also warned by a reliable source that we could be targeted by APLA," said Dr Finnemore.

He said members of the Landowners' Association, frustrated by protracted and unresolved negotiations with the ANC, civics and the TPA, had acted because "we had no option but to evict the squatters ourselves". (310)

"The operation involved about 160 landowners, their friends and relatives. Not a single rightwinger or organisation was involved," he said. 9/11/94

However, Mr Bill Straughan, chairman of the Lammermoor Block Watch, admitted that at least two armed rightwingers had travelled from Donkerhoek, home of Radio Pretoria, to help blockade the property.

He said they were asked to leave as soon as their presence became known.

Ten heavy trucks, 20 bakkies and a front-end loader were used to remove the squatters and their belongings. The operation took eight hours.

The Red Cross has been asked to provide tents for the squatters until their shacks can be rebuilt.

Squatters who were interviewed said no one had been assaulted during the operation.

Anger mounts over removal of squatters

Star To 11/94

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The forced removal of the Nooitgedacht squatters this weekend was aimed at derailing talks about the future of informal housing north of Johannesburg, the ANC claimed yesterday.

The eviction of about 110 families to Swanieville was launched less than 48 hours after the Transvaal Provincial Administration had said more research was need ed to find a solution.

MEC Pieter Coetzer had assured the ANC that a feasibility study would be done of the entire Muldersdrift area, said the ANC's land, housing and development department head, Steward Ngwenya.

But Lammermoor Blockwatch chairman Bill Straughan said the TPA had forced the farmers' action after Coetzer had reneged at the eleventh hour on his undertaking to remove the illegal squatters.

"Coetzer promised us on Friday that the TPA would move in, then pulled the plug, saying he would commit political suicide if it did.

"Since the faceless TPA administration have consistently refused to assist either squatters or landowners by granting the squatters suitable land, we went ahead and arranged 180 people, 30 trucks, a doctor, an attorney, a vet and the SPCA to ensure a peaceful, incident-free end to a situation which has been politically engineered by the ANC and the local civic association," he said.

Yesterday, trucks accompanied by armed TPA staff completed the job, ferrying the remaining 20 to 40 squatters and their belongings from Nooitgedacht to Swanieville.

Ngwenya said: "I am disgusted by the way khaki-clad rightwingers violated people's basic human rights and urge all parties to come to the negotiating table to stop any opportunistic operators from using similar tactics to undermine gen uine attempts to resolve the problem. (310)

Straughan dismissed claims that the farmers were rightwingers. "The 350 smallholders have some 600 blacks living and working harmoniously on their plots. The TPA has consistently dragged its heels. It is up to the TPA to designate land for the squatters," he said.

Swanieville's Luna Sand Civic Association chairman Sam Mhlambiso said the Nooitgedacht squatters were welcome to settle in their community, but the TPA would have to foot the bill for damage to their belong ings.

Peace Committee monitor Peter Otto said talks were being held with the TPA yesterday to work with the Randburg Town Council in relocating the squatters nearer their workplaces.

Owners move squatters

JOHANNESBURG. — Nooitgedacht landowners on Saturday removed the controversial squatter community north-west of here — to the disgust of the ANC and the disappointment of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The ANC says people have been dumped on the streets 30km away at Swanieville on the West Rand and have lost property. The landowners say the removal was carried out with "respect for the community's property and the safety of all involved".

The three parties, along with the squatter community and civics, had been involved in discussions for four months, until Friday night when the TPA tried to persuade the ANC and the landowners to reach a compromise, said MEC Mr Piet Coetzer.

Instead of continuing negotiations, however, landowners went ahead with removing the 102 shacks — while the ANC was under the impression that it would still have yesterday to report back to the community. Landowners said they were frustrated by the protracted and unresolved talks. — Sapa

NEWS

Sequel to forced removal

Squatters in new clashes

Star 11/11/94

BY ABDUL MILAZI

The removal of the controversial Nooitgedacht squatters to Swanieville on the West Rand has sparked off tensions between ANC and IFP factions there, leaving one squatter dead and five injured.

On Saturday Nooitgedacht farmers moved into the squatter settlement, demolished shacks and transported the squatters in truckloads to Swanieville after the Transvaal Provincial Administration failed to relocate them.

Swanieville residents said the arrival of the squatters had angered IFP supporters, who believed the refugees' presence would boost ANC support. Their presence has apparently upset a delicate power balance established three years ago after a massacre left 28 people dead.

The latest tensions led to sporadic attacks in the area and the death of local Luna Sand Civic secretary Patrick Masigo (40). He was allegedly stabbed and hacked to death on Sunday night while returning home from a meeting to discuss the fate of the 101 Nooitgedacht families.

Another man suffered severe burn and stab wounds when a group of people attacked him with pangas, doused him with petrol and set him alight. He is in a critical condition in the Leratong Hospital.

Peace workers said four other people were stabbed and hacked in separate incidents in apparent retaliatory attacks.

The police could not confirm these attacks. (310)

While IFP and ANC-supporting residents maim and kill each other, Nooitgedacht refugees face a bleak future after almost all their belongings were lost during the forced removal.

The Nooitgedacht Residents and Landowners' Association (NRLA) and the refugees blame the situation on the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

NRLA spokesman Bruce Finnemore said the TPA's Pieter Coetzer had promised to relocate the squatters but later reneged on his promise, saying he would be committing political suicide if he moved them.

The landowners then moved into the squatter camp, demolished shacks and moved the squtters to Swanieville.

TPA spokesperson Gert de Jager refuted the claims that his organisation was to blame and said the TPA only acted as a facilitator in negotiations between squatters and landowners.

He said the administration had no power to act on behalf of either side and the eviction was the responsibility of the landowners and the local authority.

ANC local and regional government head Mathole Motshega said his organisation would do all in its power to have the squatters relocated.

The IFP was not available for comment.

GAVIN DU VENAGE

Squatters warn of legal action

BIDAY 11/1/94

THE Nooitgedacht squatters evicted from a farm in the area at the weekend may take legal action against residents who forcibly moved them, squatter representative Mathole Motshekga said yesterday.

He alleged building material had gone missing and personal belongings had been damaged in the move to Swanieville about 40km away.

Motshekga accused residents and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) of having negotiated in bad faith on the issue by participating in discussions while knowing they intended to evict the squatters.

Residents' spokesman Bruce Finnemore said threats of legal action "were standard procedure" after legal evictions and had been expected. He added that the Nooitgedacht site was being cleaned up and would be fenced off. If any squatters returned they would be charged with trespassing, he said.

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said accusations that the TPA had failed to act in time against the squatters were not true.

He accused local residents of failing to take action against a local land owner who had allowed the first five families to take up residence on his farm. (310)(2)(H)

De Jager added that it was similar to previous situations where people had been allowed to squat on property as long as it had suited the property owner.

He said it was the responsibility of the land owner to remove illegal tenants. Failing this, it was the responsibility of the local authority to act.

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Squatters happy to find a home

Star 13/4/94

■ BY ABDUL MILAZI

Nooitgedacht squatters yesterday erected their shacks in Rietvallei on the West Rand, where they have been allocated land by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

They had been temporarily housed at the Azaadville Community Centre after their forced removal by Muldersdrift landowners on Saturday.

Their arrival in Swanieville this week sparked tensions between local ANC and IFP supporters, leaving one squatter dead and five injured.

The squatters were ecstatic yesterday that they had found a place they could call home.

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said the squatters were initially to be relocated in Swanieville Extension 1 but the administration had decided to resettle them, about 6 km away at Rietvallei.

West Rand Peace Committee chairman Dr Benoni van Graan said the squatters would be accommodated on the Rietvallei strip until the land between Azaadville and the Wonderfontein stream, earmarked by the TPA for development as a township, was fully developed.

■ The Soweto Civic Association last night asked the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber to call for the immediate dismissal of Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra conductor Pienaar Fourie for his alleged involvement in the forced removal of the squatters from Nooitgedacht on Saturday.

Makeshift shelter . . . these squatters were moved to land near Baragwanath Hospital yesterday after being evicted from a piece of land near Eldorado Park.

PICTURE: SEAN WOODS

Star 13/1/94

Second eviction in the offing

■ BY HAPPY NKHOMA

Squatters near Baragwanath Hospital could face a second eviction less than 24 hours after being moved into the area by the Johannesburg City Council yesterday.

The squatters had taken over a vacant piece of land near an industrial park in Devland, between Eldorado Park and the Golden Highway, on Tuesday night. (310)

After heated negotiations between council public works representative Jan Vermaak and local leader Willie Dlamini, the squatters agreed to move to the nearby Baragwanath settlement.

Vermaak had given the squatters a five-minute ultimatum which was not obeyed. The squatters had spent the night at the Devland site and said they would not move unless they were provided with an alternative site.

Vermaak retorted: "This is our land and we are not in the housing business. You want to know where to sleep tonight? Where were you last week?"

The move to the nearby settlement was then agreed upon. But the squatters could be evicted today. The council will meet the ANC this afternoon to discuss the fate of the settlement.

b21
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Nooitgedacht squatters may get own land

B/Day 14/10/93

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE Nooitgedacht squatter community may be allocated stands in a new site and service township currently being developed near the Swanieville squatter camp, local peace committee chairman Benoni van Graan said yesterday.

The ill-fated Nooitgedacht squatters were evicted from their camp by local residents on Saturday and taken to Swanieville. Their arrival upset the delicate balance of political power between the ANC and Inkatha in the area (310)

Three years ago, local hostel dwellers launched a mass attack on the camp, killing scores of Swanieville residents. An uneasy truce has existed in the area for a year but violence flared up almost immediately after the Nooitgedacht squatters arrived.

Van Graan said he hoped it would be possible to have stands allocated to the community.

He said the peace committee was attempting to create conditions that would make it possible for local Inkatha and ANC leaders to meet to stop renewed violence between members.

NEWS FEATURE *Another tragic Nooitgedacht waiting to happen in Johannesburg*

Mother and child ... Lydia Mbekeni and baby Elvis (11 months) of the squatter camp "Zamimpilo Location".

'In many cases white farmers are worried their tenant may try to claim th land they are occupying'

The unwanted landless squatters

Sowetan 14/11/94

By Glenn McKenzie

■ FEAR OF SAP RAIDS *Homes built of flimsy plastic bags:*

IT COULD be another Nooitgedacht in the making.

In a depression less than 500m from Highgate Shopping Centre, thirty-five adults live with nine children in tiny dwellings made of thin plastic sheets draped over flimsy wooden frames.

The squatter community, dubbed "Zamimpilo Location", has been around for more than six years. As with most squatter camps, people moved there because the land was unoccupied.

And like the residents of Nooitgedacht, who were driven forcibly from their homes by white heavily armed landowners at the weekend, the squatters of Zamimpilo feel they are in danger. Last Wednesday twenty-eight members of the community were rounded up and detained by the SAP for "illegally squatting". And while they were released after fourteen hours in Langlaagte police station, some said they expected the police to "visit" them again.

"They don't want us. I don't know why. Last year they tore down our shacks and took them away so we would leave," said Eric Khinyi, a spokesman for the squatters.

Khinyi said he had lived in Zamimpilo for five years, and had never had a complaint from residents in nearby Riverlea. Dan Crouch, a co-ordinator with the Riverlea Resource Centre, agreed. "They are part of the community. They are victims. I don't know why the police want them to leave," said Crouch.

According to the latest figures from the Urban Foundation, more than 2 million people lived in "*mikhukhu*" (shacks) around the PWV in 1990. By 1994, that number has likely risen. And many of those people have to fight local landowners and police, in addition to poverty.

Some development organisations say urban squatter communities may be growing as rural farm workers are forced to move to the city.

National Land Committee spokeswoman Sue Wixley said at least 500 families were known to have been evicted from white farms within a few weeks last December. The same month, NLC called upon the Transitional Executive Council to place a moratorium on all evictions.

Destabilising

"In many cases, white farmers are worried their tenants may try to claim the land they are occupying," said Wixley. "There are also suggestions that some of these farmers may be trying to destabilise the area and prevent these people from voting," said Wixley.

She added that some evicted families end up in already crowded squatter camps around Johannesburg.

UF housing director Michael Oelofse said the "problem of informal settlements" is age-old. And he is not convinced it is getting worse. But the squatter issue may be becoming more controversial as people's expectations rise in the months before the elections. "People expect the new government to act in particular ways. So perhaps now residents are looking for more legitimate channels for their demands," said Oelofse.

In turn, many white landowners are becoming more afraid of allowing squatters to stay on their doorstep.

"These people are wary of the Government. So of course they want these people off their land," said Oelofse.

Oelofse said one way to prevent fighting between landowners and squatters is to provide "scarce resources" like water, and schools, and small pieces of land to landless people.

"Conflict is a result of a shortage of resources. If you fill the need, the reasons for conflict disappear," said the UF spokesperson.

And community buildings should be built to "soften" the transition between areas owned by wealthy landowners and squatters, Oelofse suggested. But where would these resources come from? Oelofse suggested that communities, the Government, and the private sector all have to make sacrifices to help solve South Africa's housing problem.

"This is a problem that will be here well after the elections. We desperately need conflict resolution mechanisms to address it," said Oelofse.

Meanwhile, families in squatter camps like Zamimpilo wait for new homes, or alternatively, for neighbours or police to evict them.

"The police knocked down our homes in November and they took the wood and zinc," said Khinyi. "So now we don't want to build good houses because the police can do the same thing again."

More woes for evicted squatters

Sowetan 14/11/94

■ RIVAL GROUPS Violence erupts as IFP suspects ANC ranks will swell:

By Joshua Raboroko

DESTITUTE families who were forcibly removed and had their homes demolished by white farmers at the Nooitgedacht squatter camp last Saturday are still homeless.

The forced removal of the squatters has sparked renewed tension between the ANC and IFP factions in the West Rand settlement of Swanieville where at least one person was killed and five others injured during clashes since the weekend.

Police said local Luna Sand Civic Association secretary Mr Patrick Masigo (40) was stabbed and hacked to death by a group of men when returning from a meeting that discussed the plight of the squatters. (310)

Another man is in a critical condition in hospital after being stabbed and set alight, police said. Four other people were stabbed.

The squatters told *Sowetan* yesterday that they were afraid they would be attacked by rival groups and have fled the area where they were resettled on arrival in Swanieville at the weekend.

It is understood that the arrival of the Nooitgedacht residents had angered IFP supporters, who believed that the squatters would boost the ANC patronage.

Mr Joseph Mandlakazi (43), a resident, said: "The people are accusing us of being members of a political party. We fear that the fighting between the two parties will spill over to us.

"We have nowhere to stay. Our wives and children have been accommodated at the nearby Azaadville Hall because we are afraid of being attacked at night."

BUILDING BLUES: Chris Joseph Mandlakazi supervises the drilling of pole holes as the Nooitgedacht squatters start constructing temporary shacks all over again. ● Photographs: MICHAEL NICOLAOU

Star 15/1/94

Removals were 'unreasonable and inhuman'

JOE LOUW

ANC local government spokesman Mathole Motshega has slammed the forced removal of squatter families from Nooitgedacht near Mulderdsdrift as "treacherous, inhuman and unreasonable".

And he accused both the TPA and landowner associations involved of having negotiated in bad faith throughout the four months that the issue was under discussion.

"It is clear that when they were negotiating, both the TPA and the landowners had already reached an agreement that the people would be evicted and that they were talking with us only to get our collaboration to forcibly move the people to Rietvlei. When they realised that we would not do so, they walked out. There was never any good faith in those negotiations.

"A very dangerous precedent has been created here, where landowners take the law into their own hands to evict people. People will be forced to defend themselves and then we will have a very ghastly situation in our country."

Motshega vowed that the ANC would fight to have the situation reversed.

MOMENT OF RESPITE: Despite their many tribulations, these Nooitgedacht women find something to giggle about.

The ANC has instructed lawyers to look into the forced removal with a view to compensating the squatters for property lost, damaged or stolen.

Meanwhile, the Nooitgedacht and Adjoining Landowners' Association issued a statement claiming to have been left in the lurch by the TPA which, it says, "reneged on a vital undertaking to remove the squatter community as late as one hour before the landowners' deadline for their eviction".

Landowners had been frustrated by the protracted and unresolved negotiations with the ANC, civics and TPA.

"Paramount in the minds of the landowners had been respect for the community's property and the safety of all involved," the statement said.

Landowners pleased by squatter removals

GAVIN DU VENAGE

RESIDENTS of the rural area northwest of Johannesburg have "taken heart" after the eviction of the Nooitgedacht squatters and some say such forced removals could take place again.

Last week residents launched a dawn raid to remove the squatters after their negotiations with the squatters and the ANC had broken down. B1D04 17/11/94

Residents' spokesman Bruce Finnemore said the committee that oversaw the eviction had been flooded with inquiries from landowners who wanted to remove people from their land. He said at least five other squatter communities were living illegally in the area. (279) (310)

Residents were encouraged that they did not have to rely on a "lame duck" authority to take action.

Finnemore said residents did not have a vendetta against homeless people, but wanted to prevent uncontrolled squatting.

He said some of the farmers had allowed a few people to settle on their land, but a few dwellings quickly spread to become an uncontrollable problem. He conceded that some farmers had been "shack farming" and wanted to remove people after they stopped paying.

Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman Gert de Jager said many farmers "were creating their own problems".

He said they rented out land to squatters. When squatters demanded services such as water and sanitation, and held back payment until these were provided, farmers would then try to have them evicted.

He said it was an individual landowner's responsibility to remove illegal residents from his property.

Randburg to house squatters

Star 18/11/94

■ BY BUNTY WEST

The 101 Nooitgedacht squatter families who were forcibly removed from their site last weekend are to be accommodated at a new, as-yet unidentified site in Randburg.

This was disclosed at a Randburg council meeting last night, when it was announced that the council had accepted responsibility for the estimated 150 000 homeless people who live or work in the town. (310)

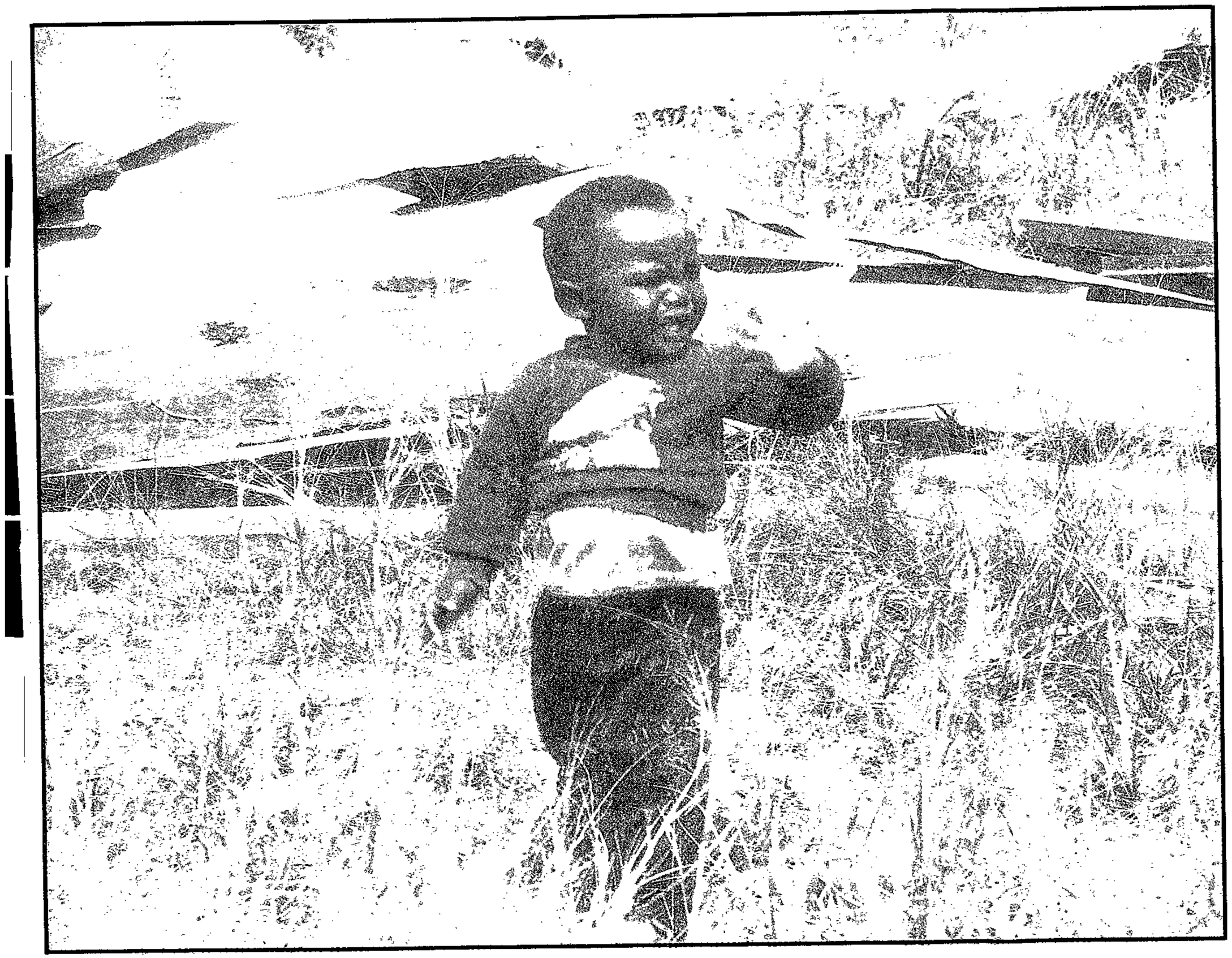
The council had instructed its management committee to find, by next Wednesday, a suitable site to establish a transit camp where the homeless could be accommodated.

The forced removal of the Nooitgedacht squatters to Swanieville by landowners 10 days ago had made the temporary housing of people in a transit camp a matter of urgency, it was announced.

The town will hold a series of meetings at which residents will discuss the planning of areas newly incorporated into Randburg and the provision of low-cost housing.

BULLIES WHO SPOKE BULL

CIPress 23/1/94



By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

LIFE has turned into hell for struggling former Nooitgedacht squatters, after they were forcibly chased from their shackland by landowners and AWB storm troopers.

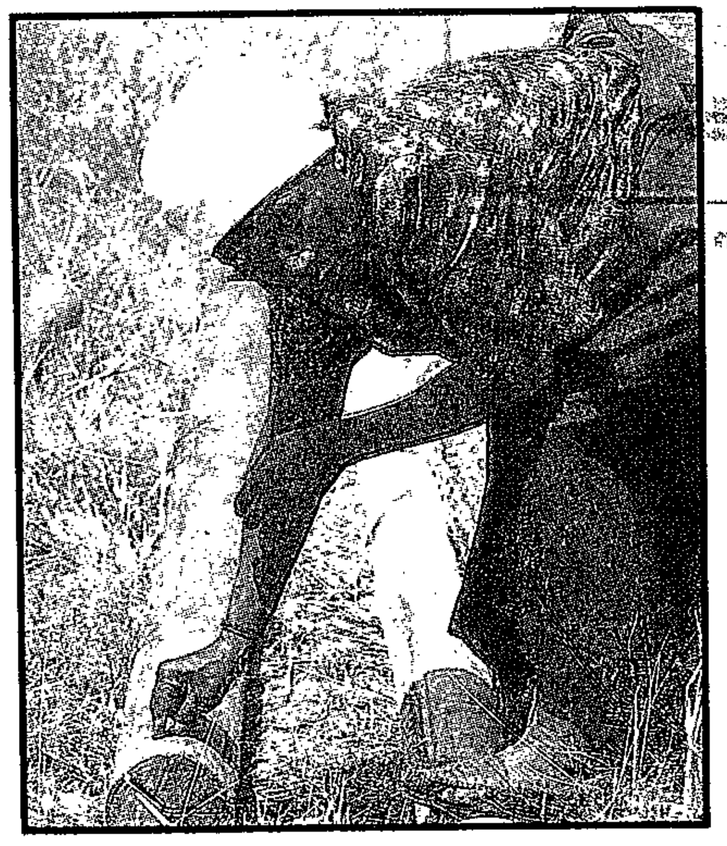
Take the case of mother of two Lydia Mogapi: She is a domestic worker at Nooitgedacht, and before the forceful evictions she walked to work. Now, dumped several kilometres away, she has to wake up some three hours earlier to take a taxi from Swanieville to Leratong Hospital, then another one to Krugersdorp taxi rank, then a third one to Lion Park, from where she has to walk another three kilometres to work.

The trip costs her a whopping R18 a day.

The eviction has caused a hue and cry among several organisations, and the Soweto Civic Association has called for the resignation of Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra conductor Pienaar Fourie, who was also allegedly involved in the removals.

The request by the SCA will be discussed at a meeting of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

JSO chairman Ian Gray said the orchestra was an amateur body and that the chamber had no jurisdiction to call for Fourie's dismissal.



HOMELESS . . . Pensioner Delta Phiri.

Promise of peace, then racists struck

310

In his reply Fourie said he was only trying to uphold law and order on his farm.

What angered the squatters was that the land owners took them by surprise. The Nooitgedacht land owners agreed at a meeting in Pretoria, a day before the squatters were forcibly removed, to give them a chance until the TPA found a suitable place for them.

The meeting had been attended by the ANC and a squatter delegation.

But then the landowners reneged on their promise.

The squatters spent last Saturday night in the drenching rain, before they were accommodated at the Azaadville Community Centre the following day. Food was supplied by the West Rand Regional Service Council. Most of their bedding, clothes and mattresses were destroyed.

They accused AWB members of having been arrogant, spiteful and extremely rude during the attack.

An added embarrassment for the families is the fact that they have to do without even toilet facilities. There is another discomfort – fighting broke out between squatters and Inkatha-supporting communities in the new area.

Their arrival in Swanieville was interpreted by some Inkatha supporters as a ploy by the ANC to beef up its stronghold in the area.

Their children, who have been attending school at nearby Zwartkop and Witkoppen, will not be attending school this year because the schools are too far away.

Pensioners from Nooitgedacht are also hard hit by the forced removals.

Granny Delta Phiri, who is caring for three schoolgoing kids, said she was not sure whether she would get her end-of-January pension.

