

SQUATTERS — CAPE

1996 — 1997

Montague Gardens likely to get squatter leader as representative

PETER DENNEHY
MUNICIPAL REPORTER

AN ODD consequence of the scrapping of the "businesses vote" in local elections is that the industrial area of Montague Gardens is likely to have a squatter leader as its ward representative.

This point was made strongly by those who spoke up for industrialists at yesterday's first public Demarcation Board hearing on ward boundaries in "the northern substructure" (Greater Milnerton).

Mr Geoffrey Ashmead, president of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said: "Industrial and commercial areas need to have adequate representation, whether or not the person is voted for directly by the business community itself."

"We need a representative with

whom we can communicate.

"The city centre needs an elected representative who is able to act on behalf of this lifeblood of the community (commerce and industry)."

Business constituted the engine of the economy, he said.

Apart from the rates it contributed directly to local authorities, which Milnerton's mayor Mr Rod Hulley estimated was 37% of Milnerton's total rates income, it also provided employment opportunities.

Without these jobs, he said, nobody would pay rates.

In previous municipal elections, companies which owned property had the vote.

This provision was scrapped by agreement at Kempton Park over two years ago.

Individuals who are liable to

pay rates on a particular property do still have the vote in that property's municipality, even if they do not live there.

But most industrial and commercial properties are owned by companies, which can no longer vote.

Mr Hulley said after the hearing that he believed there were a total of 11 industrialists in Montague Gardens who were still able to vote — the rest had lost the franchise.

Montague Gardens will fall within the proposed Ward Five, the Marconi Beam ward, which has 3 349 registered voters within its boundaries.

Ms Amanda Younge, who chaired the Demarcation Board hearing, told a complaining Montague Gardens industrialist that the suffrage issue was beyond the purview of the board.

CT 9/1/96

307

Roadside squatters protest about land

(307) ARG 11/11/96
Staff Reporter

MORE than 50 men, women and children, who are squatting on a road verge near Fisantekraal in Durbanville, are desperate for a solution to their housing problem.

They arrived at the Cape Metropolitan Council's (CMC) Wale Street offices yesterday afternoon and planned to stay the night if chief executive officer Daan van den Berg did not agree to meet them.

But, Mr Van den Berg said the people fell under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Administration and he could not help them.

Judith Masina, spokeswoman for the group, said they had been trying for months to find a solution to their problem after they were "kicked out" of the Fisantekraal, Fisantekop and Klipheuvel areas.

"The people didn't want us on their land because we were not employed there. In some cases, our husbands worked on farms, but we were not allowed to stay there with our children.

"We heard that farmers told the Durbanville council not to accommodate us because they didn't want African people there."

Mrs Masina said the group of about 700 squatters had identified vacant land in Durbanville "on the other side of the railway line" where they wanted to build formal housing.

The Durbanville council had promised them the land, they said, but later withdrew the offer because the plot had been set aside for a graveyard.

Durbanville town clerk Dennis Smit said this was not true.

"The squatters are not living in the municipal area of Durbanville and I know they are interested in an outspan east of the Durbanville railway line which belongs to the CMC.

"It is impractical to house them on that site because it is in the middle of nowhere and there are no services at all.

"But, I know the CMC has spoken to them in the past and I'm sure it is possible to find a solution to the problem."

The squatters said they lived on the roadside in plastic shacks.

"Some families were thrown out of their houses on farms on Christmas Day.

"We will build our own houses — if only we can get some land."

Devastated Marconi Beam r

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

"WE have nothing left — what are we going to do?"

This was the heartrending refrain that echoed around the fire-devastated Marconi Beam squatter community yesterday as hundreds of residents tried to restore their shattered lives.

On a hot Sunday morning, as many Cape Town residents headed for the Peninsula's beach playgrounds or sat in quiet worship in suburban churches and offered thanks for their blessings, the shocked Marconi Beam residents set about rebuilding their shack homes that had been razed to the ground in Saturday's inferno — the third in a month.

High overhead, four pelicans glided serenely through a startlingly blue sky; on the ground in the squatter settlement, there was chaos.

The residents dragged blistered, twisted corrugated iron sheets and the charred remains of wooden poles to one side and used shovels to clear blackened piles — the remains of personal belongings and everyday household items — from what on Friday evening had been the neat interiors of their homes.

Broken china — plates, cups and saucers — lay scattered about, bottles fused together into misshapen brown and green lumps, and food tins soldered into a solid metal mass bore witness to the intensity of the blaze.

Most of the items making up the black debris were unrecognisable, but here and there were the identifiable remains of once-valuable household items — primus stoves, bicycles, beds, chairs, serving spoons, plastic buckets and basins, suitcases...

Some of the devastated shack sites were deserted, but at many of the others, friends and neighbours who could salvage enough material had started rebuilding their shacks, sharing saws, spades and hammers as they helped each other rebuild.

The camp rang with the staccato banging as they put in new corner posts and nailed wooden cross-beams and strips to make up walls.

Buzzing flies irritated the sweating workers, and a wom-

an selling frozen suckers did good business.

Music blared from scratchy speakers set up outside a shebeen, and while men laboured at the building, women gathered around the taps, waiting their turn to collect water, and others washed clothes.

But some of those who had lost everything appeared shell-shocked by the devastation and sat listlessly in the heat, staring ahead and doing nothing.

As the morning wore on, a light breeze started, whipping dust from the scorched earth.

Some women pushed supermarket trolleys loaded with blackened debris towards the already overloaded communal rubbish skips.

Two children sat with a bottle of blackened coins, carefully removing one at a time, wetting it and rubbing it on a rock in a painstaking exercise to restore the monetary value.

Hans Butegele was standing on a tin, hammering planks on to a new shack for his neighbour, Wilson Makhonxa.

"This is bad, really bad," he said.

He pointed over his shoulder to a black heap two metres away: "And that was mine. I tried to save what I could, but most of the furniture is gone."

Mr Makhonxa was dressed in a scruffy brown overall — all he had managed to salvage from the blaze.

In the ruins of one shack, the girlfriend of Dan Madletyane lay asleep on the sand while he worked. He was wearing a dirty t-shirt and jeans torn at the knees.

"I ran just as I was — I haven't got any other clothes now."

He laughed ruefully, then shook his head and sighed. The spade he was using had a fire-twisted handle.

"My spade — finished! The TV — finished! And the hammer too," he said.

Notomadazo Mnogcwabe was sitting on a mattress behind a sheet of corrugated iron struck into the sand for protection from the wind. She jiggled her nine-month-old baby on her lap while she packed clothes into a suitcase.

"This is the third time the house has been burnt, and

there's no money. What must we do?" she asked.

Levy Ntshingana's shack was just a few metres from where the fire started shortly before 1 am on Saturday.

"I was asleep and heard people shouting. I didn't have a chance because the fire was too near and it was too windy.

"The wind was blowing and the heat was hitting us, so we decided to run. So we took the child (eight-year-old Anathi) out, and that's all."

His wife Florence said she had been "very frightened".

"Everything's burnt — all. I don't know what we're going to do. We're sleeping with other people now, and we need material (to rebuild)."

Mr Ntshingana said security was a problem for people who had managed to salvage some of their possessions.

"We're unsafe, and you can't trust people during the night when you're asleep. We've no blankets, no food..."

"It's hard for us. I've never had a fire like this."

William Bulani's story was similar to that of scores of other Marconi Beam residents who lost their shacks and possessions.

"I was asleep when someone shouted. I took my children and my wife and the TV, and after that I've got nothing."

Pointing to blackened metal frames and charred timbers, he said: "I went shopping on Friday, and now here's my house, my chair, my child's bed. What can I do now?"

Across the road from Marconi Beam, Cynthia Dollie was sitting on her bed on the pavement in the open, propped against a vibracrete wall.

Her children — five-year-old Caroline and two-year-old Lucas — lay in the shade created by a mattress propped on top of another bed as she repaired a shirt with needle-and-thread.

"I haven't got any materials (to rebuild) — I can get some in Philippi but I haven't got any money," she said.

She'd been asleep in her three-roomed shack when the fire started.

"People shouted, 'You must

come — there's a fire!' so I jumped up and grabbed my children. I didn't know what was happening."

"I was standing here crying — the tears were running down my face."

A man sifted through the rubble, picking out the remains of aluminium cooking pots and putting them into a plastic shopping bag. "It's worth a lot of money," he confided.

An angry Pieter Petersen said it was the third time his shack has been burnt: "This happens every f... weekend and I've lost everything."

He blamed the government for his predicament.

"They don't want to build houses for us. Mandela said he would build houses."

"I've bought some more material now but it's expensive — these poles cost R30 each!"

Louisa Arendse tried to dampen down her shack before the fire reached them, but it was too quick.

"My husband and I put water on the roof but it didn't help. Everything happened in five minutes," she said.

"I heard the screaming — 'It's burning, it's burning'. We didn't know what was going on."

She opened her arms in a gesture of helplessness: "I didn't get anything out. I'm a loser. Everything's gone. There's no food, no money. I don't know what we're going to do."

She's convinced the fires have been started deliberately, and the arson is linked to feuding and revenge.

"There's a history and a story," she said meaningfully.

Tinus van der Merwe, who heads the social upliftment programme of the developers who are building the new Marconi Beam township on the Milnerton side of the squatter camp, is a regular visitor to the shack settlement.

"This is a great disaster — I've never seen anything like this," he said yesterday.

He's concerned about the psychological effects on the community of the repeated fires: "The spirit is bad," he said.

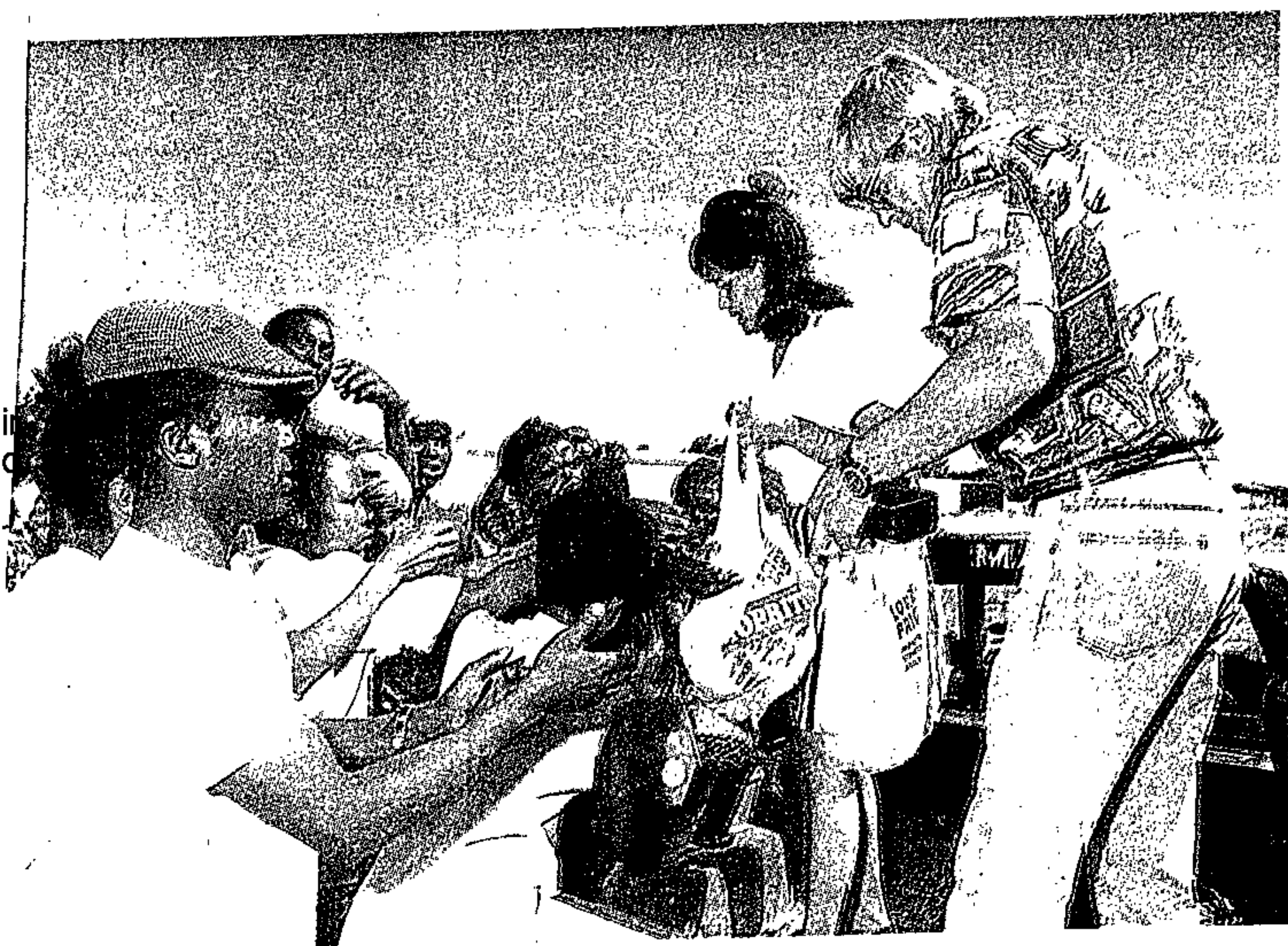
TAPE

Residents rebuild — again



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

AFTERMATH: An anxious fireman dampens down the smouldering remains of shacks after a fire swept through the Site B squatter camp at Khayelitsha on Saturday. One man was injured and 150 shacks were razed.



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

CONCERNED COUPLE: Volita and André de Wet of Table View hand groceries to some of the residents of the Marconi Beam squatter camp at Milnerton who lost all their possessions in a devastating fire on Saturday. Mr De Wet said some of his company's employees lived at the camp, and he and his wife had wanted to help those who had suffered in the fire.

An old man cried like a baby among smoky ruins

JOHAN SCHRONEN
Staff Reporter

THE midnight sky glows like a ball of fire as it silhouettes deserted shacks.

In the road in front of me hundreds of men, women and children sit on heaps of belongings they saved as they fled the inferno that swept through Marconi Beam squatter camp on Saturday night.

In the background, flames are licking the sky, the heat from the fire feeling like a warm berg wind.

Water from the fire brigade's hoses seeps between my toes as firemen scrum with their hoses between shacks to get closer to the blaze.

The chatter of desperate people is drowned momentarily by the loud sirens of an ambulance pulling off filled with seriously burnt people.

Behind me an old man dressed only in his underpants shakes uncontrollably. He cries like a baby; there is no skin left on his back and his hair is scorched.

A girl clutching her baby sister runs as fast as she can in the dark alley between the shacks. But a tidal wave of frantic people running for the safety of the road pushes her over.

Then a man, dressed only in shorts and a torn T-shirt, comes running by with a tiny old woman in his arms. Somehow he finds enough strength also to grab the struggling girl's hand to help her along.

The crackling of ambulance and police radios begins to subside as tired firemen stumble out of the shackland, their faces blackened with soot and their eyes red.

Behind them the black sky is once again visible — just here and there some smoke and steam. Their job is done.

R350 000 RELIEF PROMISED

307

2 000 homeless after pot is left on hot stove

SHACK FIRES HAVE DEVASTATED Cape Flats squatter communities. Six people died in three fires at Marconi Beam, and this weekend 2 000 Site B residents were left homeless. **LOREN KOLEVSOHN** reports.

A pot of food left on an open flame stove may have caused the fire that spread through a Site B squatter camp at Khayelitsha on Saturday, leaving nearly 2 000 people homeless.

Western Cape Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool said yesterday that R350 000 would be made available to squatter communities devastated by fires last week.

A resident said a woman had gone to watch the televised soccer on Saturday, leaving food cooking on the stove in her shack.

"That person is hiding now. People want to kill her because they have suffered great losses," said the resident, who did not want to be named.

Nobody died or was injured in the fire, but an SA Red Cross Society field officer at Site B, Mr Sindisa Rapiya, said about 330 shacks had been destroyed.

"Many of the people were unable to save anything, as they were at work at the time of the fire.

The homeless are staying in the Langeletu Resource Centre, where the Red Cross is providing relief, food and shelter, but accommodation is still a problem," he said.

Mr Tembani Sikhosha, whose grocery store served the whole of Site B, said he had lost at least R90 000 in the fire.

Rasool said R100 000 would be directed to Khayelitsha and R250 000 would be for the Marconi Beam Squatter camp near Milnerton where a third fire in the past week destroyed 800 shacks, leaving six people dead and thousands homeless and destitute.

A police spokesman at Milnerton said five of the bodies found at Marconi Beam were charred beyond recognition. The sixth person died in Somerset Hospital from severe burns.

"There is no way of knowing who the dead are. We will have to wait for people to report missing friends or family members," he said.

The Milnerton Civil Protection

group has set up a marquee to house about 3 000 squatters and is providing them with food and starter packs to rebuild their houses.

While women and children queued for food, their men stood guard over their scorched patches of ground to prevent others from laying claim to them.

Ms Eunice Sima said she would continue to sleep on her burnt property as "I must watch my things or people will steal my building materials".

Unemployed Mr George Domingos, 22, was close to tears as he stood over his three-square-metre patch of ground.

"I only started living here recently. I have a wife and two children to feed. I cannot live with so many people in one tent. I will have to collect other building materials and start again," he said.

Mrs Elise Green of the Red Cross Society said Site B in Khayelitsha had nothing and appealed for donations of clothing, nappies, blankets, non-perishable foods, bread and milk.

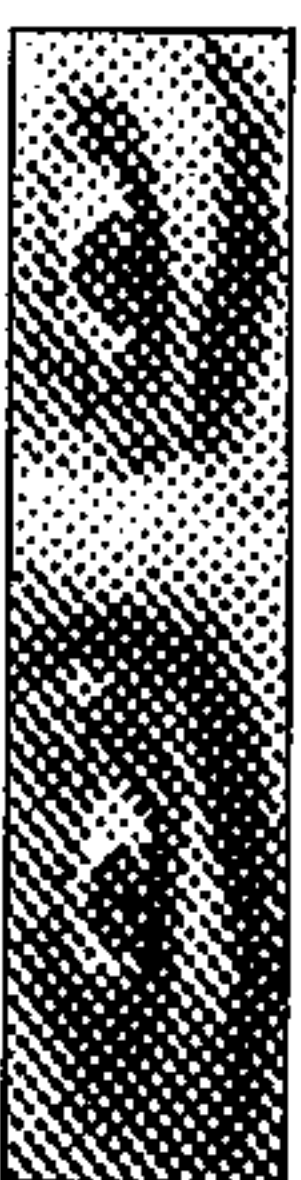
Donations can be handed in at the Red Cross Society's office at 21 Broad Road, Wynberg, or at the Langeletu Resource Centre opposite Khayelitsha police station.



DESTITUTE: A homeless woman rummages among the burnt remnants of her belongings at the Marconi Beam squatter camp while a woman and child survey the devastation left behind after a fire — the third in a week — destroyed some 800 shacks at the weekend.

Waiting among ashes for bricks and mortar

EYEWITNESS



Marion Edmunds

IN the old days, the authorities might have tried to bulldoze the shacks that make up Marconi Beam, a small shanty town next to Milnerton, Cape Town. This week, following Saturday's devastating fire which swept through the community on the wings of the south-easter, Milnerton Municipality was handing out bags of nails and wooden poles so that the homeless could start building again.

By Tuesday this week, construction was already in full swing, the township ringing with the sounds of hammers on planks and corrugated iron. The fire had burnt 800 or so shacks and about a thousand people were left without roofs over their heads. It was the second time in two weeks that a fire had raged through the community, burning homes, possessions and livelihoods. This time seven lives were lost. There is not much anger left in the tired faces in Marconi Beam, only resignation and sorrow.

"We have to be patient," said a weary woman, who was standing with her friend, watching the men work on new wooden and plastic shacks.

Both women have been living in Marconi Beam since 1990, and have sur-



The phoenix rises: Marconi Beam residents rebuild their shacks with materials donated by the local council

PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

vived eight or nine fires. They said they came to Marconi Beam to look for husbands, Marjorie Wentzel from Maitland and Mary Skukuza from Kimberley.

Skukuza was able to point out her husband, standing on the roof of a new shack, wielding his hammer. Wentzel's face was lined and closed. Her husband had been killed in an earlier fire in Marconi Beam, two years ago. She had not

found another one. She has three children to care for and, although she says she is 32, her face bears the wrinkles and cares of a 50-year-old.

There is no way of estimating the havoc the regular fires in Marconi Beam wreak on the lives of its mostly unemployed residents who, as it is, struggle to make ends meet.

"The community is very resilient."

said Milnerton Town Clerk Peter Gerber with a sigh this week. Gerber is coordinating the relief work in the wake of the fire. "Many people have lost everything," he said.

Gerber and the assistant fire chief say that the fire spread so fast because the shacks are built on top of each other and are made with highly flammable materials. The only way to lessen

(307) MtG 26/1-1/2/96

the threat would be to build proper houses out of brick and have them spaced with fire breaks in between.

Ironically, Marconi Beam is on the verge of benefiting from the new government's housing policy. A show village is to be built next month, as a precursor to formal houses — to be built as part of the national housing scheme. In the meantime, however, the community is dependent on aid and its own ingenuity to survive.

The municipality declared the area a civil disaster area this week and has been handing out the building kits, blankets, mattresses and emergency food parcels since Saturday. The municipality already provides potable water, a refuse collection service and sanitation for the community.

The police have stepped in to provide a soup kitchen which serves two meals a day to the hungry who stand in a constant queue.

MEC for Welfare Ebrahim Rasool committed R250 000 to the community for relief, a move supported by national Welfare Minister Abe Williams, who says that the money will come from national government coffers. Williams visited the camp this week to inspect the damage.

Concern from government figures and the prospect of housing may be lit the compensation now for the empty-handed, who drift stone-faced between the half-built houses and the charred remains of their previous dwellings. But they talk about proper houses, and say they are waiting patiently.

New row rages over Marconi fires

ADELE BALETA

Staff Reporter

(307)
ARG 3/2/96

CRACKS in the provincial government are widening over the infernos at Marconi Beam.

Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool has attacked Minister of Housing and acting-premier Gerald Morkel for saying that the Disaster Relief Fund, which falls within Mr Rasool's portfolio, has dried up.

"This is not the case. And it is a confusing signal to send to a team from the Social Services Department who have to do a needs assessment with a view to further assistance from the Disaster Relief Fund," said Mr Rasool.

Mr Morkel was "out of town", but his administrative secretary said a "mistake" had been made and Mr Morkel meant that the Urbanisation Fund, not the Disaster Fund, had been depleted.

Mr Morkel was quoted as saying: "We have a disaster fund but its totally depleted. Thank God our financial year ends in March."

Leonard Ramatlakane, ANC provincial Minister of Transport, Road and Public Works — standing in for Chris Nissan as Economic Affairs and RDP Minister — slammed the acting-premier for calling in the National Intelligence Agency to investigate the fires.

Mr Ramatlakane said explanations based on conspiracy theories would not assist the Marconi Beam community. He said the real issues were access to land and resources and the delivery of houses and facilities.

The NP Minister of Housing had asked the NIA and the police to investigate whether the fires were coincidental or politically motivated.

Mr Rasool also hit out at Mr Morkel for attempting to deflect his responsibility — the delivery of houses — by calling on the NIA.

He said he hoped the acting-premier had not suggested the fund had dried up to "bolster his suggestion that the fires were deliberate".

"This is both insensitive to the victims of the fire and causes unnecessary doubt in the minds of many Capetonians who responded with their hearts.

"The provincial minister would have to admit land and housing conditions are the prime causes of such disasters. The buck stops with him, not the NIA, the police or any national minister."

■ MUIZENBERG

Forum acts on homeless problem

□ *Complaints of drinking, drug abuse, sex pests*
 ARG 5/2/96 (307)

Southern Reporter

HOMELESS people, who are flocking to Muizenberg in increasing numbers, are causing a disturbing rise in social problems such as alcohol and drug abuse and indecent exposure.

A working group has been formed by the Muizenberg police forum to study the situation and Muizenberg residents have been asked to help.

Community police officer Johan Viljoen said: "The community must be part of solving this increasing social problem."

The group will carry out a survey and report back at the next forum meeting with details of the situation and possible solutions.

Sergeant Viljoen said there had been increasing complaints about anti-social behaviour.

"The main problems associated with the homeless and unemployed are drinking, aggressive behaviour and the use of foul or abusive language," he said. "Numerous cases of indecent exposure have also been reported to the Muizenberg police."

Among the areas to which

homeless people appear to gravitate are the park above Main Road, opposite the pavilion and the public open space in Atlantic Road.

Chairman of the Muizenberg and Lakeside ratepayers and residents association Gerald Musikanth said: "Drinking in public affects the social ethos of the area. Drug and alcohol related problems are particularly prevalent when the law enforcement officers are off duty."

He said street fights had also occurred.

"If we could root out the drug and alcohol problem we

could focus our resources on uplifting the local homeless population, which gets drawn into these activities."

Sergeant Viljoen said different organisations, councillors, community leaders and the SAP had held an urgent meeting with senior magistrate André du Rand.

Although possible solutions had been tabled these would be subject to the approval of the magistrate.

Residents are urged not to get involved in the domestic quarrels of the homeless, but rather to call police.

apiens

grancy – and some possible answers

(307)

ARG 6/2/96

S
Y



Hobo Sa

Down and out in CT: The vexed question of va

ARG 6/2/46

(307)

WHILE the Cape Town City Council's traffic department stands accused of the routine victimisation, assault and torture of vagrants, the council's ad hoc vagrancy committee is desperately trying to get the city to adopt a formal vagrancy policy. A report by ROGER FRIEDMAN.

PUBLIC response to allegations last week that traffic officers regularly assault vagrants has ranged from outrage to calls that all indigents should be lined up against a wall and shot.

The city council immediately instituted an internal investigation, and the police opened an assault docket, but a stream of callers to The Argus have suggested that the traffic department deserves all the support it can get to eradicate the problem.

Some even suggested it was a "non-issue".

Head of the council's ad hoc vagrancy committee, Isobel Edelstein, however, hopes to persuade the city to pass a formal vagrancy policy this month, and is fine-tuning a set of proposals and recommendations as a starting point.

"They (vagrants) are certainly not going to go away," she argues.

Ordinary citizens may view vagrants as noisy, smelly, objectionable, anti-social, frequently drunk, often mentally ill and usually very difficult to handle.

But from a social worker's perspective, vagrants are "multi-problem personalities" requiring help.

Vagrants generally have little formal education and therefore few job opportunities, no extended family, few social or employment skills, and rapidly fall into destitution in periods of economic depression.

Some are born with frail or vulnerable mental conditions which through some trauma in their lives creates irreparable damage, marginalising them from conventional society and forcing them into destitution.

Gradually, they assume the role

of societal outcasts.

They pick up habits such as alcohol abuse, drinking methylated spirits or taking drugs which add to their marginalisation.

Daily lifestyles reinforce these anti-social habits, which in time lead to further deterioration (both mental and physical), and eventually they become total outcasts.

These are the people allegedly being victimised, tortured, abused and harassed by city traffic officials.

These are the people some would have lined up and shot, and these are the people the council's ad hoc vagrancy committee would like protected by the adoption of a formal policy on vagrancy.

A discussion document compiled by Co-ordinated Action with Street People (Casp) following a recent conference attended by a number of roleplayers, outlines the areas the intended policy might cover.

Whatever final form the policy takes, clearly, the attempted rehabilitation of such marginalised people is not a task any local authority can assume single-handed.

Education, skills training, job creation, family reintegration, improved relationships between vagrants and authority - each area will require a variety of government departments and non-governmental organisations to co-operate with the local authority.

Inter-sectoral approaches should be adopted with regard to health care, correctional services, nursing and detoxification programmes.

And programmes should be

designed for criminal elements and ex-offenders, the elderly, alcoholics and psychiatric patients.

Legislation should be introduced and a public campaign launched to prohibit the sale of solvents to minors, while regular and accessible primary health care for all homeless people was a necessity.

Access for the homeless to legal aid should be considered a priority, while local by-laws should be amended to allow for the washing of cars in public places and to outlaw the arrest of indigents for loitering.

There must be provision by council for adequate toilet and lock-up facilities at all times, street workers should be employed, and the Parks and Forestry Department should beautify and upgrade existing shelters.

Finally, the conference concluded, street people's rights were "continually" violated by policing agencies including the South African Police Services, the traffic police and private security companies.

While welfare organisations accepted people involved in crime should be dealt with by the justice system, they also had a right to humane treatment.

Resources such as counselling services and legal advice should be made available to street people to assist in their possible rehabilitation.

The police and traffic department could play a meaningful role in the transformation of unacceptable behaviour by street persons through proper co-ordination with rehabilitative services.

SPIRITUALLY DEPRESSING: The cause of homelessness are deeply rooted in the socio-economic reality of South Africa. Rapid urbanisation and unemployment exacerbate the problem - and children become casualties of dysfunctional families unable to provide their basic needs.

SURVIVORS: Vagrants, below, are described by some as survivors clinging tenaciously to life in a hostile urban environment. Moves are afoot within the city council to ensure people living on the streets enjoy the same rights and benefits as the rest of society.



R44 000 aid for Marconi Beam

JILYAN PITMAN (307)
Staff Reporter

PENINSULA and country Rotary Clubs collected R44 000 for the destitute of Marconi Beam and the money was used to buy foam mattresses and blankets. ARG 9/2/96

Next week cooking utensils will be distributed to all the squatter camp residents.

Paul Faure, PRO for the clubs,

said: "Milnerton's assistant chief fire officer Steve Abrahamse has done the distribution and will begin giving out the cooking utensils next week. The clubs are going raise more money to help those destitute in Khayeltisha."

"Each of the families in Marconi Beam got a starter home kit — comprising poles, plastic, a hammer and nails — and when the structures went up then the mattresses and blankets were distributed," Mr Faure said.

Controversial site to be fenced off to keep out 'squatter aliens'

ANDREA WEISS, Municipal Reporter

THE Century City site near Ysterplaat airforce base is to be fenced off to prevent squatters from occupying the land and to stop illegal dumping of rubble.

That is the word from Martin Wragge, managing director of Monex, the company which applied to provincial government for the site to be rezoned from residential mixed use.

Mr Wragge was speaking at the first meeting to discuss an environmental impact assessment for the site which contains sensitive wetlands, including a large bird breeding area.

Although the 192-ha site is heavily infested with alien vegetation, two scientific studies have indicated there are environmentally important features. There are seasonal pans which are a threat-

ened plant habitat and the permanent vlei known as Blouvlei is home to thousands of breeding birds.

In response to a question about the current management of the site, Mr Wragge said the company was in the process of erecting six kilometres of fence to stop "aliens of another kind with metal sheets on their heads" from coming on to the site.

The meeting at the Bothasig town hall was attended by representatives of a number of environmental organisations who had petitioned Environmental Minister Lampie Fick over the sensitivity of the site.

The Western Cape cabinet has approved the rezoning conditional upon an environmental impact assessment being done in line with the principles of integrated

environmental management.

Monex has also been instructed to involve the public in the study which is being carried out by the CSIR.

Participants at this week's meeting expressed concern about a wide variety of issues, including the impact of the proposed development on nearby Rietvlei, which is recognised as being of international importance, as well as Zoarvlei near Paarden Eiland and the Milnerton lagoon mouth.

They also expressed concern about the social impact of the development and said the environmental impact assessment brief was too narrow.

An ornithological study and botanical study have elaborated on the wetland features worth conserving.

ARG 22/2/96

(307)

THERN

KTC squatters give Marais an ultimatum

(307) AR 28/2/9

Staff Reporter

KTC residents near Nyanga are incensed by their "forced inclusion" into Guguletu Township when the Provincial Local Government Minister Peter Marais took a final decision on the demarcation of wards, to prepare for the forthcoming municipal elections.

The residents were backed by the area's ANC MP Sheperd Mdladlana who appealed to Mr Marais to "rescind" the decision or face the wrath of the people.

A spokesman for Mr Marais's office, Fritz Marx said Mr Marais "can't rescind the decision because it will jeopardise the elections".

"The proclamation was signed yesterday and the minister took the decision on the recommendations of the Demarcation Board," Mr Marx said.

The residents said they received the final map on Friday showing that a part of the squatter camp would fall under Guguletu.

They said they approved a proposal map shown to them prior to the final one which showed the area as a ward on its own.

The residents said the area had more than 14 000 eligible voters but so

far the voters' roll showed that there were only 12 000.

The minimum number of voters in each ward is 7 900 and the maximum is 10 700.

In a heated meeting with residents Mr Mdladlana said the community leadership was accused by the residents of "selling out after long and hard years of struggle".

He said the residents said they did not understand how the leadership could allow KTC to be divided into two while they wanted the area to remain united.

The residents wanted a united KTC and accused Mr Marais of "not consulting" the residents before taking a decision on the demarcation of the area.

They threatened that if their call was not heeded they would "take the necessary action".

Mr Marais office said the Demarcation Board held public hearings in all communities before it made recommendations to the Minister on which he based his decision.

However Mr Mdladlana warned that if Mr Marais did not rescind his decision he would face the resistance of the people.

Inner-city squatters fight eviction bid

Home is 'Bridge Hotel' underneath flyover
(307)
ARC 1/3/96

JOSEPH ARANES, Municipal Staff

A GROUP of inner-city squatters are challenging a Cape Town City Council bid to remove them from their makeshift village under a freeway flyover they call "Bridge Hotel".

Their "hotel" is under Western Boulevard in Green Point, and the squatters are opposing the council's Supreme Court application to kick them out of it.

Some of the 64 squatters say they have lived in the parking area under the freeway near the traffic department for the past 14 years, and have no other place to call home.

The council has applied to the court for an urgent eviction order, but this was opposed by the squatters, who have enlisted the help of the Legal Resources Centre (LRC).

A spokesman for the LRC said they challenged the order on the grounds that the assistant town clerk, who applied for the order, did not have the authority to bring it on his own.

"He should have taken the matter to the council's housing committee and full council before going to court. The matter also lacked urgency."

The court agreed with the LRC's argument and has transferred the matter to the semi-urgent roll. The case will now be heard on June 10.

Fiona Ogle, the council's

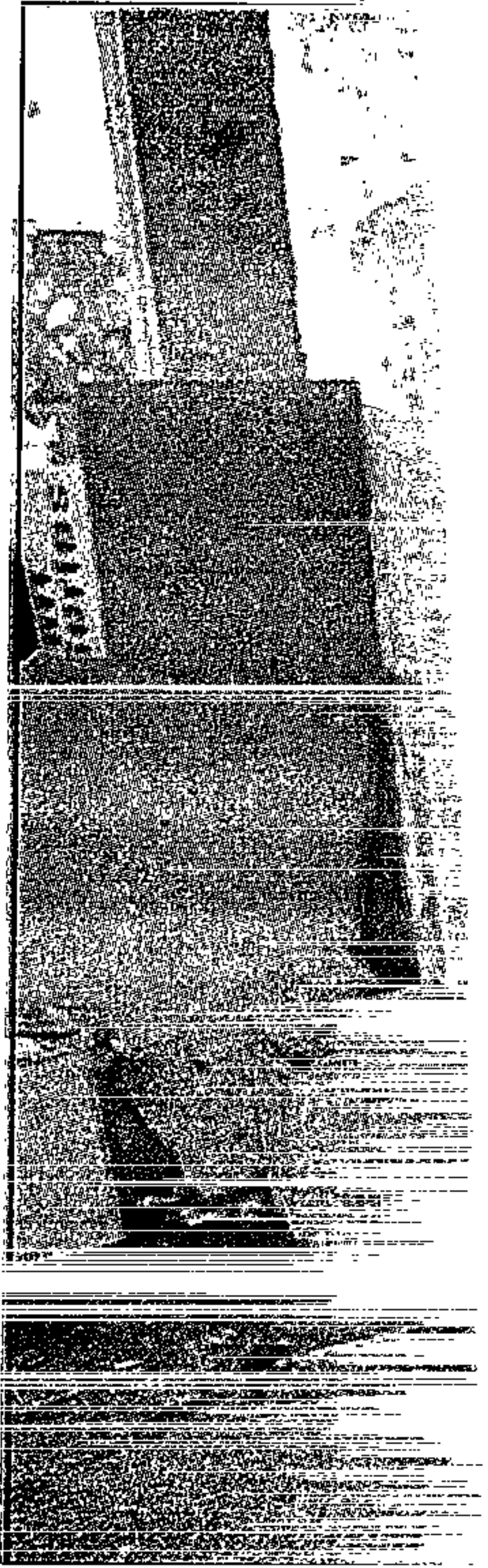
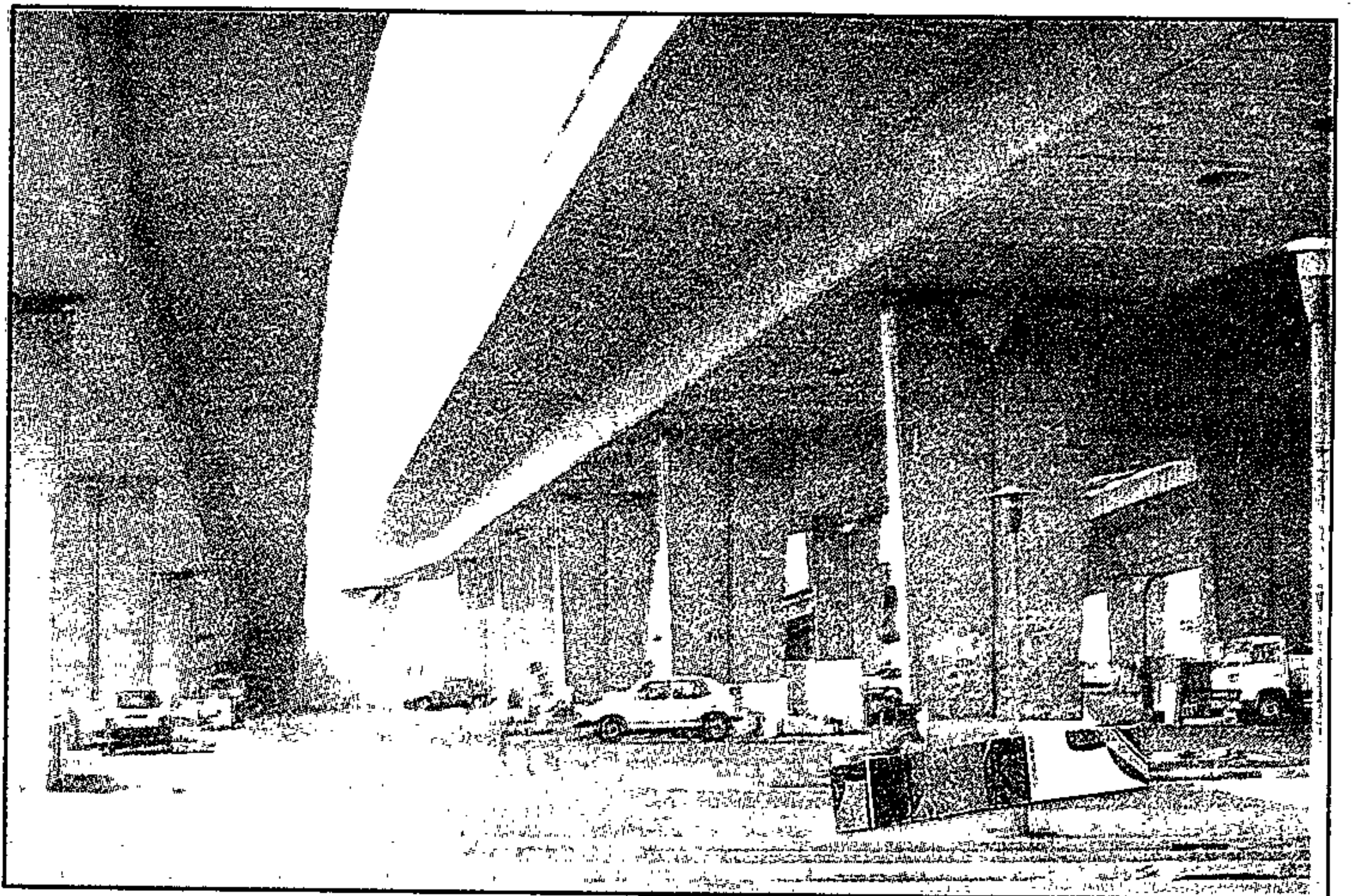
legal adviser, said the people were illegally occupying council land and that the council would continue to try and have them removed.

"We get ongoing complaints from people about their presence. The place is not hygienically suited for habitation and we have arranged alternative accommodation for them at The Ark, but they have refused to move."

The squatters, most of whom are male, are seasonally employed by a fleet of Portuguese fishing trawlers.

They are scattered across the parking area, with each family using the support pillars of the bridge as a shield from the wind. Earlier, the council delivered a portable toilet to the site for their use.

Squatter spokesman Fuad Ahmed said: "Our children all attend the Prestwich Street Primary School and, besides the normal problems we face of having to live like this, we often get accused of breaking into the cars using the parking area - but that is just part of life in a parking area."





Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

DAILY ROUTINE:

Natasha du Plessis washes her son Wayne, 2, in their makeshift squatter camp under Western Boulevard in Green Point.

BRIDGE HOTEL:

Hidden away under Western Boulevard, near the Green Point traffic department, this squatter community faces eviction as the Cape Town City Council tries to get an eviction order from the Supreme Court.

ARG 1/3/98

307

CAPE



FLASHBACK: How The Argus broke the Western Boulevard story last week.

Evictions: 'What else could we do?' ⁽³⁰⁷⁾ ARG 6/3/96

Municipal Staff

THE head of Cape Town City Council's housing committee, Charles Jacobs, came under fire from his committee members for not informing them of a decision to have a group of inner-city squatters evicted from their makeshift village under Western Boulevard in Green Point.

Committee member Isobel Edelstein told Mr Jacobs that as head of the committee he had no right to take such a decision on his own. Mr Jacobs said he was approached by the acting

town clerk, who had been receiving numerous complaints from businesses in the area about the vagrants, and after consulting with his co-chair and the chairwoman of the executive committee, decided the squatters should be evicted.

"But, we offered them alternative accommodation at The Ark which they refused point blank. What else could we do?"

Mrs Edelstein said she was not happy with the situation as the matter should have been referred to the full committee for

a decision.

"As a committee we needed to weigh the pros-and-cons of the situation and hear both sides of the story before making a decision. We need to look at how we can reconstruct these people's lives and not send them to The Ark in Westlake against their will."

After the council's legal adviser Fiona Olga addressed the committee, it was agreed that a policy was needed on how to deal with evictions from council-owned land.

City to rule on illegal occupiers

Municipal Staff

ILLEGAL tenants occupying Cape Town City Council dwellings may soon know what the future holds for them.

At yesterday's housing committee meeting the issue came under the spotlight with an application by an illegal occupier to buy a rented house.

The council policy stated that an illegal tenant could become a legal occupier if it could be proved the person had stayed in the house for a period of two years or longer.

But in the case discussed, the occupier failed to prove occupancy despite apparently living there for 10 years - and demolishing the house to build a new one.

The original tenants had marital problems and the husband forced his wife out of the house before they divorced.

He sub-let to the illegal occupier, Edmund Herold. Mr Herold, his wife and four children then took occupancy, demolished the council house and built a new house valued at about R100 000. He applied to the council to buy the unit.

The committee decided to put the sale on hold until a new policy was formulated.

Police battle with 500 would-be invaders

Police yesterday fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse about 500 pupils and teachers who tried to occupy the mainly white Laerskool Warrenton in the Northern Cape, said spokesman Supt Rita Crafford.

Nobody was seriously injured but a number of pupils were treated for bruising at Warrenton hospital, she said.

Trouble erupted in the town north of Kimberley when pupils and teachers from Ikhutseng township marched to the primary

school.

They stoned police and private vehicles when prevented from entering the schoolgrounds. Police fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse them.

Crafford said the group had moved off to Ikhutseng where they stoned the police station and two private cars.

They then returned to the primary school where negotiations were held with safety and security MEC Eunice Komane and police officials. - Sapa.

(307) Star 8/3/96

Rightwingers' escape: warders investigated

Alleged AWB bombers are suspected to have had keys enabling them to unlock their cells, after which they managed to get past checkpoints and razor-wire fences

By ANSO THOM
Crime Reporter

Prison warders who were on duty when four rightwingers escaped from Diepkloof prison at the weekend have been questioned as part of the top-level investigation ordered by the correctional services commissioner.

Correctional services spokesman Brig Chris Olckers confirmed that chief deputy commissioner, functional services, Lt-Gen Timothy Khoza, had visited the prison yesterday to question warders and investigate the "total spectrum".

Olckers could not yet say how

the men had managed to get past the security checkpoints, including razor-wire fences, surrounding the Johannesburg prison.

Police spokesman Supt Eugene Opperman said police had received information from the public regarding the escapers. "We are following up all possible leads," he said. A reward of up to R250 000 would be considered as information came in.

Olckers said the men escaped from the single-cell, awaiting-trial section with Solomon Zabane (18), who was facing an unrelated murder charge.

Jan Bastiaan de Wet of Ottosdal, Abraham "Adam" Myburgh

and Nicolaas Clifton Barnard of Ventersdorp, and Etienne Jacobus le Roux of Heidelberg were awaiting judgment in their trial in connection with a series of bombings during the runup to the 1994 election.

The escaped rightwingers, all members of the AWB, were due to reappear in court on March 29. Their cells were found unlocked early on Saturday, indicating they had used keys. They had also sawn through two grille doors and smashed open a door reinforced with a steel plate.

Opperman said the men were dangerous and should not be confronted.

Corpses and car retrieved from dam

By ANSO THOM

Police are probing the possibility of drugs having led to the death of two men whose bodies were found in Leeupan dam near Benoni.

A police source said they had information that the two might have been using drugs before their death. The car was also retrieved from the dam, but the men's belongings had been taken from the boot and left next to the water.

Police spokesman Insp Tommy Thompson said Mohamed Akbar Shaik (34) and Ahmed Shaffer Khan (30) of Actonville went fishing at Leeupan at 6pm on Friday with the intention of returning the same night. At 6am on Saturday their families went to look for them and found the contents of the car's boot on the ground.

Police alerted the water wing and dog unit, who retrieved the bodies and car from the dam.

Thompson said there were no visible injuries to the bodies.

He could not confirm whether the men had been in the car when it went into the dam. The bodies were found about 5m from the car, he said. Postmortems and forensic tests would be conducted.

Storm over threatened land invasions spreads

By NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

Anger among farming communities in Northern Province, Mpumalanga and the Free State over threatened land invasions has spread to the Western Cape.

The National Land Committee as well as other organisations representing landless or dispossessed people have threatened to invade privately owned rural property if a property rights clause is included in the new constitution, due to be published soon.

A delegation of Western Cape Agricultural Union officials met Premier Hernus Kriel and Local

Affairs MEC Piet Marais at the weekend to discuss the issue, in particular efforts by various organisations to render the Western Cape's Proclamation 5004 unlawful.

W Cape farmers discuss issue

ful. This proclamation guarantees the rights of property owners, and this right was confirmed by Kriel and Marais.

"The delegates agreed that the Western Cape Agricultural Union should continue to work towards

a practical solution to the problem," said the union's president, Chris du Toit, who is also president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The meeting is the latest development in an ongoing battle by farmers to protect their property. The Transvaal Agricultural Union has called the Government's proposed land policy "socialist" and "communistic", while the SAAU has warned against land invasion, saying farmers will use every form of resistance to oppose the practice.

Thousands of claims to rural land have been lodged by individuals and groups throughout the country in terms of the pro-

posed three-pronged land policy, spelt out in a green paper published last month.

According to the paper, land redistribution is designed to provide the poor with land for residential and productive purposes, land restitution is to restore land and "provide other remedies" to people dispossessed by discriminatory legislation and practice, and the land tenure reform programme is planned to extend security of tenure of all South Africans.

The policy paper also makes it clear that priority to land will not be given to people or groups who take part in land invasions or threaten to do so.

Star 12/3/96

Star 12/3/96

(307)

Home is where the heart is

— even if it's a trolley

MXOLISI MGXASHE ^{W/E} APR. 16-17/3/96
Staff Reporter

HE may be on the brink of down and out, but never call Christopher Mabala homeless — he has a mobile home that is a converted supermarket trolley. If nothing else, it does give him some dignity.

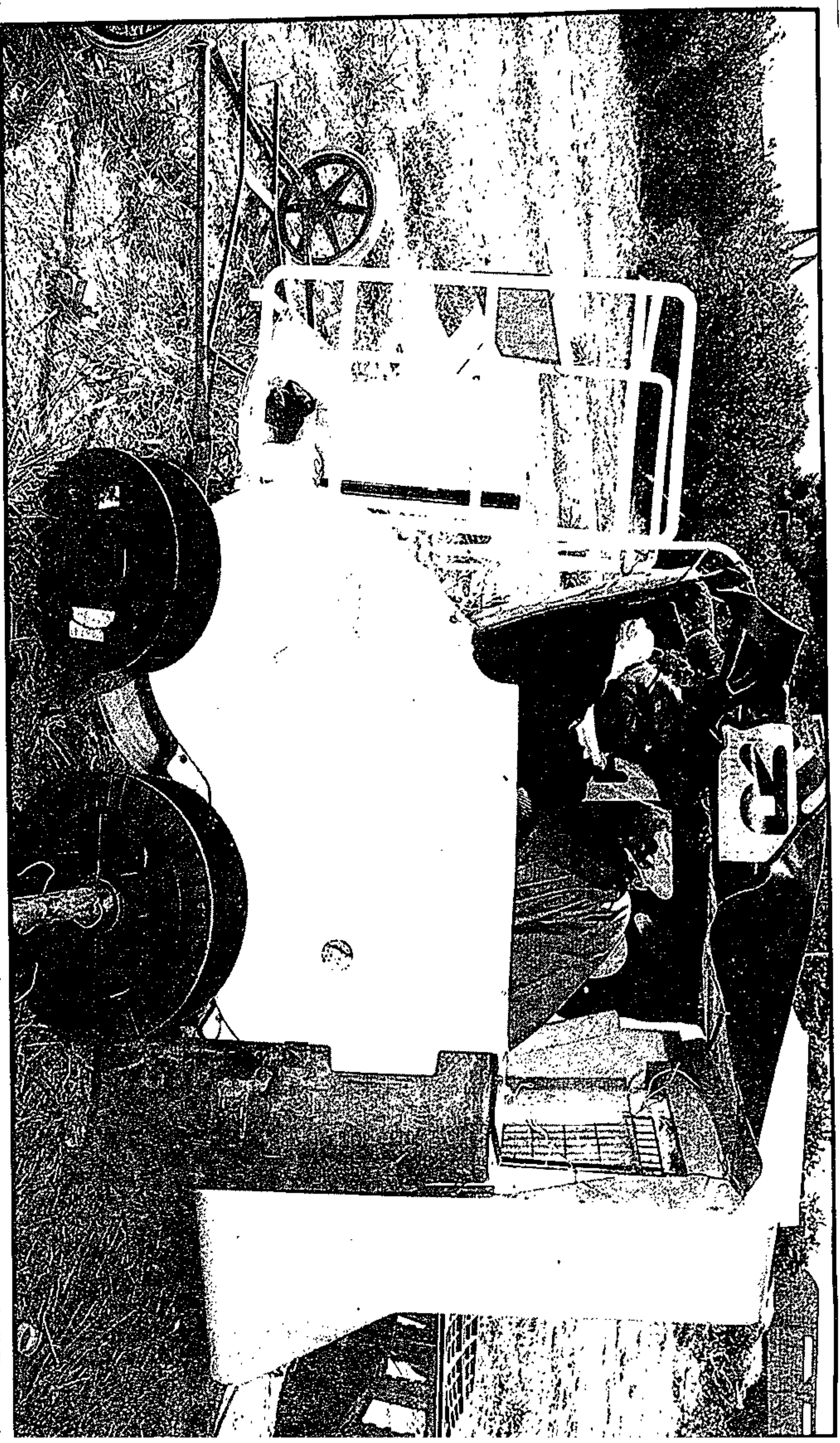
Christopher came to Cape Town from Queenstown in the 1980s, fleeing the economic deprivation in the Eastern Cape to look for work.

He has done odd jobs in the building industry and in gardens and anything else that earned him some food.

But one major problem has been not having a home of his own. He has stayed with friends and people from his village at the Zones in Guguletu.

But now his accommodation problem is no more, even though at one metre by one metre, it's somewhat cramped.

Mr Mabala has added homely touches and even extra wheels to his precious trolley — his



☐ **HOME:** Christopher Mabala lives in this little mobile shack he has made.

Picture: OBED ZILWA, Staff Photographer

home — that he pushes around during the day.

It would be difficult to describe him as a beggar because he strives to maintain his dignity by denying he is homeless.

"I'm only staying in this thing for a short while. I don't really need a proper house because I'll be going back to Queenstown. Please don't worry about me. I'm okay, I don't have any problems with food," said Mr. Mabala.

He sits next to his trolley for most of the time wondering where his next job will come from.

Thanks to taxi operator Saara Ali, who operates from Maitland station to Tableview and has become a kind of Good Samaritan, Mr. Mabala is provided with at least one plate of food a day.

"I saw this man getting out of this trolley and that aroused my curiosity. Something was not quite right here. He is very conscious of what his situation is, even though he will not go out to beg," said Mr. Ali, who feels he has an obligation as a Muslim to help where he can.

Receptionist Cornelia Esau, who works near Mr. Mabala's "residence", said she had seen the trolley for about the past three weeks.

Only this week she noticed a man sitting next to the trolley but she did not know that Mr. Mabala actually lived and slept in it.

Many others, including workers at a petrol station nearby, know very little about this mysterious man who doesn't care what people think about him because he believes he has a place in the sun.

Squatters face eviction

ALU 10/4/96 (307)
Council to act on 'bridge' people

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council's housing committee has decided to continue legal action against the Green Point "bridge" squatters whose presence has been offending neighbouring businesses.

The group of inner-city squatters, who were defended by the Legal Resources Centre after the council applied for an urgent eviction order in February, claim that some of them have been living in the area for up to 14 years and that they are seasonally employed on fishing trawlers.

The housing committee has also given the council's lawyers the go-ahead to negotiate an out-of-court settlement for the squatters to move before the next court date, which has been set for June 10.

According to a council report, the squatters were offered accommodation at the Ark in Westlake just before Christmas last year, but only six people indicated they were willing to go.

The report said the council first acted against squatters there in December 1992 when eight people were found on the property and evicted.

This pattern was repeated over the subsequent years until the council erected trespass signs in mid-1995.

During 1995, the council removed temporary structures several times but by December there were 80 people living under the bridge.

In January this year, several complaints were sent in from surrounding businesses - among them City Lodge Hotel and the Waterfront Theatre School, which offers tuition to primary school children.

The council took the matter to court in February and the housing committee

subsequently visited the site in March.

In a report to the committee, the city planner said the central business district generated about 25 percent of the municipal rates base and played a critical role in maintaining the financial viability of the city.

"Together with the Waterfront and Atlantic coast it forms the core of the Western Cape's tourism industry with some 54 percent of all hotel beds in the province being located in this area."

The report said the negative impact of an influx of homeless people was evident in Johannesburg and Durban.

"The issue of homelessness and poverty is extremely sensitive and is not easily solved, but for the reasons stated earlier it cannot be ignored because it would not be in the long-term interest of all the people of Cape Town."

"The problem is obviously not limited to the CBD or to these particular people and this issue is a microcosm of a greater malaise, which also includes street children."

However, the CBD is where the impact is potentially greatest and if not solved the problem could damage the prospects for the tourism industry which will, in turn, affect job creation and ultimately the financial viability of the whole city, and indeed the metropole."

During a debate on the issue, Democratic Party councillor Isobel Edelstein pleaded for the city's community liaison unit to undertake an accurate assessment of the situation.

She said she was not necessarily opposed to the removal of the squatters, but the city did not have any idea of what it was dealing with and therefore could not make an informed decision.

■ Squatters in Simondium, Paarl, plan to fight a court action to move them to Klapmuts, Stellenbosch.

JEANLE MAY
Staff Reporter

THE Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) will bring an urgent Supreme Court action on Monday against Western Cape premier, Herinus Kriel, Minister of Roads and Transport Leonard Rametlakane, Minister of Housing, Cecil Herandien and a group of squatters.

The CMC wants the squatters removed from a graveyard in Simondium, near Paarl, to a serviced squatter settlement at Klapmuts, near Stellenbosch.

It will also ask for decisions allowing the squatters to occupy their present site to be set aside.

SATURDAY Argus understands that the squatters will oppose the application.

Moreover, Stellenbosch deputy mayor Doreen Hami has informed a lawyer acting for the squatters that the Stellenbosch town council has

Squatters: CMC about to go to court

resolved against accepting them at the Klapmuts settlement, which is on housing land controlled by the council.

Daniel van den Berg, chief executive officer of the CMC, said in court papers that a group of about 50 squatters camping on the verge of the main road through Simondium had been moved by provincial roads department officials in February this year to the near-by graveyard site.

The roadside camp was dangerous for the squatters as well

as a traffic hazard.

The ground to which they were moved had been identified as state land, he said, but it turned out that it was owned by the former Winelands Regional Services Council.

Mr Van den Berg said that there had been objections to the squatters being moved to the graveyard.

A delegation of farmers interviewed Mr Kriel, who acknowledged that a mistake had been made.

He undertook to find a new

ARG 13/14/96
site for the squatter community.

During March the Western Cape cabinet decided that the squatters would be removed to Klapmuts.

In mid-March a Mr Hoffman met Flip Jacobs and Robert du Toit, spokesmen for the squatters.

An agreement was reached that the squatters would be moved, with all their possessions, to Klapmuts at no charge.

A week later Mr Hoffman was told that the squatter com-

munity had sacked its spokesmen and were no longer prepared to move.

The mood became threatening and Mr Hoffman had to leave, said Mr Van den Berg.

Late in March a petition signed by 850 inhabitants of Simondium and its neighbourhood was sent to Mr Kriel, he went on.

The petition described the squatter camp as a health risk.

A few days later another petition supporting the squatters and signed by 150 people was sent to Mr Kriel.

On inquiry, he had found that neither the Transport Department nor the Housing Department had asked leave to place the squatters on the Simondium site, said Mr Van den Berg.

The Minister of Housing had informed him that a suitable serviced site near Klapmuts was available.

There were no facilities at the present site in the graveyard and there had been threats from local people to take the law into their own hands, he said.

He undertook to see that a removal to Klapmuts took place in an orderly manner.

Homes at last for Marconi Beam

(307) (215) ARG 15/4/96

Squatter settlement is abuzz

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

AN ambitious new housing development is about to ease the lives of thousands of Marconi Beam squatter camp residents who have lived under some of the most squalid and dangerous conditions in the Western Cape.

The development at Slovo Park, as the new village will be called, is slowly starting to take shape at Marconi Beam in Milnerton, with 15 of 20 showhouses already built, and the remaining five due for completion by the end of the month.

Although some of the houses won't be much bigger than the proverbial matchbox, they will be a far cry from the present shacks which the squatters occupy on serviced land behind the Milnerton racecourse stables.

For the past few years the 1 200 families have lived in constant fear of fires raging through the camp during the dry, windy summer season.

And in winter they fear the annual rains, which turn the site into a muddy morass.

Earlier this year, four fires in a month destroyed hundreds of shacks and left many people homeless.

The local authority installed some basic services like a few scattered taps and toilets, and electricity, but the squalor remained evident.

Mzimasi Mbeki, development manager for the Marconi Beam Development Trust, said the trust was delighted at the recent progress that had been made to provide decent living conditions for the people.

"For too long the residents of Marconi Beam were forced to live under these appalling conditions, with little hope of any improvement to the quality of their lives. With this development taking shape we can now begin to visualise where we

are going to.

"Hopefully by the end of the month, the residents will be able to go to the show village and choose the type of house they would like to live in, and once that process is completed, the building of 250 units for the first phase can begin in all earnest."

Mr Mbeki said the project was divided into four phases, each consisting of about 250 different dwellings, depending on people's choices.

"The show period will be for two weeks, and it will give residents an opportunity to make an input on the house designs and other changes they might feel is necessary. During that period we will also announce the price of the different units."

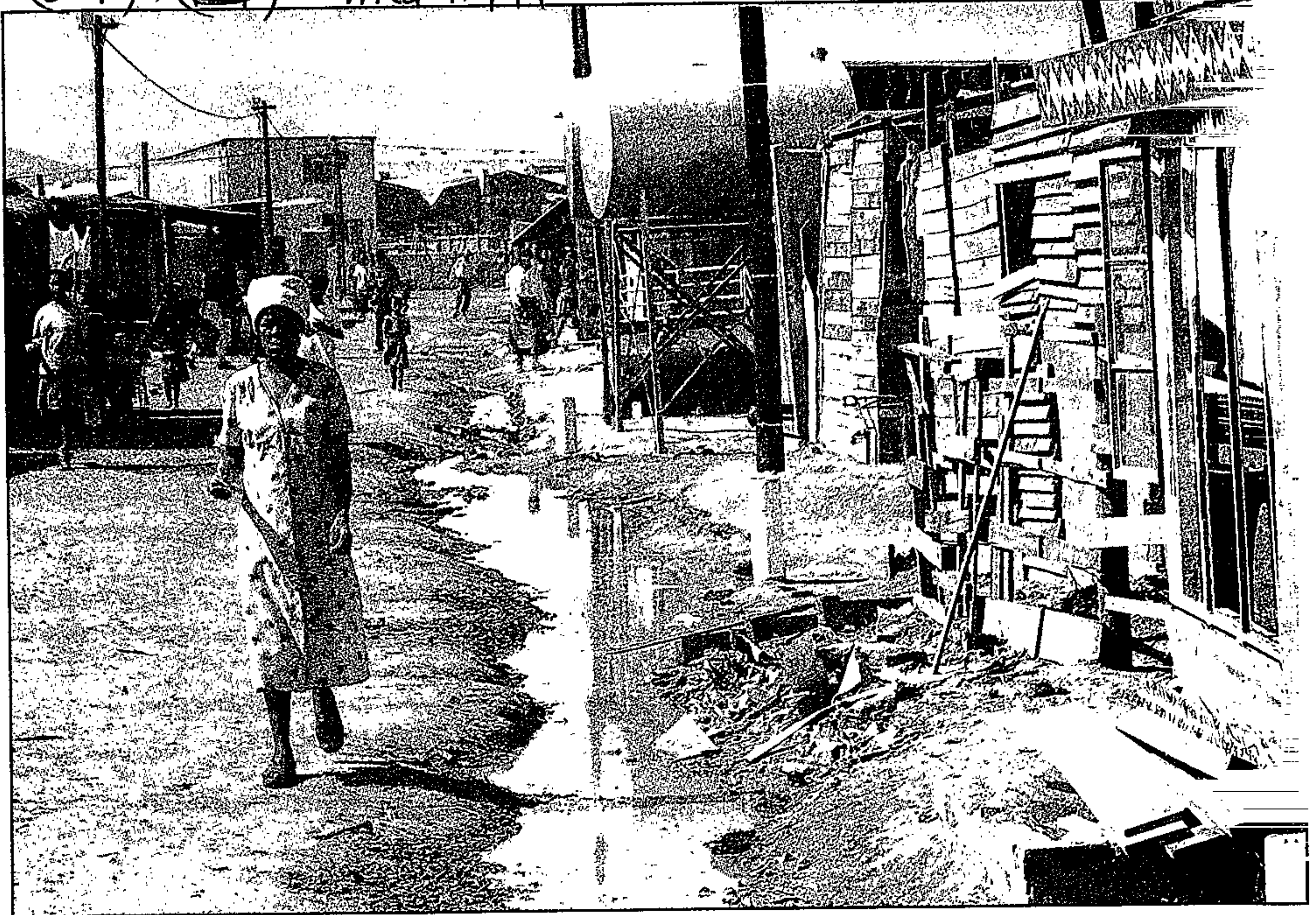
He said while most people wanted to live in relative comfort, the area had a high level of unemployment which meant that many would have to be satisfied with smaller houses. "The people need to see what they can afford before making any decisions."