Phiri said her two daughters were unemployed and depended on her R370 monthly pension for support.

She said she was born in Nooitgedacht and had lived and worked for farmers there since a very early age. Phiri said forced removals and raids were nothing new.

City Press visited the new squatter camp and saw men and women busy trying to erect shelter for their families. Most have not adjusted to their new environment and are still sleeping in the open veld.

UNFEELING . . . The children of Nooitgedacht were traumatised when local landowners, farmers and AWB racists stormed into their community and tore it down – in the process laying waste to their wordly possessions – bedding, crockery, furniture, clothing, the works. ■ Pics: JONAS MANKGA

We will not move, say Bophelong squatters

By STAN MHLONGO

THE bells ringing in South Africa's first democratic elections on April 27 don't seem to be ringing for Bophelong squatters.

Residents of the Chris Hani squatter camp in the area are living in fear of old-style-apartheid forced removals by the conservative Vanderbijlpark Town Council.

Town clerk Chris Beukes said the squatters were given notice on January 12 to leave the area as it belonged to the VTC.

Some of the 300 squatters claim that police in Casspirs, tractors and bulldozers slept on the border of Bophelong and Vanderbijlpark on Tuesday night.

Some shacks were destroyed this week. Only intervention by the local SA National Civic Association branch saved the whole area from being demolished.

Most of the squatters oppose removal – especially as they are to be resettled in an area they have named "Mangosuthu". They believe this to be a new Inkatha settlement on the outskirts of Evaton and Sebokeng next to the main road to Johannesburg.

The area is officially known as Johan Deo and scores of former KwaMadala hostel inmates, most whom are Inkatha members, are said to live there.

Sanco spokesman for Bophelong Duma Plaatjie said the community patrolled the Chris Hani squatter camp all night on Monday and Tuesday in fear of a rightwing attack.

He said the VTC had postponed evictions to a later date after a delegation of Bophelong residents met with Bophelong administrator Johan Killian.

Killian said: "Several squatters are there illegally. A new government will soon be in power, but this does not mean that such blatant and illegal occupation of land must be condoned.

"I have great sympathy with the plight of the homeless, which is what prompted me to intervene and ask the VTC to postpone the removals."

Killian denied allegations that KwaMadala hostel inmates were going to be resettled at Johan Deo. He said that "somebody" must be trying to gain political mileage by setting a scene of confrontation between the squatters and the VTC.

The squatters have threatened to muster support from residents in the neighbouring townships of Bophelong, Boipatong, Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Evaton to resist the removals.

A Bophelong resident was this week allegedly threatened with dismissal by the Vanderbijlpark municipality after being accused of spitting at a white official during an argument over the evictions.

R1-m to upgrade squatter camp

Star 26/11/94

■ BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

The Johannesburg City Council is to spend more than R1 million on upgrading a squatter camp that has sprung up next to the Denver Hostel, south of the CBD.

Last night's council meeting agreed that certain roads between the informal settlement and neighbouring industrial properties be sealed off for security reasons; that stormwater canals running through the settlement which were also being used as toilet facilities be upgraded; and that land be made available for redevelopment and upgrading.

The council is to discuss with the community the delivery of water, sanitation and other health-related services.

In August, relatives of hostel dwellers invaded the council land adjacent to the hostel. There are now more than 300 shacks, housing between 1 500 and 2 000 people. (310)

The council agreed to seal off some of the access roads into the settlement to protect adjacent businesses which have indicated that they might move out of the area because of the security threat.

The council is also investigating the possible construction of a wall between the settlement and the industrial area.

returns to death in the family

Squatters' fight to live

Sowetan 28/1/94

■ ENDURING HARDSHIPS It has not been easy settling at Swanieville:

By Joshua Raboroko

MOST OF THE 104 squatters who were forcefully resettled at the Swanieville camp have erected new structures, while some have returned to Nooitgedacht to be near their workplaces.

Their shacks were demolished and their goods loaded on trucks by farmers who later resettled them in Swanieville on the West Rand three weeks ago.

The squatters experienced difficulties in obtaining land to erect new homes until the local authorities decided to allocate space for them on the outskirts of Swanieville (310) (~~2000~~)

One of the squatters, Mr Chris Mandlakazi, said yesterday that the TPA had provided land for them but they still endured hardships because they had lost their materials when they were forcefully removed.

Mandlakazi, who is unemployed, said the residents in the area were unhappy with the conditions at the camp because it seemed they had brought problems to political parties.

He lost his job because he could not afford to travel between Swanieville and Randburg daily.

"The taxi fare between the areas is R23 a day," he said. "I have three children and with the rising cost of living I cannot afford to spend the little I earn travelling to work," he said.

Mr Killer Mkwanazi, who also lost his job, said it was difficult to find accommodation.

Most of the women and children were staying at the Azaadville Community Hall while men were looking for a piece of land to settle on.

Squatters interviewed by *Sowetan* yesterday explained their frustrations, which started the day white farmers bulldozed their homes and resettled them in the area.

They said that some had gone back to Nooitgedacht to be near their workplaces.

A spokesman for the TPA said that some accommodation had been found for the residents.

Meanwhile Premier Foods has made a temporary site available for squatters removed from Nooitgedacht. The Randburg Council has agreed to join the company in providing services for the settlement in Riverbend Extension 8 near Bloubosrand.

Randburg faces rates boycott by residents

Showdown on squatter camp

Star 5/2/94

310

Landowners in Randburg have taken the fight to the city council over the settlement of squatters in the area, writes LOUISE MARSLAND.

RANDBURG ratepayers have begun a rates boycott to force the town council to negotiate over the squatter problem.

At a fiery meeting on Tuesday, Ward 13 residents — including the areas of Bloubosrand, Jukskei Park, Sharonlea, Olivedale and Northriding — decided to institute a rates boycott if the Randburg Town Council moved the Nooitgedacht squatters on to land owned by Premier Milling, a kilometre from Bloubosrand.

Most of the 400 residents who registered at the meeting voted in a community council in place of their ratepayer's association and decided to call for the removal of their town councillor.

Immediately

Some residents announced that they would begin withholding their rates payments to the town council immediately, although Ward 13 Community Council spokesman Arnold Meyer said an official date to begin a rates boycott would be announced the day the Randburg council began moving squatters on to their doorsteps. A trust account would then be set up into which rates would be paid.

The Randburg Town Council offered to find a home for the 200 homeless families after white landowners kicked them off their land in Nooitgedacht and sent them to Swanieville, near Krugersdorp.

A ballot was held at the resident's meeting and 395 people voted to support the Randburg Action Committee; and form a community council to look after their interests.

Meyer said the community council would look after everything from broken streetlights to potholes, but its priority was to resolve the squatter issue.

Yesterday, after being locked in discussions with the town council, Premier said in a statement that it would act as a facilitator between all the parties.

Two years ago, after the debacle over the settlement of the Zevenfontein squatters on Randburg's then boundary with the suburb of Bloubosrand, the Bloubosrand Action Committee signed an agreement with the Randburg council to bar the settlement of squatters near the suburb.

'Not racist'

Residents are holding the council to that agreement. "We will not be ignored. We would rather negotiate to resolve the issue, but we will resist any attempts to settle the squatters on that land," Meyer said.

He rejected any suggestion that their motives were racist or exclusive. "Bloubosrand is a multiracial community. We really want to help, but we want to be consulted. This is not racist, just socio-economic common sense. We need a final solution, not a temporary solution.

"That site is not suitable for the 200 families that want to settle there. There is no infrastructure for the 1 000 or so people who would be moved."

Meyer said the community council was drawing up alternative strategies to handle the issue, which it would present to the Randburg Town Council. He said their strength lay in the fact that they were not affiliated to any political parties.

NEWS

Violence feared in squatter removal

Star 18/2/94

310

■ BY BUNTY WEST

The planned evictions of more than 200 families living on plots north of Randburg could end in a bloodbath, says Norma Sharpoes, the ANC's head of local government, north-west region.

Today landowners, with the help of what is believed to be a strong right-wing element, are due to attempt to move squatters out of their properties.

Aletta Hart's property, plot 123 Rietfontein, houses 120 families and an absentee landowner, known only as Bosman, has 91 families on plot 69 Nooitgedacht.

At a Randburg Town Council meeting last night, management committee chairman Gary Cooney asked council to approve urgently the possibility of making a transit camp at plot 77 Lyndley, Lanseria, with whose landowner the council is negotiating.

He has asked the TPA to help financially but the TPA has laid down two major conditions:

- Public participation of adjoining property owners.
- To make it a permanent site, not a transit camp.

Graham Dewar, Randburg's ANC representative, said: "We are doing everything possible to keep the situation cool but the families intend to retaliate if force is used to move them."

Council pulls down shacks

Sowetan 7/13/94

By Bongani Mavuso

SECURITY officials from the Johannesburg City Council demolished 10 shacks and a man was shot and wounded during a raid on a squatter camp near Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto yesterday morning.

Camp residents said the officials arrived in the area at about 10.30am.

"Without saying a word, the officials demolished our shacks. They did not give us a chance to remove our belongings," one of the residents, Mrs Beauty Mokgatle, said.

"Now we have nowhere to go. These officials live comfortably in town and they are making our lives miserable. All we want is to be left to live in peace."

Mokgatle said a man, known only as Vusi, was shot by the officials when he tried to retrieve his belongings from his shack.

"Vusi was not fighting them. He was only trying to take his belongings out of the shack which was being demolished by the officials. They shot him in the back and leg for no reason," she said.

(310)

Police spokesman Lieutenant Gerrie van Rooyen denied yesterday that a man was shot. He said residents became "violent" when their shacks were demolished. Police used rubber bullets and teargas after residents attacked them with stones, he said.

"The man whom residents claim was shot apparently fell off the roof of his shack. He sustained injuries to his arm and was arrested for public violence and resisting arrest," Van Rooyen said.

There are 5 000 homeless people living in the streets of Johannesburg. Metro Editor Jo-Anne Collinge, who spent time in the city's 'invisible' community, reports on precarious existence of these people

Star 17/3/94

Face of Jo'burg that suburbia fears

(310)

Nothing changes . . . Alfred Msimango and his wife, Juliet Mazibuko, have moved with little Elsie from invisible rural poverty to visible urban squalor.

PICTURES JACOOB RYKLIFF

Concertgoers pour from the City Hall, the melodies of Dvorak's Czech Suite reflected in their softened, happy faces. Down the subway to the underground garage, into their cars and up the ramp.

They are about to confront a face of Johannesburg which suburban people most fear: the homeless, hungry poor.

Many do not realise that the encounter is upon them — these soldiers in the army of the homeless look more like a discarded parcel at the entrance to the garage. Huddled under their green wrapping, they lie low as car after car roars up the ramp and away.

There are 5 000 men, women and children living on the streets of Johannesburg. That's the official count, done by the city council.

Most of them live in fear. A fear that seldom relents. A fear far more pervasive than the moments of panic which they stir in the breasts of the Johannesburg's established residents.

Communities of the homeless exist all over the city. In vacant lots, on out-of-the-way pavements and in every nook and cranny around Park Station. There are communities which convene only after nightfall and are gone by dawn.

Somewhere, people sit companionably around a fire, boiling water in an old tin can and rustling through their plastic bags for tea and powdered milk. They are tranquillised from staring into the flames.

Fear of being misguidedly mugged for possessions they do not have invades the sleep of the homeless as they "bed" down on their bits of cardboard or carpet off-cuts. Often malnourished and lying virtually bone-to-concrete, even their sleep is poor quality.

Before dawn communities begin to break up. After municipal sweepers have passed their brooms along the pavement, there may be no more than a smear of ash to tell that the spot is someone's "kitchen".

People bundle their few belongings together, make sure the package is waterproof and find a place to hide it during daylight. Then they head for public toilets, to wash and brush their teeth.

Outside the central shopping area, street shelters become more substantial. Near a police barracks, improvised plastic tents stand side-by-side with parked armoured vehicles.

Like the Park Station camp — which is home to about 1 600 people — this settlement will not disappear with the dawn. And its residents will guard against casual destruction of their homes by municipal street cleaners.

If, in the shadows of night the homeless seem alike, in sunlight the differences become clear. There are the jobless, the casual workers and those earning a daily living; there are those addicted to alcohol and those who have survived the streets without enslaving themselves to drink; those who have saved a sense of selfhood and those who have descended into realms of the lost.

Delve into this human mix and you will unearth the unmistakable quality of leadership, says Tudor Maxwell of the Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP). Community leaders are, in fact, the cement in a programme which aims to help the city's homeless harness the considerable resources available to institutions which back the CJP.

As a tripartite organisation embracing the business sector, the city council and the residential community of the CBD, the CJP is uniquely placed to tackle the composite homeless/jobless problem which manifests as tent towns and campfires on the pavements of the city.

It has plans for the medium term to develop an employment network and to work towards establishing unique options for shelter, accessible to street communities.

CJP executive director Neil Fraser believes that parties to the CJP have an equal obligation and an equal interest in eradicating homelessness in the centre city.

And if anyone questions Fraser, they are likely to have former World Bank chief Robert McNamara quoted to them: "If cities don't start dealing more constructively with the poverty, poverty will start dealing more destructively with cities."

Anxiety always hovering

Mary Jane Ndlovu (right) lives with her seven-month-old daughter Susan in a corner in the "backyard" of Park Station.

Her parents died within weeks of each other, her mother shortly before Christmas last year and her father on the second day of the new year. "They were living in Twist Street, near the soldiers. Now they are dead because they used to drink spirits."

Ndlovu managed to spare her parents — and herself — the desolation of their dying on the streets where they had lived since leaving Kimberley five years ago. Each was admitted to Hillbrow Hospital shortly before the end.

With her steady gaze and unlined skin, there is no physical trace of the anxiety which is Ndlovu's constant companion.

She knows that a job would free her from the terrors of hunger, of physical attack, of arbitrary arrest, of losing her few belongings and of failing her little girl. But, to this 25-year-old single mother, her baby is also a barrier to obtaining work.

"If I get a job, I'll take the baby to the welfare," she says flatly, not quite sure where such a move would lead.

There is a low, strained note when Ndlovu speaks of her wish to escape this uncertain existence, where up-ended trolleys serve as barricades in the dangerous hours after dark.

But if escape means taking Susan to the welfare, will Ndlovu still make the break?

Randburg simmers over purchase of land

A headache over the homeless

Star 19/3/94

THE ANC warns of a bloodbath if a solution to the question of providing low-cost housing for homeless workers in and around Randburg is not found soon. GUY JEPSON reports

310

TENSION is mounting in Randburg's recently incorporated "greenbelt" where landowners are digging in over plans to provide low-cost housing for the growing number of homeless workers in the area.

Amid warnings of imminent evictions in parts of the 71 sq km area, a proposal to buy land in Lanseria for a "transit camp" for threatened families will come before the Randburg Town Council for the fourth time at the end of the month.

At issue will be the cost of the 23 ha property — R2 million. In terms of the proposal, which is supported by the council's three ANC and three DP members, the transit camp it to be sited on a section (8,5 ha) of the property earmarked, but not yet zoned, for industrial purposes.

For the independent and NP councillors who blocked the proposal by walking out of a special council meeting at the beginning of the month, the price is excessive for Lanseria.

However, to the ANC it is a small price to pay for Randburg — a town which has never provided low-cost housing for its workers — to avoid a repeat of the tragedy of nearby Nooitgedacht, scene of an ugly forced removal in January.

For many landowners in the incorporated area — which comprises 5 000 ha of the Jukskei Crocodile Catchment Area (JCCA) and the Chartwell Local Area Committee — the price is irrelevant: at issue is the transit camp and the precedent it would create.

Ironically, because of the emergence of Strydom Park, Kya Sand and Honeydew as industrial areas without low-cost housing being built nearby, hundreds of families are renting shacks or "squatting" — often in appalling conditions — on under-utilised land in the incorporated area.

'For many landowners the price is irrelevant . . . at issue is the transit camp and the precedent it would create.'

In recent months the Randburg council has obtained court orders against one owner in Riverbend (next to Kya Sand) and two in Zandspruit (not part of the newly incorporated area) where about 700 families have been living in harrowing conditions.

The Riverbend owner (a food company) has since, in consultation with local residents, the workers and the council, offered to help develop proper low-cost housing on the property. However, in the Nooitgedacht/Nietgedacht smallholding near Lanseria, a different approach appears to be in operation.

According to Randburg's deputy management committee chairman Cyril Ford (independent), some owners have resorted to evicting blacks "for fear of the prospect that a future ANC government will deny them the right to do so, the squatters thus becoming virtual 'co-owners' ".

Ford, who supports the concept of low-cost housing being established in Lanseria, Riverbend and Zandspruit or in other areas near workers' places of employment, said he had led the opposition to the proposal to buy the Lanseria property because of a "serious distortion" over the price.

He said an 8,4 ha property directly adjacent to the one in question which could "amply meet all the requirements" of a low-cost housing scheme was available for R84 000. However, at the special council meeting, "the ANC-DP alliance refused to consider cheaper land and insisted that the R2 million land be purchased".

A council investigation had also shown that a further R2 million would be required for services and that the camp would cost R566 000 a year to administer.

Ford added that another factor which led him to oppose the motion was that legal steps had already been initiated on behalf of certain landowners challenging the proclamation which extended Randburg's north-western boundary last year. If successful, the court challenge would freeze any development.

Management committee chairman Gary Cooney (ANC) stressed that the property in question was identified by the ANC and not by the council which had earlier rejected an adjoining, more expensive property.

"They (the ANC) said 1 000 families in Lanseria and surrounding areas are under immediate threat. All we were asking for was a temporary set-up initially," he said, adding that a long-term solution to Randburg's housing crisis would be proposed in an "overall plan" — expected to be completed within four months — which consultants had been commissioned to draw up.

Cooney said the Lanseria property was "available" and was "one of the few properties in the area which has enough water". It had also been valuated and declared a good medium-term investment.

In addition, about 40 families were already being accommodated in 22 prefabricated huts and a hostel on the property and were being supplied with water, electricity and ablution facilities. He conceded that the arrangement, which had the blessing of the ANC and was worth R11 000 a month to the owner (who could not be reached for comment) was technically not legal but that it was important for the council not to worsen the "existing crisis".

Local ANC spokesman Norma Sharples criticised Ford and the other dissenting councillors for their opposition to the land purchase, saying they failed to appreciate the urgency of the eviction threat.

"I don't think the DP and the ANC (members of council) can do any more — whatever we come up with, they won't accept," said Sharples.

'The poeple are militant — they are tired of being puched around. They won't accept another Nooitgedacht.'

"I don't know about the urban area, but if we don't find a solution in the newly incorporated area within the next couple of weeks, we're going to have a bloodbath on our hands. The people are militant — they are tired of being pushed around. They won't accept another Nooitgedacht."

Pointing to the January removal which was carried out with the aid of khaki-clad rightwingers, Sharples said there was a real danger of similar intervention by right-wing elements in the incorporated area.

However, JCCA Landowners and Residents Association chairman Wessel Swart denied that rightwingers were being mobilised in the area or that large scale evictions were in the pipeline.

"I would guess that there are probably only four properties in the JCCA area where people face evictions. The threat is from people who got caught in the act — mainly absentee landlords. It is not our intention to have instability."

Conceding that industrial development was impacting on the relatively homogeneous farming and smallholding area represented by the association, Swart said it accepted people's right to freehold title "but we don't accept the idea of people just staying in the veld without boreholes and septic tanks".

Swart said the association — which believed the incorporation of the JCCA into Randburg was unlawful and had been motivated in part by a desire to use the area as a dumping ground for the homeless — had a viable alternative solution to low-cost housing projects in the incorporated area.

"This is to have what we call diffusion. Whatever an area can take in terms of its geological constraints, we can take care of people," said Swart, adding that the JCCA members "looked after" their employees.

In terms of the "diffusion principle" a "decent figure" was the building of one house per hectare of land, he said.

THE STAR / MONDAY MARCH 21 1994

Rescue from eviction

■ BY GIEN ELSAS
WEST RAND BUREAU

About 100 families living in a squatter camp on a plot in D F Malan Drive, Rietfontein, were saved from forcible eviction after the intervention of a local ANC representative yesterday.

The squatters, however, still face removal if they have not vacated the plot by Wednesday.

Norma Sharples, ANC branch secretary of the area, said she arrived at the plot just at 6 am yesterday, after being stopped at a roadblock manned by landowners armed with two-way radios.

On the property she found about 30 white men who were preparing to demolish shacks for removal to Randburg. There were about four policemen present.

Sharples said she asked to see the eviction court order and, when told there was none, demanded that the police arrest the rightwingers as they were acting against the law.

After negotiations, the landowners and rightwingers agreed to retreat until Wednesday. They warned that the people squatting illegally on the property should be gone by then.

Peace monitors will stay in the area to keep an eye on the situation.

Sharples said about 100 families were living on the land. They had been living there for about three years after a tenant of the property had sublet the land for squatters.

An SAP spokesman said police were aware of the situation and would keep an eye on the area.

Residents lose appeal against expropriation

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The Diepsloot Residents and Landowners' Association and Diepsloot resident Mr Stuart Aitchison yesterday lost their appeal against the dismissal of their application to prevent expropriation of land to resettle the Zevenfontein squatters.

(30) CT 25/3/94

The application, brought against the Administrator of the Transvaal, was dismissed by Mr Justice S W McCreath in the Transvaal Supreme Court in December 1992.

Mr Justice Smalberger, in the Bloemfontein Appeal Court, found that the appeal could not succeed on any of the grounds advanced by the appellants. He dismissed it with costs.

He found no challenge was, or could be, directed against the expropriation of the Diepsloot site by the Administrator. The expropriation "per se" could not have infringed any rights of the Diepsloot residents, he said. — Sapa

ettlements ● Scheme to get untainted blood

Squatters win in fight for Diepsloot

Sowetan 25/3/94

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■ DISMISSED Move to stop expropriation of land for squatters:

THE Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association and Diepsloot resident Mr Stuart Aitchison have lost their appeal against the dismissal of their application to prevent expropriation of land to resettle the Zevenfontein squatters.

The application, brought against the Administrator of the Transvaal, was dismissed by Mr Justice SW McCreath in the Pretoria Supreme Court on December 31 1992.

In the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein yesterday, Mr Justice Smalberger found the appeal could not succeed on any of the grounds advanced by the appellants. The appeal was accordingly dismissed with costs, such costs to include those of two counsel.

Mr Justice Botha, Mr Justice FH Grosskopf and Acting Judges of Appeal Mr Justice Nicholas and Mr Justice Olivier concurred.

Justice Smalberger found no challenge was, or could be, directed against the expropriation of the Diepsloot site by the administrator. The expropriation "*per se*" could not have infringed any rights of the Diepsloot residents.

At the next stage in the procedure, it was common cause that the administrator was satisfied (and was entitled to be satisfied) that the Zevenfontein squatters were in urgent need of land on which to settle informally. It was therefore incumbent on him to designate the Diepsloot site (being the land made available by him under Section 2(1) of Less Formal Township Establishment Act of 1991) for informal settlement.

The designation was therefore carried out in the prescribed manner and as contemplated by the legislature.

The judge said that, compelling as this approach might be, it was — in his view — somewhat legalistic. It tended to lose sight of the realities of the situation the act was designed to cater for and remedy. Expropriation, designation and settlement were all part and parcel of the attempted resolution of the squatter problem brought about by increased urbanisation. —*Sapa*.

Zevenfontein squatter resettlement to go ahead

B1Dey 2513 194

GAVIN DU VENAGE

DIEPSLOOT residents have lost their court battle to prevent the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatter community into their area and work to prepare the land will begin immediately.

The Appeal Court in Bloemfontein dismissed with costs an appeal by residents against an earlier court decision which had turned down their application to prevent the the Transvaal administrator from carrying out the resettlement.

Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) director-general Len Dekker said preparations for the resettlement would begin immediately. Terrain inspections had been completed and tenders to prepare the site had been approved (211)

Dekker said the court decision underlined the TPA's "fair and equitable" approach to a sensitive issue. (210)

He said a balance had been struck between the need to provide land for a homeless community and the protection of property owners' rights.

More than 500 families will be moved from next to the R1bn Dainfern golf estate to a site at Diepsloot near Fourways. Residents claimed the move would lead to increased crime and destroy property values. The site was identified in 1991 but a number of court actions held up efforts to begin the relocation. A Randburg council decision to establish a temporary settlement in the area has also met resistance.

Squatter camp rises in shadow of ANC offices

Star 21/5/94

RODNEY VICTOR

THE Johannesburg City Council is to take immediate action over the city's newest squatter camp — located in Jack Mincer Square on the edge of the central business district.

The council learnt of the camp's existence only on Thursday, according to the city's head of security Hugo Germishuys. Coincidentally it was on Thursday that WeekendStar phoned the council to find out what its policy was regarding the camp.

Bus passengers who pass the park every day, getting a bird's-eye view from the upper deck, say the first structures started appearing more than a month ago.

There are now about 60 people living in shack dwellings, and others sleeping in the open in the park.