At the moment the settlement is abuzz with excitement and activity as hundreds of residents stream to the Trust's offices to complete their housing subsidy application forms. The provincial housing board has already approved the project and allocated R16 million for the development.

But Mr Mbeki said the trust had encountered a serious problem which if not quickly resolved could jeopardise the housing prospects for many of the residents.

"During the recent fires many people lost all their possessions, including documents like their identity books, marriage certificates and other papers that need to be submitted with the subsidy application form to the housing board, if their applications are to be considered."

"We have been urging them to go the Home Affairs offices



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

and get new documents, so hopefully when the second phase starts at the beginning of 1997, they could be in line to benefit."

For Raymond Nana, 74, the process is still taking a bit too long.

The pensioner, who lives with his daughter and her family, has twice had to rebuild his house after it was destroyed in fires.

"We have lost everything, but have applied for the subsidy, so hopefully we will be able to move into a new house in the not too distant future."

Mariam Ndatsa said she could not wait to move into the new house.

"For the past four years, I have been living in this place, fighting the fires and the rains."

"I think it is time I settle into a decent house and raise my

MAIN ROAD: A Marconi Beam resident goes about her daily business amid the squalor of the informal settlement.

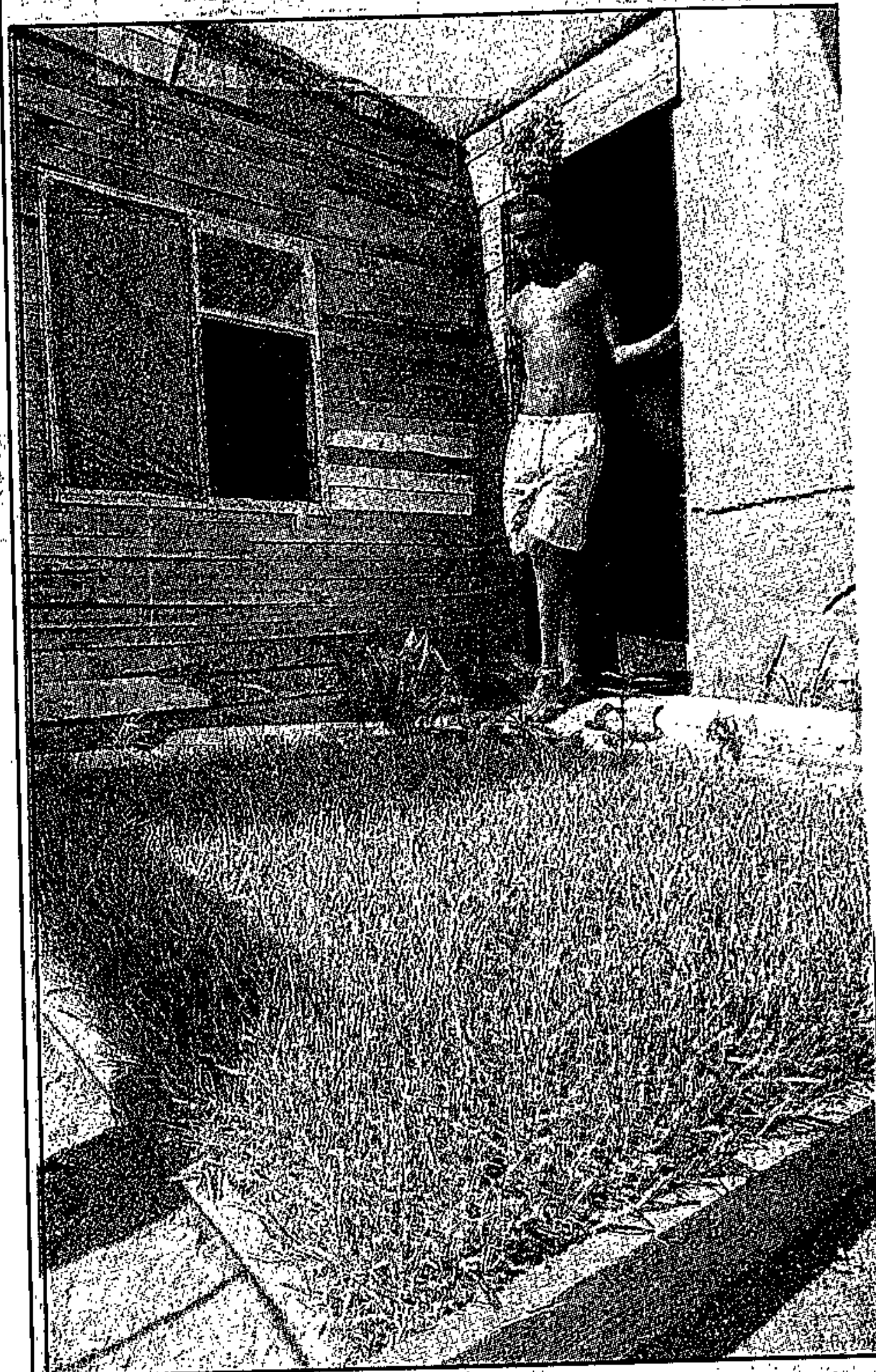


NEW HOME: A worker puts the finishing touches to one of the many differently-designed showhouses being built for residents of the Marconi Beam squatter camp.

ARG

15/4/96

307



GREEN PIECE: Desmond Nana spends a lot of his time tending his garden, and is very proud of the results.



COMMUNITY WORKER: Mzimasi Mbeki is the driving force behind getting proper housing for Marconi Beam.

CMC must try to settle dispute with Paarl squatters

DENNIS CAVERNELIS
Supreme Court Reporter

THE Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) has been ordered by the Cape Supreme Court to try to resolve its dispute with a group of squatters occupying a portion of farmland in Paarl.

The CMC brought an urgent application yesterday against Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel, the Minister of Roads and Transport, Leonard Ramatlakane; the Minister of Housing, Cecil

Herandien, and the squatters.

The CMC wanted the squatters removed from land on the farm Nieuwehoop in Paarl, to a serviced squatter settlement at Klapmuts, near Stellenbosch, and asked for previous decisions allowing the squatters to occupy their present site to be set aside.

Mr Kriel, Mr Ramatlakane and Mr Herandien did not oppose the application, and said in papers they would abide by the court's decision.

Mr Acting Justice Burger made

(307) ALL 16/4/86
an order that the squatters and the CMC "undertake to engage in bona fide negotiations with the CMC and/or with the Western Cape provincial government and/or the relevant local authority, with a view to settling the dispute regarding the occupation of premises".

Judge Burger also ordered that the squatters be left undisturbed.

The CMC was ordered to pay the costs of the squatters' legal representatives, and the application was postponed indefinitely.

Relief funds 30% spent in

huge spree

■ The Khayelitsha emergency relief fund has been cleaned out by squatters' demands for TV sets, hi-fis and other luxuries.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

EMERGENCY relief money given to the Lingeletu West transitional council has been used to buy TV sets, hi-fi equipment, tapes, duvets and other luxury items for squatters whose homes were burned down.

Provincial and state emergency funds are taxpayers' money and are supposed to be used only for "life-sustaining necessities for people in dire need".

Town clerk Wouter Loots told Saturday Argus that about R184 000 was given to the council by the province and other donors. Another R132 000 was given by the province through the SA Red Cross.

Last week about R105 000 was left in the emergency kitty.

But Kenny Hart, official buyer for the council, was taken hostage by a squatters' forum and told he would not be released until he filled a shopping list which would wipe out the surplus.

The list included 67 black and white TV sets, 39 hi-fi sets, 25 tapes, liquor, cigarettes, duvets, fitted sheets, duvet covers, bedfrills, batteries, pots and pans and groceries worth R7 000.

The squatters were from Site B, Khayelitsha, which was devastated by a fire which destroyed 330 shacks late in January, leaving about 2 000 people homeless.

Mr Loots told Saturday Argus that the council authorised the expenditure on luxuries because it decided that relief money was intended to replace possessions lost in the fire as well as for emergency supplies.

"I am sorry that all the relief money has now been spent because it may have been needed if there is another fire," he said.

Early last week a squatters' forum said at a meeting with Mr

Loots and other officials that it wanted the rest of the money to be handed over.

The next day Mr Hart turned up for another meeting which had been arranged with the squatters' forum.

But he found himself the only official there.

He was given a list of demands, he told Saturday Argus, which included the luxury items on the shopping list as well as grocery staples and building materials. He explained that he could not buy anything without authorisation, but this fell on deaf ears.

"I was told I would not be allowed out of the building until I had obtained authorisation. I telephoned Mr Loots, who was at a council meeting in Kraaifontein. A little while later I was telephoned and told to have council cheques made out for not more than R100 000.

"I rushed to Kraaifontein to have the cheques signed and handed them over to the squatter leaders, who went shopping for everything on the list except the liquor and cigarettes, which the council refused to buy."

The fire left almost 2 000 people homeless. It was said to have been started by a pot of food left on an open-flame stove while the housewife went out to watch the televised soccer match in which Bafana Bafana beat Angola.

Nobody was injured in the fire, but SA Red Cross field worker Sindisa Ripaya said many people had been unable to save anything. He said the homeless were being housed temporarily in the Lingeletu Resource Centre.

Relief flowed in after the fire. Mr Loots said R100 000 had been given by "the welfare department" and R84 000 by the provincial administration of the Western Cape, as well as a few small private donations.

"We had some of our own money as well," he said.

He said the council had spent about R80 000 on plastic sheeting, poles and foam mattresses, leaving a surplus of R105 000.

A spokesman for the provincial department of social services said it had channelled its grant of R132 000 through the SA Red Cross,

with strict instructions that it was to be used only for "the provisioning of life-sustaining necessities".

SA Red Cross regional chairman Douglas Davidson said invoices showed it had been spent mostly on blankets.

The Red Cross also appealed to the public for donations to its Khayelitsha Disaster Relief Fund, to be paid into a trust account at a bank.

A spokeswoman said at the time that the Red Cross was distributing food and blankets, but "we are terribly short of foodstuffs, especially non-perishables, baby bottles, baby food and napkins".

The Western Cape Round Table gave R25 000 worth of blankets and plastic sheeting. Shoprite Checkers donated tinned food, bread and milk, and organised public donations of clothes, tinned food and blankets.

Meanwhile Lingeletu West council started upgrading the burnt-out area, putting in bucket lavatories and water connections and building roads through the shack sites to make it easier for the fire brigade to get in if there were another fire.

The homeless, who were by then living in Khayelitsha Community Hall or with relatives, said early in February that they were tired of living in the hall and wanted to start rebuilding.

They started asking questions about the remaining R105 000.

William Damiso, a squatters' committee member, said that when residents heard about the relief money, they expected it to be given to them as individuals.

In mid-February they started putting pressure on the committee to allow them to rebuild their shacks on the burnt-out site, rejecting an offer by the council to give them a serviced site.

The committee members hastily demarcated sites to allow rebuilding to begin.

The squatters also rejected the bucket lavatories, saying they wanted ones that flushed.

The council said this was impracticable because the site was intended for a school and they would have to move eventually.

AKG 20/4/96

Court blocks move to evict squatters

(307) ARG 29/4/96

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

LAWYERS acting for a group of 30 homeless people living under a bridge near Customs House have gone to the Supreme Court to stop the Cape Town City Council from evicting them under legislation used during the apartheid era.

The council served a notice at lunchtime on Friday telling the squatters that they had 48 hours to move or their shacks would be demolished in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act of 1951.

The Legal Resources Centre (LRC), acting for the squatters, who live in five shacks under a bridge, contends that the Act is inconsistent with the interim con-

stitution and that it should be declared invalid.

The LRC intends approaching the Constitutional Court to have it struck down on the grounds that the Act is inconsistent with several fundamental rights, among them the right to life, human dignity, freedom and security of person, privacy, access to court, administrative justice and property.

Deputy Judge President Fagan granted an order, by agreement, that postponed the hearing to Friday this week and ruled that the city council would not be entitled to demolish the shacks beneath the elevated portion of the N1 highway at the foot of Lower Long Street.

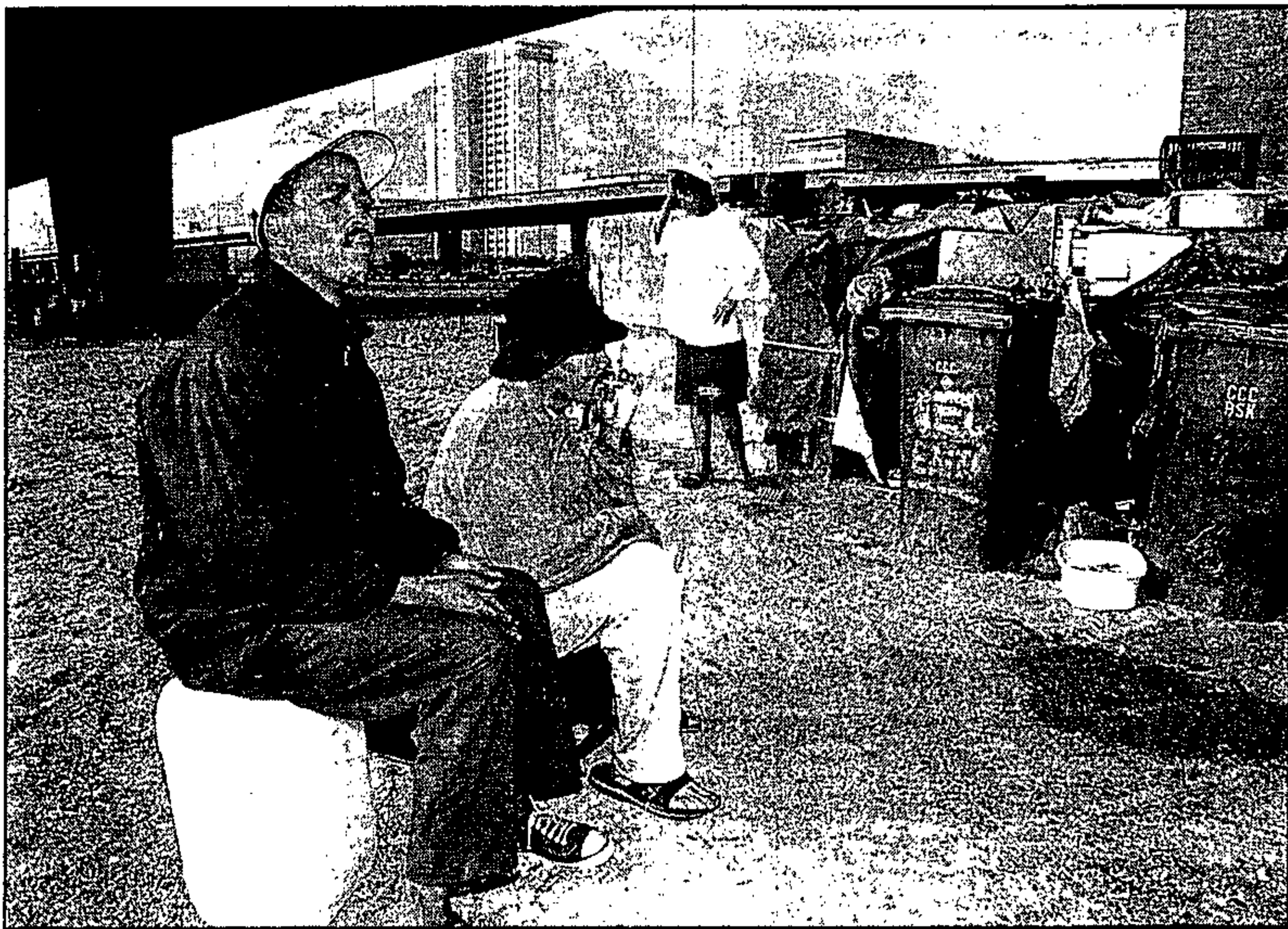
The squatters are living in five shacks, one of which was burned

down over the weekend, and range in age from six months to 45 years.

Andrew John said in an affidavit that their homes were made of wooden boards, plastic sheeting and mats, and that they used toilets in a nearby parking garage. They also had access to clean water for drinking, bathing and washing from a municipal tap.

Mr John said none of the squatters had permanent employment, but they survived on money earned from casual labour, collecting scrap material and from washing and parking cars.

"None of us receives any money from any government entity. Each home shares any money that is earned and uses it to buy food and other necessities for the residents of that home," he said.



BRIDGE OF SIGHS: Foreshore squatters Booi April and Ralph Morgan sit sadly under the bridge on the Foreshore wondering what the future holds for them.

Major upgrade for Vygekraal

Metro Reporter

ARG 30/4/96 (307) (RBB)

ABOUT 179 families living at the Vygekraal informal settlement in Athlone are in-line for a major upgrade of their area now that the Cape Town City Council has given the go-ahead to start the necessary planning for the upliftment scheme.

The council also agreed "in principle" to put up R80 200 from its Social Development Capital Fund, made up of the proceeds of the sale of council land including the Clifton bungalows, for the project.

Other money would come from the provincial housing board (R1,4 million), and R542 300 from the Consolidated Capital Development and Loans Fund, bringing the total for the project to just more than R2 million.

The money will be used to upgrade the living conditions of about 179 families living at Vygekraal and at Jane Avenue, Rylands, some of whom have been in the area for up to 30 years. Both communities will be accommodated at Vygekraal.

The council will fund the levelling of the land, construction of roads and stormwater drainage and sewers, and will have to rezone the site from public open-space to a subdivisional area. Other services will include water supply, street lighting and electricity.

One of the conditions of the project will be that households earning more than R2 000 a month shall not benefit from the Social Development Capital Fund.

In addition, it will cost the council about R1 million to acquire alternative land to be used as attenuation ponds because part of the area had been earmarked to store stormwater. The council has given the city planner the authority to advertise the proposed rezoning for the development.

Landmark court victories for squatter communities

ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

ATTEMPTS to remove squatters at the harbour-end of Long Street, using the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act of 1951, have been halted by the Cape Town City Council.

This was made an order of the court by deputy judge president Fagan yesterday.

The council came under fire from the Legal Resources Centre for invoking the legislation which was widely used during the apartheid years to move "unwanted" communities - among them the Hout Bay squatters and Port Nolloth squatter community.

The council's withdrawal comes a week after officials,

■ Shack-dwellers in the city, and at a settlement near Simondium, Paarl, have been locked in legal battle with local authorities, among them the Cape Town City Council and Cape Metropolitan Council. Two court orders in favour of the squatters were made

acting on behalf of the town planning department, delivered a 48-hour eviction notice to the group of 30 people living near Customs House.

The LRC went to court last Sunday to obtain an urgent interdict which was postponed to yesterday.

In a separate case this week, the Cape Metropolitan Council, Western Cape Premier Herinus Kriel and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi were ordered to allow a squat-

ter to rebuild his shack.

They have also been told to pay the costs of a court action instituted after the CMC broke down three shacks in the Simondium settlement. The incident has become a political hot potato.

Farmers in the area petitioned Mr Kriel about the presence of the squatters and have been lobbying for them to be moved to a site near Klapmuts. Gideon Shernde's shack was broken down by CMC employ-

ees on April 26 while he was at work at the nearby Backsberg wine estate.

Mr Shernde is the brother of the caretaker of a nearby cemetery who has lived on the farm for 30 years, working for the local church as a cleaner and verger.

In his affidavit to the court, he said that he had been living, on-and-off, with his brother for 25 years, and had recently built himself a bedroom to have some privacy with his partner.

The court also ordered the respondents to return building materials and other goods to Joppie du Preez, who also lives in the informal settlement.

Mr Du Preez said in his affidavit that he had wanted to set up house because he had

"recently met somebody".

To this end, he had started saving and bought planks, poles and other materials to the value of R200.

Mr Du Preez said he was working on his shack and still had tools in his hands when the group broke it down and loaded the materials onto a bakkie.

"I climbed onto the truck and started offloading them because I believed they were effectively stealing my goods.

The court also ordered the members of the SA Police Services. I am advised that I am facing trumped-up charges of attempted murder flowing from this incident. It is not necessary for me to set out in detail the events that took place dur-

ing the course of the assault and arrest, save that I vehemently deny the charges against me," he said.

Chairman of the residents' committee Phillip Jacobs said in an affidavit before the court, that four officials first arrived at the settlement on April 25.

One of the officials had said there was an agreement that only 23 shacks would be allowed on the site. Mr Jacobs contested that such an agreement existed.

The official had also said that orders to remove the shacks had come from "Hermus Kriel".

The following day, a large delegation arrived with a man who identified himself as an attorney and said that he had orders "van bo" (from above)

that two half-built new structures should be broken down. The group was accompanied by police officers from Gro Drakenstein and Paarl.

"By the time the full police delegation was there it numbered approximately 15 and included a Casspir and two vans," Mr Jacobs said.

He said said the group had "simply smashed" Mr Shernde's shack, and then moved on two half-built structures and broke them down.

Poles and other materials were also loaded onto a bakkie and removed.

The LRC, which has been acting for the Simondium group aims to enter into negotiations with the CMC about the future of the shack-dwellers.

New homes for squatters

307

STAFF WRITER

CT 14/5/96

ALTOGETHER 179 homes are to be built near the Vygieskraal canal in Athlone — between Voël and Veld streets — to accommodate local squatter families.

An agreement was signed yesterday between the Cape Town City Council, the Athlone RDP forum and the community which will benefit from the development. Some of the shack-dwellers are from Vygieskraal and some from Jane Street further towards Rylands Estate.

The three parties will submit a joint application to the Regional Housing Board for R3 million. Mr Charles Jacobs, the co-chairman of the council's housing committee, said he had no doubt the application would be granted.

At a ceremony at Vygieskraal yesterday, Athlone RDP chairman Mr Nazeem Mahatey said the occasion was historic because it was the council's first project to build houses under the new national housing policy.

It has taken two years to reach the stage of formally applying for funds. There should be enough, under the government's once-off R15 000 plus 15% capital subsidy scheme, to service each plot and still have R8 000 per plot left for a home on each site.

While the RDP allows only for gravel roads in such a settlement, the council has decided to provide tarred roads and pay the difference in cost itself.

The council believes that while it is cheaper in the short term to lay on gravel roads, tarred roads will be cheaper in the long run because they require less maintenance.

Mayor Mr William Bantom said this project was the first application by the council, an RDP forum and a community for upgrading a shack community in the city. He said he hoped it would succeed and set a precedent for similar projects.

Mrs Mauridah Koopman, a social worker and Vygieskraal community leader, said she and her committee had lobbied for houses for eight years.

"It is the beginning of a new life for us," she said.

"We have been living in very difficult circumstances, especially for the women and children."

Mr Hoosain Kagee, the chairman of the housing and land sub-committee of the RDP forum, said there had been times when he doubted the homes would ever be built. However, all the problems that had arisen had been overcome by discussions between the organisations.

Squatters take hostage — demand television sets

JEAN LE MAY

Staff Reporter

ARG 25/5/96
BEING held hostage is becoming an occupational hazard for officials of the Lingeletu West transitional council, town clerk Kobus Coetzer told SATURDAY Argus.

Mr Coetzer was taken hostage in his office at 10am yesterday by members of the Site B, Khayelitsha, Squatters' Forum, and was not released until 4pm after consultations with the management committee.

The squatters demanded that they should be given R10 400 remaining in the relief fund established in January by provincial and private donors when a fire destroyed 2 000 shacks.

About R105 000 from the relief fund was given to the same group last month after Kenny Hart, official buyer for the council, was held hostage.

SATURDAY Argus reported at the time that the squatters bought TV sets, hi-fi equipment, tapes, duvets and other luxury items with the money.

Mr Coetzer said that he had been approached earlier last week by the forum with a shopping list which consisted of the same luxury items, such as TV sets and video recorders.

"I had an answer ready for them. I said 'no', in no uncertain terms," said Mr Coetzer.

He advised the forum to draw up a shopping list of genuine emergency items such as building materials, blankets or Primus stoves and promised to submit it to the council meeting which was to have been held on May 22.

"But the meeting was cancelled," he said. "I was holding it over for the next meeting, which would have been after the local elections, but they were not prepared to wait."

"Seven of them invaded my office this morning and another crowd stood around outside, threatening to 'call in the community'."

"I could have had them removed by force, but I did not want to risk a confrontation with probable violence."

"I got hold of the management committee and they agreed to allow emergency relief items to be bought with the money."

"The squatters did not leave until I gave an undertaking that they would get the money on Monday."

"They are spending the weekend getting quotes for non-luxury items, and I'm on my way home to have a double Scotch," said Mr Coetzer.

'Red tape' blamed for Westlake's squatter problem

Staff Reporter

(307)
AR 431/5/96

THE national Public Works Department must take the blame for the fact that there has been no decision regarding the Westlake squatters and the 95ha site they occupy, according to the chairman of the Kirstenhof Ratepayers Association Rod Knapp.

He said the issue was enmeshed in "bureaucratic red tape" and might only be resolved if the Minister of Public Works, Jeff Radebe, got involved in it.

Mr Knapp said he sent five letters to Mr Radebe asking about progress on transferring the land to the provincial government, but there had been no response to any of his enquiries.

The local Public Works Department representative said the land was in the central government's name. For it to be transferred to the provincial government an application to this effect would first have to go through the Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom for a section-239 certificate which would in turn have to be approved by Mr Radebe.

Only one-twentieth of the land is occupied by squatters. The remainder - possibly the last large remaining government-owned tract of land left in the southern suburbs - is for the most part an open space with the exception of a group of institutional buildings including the Westlake hospital and the DP Marais TB hospital, sports fields, the old post office, Westlake Technical College and homes let out by the national PWD. The Ark refuge for the homeless people also occupies a portion of the land.

"The big problem lies with the national PWD's agent in

Cape Town," said Mr Knapp. "At a public meeting in June 1995 residents of Tokai and Kirstenhof adopted a motion accepting the presence of the Westlake community in a properly planned manner.

"Now, nearly a year later very little progress seems to have been made to draw up the plan to show the usage of the existing buildings and a properly planned location for the squatters.

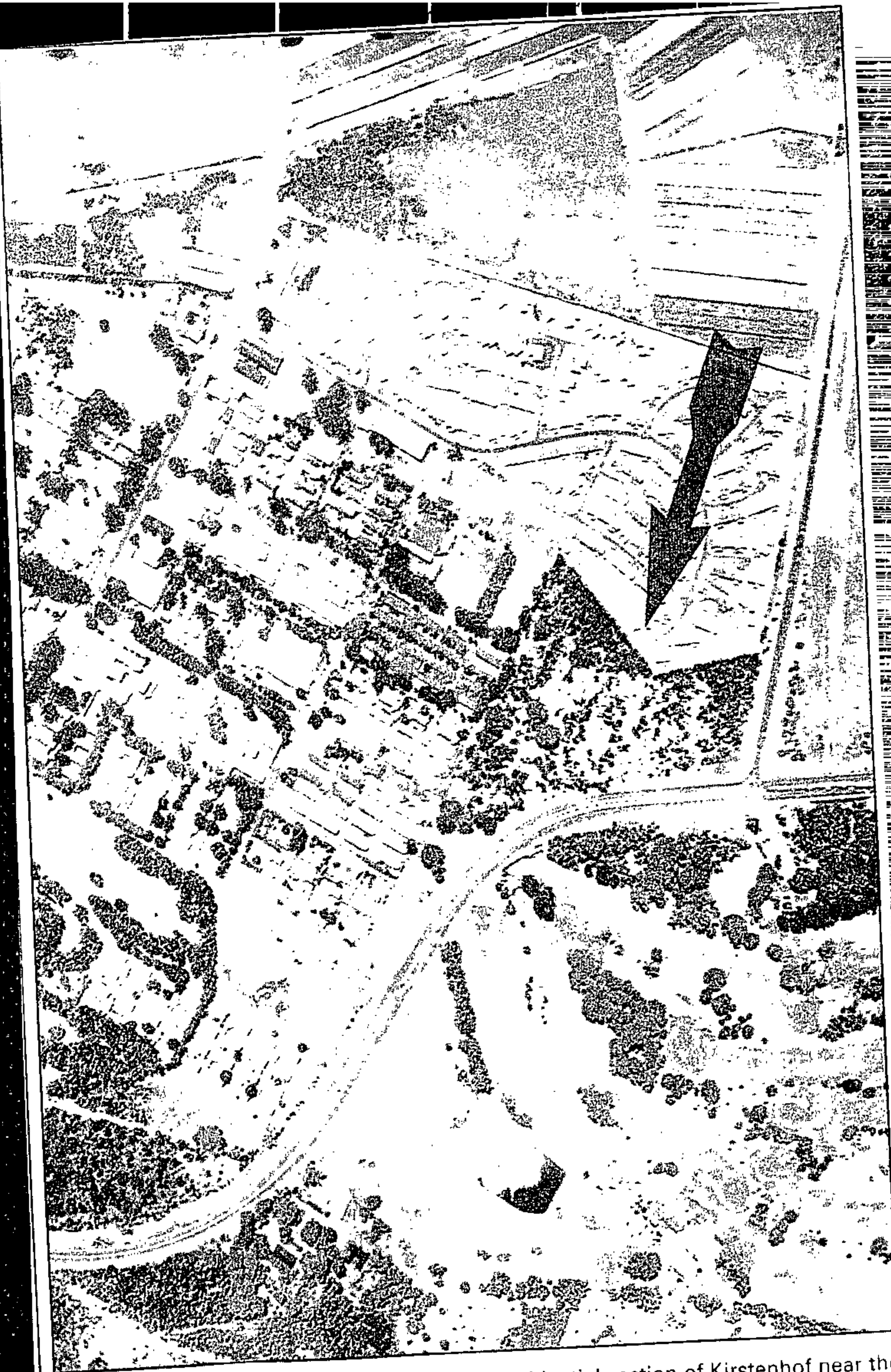
"Letters go unanswered and a three-month long attempt by the mayor of Constantia to obtain an interview with the Minister of Housing failed. What better RDP project can there be?"

Mr Knapp said "buck passing between departments" as to who is allowed to do what had resulted in totally uncontrolled growth in the number of people squatting. Attempts by health authorities to organise the community to control themselves had been frustrated by constantly changing provincial officials."

He added the Metropolitan Council declined to provide RDP funds, deciding "that squatters in Constantia" were not as important as "community centres in Bonteheuvel".

Election candidate Andre Pentz and chairman of Concerned Residents of Westlake (CROW) said there has been very little control and lots of confusion about the land "The land should be transferred to a responsible authority or development trust which should take charge of upgrading and developing it according to an agreed plan worked out with residents and other stakeholders including existing institutions.

"We believe that the further influx of people to Westlake



SQUATTER SPREAD: An aerial view of the residential section of Kirstenhof near the Westlake golf course. The squatters occupy the large area arrowed near the centre of the picture. To the right of the settlement is the road leading to the Blue Route. Westlake golf



CAPE

Agreement reached on Vrygrond's future

Months of talks between council and squatters bear fruit

ARG 24/6/96 (307)

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

MONTHS of hard negotiations finally paid off when an agreement was reached between the squatter community of Vrygrond and the Central sub-structure (Cape Town City Council).

Development in the area could start by early next year.

At a recent meeting between the Committee of Nine, representing the Vrygrond community, and a planning delegation of the city council, the parties agreed on a master plan for the 52ha of land near Steenberg, on which the community has been living for years.

The cost of the development has been estimated at about R12 million.

The plan provides for the land to be cut up into just more than 1 000 erven, a village square surrounded by land for commercial use, sites for a primary school, a full standard soccer field and a light industrial area.

The city council's director of project management services, Hans Smit, said the agreement represented a major breakthrough as the council had been negotiating with the residents for many months.

"But often the community would change the representatives and the whole process

would have to be started from scratch.

"At times, there were also more than one group claiming to represent the interests of the residents which made reaching an agreement very difficult.

"The Committee of Nine is, however, very representative of the community and we have been meeting with them to work out solutions that will take forward the planning process."

Mr Smit said the plan that was accepted was a well worked out concept.

The fact that a fair amount of consensus was reached was a major step forward in the devel-

opment of Vrygrond.

"All the erven are planned for full services like electricity, water and a water-borne sewerage system, while a stormwater system will be put in place to prevent flooding during winter.

"Most of the existing sand dunes will be retained and roads will be built, and the centre of Vrygrond will be connected via a new road to Prince George Drive."

Mr Smit said it would be desirable to start construction of the services at the beginning of next year, but this depended on funding approvals and the formation of a development trust for Vrygrond.



NO CHOICE: Lack of housing has forced Yolanda Smith, her husband and her two sons to squat on city council property adjoining the Telkom building in Maitland.

Telkom upset (307) over squatters

AR 48/7/96

RIMA VESELY
Staff Reporter

THERE is only a fence separating the first world from the third world at the Telkom building in Maitland.

Rubbish surrounding a squatter's shack outside the fence of the Telkom building has driven employees to complain about the conditions of their workplace.

"The fence is literally separating first world from third world," said David Steenkamp, Telkom's technical officer, pointing to the rubbish and washing hanging on Telkom's fence.

"You can't even say that's third world. It's something else. The employees feel that they shouldn't see this in the morning. We have got no jurisdiction over the land, but people here feel it's unfair. It's the first thing everyone who comes here sees."

Yolanda Smith, who lives in the shack with her husband, two sons, and a friend, said she was

shocked at the complaints. They had been on the land, which belongs to the Cape Town city council, for nearly four years.

"We couldn't find a place. That's why we put the shack here," she said. "They know we've been here for more than three years. I don't know what they've got against us."

The family moved from a tucked-away corner of the land about five months ago, because wind was blowing refuse into their tent. Their new shack, which is near the entrance to the parking area, has added protection from a tree. The old area is used as a toilet.

Ms Smith said the family had been waiting for a flat but were not sure when they would get one.

Now that she was aware of the complaints, she said she would talk the matter over with her husband, Peter, who works in a leather factory.

She said the city council had been notified numerous times

about the rubbish littering the area between Telkom's property and the freeway, but that there had been no response.

A city council official close to the issue of squatting, said, however, that the department was unaware of the situation. When they were notified of such a situation, investigators were sent to investigate. The council official said the council would suggest the family use facilities at The Ark, an institution that takes in homeless people and provides them with food and accommodation.

"We (the council) are going to have to negotiate with them," he said. "That is a place we can offer. If they don't accept, we will have to report to the politicians."

Giving the family proper housing and facilities was necessary, Telkom employees said.

"In this day and age, they shouldn't live like this, not here. Someone with authority must help them," Mr Steenkamp said.

TUESDAY
JULY 16, 1996 ★

BRIEFS

Squatter shacks mushrooming (307)

CT 16/7/96

MORE squatter houses were built in the predominantly African areas of Cape Town in the first five months of this year than in each of the previous two years.

Between January and May this year, 5 363 houses were erected by squatters in Guguletu, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and Nyanga, more than the 4 431 built in 1994 and the 4 876 in 1995.

Plan to find best city rating system

ARG 1/8/96

(267)

Metro Reporter

CAPE Town municipality has set up a working group to find the best rating system for properties in the municipality because of disparities which exist in the newly formed substructure.

This move has been welcomed by the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry which says it is time for the city to stop piling the rates burden on to its business community.

In its latest bulletin, the Chamber says that the council has always taken the easy route by taxing business rather than residential voters.

This situation impeded growth and job creation by driving businesses away, it argued.

The Chamber said while the council was highlighting inequities between advantaged and disadvantaged communities, it was necessary to highlight the negative impact the current rates structure had on business in the city.

Among the issues the council's working group will look at are disparities between charges as well as the level of services provided in different areas of the new municipality, arising out of the amalgamation of five different local authorities.

The group will also look at the cumbersome and costly procedures for

valuing property for rating purposes.

It will be guided by four principles, namely achieving equity; promoting economic growth and development; keeping the rating system simple; and minimising administrative costs.

In a statement, the council said the four principles represented a significant departure from previous approaches to property rating. This was because they recognised rating not only as a means of collecting revenue, but as a broader urban management tool.

The group expects to complete its work within a six-month period, with the view to making a final recommendation to the full council early next year.

The Rating and Valuation Working Group's members are Saleem Mowzer (deputy chairman of exco), Leon Markovitz (urban planning committee chairman), Hanief Tiseker (property and economic development chairman), Les Rencontre (property and economic development deputy chairman) and Daniel Silke (a member of the property and economic development committee).

Mr Mowzer, Mr Rencontre and Mr Tiseker are African National Congress members, Mr Markovitz belongs to the National Party and Mr Silke to the Democratic Party.

Temporary relocation of squatters approved

ARG 1/8/96

(307)

Metro Reporter

THE Cape Metropolitan Council has given its backing to a plan to establish a temporary informal settlement on rural land outside Durbanville.

The settlement will house a group of people presently squatting on the road reserve of the R312 near Fisantekraal.

The establishment of a settlement on a portion of the land known as the Lichtenburg Outspan site requires the land use designated in the structure plan to be changed from agricultural purposes to urban development.

The one-hectare site is being viewed as an area for "temporary relocation"

of the squatters.

In the council agenda, the site is described as being 40m from the R312, sufficiently away from the bank of the Mosselbank River.

It was also within walking distance of the Fisantekraal Primary School.

● The second draft of a South-Peninsula sub-regional plan is to be released for public comment.

This is the decision of the CMC which has given permission for the plan, which includes important conservation guidelines for the southern Peninsula, to be made known to interested and affected parties.

Temporary relocation of squatters approved

ARG 1/8/96

(307)

Metro Reporter

THE Cape Metropolitan Council has given its backing to a plan to establish a temporary informal settlement on rural land outside Durbanville.

The settlement will house a group of people presently squatting on the road reserve of the R312 near Fisantekraal.

The establishment of a settlement on a portion of the land known as the Lichtenburg Outspan site requires the land use designated in the structure plan to be changed from agricultural purposes to urban development.

The one-hectare site is being viewed as an area for "temporary relocation"

of the squatters.

In the council agenda, the site is described as being 40m from the R312, sufficiently away from the bank of the Mosselbank River.

It was also within walking distance of the Fisantekraal Primary School.

● The second draft of a South-Peninsula sub-regional plan is to be released for public comment.

This is the decision of the CMC which has given permission for the plan, which includes important conservation guidelines for the southern Peninsula, to be made known to interested and affected parties.

571

MONDAY, 12 AUGUST 1996

572

Hospital	Type	Bed occ.	2.1	2.2
----------	------	----------	-----	-----

(iii) KwaZulu-Natal:

Addington Hospital	P	93,94%	No	Over
Appelsbosch Hospital	P	99,14%	No	Over
Arena Park Hospital	P	27,40%	No	Under
Assisi Hospital	P	89,08%	No	Over
Benedictine Hospital	P	85,43%	No	Over
Catherine Booth Hospital	P	106,90%	No	Over
Ceza Hospital	P	94,98%	No	Over
Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital	P	84,17%	No	Over
Christ The King Hospital	P	95,34%	No	Over
Church of Scotland Hospital	P	115,03%	No	Over
City Hospital	P	44,66%	No	Under
Clairwood Hospital	P	48,20%	No	Under
Dundee Hospital	P	91,14%	No	Over
Durdac Clinic	P	29,84%	No	Under
East Griqualand and Usher Memorial	P	94,57%	No	Over
Edendale Hospital	P	80,64%	No	Over
Ekombe Hospital	P	78,29%	No	Over
Emmaus Hospital	P	100,34%	No	Over
Empangeni Hospital	P	118,21%	No	Over
Entabeni Hospital	P	72,36%	Yes	Fully
Eshowe Hospital	P	87,59%	No	Over
Estcourt Provincial Hospital	P	76,67%	Yes	Fully
G.J. Crookes Hospital	P	84,81%	No	Over
Grey's Hospital	P	69,78%	Yes	Fully
Greytown Provincial Hospital—M4	P	60,16%	No	Under
Hlabisa Hospital	P	126,61%	No	Over
Ijelejuba Hospital	P	101,37%	No	Over
King Edward VIII Hospital	A	86,78%	No	Over
La Verna Hospital	P	56,04%	No	Under
Ladysmith Provincial Hospital	P	91,98%	No	Over
Lower Umfolozi Hospital (War Men)	P	43,06%	No	Under
Manguzi Hospital	P	117,71%	No	Over
Margate Hospital	P	76,70%	No	Over
Mbongolwane Hospital	P	73,27%	Yes	Fully
McCord Hospital	P	52,17%	No	Under
Montobello Hospital	P	84,94%	No	Over
Mosvold Hospital	P	74,41%	Yes	Fully
Mseleni Hospital	P	141,91%	No	Over
Newcastle Provincial Hospital	P	57,05%	No	Under
Ngwelezane Hospital	P	105,07%	No	Over
Niemeyer Memorial Hospital	P	94,28%	No	Over
Nkandla Hospital	P	114,16%	No	Over
Nkonjeni Hospital	P	10,98%	No	Under
Northdale Hospital	P	79,61%	No	Over

573

MONDAY, 12 AUGUST 1996

574

Hospital

Hospital	Type	Bed occ.	2.1	2.2
Osinisweni Hospital	P	75,24%	Yes	Fully
Pongola Hospital	P	30,93%	No	Under
Port Shepstone Hospital	P	68,52%	Yes	Fully
Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital	P	58,31%	No	Under
R.K. Khan Hospital	P	69,26%	No	Under
Saint Andrews Hospital	P	99,28%	No	Over
St Aidens Hospital	P	42,47%	No	Under
St Appollinaris Hospital	P	107,38%	No	Over
St Augustines Hospital	P	73,57%	Yes	Fully
St Mary's Hospital—Marianhill	P	97,62%	No	Over
St Mary's Hospital—KwaMagwaza	P	83,52%	No	Over
Stanger Provincial Hospital	P	72,55%	Yes	Fully
Taylor Bequest Hospital	P	111,95%	No	Over
The Bay Hospital	P	40,30%	No	Under
The Crompton Hospital	P	68,32%	Yes	Fully
Victoria Hospital	P	52,92%	No	Under
Vryheid Provincial Hospital	P	50,29%	No	Under
Wentworth Hospital	P	62,71%	No	Under
Amajuba Memorial Hospital	P	87,96%	No	Over
Barberton Hospital	P	127,25%	No	Over
Belhal Hospital	P	66,44%	Yes	Fully
Middelburg Hospital	P	86,73%	No	Over
Mmamethake Community Hospital	P	35,78%	No	Under
Piet Retief Hospital	P	65,76%	Yes	Fully
Average occupancy (KwaZulu-Natal): 78,28%				

Dwelling structures erected by squatters

210. Sen S D FISHER asked the Minister of Housing:

How many dwelling structures is it estimated were erected by squatters themselves (a) in 1994, (b) in 1995 and (c) during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available in (i) Gugulethu, (ii) Crossroads, (iii) Khayelitsha and (iv) Nyanga?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(a), (b) and (c) The following figures, as obtained from the Western Cape Provincial Administration, should be regarded as close estimates. In view of the continually changing circumstances, it is not possible to provide figures with absolute accuracy. The figures for 1996 are for the period 1 January until end of May 1996.

Year	Gugulethu	Crossroads	Khayelitsha	Nyanga	Total
1994	298	454	2 943	736	4 431
1995	328	500	3 238	810	4 876
1996	360	550	3 562	891	5 363
Total	986	1 504	9 743	2 437	14 670

(307)



WASH DAY BLUES: Ms Margret Barands, who squats in Thibault Square, hangs up her weekly washing late yesterday morning. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

Squatters hang it all out on Sundays

CT 26/8/96.

(307)

CYNTHIA VONGAI

SUNDAY is wash day in downtown Cape Town, at least for the squatters living on the verandah of the Standard Bank building in Thibault Square.

Ms Margret Barands and her neighbour, Paula, said they waited until Sunday to do their weekly washing because during the week

there were too many people milling about.

"We wash on Sunday because it is not so busy and we can easily carry the water from the fountain to where we do our washing," Barands said.

However, she was angered at the fact that some people were complaining about them hanging out their washing to dry on the

railing outside the bank.

"I wash on Sunday so that during the week my washing is not disturbing anyone. I do not have a house, so where do these people expect me to hang my clothes?" she asked.

When the Cape Times arrived at the scene, Barands was busy washing her clothes in dirty water.

Her neighbour, Paula, has a

three-year-old child and said people should be happy with the fact she was keeping herself and her child clean.

"People shun us because we are dirty, (but) when we try to be normal and wash our clothes and clean ourselves, they still complain.

"What do they want us to do when they don't help us?"

Specialists to study impact of cement factory

ARG 28/8/96 183 (183)

ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

THIRTEEN specialist studies are to be commissioned before a decision is made on the development of a R745-million cement factory and four quarries close to the controversial Saldanha Steel mill.

The developers, Alpha Ltd, have not yet applied to the province for rezoning approval but are awaiting the outcome of an environmental impact assessment which will include the specialist studies.

Environmentalists have expressed concern that the cement factory will open the floodgates to heavy industrial development in the Saldanha area, which lies close to the internationally significant wetland system of the Langebaan lagoon.

Alpha Ltd proposes to manufacture cement at a plant west of the Saldanha-Sishen railway line near the ore-loading terminal at Saldanha. It also wants to mine limestone and clay at quarries parallel to the coast between Saldanha and Vredenburg, using a conveyor belt linking them to the proposed plant.

The specialist studies are the

result of a scoping exercise, one of the first steps in the IEM procedure which has been commissioned by the company.

Areas of study will include looking at alternatives to the project, flora, fauna, mariculture and nearshore coastal ecosystems, water quality and supply, air quality, aesthetics, noise, archaeology, palaeontology, economics, tourism and resort development, town planning and social infrastructure.

The study of project alternatives will review the financial viability of the project. Coastal strandveld, in particular its flora and fauna, will also be looked at in detail as well as the effect of a linear barrier to animal movement which would be created by the conveyor belt.

On the mariculture front, a specialist will be asked to assess the potential effects of product spillage and dust fallout caused by loading cement and bulk clinker at the ore terminal.

The risk of the pollution of groundwater at the factory site will also be assessed, as will the cement plant's water demand on the Berg River system. The company will also investigate the fea-

sibility of using saline groundwater as an alternative to the municipal supply.

A palaeontologist will be called on to assess the importance of fossil remains in the limestone and possible ways of recovering palaeontological information as mining proceeds.

An economic costs and benefits study will investigate the direct and indirect economic effects of the project including salaries, contracts, foreign exchange earnings, as well as effects on local prices.

The study will also look at the potential positive and negative effects of increased competition in the Western Cape cement market.

A town planning study will identify direct housing and schooling requirements, and future road and rail traffic generation and movement patterns.

Other areas that will be looked at are the effect of the project on electricity supply, the possible influx of job seekers, inhibitions to future growth of the town of Saldanha to the north and west, and the effect of the project on telecommunications, civil aviation and public health and safety.

Squatters in Simondium get facilities, hope for a home...

ESANN DE KOCK
Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS in Simondium are to receive water and toilets - thanks to farmers in the area who agreed, during a meeting of the Simondium Task Group, to provide the facilities.

The task group was formed to find housing for the area's homeless.

African National Congress MP Ben Turok said it was decided to provide the two squatter communities in the area with water and toilets.

This decision was taken thanks to agreement from the Winelands District Council, one of the groups represented on the task group.

Professor Turok said other deci-

sions taken included calling a meeting of all national, provincial, local and community authorities to sort out border problems in an effort to find suitable, permanent housing.

The group also decided to write to three different ministers calling for their co-operation in terms of the allocation of land to develop housing for the farm workers and the homeless of Simondium.

The only objection to moves so far have come from some of the farmers, said Professor Turok, who felt the process was moving ahead too quickly.

They wanted a professionally conducted survey on housing needs and possibilities, and envisaged an "agri-village" for the retired people instead of a devel-

opment for the use of all homeless people in the area.

"We can't agree with them. Our object is to provide housing for all the workers and homeless people who live in the area," said Professor Turok. He said the group registered their objection as well as the objections by landowners who felt a housing development would spoil the area.

"The meeting decided to carry on with the programme and we've asked minister Derek Hanekom - Minister of Land Affairs - to give us the Meerlust land for the development or to provide an alternative. The main thing here is the will of the government. If the government is determined, we'll find a way to provide for the housing needs in this area."

Homes for Kuils River squatters

ERIC NTABAZALILA

307
CT 4/10/96

KUILS River squatter camp residents are to have the opportunity to own houses for the first time in their lives.

The Eastern substructure yesterday launched a low-cost housing project through which 25 000 houses will be built.

Mr Charles Haramse, town secretary for Kuils River, said the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC), from its RDP project, had allocated R2 million for the houses to be built in the area.

The money was allocated to the area last year and R3m was needed to build houses in the area.

He said the houses would be constructed according to the subsidy scheme under which people would be allowed R15 000 as a subsidy.

After each resident in the area had paid for the site, the amount left would be used for the top structure, Haramse said.

Residents would not be given the money but would be supplied with building materials and the first people to be moved into the area would be those on waiting lists for houses in Kuils River.

Gauteng MEC blames the Sandton rates deadlock on DP

Star 11/10/96

(309)

By ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

The deadlock in the Sandton rates boycott was broken with the announcement yesterday that the area's council was now willing to talk to residents who are up in arms against a steep rise in the tax.

But the Gauteng MEC for local government, Sicelo Shiceka, a member of the ANC, blamed the crisis on the Democratic Party. He said DP councillors had failed their constituents in the Eastern Metro by not keeping them informed about the reasons for the rates increases.

ANC and NP leaders said they had decided to initiate the talks

because they wanted to ensure development of local government structures, their concern about the negative impact on service provisions and also to prevent a financial crisis in the Eastern Metro.

The talks would start next week: "We are confident talks will lead to a situation which suits both residents and the substructure," the parties said in a joint statement.

Shiceka would not comment on whether rates would be lowered, but he did say all options would be explored.

He slammed the DP and said he was concerned about the mo-

tives of the ward councillors who, despite having participated in the entire process of budgeting and defining increased rates, had failed to inform their voters.

Their negligence, he said, had

led to conflict and they had to accept responsibility for the crisis which they had provoked.

"The DP must accept that it has either misinformed its constituents, or not informed them at all, in an attempt to precipitate a crisis," he said.

Sandton Federation of Ratepayers spokesman Brian Stolzenberg said he was extremely

pleased at the decision to hold discussions.

"This is all we ever wanted, to talk to someone who has a mandate to negotiate with us," he said.

DP spokesman Frances Kendall said the party welcomed the new initiative.

The claims that councillors had failed their constituents were "double-speak" by the ANC and the NP, she said.

"What they mean when they say this is that the DP failed to sell their single rate in the rand policy and consequent rates hikes to their residents.

"This is true, because we told the truth and refused to white-wash the process."

Councillors' neglect led to conflict

NEWS

Alarm at squatter camp plan

Residents told nine families live on pavement

PETER GOUSEN
METRO DESK

(307) 786

29/10/96

A large deputation of Zeekoevlei and Grassy Park residents has told the South Peninsula council in no uncertain terms that it objects to the establishment of a squatter settlement on land between the suburbs.

The delegation arrived at yesterday's council meeting in Constantia without warning but was given a chance to put its case by Mayor John Jacobs "in the interests of democracy and transparency".

Spokesman Viv James said the residents of Zeekoevlei had found out only in the past few days that the

council planned a transit camp for squatters in an area that was being developed with good homes from the Zeekoevlei and Grassy Park sides of what used to be the "buffer" zone between the two suburbs.

Mr James said strong bonds were being developed between the people of the two suburbs.

"We want to know who owns this ground. Who is going to pay for it? What will happen to the sewage? What about transport? Where will these people be employed and who will be responsible for our security?" Mr James asked.

Grassy Park councillor Philip Bam said that most of the residents' fears resulted from a total misunderstanding

ing of the facts. Public meetings had been held with the near neighbours of the proposed site and two suggested areas had been rejected. The process would continue.

"The people in question are nine families who were ejected from the area in which they lived and are now forced to live in the open on the pavement.

"They are Grassy Park people and we will house them in Grassy Park," Mr Bam said.

Dicky Meter of the African National Congress said it was inhumane to disregard the nine families living on the pavement.

The council should be able to reach consensus with the surrounding resi-

dents and house the families.

The head of the community services committee, Bealah Smith, told the meeting that integrating the families into the community was the highest priority.

The council accepted a recommendation from its executive to approach Western Cape Premier Hannus Kriel to authorise the use of R100 000 from the Grassy Park Endowment Trust Fund and to approach the provincial authorities and the housing board for help.

After a lengthy debate, it was decided to refer the matter back to the social services committee for ratification even though it would hold the process up for another month.

1199

THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 1996

1200

Subsistence allowances to sessional officials of**Dept**

465. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (a) What amount was paid out in (i) 1995 and (ii) the first eight months of 1996 at the (aa) married and (bb) single rate in respect of (aaa) special daily and (bbb) fixed daily subsistence allowances to sessional officials of his Department doing seasonal duty in Cape Town who receive a salary (aaaa) equal to or higher and (bbbbb) lower than the minimum notch applicable to the rank of deputy director: personnel management and (b) how many such officials claimed allowances in each of the above categories during each of the above periods?

S777E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (a) As only a single figure reflects expenditure in respect of subsistence and travel allowances as well as sessional allowances the information as requested is not readily available.
- (b) 15 officials claimed subsistence allowances in 1995 and 14 in the first eight months of 1996.

Marconi Beam: houses

466. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Housing:

- (1) What is the estimated number of residents at the Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milneron;

- (2) whether the informal settlers at Marconi Beam are to have formal housing made available to them; if so (a) where are these houses to be located, (b) what progress is being made with the construction of such housing, (c) when is it anticipated that the houses will be completed and (d) (i) what is the total estimated construction cost of the houses, (ii) what amounts will be contributed by residents to such costs and (iii) over what period will they contribute such amounts?

S778E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

By courtesy of the Western Cape Provincial Administration:

1201

THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 1996

1202

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) R73,031 million.
(b) 10,5% less.
- (2) No.

Number of employees in Dept

475. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) (a) What was the total number of employees in his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how does this figure compare with the number of employees on the corresponding date or during the corresponding period in the previous (i) quarter and (ii) year;
- (2) whether there were any changes in the total number of persons employed in his Department; if so, what were the reasons for these changes;
- (3) what is his or his Department's policy in regard to the optimum number of persons employed in his Department?

S787E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) 1 257.
(b) (i) 1 291.
(ii) 991.

- (2) Yes. The change in the number of employees results from the transfer of the weather services from the former TBVC states with 46 officers as well as the transfer of the Marine Conservation function from the Western Cape Province with 294 officers to the Department as part of a rationalisation process in the Public Service. Excluding the aforementioned, the change in the number of employees is the result of normal staff turnover, including those who opted for voluntary discharge.
- (3) The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was formally established only in 1972. It is therefore a young Department in a growth phase. Capacity is necessary to ensure that sustainable development is

attained in South Africa in support of the objectives of the Growth and Development Strategy and the international directives of the Commission for Sustainable Development in accordance with the directives of Agenda 21. This Department's personnel represent approximately 0,1% of the Public Service's total personnel establishment. A reduction of this capacity will have virtually no effects on the national picture and yet cause serious functional problems internally.

Statutory committees/boards under Department's control

476. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any statutory (a) committees and/or (b) boards fall under his or his Department's control; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, which statutory (i) committees and/or (ii) boards;
- (2) whether any members of any of these (a) committees and/or (b) boards (i) were replaced or (ii) resigned during the period 1 August 1995 to 1 August 1996; if so, (aa) how many members of each such committee and/or board (aaa) were replaced and (bbb) resigned and (bb) what percentage of the total number of members of each such committee and/or board did each of these categories of persons so replaced or who so resigned constitute?

S788E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) None.
(b) Yes.
(i) None.
(ii) National Parks Board (NPB)
National Botanical Institute (NBI)
South African Tourism Board (SATOUR)
Quota Board
Council for the Environment (not yet appointed)
North West National Parks Board.
- (2) (a) (i) None.



MODEL DORP . . . Villiersdorp has launched a pioneering self-help housing scheme to build 475 homes with local labour and financial help from Jan Van Riebeeck's birthplace in Holland
Picture: SUE KRAMER

It's a Dutch treat as squatters get homes

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

VILLIERSDORP is gripped by a development fever which will see "squatters" building proper homes for themselves after spending gruelling hours hacking out invasive plants in the mountains above the Boland town.

Backed by a R1.2-million grant from Culemborg in the Netherlands, Jan van Riebeeck's birthplace, and nearly R6.8-million in approved state subsidies, the housing programme's beneficiaries yesterday launched the first phase of the Villiersdorp Housing Project which aims to put up 51 homes by March next year.

Altogether 475 houses on serviced sites are expected to be built in the next two years.

"This project entails a unique partnership which outstrips anything else in the country," Development Action Group director Jacqui Boule said this week.

And many of its beneficiaries — who will build their own 35 m² core houses free-of-charge — have already proved their commitment by trading pangas for spades and trowels after work as "hackers" in the RDP's Working for Water programme, the water project's Western Cape co-ordinator, Christo Marais, added this week.

Controlled by a joint committee which gives equal representation to local civic representatives and the Villiersdorp mu-

nicipality, the housing project has emerged as a major triumph after seven years of conflict over squatter housing rights.

The Development Action Group — a Cape Town-based development agency which has also spearheaded important housing initiatives in Marconi Beam — was asked to intervene and in mid-1995 the local authority agreed to hold off land sales until all homeless people had been allocated land, Boule said.

"Since then, the community has placed all its energy into securing houses."

A "twinning" agreement with the Culemborg municipality in Holland helped the civic set up an advice office, and the Dutch town collected funds for a rotating loan housing fund which offers each beneficiary family a maximum loan of R4 000 to supplement the government's R15 000 housing subsidy.

Culemborg also contributed equipment for a brick-making co-operative employing seven local people. Training is provided by the Building Industries Federation and the community has persuaded suppliers to freeze prices for six months, Boule said.

Marais said the RDP catchment clearance project had virtually wiped out unemployment in Villiersdorp by providing work for about 300 formerly jobless people who have already cleared about 600 ha of densely-infested mountainside.

ST (CM) 10/11/96

Deadlock on Grabouw squatters

(307) ARG 16/11/96

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

The umpteenth meeting between the Grabouw town council and community leaders over homeless people squatting on vacant land has ended in deadlock.

Over the past 18 months the council has had a number of meetings with the Grabouw Community Organisation (Graco) and the town's Pan Africanist Congress branch about Snake Park squatters who settled on sites in Melrose Place.

The two organisations asked the council several times to allow Snake Park squatters to move to Mel-

rose Place because poisonous snakes were attacking people regularly.

Mayor Stan Shuma said the vacant plots were earmarked for low-cost housing for homeless people of all the Overberg town's squatter camps who qualified.

The latest meeting this week with the council was attended by members of Graco and the PAC.

PAC spokesperson Anne Truter said the meeting developed into lengthy debates which achieved nothing.

In the past several violent clashes erupted between the police and Snake Park residents on Melrose Place sites.

The end of an era

307 MAY 22-28/1996

After years of surviving in the Marconi Beam squatter camp, residents are finally making the move to proper homes.
Colleen Lowe Morna
reports from Cape Town

It could have been a moment of wild jubilation. Instead, as she dotted the 's and crossed the 't's of her housing subsidy application, Nancy Tshayviti paused to reflect on years of unrelenting harassment, squalor and misery.

Originally from Transkei, Tshayviti came to the well-to-do white suburb of Milnerton to join her husband who worked as a stable hand at the Milnerton Turf Club, which provided only single sex hostel accommodation for its employees.

Like thousands of others in the same plight, Tshayviti and her husband built a shack in what was then thick adjoining bushland. She can't begin to count how many times police arrested the Marconi Beam "squatters", burned their homes down, jailed them and released them on bail — only for the shanty town to rise again.

Town eventually caught up with the shack settlement: the locality is today the fastest growing industrial area in Cape Town. Because of its proximity to jobs and services, the Marconi Beam settlement has mushroomed to include nearly 1 000 families.

At least one person is stabbed daily in this tightly packed settlement of makeshift homes. Tshayviti has suffered the agony of a 15-year-old daughter being raped. She has weathered every one of the elements: wind, floods and the constant, devastating fires that ravage the settlement when the flames of primus stoves devour the cardboard insulation, jumping from home to home like there is no tomorrow.

Now, from the ashes of apartheid, and thanks to a complex land deal which the Cape Town-based Development Action Group (Dag) has been pivotal in negotiating, Tshayviti and her neighbours will be moving



Happy times: Marconi Beam shack dwellers celebrate the move to their new homes

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL GREENWOOD

ing to proper homes in Joe Slovo Park — across the road from the leafy, white suburb of Milnerton.

"I am very happy," Tshayviti says, a smile washing away the pain of her memories. "I am very happy to be going far away from these fires."

Elda Mahlentle, one of the 13 Marconi Beam trustees, points out that former housing minister Joe Slovo made no direct contribution to this transformation. But because it was his motto that "no South African should ever live in a shack again", the new settlement has been named after him.

Chairman of the trust, Welcome Mbang, who works as head of laundry services in the spotless Milnerton Clinic that makes his own home seem like it is on another planet, says he knows Slovo would have approved of the breaking down of racial and class barriers which the scheme represents.

Hailing the development as a "victory for democracy", Peter Gerber, chief executive officer of the munic-

ipally under which Milnerton and Joe Slovo Park fall, and one of five non-resident members of the Marconi Beam Trust, said the negotiations were a blueprint for the rest of South Africa... an example of what can be achieved if we are prepared to apply our minds objectively and rid ourselves of the shackles of tunnel vision.

In the early days of the negotiations, which have gone on for nearly four years, Gerber was subjected to frequent death threats by white ratepayers blinded by what he calls the Nimby (Not-in-my-backyard) syndrome. In time, it became apparent to them "that this was a problem that would not go away. The best course was to deal with it."

Originally, local authorities tried to move residents of Marconi Beam to Du Noon, an area 5km away and earmarked as the "second Khayelitsha" of Cape Town. They refused to move. The first phase of the strug-

gle — as Dag puts it — was won in 1990 with a declaration of a temporary transit area.

Residents squatting on surrounding land agreed to move provided basic services were installed, and a permanent settlement sought.

This, and the surrounding 256ha of land, belonged to Telkom. After the shift to satellite technology, Telkom was keen to sell the land. The parastatal realised that the value of the land would be greatly diminished by the presence of "squatters". With the help of Dag, a deal was brokered in which Telkom agreed to donate 20ha of residential land and sell 5ha of commercial land at a discount to the community.

Telkom then negotiated a land sale for most of the remaining land with a developer, Rabie/Cavcor, who were prepared to accept the deal with Marconi Beam as a condition for the transaction. A complex land release and relocation process, involving the Marconi Beam residents moving to Joe Slovo Park in

four stages, was worked out and formalised between Sanco, Dag, the Milnerton Municipality and Rabie/Cavcor.

The Marconi Beam Trust, aided by Dag, is developer of the Joe Slovo housing scheme, which means it has to negotiate with banks for bridging finance. Conder has been retained as project manager.

Most of the shack dwellers are eligible for the R15 000 government subsidy available to those earning less than R800 a month. Because of an allowance for soil conditions, this is upped to R17 500.

For those who are only eligible for smaller amounts, but can't get bank loans, the trust has sold half the 5ha commercial plot to create a revolving R2-million loan top-up fund so that all residents have access to at least R17 500.

Installation of services such as lights and water costs about R10 000. With the remainder, the residents can build a small, but neat cottage designed by a company called "New Way", for which the Marconi Beam Trust is a franchisee.

Dag director Jacqui Bull emphasises that the only reason why this social housing scheme has been possible in a well-located neighbourhood using the government subsidy is because the land is free: "We have said repeatedly that if land for housing schemes has to be obtained at market price, we will never be able to challenge apartheid planning."

Privately, Dag staff agonise over whether the new residents of Joe Slovo Park will be able to afford and keep up payments for rates and services, estimated at R150 per family per month.

Residents point proudly to the fact that President Nelson Mandela launched the Masakhane campaign in Marconi Beam. There is a resilience about the community that leads one to believe that they will not allow this venture to fail: the corner stores amid the shack dwellings, a passport ID photo shop, hairdressers, a makeshift clinic.

"We have survived," says trustee Mahlentle, who single-handedly founded a school, consisting of containers and wendy-houses, which she obtained by forcing the captains of industry in the area to listen to her harrowing stories of children roaming the streets. "We will survive," she adds, "but this time much better."