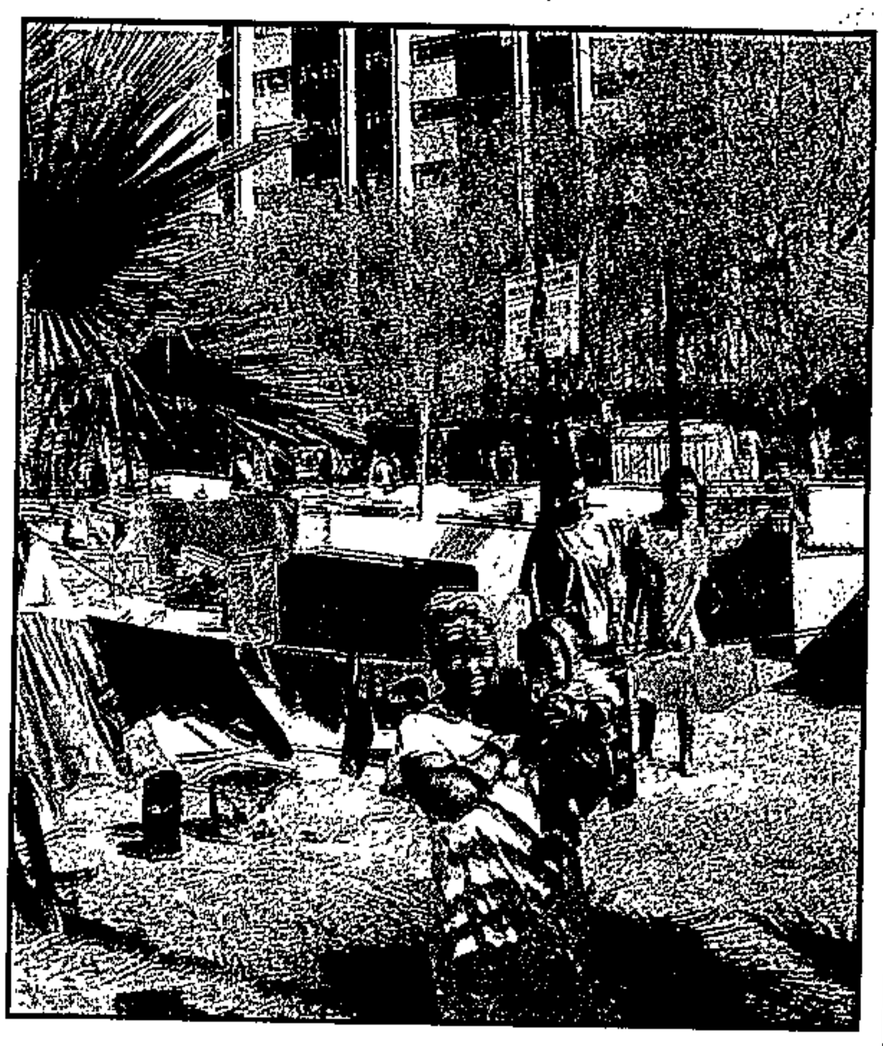
An ANC source, who did not want to be identified, said it appeared the council had been turning a blind eye to the camp to embarrass the ANC — because the park lies in the shadow of the ANC's Shell House headquarters.

"No one can be happy that there's a squatter camp right in the centre of the city," he said. (310)

Other ANC sources said they had often watched from their Shell House windows as policemen and council officials allegedly harassed the squatters.

The council intends trying to accommodate the squatters in a transit camp belonging to the old Transvaal Provincial Administration, Germishuys said.

It was not the council's policy to merely send in bulldozers to demolish the shacks, he added.



TWO WORLDS COLLIDE: Behind the modern skyscraper, in front the simple washing lines of the squatter camp.

Black Sash says council lacks proper policy regarding squatters

Shack demolition slammed

Star 25/5/94

HOMELESS people left in the open after armed officials demolish illegal shacks in Jack Mincer Square

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Late-night demolition of squatter shacks in Jack Mincer Square this week has been strongly condemned by the Black Sash, which accused the Johannesburg City Council of lacking a proper policy to deal with the problem.

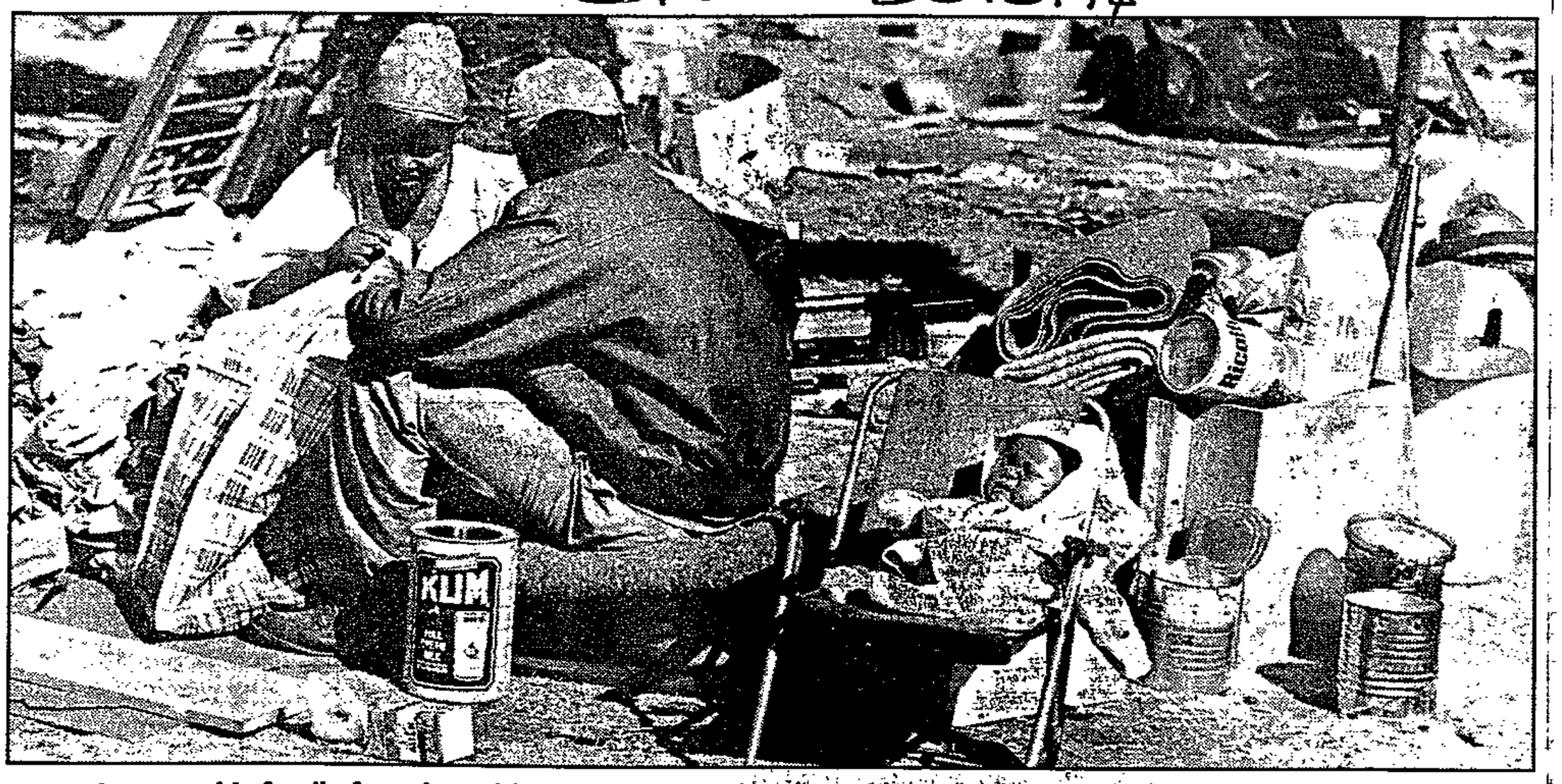
Scores of squatters were forced to sleep in the open on the coldest night of the year after the council flattened illegal shacks in the city's central business district on Monday.

Yesterday groups of squatters were guarding their belongings on the square. None knew where to turn. All were fearful of future council action.

John Mokoena said armed officials arrived without warning at about 11 pm. "They told us to wake up, get out and remove our belongings. Then they ripped down the plastic, wood and steel and threw it on to trucks.

"They told us to ask Mandela for houses. Then we were left to sleep in the park or go to Park Station," he said.

Freddie Thame said: "They came with guns and gave us 10 minutes to remove our things. They said the new Governmemnt told them to smash our shacks."



Homeless . . . this family face the cold without shelter after their shack was demolished. PICTURE: JACOOB RYKLIFF

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Acting town clerk Dr Emile Horak said the move was in line with the Illegal Squatting Act, after an influx was noted on May 19 and ahead of reports that a large-scale land invasion was planned on the site.

Despite earlier claims by head of security Hugo Germishuys that attempts would be made to accommodate the squatters in a transit camp since it was not council policy to merely send in the bulldozers, Horak said the provincial authorities had been unable to provide facilities for a temporary site.

The Black Sash found the evictions unacceptable and asked why the council had not involved the Red Cross.

Council wants transit camp for squatters

Star 26/5/94

■ BY CYRIL MADLALA

Negotiations are continuing between the Johannesburg City Council and the South African Housing Trust to secure a transit camp suitable for the relocation of squatters on land earmarked for low-cost housing in Eldorado Park.

The council agreed on Tuesday that if these negotiations failed, 5 ha of the Farm Misgund in the proposed development area would be expropriated and declared a transit camp.

Three weeks ago, the council applied for an order in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court to evict the squatters.

The order is being held in abeyance by the magistrate pending the establishment by the council of a transit camp.

The management committee has approved the SA Housing Trust site as suitable for the camp, but the acquisition is still being negotiated.

About 30 families have settled on land earmarked for low-cost housing by the Golden Highway Development Corporation, which will provide serviced sites for people earning between R1 000 and R3 500 per month. B10

Most of them are now living in informal settlements, some on dangerous dolomitic land.

The squatters refused to move despite warnings and other offers of land.

A report tabled before the council indicated that Eldorado Park residents were looking to it to prevent an escalation of the land invasion, which they considered a threat to their security.

"A recent potentially explosive situation was temporarily defused by persuading recent arrivals at the squatter camp to move from the land bordering on Eldorado Park," the report said.

The Thembalihle community, camped near Lenasia on dolomite, is also dissatisfied with the impasse after being promised sites within the proposed development area.

New deal planned for Randburg squatters

Star 4/6/94

LOUISE MARSLAND

DETAILS are expected to be announced next week by the PWV parliament of two transit camps for squatters in the Randburg area.

Two temporary sites, one close to the town's central business district and the other in the new areas, have been identified by the Randburg Town Council, landowners, ratepayers and civic organ isations.

All stakeholders have had to take an oath of secrecy to prevent property speculation before the announcement is made.

In a deal clinched after the intervention of the Transitional Executive Council in March, it was agreed that there should be a period of grace on evictions in the Randburg area as well as the urgent identification of a temporary and a permanent home for the about 4 000 squatters living in informal settlements in the area. (310)

The TEC identified Randburg as a "crisis area" after threats by rightwingers to lead a "not-in-my-backyard campaign" and forcibly evict squatters from farms in the town.

Randburg management committee chairman Gary Cooney said the sooner the announcement was made, the better, as his council had been inundated with calls from residents and businessmen in the area.

PWV squatters and owners at loggerheads over 'invasion'

Land occupation row

Star 7/6/94

ROW erupts after Sexwale accuses council chairman of trying to undermine his support base

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE and ALBERT MORI

The PWV government is under pressure from all sides to defuse conflicts over land that have flared furiously in areas south of Johannesburg.

Last night a row erupted between PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Johannesburg City Council chairman Ian Davidson over the issue.

The council, urged on by property owners, had asked for an urgent meeting with Sexwale to discuss the surge of illegal land occupations. The meeting had been planned for today, but was called off by Sexwale when he took exception to a statement made by Davidson "falsely implying the premier's support for the city council's action against homeless communities", said Ronnie Mamoepa, a spokesman for the premier.

A surprised Davidson, who had just been informed of the development, told Sapa he was unaware of the reasons for the cancellation, nor had he intended to embarrass or undermine Sexwale.

He said his statement merely reflected "the import of the discussion in which I indicated to Mr Sexwale the gravity of the problem facing low-cost housing if the forced occupation of land should continue.

"Mr Sexwale gave me a sympathetic hearing when I contacted him this (Monday) morning to seek a meeting to discuss curbing widespread land invasion on an organised basis. He fully appreciates that this constitutes a growing threat to housing development, particularly for lower-income groups."

Davidson said it was clear that housing development sites were being targeted.

But Mamoepa accused Davidson of going behind Sexwale's back "to undermine local negotiations and demolish shacks ... leaving hundreds of people homeless on South Africa's coldest night".

According to Mamoepa, "the premier views the city council's actions against the homeless as arrogant, high-handed and racist".

He added that Sexwale had directed the Provincial Minister of Local Government and Housing, Dan Mofokeng, to visit the affected areas urgently to advise Sexwale on a course of action (310).

The homeless who have illegally seized land have appealed to the ANC-led Government to act in their interests.

But the provincial government has no executive powers, as yet, and can do little more than mediate.

The latest battle concerns city council land in the ill-named southern suburb of Liefde en Vrede, which was invaded by hundreds of homeless Sowetans on Friday evening.

But within 24 hours their shelters had been demolished and material confiscated by the council.

All entrances to the development are under guard and the homeless say they are desperate for drinking water.

Yesterday the council demolition squad was back in action — this time at Deviaan Hof, Eldorado Park, where officials reported a mushrooming of new shacks in the past few days.

A total of 69 shacks were pulled down yesterday — leaving about 350 homeless.

Huddling among their household possessions on the winter veld yesterday morning, the Liefde en Vrede land invaders told The Star they were determined not to quit this fully serviced suburb which has stood vacant for many months, since the collapse of a plan to found a Taiwanese village there.

The homeless people were bitter about the council's iron-fist response. "They acted the same way as the old government. They have acted against us with hatred," one said.

Families said it was difficult for those who had left Liefde en Vrede to get back in as taxis taking people to work were being ticketed, traffic officers had towed away vehicles of the homeless and street lights had been switched off.

A council spokesman was unable to comment.

Little love and peace in Liefde en Vrede ... one of the many homeless people left out on the veld. PICTURE: PETER MOGAKI

Sexwale clashes with council as squatters grab PWV land

(310) ARG 7/6/94

☐ Talks planned today called off

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The PWV government is under pressure from all sides to defuse conflicts over land that have flared in areas south of Johannesburg.

Last night PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Johannesburg City Council chairman Ian Davidson crossed swords over the issue.

The council, at the request of property owners, had asked for an urgent meeting with Mr Sexwale to discuss the surge of illegal land occupations.

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But Mr Mamoepa accused Mr Davidson of going behind Mr Sexwale's back "to undermine local negotiations and demolish shacks ... leaving hundreds of people homeless on South Africa's coldest night".

Mr Mamoepa said that "the premier views the city council's actions against the homeless as arrogant, high-handed and racist".

He added that Mr Sexwale had directed the provincial Minister of Local Government and Housing, Dan Mofokeng, to visit the affected areas urgently to advise Mr Sexwale on a course of action.

The homeless who have illegally seized land have appealed to the ANC-led government to act in their interests. But the provincial government has no executive powers, as yet, and can do little more than mediate.

The latest battle is about city council land in the southern suburb of Liefde en Vrede, which was invaded by hundreds of homeless Sowetans on Friday night.

But within 24 hours their shelters had been demolished and the materials confiscated by the council.

All entrances to the development are under guard and the homeless say they are desperate for drinking water.

Yesterday the council demolition squad was back in action — this time at Devland near Eldorado Park, where officials reported a mushrooming of new shacks in the past few days.

Sixty-nine shacks were pulled down yesterday — leaving about 350 people without shelter.

Huddling among their household possessions on the winter veld yesterday morning, the Liefde en Vrede land invaders said they were determined not to quit this fully serviced suburb, which had stood vacant for months, since the collapse of a plan to found a Taiwanese village.

The council's management committee held an urgent meeting and, according to Mr Davidson, "mandated the town clerk to use all the resources at his disposal to prevent further land invasions on land within the council's jurisdiction".

The homeless were bitter about the council's response. One woman said: "They acted the same way as the old government. They have acted against us with hatred. They have taken our property, they have destroyed our tents and our fires."

Families said it was difficult for those who had left Liefde en Vrede to get back in as taxis taking people to work were being ticketed, traffic officers had towed away vehicles belonging to the homeless, street lights had been switched off and firewood was being confiscated.

A council spokesman was unable to comment on these allegations.

Reuter reports that Mr Mofokeng will visit areas south of Johannesburg today in an effort to resolve the conflict between property owners and squatters who have occupied land since Friday.

850 homeless get temporary shelter as Slovo condemns squatting

Bitter land row defused

Star 8/16/94

PROVINCIAL ministers have been asked to urgently identify urban land for housing

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE, MICHAEL SPARKS AND SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Johannesburg's bitter squatter dispute at Liefde en Vrede was defused last night when municipal buses took 850 men, women and children to Transport House in central Johannesburg, where they spent the night sleeping on the concrete floors of disused offices.

The squatters boarded the council buses at midnight en route to Newtown where they were settled in by 3.30 am.

Later this morning they wandered around the building, fearful of what would happen to them today.

Most only had plastic bags full of possessions. Many are unemployed, but all said they merely wanted a roof over their heads and a decent job.

The move to the empty building followed negotiations between council and provincial authorities last night.

National Housing Minister Joe Slovo condemned illegal land occupation yesterday. Land invasion, he said, did not contribute to alleviating the immense housing shortage and often created additional problems for the authorities "who are seriously trying to supply housing to the homeless".

In a statement, the minister assured property owners: "This democratic government is committed to respect constitutional rights in land against any unlawful infringement and unlawful occupation. Squatting cannot be condoned."

As Slovo's statement was made public, agreement was reached on a strategy to defuse the conflict which flared five days ago when hundreds of homeless Sowetans occupied land at Liefde en Vrede in the southern suburbs.

During a meeting at the squatter camp, community leader Willie Dlamini explained to the squatters that they had reached the agreement out of concern for the lives of the squatters.

Further negotiations are scheduled to include strategies to house other homeless people in Greater Johannesburg.

The deal was hammered out by PWV Minister for Housing and Local Government Dan Mofokeng, the Johannesburg Management Committee and representatives of the Liefde en Vrede group.

The retreat of the land invaders from Liefde en Vrede was agreed upon as opposition to their presence reached a fevered pitch among residents of the neighbouring suburb of Mulbarton.

Unconfirmed reports to the city council had it that some residents had secured bulldozers, with the apparent intention of flattening the five-day-old camp.

But the council itself took harsh action within 24 hours of the land occupation, demolishing shelters and confiscating materials.

Johannesburg officials also demolished 69 shacks at Devland near Eldorado Park on Monday.

Its actions drew sharp rebuke from PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale, from the ANC and from the PAC.

▶ To Page 3

Icy ablutions . . . with temperatures on the Reef dropping to below freezing point on Monday night, this man whose shack in Liefde en Vriede was torn down by the City Council, waited for the meagre midday warmth before washing yesterday. Nearby, mothers battled to bath and feed their babies in the biting wind.
PICTURE: TJ LEMON

P.T.O

Bitter land row defused

◀ From Page 1

Slovo also made clear that despite his rejection of illegal squatting, he would not go along with the council's measures.

"Where squatting does occur, it should be handled as positively as possible to resolve the country's housing crisis," he said.

Slove added that provincial ministers had been asked to co-operate with his department.

It was crucial to develop "an acceptable policy and strategy with regard to the invasion of land and to handle squatting in general in as humane a manner as possible".

In addition, provincial ministers had been asked to urgently start identifying urban land for temporary and permanent housing.

Mofokeng and Johannesburg's management chief, Ian Davidson, indicated that in the wake of talks they were committed to a moratorium on future land invasions and on demolitions of shacks on land already under illegal occupation.

Mofokeng said that structures would be set up as soon as possible.

These would involve political parties, civic associations, ratepayers' groups, religious bodies, local authorities and trade unions to make sure the agreed moratoria was observed.

▶ **Urban land invaders gather — Page 12**

NEWS Angry residents rail against shack dwellers ●

Squatter row in Mulbarton

Sowetan 8/6/94

By Joshua Raboroko

HUNDREDS of squatters were yesterday involved in a tense stand-off with residents of Mulbarton, Johannesburg, who demanded that they leave land they had been occupying since Friday night.

There was tension in the camp as squatters maintained that they had the right to occupy the land, while their counterparts said they paid rates and taxes for the land.

A vigilante group of white residents has threatened they will forcefully remove the squatters from the Mulbarton camp because they do not want them in their backyards.

They were scheduled to hold a meeting with their councillor, Mrs Linda Lewis, at the Mulbarton Civic Centre last night where they hoped to voice their grievances.

The Mulbarton residents claimed that robberies and theft had increased since the arrival of the squatters.

The squatters, including children, were found stranded without water and food after their shacks were destroyed by Johannesburg City Council officials.

A PWV government delegation, led by minister of housing Mr Dan Mofokeng, yesterday visited the strife-torn area.

Addressing the Press, Mofokeng urged the council to put a moratorium on demolishing shacks while his government negotiated the issue.

Mofokeng appealed to the authorities to provide water and promised to provide temporary shelter for them.

He deplored the action taken by the council and said it was reminiscent of the racist attitudes of whites during the apartheid era. (310)

"We are shocked to see our people, including children, sleeping in the open veld on one of South Africa's coldest nights," he said.

He said he was going to hold an urgent meeting with PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale, President Nelson Mandela and Johannesburg City Council chairman Mr Ian Davidson to discuss the squatter problem.

Most of the squatters said they were from Soweto where they stayed in backyard shacks. They said they feared exploitation from landlords who charged them between R100 to R200 monthly rent.

PWV, city clinch deal on squatters

B1Day 8/6/94

AN IMMEDIATE moratorium on land occupation was agreed to last night by PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng and Johannesburg City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson.

Earlier yesterday, Mofokeng criticised the council for demolishing squatter shacks at the Liefde en Vrede serviced site in Mulbarton, "leaving old women and babies without shelter on one of the coldest nights of the year".

The council, vowing to prevent "further land invasions", demolished about 800 shacks on Monday.

Mofokeng and Davidson said yesterday the people would be accommodated immediately at a suitable venue.

"This is a temporary solution pending the outcome of further negotiations between Johannesburg City Council, the PWV government and all communities involved with a view to finding a more permanent solution to housing homeless people in the Johannesburg area."

Mofokeng told the squatters yesterday that PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale had sent his delegation to listen to their grievances.

Committee member Boy Phiri said he was upset by the attitude of traffic officers and council security officials who were present when the shacks were torn down.

"They were rude, aggressive and insulting. Some made racist comments. When we tried to talk to them, they said their orders were to demolish, not to talk," he said.

Angry white residents demanded that the government delegation control the influx of squatters.

Federation of Ratepayers' Associations of Southern Johannesburg vice-chairman Ken Giese said: "Residents are worried about losing value on their properties.

"The site is adjacent to land people have paid a lot of money for and have built expensive houses on. It is not a good idea to have a low-cost housing settlement here."

When squatters voiced concern about possible white vigilante action, the government delegation said PWV Security and Safety MEC Jesse Duarte would instruct police to ensure their safety.

Housing Minister Joe Slovo said the increase in squatting would have a detrimental effect on the housing strategy and should be discouraged.

Provincial MECs should identify suitable land surrounding urban areas for temporary or permanent housing purposes, he said.

Government would respect constitutional land rights and guard against any unlawful infringement and occupation.

In some cases land invasion had been orchestrated by outsiders who did not have the best interests of the squatters at heart, he said.

WILSON ZWANE reports that the ANC said the council's action was arrogant and racist.

While it fully appreciated the crisis in housing and problems arising from land occupation, the demolition of shacks was a "poor reflection of the council's understanding of its role and responsibilities", it said.

It called for a thorough investigation of the decision-making process within the council.

The PAC accused the council of using "high-handed and inhumane" methods against squatters in "typically police state-mentality fashion". — Sapa-Reuter.

● Comment: Page 10

PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng holds a baby during a meeting with squatters yesterday in Mulbarton, south of Johannesburg, where the city council demolished squatter shacks on Monday. Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Station Strangler may still be at la

CAPE TOWN — The Station Strangler may still be at large, police conceded last night after new evidence in the bail hearing of suspect Norman Afzal Simons, who was arrested 57 days ago.

A detective investigating the murders of 21 young boys on the Cape Flats told the Kuils River Magistrate's Court the handwriting on a note found in the pocket of one of the victims — promising more killings —did not match Simons's handwriting, and blood and DNA tests did not link him to any of the killings.

Own Correspondent

He added police had only one who said Simons "looks like that Other identity parades had failed.

Simons was arrested in connecti the death of Elroy van Rooyen, 10, body was found on March 19 in san in Kleinvlei. No charges have beer him and he has not pleaded.

Police were investigating the po "that another person may be invo some of the killings".

taxi war flares again

Soweto 9/6/94

Squatters in a quandary

MOST of the Liefde en Vrede squatters bussed to Transport House in Johannesburg yesterday had mixed feelings about their new residence. (310)

Some, however, thought their new sanctuary was heaven on earth, despite having to sleep on cold concrete floors.

The squatters had their shacks destroyed by Johannesburg City Council officials last Saturday after they allegedly occupied land near Mulbarton, south of Johannesburg.

They were bused to Johannesburg after fears that a vigilante group would attack them after they expressed their determination not to move.

Mrs Nulusapo Masela said anything was better than sheltering under plastic bags in the open veld as temperatures plunged to below freezing.

Settling in ... A woman in Canaan squatter camp, on the edge of Sebokeng, dries fuel in the sun

PHOTO: THEMBA HADEBE

Taking claim of the promised land

WM 10-16/6/94 (310)

'We're here to stay,' say the people who moved on to empty land near Sebokeng. But the owners, and the civic association, see things differently. Mduduzi ka Harvey reports on the complex conflicts over land occupation

Canaan squatters queue for water Photo: THEMBA HADEBE

ON Monday April 11 in Sebokeng, while others hurry off to work, a group of backyard shack dwellers broods about the elections over a game of cards. Discussion turns to rack-renting landlords. A few hours later the group takes a decision — to move on to an empty tract of land in the area.

Word spreads like a bush fire, and over the next three days 300 homeless Sebokeng residents follow them. They set up shacks in the squatter camp known as "Kanana" (Canaan); every day 100 new families move in, until the camp is home to over 1 000 families.

"We've been in Egypt; we've suffered under the pharoah; we crossed the Red Sea and now we're in the promised land," says 73-year-old Betty Mphutheng, standing proudly in front of her delapidated *mkhukhu* (shack).

These are not rural people drawn to the city in a quest for jobs. They are backyard shack dwellers from the Vaal townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Evaton who are fed up with high rents, restrictions on the hours when they can fetch water from communal taps, the locking of communal toilets at certain times and limits on the number of visitors they can entertain.

The land they have occupied belongs partly to the Transvaal Provincial Administration and partly to a private company, RG and MG Property Holdings.

So far their gamble has paid off — no one has tried to evict them.

Pule Raboroko, president of the People's Independent Committee, which runs the settlement, explains: "We had no future, and when we saw the empty plot, we took it over. With the elections around the corner we vowed either to vote with a piece of land in our possession or to boycott the elections."

The land invasion hit instant opposition from the Vaal Civic Association, which argued that the land should be allocated only after the election, when the civic could find out what the government had planned for the area. The squatters were unmoved.

"We told them we will stand by our decision, even if graders come and destroy our homes. They should start by killing us before destroying our homes," says Raboroko.

Raboroko and others set up a Committee of Thirteen responsible for planning infrastructure, demarcating plots, laying makeshift streets, and apportioning land to newcomers. So far they have installed 42 taps for the residents.

"In the first day over 100 families came looking for land. People were coming in droves as the news spread. This forced us to open up an administration office. The influx came to a climax two days before the elections when we had to work around the clock to allocate our people."

Many feared eviction, but were reassured by the committee: "We haven't taken any land from the ANC, but from the boer government which did not consider our needs," says Raboroko.

People moving on to sites in Kanana have to pay R20 towards the installation of more taps and must provide identity documents. "The money is not a matter of must," said Raboroko. "We understand that many of our people don't work and can't afford to pay, so we give them a helping hand wherever we can."

Once the newcomers have produced building materials, they are given land free of charge for erecting a shelter. And to ensure that landowners from the surrounding townships do not take advantage of the free land offer, the committee has set up "investigation crews" to check people's credentials.

"We had the problem of not being able to screen everyone because of the numbers of people coming in every day," says Raboroko. "But as we settle down it's easy to identify the culprits, and we don't hesitate to evict them."

A visit to Kanana reveals a high level of organisation. Outside the administration office, long queues of people wait to inquire about land. On the other side of the office, committee members settle disputes between residents. Committee members also escort newcomers to their plots, while the treasurer collects money for taps and piping.

Trucks and vans move in and out of the camp, some loaded with the personal belongings of the new inhabitants — furniture, pots and garden tools. Others bring in building materials.

All around rings the sound of ham-

Crisis over the squatter 'invasion'

WM 10-16/6/94 (310)

The new PWV regional government faces an acute dilemma over the upsurge in the occupation of land by hundreds of thousands of homeless people, reports Mduduzi ka Harvey

SQUATTER settlements in the PWV region are mushrooming with the coming to power of new regional and national governments seen as sympathetic to the homeless. The crisis was linked to accelerated urban drift in South Africa, Housing Minister Joe Slovo said this week. He added that in some cases, land invasions were being orchestrated "by outsiders who do not have the best interests of (the squatters) at heart, but who are instigating such actions for their own personal and political gain".

Last week the PWV Housing and Local Government Ministry noted an "alarming upsurge" in land occupations. Affected areas included Vanderbijlpark, Randburg, Mulbarton south of Johannesburg and the Nancefield industrial area in Soweto.

Stressing that land invasions might lead to unnecessary tensions, fuel animosities and "create a climate conducive to 'Third Force' exploitation", the ministry insisted that such campaigns were aimed at the previous government.

A million people in the province are estimated to need decent housing. In recent years 200 000 people have invaded land, establishing informal settlements with a total of 30 000 structures in 15 areas in the PWV. These include Olifantsvlei, Bloubosrand, Hospital Hill in Lenasia, the coloured township of Ennerdale, Doornkop and Nooitgedacht.

These are in addition to what the Transvaal Provincial Authority calls "less formal towns" where serviced stands have been allocated to the homeless, such as Ivory Park, Orange Farm and Zonk'izizwe.

Years of migration to the PWV and the failure of past governments to establish new townships and build houses for Africans has driven many into makeshift shelters. Residents include rural job-seekers and "street people", former occupants of overcrowded shacks in township backyards and workers who live kilometres from their workplaces. They are adamant they will not be forced off the land unless the government gives them alternative housing.

The squatter upsurge poses an acute dilemma for the new regional government. As squatter communities are solidly behind the ANC, the ANC-dominated administration will find it difficult simply to crack down on land invasions. At the same time, it cannot appear to be cavalier about property rights. In Zevenfontein and Goedgevonden, informal settlements have brought a backlash from affluent whites. Middle-class coloured people and Indians have reacted in a similar way to squatter settlements in Eldorado Park and Lenasia.

Land invasions are also causing tensions between the National Party/Democratic Party-dominated Johannesburg City Council — which is taking a tough line on squatting — and the PWV government. The council's destruction of a settlement in Devland, near Eldorado Park, this week during a bitter cold snap sparked a heated response from regional premier Tokyo Sexwale.

Reacting, Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson stressed that land invasions posed a serious threat to low-cost housing development.

Recently Sexwale told the provincial legislature he planned to build 150 000 low-cost houses in the next 12 months — or 50 houses an hour, according to Davidson. Sexwale's announcement was met with deep scepticism by housing experts and business, who pointed out that years of recession had sapped the construction industry's capacity to deliver. Slovo has expressed concern about unrealistic regional government housing targets.

This week the Transvaal regional housing board revealed that the number of applications for government housing subsidies in the PWV and other parts of the Transvaal — translating into R2,5-billion — far outstripped its budget.

Sporadic land invasions started in the mid-1980s with the breakdown of influx control.

The United Democratic Front embarked on a programme to claim vacant land for the settlement of landless people, and informal settlements sprang up. In 1990 over 1 000 homeless people, led by the ANC and Wattville Concerned Residents' Crisis Committee, created Tamboville on land in the East Rand owned by the local authority. In the same year 200 Daveyton residents occupied land rumoured to have been allocated to a private developer.

A year later, the movement shifted to the Vaal, with Sharpeville residents occupying land earmarked for a new black township. The West Rand has also been affected: farms and mining land in the vicinity of Leratong Hospital close to Krugersdorp and Randfontein has seen repeated invasions and evictions since 1992.

TPA spokesman Sakkie van der Walt said land invasions are accelerating because of high expectations created during the election build-up. "Many people are moving from the backyards of other residents."

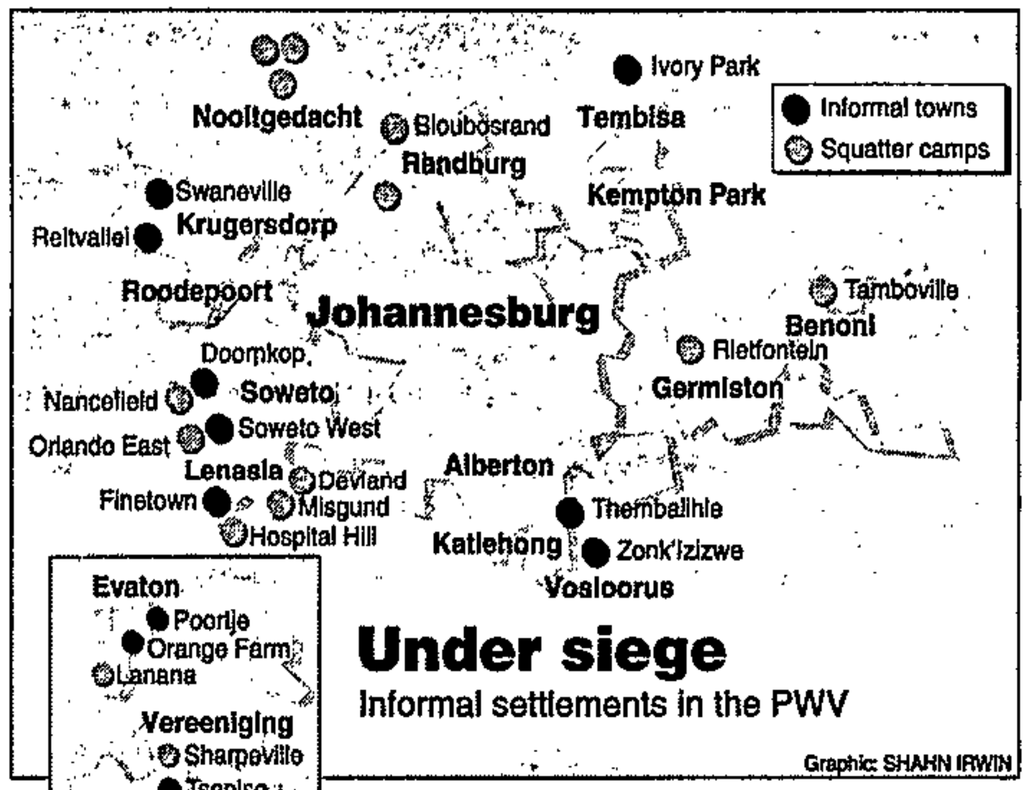
Land affairs spokesman for the PWV government, Sicelo Shiceka, ascribes the rise in land invasion to the abolition of the Group Areas Act: "In the 1990s there was an unprecedented flood of people from the rural areas. This was compounded by the severe drought and wars in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and Zaire."

Asked whether the government would arrest and evict land invaders, Shiceka was vague. But Slovo was more forthright. Stressing that the land being invaded had in many cases been set aside for communities involved in negotiations, he warned that the government "will not legalise any actions which will undermine the rights and expectations of such communities, and will not legitimise a process of queue-jumping".

Shiceka said his department would look into cases where land was acquired in "a suspicious manner". He made reference to "people or syndicates" who benefitted from the sale of state land by the House of Delegates and House of Representatives.

The regional housing board and an assets committee would establish the quantity of state-owned land and start land redistribution talks.

A squatter in Liefde en Vrede camp collects wood to erect a shelter
PHOTO: GUY ADAMS



Eyeball to eyeball: Squatter takes councillor to task over Liefde en Vrede actions

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W|E Star
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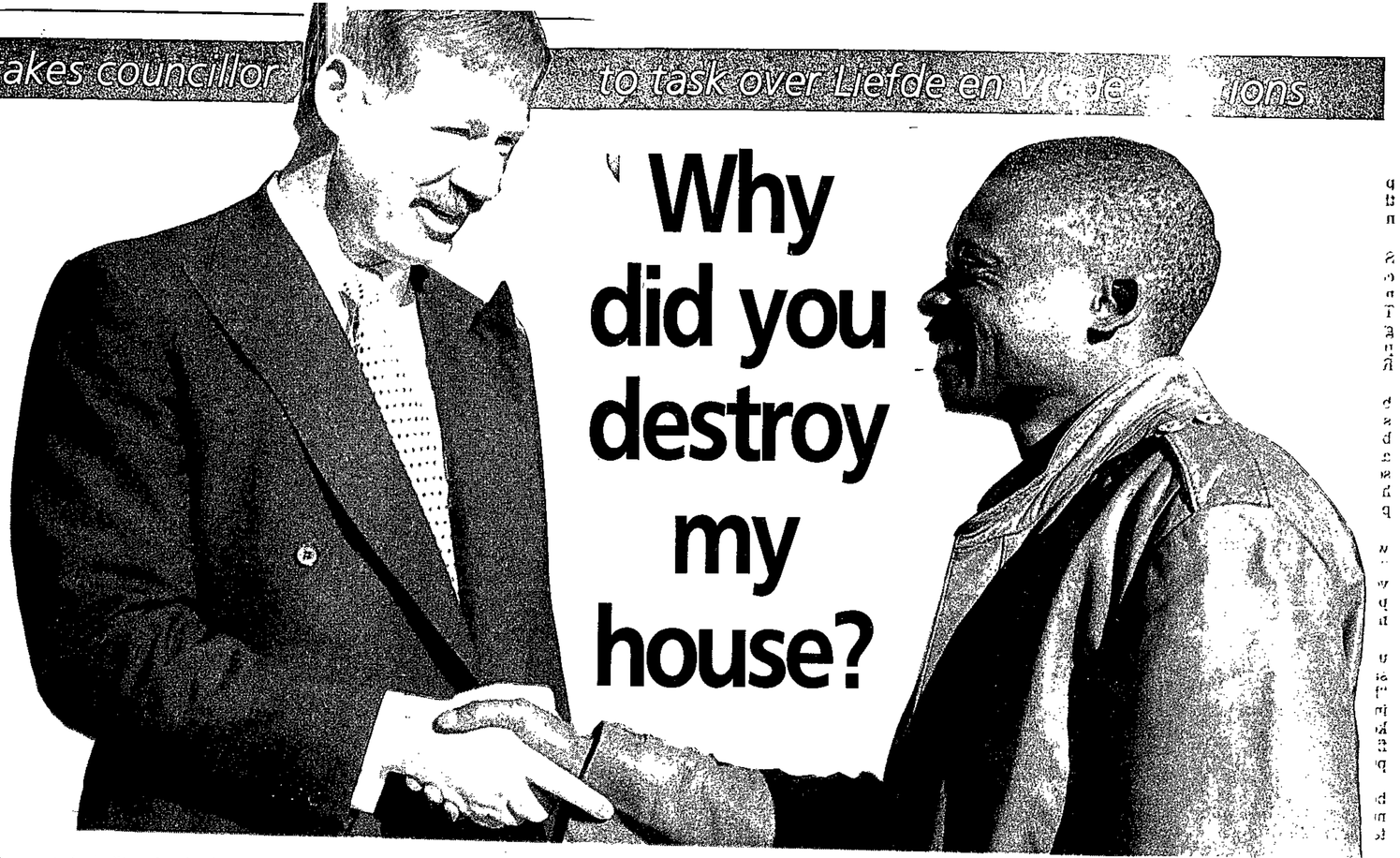
JOHANNESBURG City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson, the man ultimately responsible for the eviction in sub-zero temperatures of squatters from the Liefde en Vrede area, this week came face to face with one of the victims of his action.



SHOWDOWN: City councillor Ian Davidson tells squatter Peter Mantjane why the latter had to be moved from the piece of land (below) that he had chosen as home.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DEBBIE YAZBEK and ANTON HAMMERL

Why did you destroy my house?

NEWTON KANHEMA

IT WAS an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, and Ian Davidson was in an unenviable and difficult situation.

He sat in his DP offices at Nasrec waiting for WeekendStar to arrive for an interview. He was not ready for a confrontation with Peter Mantjane, one of the squatters whose shacks were demolished by council security officials on Monday night.

Davidson, in a blue suit with matching shirt and tie, sat opposite Mantjane, who was dressed in a smart brown leather jacket, white trousers, black shoes and matching socks — but still looking scruffy as he had not been near water on that bitingly cold morning.

Softly and emotionally, Matjane, without looking straight into Davidson's eyes, asked simply: "Why did you destroy my house?"

Davidson, evidently uneasy, shifted in his seat and cleared his throat. "Because you came to occupy somebody's land. Look, Peter, I want to know what gives someone the right to occupy somebody's land. One cannot just occupy somebody's land without permission."

Matjane, originally from Orlando West in Soweto, was living with his 21 family members before he moved from his parents' home.

"My parents have a two-bedroom house, and I have seven sisters and a brother and they have their own children. We are all not working and live on my father's pension.

"I want my own place. I cannot live there. When I left, I came with my sister and we had our own *mkhukhu* (shack) which they destroyed."

Davidson answered: "We knew that the courts will stop us from moving you once you have lived there for a period of time. We knew we would not have the chance if we had delayed in our action. Look, our previous experience with the courts indicates that."

Then Davidson paused and addressed the WeekendStar team: "Oh! But it's unfair because I don't think he can understand this."

Matjane interjected: "Talk. I understand."

Citing the experience of the council in the Nancefield and Devland areas, Davidson explained the council's actions.

He said the land the squatters had occupied was already serviced and this was the area earmarked for the first 150 000 houses to be built under the Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme.

"Your occupation was going to jeopardise our plans on that land," Davidson told Mantjane.

"It's the responsibility of the provincial parliament to provide permanent houses for you and we're now trying, together with the PWV regional government, to get you some land."

He promised that all confiscated material would be given back to the squatters as soon as the land had been identified and "you can build your home again".

"We have a waiting list of 40 000 people who want houses, and these people who come to occupy the land are jumping the queue. I have had reactions from such people. They have told me that what we did was right.

"These people are forcing us into a situation in which we are left with no choice but to provide them with some accommodation of some kind. And this prejudices the people on the waiting list," Davidson explained.

Davidson said the council had decided to move the squatters after being informed that 600 Mulbarton residents had mobilised funds to hire bulldozers to flatten the camp. "We had to move them immediately for their safety."

Davidson was adamant that people who had occupied the land had been organised. He said that after the demolition there were about 150 homeless people, but at the alternative accommodation found for them in an empty building in Newtown, central Johannesburg, the number had risen to 900.

"While we were negotiating, minibuses full of people had been organised to occupy the land. We know that the people were organised by Willie Dlamini.

"There is nothing wrong in these people being organised, but there is something wrong in organising to take the law into their own hands and deprive other people," he added.

Authorities probe allegations of squatting levies at shantytown

Star 11/6/94

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NEWTON KANHEMA and JO-ANNE COLLINGE

JOHANNESBURG City Council and the PWV government are investigating claims that leaders in the shantytown of Freedom Park, south of the city, are cashing in on the plight of the homeless by charging them for the right to stay there.

Ian Davidson, chairman of the Johannesburg management committee, said the council had information that a community leader, whose name is known to WeekendStar, had been charging squatters levies of R200.

Despite the leader's denial of the claims, Davidson believed official probes could lead to criminal prosecution.

Provincial Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng would not name any suspects. However, he said, allegations that money had been collected from squatters in Freedom Park had reached his office and were being investigated.

The squatter leader and his committee championed the hundreds of homeless people who invaded the southern Johannesburg suburb of Liefde en Vrede — and who were left out in the cold when council employees demolished their shacks this week.

Only days earlier, however, the same committee expelled 70 families from Freedom Park, near Devland.

Those who were evicted allegedly not only refused to pay up but also tried to establish an ANC branch in the camp.

Evicted residents — still clinging to a piece of land opposite Freedom Park but now mostly without shelter — were reluctant to speak. They said they feared attack and did not sleep at night.

But a few of them corroborated the allegations reported to housing organisations. They also said they had fled Freedom Park because of threats from

TO PAGE 2.

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armed men and that they had reported this to the ANC.

The squatter leader said his committee had not taken more than R10 per household from residents — which he said was to pay for servicing portable toilets.

Davidson said the council had provided the toilets and that there should be no charge.

The leader admitted that his committee had instructed a group of residents to leave the camp. "When we started the camp we agreed that residents shouldn't partake in party politics." Some residents had decided to launch an ANC branch. The committee had decided that these people would have to leave.

A Johannesburg council source said information about the Freedom Park committee had come from residents who had paid R200 for a site. He estimated there were about 700 shacks in Freedom Park and "there is every reason to believe that all the occupants paid between R100 and R200 for land".

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How the committee came to represent the people who moved to Liefde en Vrede last week was not clear. Another community leader said the Liefde en Vrede occupiers had approached him for help after moving on to the site. They wanted to expose the fact that the council had empty land and that, in the case of Liefde en Vrede, had wanted to give it to Taiwanese people, he said.

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WeekendStar
June 11-12 1994

Eyeball to eyeball: Squatter takes councillor to task over Liefde en Vrede evictions

JOHANNESBURG City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson, the man ultimately responsible for the eviction in sub-zero temperatures of squatters from the Liefde en Vrede area, this week came face to face with one of the victims of his action.

SHOWDOWN: City councillor Ian Davidson tells squatter Peter Mantjane why the latter had to be moved from the piece of land (below) that he had chosen as home.

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Mantjane interjected: "Talk. I understand."

Citing the experience of the council in the Nancefield and Devland areas, Davidson explained the council's actions.

He said the land the squatters had occupied was already serviced and this was the area earmarked for the first 150 000 houses to be built under the Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme.

"Your occupation was going to jeopardise our plans on that land," Davidson told Mantjane.

"It's the responsibility of the provincial parliament to provide permanent houses for you and we're now trying, together with the PWV regional government, to get you some land."

He promised that all confiscated material would be given back to the squatters as soon as the land had been identified and "you can build your home again".

"We have a waiting list of 40 000 people who want houses, and these people who come to occupy the land are jumping the queue. I have had reactions from such people. They have told me that what we did was right.

"These people are forcing us into a situation in which we are left with no choice but to provide them with some accommodation of some kind. And this prejudices the people on the waiting list," Davidson explained.

Davidson said the council had decided to move the squatters after being informed that 600 Mulbarton residents had mobilised funds to hire bulldozers to flatten the camp. "We had to move them immediately for their safety."

Davidson was adamant that people who had occupied the land had been organised. He said that after the demolition there were about 150 homeless people, but at the alternative accommodation found for them in an empty building in Newtown, central Johannesburg, the number had risen to 900.

"While we were negotiating, minibuses full of people had been organised to occupy the land. We know that the people were organised by Willie Dlamini.

"There is nothing wrong in these people being organised, but there is something wrong in organising to take the law into their own hands and deprive other people," he added.

Council had to act on squatters, says Leon

By RAY HARTLEY: Political Reporter

DEMOCRATIC Party leader Tony Leon has come out in support of embattled Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson's decision to demolish shacks at Liefde and Vrede on Monday night.

But his party appeared divided over whether or not to support the action, with former Houghton MP Helen Suzman condeming it. "I find it most surprising the DP would go into harsh measures in the dead of winter," she was quoted as saying.

Mr Leon said it had been imperative for the council to act quickly. "According to the information I have been given, there was a degree of organisation behind the people (moving into the area). In fact, it was imperative that the city council moved," Mr Leon said yesterday.

He added that the action was also justified because the land invasion had threatened to undermine a low-cost housing development.

The apartheid-style demolition, which was undertaken by council security officials on one of the coldest nights of the year, left hundreds of squatters — including toddlers — without shelter.

Mr Davidson said: "The mere fact that it was the coldest night was unfortunate, very unfortunate, but we didn't dictate the timing, they dictated the timing. There was a good deal of strategy behind that as well."

Asked how the council's actions had differed from shack demolition under apartheid, he said: "Are you saying that if an individual takes the law into his own hands, moves in and occupies property that is not his, before you can remove him, you have to provide him with alternative accommodation?

"That property might be Devland, it might be Liefde and Vrede, but as importantly, it might be your back garden or my back garden. In any situation, a person who tries to re-establish his right shouldn't be in the dock."

Mr Davidson said he was convinced that the settlement at Liefde and Vrede and an earlier invasion at Devland had been organised by a shadowy squatter lord, who illegally extracted rent from squatters in exchange for transporting them to partially developed land.

But, he added, no criminal charges had been laid against the squatter lord, as no witnesses could be found to testify against him.

"We're being made out to be the bad guys. The real bad guys are the guys who are saying ... when is the best time to make a quick buck? And, of course, it's when the weather is cold, when public sympathy will be outraged."

The action against the squatters also appeared to have exposed divisions within the ANC. Housing Minister Joe Slovo agreed with Mr Davidson that the land invasion was "orchestrated" and PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale took the side of the squatters.

Mr Davidson said the council had decided to act swiftly to prevent the matter going to court, because previous court rulings had insisted that alternative accommodation be provided before shacks were demolished.

"The court has all sorts of conditions attached to it, saying we literally have to provide alternative accommodation. This (decision by the court) was justifying that original land invasion," he said.

The Devland invasion had led to the occupation of land designated for low-cost housing.

Mr Davidson said the council was committed to helping Mr Sexwale provide housing.

Squatters holding up building of thousands of low-cost homes

B1 Day 13/6/94

SQUATTING on land southwest of Johannesburg, such as the settlement on St Martin's trust land, is holding up plans by the Golden Highway Development Corporation (Goldev) to build at least 16 000 low-cost houses.

Goldev CEO Aziz Shaikh said yesterday the company had about 480ha on which it planned to build houses for families with incomes of less than R1 500 a month.

However, squatting on Goldev land was holding up the project, particularly plans to resettle the Thembalihle community. This community, living on ground prone to sinkhole formations, was in danger.

Goldev wanted the squatters to become involved in the project, he said. In the meantime, the authorities had to find alternative land to accommodate them. (310) (E)

Goldev — set up two years ago — had, with squatter communities living in the region, come up with an "exciting" scheme to build houses, Shaikh said.

WILSON ZWANE

They had agreed that communities would form housing clubs through which they could take part in building houses. The process would be underpinned by Goldev-sponsored workshops which would deal with issues such as types of housing and financial options.

They had agreed that building would begin only after the clubs, made up of 20 members each, had decided on what they wanted and could afford, he said.

Two hundred housing clubs had already been established.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber had decided that about 4 000 families living in Thembalihle squatter camp, near the Goldev land, should also join the scheme.

Shaikh said Goldev did not collect any fees from people involved.

The clubs would get government subsidies of R12 500 each and personal loans from the Community Bank, the only bank which had so far agreed to become involved.

Goldev was advising people to take personal loans because they were less complicated than mortgage bonds.

Major banks were not interested in the scheme because they considered it too risky to lend money to informal sector workers, he said.

The Community Bank wanted to use the scheme as a pilot project.

Unemployed club members would be able to pay for their houses by working on the project as bricklayers, plumbers and so on once it got off the ground.

☐ Sapa reports that Atteridgeville's council is to expropriate land for a housing project, according to Friday's Government Gazette.

A council spokesman said some of the land would be quarried for material to build access roads to the new township.

Council housing would be provided for squatters occupying the land.

EXCHANGE CONTROLS

Recognising the anomaly

Never before have businessmen in this country been so vociferous — and unanimous — in their desire to see exchange controls removed quickly. These are seen now not only as a major impediment to portfolio investment, but also to fixed capital investment, to increased competition and thus unbundling and to increased liquidity on the country's main capital market, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

The strongest argument supporting their removal is that if the Mandela government wants local and foreign entrepreneurs to have sufficient confidence to invest in this country, then it must itself demonstrate its own confidence in its economic policy by removing constraints of this nature.

After all, exchange controls were imposed in the early Sixties after the Sharpeville massacre to prevent capital flight from the apartheid system. Apart from a few years in the mid-Eighties, when capital controls were relaxed on nonresidents and the financial and commercial exchange rates were unified, they were used to despoil those investors who wished to flee the apartheid system.