Vrygrond's 50-year wait almost over

But poverty, infighting cause delays

JILYAN PITMAN AND TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING
STAFF REPORTERS

The plight of the long-suffering Westlake and Vrygrond squatters near Muizenberg is again under the spotlight – but hurdles like unemployment, low wages and infighting will have to be overcome before a permanent solution can be found.

The provision of water, sewerage and electricity to about 18 000 squatters in two settlements – and the payment for such services – is now high on the local council's agenda.

Several meetings are scheduled with representatives of the squatters to try to resolve pressing issues.

• Payment for essential services is a nationwide dilemma facing thousands of squatters and officials.

ANC councillors Adelaide Buso and Hennie van Wyk from the Southern Substructure said there were fewer than 10 taps at Westlake for about 8 000 squatters and 21 taps for Vrygrond's 10 000 residents and this was not adequate. Action, they say, should be taken now in consultation with squatters to provide the basic services and the issue of payment for such services should then be addressed.

Westlake, a squatter camp on a tract of provincial land near Ou Kaapseweg, is being transferred to the jurisdiction of the Southern Substructure. Vrygrond, close to Lavender Hill, is the oldest squatter camp in the Peninsula and was first settled in 1945.

Mrs Buso, who lives in Westlake, and Mr Van Wyk, who is also a member of the Vrygrond Steering Committee, say the services in both areas are a matter of urgency.

"Accountability for payment has to be

talked about before services go in at Westlake," said Mrs Buso.

"We would like the basic services to be in by February, but we have first to consult with people in the area for general agreement because they will have to pay.

"The problem here is that most of the people are unemployed and the remainder earn very low wages and there are different opinions on the payment for such services and where they should be installed."

She added: "The land is still in the process of being transferred to the sub-

'There are different opinions on payment and where to install services'

structure but consultation with our residents next month is the next step forward.

"We cannot have ad-hoc activities like a few taps suddenly being put in by the council. We must have a holistic approach to our problems."

Mrs Buso said they had been talking about plans for the area in the last five months. However, the demands of getting the new substructure up and running had meant that Westlake's problems had not been a priority.

It is also very difficult to communicate because there are no telephones in the settlement. "Telkom must be on a go-slow," said Mrs Buso. "Two months ago we asked for some public phones but nothing has happened."

MLH Architects and Planners partner Nigel Bowles said his company would only be involved in drawing up the structural plan for the whole area.

"We are not at liberty to tell you how much money has been agreed for this planning exercise. The basic services requested is an issue for the local authority to handle. It will only be an interim solution because we have long-term plans," said Mr Bowles.

An urban planner said affordability would be the key to success in the upgrading of the Vrygrond settlement east of Prince George Drive in Muizenberg.

"When designing this type of project the needs of the people involved must be assessed and most importantly the community must be effectively consulted to evaluate how much they want to and can afford to spend on services and accommodation.

"The original plan put forward by Cape Town municipal officials was not accepted by the community on the grounds of it being too expensive to run," the planner said.

Mr Van Wyk said the community would have to be made aware of the costs involved in the provision of accommodation and services.

"In addition, it is essential the community suffers as little disruption as possible during the upgrade," he said.

Of major concern to those living in Vrygrond at present is the lack of services – until recently there was no access for trucks to remove refuse.

Danger Khumalo, chairman of the South African Civic Organisation (Sanco) which has been involved in negotiations for improvements, said: "We hope the new approach to the upgrade will work as over the past 50 years we have had many promises from local authorities, but nothing has happened."



Roleplayers: Danger Khumalo, Chairman of Sanco and ANC Councillor Hennie van Wyk

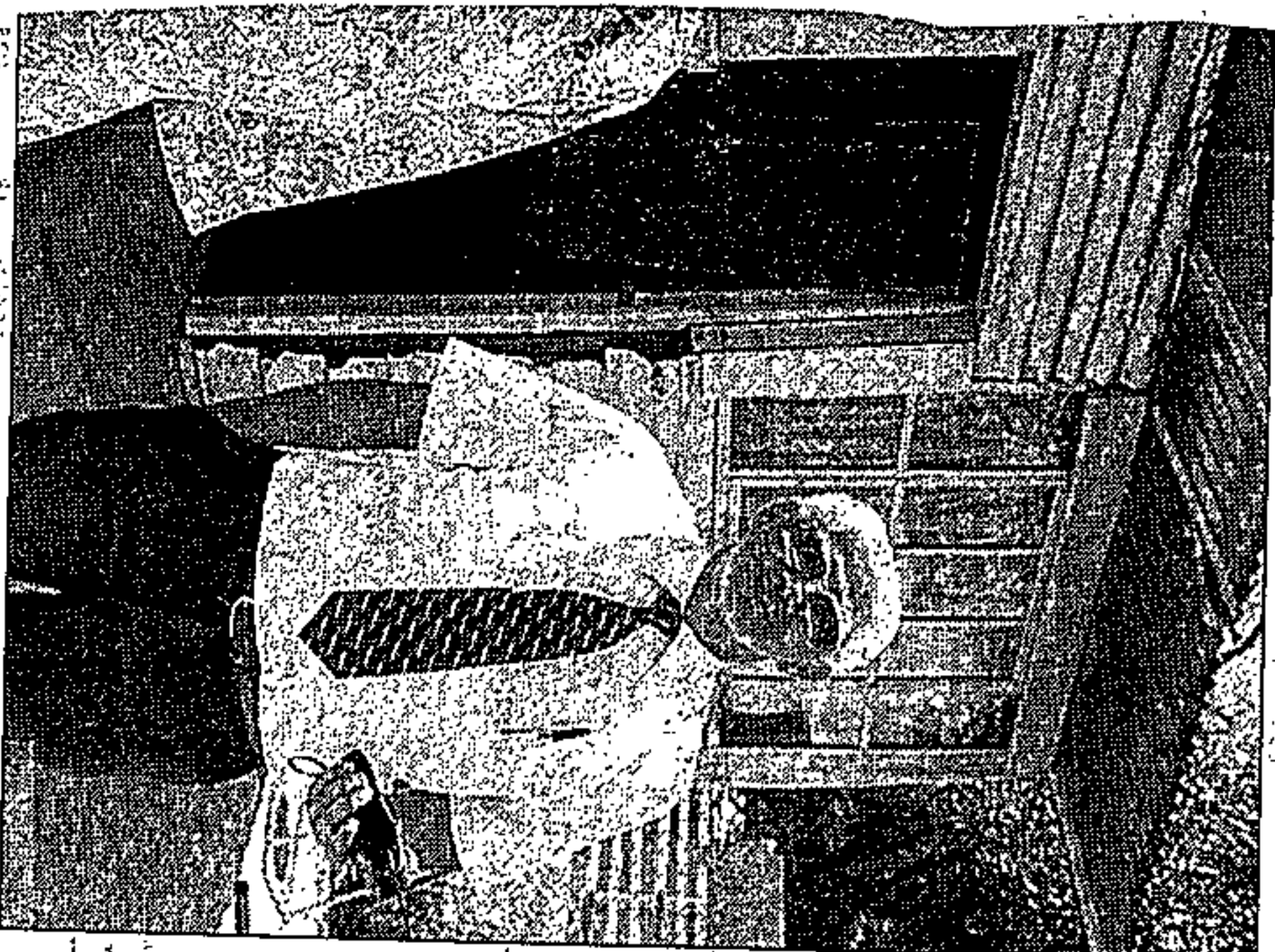


Working together: Adelaide Buso and Hennie van Wyk

ARG

2111247

507



discussing the way forward at Westlake

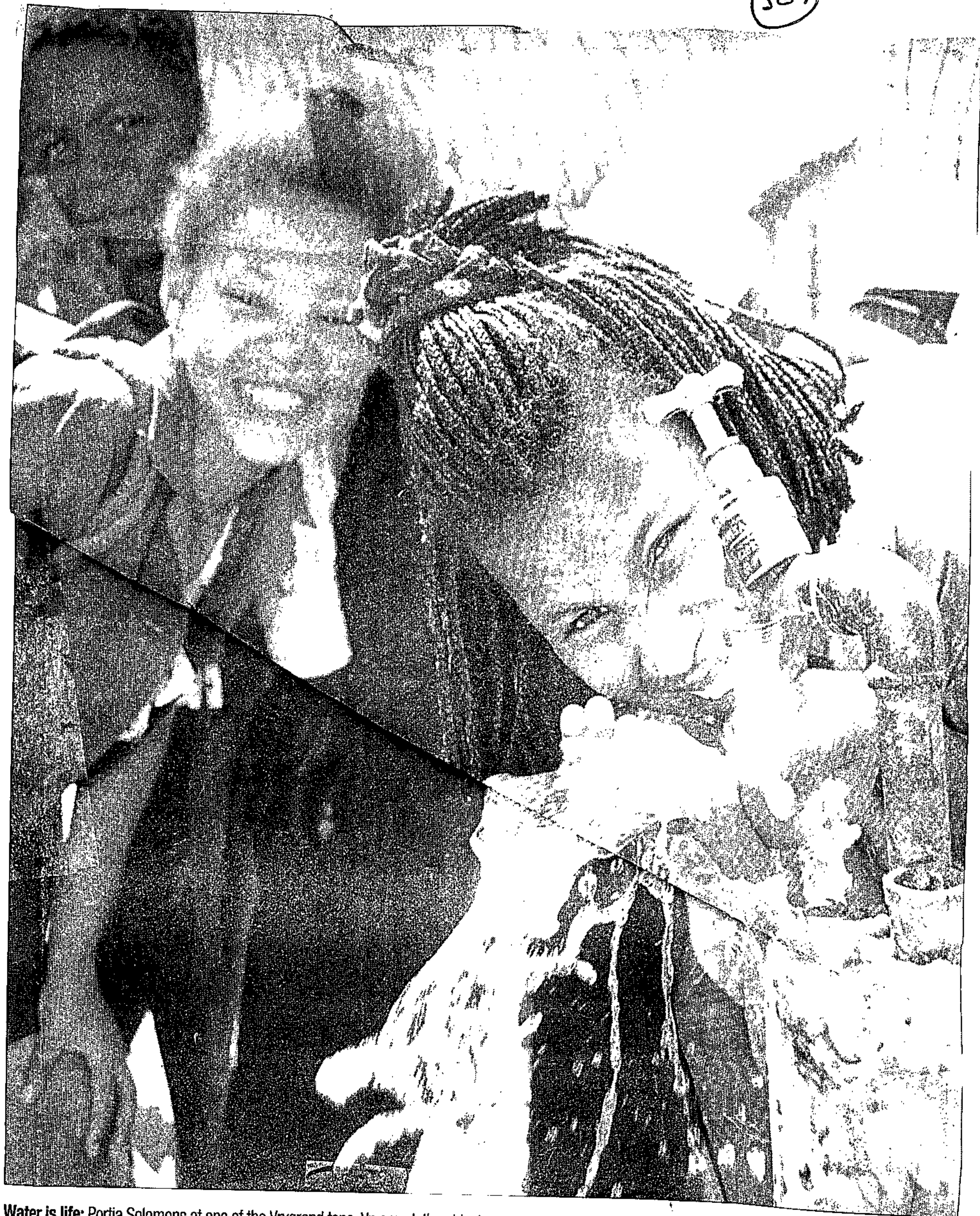


Sharing the water these geese enjoy the run-off from one of the few taps in the camp

AR 6

21/1/97

307



Water is life: Portia Solomons at one of the Vrygrond taps. Vrygrond, the oldest squatter camp in the Peninsula, still lacks services

DOUG PITHEY

NEWS

Big clean-up in store for informal settlements



ANDREW WIGRAM

Read and digest: a cow eats newspaper in Site B, Khayelitsha, where a clean-up campaign is underway

Council will spend R10-m

ARG 21/1/97 (307)

ANDREA WESS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

The Cape Metropolitan Council is to spend R10-million on a clean-up campaign aimed at creating cleaner, healthier conditions for residents of informal settlements.

The money is to be released to the six municipalities, which will spend it on a variety of projects, ranging from voluntary clean-ups to bulk cleansing.

The bulk cleansing aspect of the campaign will address big informal refuse and rubble-dumping areas as well as the clearing of stormwater ponds and road reserves. It is expected to be completed by the end of February. A small portion of the funds is to go towards environmental cleansing, including the removal of alien vegetation.

Cape Town and Tygerberg will get R1,275-million and R1,069-million respectively. Atlantis in Blaauwberg will get R283 500, Eastern municipality gets R138 000 and South Peninsula R121 500. The rest of the money will go to specific projects.

An estimated 3 000 tons of rubbish are generated a day in the Cape metropolitan area, according to metropolitan mayor William Bantom. This suggests each resident of the metropolitan area is generating about one kilogram of rubbish a day.

"These statistics are daunting and certainly something to take note of," said Mr Bantom, who attended the launch of the clean-up project in Khayelitsha.

He said the CMC was extremely proud of its initiative and it congratulated the municipalities on their enthusiasm for the campaign.

"It is only through partnership and co-operation that this will succeed."

Pierre Uys, chairman of the executive committee, said the campaign would not take over or fund maintenance and cleansing operations but was aimed at getting communities actively involved in clean-up initiatives.

"The CMC believes this campaign will be a major step towards removing health hazards as well as a start in making the environment a great deal more congenial for the communities who live, work and play in the Cape metropolitan area," he said.

David Erliegh, chairman of the metropolitan infrastructure and works committee, said he was confident the money would make an appreciable difference to "the huge problem we currently face".



Dig in: metropolitan mayor William Bantom, front, with David Erliegh, left, and Pierre Uys of the Cape Metropolitan Council

JANUARY

SUPER SAVERS

PRICES ARE SO LOW YOU WOULD THINK IT WAS CHRISTMAS AGAIN

DUVET COVER SET BONANZA

70%

HORROCKSES

GEORGE COUNCIL MAKES HARD CHOICES

CT 23/10/97 (30)

Crackdown on squatters

GEORGE: The eviction of squatters is a constant reminder of the nation's pressing housing problem, as thousands of homeless people struggle to own permanent homes. The Southern Cape became the latest flashpoint yesterday. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.



"ON humanitarian grounds this was not the correct decision, but politically it was right," said George town council executive committee chairperson Mr Patrick Nyuka yesterday, describing the forced eviction of 300 squatter families from council- and church-owned land.

Yesterday's tough action resulted in violent running battles between police and squatters trying to preserve the

shanty homes they had illegally erected. The police report said one person was arrested and one SAPS member slightly injured.

The events come against the backdrop of efforts by local authorities to implement housing initiatives and to encourage people to "abide by the process".

The George town council has set targets for several housing projects this year. Mayor Mr Sidney Opperman

said: "The project to build 932 houses in nearby Pacaltsdorp has been finalised, and in Thembaletu we are planning to build 4 100 houses, in Lawaakamp 508 and in Balotsview 330.

"This is not a situation where we are doing nothing. We are doing a little bit for every area."

But for many residents of impoverished areas, living in two-bedroomed houses into which "anything between 15 and 30 people" were squashed, the situation had become too much.

Over the new year — perfectly timed to coincide with the council's festive season recess — squatters settled on a large open section of land next to the Parkdene community. Within three weeks more than 300 families had moved onto the land.

The land — which belonged to the town council and to the local NG Church — had already been earmarked for a sports stadium. The squatters, however, argued that this "community sports stadium" had been just talk and that the land had been standing empty for close on five years.

In addition, there had been no delivery of houses.

Squatter Mr Andries Botha said: "I have been on a housing waiting list since 1992, I have been shifted from one place to another. I can't wait any longer."

The decision to evict the squatters was taken at a specially convened council meeting on January 9. For many of the decision-makers it proved a painful, but necessary step.

Nyuka, who lives in Thembaletu township, said it had been "a very difficult decision". "These people are homeless, but property rights must also be respected."

Nyuka said the council had taken all necessary precautions to ensure a non-violent eviction. These included instructing all police members to use minimum force and to time the eviction for 8.30 in the morning, when most children would be in school.

However, as council officials and workers moved in with bulldozers and pick-up trucks to raze the shacks, they were confronted by hundreds of squatters.

The council workers were backed up by heavily armed police and an army presence of more than 100, as well as many of the police's dog unit, who formed a defensive line against the emotionally charged crowd.

The tension rose visibly with each wooden and corrugated iron structure that was bulldozed. Old women went about slowly dismantling their homes and carrying off whatever they could salvage.

However, most of the crowd taunted and accused the police of "leaving them homeless" and "taking all they possessed".

Some council workers, who had been assigned to load the dismantled shacks onto the back of pick-up trucks, covered their faces with plastic bags and handkerchiefs as they came under a torrent of verbal threats from sections of the crowd.

A gathering outside a nearby white-owned supermarket, where an attempt was made to light a barricade, sparked off a violent reaction from Public Order Policing Unit members, who moved in firing birdshot and hurling teargas grenades into rapidly dispersing crowds.

The rest of the day was spent in a tense standoff between the community and the police. Violent skirmish



CT 23/1/95 (307)



MASKED: Several council workers who were involved in the dismantling of squatter shacks yesterday covered their faces to avoid identification after squatters threatened them.

307

incidents that have taken place in the past three months:

- There was violence at the Mbekweni settlement in Paarl last week after authorities began evicting about 400 squatters from land that had been earmarked for low-cost houses. Squatters burnt their shacks before the demolitions began and police armed with riot shields were called in.

- Earlier this month 41 people were arrested after illegally occupying land in the Cool Air district of Maritzburg in Natal.

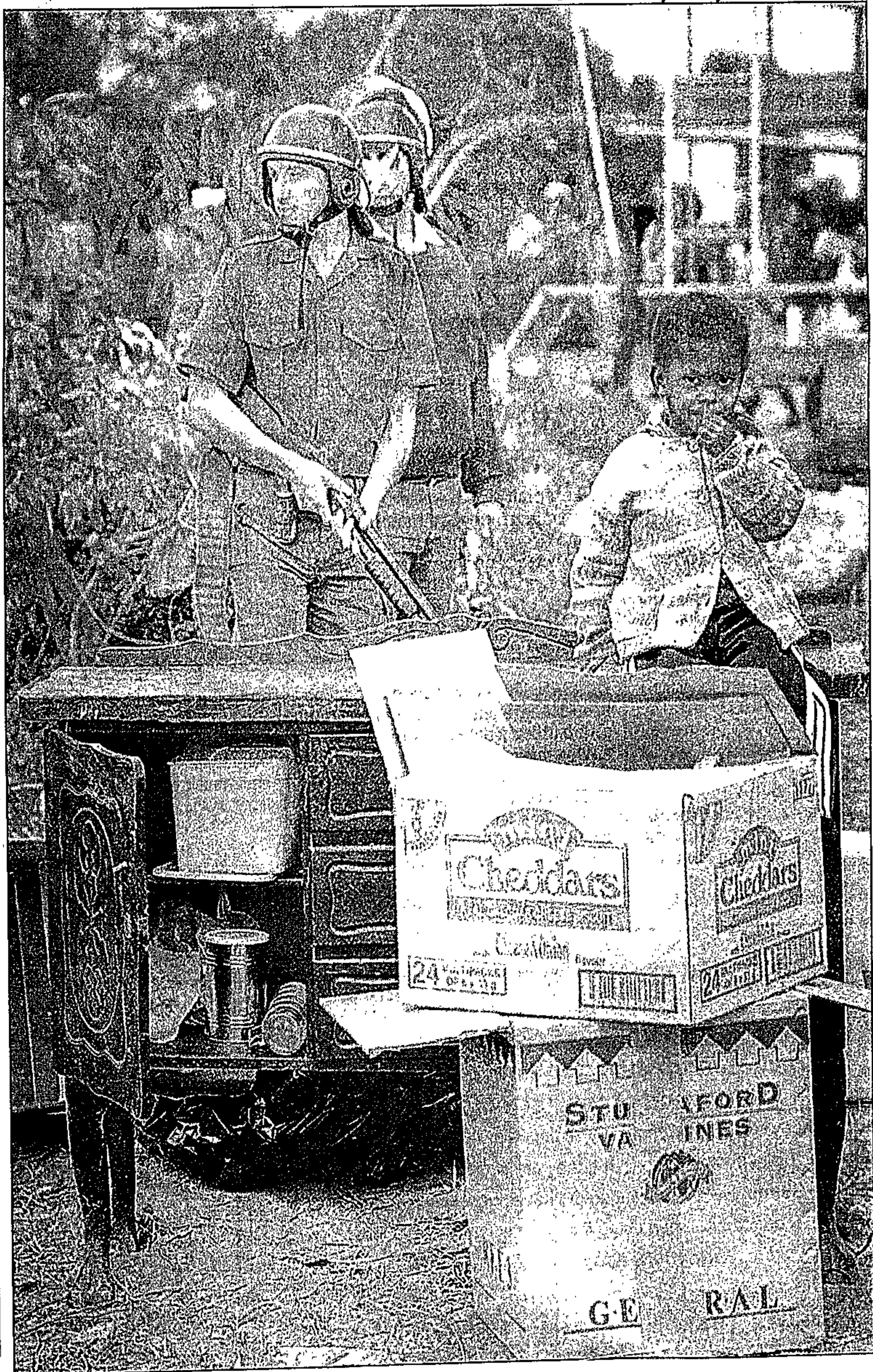
- Police evicted the illegal occupants of more than 40

houses in the East Rand township of Tokoza in December to make way for a housing redevelopment project.

- The Grabouw town council evicted people in November who were illegally occupying land set aside for low-cost housing. Squatters and police clashed after shacks were demolished, and squatters were forced to return to Snake Park, a settlement which squatters claim is infested with snakes.

- Squatter communities in Blue Downs, Eerste River and Kuils River had their water supplies cut by the municipality in November because of unpaid accounts.

CT 23/11/97



WHERE TO NOW?: This child faces an uncertain future after he and his family were evicted from their squatter homes near George vesterland.



PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

WE WILL NOT BE MOVED: Mrs Tina Jacobs and her 20-month-old daughter Ashlen are among 200 people in Delft who face eviction today.

Defiant Delft squatters to 'stand and fight' evictors

(307) (107) CT 24/1/97

NASREEN SERIA

MRS Amanda Cloete of Delft will be evicted from her home today. She believes the house belongs to her, but the Tygerberg municipality and people on the housing waiting list disagree.

She said yesterday she would "stand and fight" when the evictors came.

Cloete is the unofficial spokeswoman for more than 200 illegal occupants in Delft who have been served with interdicts to vacate the 88 occupied houses by noon today or face eviction.

"I am scared about what may happen

when they come to evict us," she said, "but I have nowhere else to go."

She and her neighbours have not packed any of their belongings or made any preparations to move. "If they take our stuff out of our houses, we'll just put it back again. I'm prepared to go to jail rather than give up my home."

She has been living illegally in the house in Eindhoven for a week, and other houses in the neighbourhood have been occupied for up to a month.

"I stayed with my mother in Epping before this, but I couldn't stay there any longer because there were too many peo-

ple. I heard from a friend that these houses in Delft were empty. I have three children and I needed to find a stable place for them," she said.

Cloete is angry that she is now being forced to leave her home to make way for others. In the Western Cape provincial housing plan the houses in Delft will be allocated on an equal basis to coloured and black people. But the present squatters are angry because houses are being allocated to black people who were not on the waiting list.

"I know that black people have been disadvantaged in the past and that changes

have to be made to reverse this," said Cloete. "But where does that leave us?"

"I applied for a house in 1987 and then again in 1991. The authorities have been pushing us around all this time."

"Some reports have said that this is a racial issue and that there is tension between the coloured and black people living here, but that is not true. We are just desperate for houses."

Mr Justice J Hlope said in the Cape Supreme Court yesterday that he sympathised with the illegal occupants, but "the law is the law", and occupants would be forced to vacate the houses by noon today.

Waterfront squatters demand to stay

(307) M1G-24-301197

**Squatters at Cape Town's Waterfront could go to the Constitutional Court to fight their eviction, reports
Gustav Thiel**

NEARLY 300 squatters living next to a proposed new entrance to the upmarket Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town could force the Constitutional Court to assess the constitutionality of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

According to Matthew Chaskalson, a constitutional expert at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies in Johannesburg, a provision in the Constitution clearly states that the decision to evict should lie in the hands of the courts — yet, countrywide, evictions are being carried out by city councils on their own initiative.

The squatters, living at the site opposite Port Road and next to the well-known Arena nightclub, say they have been there for more than ten years on average and are eager to stay. The Cape Town City Council tried to evict them on three different occasions last year, but withdrew each time when lawyers for the



Living rough: Squatters at Cape Town's Waterfront have been living there for years

PHOTO: RODGER BOSCH

squatters threatened court action.

Steve Kahanowitz of the Legal Resources Centre in the city said that the city council backed down before Section 3b of the Act could be tested in court. The section says that squatters may be removed by city councils without the consent of the courts.

"We firmly believe that the section of the Act will eventually be removed from the statutes because it is clearly unconstitutional," Kahanowitz said.

"It is also clear that city councils in the Western Cape are aware of this fact because they are apparently not willing for the Act to be challenged in court." The councils had withdrawn

on all seven occasions when they were taken to court.

"It seems to me that the city councils try to get away with evictions when they are not challenged in courts, but back down the minute the opposite happens," he said.

A Cape Town City Council legal representative, Fiona Ogle, said Sec-

tion 3b was "probably" against the spirit of the Constitution. But she denied that city councils in the Western Cape tried to avoid testing the issue in court. Activists for the homeless say squatters' rights could be dramatically improved once a test case has made it into the Constitutional Court.

Kahanowitz did, however, agree that the Port Road squatters are living in a particularly sensitive area of Cape Town, where thousands of local and foreign tourists will enter the waterfront tourist mecca if the proposed new entrance is approved.

The manager of the Arena nightclub, Robert Barry, said the presence of the squatters causes "great damage to the image of Cape Town as a prime tourist destination".

He added: "We have complained to the police and the Cape Town City Council on numerous occasions about the squatters and promises have been made that they will be removed. We frequently experience violent behaviour by the squatters which must be detrimental to our business."

Nomsa Ndumbini, who runs a shop in the squatter community, said: "Some people have been living here for more than 20 years and have nowhere else to go."

Short reprieve for Delft squatters

STAFF WRITER

ET 28/1/97
THE illegal occupants of 88 houses in Delft have been given a few days' grace and will not be evicted yet — but this reprieve will soon end.

The police, representatives of the Department of Housing and the sheriff of the Supreme Court met in Bellville yesterday to discuss what measures should be taken against the illegal occupants, who had been told to evacuate their houses by last Friday.

The police were prevented from evicting them after violent clashes broke out. People being evicted returned their furniture and belongings to the houses after officials had removed them.

Sergeant Jan Solomons said yesterday that no date had yet been decided upon for the evictions, but another meeting had been scheduled for today to finalise the matter.

"The court has made a ruling that the people have to be evicted and we are just following that order," said Solomons.

A housing department official in Delft said there were legal owners of all 88 houses, but not all the owners had collected their house keys yet.

"We expect the legal owners to move into their houses once the illegal occupants have been evicted. It is up to the sheriff and the police to decide when this will be."

ARG 29/01/97

507

Fighting as new Delft ev

Teargas fired as families clash with

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Teargas and batons were used as pandemonium erupted in Delft today, when the illegal occupants of 88 houses clashed violently with police and sheriffs for the second time in less than a week.

Supreme Court eviction orders served last week on the families living illegally in houses in Eindhoven required them to move out by noon last Friday, but attempts to evict them turned violent.

A large contingent of police and sheriffs returned to the area about 8am today to carry out the evictions, but they again faced fierce resistance. They had been expected to return on Monday, and then again yesterday, but never arrived. They arrived this morning unexpectedly.

By 11am the belongings of about 20 families were on the streets outside the houses but other residents then forced many of the people back inside and returned their furniture.

There were violent clashes when police used teargas and batons to stop people intent on preventing the evictions.

Residents hurled abuse at police, tempers flared and the situation threatened to get out of control.

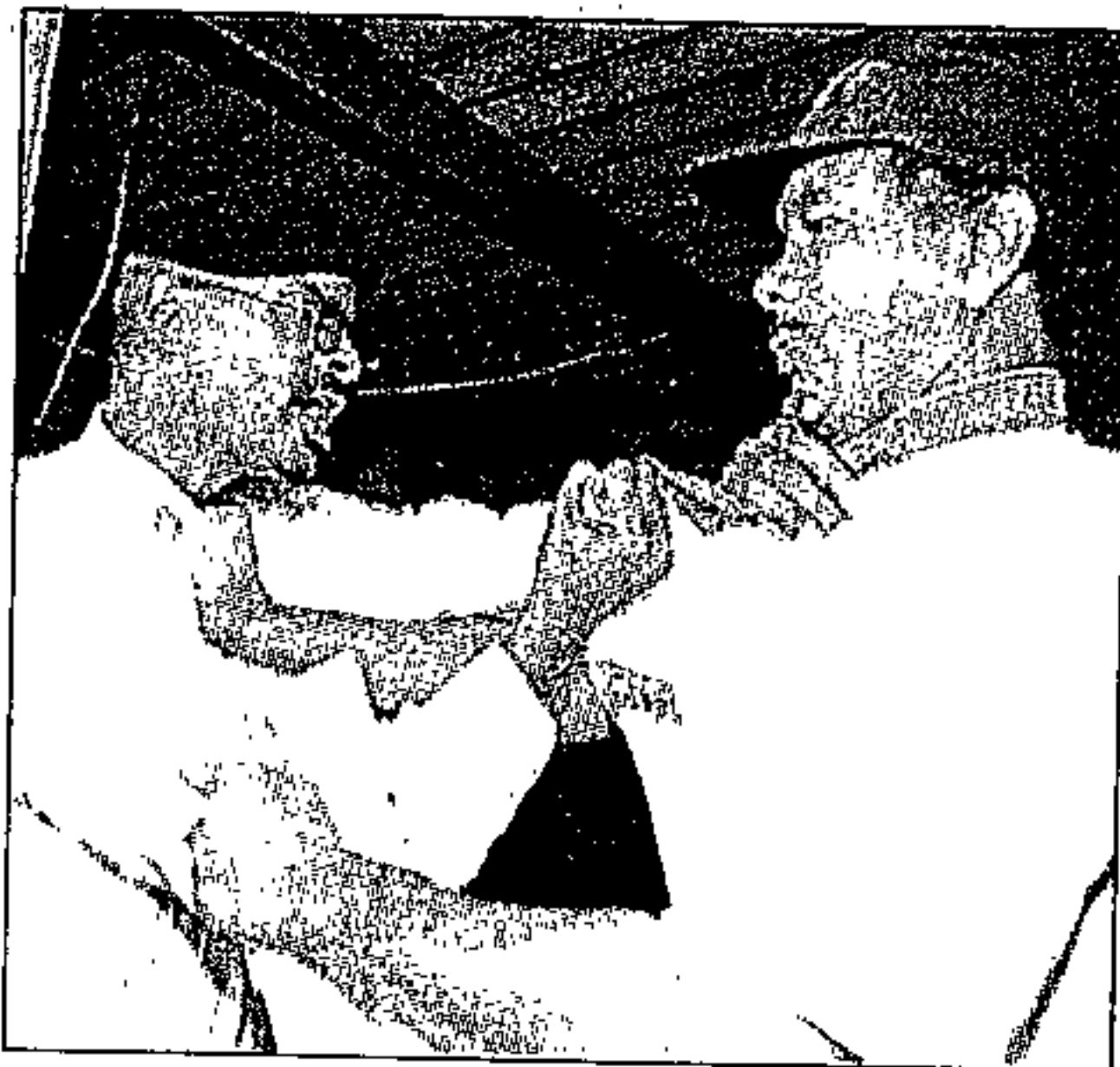
In one confrontation women and children were sprayed with teargas and hit with batons as a crowd formed a cordon around a house in an attempt to stop an eviction.

Police pointed guns at the protesters.

In the ensuing fracas, illegal occupant Shereen Adams and her daughters Waranita, 4, and Megan, 2, were sprayed in the face with teargas.

Another illegal occupant, Claire Solomons, was arrested during the same incident when she tried to stop police and sheriffs evicting her family.