In the late Seventies, the apartheid government openly accused those in breach of the controls of economic sabotage and conducted elaborate witch-hunts to find them. As the policy of the National Party government moved increasingly away from a command economy towards a market-orientated one, these controls appeared increasingly as an anomaly, hence their partial relaxation.

In the mid-Eighties they were reimposed with severity after the international banks, led by the Americans who feared revolution, refused to renew foreign credits. A debt standstill followed which, for obvious reasons, put paid to any official agreement on exchange liberalisation until final repayment terms were negotiated in recent years.

The supreme irony was that far from staunching a capital outflow, the controls were swamped by an absolute haemorrhage.

They have circumscribed economic growth by misallocating resources and led to major distortions — such as a concentration of local ownership — which has reduced competition. They have done no good whatsoever.

There are now no political arguments for exchange controls. The economic ones were always dubious and the longer they are maintained, the greater will foreign discomfiture be over the Mandela government's policies and the more will economic growth be retarded.

At the World Economic Forum in Cape Town last week, the earnest Swiss organiser assembled the leaders of the Frontline States, most of whom claimed to have rejected exchange controls or to be in the process of dismantling them — some with evangelical enthusiasm, others clearly at the behest of an exasperated IMF boot. Whatever the reason, they won enthusiastic acclaim from the business delegates.

Finance Minister Derek Keys fielded probing questions on exchange control at the forum with disarming style. His answers were in essence that when the discount between the financial rand (the price at which foreign investors trade in rand securities) and the higher commercial rand (the official exchange rate) narrows and the reserves are more robust these controls will be removed. But he, too, wants the comfort of a rising groundswell of their unpopularity.

Experience elsewhere is that there is never a good time to remove exchange controls, except when the market is least expecting it to happen. Hesitation, more often than not, is interpreted by the markets as a lack of confidence by a reluctant government in its own abilities and policies.

But there is an explanation for the timidity of the government in this regard and it was put across strongly by Mandela himself at the forum.

To avoid inflationary pressures arising from what might be a sharp and protracted decline in the value of the liberated rand, support policies such as substantial deregulation and privatisation are necessary to enhance the efficiency of the economy. And they need to be applied before, or simultaneously with, the removal of exchange controls.

While Mandela acknowledges that he was persuaded at the Davos meeting of the World Economic Forum in 1992 to reject nationalisation as a means of bringing about what he imagines is greater economic equity among blacks and whites, he was adamant in Cape Town last week that he would not accept privatisation.

The reason is that he believes that undertakings owned by the State are, in effect, owned by the people and that privatisation would mean the maintenance of economic power in white hands here.

That is precisely what need not happen and such a point of view suggests that Mandela has been persuaded to change his view on nationalisation, not because he understands the economic concepts involved, but because he has been told he will not get the foreign money he needs if he sticks to his original beliefs.

The danger is that once he has the money, he could too easily revert back to being a captive of a misunderstood economic concept as he re-embraces what he mistakes for an abandoned principle. For to accept that nationalisation has serious shortcomings, it must also be logical to accept that privatisation overcomes those shortcomings. Moreover, Mandela's point of view suggests that he and his advisers have little knowledge of public choice economics, for which James Buchanan won a Nobel prize.

In essence, this means that the interests of politicians (who ultimately make the key decisions in nationalised undertakings) do not necessarily coincide with those of the people who elected them and that usually their own personal aspirations to survive politically and gain power supersede their service to the public weal.

In addition, government failure (or inefficiency) can be shown to be more prevalent than market failure and that far from entrenching existing wealth distribution, it is privatisation (especially if undertaken by means of vouchers) which redistributes wealth directly to ordinary people, often the workers in the undertakings in question. ■

Fm 17/6/94

There was also pressure from people who are on the housing waiting list (about 40 000).

Part of the strategy behind land invasion is to enable people to jump the queue. For instance, the people from Liefde en Vrede had to be accommodated temporarily, "but, in essence, to solve the problem, we are going to have to allocate land to them somewhere."

Davidson believes that the organisers of the invasion knew exactly what they were doing when they chose one of the coldest days to move: they could expect the maximum possible sympathy.

On those facts, does Sexwale endorse the removal? "I don't endorse Nazi methods," says Sexwale. "I turned down a meeting with the council because of those methods. Even the police refused to act because they had no court order to evict."

He doesn't like what they did. Yet Sexwale says he "understands" and adds that "we will never be party to land invasions." Sexwale points out that PWV Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng had earlier warned squatters against invading land.

How, then, would Sexwale have handled the problem? He tells the *FM* that the issue must be tackled "together" with the homeless. He extols the virtue of negotiation, employed so well at Codesa and the multiparty talks process. Sexwale is convinced he can sell a vision of hope to the homeless and urge them to be patient once his long-term strategy has been outlined.

But what if those involved are motivated less by the desire to house the homeless than to extract protection money? Or if the squatters refuse to move regardless of the offer of alternative land and services?

Would Sexwale take tough action if the moratorium on further land invasion is broken? A tough stand will be taken only when all else fails, he says. "We won't be *kragdadig*. Leaders must not be afraid to lead their people. I don't think we'll have a problem (with the moratorium holding)."

Sexwale agrees "unequivocally" that the principle of private property has to be respected and upheld "but the critical thing is to have good tactics. We are challenging the methods used." (310)

Sexwale is planning a conference of all the major construction companies, along with black small contractors and the life assurers. "Ordinary people," including the unemployed, will be involved in building the houses, which will be proper brick and not makeshift structures.

Sexwale is aware that this kind of talk and vision gives "butterflies" to those with more modest and practical aspirations such as Housing Minister Joe Slovo.

Davidson

Sexwale

Our impression is that Sexwale is impatient with such mundane matters as Devland. He comments: "My task as Premier is to fire the imagination."

Davidson is a patient man of some charity. He insists that "Tokyo and I have a good working relationship."

And adds: "I don't think there's a real difference. What caused the hiccup was that we had to act quickly to assert our rights . . ."

The fact is, however, that the problem is really one for cities and provinces to address. As PWV Premier, Sexwale will need to do more than just fire the imagination.

He will at some stage have to take tough action — and this has been privately admitted to the *FM* by ANC housing officials in central government. There may be negotiations but ultimately law and order must prevail, otherwise government's housing aspirations will be thwarted.

Says Davidson: "You have to be transparent by telling people what you are doing and persuade them that the more they try to frustrate the system, the longer the process is going to take."

The key issue, as the Urban Foundation's Ann Bernstein explains, is a long-term strategy to pre-empt crises such as Devland from erupting. We are lucky there haven't been more, she says.

The pressure, she observes, is on the new city, provincial and national rulers to tell us what that strategy is so that the private sector can come in. The foundation's research endorses the need for a partnership involving the private sector, government and squatter communities.

"Only if people believe that something is worth waiting for will they be prepared to be patient. The homeless have to be given hope, otherwise they invade," she says.

But that will not happen unless Sexwale provides the leadership and supports Davidson's attempts to have the council's writ run. For his part, Davidson needs to be sensitive to any public statement that Sexwale might imagine belittles him and insist, based on his own experience, that the inexperienced Premier face up to his responsibilities, regardless of political inconvenience.

If any good comes out of this incident, it should be that both young men have learnt where their priorities lie and how essential it is for them to co-operate. And Sexwale needs to learn that statesmanship is more than having a pretty face and an adoring constituency. It requires courage, mature judgment, hard work and less publicity. ■

WEST RAND Evictions moratorium extended to June

Shackdwellers get new lease of life

Sowetan 21/6/94

MORE THAN 700 families living under constant threat of eviction in the Randburg area will be relocated to Zandspruit and Lanseria.

The PWV government yesterday said it was agreed that about 500 families would be relocated to two Zandspruit holdings and the rest to Lanseria. It hoped this would be an adequate interim measure until areas for affordable housing had been identified (310) (124) (115).

A moratorium on evictions of the 700 families from their present dwellings had been extended to June 30 this year.

Mr Nico Kriek, chairman of the sub-committee that recommended the move, said both sites had the potential to be developed into permanent settlements.

Representatives

The sub-committee headed by Kriek was initiated in March by the Transitional Executive Council. It comprised representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, town councils, the police, residents' associations, town planners and estate agents

The PWV government said discussions were still under way with the owner of the site identified at Lanseria for the provision of a temporary supply of water and the treatment of sewerage.

At Zandspruit holdings 71 and 74 the water supply would have to be supplemented but there were "in principle" no problems with sewerage.

The statement said the Randburg Town Council would help with the cost of transit areas, but additional money would be needed. — *Sapa.*

Plan to house 700 families

Two 'transit camps' get PWV nod

Star 21/6/94

PROVINCIAL

government approves sites to accommodate squatters in an attempt to prevent conflict and eviction

■ STAFF REPORTER

The PWV government has approved the establishment of two "transit" camps at Lanseria and Zandspruit, north of Johannesburg, to house about 700 squatter families living under constant threat of eviction.

These camps are an attempt to pre-empt further conflict of the kind which has flared from time to time in the northern "green belt", where property owners have tried to evict families who are illegally accommodated and who would otherwise be homeless because there is no low-cost housing available.

Request

According to a press release by the PWV government, "an attempt will be made to acquire holdings 71 and 74 Zandspruit at a market-related price".

But it adds: "Failing this, the Randburg Town Council is urgently requested to proceed with the establishment of a transit area on these properties in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act."

The Star was recently informed by the owner of one of these properties that moves to expropriate him have begun.

In the case of the Lanseria site — portion 13RE of the farm Lindley 528JQ — the authorities state that further negotiations with the land owner are currently under way. The object is "to provide assistance and support in order for a transit area to be established" (310)

Special arrangements will have to be made for the supply of water and the treatment of sewage at the Lanseria site, the province states. The water supply to Zandspruit will also have to be increased.

While one of the Zandspruit owners charges that he is being victimised because he already has illegal structures on his plot, the government says the two areas were selected because they best met the criteria of: proximity to employment; availability of affordable services; transport and potential for integration into an holistic plan.

DP man may not order more raids

CTimes 26/6/94

By SEKOLA SELLO

JO'BURG City Council management committee chairman and leading member of the Democratic Party Ian Davidson came under fire at the PWV legislature on Friday for sanctioning the eviction of squatters at Liefde and Vrede Squatter Camp three weeks ago.

After a heated debate during which Davidson, who is also a DP member in the legislature, was accused of being provocative and arrogant, the house unanimously resolved that a moratorium was to be placed on evictions and land invasions.

A visibly shaken Davidson repeatedly shook his head as ANC members, including provincial housing MEC Dan Mofokeng waded into him for ordering the evictions and demolition of squatter shacks at Liefde and Vrede south of Johannesburg on June 6. (310 Kms)

In a direct reference to Davidson, Mofokeng asked rhetorically: "What propelled him, what persuaded him to take such evil action?" Another ANC member, Ronnie Mamoepa, said the decision was "provocative" and smacked of "arrogance and *kragdadigheid*".

Members of the Freedom Front, National Party and Inkatha Freedom Party also criticised the City Council's actions. However, the NP and FF also called for measures to be taken to arrest the increase of land invasions.

Davidson did not take the criticism lying down and countered that his critics should not "come here and tell me about morality". He said he would not allow people to take the law into their hands.

Orchestrated

He further charged that the land invasion in Liefde and Vrede was partly orchestrated by one Veli Dlamini whom he called a "racketeer of the first order . . . he is no Robin Hood. He was charging people between R150 and R200 to put up shacks".

According to Davidson, land invasion was jeopardising the council's plans to help provide about 16 000 housing units in the next 12 months. Davidson said their housing scheme was unparallelled in the region.

The motion to put a moratorium on evictions and land invasion was tabled by the ANC's Steward Ngwenya and was unanimously adopted.

Municipal workers call for Davidson's resignation

'We won't carry out evictions'

The SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) yesterday told its members to refuse to carry out eviction orders issued by the Johannesburg City Council.

The call was made after a march from central Johannesburg to the civic centre in Braamfontein in protest against recent evictions of squatters in Liedfe-en-Vrede and Devland, south of the city.

The union also demanded the resignation of management committee chairman Ian Davidson for his "unilateral decision" to evict the squatters.

A union memorandum said: "Ian Davidson has proved to be racist, incompetent and not representative of any community he purports to serve."

Other union demands were for a transitional metropolitan council, a single industrial council and higher wages for the lowest-paid municipal workers.

Councillor Marietta Marx accepted the memorandum in the civic centre courtyard.

Marx was jeered when she said: "The council is a legal body obliged to act (against squatters). We have already given assurances the council will not take down further shacks."

She said the council would report back to the union.

ANC councillor Clive Gilbert also met the marchers and called for the resignation of the National Party-dominated council. "It is our land. Let the people rule themselves."

At a press conference earlier, Samwu local government co-ordinator Richard Spalding said workers should not be used to evict people. "We have been used for political gain," he said.

Johannesburg Municipal Employee Association president David Fox said evictions should take place only after consultation with the victims.

"The process is very important. The process is through negotiations. The spirit is one of collaboration."

Samwu Metropolitan Chamber representative Adrian Oloefse said the DP and NP were deliberately delaying the setting up of a transitional metropolitan council.

About 5 000 Samwu members blocked Rissik Street for about six blocks as they marched to the civic centre, and traffic backed up for several blocks on both sides.

Pedestrians also had to wait for the marchers to pass. One said: "We have to work. We can't wait."

Bus services were disrupted because many drivers took part in the protest. — Sapa.

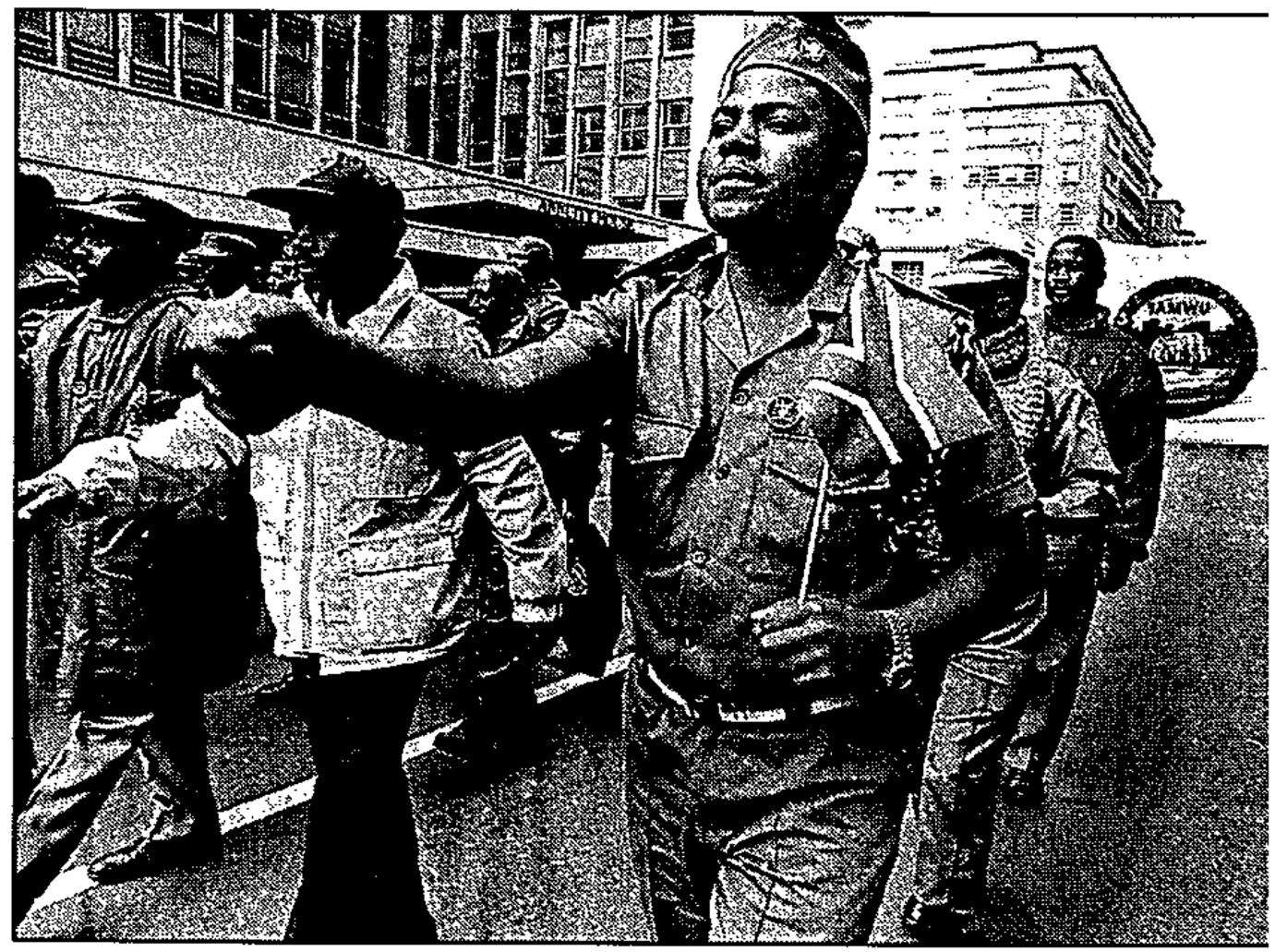
Pay increases for city employees

The Johannesburg City Council yesterday decided to increase the salaries of the municipality's 20 000 employees from next month.

About 9 400 lower-paid workers will get 10 percent more and the remainder 9 percent.

The increases will cost ratepayers about R72 million.

The council will cut overtime rates from time-and-a-half to time-and-a-third for one year until June 30 next year. — Sapa.



"Roadblock" ... members of the SA Municipal Workers' Union march in protest against recent evictions of squatters south of the city. PICTURE: ANTON HAMMER

Land to accommodate people under 'constant threat of eviction'

Star 1/7/94

Three plots expropriated for squatters

TWO PLOTS at Zandspruit and one at Lanseria are being expropriated by the PWV government

■ BY ABDUL MILAZI

Lucas Mdzebele (70) is a squatter living on Plot 71 in Zandspruit, north of Johannesburg, which has been expropriated by the PWV government to accommodate 700 squatter families under "constant threat of eviction" by Randburg landowners.

He has been a squatter almost all his life and is happy that at last he will have a place of his own.

Johan Louw (41) is a farmer. He owns the 5 ha Plot 71 and he has until tomorrow to vacate his property, which took him two years to buy.

Although the provincial government offered him R620 000 as compensation, he is unhappy about leaving.

"I love this place, I don't know why the government chose my place in particular for their squatter transit camp. But I had no option but to accept the compensation."

Louw's neighbour, Ziggie Augustine, whose 5 ha Plot 74 has also been expropriated, said he was unhappy about the expropriation.

"Nobody likes to be expropriated. I will lose my property and my furniture removal business which I run from the plot," said Augustine.

PWV Eviction Crisis Committee member Greg Pickett said the two properties and another in Lanseria had been chosen as transit camps because the committee found them to be suitable.

"They are close to where the people work and have shopping and transport facilities nearby," said Pickett.

He said the committee was formed under the auspices of the Transitional Executive Council early this year after hundreds of squatter families were evicted by right-wing landowners.

The TEC asked the committee to identify suitable land for transit camps. The camps were an attempt to pre-empt further conflict in the northern "green belt".

The three properties were identified as suitable when the committee found homeless people were already living there, said Pickett.

The PWV government approved the establishment of transit camps on the three properties early last month. The owners have been offered compensation, and surveyors have begun work on the Zandspruit properties.

In the case of the Lanseria plot, the Randburg City Council said further negotiations with the owner were under way. (310)

Special arrangements would have to be made for the supply of water and the treatment of sewage in Lanseria while water supply would be increased in Zandspruit, the ANC PWV region said.

Another landowner, John Hart, who recently gave squatters notice on his Rietfontein and Muldersdrift properties, agreed to extend their stay until July 10 after talks with the civics and the Muldersdrift police yesterday.

Raw deal . . . Johan Louw's land has been expropriated to accomm squatters. PICTURE: T

NEWS

Forced move to Diepsloot rejected

Star 11/7/94

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

NO FORCEFUL removal of families from Zevenfontein to new sites at Diepsloot will take place, says the provincial Cabinet

The PWV government will not compel hundreds of homeless families who have lived precariously for three years at Zevenvenfontein, north of Sandton, to move to the bitterly contested Diepsloot resettlement area.

This was made clear at a meeting between residents and members of the provincial Cabi net yesterday.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration began servicing 1 200 sites at Diepsloot about a fortnight before the April election, having won the right to develop the area for the relocation of Zevenfontein in an Appeal Court case.

Work on this site-and-service scheme has reached an advanced stage, with 99 percent of the water piping and 65 percent of the sewerage pipes in place.

But it is clear that, by ignoring the winds of political change, the old administration had been working towards a goal which will never be realised.

Yesterday leading residents of Zevenfontein told Minister of Housing Dan Mofokeng and Minister of Land and of Urban and Rural Development Sicelo Shiceko that they regarded Diepsloot as an apartheid solution.

William Menzeleli, head of the local ANC branch, said it was hopelessly removed from people's places of work.

"We humbly request that development in Diepsloot should be stopped because we will not be moving to that area."

Maria Mosimane questioned why they should be forced into a remote area when there was vacant land around Fourways.

Before the election, the people of Zevenfontein, squatting on private land, had little choice about their future, she explained. "We were oppressed to go to that land."

Crammed into the drafty zinc-walled ANC office with Ministers Mofokeng and Shiceko and Zevenfontein's leadership yesterday were representatives of the established property owners in Diepsloot and Laezonia. They also argued that Diepsloot was poorly positioned for the needs of Zevenfontein's people.

But, if the community decided to move there, they should be given decent housing and not simply an opportunity to relocate their shacks.

Shiceko won a round of applause when he proposed that the future of Zevenfontein be comprehensively re-examined. "Let us establish a committee that is all-inclusive to rediscuss the issue."

This committee should include the Randburg Town Council.

TPA communications consultant Johann Eiselen said the Regional Housing Board had also taken a dim view of the Diepsloot development and seemed unlikely to help fund it.

Eiselen argued that it was by no means certain that all Zevenfontein residents would turn their backs on Diepsloot.

He suggested that the IFP minority there might well opt for Diepsloot.

What was not clear was how residents of Chartwell, the area surrounding Zevenfontein, would react to the news that the relocation would almost certainly be delayed.

There were no representatives of this group at yesterday's meeting. (310)

But in the past they instituted court action to compel the TPA to comply with an undertaking to remove the community from Zevenfontein by a particular date.

This action was delayed by the Appeal Court case on Diepsloot — and then made superfluous by its outcome.

◆ Squatter row

Star 6/18/94

have now become a joke. We cannot do anything. This (the transport building) is just a mad place. People are now sleeping with their wives and there is no privacy at all.

"When our delegation chose the Liefde en Vrede option because it was closest to the CBD, Davidson became very elusive. There was a lot of ducking and diving and we could not agree at the end of the meeting," said Mabaso.

The council and the PWV government had set up a committee which did not include the homeless people, he said. The committee was to look at the five different proposed areas and decide which were most suitable.

A visit to the abandoned council offices where the squatters are housed revealed the desperation of their situation.

Visitors are greeted with a potent stench from the corridors and rooms — which sleep as many as 50 people in each.

Residents were busy cleaning up the floors, their clothes dangling from makeshift hangers on the walls. Pots on paraffin stoves boiled over while children played in the corridors.

Visitors cannot just walk in and talk to residents. They are referred to "our leaders on the first floor".

Mabaso shares a defunct storeroom with fellow leader Willie Dhlamini. The leaders, who have been at the forefront of the negotiations for the 900 homeless people, said they were beginning to lose their people's loyalty as people grew impatient.

Mabaso said the squatters were initially patient and obedient after being told their problems would be solved in a matter of days.

Johannesburg director of urbanisation Cedric de Beer said the other sites offered to the squatters were Noorgire near New Canada, Lawley near Lenasia, Klip River and Eikenhof.

He said the issue was being handled by PWV MEC Dan Mofokeng.

Another council official said people in elite white suburbs were deeply worried about the devaluation of their properties.

"But if all people say they are interested in the success of the housing project they should refrain from adopting a "not in my backyard" attitude.

"The existence of low-cost housing in our neighbourhood is one bullet we have to swallow," said the official.

City Council offers return of sites to evicted squatters

Star 6/18/94

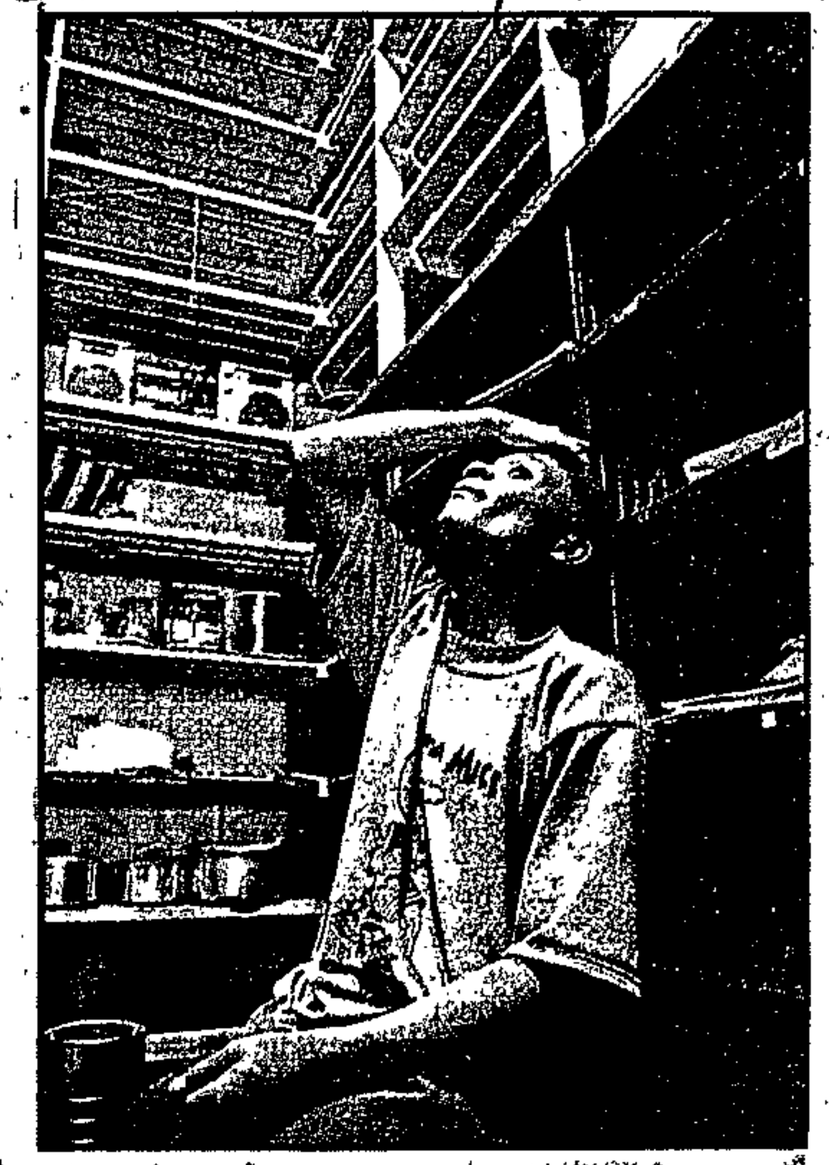
NEWTON KANHEMA

THE Liefde en Vrede squatters whose shacks were demolished by the Johannesburg City Council three months ago have been offered the option of going back to the area they were forcibly removed from.