In a house where Berenice Booysen is living illegally, residents came to blows with police and sheriffs as Mrs Booysen's



Fury: a resident, left, tackles a sheriff of the court

13-year-old disabled son Neil lay on a mattress on the floor.

Mrs Booysen and her three children have been living in the house for nearly a month and she is adamant they will not move. "I am not moving. They can do what they like, I am staying in this house."

Grant Twigg, co-ordinator of the Delft Civic Association, exchanged blows with a sheriff of the court.

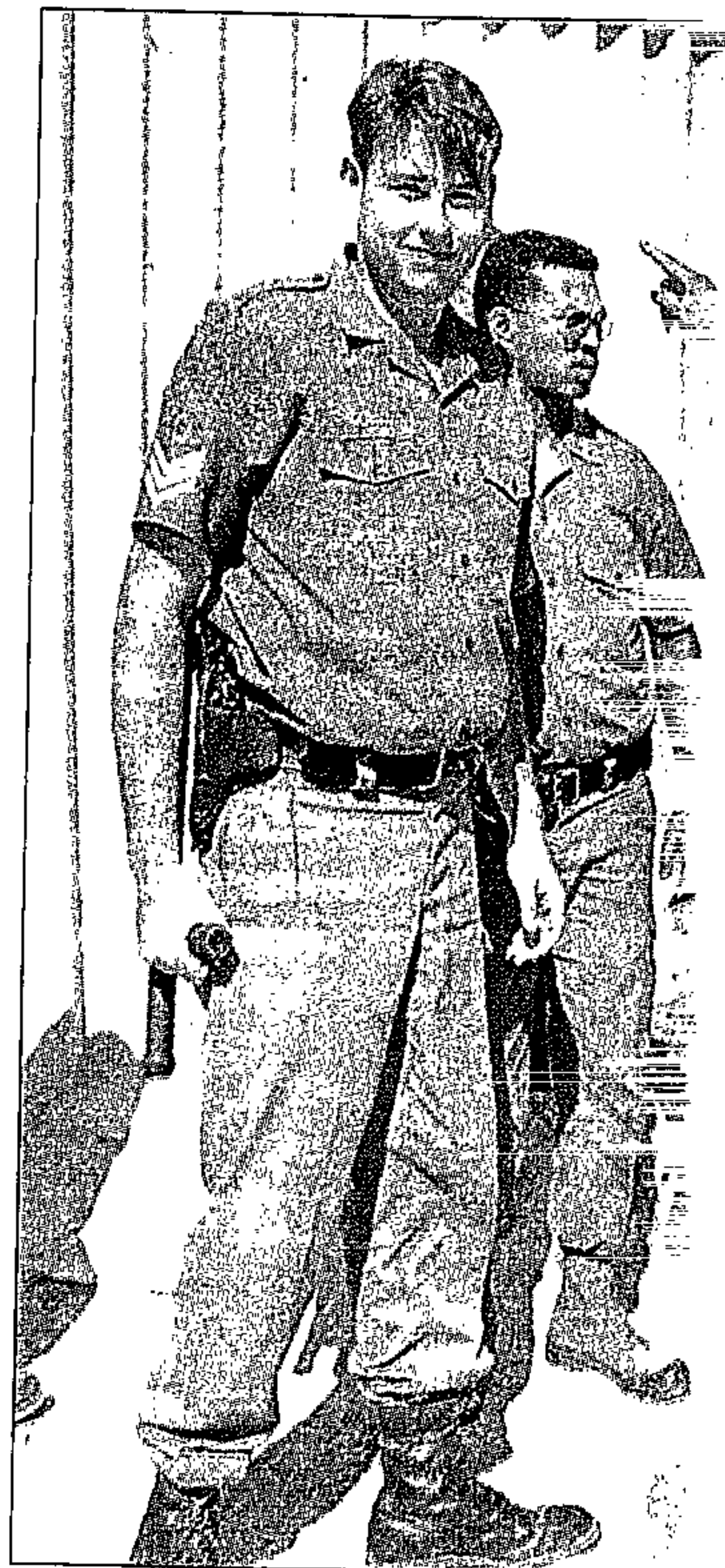
"When the police evict people, they must arrest them," he said. "At least then they will have a roof over their heads."

"The residents have been talking among themselves and something is going to happen. The people say they are fed up and are not going to accept what is happening. They say they are going to get more aggressive."

Police and sheriffs moved out of the area about 11.30am.

Sheriff of the Supreme Court Johan Stassen said it was unlikely the evictions would be completed today and they would have to return tomorrow.

The illegal occupants say the Delft conflict has its roots in promises they were given before the local government elections last year. They claim National Party councillors promised them houses in return for votes.



Angry occupants: illegal occupants shout abuse at

Some of the illegal occupants claimed they were not there illegally at all but had been moved in by the NP councillors for the area.

Mr Twigg said the local NP councillor for the area, Gerhardus Ventura, had been asked by Premier Hernus Kriel not to get

Eviction bid fails

Police, sheriffs

ARG 29/1/97

(307)



DOUG PITHEY

Police monitoring the evictions. In the background other residents put furniture back in their homes

involved in the controversy because of "internal fighting between NP members".

"We have requested a meeting with Housing Minister Cecil Herandien but he has not responded," Mr Twigg said.

Mr Ventura was not at Eindhoven today.

The illegal occupants have also claimed that they paid money to Integrated Serviced Land Project consultants for the houses.

They had earlier vowed to "stand and fight" and have been fiercely resisting all attempts to evict them.



DOUG PITHEY

Heated confrontation: a policeman sprays teargas at illegal occupants fighting eviction from houses in Delft. Claire Solomons, right, was arrested

More evictions of illegal Delft home occupants loom

(184) (307)
NORMAN JOSEPH AND JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

ARG 30/1/97

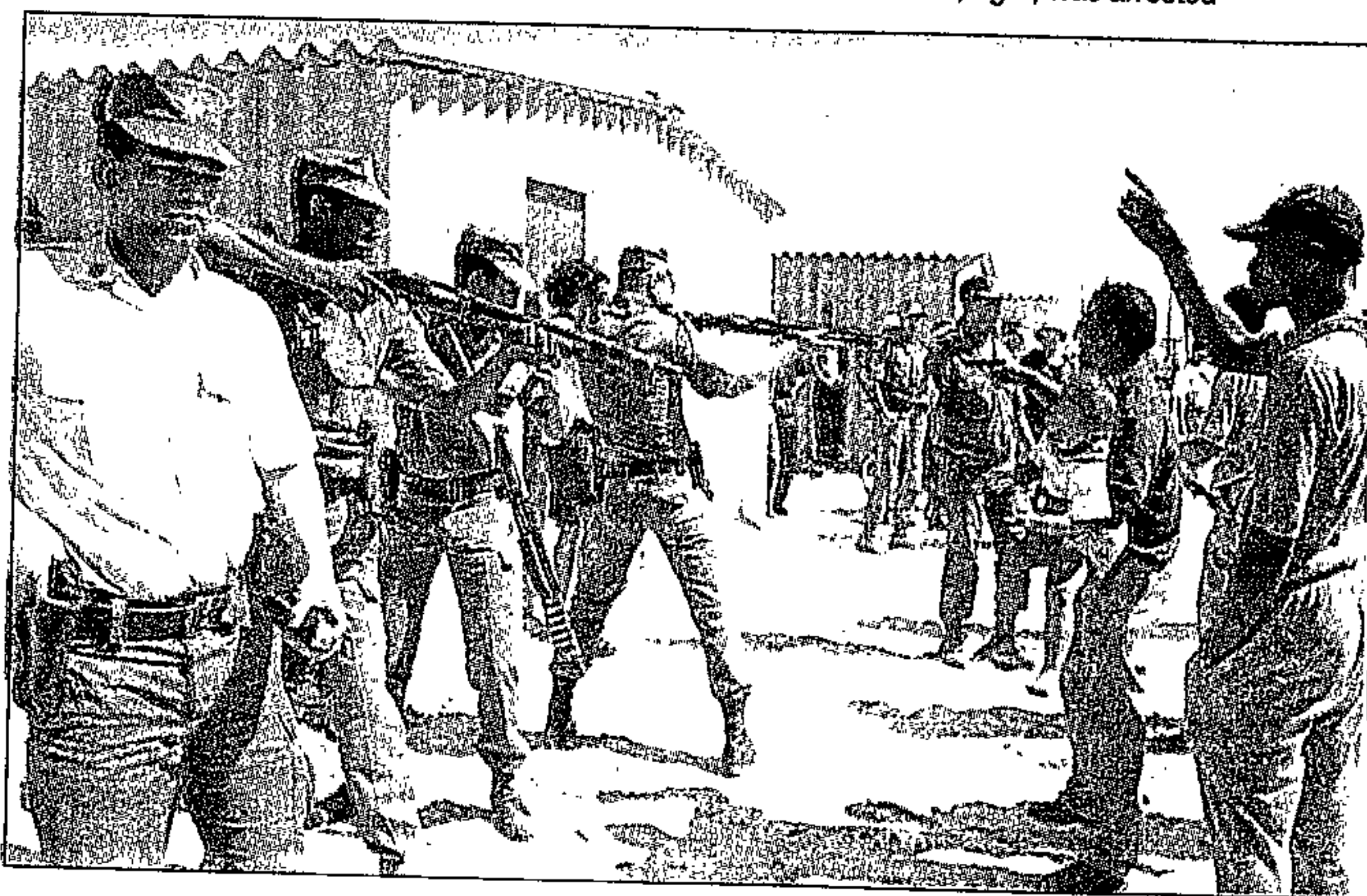
Evictions of families illegally occupying homes in the Eindhoven area of Delft are due to continue today.

Yesterday more than 50 people occupied the Delft Civic Centre in protest over the evictions of illegal occupants. The protesters vowed to remain in the centre until provincial Housing Minister Cecil Herandien promised to stop court officials evicting families.

They are demanding that "illegals" in houses be left alone and that Mr Herandien instruct local housing officials to allocate homes to people from the waiting list.

Chaos erupted in Eindhoven yesterday when residents, who prevented court officials from removing belongings from houses, clashed with police and the officials.

Scuffles broke out after police used teargas and batons to drive back a human



Standoff: police point their guns at illegal house occupants in Delft where violence broke out yesterday

chain formed around one house. Armed police, some with dogs, guarded the local housing department building in Eindhoven.

Mr Herandien said his department understood that families were desperate for homes but that he could not condone illegal occupations which jeopardised fur-

ther housing developments in the area.

The Delft houses formed part of the Integrated Serviced Land Project, which aimed to tackle the housing needs of about 40 000 people living in informal settlements.

So far about 300 families had moved into homes in Southern Delft as part of the ISLP project.



BRENTON GEACH

Where to now? children of evicted families are fed at the Delft Civic Centre

Ousted Delft families claim housing 'racism'

NORMAN JOSEPH AND JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

Allegations of corruption and racism have been levelled at housing department officials by illegal occupants of houses in Delft criticising their eviction.

Several people claimed they had given local housing officials R2 500 to secure homes in Southern Delft, a new housing project.

The Cape Argus has sent a list of names and erf numbers to the provincial Housing Department office.

The last of the 88 families living illegally in Delft were evicted without incident yesterday.

Earlier, illegal occupants were involved in fierce clashes between and police and sheriffs of the court, who were forced to withdraw twice, last Friday and on Wednesday, because of opposition from residents.

Yesterday the illegal occupants, most of whom live in backyards, said they had been on the waiting list for houses for more than five years.

Eunice Swarts claimed she had given R2 500 to an official who gave her a key to a house on erf 8824.

At two meetings this week people

repeatedly claimed that African people were being given preference to buy houses in Southern Delft.

Provincial housing department officials denied the corruption and racism allegations and outlined details of a housing project.

"The Integrated Serviced Land Project is a special integrated presidential project on urban renewal of the reconstruction and development programme," an official said.

"It aims to address the housing needs of about 40 000 people living in informal settlements and overcrowded backyards in Crossroads, Guguletu, Langa, Nyanga, KTC and Philippi."

James Slabbert, housing director and project manager, said families did not hand over money to secure sites or houses. Sites had been allocated according to strict principles.

Families who did not qualify for the full government housing subsidy paid the balance of the price of their homes to the provincial housing board through the board's agents, the marketing consultants.

No other money changed hands and beneficiaries had been advised constantly that there was no charge for being nominated a beneficiary.

APR 31/1997

(367)



BRENTON GEACH

Where to now? children of evicted families are fed at the Delft Civic Centre

Ousted Delft families claim housing 'racism'

NORMAN JOSEPH AND JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

Allegations of corruption and racism have been levelled at housing department officials by illegal occupants of houses in Delft criticising their eviction.

Several people claimed they had given local housing officials R2 500 to secure homes in Southern Delft, a new housing project.

The Cape Argus has sent a list of names and erf numbers to the provincial Housing Department office.

The last of the 88 families living illegally in Delft were evicted without incident yesterday.

Earlier, illegal occupants were involved in fierce clashes between and police and sheriffs of the court, who were forced to withdraw twice, last Friday and on Wednesday, because of opposition from residents.

Yesterday the illegal occupants, most of whom live in backyards, said they had been on the waiting list for houses for more than five years.

Eunice Swarts claimed she had given R2 500 to an official who gave her a key to a house on erf 8824.

At two meetings this week people

repeatedly claimed that African people were being given preference to buy houses in Southern Delft.

Provincial housing department officials denied the corruption and racism allegations and outlined details of a housing project.

"The Integrated Serviced Land Project is a special integrated presidential project on urban renewal of the reconstruction and development programme," an official said.

"It aims to address the housing needs of about 40 000 people living in informal settlements and overcrowded backyards in Crossroads, Guguletu, Langa, Nyanga, KTC and Philippi."

James Slabbert, housing director and project manager, said families did not hand over money to secure sites or houses. Sites had been allocated according to strict principles.

Families who did not qualify for the full government housing subsidy paid the balance of the price of their homes to the provincial housing board through the board's agents, the marketing consultants.

No other money changed hands and beneficiaries had been advised constantly that there was no charge for being nominated a beneficiary.

ART 31/1/97

(307)



HOMELESS: Clinton, Marsha and Martha Cristophels wait in the sun, watching and listening as their parents shout at the police who are evicting them. In the background are policemen in discussion.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Illegal occupants of Delft homes evicted 'peacefully'

NTABAZALILA

THE LAST families who illegally occupied houses in Eindhoven, Delft, were peacefully evicted yesterday after a week of resistance.

Most of the families were moved to the Delft Civic Centre where they tried to make makeshift shelters inside the hall.

Mrs Budrunisa Ferreira, a mother of five, said she was not confident of her children's future as she was before the new government.

"I have been on the waiting list for five years and what they did today is very bad. The people we elected left us in deep water with nowhere to go. We are not sure of our children's future," said Ferreira.

She was preparing a bed for her asthmatic six-month-old daughter Ayeisha under a wooden frame tied to a cement pole inside the hall. Inscribed on the frame is a notice in Arabic "Allah the most beneficent".

She said her husband did not go to work as she could not cope with her five children alone.

Ms Berenice Booyesen, a mother of three boys, said she was not evicted on Wednesday because of her disabled boy Neil, 12. She said the council had asked her to organise a place for her family to stay.

"This morning they came and gave me a letter saying they had given me a chance to organise myself a place to stay. I threw that

letter in the rubbish bin because I have nowhere else to go.

"The other place for us would be the bush," Booyesen said.

Mr George van Niekerk, chairman of the Delft Community Organisation, appealed to the Red Cross and other community organisations to help the people who were evicted with food and clothes.

(307) ART CT. 31/1/97

Desperate Delft families quit civic centre for field

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 5/2/97
"Where must we go to now with our children?"

These words, from a desperate mother who had taken refuge with her family in the Delft Civic Centre, captured the mood of those forced to leave the centre and move to a field yesterday.

There was an air of despondency in Delft as about 25 homeless families, many with infants only a couple of weeks old, realised the harsh reality of their situation.

The families were evicted from houses in Eindhoven they were occupying illegally.

They were met by the chairman of the Tygerberg Council housing committee, Claude Ipser, who said the council could not allow a "state of anarchy" to develop and that they would have to move.

"The council is sympathetic towards the people - they are in a dire predicament,

but we have no moral nor legal obligation to do anything for people who invaded homes or civic centres illegally. We are in local government - this is not local government, it is anarchy and it must end," said Mr Ipser.

Various community leaders had asked Mr Ipser to give the families a seven-day extension or house them temporarily at a nearby shooting range. But after consulting the executive committee of the Tygerberg council, Mr Ipser returned to say this was not possible and they would have to move. The families then decided to erect shacks in the adjacent field.

There was growing disillusionment with the National Party, accused of moving people into homes in Eindhoven illegally after the local government elections.

Meanwhile, the Swart Commission, which is investigating allegations that officials and councillors received bribes in exchange for keys to dwellings, met for the first time in Eindhoven yesterday.

Squatters protest against pending eviction

PETER DENNEHY

FIFTY-SIX families living in the disused buildings of the Princess Vlei Primary School in Retreat have been asked to leave of their own volition on Friday this week.

The letter asking them to leave came from the State Attorney's office. The 80 adults, who have 120 children, fear they will be evicted and held a protest gathering in Wale Street yesterday.

This comes at a time when all levels of the state appear to be cracking down on illegal occupancy. Earlier this week, a similar number of families were evicted from the Delft community hall. Earlier those same families had been evicted from newly-built houses in Southern Delft that they had illegally occupied.

At yesterday's protest meeting, spokesman Mr Edward Copperfield of the Concerned Residents of Steenberg and Retreat commented that even the previous government had had to abide by court rulings that forbade the forcible removal of people when there was no alternative place for them to go.

Committee member Mr Bernard Jackson said the school had been occupied for two years. It all started when an estate agent named Mr Jethro obtained a lease for the disused school from the provincial authorities.

He was supposed to use it for business purposes. Instead, he put eight families in there and charged them R200 a month each, Jackson said. After five months, the authorities threatened that Jethro would lose his lease. He tried unsuccessfully to evict his tenants.

Now they pay nothing, and the numbers have grown. Many of them are employed, and they would be prepared to pay for accommodation if they could have similar facilities and more secure tenure.

Committee member Mr Malcolm Brophy said there



HAPPY TO STAY: Nicole Thompson, 6, who lives in what used to be a classroom in Retreat, attends another primary school in the neighbourhood. The residents in this school hope to be able to stay. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**

had been times when things had not gone well at the former school, but at the moment "we have a strong committee and the people are standing together".

Money is raised for cleaning materials, and even to pay a caretaker. "The main thing is that there is order among the people. No fighting," he said.

There are several signs that a cohesive community has developed there. A well-attended report-back meet-

ing was being held in a courtyard when the Cape Times visited yesterday.

There is no electricity, but there are a few taps, most of them set up from water points by the occupiers.

Mr Roy Petersen, provincial spokesman for public works, said after Friday further action would be considered. "That will only be after appropriate investigation and a report-back to the provincial cabinet."

PHOTO BY GARTH STEAD

Squatters move out of city hall

PETER DENNEHY

CT 5/2/97

EIGHTY-EIGHT households of people whom had been evicted last week from homes they had illegally occupied in Southern Delft left the suburb's civic hall at noon yesterday in accordance with an undertaking they had given.

They had been there less than a week since they had been evicted by court order from houses they had occupied for a month.

Yet it was an emotional leaving. They knew that the sheriff's assistants would throw them out of the hall, too, if they did not leave of their own accord. And 25 of the families, most of whom include children, had nowhere to go. They prepared to sleep outside the hall.

Mrs Tina Swarts threw two loads of her personal possessions into the road before lying down there herself. Her voice shaking with emotion, she said she was "gatvol" (fed up), and that she had had to give her children away.

Ms Amanda Cloete, who has three children, said the new Southern Delft houses were being allocated in a ratio of 75 to 25 between black township residents and coloured waiting list applicants, instead of the 50-50 arrangement it was supposed to be.

It was not possible for the "illegals" to return to the backyard shacks where they had lived before as other people had taken them over in the meanwhile.

Mrs Clare Solomons, who has been charged with trespassing, said she had been given a key to the place she occupied from the marketing manager of her section of Southern Delft, whom she named.

She had not paid him anything, but had merely pleaded with him, and shown him her council card which proved she had been on the housing waiting list for 14 years.



NO REFUGE: Being homeless is no adventure for 10-year-old Gloria Jayas, one of the many children affected by the evictions from the community hall in Delft yesterday.

PICTURE: THEMBINKOSI DWAYISA

Occupations can scupper s

CT 12/1/97

(307) (4)



A MIGRATION onto sites on a stretch of land at Weltevreden Valley North threatened to disrupt a major RDP housing project for squatters on the Cape Flats and put to the test the negotiating skills of police and programme facilitators. **YAZEED FAKIER** continues his series, *Grappling With Change*.

ON the night of Saturday, May 17, 1986, conservative and progressive squatter factions in Crossroads finally erupted into a full-scale battle.

It raged for a week and left at least 20 people dead and thousands homeless as warriors loyal to the conservative faction — supported by state security forces — swept through the area, torching their opponents' shacks as they went.

Reports were numerous of "white men wearing balaclavas" helping in the attack, and journalists saw plainly how police in Casspirs and soldiers in Buffels sided with the conservative squatter leaders and their supporters.

People who found themselves suddenly caught up in the fighting fled the area and set up satellite camps elsewhere.

Some managed to salvage meagre possessions, but most thought themselves lucky to escape with their lives.

The event exposed to the public a sinister element in the teeming settlements — the wily warlord — who would in succeeding years continue to be exploited by government agents keen to sow dissension among a once unified people.

It was this same element that recently surfaced and came within a hair's breadth of derailing an important component of the government's RDP squatter housing programme.

Only tactful negotiation by intermediaries and restraint — this time by the police — saved the day, averting an imminent battle with resulting bloodshed.

And the land-grabbing warlords, who assumed they could resort to the underhand tactics employed during the apartheid years, found they were sorely mistaken this time round.

They could no longer rely on the tacit support of police for their unscrupulous scrambles for turf. Instead they were met with a firm message from the provincial government — land invasions would not be tolerated, whatever quarter they came from, and would be dealt with severely, according to the law.

The drama that threatened a repeat of the 1980s faction fighting that continued sporadically till just a few years ago, unfolded recently at Samora Machel/Weltevreden Valley North, the squatter upgrading settlement on the R300 road to Mitchells Plain.

The area is one of seven that forms part of the RDP's Integrated Serviced Land Project (ISLP), which includes the African communities of Nyanga, Langa, Guguletu, Crossroads, Philippi and southern Delft.

Under the scheme a total of 42 000 houses are to be built for shack-dwellers, most of whom are now living in squalid conditions without services.

It is already well under way and involves the provincial government, local authorities and communities themselves.

But a nightmarish day at the office awaited Mr Mbuyiselo Nombembe, a key facilitator for the project, on his return from the December holidays.

Nombembe is project facilitator for Holistic Settlements, which is co-ordinating the ISLP on behalf of the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape.

Nombembe says the legal residents moved into Weltevreden Valley North from August through to December last year.

There were persistent rumblings of discontent from various quarters earlier and "we were worried that those sites would be invaded during the December holidays".

"We tried to put in place mechanisms to deal with that crisis as and when it arose."

But nothing happened.

On January 20, his first day back at work, he was faced by a toyi-toying crowd who had pegged their own sites.

The action was in defiance of agreements settled and accepted by the majority of representatives of squatters due to be housed.

With the project having proceeded relatively smoothly until then, "I was suddenly faced by this crisis," says Nombembe.

"The situation was very volatile — you could have gotten into trouble just by standing up and trying to reason with the people."

A flurry of consultations followed with those concerned with the programme (a presidential lead project).

Those involved included the provincial housing and safety and security ministries, the Cape Metropolitan Council and the city council housing committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Sydney Ncate.

"We made our position clear from the start of this land invasion," says Ncate. "We are not going to tolerate people going onto

land in this manner without permission. We will call in the police and they will be removed."

He notes that when land invasions took place in the past "we were then fighting the government of the day, we were fighting for the government to change and listen to our voice ..."

Today, though, "we have a government who speaks with our voice, we now have the third tier of government — local government — which is made up of the local councillors representing the people on the ground".

For their part, the police ensured an atmosphere conducive to negotiations by not adopting an aggressive approach (see story below).

While tempers were frayed and some already flaring, there was, mercifully, no violence that day.

The next day, however, the invaders had still not moved and police were back at the scene.

"Luckily, they didn't shoot any teargas," says Nombembe.

"Just as they were reading the riot act and people were asking how long they were expected to wait, I decided that was the perfect opportunity to at least talk to them. I asked them why they were doing it and it turned out that the majority were acting out of ignorance."

Most had come from the nearby Philippi/Brown's Farm settlements — areas which themselves have a history of internecine wrangles with roots stretching back to the Crossroads leadership struggles.

"They had heard through their next door neighbours or some other source that land was up for grabs somewhere in Weltevreden Valley North and then rushed to invade sites. They were already frustrated at the lack of progress in the building of sites in their own area."

"But we spelt out that this is a government project and there was no way they could be allowed to do what they were doing."

The invaders were advised to return to their councillors and ascertain the extent of progress of upgrading plans already in place for Brown's Farm.

Residents point to a lack of agreement and uniformity among the leadership in Philippi/Brown's Farm as being the cause for the delay in development there. Other resident sources say there was an additional element — behind-the-scenes role-players who were exploiting frustrations and manipulating residents to invade sites so that a more sinister plot could be hatched.

Ncate says that illegal occupations of sites only delays the entire housing process and unfairly disadvantages those living in more desperately squalid conditions for whom the sites have already been earmarked.

He says the Philippi RDP Forum was party to initial discussions and agreements on these issues, but was the only dissenting voice during those talks.

"There were 11 RDP forums present when the allocation of plots was discussed and agreed on, but if 10 RDP forums agree and only Philippi disagrees, we cannot hold up the entire process because of a disagreement from one area."

"The decision of the majority is the decision that has to govern at the end of the day."

(The Philippi RDP Forum and the area's local councillors are due to meet to discuss the issue and present their response to housing authorities soon.)

On the question of emigration by individuals, Ncate says he "impressed on those responsible that 'even if I am so powerful — let me not be the instigator of the wrong things'."

"At the end of the day, you will invite more trouble to yourself."

"They are obstructing housing developments for people who need accommodation desperately."

Asked what threat the warlords held for the future of the delivery of housing and upgrading of existing areas, Ncate said: "We are taking those warlords out and replacing them with community policing in each and every area. We are pushing for those warlords to be taken out."

"That is why we said even to the courts of the Western Cape, we need assessors to be drawn from the civics on the ground — because the civics are the watchdogs of the government."

Asked how he personally would approach the vexing warlord question, he cited his intervention in Crossroads, when, he says, he was warned not to do so because he would be killed.

"But I decided that whether I'm killed or not, I have to talk to them — that's the only way — and now the development in Crossroads is going well."

He says he has appealed to squatter leaders and councillors, "telling them we depend on the leadership not to allow people to invade areas we want to develop".

Ncate notes that "we may have been fighting with the NP before, but we are sitting round a table now to try to solve things together with the NP."

"We are not focusing on the fact that these people have been chasing us around all these years — so that is what I'm putting it to the people so that they must understand that when they take action, they do so in the proper manner."

"It's the message I gave to the leaders of Brown's Farm and Philippi — if we have 100 people present and 99 agree on something, it must



FLASHBACK: Much of Crossro

be understood that the outstanding one must abide by the decision of the 99."

Recalling President Nelson Mandela's statement during speech at the opening of Parliament, Ncate said: "This has been the year of delivery ... the fruit of what we're doing on the ground."

Philippi RDP Forum chair Mr Madoda Giyose confirmed body's discontent with agreement on the housing project. "The forum is very autonomous, nobody can decide for us."

"Whatever decisions we in the forum make will stand," he said.



GRAPPLING WITH CHANGE

Upper squatter housing

gal occupa-
ys the entire
fairly disad-
n more des-
ditions for
ready been

RDP Forum
ussions and
ssues, but
g voice dur-

forums pre-
ion of plots
ed on, but if
e and only
cannot hold
because of a
area.
e majority is
to govern at

Forum and
llors are due
e issue and
to housing

of empire-
s, Ncate says
responsible
werful — let
ator of the

lay, you will
yourself.

ng housing
le who need
ately."

he warlords
the delivery
ing of exist-
We are tak-
and replac-
unity polic-
area. We are
lords to be

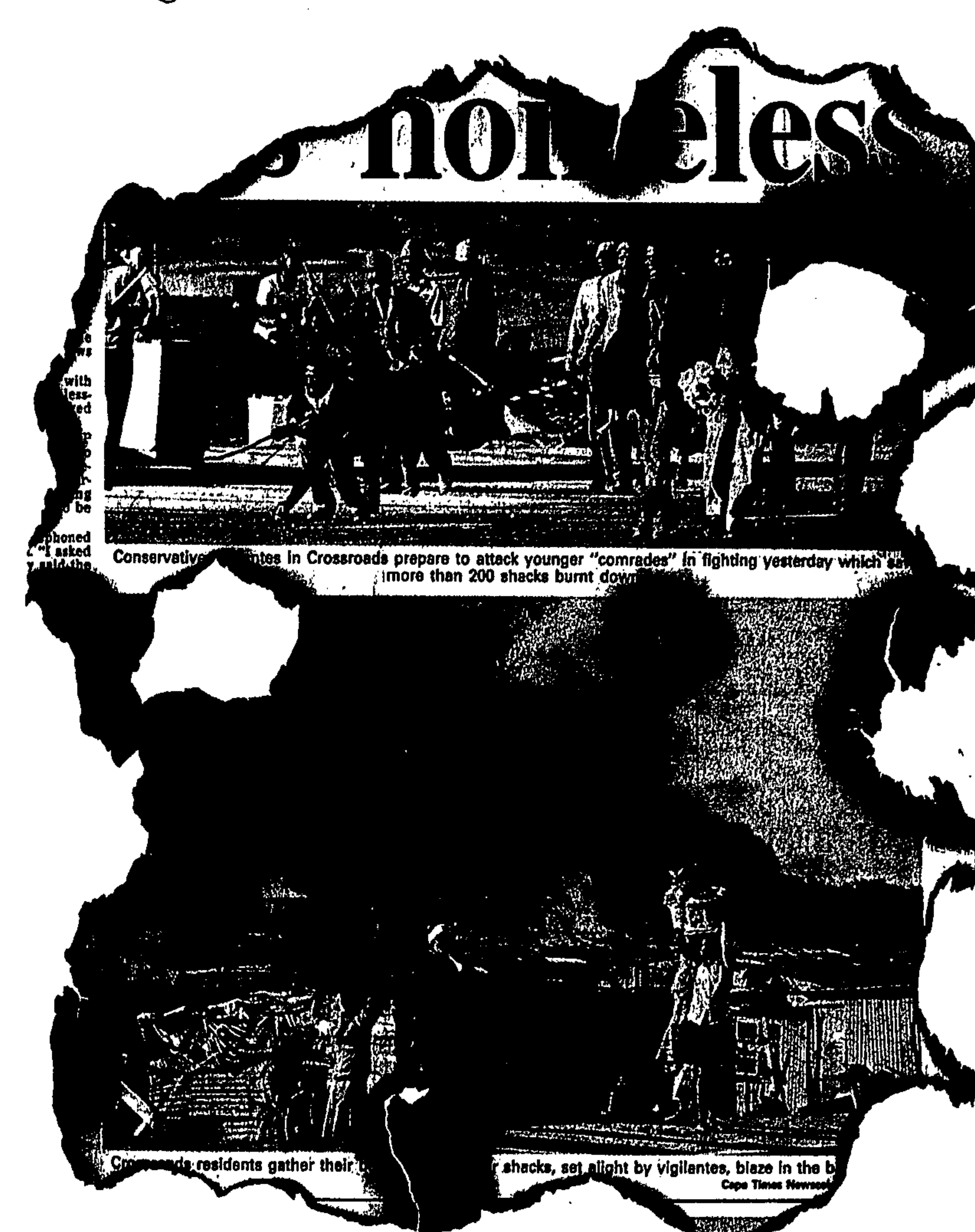
aid even to
rn Cape, we
rawn from
d — because
dogs of the

nally would
arlord ques-
vention in
ays, he was
because he

whether I'm
talk to them
— and now
rossroads is

ppealed to
puncillors,
end on the
w people to
develop".
e may have
NP before,
ind a table
ags together

ing on the
have been
ese years —
ing it to the
just under-
take action,
manner.
gave to the
and Philip-
ple present
ing, it must



FLASHBACK: Much of Crossroads squatter camp was destroyed in May 1986, when fighting broke out between rival factions.

be understood that the outstanding one must abide by the decision of the 99."