Liefde en Vrede is one of five possible sites offered to the squatters by the council and the PWV government. Squatter leader Jacob Mabaso says the community wishes to return to the site, which borders on the affluent suburb of Mulbarton in Johannesburg's southern suburbs.

The squatters' shacks were demolished by the council at the beginning of winter, leaving hundreds of people in the open. Under pressure from the public, the council later accommodated the homeless in disused transport offices near John Voster Square Police Station in downtown Johannesburg.

But Mabaso said the chairman of the Johannesburg management committee, Ian Davidson, now appeared to be developing cold feet about the offer to allow the squatters to return to Liefde en Vrede.



HIGH PRICE: Jacob Mabaso in his storeroom bedroom at the disused transport offices. *PHOTOGRAPH: DEBBIE YAZBEK*

"At the moment we don't have a date for when we are moving. We don't even have a date of when we are to meet the PWV authorities and the council again," Mabaso said.

"No one seems to be interested in us anymore. People are growing impatient, and we leaders are under pressure from our people who cannot tolerate the conditions we are living in.

"Initially we agreed that men should sleep in separate rooms and women and children in separate rooms, but that has since been abandoned. All the arrangements we made

TO PAGE 2.

Squatters to hold 'elections'

8/Dec 10/8/94

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

THE Zandspruit transit camp community in Randburg is to hold local "elections" so that its representatives can negotiate a housing deal with the town council.

Randburg business consultant Gary Sinclair, a member of the Muldersdrift Police Community Forum, said the aim of the elections was to choose leaders with whom the Randburg Town Council could negotiate. The election date had not been set.

Sinclair said the forum planned to invite the peace accord secretariat to train local people as peace marshals to monitor the elections.

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Sinclair said the council had been criticised for dragging its feet in providing houses. However, the forum had made a breakthrough in its dealings with the squatter community.

"The people did not wake up one day to police and bulldozers. There was dialogue between police and the community...."

☐ Our political staff report that a solution to the squatter invasion of Durban's Cato Manor will be sought at a meeting between all nine regional housing ministers and National Housing Minister Joe Slovo in Durban on Friday. (310)

A spokesman for Slovo, Stephen Laufer, said government was not yet considering legislation to outlaw squatter invasions, but it did want to prevent repeats of the incident.

He said the granting of an interdict against the regional government preventing action against the invaders had implications for the entire country and could undermine the national housing programme. However, Slovo broadly supported local government and housing minister Peter Miller's bid to stop the invasion.

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Business Day 10/8/96

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PWV govt warns of blitz on squatters

Star 17/8/94

The PWV government yesterday threatened to clamp down on squatters, saying it had been given a mandate "to take firm action against land invasions".

This would enable the provincial government to implement Premier Tokyo Sexwale's plan to build 150 000 low-cost houses in 12 months.

MEC for Housing Dan Mofokeng, who held a meeting with the Transvaal Housing Board, developers and government officials, said: "The government was mandated to take firm action against land invasions, and developers undertook not to promote invasion of vacant land."

Stipulations of the provincial housing plan would be adopted by the housing board, which was handling projects worth some R217 million. (310)

"Our major concern is to ensure that houses which are built in the PWV will satisfy consumers ... there is no point in building houses which people refuse to live in," Mofokeng said.

"The developers will go ahead with the first phase while we look at ways to increase the size of homes and explore ways of accessing funding."

It was reported earlier that only one of the promised 150 000 units, a showhouse, had been built. — Sapa.

PWV to clamp down on squatters

Sowetan 17/8/94

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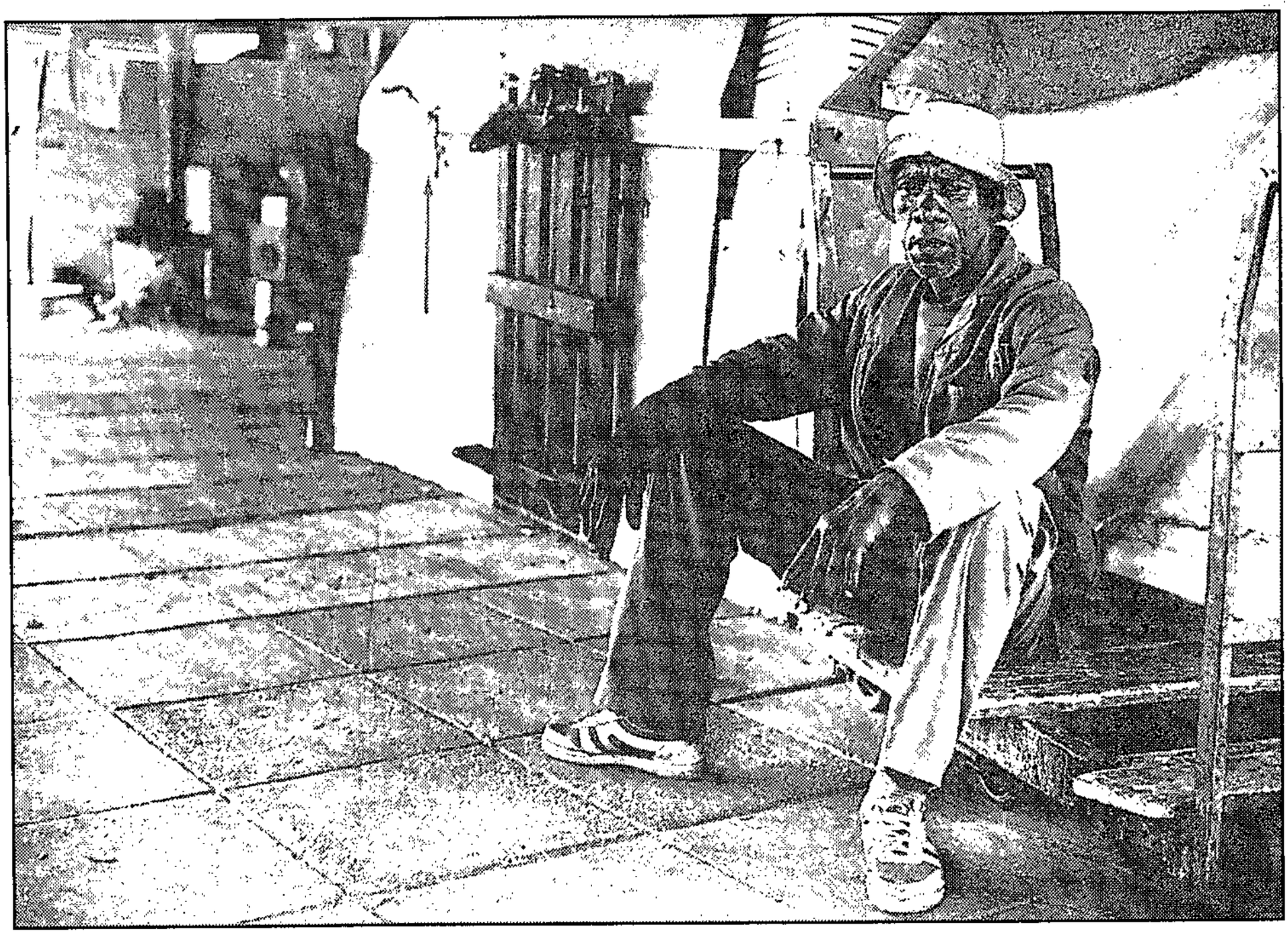
Stipulations of the provincial housing plan would be adopted by the housing board which was handling projects worth R217 million.

But this would mean a delay in completing the board's schemes.

"Our major concern is to ensure that houses which are built in the PWV will satisfy consumers ... there is no point in building houses which people refuse to live in," Mofokeng said. — *Sapa.*



Home-seeker . . . Lawrence Mnplobo moved to Johannesburg from Transkei five years ago. He says he moved in and out of various squatter settlements before setting up at Park Station. PICTURE: ANTON HAMMERL

Council 'powerless' as squatters move in

Star 25/8/94

■ BY CHARMEELA BHAGOWAT
CITY REPORTER

Scores of squatters are setting up house on vacant land in Johannesburg and the city council says it is powerless to act against them.

In June the council agreed to a moratorium on evicting illegal tenants. In the agreement between the council, civic organisations and the PWV government, the council agreed not to evict squatters and the provincial government promised to dissuade people from invading vacant land.

Marietta Marx, chairman of the council's health, housing and urbanisation committee, said there was a "constant growth of squatting" which was becoming a major problem in several areas.

"The council is monitoring the situation. But we are honouring the moratorium and reporting each case to the office of the PWV MEC for Local Government and Housing, Dan Mofokeng," she said.

Yesterday The Star visited squatters in Twist Street, at the Jack Mincer Park and at Park Station. Most of them live in small cardboard houses.

On the pavement on the corners of Twist and Plein streets, one squatter said unemployment had driven him to the streets. Refusing to give his name, he said he had inherited the small house three months ago from someone who "found a job and moved on".

(310)

"I would like to find a job and afford a decent house and I don't want handouts," he said.

Another woman, who also refused to be identified, said she had lived on Johannesburg's streets since 1970.

She said the council had demolished her shack several times in recent years, but had not done so since July.

PWV government spokesman Chris Vick said the issue of illegal land invasion was of great concern. He said Sicelo Shiceka, provincial MEC for Urban and Rural Development, Land Reform and Environment, would address the provincial legislature on the matter next week.

Squatters invade housing land

Star 10/10/1994

Illegal squatters have invaded land earmarked for urgent housing in Katlehong on the East Rand, town clerk S H Mare announced at the weekend.

There is at present a moratorium on the eviction of illegal squatters and tenants as well as a moratorium on illegal occupations.

310

However, the Katlehong incident follows several other "invasions" including that of recently built homes in the Delft Scheme Project at Eldorado Park, south of Johannesburg. Construction of new homes at the Delft Scheme Project ground to a halt amid the ongoing controversy.

In a statement, Mare said a number of illegal squatters had invaded a piece of land belonging to Newco at Moleleki Extension 1 in Katlehong on Tuesday. — City Reporter.

Claiming land . . . illegal squatters start to erect shacks opposite newly built homes in Katlehong yesterday. They have vowed never to leave the area.

PICTURE: DEBBIE YAZBEK

Squatters invade much-needed land

Star 12/10/94

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Scores of illegal squatters continue to invade vacant land earmarked for much-needed housing in Katlehong — less than a stone's throw away from a recently developed housing project.

As concerned home-owners watched yesterday, more shacks were erected as squatters marked up additional land for future informal housing.

A home-owner who was once a squatter at Phola Park and who did not want to be named expressed concern that the "squatters are going to create disharmony".

"I understand their problems because I have been there before. But we cannot ignore the fact that we will have to share toilets and water with them," said the resident.

When The Star visited the site it found squatters enthusiastically building their shacks yesterday. But they were reluctant to give any details on who had allocated them the land.

Instead, they pushed forward a spokesman who, refusing to be named, said the council had allocated the land to them.

"We will organise toilet and water facilities soon. Our neighbours don't need to worry," said the man.

He said they were building "life-time" homes and vowed they would not move. (310)

"These will be brick houses one day and we have nowhere else to go."

About 200 shacks have been built already and 134 are expected to be erected by the end of the week, said the man.

Most of the squatters claimed to be Katlehong home-owners before their houses were destroyed in clashes with hostel dwellers. Some of them said they used to live in hired rooms but could not afford the landlords' prices.

Meanwhile, the Katlehong Town Council has strongly denied being involved in the allocation of sites to the illegal squatters. Town clerk S H Mare said the squatters had invaded a piece of land belonging to the New Housing Co (NEWHCO) at Moleleki Extension 1 in Katlehong yesterday and had been made to pay R20 for the allocation of the site.

"The illegal invasion of the area contravenes the moratorium on land invasion."

6 000 Alex squatters at risk

100 000 face death from SA floods

Star 14/10/94

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI and ANNA COX

More than 100 000 South Africans live in flood-prone areas and face death if severe storms strike this summer, warns Professor Will Alexander of the University of Pretoria's Civil Engineering Department.

Of those at risk, 6 000 are in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, along the banks of the Jukskei River.

In an urgent submission to seven Government departments in July, Alexander predicted the climatic extremes prevailing in recent years could result in huge loss of life.

He called for a permanent natural disaster management co-ordinating committee to be established. This should report to a high level of Government having the power to ensure compliance with national policy objectives.

Alexandra Local Peace Committee member Melanie Stewart said residents have been warned many times about the dangers of building on the banks of the Jukskei.

Extensive education campaigns had been undertaken in the squatter areas but people refused to move away, she said.

"There is a severe shortage of land in Alex and there is nowhere for these people to go.

"We find it surprising, however, that despite the report being handed to the Departments of Agriculture, Constitutional Development, Environment Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Health, Water Affairs and Welfare, nothing has been done," she said. (310)

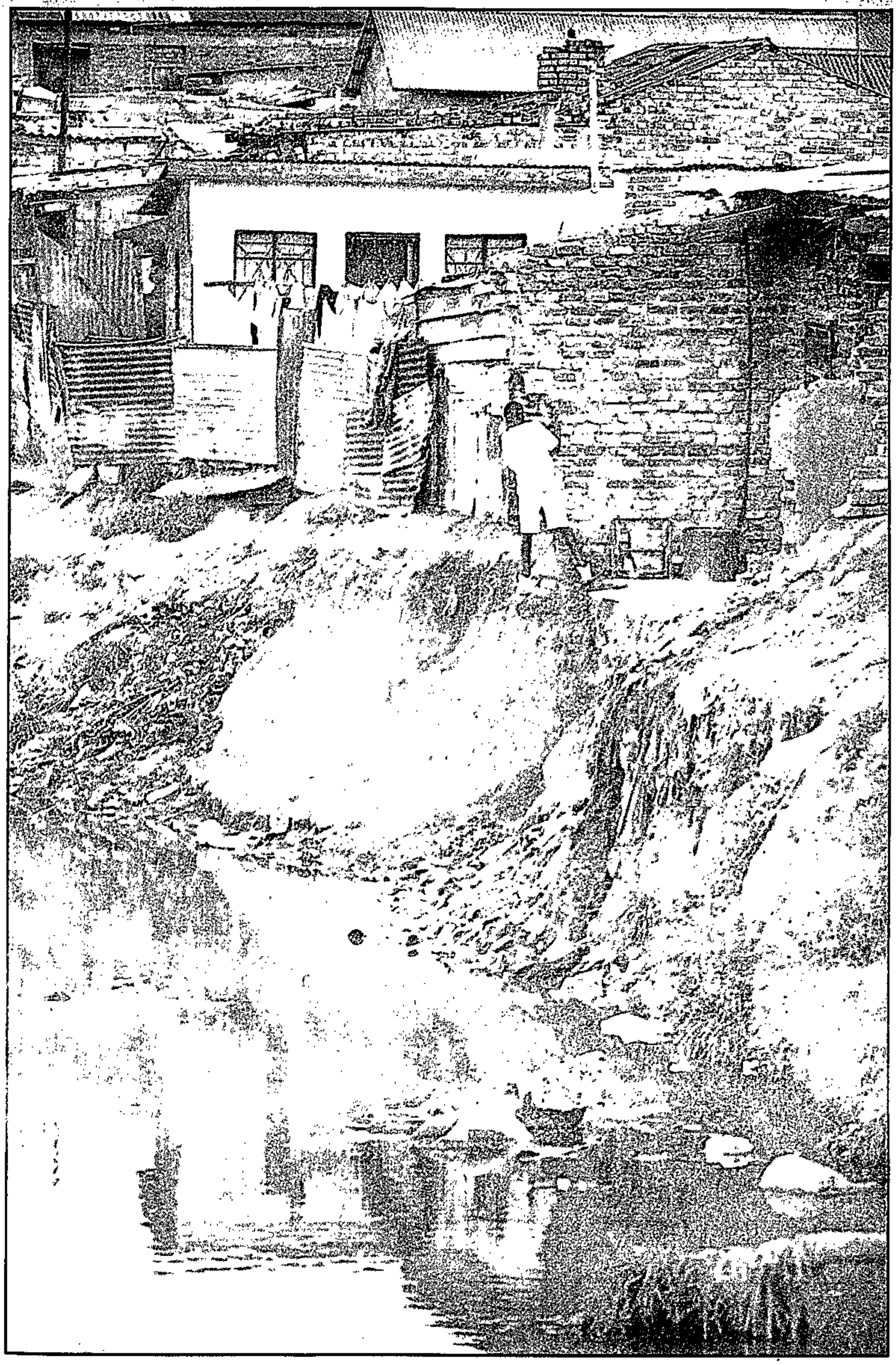
The Alexandra Town Council has set up a technical committee to train people in emergency procedures in the event of flooding.

Hundreds of shacks on the river banks have been washed away in the past, yet residents remain undaunted and return to rebuild.

Yesterday, squatters went about their business, unconcerned about the dire warnings from the experts.

Theresa Mokoena shrugged her shoulders when told it had been predicted that more homes would be destroyed in the next storm, and it was urgent she move to higher ground.

"To move? There is no other land," she said.



Living on the edge . . . about 6 000 Alexandra residents exist dangerously on the banks of the Jukskei River, north of Johannesburg. Their homes could be swept away by floods caused by any heavy summer rainstorm, warn experts. PICTURE: GARY BERNARD

Squatter camp shambles

One dead, three hurt in battle with police after private land invasion

Star 24/10/94

900 ignore pleas to move out and demand intervention by PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale

■ BY ANNA COX

The situation at the Zandspruit transit camp, near Nooitgedacht in Randburg, was volatile today after a weekend battle with the police which left one squatter shot dead and three injured.

The battle erupted when about 900 people invaded private property next to the transit camp and started erecting shacks illegally.

Thirty-two people were arrested for trespassing, but were released yesterday after the ANC intervened.

This morning the squatters were still on the land and said they would not leave until they had spoken to PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale.

Randburg management committee chairman Gary Cooney said the owner of the property was considering obtaining a court order to have the squatters evicted.

The squatters started streaming in after a rumour was started that the Randburg Town Council was giving away 5 000 sites to the homeless.

Randburg officials pleaded with the people to move out, but they refused and police were called in on Saturday, said police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Herman Oosthuysen. He said the squatters had refused to leave, leading to some being arrested for trespassing.

Oosthuysen said an angry mob, armed with pangas and knives, then surrounded police vehicles and began stoning them. Police opened fire with rubber bullets and teargas in an attempt to disperse the crowd. (310)

One man died from bullet wounds and at least three men were injured. The injured were admitted to the J G Strijdom Hospital.

Oosthuysen said police later returned to the scene after receiving reports that motorists on D F Malan Drive and the Nooitgedacht Road were being stoned by the squatters.

ANC PWV head of land and housing Steward Ngwenya visited the camp yesterday and arranged for police to keep out of the area and for the squatters to be left alone for the time being.

Squatters at the camp have condemned police for opening fire. Zandspruit People's Committee member Danny Letsolo said: "The police came in and started using live ammunition. One person died for nothing and we are very cross. We do not want the police here."

Cooney denied that his council had offered 5 000 sites.

Zandspruit owner turns to court

More squatters move on to land

Star 25/10/94 (310)

ATTORNEY says owner tried to resolve matter through political channels but received no response at any level

■ BY ANNA COX and PAULA FRAY

The owner of land adjacent to the Zandspruit transit camp in Randburg, which was illegally occupied by hundreds of squatters at the weekend, is to seek a Supreme Court application for their eviction today.

Yesterday, people continued arriving to take illegal occupation in spite of their possible eviction and the fatal clash with police in which one squatter was killed and two were injured on Saturday.

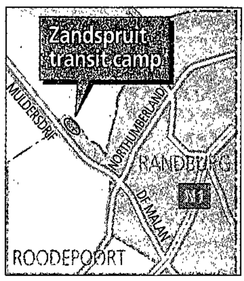
Attorney Leonard Cowan, acting on behalf of owner Stan Woolf, said he had made several attempts yesterday to resolve the issue amicably through political channels but had had no response on provincial or national level. If successful, eviction papers would be served this afternoon.

"This is an unusual eviction because of the large number of people involved, but we hope to start moving people off the land by the end of the week," said Cowan. However, he said he would continue seeking a resolution through official channels.

Randburg management committee acting chairman Dawie de Beer said the invasion was a direct contravention of the moratorium on land invasion which was accepted by the PWV legislature in May.

De Beer said the management committee found it tragic that careless and false rumours had resulted in the loss of life.

While Zandspruit is managed by Randburg Town Council, the issue of the illegal invasion has been left in the hands of the provincial government.



Steward Ngwenya, head of the ANC's land and housing department, said he had spoken to police who had agreed to stop arrests of the squatters for trespassing until meetings had been held with all parties concerned.

Ngwenya said talks with Randburg officials yesterday were delayed because the council was meeting with other provincial officials.

According to De Beer, councillors Mark Manley and Brian Crail had met provincial officials to address the problem.

He said it was agreed that local government and housing and security MECs Dan Mofokeng and Jessie Duarte would visit the camp as soon as possible to talk to the squatters.

Local structures, including the ANC, were unaware of the meeting and have slammed the council for its handling of the camp. They claim the council and police were aware of the impending invasion but allowed people on to the land on Saturday morning before taking action in the afternoon.

By late yesterday afternoon the illegal site was almost as big as the Zandspruit transit camp and squatters continued putting up their shacks.

ANC members yesterday visited the squatters to warn them they faced arrest and eviction.

"We want to prevent further bloodshed," Lanseria ANC secretary Norma Sharples said, adding that people seeking land had been given false promises by the council.

She appealed for more land to be urgently allocated to the squatters.

Randburg management committee chairman Gary Cooney, who left for Mozambique yesterday on private business, has denied promising squatters land and did not know how rumours of available land were started.

Sharples said police had been present in the area on Saturday and the council was aware of the impending illegal invasion but "just allowed it to happen".

Conditions

"Why didn't they prevent the people from going on to the land in the first place ... it was almost as if they were inviting confrontation," said Sharples.

She said negotiations with the council for improved facilities at the transit camp had been fruitless: "The people in Zandspruit are still living in horrendous conditions."

Meanwhile, Randburg councillor for the area, Cyril Ford, said he was receiving constant complaints from neighbouring residents. "I continue to receive pleas on almost a daily basis from residents arising as a direct result of the town council's uncontrolled establishment of the squatter camp."

At the last council meeting, residents petitioned the council, calling for additional security patrols to protect them. The request was turned down by Cooney who said the council employed four security guards on a 24-hour basis at the camp.

Brief diary of homeless people's scramble for land

■ NEWS ANALYSIS
BY PAULA FRAY

The Zandspruit land invasion did not happen only because of rumours about free plots being made available: residents believe there was an orchestrated campaign to annex land to the overcrowded transit camp.

Fuelled by frustration about "broken promises" to improve conditions and a desperate lack of housing closer to business, a groundswell of anger led some squatters and homeless people to take matters into their own hands on Saturday morning.

The weekend invasion followed a march by Zandspruit residents on the Randburg Town Council last month to demand action before October 14.

When no action was forthcoming and no other land was allocated, eyes turned to the vacant adjacent land. On Saturday, at 6 am, squatters began moving in.

ANC Lanseria secretary Norma Sharples, who was instrumental in the setting up of the Zandspruit camp, says her organisation and the Asiyindawo (No Where To) Residents Committee of Zandspruit were not involved, and had never advocated land invasion.

She stresses that Zandspruit is no ordinary squatter camp: "It was never intended to be a squatter camp. These people have paid rent and are prepared to pay rent again."

Sharples says that instead of creating a model project, overcrowding has turned the camp into a township of squalor.

Zandspruit was established in June after the local ANC branch approached the Transitional Executive Council in March for land to house about 360 families facing eviction.

But the situation got out of hand as more and more families applied for the 550 sites in the transit camp. By August, 717 sites had been allocated. By September there were more than 900 sites. "People are now living on 50 sq m instead of the 200 sq m initially allocated per site," says Sharples.

Still, more people arrived.

Day of dreams turns to dust and death for Selina

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Selina Dasheka woke up on Saturday with a smile on her face.

"Today, I thought, I will achieve my life-long dream to build a home for my six children," she recalled. "I put my hammer and a spade closer to my bed before I slept because Saturday was the day I have always dreamt of."

Dasheka is one of almost 1 000 squatters illegally occupying land adjacent to the Zandspruit transit camp in Randburg.

For the past two months, she and her six children have been sharing a shack with a friend at the camp after losing her job and home in Weltevreden Park.

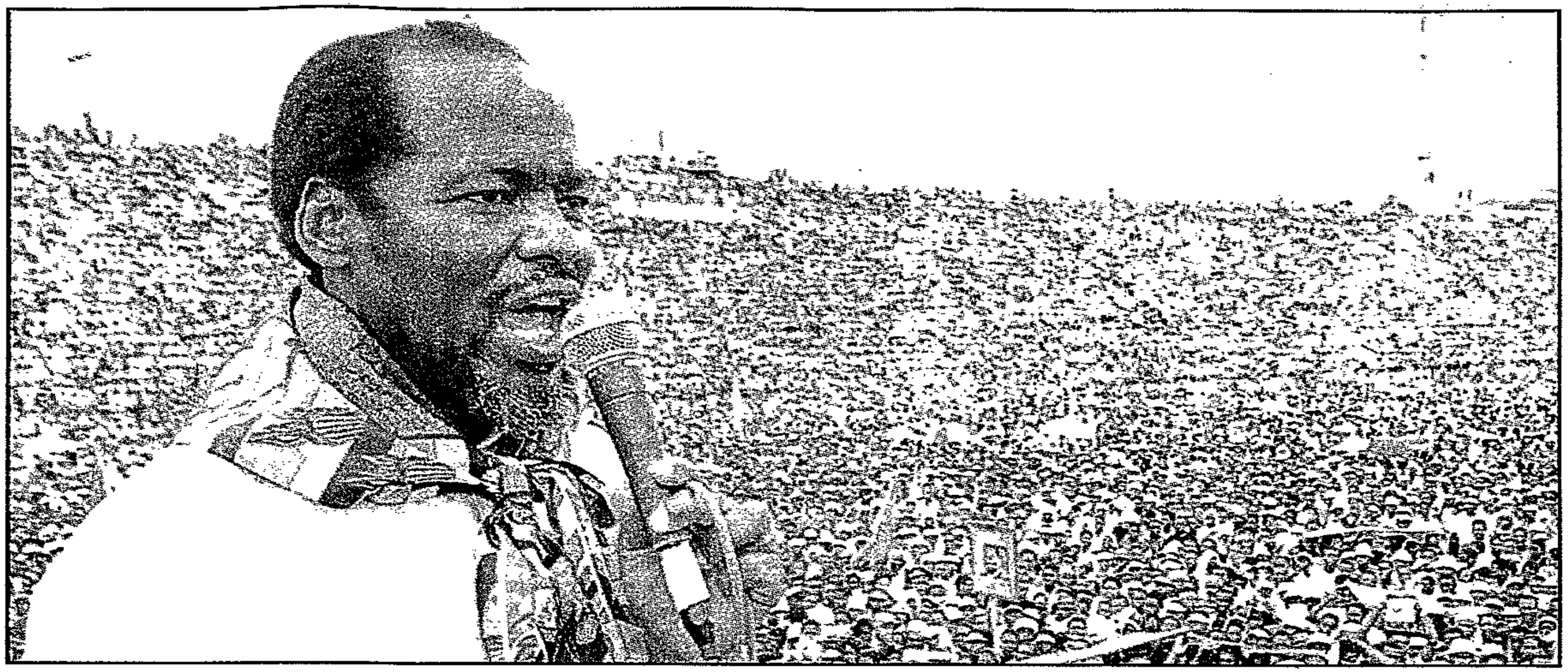
It did not cross her mind that she was invading private property: "I did not care who owned the land, all I know is that I am occupying land that should be rightfully mine because it is not used. Besides, the police watched us erect our homes and did not try to stop us."

Late in the afternoon, chaos erupted and Mashudu Tshikhudo (22) from Venda was killed.

Dasheka says Tshikhudo was merely injured in the first shooting but was shot at again by police. "He was going to survive, he would be alive now if that policeman was not so cold-hearted."

Police told The Star on Sunday that only rubber bullets and teargas were used after a mob surrounded and stoned police.

Homemaker ... Selina Dasheka illegally invaded the land opposite the Zandspruit transit camp and vows not to move. PICTURE: CHRIS ADAM



Mozambican president and leader of Frelimo Mr Joacquim Chissano speaks to thousands of supporters at the end of his final election campaign in the capital Maputo on Monday. Mozambique goes to the polls in its first-ever multiparty elections tomorrow and on Friday. The rally attracted about 70 000 supporters. The ruling party is expected to be given a tough fight at the polls by opposition rebel movement Renamo.
● See page 9

PIC: AP

Squatters to be [redacted] evicted

Sowetan 26/10/94 (310)

SA Press Association

THE RAND SUPREME COURT yesterday granted an eviction order to landowners at Zandspruit, Randburg, to remove squatters who occupied their land on Saturday.

The order will come into effect tomorrow to allow the PWV provincial government, the Randburg Town Council and landowners more time to try and resolve the issue and to relocate families, reports *Sapa*.

At a Press conference yesterday afternoon, Randburg management committee acting chairman Mr Dawie de Beer denied claims by the squatters that they had been granted permission to settle on the land.

Earlier, squatters claimed Randburg management committee chairman Mr Gary Cooney had granted permission at a meeting two weeks ago. Cooney left for Mozambique on Monday and could not immediately be reached for comment.

However, De Beer said after talking to Cooney "he emphatically denies he made such a statement. It is therefore a false and malicious rumour".

De Beer said the council, in conjunction with the PWV government, was urgently considering alternative land for the squatters.

"There is, in fact, alternative land available, for instance at Lanseria and at the PWV-owned Nooitgedacht site where the people could be relocated," he added.

He said it was "unfortunate" the move could not take place immediately and it was hoped a speedy resolution would be found to "defuse the situation".

A spokesman for the squatters, Mr Godfrey Phiri, said yesterday: "We will not move until we have been given another place."

On Saturday Mr Makhoba Shibada was shot dead and Mr Joseph Zwane, Mr John Ngobeni and Mr Kirsten Ndlovu were injured in clashes with police who tried to evict the squatters.

Russel Molefe reports that hundreds of squatters continued to erect shacks at Zandspruit yesterday.

When *Sowetan* arrived at the area, more people were still moving in despite an urgent application for their eviction lodged by landowners.

The squatters were adamant they would not move from the land before an alternative place was found for them. Most had no place to stay and were sleeping in the open in Randburg.

Plan to invade inner city

Star 11/11/94

■ BY PAULA FRAY and BONGIWE MLANGENI

About 1 000 people have put their names on a waiting list for soon-to-be-invaded vacant flats in the inner city, according to the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota).

Jota organised the illegal occupation of 40 unoccupied flats in Claridge Court, Joubert Park, at the weekend, and warned it had targeted three other buildings in the city.

Jota has also threatened to occupy a recently built low-income development in Troyeville initiated by the Johannesburg City Council.

The illegal occupation has met with strong calls for decisive action to prevent further inner-city invasion and for a solution to the city's housing problems.

The council has condemned the invasion.

City council director of urbanisation Cedric de Beer warned yesterday that any attempt to occupy low-income houses would jeopardise future low-cost housing developments.

Demands

The Claridge Court landlord, believed to be Pietersburg businessman David Phahladira, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Moshoeshoe insisted Jota would continue to invade more flats until the council and the Government responded to its demands. (310)

"The city council has contributed a great deal to the inner-city decay.

"They should see to it that they do something about it soon."

Jota spokesman Moses Mashoeshoe said Jota had been trying to contact Phahladira and wanted to negotiate the sale or the rental of the building.

Residents were willing to pay R250 rent, as well as water and electricity accounts directly to the council.

Actstop's Cas Coovadia said yesterday that although it was immoral for flats to stand empty while people were

▶ To Page 3

P.T.O.

PERISCOPE

'We will fix all that is broken'

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

On Saturday afternoon Getrude Ntaba waited impatiently in the rain outside a block of flats. She was ready to move into Claridge Court in Joubert Park and choose her new home.

Ntaba and her three children are among the 40 families — members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) — that forcibly broke into the building and took occupation of flats abandoned for four years.

She now stays in a bachelor flat which is tiled and has brightly painted walls, electricity and water. Apart from the built-in cupboards, the only other furniture is the kitchen sink.

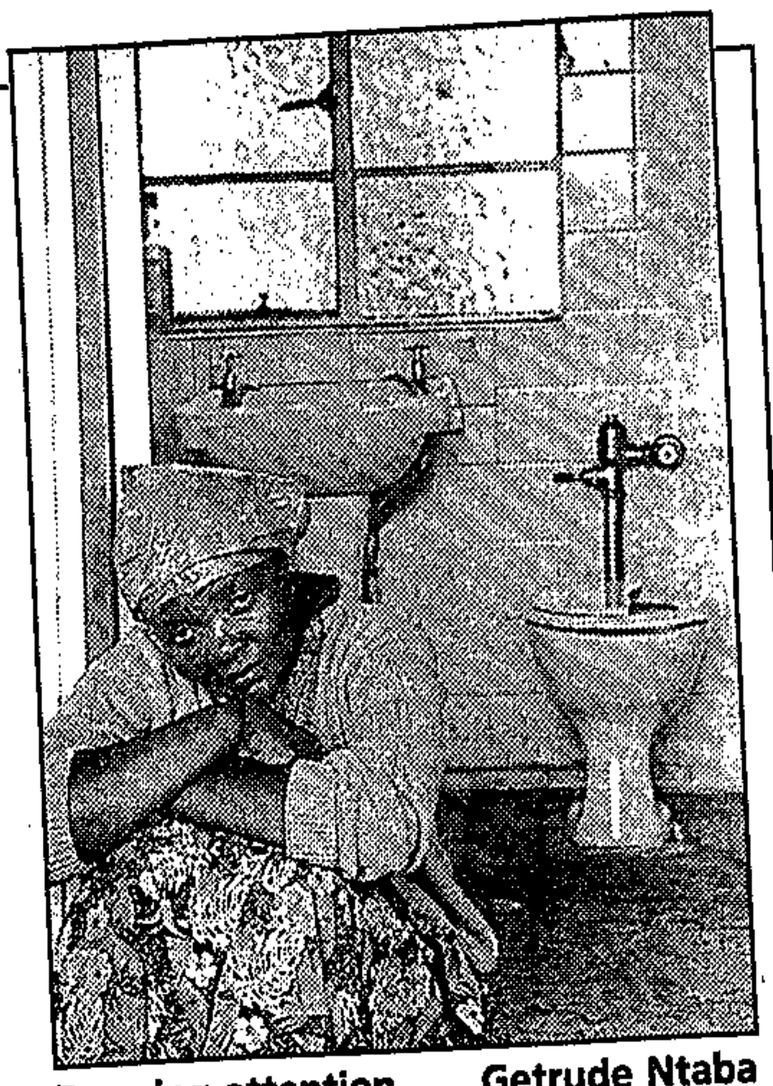
"We have problems but we are prepared to fix all that is broken. For instance, we don't have hot water, the doors do not lock and the toilet does not flush," she said.

Ntaba said she used to share a flat with friends in the same neighbourhood. She could not take the overcrowding anymore.

"I decided to join Jota because I could not stand the frustration . . . and fortunately I was at the top of the list of people who were desperately in need of a home," she said.

Needing a home was not her only reason for invading the flat: "This is one way of showing the Government how bad the problem of housing is and how urgently they need to address the problems faced by inner-city residents."

She said that once everything was settled with the owner of the building, she would start paying R250 rent.



Drawing attention . . . Getrude Ntaba invaded Claridge Court in Joubert Park to show the urgency of inner-city problems. PICTURE: DEBBIE YAZBEK

Plan to invade more flats in inner city

Star 11/11/94

(KR) (310)

◀ From Page 1

sleeping on the pavements, the invasion was not the correct way to address the housing problem.

Coovadia said the invasions were a disservice to the homeless as they would simply be evicted.

The low-cost housing units being targeted had been built after an "intensive process of consultation" and it would be wrong to invade these houses when there were other needy people on the waiting list.

According to De Beer, most of the Troyeville units have been sold.

Coovadia said the major city players — including the Central Johannesburg Partnership, the council, Actstop and Jota — should meet to try to solve the housing problem in the inner city.

Coovadia said the new Transitional Metropolitan Council needed to have a clear programme of action to deal with the problem: "The TMC needs to act quickly and assertively ... we must at all costs avoid a sustained strategy of occupation."

The threats of invasion come as the European Union studies a R200 million proposal which could lead to the construction of 4 000 affordable rental homes in the inner city.

Disgruntled community has burnt down 'toilet mafia's' privies

There's no place to go

Star 5/11/94

IN KLIPTOWN, 85 portable toilets hired by local authorities for 20 000 squatters are kept locked by individuals who claim to have bought them — the rest use shallow pit latrines, a river or the veld. There are also fears of disease breaking out. NEWTON KANHEMA reports. Photographs by MYKEL NICOLAOU.

HEALTH HAZARD: The children of Freedom Charter Square — which has little by way of sanitation facilities — play in this filth.

HOPES DASHED: "We cannot live like this in the new South Africa. We all went to the election thinking that things would change," says Pindile Sangweni of the pit toilet she shares with 100 other squatters.

IN 1955 Kliptown, Soweto, was where the ANC adopted the Freedom Charter as its guiding principles for the liberation of South Africa.

Today it is an eyesore threatening to become a health hazard to the more than 20 000 squatters who live there.

The most pressing need of the residents of what is now called Freedom Charter Square is — besides housing — toilets.

So far the authorities have supplied 85 mobile toilets — but they are controlled by individuals who claim to have bought them.

The Soweto City Council has paid more than R5 million to a privately owned toilet supply company, Easy Loo, for the supply and servicing of the mobile toilets. But those in the camp have apparently been "sold" to individuals who do not allow other residents to use them.

Locked

The rest of the community uses the neighbouring river and the nearby railway line, while others have dug shallow pit latrines to which they restrict access.

All the working toilets in the area are locked and the keys are kept by individuals.

Said camp resident Archibald Stuurman: "This is my toilet. I paid for it and I will not allow anyone to mess with it. It's mine." Every toilet in the camp had been sold, he said. "You can ask the Easy Loo people. They know we paid for these toilets. There is no way I can give my toilet to everyone. They are not as clean as I am."

Recently a few of the mobile toilets were burnt down by an ry reside

Local civic leader Juliet Moseki said: "They are no use to them. Just look at the conditions of those that are said to be working. They are a health hazard. One cannot expect anyone to use these toilets. They are either full or they are broken."

This is my toilet . . . There is no way that I can give it to everyone. They are not as clean as I am.

She said she had headed a delegation to meet the Soweto City Council to ive Easy Loo removed from the area.

"The council has been paying large sums of money for services that are not rendered at all. These toilets are supposed to be drained every week but sometimes Easy Loo comes only after a few months.

"The best they have done is come to drain the toilets after two weeks. Their system does not work at all.

"Can you imagine what would happen if there was an outbreak of disease? The whole of this population would be wiped out."

Soweto town clerk Louis Geldenhuys confirmed that the council had been paying R8 000 a month to Easy Loo for the past five years for the supply and maintenance of 350 toilets in Soweto squatter camps.

"We have met people from these areas who have informed us that the toilets are inadequate and are also hired out to private individuals. They are not supposed to be hired out at all. Easy Loo is supposed to drain these toilets three times a week."

Geldenhuys said that although the council understood the toilets were inadequate, there were no plans to increase their numbers because there was no money available for this purpose.

"I am in a difficult situ- (310) ation because the Transvaal Provincial Administration has withdrawn its monthly contribution of R44 000 for the servicing of these toilets. What must I do?

Pindile Sangweni (40) shares a pit toilet with 100 other people.

They are supposed to be drained every week but sometimes Easy Loo comes only after a few months

"I have talked to the Easy Loo driver, who has promised to sell me a toilet of my own, but he is always promising every time he comes around. Just look at the way this toilet is," said Sangweni.

Another woman said: "We cannot be expected to live like this. We went to the elections thinking that things would change. Sometimes you want to go to the toilet and you find it occupied, and you try to wait but some drunkard comes threatening you and you just have to run to the bush."

Women wanting to use the communal toilet at night ran the risk of being raped, she added.

Efforts to contact Easy Loo managing director Sam Matona were unsuc- cessful

'Tenants' take 4th building

JOHANNESBURG. — Members of the Johannesburg Tenants Association occupied the Red Cross building in Hillbrow yesterday, bringing to four the number of buildings occupied in the area.

Police said they could not take action against the occupiers unless the owners of the buildings obtained court interdicts against them. — Sapa

J 7/11/94

(310)

Squatters get late reprieve

By Joshua Raboroko and Sapa

MORE THAN 1 000 squatters were given a last-minute reprieve yesterday from an eviction order to leave privately-owned land they invaded two weeks ago at Zandspruit, near Randburg.

The squatters were given until midday yesterday to demolish the shacks, but when they failed to beat the deadline trucks from the Randburg Town Council moved in to demolish the shacks.

Truckloads of corrugated iron, timber and furniture were removed from the camp to the council's premises while police stood by.

Police liaison officer Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Ngobeni said police were only there to see there was no trouble.

There were tears as the Sheriff of Krugersdorp, Mr Rudi Bekker, surrounded by hundreds of armed policemen, served the eviction order obtained from the Rand Supreme Court by local property owners.

At 11.35am the squatters were told they had 25 minutes to clear the area, a squatter "marshal" said.

The man said an urgent call was made to Randburg Management Committee chairman Mr Gary Cooney, who arrived at the squatter camp soon afterwards.

Cooney told squatters he would discuss their plight with the PWV land authorities. No alternative land had been set aside for them. After Cooney's intervention the sheriff, Krugersdorp municipality officials and the police left.

Most of the squatters vowed they would not leave the land.

Representatives of landowner Mr Stanley Woolf said they would seek another court order for squatters to be forcibly removed by tomorrow. — *Sapa.*

'PWV govt to get tough on squatters'

Sowetan 17/11/94

By Lulama Luti
Political Staff

■ LAND CRISIS Indaba to seek options for the 50 000 homeless:

THE PWV PROVINCIAL government is to get tough with people who forcefully occupy private land and has announced these actions will not be tolerated.

While the government sympathised with homeless people and was doing its utmost to help them, illegal "invasion" of land would not be accepted, said MEC for urban, rural development and environmental affairs Mr Sicelo Shiceka.

"We are not going to tolerate any situation where private land is invaded by anybody," said Shiceka.

Addressing a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, Shiceka said a major conference to deal with issues pertaining to land acquisition and homelessness would be discussed at a provincial land crisis conference to be held on December 6.

Land owners, farmers, local authorities, rate payers and representatives of the homeless are expected to attend the conference.

Shiceka said the conference would map out the framework within which land could be identified, serviced and released rapidly.

A member of Shiceka's strategic management team, Mr Tshepiso Mashinini, said estimates indicated there were between 500 000 and 600 000 homeless people in the PWV region. (310)

This number included people living in informal settlements, backyards and in hostels. The Vaal Triangle had the fastest growing number of squatters, with an increase of 500 a month.

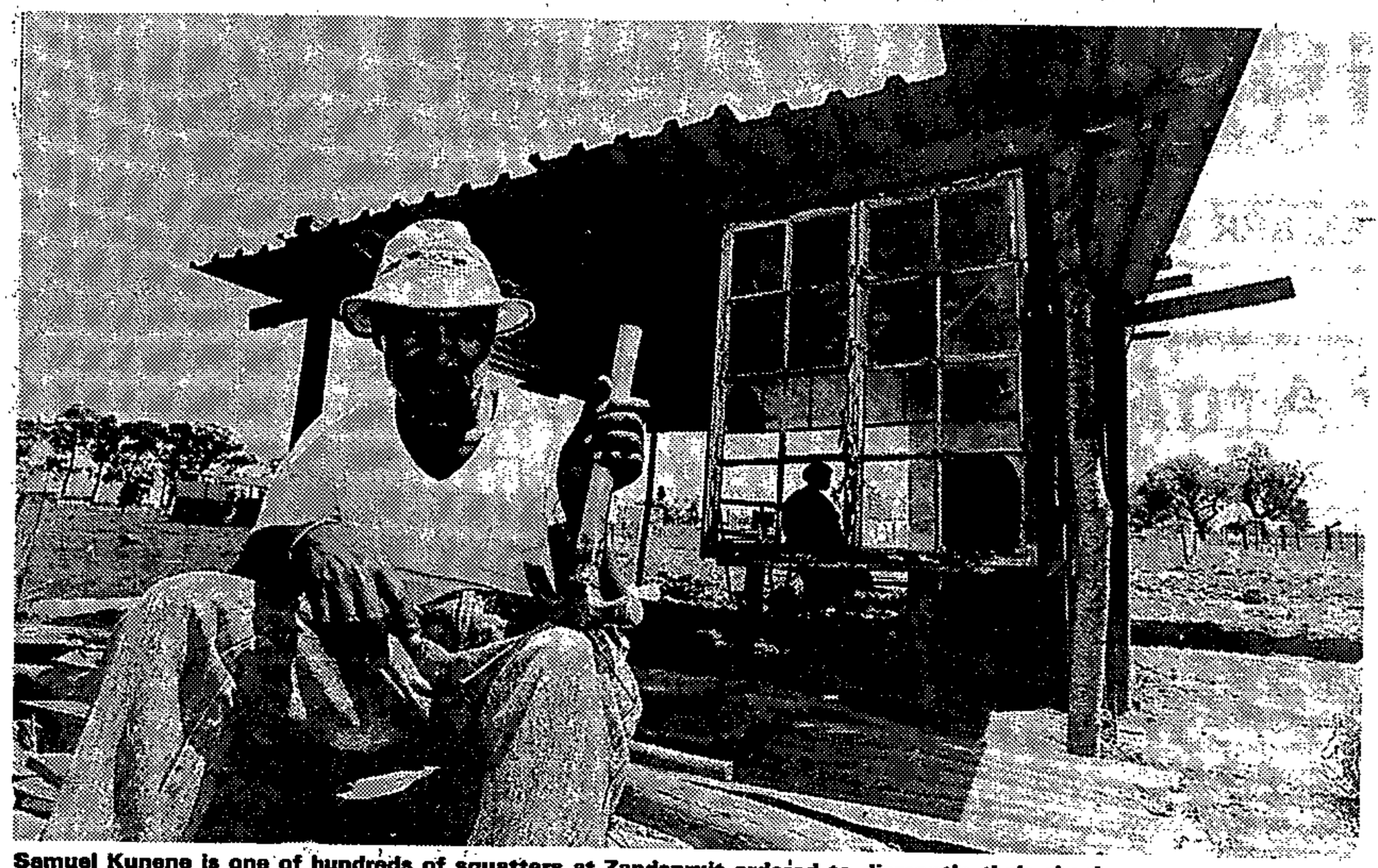
Meanwhile, negotiations for relocation of the illegal tenants on land adjacent to the Zandspruit squatter camp, north of Johannesburg are expected to be completed by tomorrow.

Shacks belonging to the illegal squatters on the privately owned land were demolished following a Supreme Court order granted to Zandspruit landowners on October 25.

Shiceka said concerns raised during the negotiations had been addressed and that the squatters would be accommodated, temporarily, at Lanseria, northwest of Johannesburg.

Asked how much the provincial government had set aside for the purchase of land from the various owners, Mashinini said there were no such funds and added that the provincial government would not be involved in the buying of any land.

This was the prerogative of local authorities in consultation with regional services councils, said Mashinini, adding that the RSC had the necessary financial resources.



Samuel Kunene is one of hundreds of squatters at Zandspruit ordered to dismantle their shacks. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

Zandspruit squatters call for renewed talks

B'Day 8/11/94

WILSON ZWANE

DEFIANT Zandspruit squatters said yesterday they would vacate private land they had invaded if they were told to do so by the PWV government, but vowed not to leave the area until alternative accommodation had been found for them.

They also called for the revival of negotiations with land owner Stanley Woolf, who had indicated willingness to let squatters remain on his land for three months provided he was paid a rental fee of R5 000.

ANC Zandspruit official Percy Makubo, who is also a spokesman for the squatters, said the negotiations with Woolf were scuppered by the Randburg Town Council which had made it clear that it would not supply water to the squatters.

Makubo said the squatters would vacate Woolf's land if forced to do so by authorities but would jam roads in the area "because that is where we are going to put our belongings".

He said there would also be "a stayaway of sorts" in the area. "We are not going to call for a stayaway ... but people cannot go to work and leave their properties unprotected."

Randburg Town Council management committee chairman Gary Cooney said the council was not in a position to identify alternative sites for the squatters as it was on the verge of being disbanded and absorbed into the Central Witwatersrand Transitional Metropolitan Council.

Cooney said the squatters had to form a committee with whom authorities could deal.

The formation of such a committee would speed up the process of giving the squatters access to land in accordance with the reconstruction and development programme. (310)

A Krugersdorp sheriff, who had a court order to effect evictions, told the squatters they would be arrested if they were still on the land at 8am today.

Yesterday morning, labourers who had been picked up from Germiston to raze the shacks refused to carry out instructions when they got to Zandspruit.

Makubo said he had then negotiated with police, who apparently wanted to do the job themselves, to let squatters pull down their own shacks.

Police spokesman Lt-Col Joseph Ngobeni said the police granted the request but remained in the area to maintain order.

There were no incidents of violence, and police vacated the area late yesterday afternoon after the squatters had been told PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng would address them.