Recalling President Nelson Mandela's statement during his speech at the opening of Parliament, Ncate said: "This has to be the year of delivery ... the fruits of what we're doing on the ground."

Philippi RDP Forum chairman Mr Madoda Gilyose confirmed the body's discontent with agreements on the housing project. "The forum is very autonomous, nobody can decide for us."

"Whatever decisions we in the forum make will stand," he said.

But the forum was still to hold discussions with the ISLP, councillors and other players in the wrangle and these factors had nothing to do with the invasion of sites.

"If we are called to a meeting to discuss this matter, we will go."

One of the four councillors for Philippi area, Mr Mteto Ntlangiso, said they were having "ongoing negotiations" on the dispute.

"We were told to go back to the (Philippi) forum and come up with a position that is agreed upon by all the interested parties."

"We still have to sit down with the ISLP and push the ISLP to also

start working on levelling the ground of the Brown's Farm and Philippi areas because people have become impatient."

Nombembe says the experience at Weltevreden Valley was a triumph for negotiation over the Delft and Mbekweni clashes witnessed by millions on television.

"Even in the face of people invading with tanks, there's no substitute for sitting down with them — you must find out what their problems are before resorting to force."

"If they are being unreasonable then it's a different question, but

we managed to get the police on our side and they were very helpful — they didn't just move in there and start spraying teargas all over the show."

"They gave us a chance to talk and agreed to patrol the area till things had settled down."

He appealed for patience among squatter residents and assured them that no one had been overlooked in the housing process.

"This is a project that will run until 1999 and beyond, and the government is going to buy more land as and when the need arises. But nobody will be left out."

Haven for homeless becomes a nightmare for city's officials

200 sleep every night under highway flyovers

ARLT 22/3/97

(307)

JULIAN JACOBS
STAFF REPORTER

It's a town within a city, a haven to the homeless, a nightmare to city officials – the "Bridge Hotel" shantytown under the Western Boulevard flyovers that springs up every night is a prime example of the problem of homeless people the Mother City has to deal with.

The Bridge Hotel shantytown now has a population of about 200 people. Every night the "town" rises and becomes a hive of activity, with shebeens and spaza shops.

And life for the homeless on the streets of the city is to become much tougher if a Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry proposal that sleeping on the streets should become illegal is accepted by the city fathers.

The bright lights of the city, the lure of jobs and abject poverty in the townships are all factors that have seen the numbers of the homeless in the city increase.

"Where do they come from, what has driven them to the city," asks CBD street worker Coleridge Daniels.

Mr Daniels visits the Bridge Hotel shantytown regularly to offer help and to hand out clothes his organisation receives from the public. He believes the problem of homeless people will not be resolved unless business and the public understand the plight of the people and try to help.

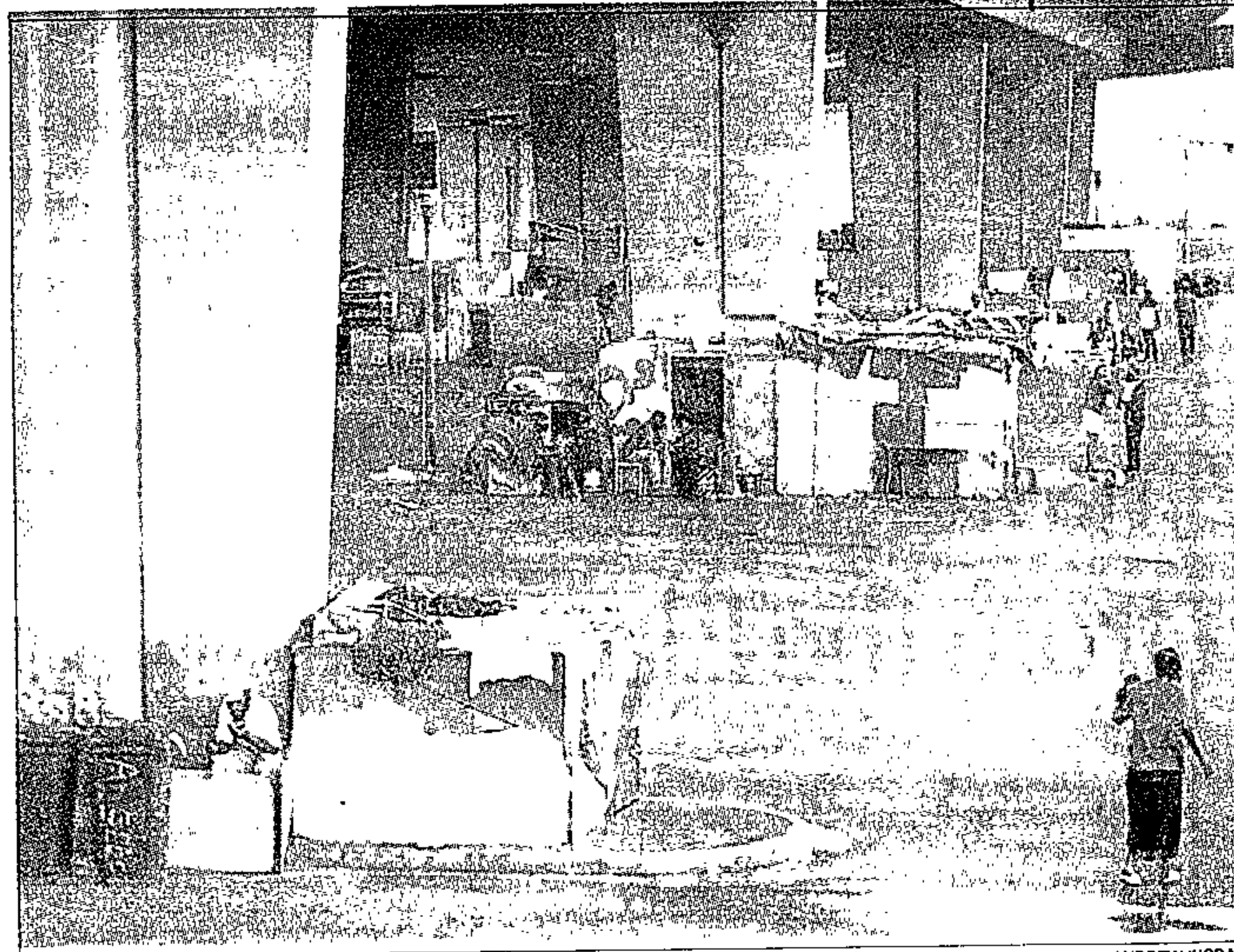
"Most of these people come from dysfunctional homes. Violence and abuses suffered are reasons for them to leave their communities to come and live on the streets.

"Rounding up homeless people every night would not solve the problem, it would only highlight how inhumane such a law would be," said Mr Daniels.

Justice Smous, who has been living on the streets for 10 years, said: "We want running water, electricity and a nice comfortable home to go to."

Unemployed Justice lives with his girlfriend in their makeshift home under a bridge. He is optimistic about the new South Africa and believes his luck will soon change.

Debbie Diamond, a street worker with CASP (Co-ordinated Action with Street People), said homeless people had for years been harassed by the traffic department and the police because law enforcement officials simply did not understand the problem.



ANDREW INGRAM

Squat: a group of squatters have built their homes under the Sea Point flyover

"We have offered training to the police to help understand homeless people, but they have never responded to our offer. In many cases homeless people as a group are unfairly accused of robbing and loitering in the streets of Cape Town," she said.

Ali Gierdien, chairman of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the chamber understood the plight of vagrants and an emergency task group had been set up to investigate measures on how best to improve the situation so that it did not become a catastrophe.

"This is a highly complex and sensitive issue and needs the utmost care and consideration," he said.

Homeless people sleeping on the pavements have caused an outcry among retail business people and pressure has been put on the chamber to deal with the issue.

Mr Gierdien said that while sleeping on private property was an offence, sleeping on pavements was not. He said that there were homeless people who were simply destitute, while there were others intent on crime.

This was a difficult situation for the police to handle as they needed to distinguish between the two groups before arresting people. Ms Diamond, a street worker for the past seven years, said that the problem of vagrants and homeless people was not unique to Cape Town.

"In any city in the world you will find destitute and homeless people and it needs an understanding of the problem before the issue can be addressed and solutions found.

"Cape Town does not have sufficient resources to cope with the influx of homeless people," she said. In the past year alone there had been a huge increase in the number of homeless people flocking into the city bowl. Most of these people come from dysfunctional families, while some were immigrants who had entered the country illegally.

"With Cape Town now on the short list to host the 2004 Olympic Games, pressure has been mounting to address the problem," said Ms Diamond.

Nomsa Ndnumbini, a self-employed mother of two who has been living under the West-

ern Boulevard fly-over for the past 20 years said: "We were only eight people back then, and today we are about 200 people."

Ms Ndnumbini, a member of the settlement's committee, remembers how they were evicted on many occasions. Only recently did they ask a lawyer to assist them.

"If evicted, we do not want to go to another informal settlement, we want better housing," she said. Other people in the shantytown had become used to living in the city, saved money on transport and wanted a safe place to live in the city bowl.

Helping the homeless has become the aim of the *Big Issue*, a magazine distributed among the homeless, who then sell the publication to earn money.

"The object is for people to work for themselves, as it helps restore their dignity and helps them help themselves," says project coordinator Shane Halpin.

The *Big Issue* had 168 vendors in Cape Town. Already there were four people who had permanently returned to mainstream society and several others who had opened banking accounts, said Mr Halpin.

He said banning homeless people in the city would not solve the problem. He believed projects such as the *Big Issue* and the Green Brigade, a scheme where homeless people cleaned the city, as well as the car vendors project, represented a solution.

Child Welfare Society director Allan Jackson said the problem of homeless people could not be wished away or addressed by passing legislature as the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry proposed.

Mr Jackson said that finding solutions were never easy, but measures had to be investigated to best help homeless people.

"There are shelter programmes around and they have encouraged children and adults to educate themselves, but we need to re-orientate their lives and give them their pride and self esteem back," he said.

Mr Gierdien proposed in a letter to the mayor of Cape Town that the council make available its street level garage at the Civic Centre in the evenings.

This, he said, would control the homeless people and create fewer problems. Street care workers believed a back-up system, including rehabilitation and counselling, should be put in place to help the homeless once they had been removed from the streets.

ANC factions in row over squatters

3 000 families face eviction

ST(CM) 6/4/97

(307)

TAMIE MBENGO

A CONFLICT has erupted between rival ANC factions over a four kilometre-long squatter settlement in Khayelitsha's Harare area, overlooking Monwabisi beach resort.

The bitter row has broken out between the ANC's Bantu Holomisa and Michael Maphongwana branches, with threats to evict the squatters, consisting of nearly 3 000 families.

Some residents claim the Holomisa branch, which supports fired ANC minister Bantu Holomisa, had encouraged people to build shacks in an area which has been cleared for the development of a new industrial area.

However, the ANC councillor and leader at the Holomisa community branch, Mziwabantu Sikhundla, denied having called for the land invasion at a meeting last Sunday. "We only called a meeting after our people put up illegal shacks and we told them they should not build in that area, we are going to look for another site."

ANC member and councillor Mbulelo Ncedani, leader of the Michael Maphongwana faction, warned: "We are going to invade the area and forcefully evict them."

Ncedani said he called an urgent community meeting at which people were warned "not to proceed with building shacks". He claimed that some 5 000 Harare residents agreed with him that people should not build shacks there.

He said the land had been designated for industrial development and it was hoped that these new businesses would create jobs for the residents of Harare.

"President Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki are busy trying to woo international and local investors to build factories closer to the people so that there is no need for long distance travelling to work," said Ncedani.

But, despite the warning, many people said they had no choice and would continue building homes there.

Tygerberg City Council decided at a meeting this week that the illegal residents should be removed.

However, many shack-builders said they would not budge. Typifying their attitude was Ntsikelelo Ndaba, who said: "Come what may, we are not making any move. If they destroy our shacks, we will build them. We have been pleading with these councillors to build us proper houses but to no avail."

A 76-year-old man, who declined to be identified, said:

"I've got more than six adult children who live in the Eastern Cape. I am preparing land for them so that when they come here there is enough land for them to raise their families."

Ncedani warned that the issue could erupt into conflict if it was not resolved soon.

"We are still busy investigating who gave the people permission to build shacks without consulting us," he said, adding that notices of eviction had already been served on the illegal squatters.

If they did not move this weekend, he warned, "on Monday we will forcefully evict them and destroy their shacks."

Invasion threat spurs action

TOM HOOD

ST(CM) 20/4/97

THREATS of land invasion by homeless people has spurred Cape Peninsula councils to step up the hunt for housing land.

The number of homeless in the Peninsula is estimated at 106 000 families — more than the combined populations of Bellville, Goodwood and Grassy Park.

Funds of R1,2-billion are available from an integrated serviced land project planned to meet the needs of 40 000 households. But only R209-million has been spent in the last two years, it was revealed this week.

The 106 000 families are living in squatter settlements, backyard shacks and overcrowded conditions, according to James Slabbert, director: project execution, in the Western Cape Department of Housing.

The Cape Metropolitan Planning Committee this week discussed the shortage of housing land and a government request to help find land that could be acquired.

Slabbert said about 15 000 housing sites would be provided this financial year from total spending of R330-million from RDP funds.

There was a dire need for industrial land with nearby housing for Marconi Beam-style projects, said Slabbert.

Committee member Daphne King warned that squatters could move into Bishopscourt and Rondebosch Common unless the provision of housing land was speeded up.

Municipality to develop 100ha of squatter land

Linda Ensor

BD 30/4/97

CAPE TOWN — A 100ha piece of land near Pollsmoor Prison on the outskirts of Cape Town, occupied by squatters, has been handed over by central government to the South Peninsula municipality for upgrading and development.

Some of the land would be sold and the funds used to develop formal housing on the site, South Peninsula planning chairman Neville Riley said yesterday.

The land in Westlake is on the southern flank of Pollsmoor Prison, adjacent to the Westlake and Steenberg golf courses.

Announcing the development yesterday, housing MEC Cecil Herandien said infrastructure will be upgraded to improve roads, access, sewage and other services.

The development would halt ongoing illegal occupation of land and stabilise squatter communities, which would be closely consulted in the development process, he said.

South Peninsula executive committee chairman Graham Lawrence said the venture was the largest to be embarked on by the municipality since the new local government system came into existence.

"The site badly needs good management and urgent upgrading of existing infrastructure, and we believe that this venture will result in the best possible solution for the area," he said.

The land was given by central government to the provincial government, which handed it over to the municipality.

State to get tough on white squatters

CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE state has decided to get tough with white squatters who are holding up plans for a new national park on Namaqualand's coast.

This week, the Director-General of Land Affairs asked Mr Justice Willem Heath's special investigating unit to probe the squatters' claims that they have a right to occupy about 100ha of state land at the mouth of the Groen River.

If the investigation found the squatters did not have rights to

the land, a special tribunal headed by a High Court judge could order that they be evicted, a spokesman for the unit, Steve Barkhuizen, said yesterday.

The Groen River park's planning forum — which represents 23 parties including the parks board, Department of Land Affairs and rural coloured communities — called in Judge Heath's team after it became clear at a meeting in April that the squatters were trying to dictate developments at the river mouth.

"The Department of Land Affairs did the correct thing by trying to negotiate a solution with the squatters, but it's now got to

the point where the hut owners actually have power," Barkhuizen added.

He said the unit — set up under the Special Investigations and Tribunal Act this year — was tasked with investigating alleged serious malpractices involving state assets.

It was this unit which, among others, had investigated allegations that tribal chiefs had "sold" state land to whites on the Transkei coast.

The unit had recently served notice that a special tribunal would deal with the Transkei land scams, Barkhuizen said.

The Namaqualand seaside

squatters are mostly local people who say the Groen River mouth has been a traditional Christmas holiday campsite for decades.

They have ignored at least three appeals by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom to demolish their shacks.

The National Parks Board, which wants to declare a national park between the mouth of the Spoeg River and Island Point says the continued presence of illegal shacks is frustrating plans to develop a rest camp and park headquarters at the river mouth giving access to the unique coastal area.

ST(CM) 18/5/97

(306)

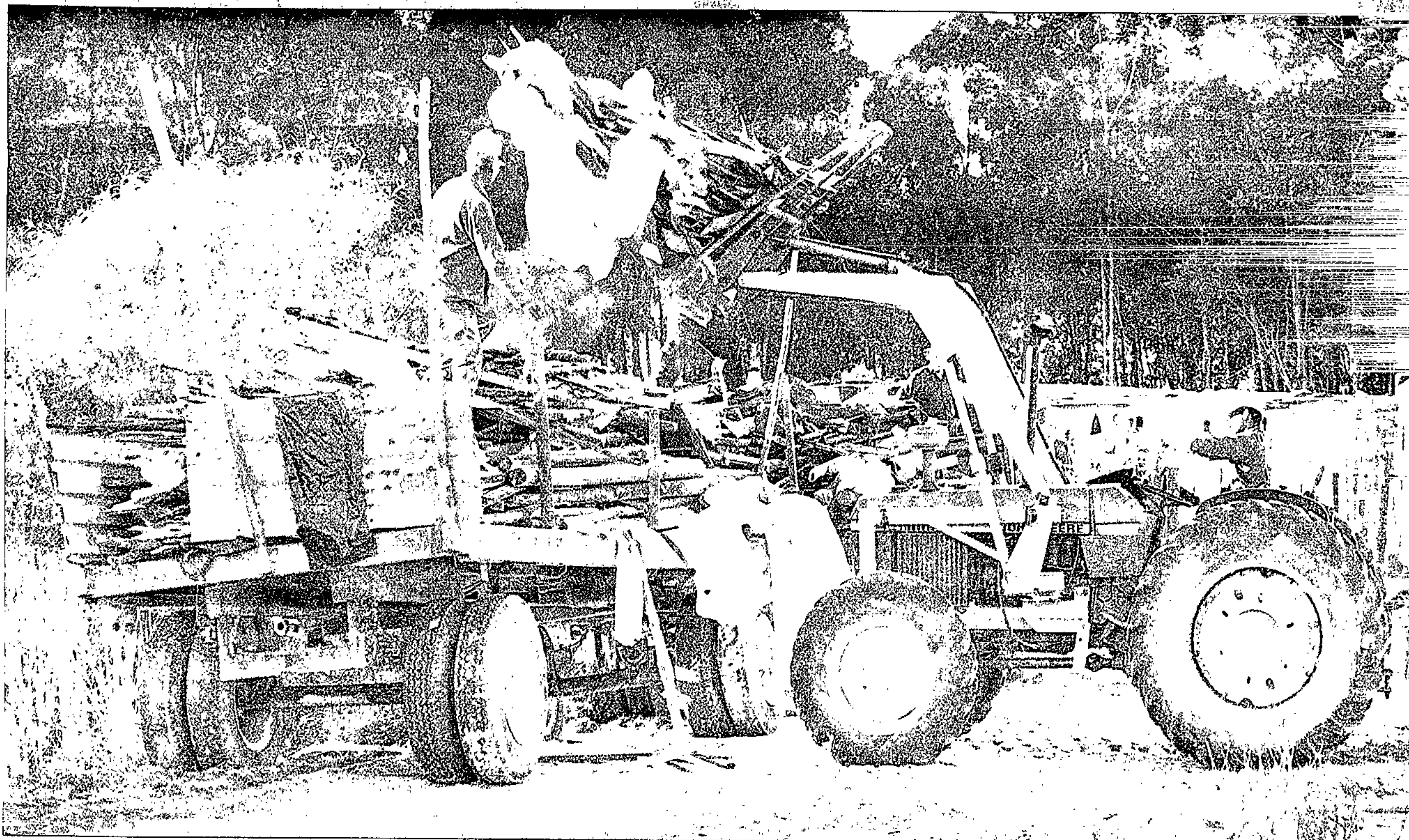
ARG 24/05/97

(307)



Daily duties: Linda Hartnick, right, continues with her chores as Trevor Trout talks to residents at Pigeon's Loft about the importance of cleanliness

DOUG PITHEY



HANNES THART

Up and away: workers load material from shacks demolished at Fisantekraal. An estimated 50 families in the settlement were left homeless and at the mercy of the winter weather after the operation



Military support: soldiers back demolition workers at the Fisantekraal informal settlement

50 squatter families evicted

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

ARC 29/5/97

Hundreds of residents have been evicted from Fisantekraal informal settlement near Durbanville and are at the mercy of Cape winter weather.

Nearly 50 of the 321 families in the settlement were close to tears yesterday when front-end loaders moved in to demolish their shacks under the eye of a strong contingent of soldiers and policemen.

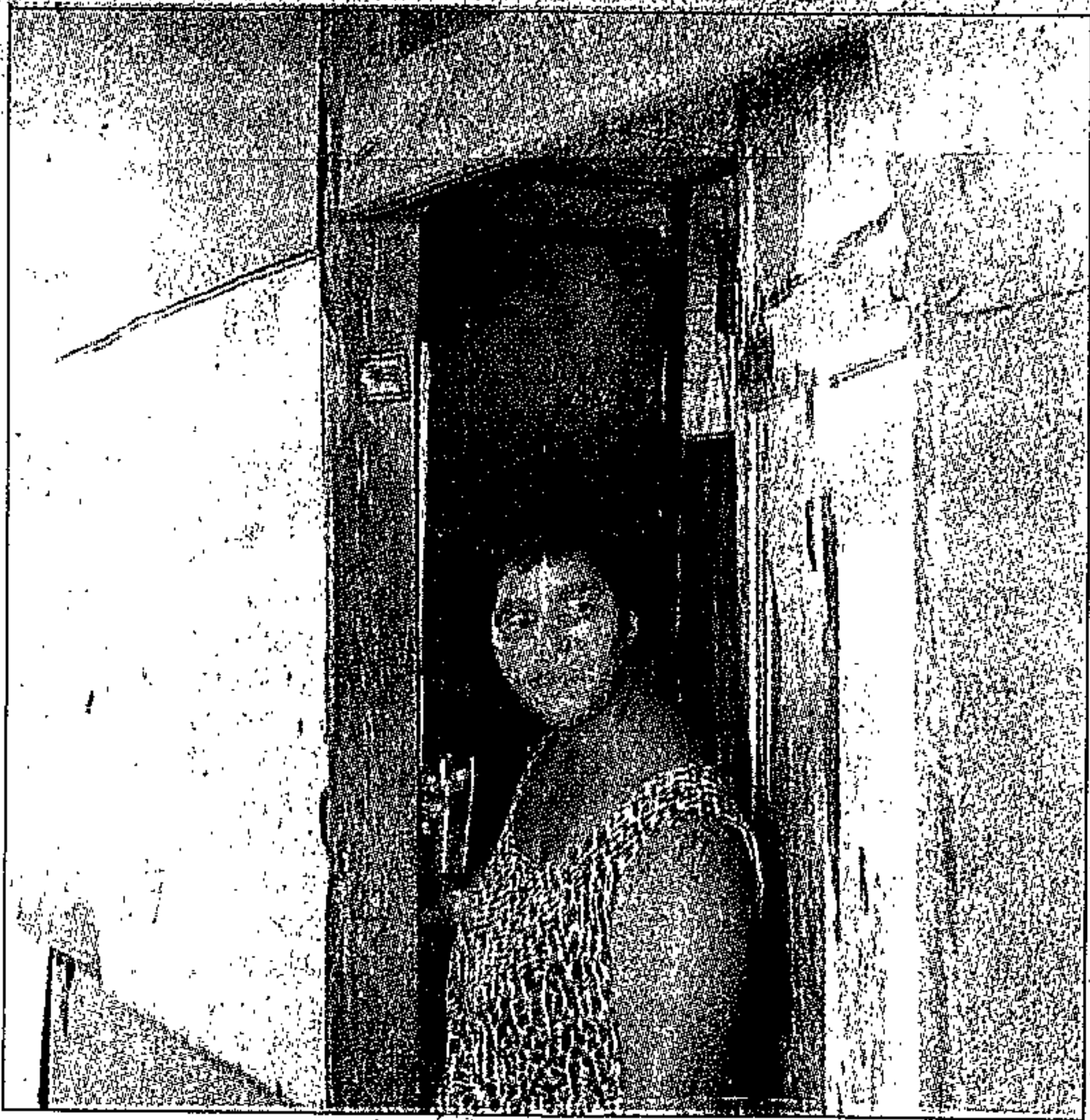
The evicted families congregated around their possessions stacked haphazardly on a muddy patch opposite the destroyed homes.

Jan Stassen, sheriff of the Cape Town

High Court, said an eviction order was issued by the court on May 19 after an application against the 45 families by the municipality, which now falls under Tygerberg. "We are here to demolish and remove unoccupied shacks and other dwellings built after April 22 in Fisantekraal," he said.

Virginia Roaf, from People's Dialogue, an organisation that has helped people since they moved into Fisantekraal 18 months ago, is adamant that no new families moved into the area after April 22.

She also feared for the future of the remaining families and said repeated attempts to speak to the Tygerberg municipality had been "fruitless".

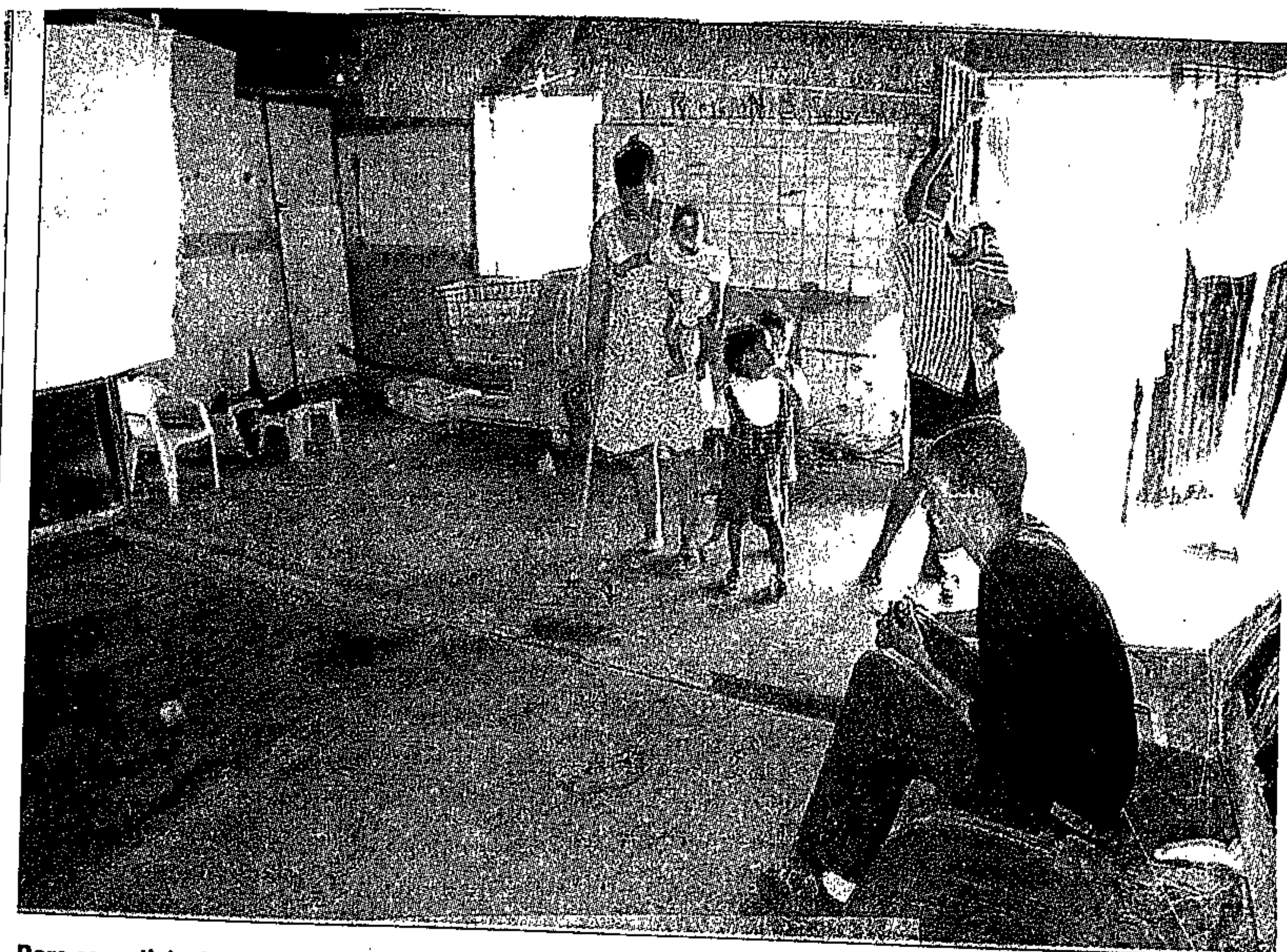


ALG

29/05/92

(307)

Cardboard box: Farieda Pluim stands in the doorway of her 'house' in Lost City which is partitioned into sections with cardboard



Bare essentials: four young children are part of the group of 14 who live in Pigeon's Loft. Here, their mothers – Sandra van der Westhuizen, left, and Theresa Manuel – try to clean up the building, while another resident looks on

Down and out in Westlake

Residents call for rush on minitown plans

AKU 29/5/97

(307)

LENORE OLIVER
STAFF REPORTER

Westlake's informal residents are urging the authorities to speed up plans to transform the area into a model minitown so they can escape their "unhealthy and depressing" living conditions.

The project is the first reconstruction and development venture by the new South Peninsula municipality and is expected to provide proper housing for thousands of residents in informal settlements. It is likely to incorporate industry to create employment opportunities and make the scheme financially self-sufficient.

A Cape Argus team visited the area and found smelly puddles of stagnant water, a large rubbish dump attracting an assortment of flying insects, and dilapidated buildings black with dirt.

Children were playing outside entertaining themselves with bricks, tins and various other bits of rubble for toys.

One of the areas, called Pigeon's Loft, is the size of a small hall, accommodates 14 people and is partitioned with cardboard. There is no electricity and the smell of gas hangs heavy in the air. Four people have died of tuberculosis here.

Another part of the area, Lost City, used to be the Westlake

Prison. It is a dark and dank building with only one entrance and barred windows.

Cardboard partitions separate the 21 families who live there.

Hardly any light enters the building at all and squinting into the darkness reveals bits of dilapidated furniture.

Trevor Trout, chairman of the Combined Residents of Westlake, said it was inhuman to allow people to live in such circumstances.

"If a fire were to break out in any of these buildings there would certainly be many deaths," he said. "We are asking the authorities to give us decent housing and sustainable jobs."

"The industrial component of

the project can provide these jobs and people will then be able to pay for their houses and other services."

Resident Linda Hartnick said there was in fact a building nearby that was habitable, called Little West Africa, but that mostly foreigners lived there.

She warned that "before winter arrives in force we will consider removing them forcibly".

Another resident Farieda Pluin said all the families living in Lost City tried to make their partitioned sections as comfortable as possible.

"We don't have much but we have to make do with the little we have."

Bid to contain squatter site

Noordhoek ratepayers ask for court interdict

JOHN YELD
STAFF REPORTER

Ratepayers in the Noordhoek Valley are applying for a High Court interdict to prevent further development of the burgeoning Masiphumelele squatter settlement at Sunnysdale, pending a full review.

They say in papers that they support the development of formal housing at the settlement, previously known as Site 5, but that government officials have reneged on promises since 1991 to involve them fully in decisions relating to its development.

They also claim in the papers that the government and its agents have repeatedly changed their plans for the squatter settlement. Changes include increasing the number of sites permitted in the settlement, decreasing the size of these sites, and dropping an agreed commitment to formal housing, instead developing only site-and-service schemes in

phases two and three of the settlement.