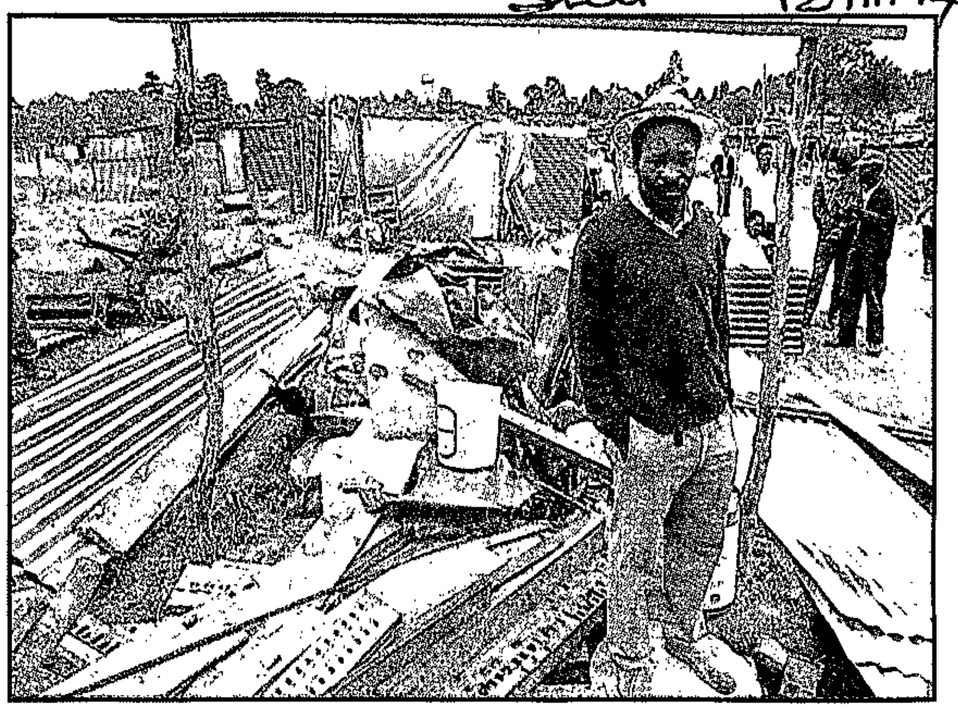
● Comment: Page 12

Squatters threaten race war if moved

SQUATTERS illegally occupying land next to the Zandspruit transit camp in Randburg are due to be evicted on Monday, and their shacks demolished. TEFO MOTHIBELI visited the camp to gauge the mood of its inhabitants.

TEMPORARY SHELTER: A resident holds vigil at the partly demolished shack that is her home, trying to protect her meagre belongings from the threat of bulldozers. *PHOTOGRAPHS: TJ LEMON*

Star 12/11/94



STRANDED: This man is left standing among the debris with all his belongings after his shack was demolished earlier this week.

310

THE planned demolition on Monday of the illegal shanty settlement that has sprung up on land next to the Zandspruit transit camp in Randburg could spark an outbreak of racial war, according to the squatters' young leader, who is known only as Simpiri (24).

"If the Randburg Town Council goes ahead with the evictions and demolitions, the people here have vowed also to forcefully evict whites staying in the vicinity or at least make life miserable for them by any means necessary," he adds.

He says all the squatters who are employed will stay away from work on Monday to add to the manpower to fight the evictions.

Simpiri says he appeals to the Randburg Town Council to rescind the decision to demolish the camp and to give dialogue a chance, in order to avert the possible "unnecessary loss of lives". He says the squatters are prepared to take up arms if need be.

Everything about Asiyindawo (We are not going anywhere) — the African name for the squatter camp — looks temporary and uncertain.

Sitting in front of a fire outside his shack, grey-haired Mike Molotjwa (67) says angrily: "The white man will never stop his arrogance. This land is ours. We were awarded it as a compensation following the building of the Pick 'n Pay warehouse on the graves of our ancestors in Randburg between 1971 and 1973."

Near to tears, Violet Hlathi (34), an unemployed mother of two sitting inside a zinc shelter loosely formed into a pyramid with plastic, rope and wire, asks in a coarse voice: "If they move us out of here, where do they expect us to go? I am prepared to go if they can give us alternative land with good facilities."

Walking about in the cold dark night on the camp's muddy and slippery footpaths, Joe Mkhize (43) tells me how heartbroken he is that his employer is trying to get rid of him by cutting his salary from R200 to R100.

"Lo mlungu o ya nya (My employer is mad). After six years of loyal service I deserve an increase, not a pay cut," he says. He would rather die than leave Asiyindawo.

The tranquillity of the night is disrupted by hammering.

"I am just trying to put a roof over my head . . . it is only temporary because our homes are to be demolished on Monday," says Gabriel Legodi (39), a mechanic.

A group of five youths I speak to do not mince their words in expressing their frustration and anger. "We are prepared to fight to the bitter end . . . the white people never brought any land when they came to South Africa . . . they instead raped it," says one.

■ The Rand Supreme Court granted an eviction order to the Randburg Town Council on Wednesday. Evictions could not proceed as scheduled on Thursday because the Krugersdorp sheriff needed time to "round up" more manpower.

Lennard Cowan, acting on behalf of landowners Stan Wolf, Joe Ferreira and Plot 59 Zandspruit CC, claimed this week that labourers were intimidated on Monday when the sheriff attempted to evict squatters for the first time.

Squatters evicted from Zandspruit

JOHANNESBURG. — Randburg municipal lorries moved in on the Zandspruit squatter camp north of here yesterday morning to evict hundreds of illegal tenants. (310)

This came after a Supreme Court eviction order was granted to Zandspruit landowners last month. At the time, squatters refused to move.

A municipal worker said the squatters would be taken to a site in Soweto today, along with their houses and belongings. CT 15/11/94

But this could not be confirmed by a Randburg town council spokesman.

Squatter spokesman Mr Jones Makwala said about 600 shacks were being dismantled. — Sapa

Five held in Joburg eviction

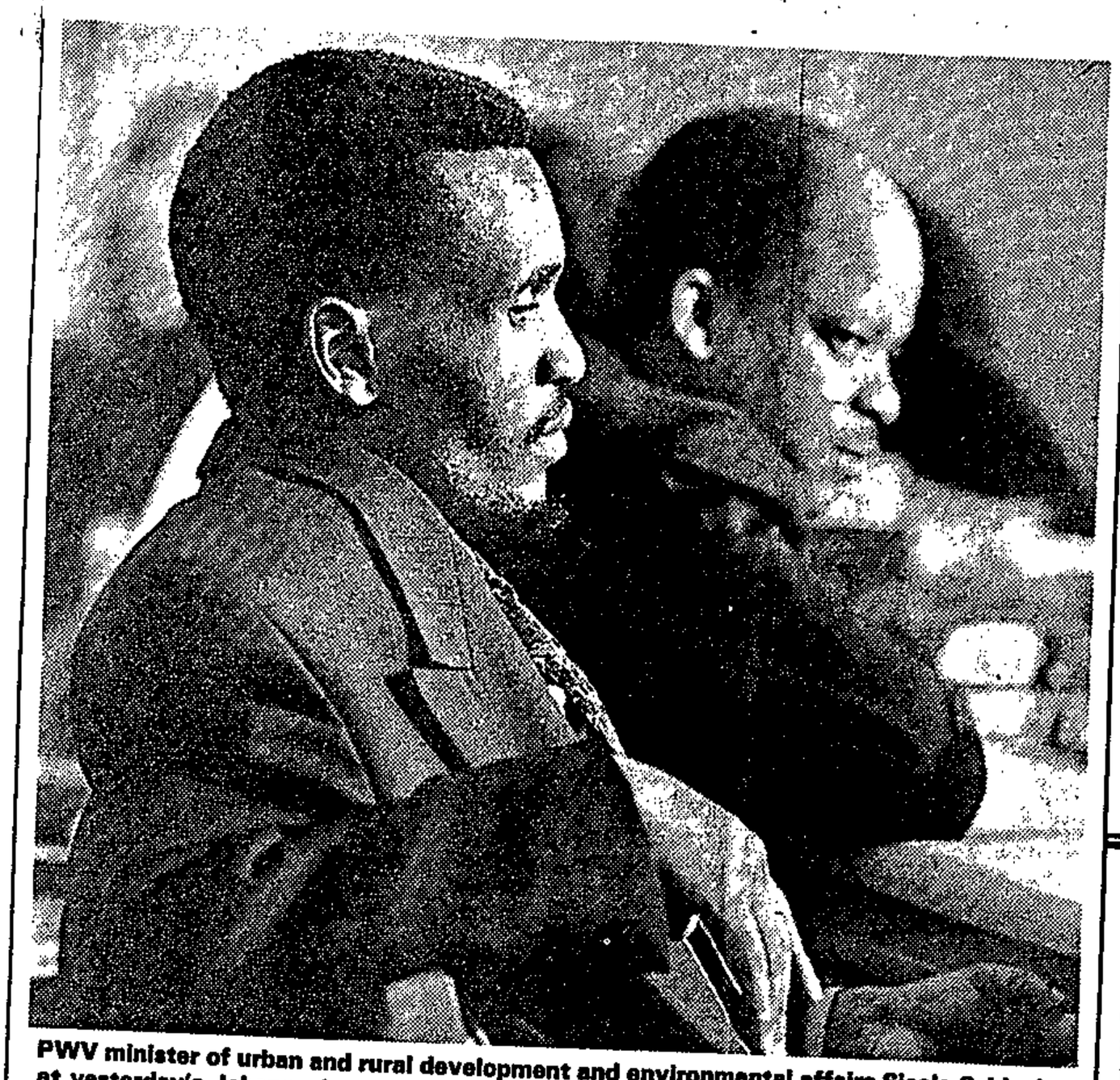
JOHANNESBURG. — Police evicted about 20 members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association from two houses in Berea yesterday.

Five were arrested for obstructing justice.

The landlord obtained an eviction order in the Rand Supreme Court because the tenants had not paid their rents for two months. (310)

Other JOTA members defied a court summons yesterday for allegedly illegally occupying flats in Hillbrow. — Sapa

CT 16/11/94



PWV minister of urban and rural development and environmental affairs Sicelo Shiceka at yesterday's Johannesburg conference on land issues, including land invasions. With him is urban planning group convenor Tsepiso Mashinini. Picture: SALLY SHORKEND

Squatters flocking to PWV area

WILSON ZWANE

THE incidence of squatting was highest in the Vaal Triangle, where at least 500 shacks mushroomed every month, the PWV government said yesterday.

Pretoria came a close second. This was attributed to the influx of people from the Northwest province.

In Johannesburg, urban planning group convenor Tsepiso Mashinini said a provincial land meeting scheduled for December 7 was intended to speed up the release of land for the homeless.

A short list of portions of land which would be released for development would be made known early next year.

It also emerged yesterday that the PWV had not yet secured money and land to resettle the Zandspruit squatters, who were served with an eviction order by the Supreme Court on Monday.

The province said on Tuesday it had secured R500 000 from the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) for the resettlement of the squatters, but this was denied by the council.

Further talks with the RSC would be held, while discussions were continuing with land owners in the area near Lanseria, north of Johannesburg, to which the squatters would be moved.

ARGUS 24/11/1974

Squatters: Roads to church farm blocked

(310)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Landowners in the Nooitgedacht area have placed barricades on roads to the Rhema Church's farm after the offer of temporary accommodation there for women and children evicted from privately owned land in Zandspruit.

The squatters have been living in the Randburg town council municipal gardens since the evictions last week.

Ray McCauley of the Rhema Church offered the women and children accommodation, food and clothing for three months while PWV and Randburg town council officials found a permament place for them. He said strict security would be imposed at the farm — only the Zandspruit squatters would be allowed there and he gave assurances it would not grow into a squatter camp.

After a meeting and a headcount by the squatters last night, it was decided to ask the church to take all 195 remaining squatters, including men.

Spokesman for the squatters Wendy Legoff said: "Most of the squatters, who originally numbered nearly 2 000, have found alternative accommodation. The 195 who remain are truly homeless and have nowhere else to go. We will appeal to Rhema to take all of them."

But landowners in the area said the squatters were Randburg's problem.Nooitgedacht did not fall under Randburg's jurisdiction and they would obtain a court interdict today to prevent the move if necessary.

Nooitgedacht Residents' and Landowners' Association chairman Bruce Finnemore said: "We are not radicals but we are not going to allow the squatters into the area. They are Randburg's problem and Randburg must deal with them. We will not allow the council to offload its problem in our area. We will not be made the scapegoats."

Randburg squatters can stay

(310) CT 24/11/94

JOHANNESBURG. — Squatters occupying the front lawn of the Randburg Town Council will not be evicted while negotiations to find them alternative land are in progress, the council said yesterday.

The squatters moved to Randburg after being evicted from private land they occupied illegally at the Zandspruit transit camp north of Johannesburg.

Municipal spokesman Mr Edwin Dykom said he believed no eviction would take place while negotiations were continuing.

Randburg earlier gave the squatters until 2pm on Tuesday to vacate the premises or face arrest.

But they were given a last-minute reprieve that afternoon. The deadline was temporarily suspended, pending discussions between squatter representatives, the council and PWV Land Affairs Minister Mr Sicelo Shiceka.

Their shacks and belongings were stored at a Randburg municipal pound after their eviction from Zandspruit.

Squatters followed their belongings to the pound and slept there for three nights before being told to move.

They then set up camp in the municipal gardens. — Sapa

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Church offer to squatters accepted

(310)
CT 26/11/94

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Zandspruit squatters have accepted a new offer from the Rhema Church to settle over 200 of them on a church farm in the Nooitgedacht area after a meeting of the Randburg town council this week.

They earlier rejected the church's offer to settle only women and children on the farm.

However, white residents in Nooitgedacht erected barricades to prevent squatters moving in. These were removed by police yesterday.

In terms of the new offer, 194 adults and about 40 children would be allowed to settle on the farm for not longer than 90 days, council spokesman Mr Edwin Dykom said yesterday.

Land

The other squatters would find alternative accommodation.

PWV Minister of Rural and Urban Development Mr Sicelo Shiceka said yesterday the PWV legislature had drawn up a list of vacant land in Randburg. He declined to name these areas.

Responding to reports that local "conservative elements" had erected barricades in Lanseria, he said this would lead to "the law taking its course".

He said where the government had been involved in the settling of squatters, no problems had been experienced.

Sapa reported police dismantled the landowners' wood-and-tyre barricades yesterday. Landowners said they would go to court to prevent a new squatter settlement starting up there.

ARG. 26/27/11/94

Rhema squatter offer accepted

JOHANNESBURG. — Residents of Nooitgedacht near Randburg, who erected barricades on Thursday to stop squatters taking advantage of a Rhema Church offer to house them on its farm in the area, have came out in support of the offer.

They reached an agreement with Rhema's Pastor Ray McCauley, who offered temporary accommodation to about 200 squatters evicted from private land they invaded at nearby Zandspruit.

Nooitgedacht residents demand that the squatters' area be fenced off, that men and women not be separated and that they move on within 90 days.

They also demand the Randburg Town Council no longer be involved in talks on the squatters. However, they said the council's financial help would be welcome. — Sapa.

Using media to get the Aids message across

ARG 3/12/94

IAIN MACDONALD
Weekend Argus Reporter

A NEW Aids campaign designed to reach right into the very fabric of South African society is poised for take-off, the Aids Support and Education Trust (Aset) has announced.

The campaign is for "people who haven't got access to Aids information and education, especially in rural or township areas," according to one of the campaign's organisers, Giles Griffin of Aset.

"It entails using the Press to get into areas other campaigns might not have reached, via advertisements and a coupon which can be completed or a helpline which can be called," he said.

The campaign is further targeted at young people who are "unsure about their sexuality.

"It's getting to people who are halfway, teenagers experimenting as kids will do, rather than those who are specifically saying 'I am gay'.

"The whole campaign depends on the Press. We're looking for free advertising space. in Australia, where the campaign started last year, there has been an extraordinary response.

"There, the only newspaper not to become involved experienced a drop in circulation. There was a lot of peer pressure.

"In Australia, in fact, the Aids infection rate is now dropping. They know what they're doing, and we want to repeat that here.

"Radio might also be a good form to use here. It hasn't been done in Australia, but we are going to look at it, though we're not sure what form it would take," he said.

The group consists of three AAA advertising students, Brian Weiner, Irvin Molamu and Lindsay Harrow, who are all working in conjunction with Aset.

The campaign does not seek to generate general awareness about Aids in a mass campaign, but "aims to change people's behaviour by communicating with them on a one-to-one basis" the group says.

Inquiries: Giles Griffin ☎448-3812, Brian Weiner ☎794-1938 or Lindsay Harrow ☎689-2587.

Support grows for evicted squatters

ARG 3/12/94 (3)10

MXOLISI MGXASHE
Weekend Argus Reporter

EVICTION of squatters at the Jakkalsvlei Canal camp at Langa clearly demonstrates the city council still has "an apartheid mentality", says SA Communist Party (SACP) regional secretary Phillip Dexter.

Mr Dexter was part of a delegation of African National Congress, SACP and Cosatu officials who held a Press conference at the camp where they expressed support for evicted shack-dwellers.

Addressing more than 500 squatters after the departure of a heavy contingent of police who had escorted city council demolition teams, ANC regional secretary James Ngculu urged residents to resist further evictions.

"Tell your tormentors things have changed," he said.

Mr Dexter said: "We are calling on all sympathetic political and church organisations to come here tomorrow and rally behind you because yours is a just struggle."

Western Cape Cosatu regional secretary Alan Roberts said his union supported the squatters' cause because there were many Cosatu members in their ranks and it was therefore "our business to find out what is happening to you."

He said he had been shocked to see more than 50 police vehicles at the site using their "armed weight" over defenceless men, women and children — when they had failed to turn up in that strength in cases of taxi violence.

Squatters shoot it out

JOHANNESBURG. The streets of Joubert Park echoed with automatic rifle fire last night as police and snipers exchanged shots at a burning block of flats which squatters tried to reoccupy after they were evicted yesterday. It was quiet this morning but there was a heavy police presence.

(310) ARG 6/12/94

Squatters vow: we'll Sowetans come back

By Sibusiso Mabaso 7/12/94

ILLEGAL tenants evicted from Claridge Court in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, said yesterday they would continue their struggle to occupy the building and not bow to pressure from the authorities and police.

The squatters were evicted on Monday by officials of the sheriff's office following a Supreme Court order.

The same night a policeman was wounded in a shootout between snipers in the building and police who sought to prevent the squatters reoccupying the building. This came after the squatters had set the building alight.

Two other buildings were set alight on Monday night allegedly by angry squatters, causing damage estimated at thousands of rands. A furniture shop was completely destroyed by fire.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Eugene Opperman said yesterday the injured policeman had been shot in the leg.

About 40 squatters had broken the metal gate to the building for the second time on Monday night and moved in in defiance of the court order. 310 ~~125~~

Members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association yesterday toyi-toyied in the street outside the building. Police described the area as quiet but tense.

More squatters evicted in Jo'burg

B Day 7/12/94

WILSON ZWANE and
LUCKY MADIKIZA

SQUATTERS were removed from a second Joubert Park building in Johannesburg yesterday, after a gun battle between illegal residents and police followed evictions at Claridge Court on Monday night.

Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) spokesman Moses Moshoeshoe said the Claridge Court squatters intended to reoccupy the building and would defend themselves against further police action.

One policeman was injured during the shoot-out on Monday night.

Jota member Isaac Spier said a second group of residents was evicted from Chrislucia Court when police arrived yesterday afternoon with a Supreme Court order.

Squatters from both buildings sat on the pavements around the blocks with their belongings, and no further violence was reported. Some of them threatened to "turn Joubert Park into a squatter camp".

Crisis meetings were held yesterday to discuss homelessness and squatting in the inner city. The provincial government also raised the issue at its land crisis meeting in Sandton. PWV housing minister Dan Mofokeng said the newly constituted provincial housing board would meet tomorrow to tackle housing-related issues. 310

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Evictions

B Day

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It would "address the problems in the inner-city" and a request for subsidies by Johannesburg's Seven Buildings Project.

PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale would meet Jota, which had organised several occupations in the city centre, including Claridge Court, to discuss the eviction of squatters in the inner city. Mofokeng said Jota had not attended a single meeting on the housing problem.

PWV finance minister Jabu Moleketi, addressing the PWV legislature, also promised a thorough investigation into Monday night's events.

Sapa reports that Mofokeng said the PWV government did not encourage invasion of land or buildings. "We have created forums to discuss problems surrounding housing." 310

Letting agents Johannesburg Property Services said Claridge Court's owners would work something out once the building was "completely ready for occupation" and peace had been restored.

PWV housing board chairman Martin Van Zyl said a task team would be set up at tomorrow's meeting to investigate all aspects of the Seven Buildings Project, a scheme whereby families staying in seven blocks of flats in Hillbrow, Berea, Joubert Part and central Johannesburg will buy the buildings through the acquisition of share blocks. The legal representative of the 450 families involved in the project, Trevor Bailey, said the matter was urgent as the owner of the seven buildings had instituted legal proceedings to evict tenants from three buildings. 7/12/94

THEO RAWANA reports that PWV safety and security minister Jessie Duarte said some homeowners had told her they feared going on holiday in case their houses were occupied by illegal tenants.

Police, squatters do battle again

CT 7/12/94 (310)

JOHANNESBURG. — For the second consecutive night squatters in central Johannesburg's Joubert Park area clashed with security guards and police as they tried to reoccupy Claridge Court in defiance of a court order.

About 42 families re-entered the building last night but were evicted by private security guards assisted by police.

Johannesurg Tenants Association (Jota) spokesman Mr Zack Mankge said squatters would meet later to decide what to do. He vowed they would reoccupy the building.

Police should not have forced squatters out into the cold, even with the court order — there was no place to sleep, Mr Mankge said.

The smell of teargas — used to disperse squatters — filled the streets around the building where pandemonium broke out, as security guards apparently threw furniture and possessions out of flats and down fire escapes. Television sets, mattresses and chairs littered the ground.

Second bid to occupy apartments

(3)

One angry squatter said she had yet to pay off her furniture.

The scene at the block of flats was tense as people tried to gather their possessions. Others sought shelter from the cold and rain under shop awnings.

Police kept a low profile. Only one Casspir armoured vehicle was seen near the flats.

In contrast to Monday night when squatters vented their anger on police, most of those evicted last night appeared resigned to their fate.

Ealier threats to burn the building appeared forgotten as the squatters tried to salvage their possessions.

Asked if he would try to reoccupy the building again, one man said: "I don't want to be killed."

Mr Joseph May, an employee at the Department of Home Affairs, vented his frustration on reporters: "You are not telling the truth. We'll petrol-bomb you too".

Responding to claims that police assisted security guards in the eviction, police spokesman Lieut-Colonel Opperman said police were ordered not to assist physically in the operation.

"If any individuals (policemen) did partake in any action then the squatters must come forward and tell us about it," he said.

The PWV government, yesterday promised a thorough investigation into the events in Joubert Park on Monday night.

● Squatters evicted yesterday threatened to build an informal settlement in a small city park to pressure the government into dealing with their grievances.

"We are going to turn Joubert Park into Phola Park," was the cry from the squatters as they watched in soaking rain over their unsheltered possessions.

● Squatters in a second building in Joubert Park were evicted yesterday morning under the watchful eye of the police. — Sapa

PWV govt pledges action on squatters

(310) BD 8/12/94

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

THE illegal occupation of buildings and land invasions were high on the agenda of the PWV cabinet at its last meeting for the year in Johannesburg yesterday.

Representatives from the departments of housing and development, planning and environment were mandated to hold an urgent meeting with members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) to discuss the occupation of buildings in the city centre.

The cabinet emphasised that many of Jota's concerns regarding homelessness and landlord/tenant relations were legitimate, but warned that firm action would be taken against those who broke the law.

The police have been asked to investigate events over the past few days, and to press charges against anyone found to have acted illegally. Visible policing will increase in areas affected by these occupations.

Earlier this week, the cabinet subcommittee dealing with transitional local government structures approved new transitional council agreements for Nigel, Heidelburg, Devon and North East Rand.

The cabinet approved promulgation of the Greater Pretoria transitional metropolitan council. It ruled that Midrand, Rabie Ridge and Ivory Park should form part of the North East Rand metropolitan council.

The community would be asked to nominate 10 representatives to the North East council by midday Friday. It would also be asked to appoint 22 people to the Midrand Metropolitan substructure, which will form part of the North East Rand Metropolitan Council. Arbitrators will be appointed to make the nominations if they fail to do so.

The cabinet subcommittee meets again on Friday to finalise issues relating to transitional local and metropolitan government structures.

Cabinet also discussed the allocation of senior management posts to the new administration, and has agreed to work within the quotas set down by the Public Service Commission, while conveying important objections regarding the criteria used by the commission for allocating senior positions.

□ LUCKY MADIKIZA reports that yesterday the pavements near Claridge Court in Joubert Park were still lined with goods of people evicted from the building on Monday night. People said they were still angry with the behaviour of the police following the eviction.

They denied allegations that they had set the building alight, questioning why they would have done so when some of their possessions were still inside.

Campaign to discourage invasions by the homeless

WILSON ZWANE

COMMUNITY organisation Actstop is planning a campaign to dissuade homeless people in Johannesburg's inner city from joining the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota), which it says has no right to exist.

And the PWV government said at the weekend it had held "useful discussions" with Jota during which it was decided — among other things — that a meeting should be facilitated between landlords, the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council and organisations representing homeless people.

It is hoped the meeting will be held this week.

Jota has agreed to a moratorium on the invasion of inner city buildings, while the province called on landlords to declare a moratorium on evictions until inner-city problems had been resolved.

Actstop president George Sejaphala said at the weekend it was perturbed by Jota's actions, which last week resulted in a confrontation between police and people staying at Claridge Court.

Sejaphala said his organisation had embarked on a "low-profile" campaign aimed at dissuading people from joining Jota.

"Jota grabs homeless people from Park Station and moves them into flats. Naturally, the homeless will see Jota as an organisation which has their interests at heart," he said.

He said Actstop was planning a big campaign aimed at persuading people not to accept Jota's "illegal housing delivery".

He added that people should take note of the fact that Jota chief Moses Moshoeshoe and nine of his "colleagues" had been expelled from Actstop for their "radicalism".

PWV housing and local government minister Dan Mofokeng said Jota had not attended a single meeting called to address inner-city housing problems.

It is understood, however, that Actstop official Cas Coovadia and Moshoeshoe are to debate inner-city issues on SABC-TV this evening

Mbeki opposes youth ministry

JOHANNES NGCOBO

BUSINESS, political, church, student and labour youth organisations were on Friday urged by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to reconsider their call for a youth ministry.

This followed a resolution taken at the National Youth Summit at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park that a technical team be formed to look at how the youth could be part of the government of national unity.

Mbeki said SA youth should begin to deal with issues affecting youth.

The ANC Youth League's proposal for a youth ministry was impractical because youth affairs were so broad they touched all existing ministries, he said.

Mbeki suggested a statutory national youth commission, a youth adviser or advisers to the President and a national youth council to coordinate youth forums.

League president Lulu Johnson said the league was not fundamentally opposed to Mbeki's proposal for a national youth commission. However, he said, the commission should be the first step towards a ministry.