The applicant is the Interim Ward South 19 Council, a voluntary association of ratepayers' organisations which includes the Sunnysdale Ratepayers' Association, Lochiel Residents' Association, Sun Valley Ratepayers' Association, Noordhoek and District Civic Association, and Lake Michelle Homeowners' Association.

The respondents are Western Cape Premier Heranus Kriel, Western Cape Housing Minister Cecil Herandien, South Peninsula Municipality, and developers Communicare, a Section 21 company "not for gain".

The ward council is asking for a review and setting aside of Proclamation 404 of September 20 1996, issued by the Western Cape government in terms of the Less Formal Townships Establishment Act, which designates land for the development of phases two and three of Masiphumelele.

Alternatively, the council wants the approval of

ALG 4/7/97

(307)

the township as a whole in terms of the act set aside.

It is also applying for an interdict preventing any further development of Masiphumelele, pending an outcome of review proceedings. The case was set down for hearing in the Cape High Court last week but has been postponed to September 3.

The Western Cape government has given notice it intends defending the action.

In a founding affidavit, ward council executive committee member Dieter Hambach said Masiphumelele was located in the Noordhoek Valley, which was in a "substantially unspoilt condition".

"The Applicant acknowledges that it is necessary to provide housing and that it is necessary, in appropriate circumstances, to do so pursuant to the provisions of (the Less Formal Townships Establishment) Act. It is, however, Applicant's contention that where housing is provided or a township is established, all relevant circumstances should be taken into account."

DANGEROUS, DIRTY WORK COVETED

Waste dumps provide a living for squatters

IT'S A SAD indictment of SA society that the unemployed and the poor, desperate to make a living, have to be kept at gunpoint from scavenging off rubbish dumps. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

ON top of Vissershok hazardous waste disposal site a man stands guard, shotgun over his shoulder. His job is to make sure no one but the chosen 40 squatters from the nearby shacks in the bush climb the dump to pick through the garbage for waste they can sell.

The butt of his shotgun is taped up. "It broke when I hit a man," Mr Bruce Nomnaba explained in Afrikaans. "He wasn't one of these people who are allowed to come to the dump to pick. He wouldn't leave so I had to hit him with the gun."

It is a sad indictment of South African society that the unemployed and the poor, desperate to make a living, have to be kept at gunpoint from scavenging off rubbish dumps.

It's dangerous, dirty work, but it is sought after. Pickers say they can make up to R100 a week from selling waste to a middleman. At Vissershok they refer to him as "Die Slaams", and it is he who pays Nomnaba to "ride shotgun" on the dump.

Mr Klass Goodman, a picker of many years, said he had come to the dump after he had tried everywhere else to find work. He scoffs at the dangers of the heavy trucks and bulldozers roaring by, and the chance of getting cut by smashed glass and ragged metal.

"As jy kophou, is dit maar oraait," he said. ("If you keep your wits about you, it's all right.")

The amount they earn depends on how hard they work and the type of waste dumped. They collect plastic, metal, paper and bottles.

"We get paid by the kilo," Goodman said. "Sometimes you can fill a lot of bags, sometimes a few. It's hard work, but it's a living."

Thousands of households in Cape Town's metropole contribute to the 60 000 cubic litres of rubbish this dump alone receives every month. At the pickers' feet are hundreds of jam tins, oil cans, wine bottles, milk cartons, piles of computer printouts, rolls of plastic and cloth, car tyres, gaskets, electric flex, cardboard boxes and a broken toaster, heater, computer keyboard, thermos flask and a garden chair. In between are rotting fruit and vegetables, and thousands of supermarket bags, plastic bottles and cooldrink cans.

At some formal dumps, pickers have been banned altogether, partly because of the dangers involved and partly because they hold up the work of bulldozers com-

pacting and covering the rubbish.

At others, like Vissershok, about 30km north of Cape Town, managers have reached a compromise, and pickers' access is controlled and limited to a manageable number.

Said Ms Mary Chettle, operations manager of Vissershok: "We don't encourage it because it's dangerous and hampers operations, but we try to work with the people. We've limited pickers to 40 on site, and they're all paid and controlled by one outside contractor."

On the illegal dumps that have sprung up all over the country, usually in the poorer areas, it is a free-for-all.

In a way waste-pickers, like the rubbish they sort through, are society's "waste people" — the ones outside the safety net of formal jobs, education and social services whom nobody wants. Yet they perform an important environmental function in recycling.

'The average South African is clueless about recycling at source, and the authorities have no regulations or mechanisms to enforce it, so the pickers are doing it at the dumps.' — UCT researcher Faried Khan

UCT's Environmental Advisory Unit (EAU), which has done research on waste-pickers over several years, is now lobbying the government to incorporate pickers into the formal waste management process.

The head of the project, Ms Farieda Khan, said yesterday: "The average South African is clueless about recycling at source, and the authorities have no regulations or mechanisms to enforce it, so the pickers are doing it at the dumps."

"We're trying to alert decision-makers to waste-picking for survival. It's a practice in developing countries all over the world, and it's not going to go away. Picking is a legitimate part of waste management. They must look at it seriously and come up with humane and appropriate solutions to deal with it. Obviously the ultimate solution is development, but that's a long-term goal and things like waste-picking will continue until we've solved the big issues of unemployment, poverty and the lack of skills and social services," said Khan.

Some of the solutions are protective clothing for the pickers, and education about the dangers of picking up rotting food or discarded drugs. In 1993 pickers sold throat lozenges found at the dump to hawkers, who then sold them as sweets to school children. This resulted in mass food poisoning and the authorities threatened to close access to pickers.

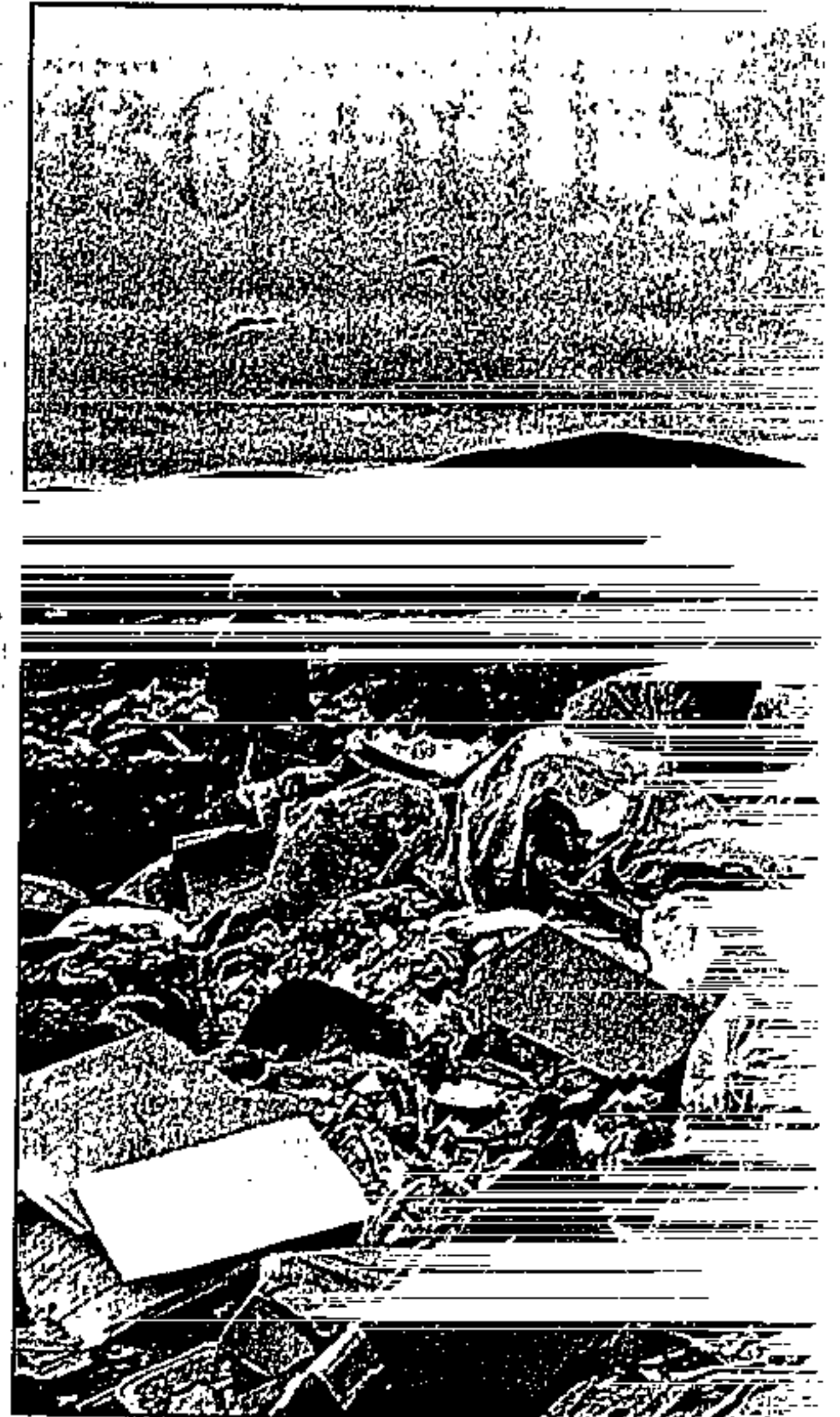
The waste company then decided to

restrict access to a limited number of pickers, who had to be employed by an outside contractor. This led the EAU to hold workshops with the pickers to teach safer picking methods, and to write pamphlets and make an educational video on safe picking.

The final phase of the EAU's project is trying to integrate the pickers into the formal waste management process.

Said Khan: "The vast amounts and high quality of the material dumped by industry and households is a poor reflection on the high consumption, throwaway South African lifestyle."

"Without wishing to glamorise the plight of the pickers, we see that in the struggle for a better life and in their ingenuity in recycling and re-using the detritus of our affluent society, they give real meaning to the often empty green slogan of 'sustainable living'."



'GREEN' WORKERS: A picker at Vissershok waste disposal site. Researchers now want integrated into the formal waste management process.

Government calls on farmers to identify own unneeded land

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Farmers must get involved in identifying surplus land, and the government should devote greater resources to solving the potentially explosive problem of the landless and homeless, the chairman of Parliament's land committee, Patekile Holomisa, said at the weekend.

Holomisa, an African National Congress MP, was interviewed at the end of the third quarter of the parliamentary year, during which his committee had to deal with the

controversial Extension of Security of Tenure Bill which seeks to protect the residential rights of farm workers to live on land they do not own.

Holomisa, an advocate and Eastern Cape traditional leader, said that the "87% syndrome" still existed — placing most of SA's land in the hands of 13% of the people. "We have shown that we are not in the business of punishing landowners, and farmers should now come out and actively assist the landless and the homeless," Holomisa said. It was the habit of organised

agriculture to criticise loudly when there were aspects of legislation which they disagreed with, he said, but they failed to praise tough compromises which helped the agricultural sector.

Holomisa said farmers could help by establishing whether they were using all their land or not. They could then make available for the land redistribution process land they were not using.

He said farmers could play a vital role also in helping to identify state land which could be used in solving the problem. Many

white farmers were aware of, indeed many had use of, land which belonged to the state, but government was unaware that the land belonged to it. He said farmers were far more aware of who owned what land in their areas and they could help because "the state does not know how much land it has".

Referring to government, he said the land reform process was not going fast enough. This was because there was not enough staff or enough money. He said of Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and his department "the political will is there",

but there was a lack of resources. The R15 000 state subsidies for the acquisition of land were inadequate and held the danger they would force landless people to buy farms collectively, and this would reduce the viability of the units because they could become overcrowded.

However, Holomisa stressed that he was in favour of communal ownership of land in the areas governed by traditional leaders, because widespread freehold in those areas could make rural people vulnerable to exploitation by entrepreneurs and the be-

haviour of a single person. A single drunkard who made mistakes could render his entire extended family homeless and this would increase the pressure on traditional leaders and communal lands, he said.

Because traditional leaders were required by custom to take care of the landless and homeless, there should be proper recognition by government of the institution of traditional leadership and their powers and functions should be legislated. He said government still "has to make up its mind" on the issue of traditional leadership.

Vrygrond still struggles for freedom

GLENN ASHTON

WEDGED between Prince George Drive and the Coastal Park municipal landfill near Muizenberg lies the forgotten community of Vrygrond. Although it is one of the oldest and most persecuted squatter settlements of the Cape Flats it remains neglected and ignored.

The most immediate irony is the name of the place: Vrygrond — free ground.

This place has never really been free, but the illusion of freedom has been introduced since the 1994 elections. However, freedom is still intangible due to pervasive poverty.

Vrygrond residents are true Capetonians, yet they remain among the most disenfranchised of our citizens. The reasons for this are diverse but it's largely a direct result of apartheid.

Many of the citizens of Vrygrond are the true ancestry of the new, multicultural South Africa. This is because all races have mixed there for years and a real African melting pot has formed.

Under apartheid, large sections of the Western Cape were declared coloured areas, rather than black. In Cape Town the lines have always been pretty blurred as to who is who. Vrygrond, in particular, must have given the apartheid race classification technicians a few headaches. Many can trace their ancestry to Khoi, black, Philippine, Malay, European or coloured. The community is a good example of the melting pot that has historically given Cape Town its cosmopolitan feel. They are united by circumstance.

Vrygrond can never be said to be boring. Everyone knows everyone and the community spirit is high. However, the grinding

poverty, the dirt and squalor among leaky, cold shacks show how encumbered this community is.

This is slowly changing, the most recent evidence being the erection of power lines. Although there is no doubt a greater plan, the logic of such moves escapes most residents. Many cannot afford the R150 connection fee, never mind the cost of electricity.

Toilets are a more immediate need. The night soil bucket system is still used, despite the fact that the largest sewage plant in the Peninsula is close by.

Another need is an adequate water supply. Water is still provided by scattered pipes.

Understandably, there is a certain amount of bitterness at being overlooked by the government, both local and national. While "Town" in Khayelitsha, Mandela Park in Hout Bay and Masi-phumelele in Noordhoek have been fairly well catered for with electricity, toilets and water, the residents of Vrygrond feel forgotten.

The problems do not stop with poor living conditions. To the north lies Lavender Hill, a tough, rough neighbourhood that has lightened the pocket of many a returning Vrygronder on a Friday night.

Violence spills over regularly and several murders in the past few weeks have instilled fear in the community. It is not unusual to find residents who have, at least once, had

all their belongings stolen, including bed and cooking-ware. Life is desolately desperate for the Vrygronders.

The wind stirs the plastic bags, sand and dirt into everybody's life as the wattle trees thrash in despair. The wind brings one advantage; it keeps the flies away.

To the south of Vrygrond lies the new Capricorn techno-park development. But there is not much hope that the hi-tech scheme will create jobs for this largely uneducated community.

The poverty-stricken people of Vrygrond live almost next door to the proposed hi-tech Capricorn Park yet no effort is being made to help them benefit from the multi-million rand enterprise.

The sense of hopelessness and despair is

exacerbated by the growth of Marina da Gama and Lavender Hill, leaving the neediest still lying at the bottom of the heap.

To the south-east lies the Coastal Park landfill site, a dump that has only recently applied for licensing. It has been slated by environmentalists and scientists as being potentially dangerous.

This is a dump that is based on porous sand with no lining whatsoever. The probability of leaching is high and has possibly already occurred. The type of leachate reaching the water table is possibly highly toxic, given the low or complete lack of monitoring.

With Vrygrond downwind from the dump, hazardous dust and fumes from the cocktail of substances dumped indiscriminately on their doorstep do not make life any easier. There is also a high prevalence

of persistent eye, ear, nose and throat ailments among residents, leading to the conclusion that the proximity to the dump could well be an exacerbating factor.

The dump certainly has not made Vrygrond any freer. Many of the landfill materials are deposited there by the modern throw-away society, which might have simply grown tired of them. But an unimaginative bureaucracy has prevented the poverty-stricken Vrygronders from scavenging in the rubbish dumps for potentially useful items.

Motorbike and horse patrols regularly chase away rag pickers and scavengers. With a small investment a recycling industry could be developed out of this huge waste on the doorstep of the disadvantaged.

The opportunity for upliftment need not remain a pipe-dream on a foundation of sand. Vrygrond borders on the proposed Cape Flats Sandveld Fynbos Reserve.

There is bush that has to be cleared and a programme could be set up that allows Vrygronders to collect it for fuel. This must be coupled with an awareness programme to educate the people in the biodiversity of the area.

A natural extension of such a scheme could include enlisting the community as custodians of the land, as guides for walking tours and ecotourism once the park has been established.

Such projects could eventually offer tangible benefits to the Vrygrond community, ensuring success by instituting stakeholder agreements.

There is a desperate need to train the people of Vrygrond who have been excluded and remain uneducated, yet are by no means lacking in intelligence. One logical step

would be to set up a training facility with an eye on employment prospects at nearby Capricorn Park.

Private enterprise would be well-advised to involve itself in such a scheme. A basic trade school teaching the rudiments of soldering, circuit-board manufacture and tool-handling skills would be rewarding to all parties.

As demands become more defined further tailoring of programmes could be made. Self-help work could be encouraged by stressing the use of local resources in developing Capricorn Park. The abundance of sand makes projects such as brick or block-making plants feasible. Market gardening is also a distinct possibility.

Vrygrond has survived through the hard years of one of the most inhumane and evil regimes in history. And it's come through with a smile for anyone who cares to visit without prejudice.

Although the night belongs to the criminals, there is still a glimmer of hope in the community that there can be a better and brighter future in the new South Africa.

We need to stand behind our forgotten family at Vrygrond, to return to them a hope of regaining the control of their community, making it safe and sustainable in all ways.

As true South Africans we must support them and aid them in their desperate plight. They need help in their quest to end the irony of their community and make Vrygrond truly free.

Glenn Ashton is involved in environmental justice issues and is an advocate of keeping the Western Cape in some sort of natural order that can sustain itself for the distant future. He heads the Ekogai Foundation problem-solving group.

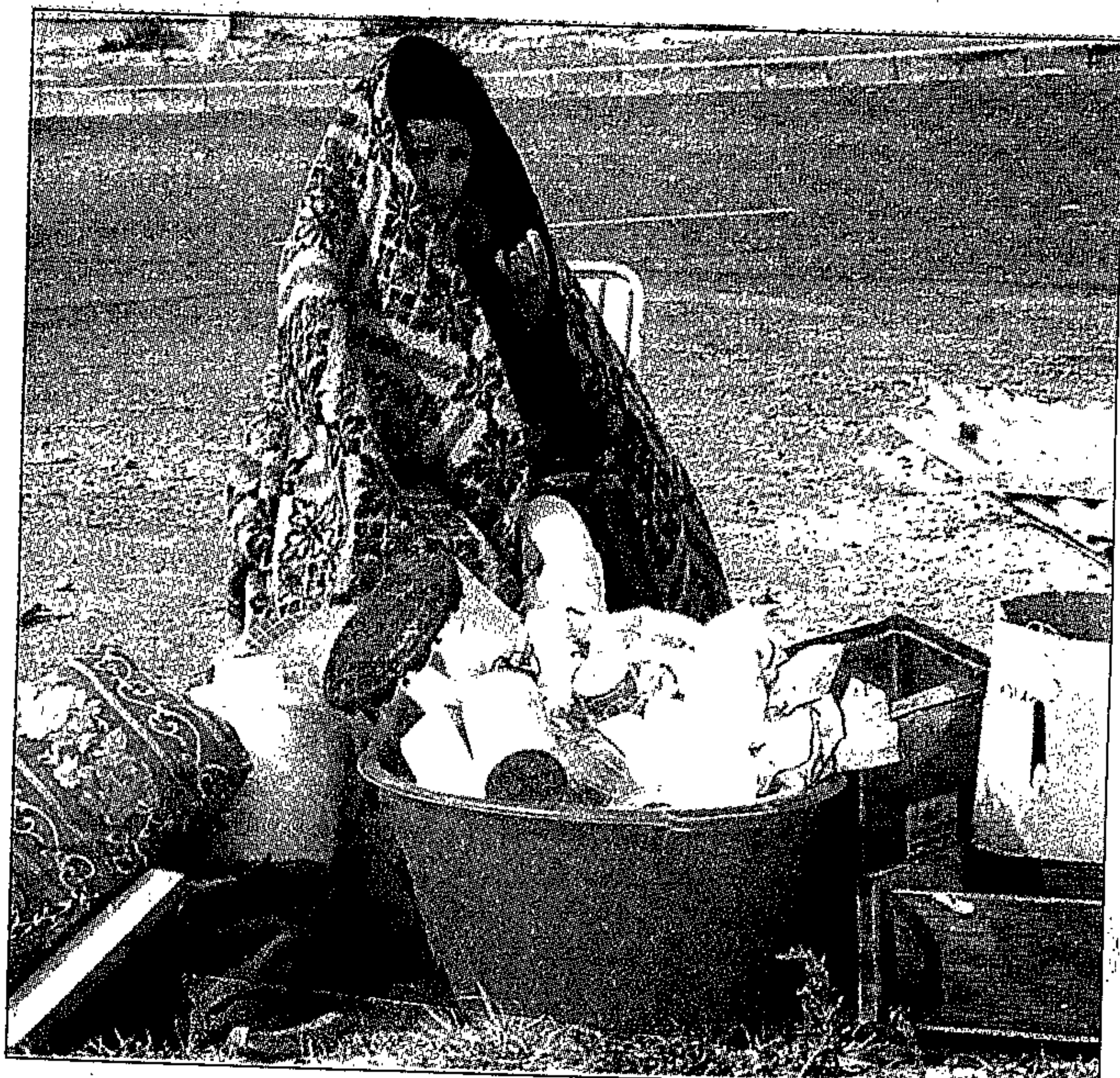
CT 13/16/97

(307)

21/10/97

307

CAPE ARGUS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1997



Destitute: Siphokazi Mchithali left Macassar, where she rented a room, to build a shack in Harare

OBED ZILWA

Tygerberg to evict 1 600 squatters

ARLS 21/8/97
(307)

Shack-dwellers warned to make way for low-cost housing

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Tygerberg municipality has obtained an eviction order against about 1 600 people living in shacks on land in Khayelitsha earmarked for low-cost housing and industrial development.

The municipality plans to give the squatters in Mew Way, Harare camp, notices to vacate sites. They have been warned that unless they demolish their shacks, they will be broken down under the court order.

Ernest Sass, municipal manager of community development and liaison, said hundreds of shacks had been marked with numbers and a huge demolition operation was in the pipeline.

Dozens of empty structures had already been demolished.

He said people from the Eastern Cape and parts of Phlippi had illegally invaded the land and constructed shanties.

Tygerberg chief executive officer Dave

Wilken said Tygerberg communities were "100% behind us".

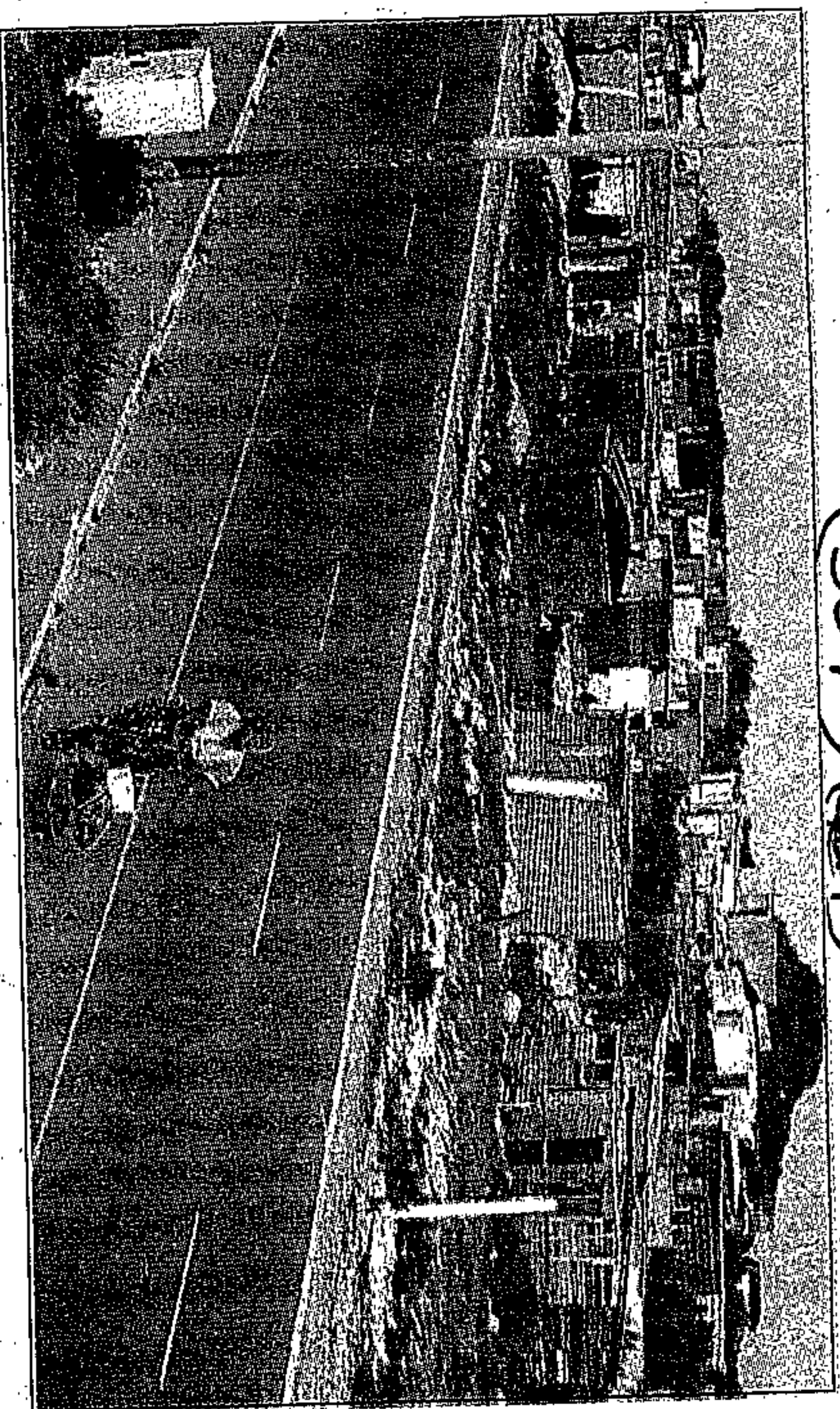
If the municipality did not act now, the area would remain a squatter camp forever.

Mr Wilken said the squatters were welcome to collect their furniture, removed when empty structures were demolished, from the municipal offices in Khayelitsha.

Khayelitsha Reconstruction and Development Programme forum leader Matoto Ngomana supported Mr Wilken's sentiments, saying the invaders were "sabotaging development" and making it difficult for the municipality to prepare properly.

Last Friday, about a thousand squatters marched to the municipal office in Pagamisa Park and demanded the land be allocated to them and temporary services be installed.

Douglas Nkolose and Martin Kubuli, who spearheaded the protest march, said all the "illegals" had lived for many years in backyards and parts of houses in Khayelitsha and deserved houses.



Doomed: a few of the shanties in Mew Way which the municipality wants to demolish

Shack dwellers move into 'empty' Cape Flats homes

NORMAN JOSEPH

CITY REPORTER

APR 22/8/97

About 150 homeless people have occupied houses in the Cape Flats town of Mfuleni because, they claim, they have been empty for a year.

Mfuleni Youth Organisation spokesman Patrick Make said that people living in shacks which leaked when it rained decided to move into 46 empty houses in Extension Three yesterday.

Mr Make claimed that banks had declined to approve loans to people wanting to buy the houses last year

(307)
because they were too small - 26 square metres.

After the "illegals" moved in, members of the youth organisation approached the company that built the houses for permission for them to stay and pay "affordable rent".

The company referred them to the Tygerberg municipality, whose housing committee agreed to meet the illegal tenants today.

Municipal community development and liaison manager Ernest Sass said he and colleagues would assess the situation and, with Mfuleni administration officials, decide on a plan of action.



DOUG PITHEY

Housing battle: hundreds of homeless people protest in front of the Kuils River Magistrate's Court

Houses empty, so squatters moved in

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Ten illegal occupiers of houses in Mfuleni appeared in Kuils River Magistrate's Court on charges of housebreaking.

Recently 150 homeless people belonging to the Mfuleni United Residents Association moved

into 60 houses on a site in Inciniba Road, Mfuleni, claiming they had been empty for a year.

No charges were put to the 10 and they were not asked to plead when they appeared in court yesterday.

Hundreds of association members attended the hearing and protested in front of the court building.

Magistrate Len Scheeper and prosecutor Rachel Vogt set bail of R100 for five of the accused.

The others were released on warning.

The case was postponed to September 16 for further investigation.

Mr Scheeper asked the accused not to return to the houses they had occupied.

(307)
ARG 2/9/97



Dirty work: 'It is accepted that waste picking on landfills is a dirty, dangerous and often degrading job'

Waste pickers here to stay, says probe

Squatters depend on garbage

(307)
ARG 3/9/97

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Waste pickers – those desperately poor people who spend their days sifting through other people's garbage to survive – are here to stay, at least for the short term.

This means their presence should be accepted by authorities at appropriate landfill sites as part of the formal waste management process. This is the key recommendation of the University of Cape Town's Environmental Advisory Unit in its recent report: "Waste picking for survival – a report on the waste pickers of the Frankdale informal settlement".

Frankdale is a community living in about 200 shacks close to the Vissershok waste disposal site north of Milnerton on the N7, which is Cape Town's main landfill area.

According to the report, the community's waste-picking is a stark illustration of the way in which poverty, health and environmental issues are enmeshed.

"For the people of Frankdale, waste picking constitutes their

primary source of income."

Working on the dump, the pickers salvage the most useful items, such as paper and plastic which can be resold for recycling.

Bricks, wood and corrugated iron are sold to builders.

"Colourful rolls of jam- and washing-powder labels are popular for use as wallpaper and shelf lining. The waste pickers also salvage bolts of cloth and remnants of material which are carefully washed for resale in spaza shops or sold to dressmakers."

The pickers were tolerated by the site managers until October 1993, when a crisis developed.

The pickers found throat lozenges on the dump and sold them as sweets to hawkers. The hawkers in turn sold them to schoolchildren, many of whom promptly got food poisoning.

After threats by health authorities, the waste company which manages Vissershok controlled access by allowing only a specific number of pickers on the site, who also had to be directly employed by an outside contractor.

In an attempt to resolve the crisis this posed for the people of Frankdale, the Environmental

Advisory Unit convened a working group.

This included representatives of the Surplus People Project, the department of community health at the University of Cape Town and industrial health research group, Health Care Trust, and the health promotion unit of the Department of Health and Population Development.

Since 1995, the unit has been investigating ways of integrating as many of the waste pickers as possible into the formal waste management process.

"It is accepted that waste picking on landfills is a dirty, dangerous and often degrading job – one which should ultimately be abolished, with alternative methods of waste recovery at source put into place," its report states.

"However, since South Africa is a developing country with an acute socio-economic backlog in basic needs and services, it is unlikely that poverty, homelessness and unemployment will be resolved in the short term.

"It is therefore crucial that the issue of subsistence waste picking be dealt with in a constructive and humane manner."

Council plan for shack clampdown

PETER GOOSEN

CITY DESK

ARG 9/9/97

The South Peninsula Municipality is to stop shacks spreading at Masiphumelele near Sunnydale, Fish Hoek, even if it has to break them down, because there are already more people there than sites available.

The council's housing services committee was told yesterday that the 350 families living temporarily on the school site and adjacent wetlands had risen to 560 and new structures would have to be demolished urgently.

The development of Masi-phumelele by Communicare - 811 residential stands in phases two and three - is already the subject of a High Court action this month.

The plan was to settle 621 of

(307) (Aug)
the original households in phases two and three and the balance of 190 families would come from the 350 on the school site and wetlands.

Chairman Bealah Smith said the council would have to take firm control of the situation there.

As it was, people living on the wetlands was environmentally unacceptable. There were more people than land available.

Vice-chairman Gordon Merrington said more people were moving in all the time, including a criminal element.

Philip Bam said that unless the council came up with a proper policy on housing and had a strategy, it would be demolishing shacks continuously.

The committee decided to set up a separate committee on Masiphumelele before taking strong action.

Vrygrond's residents set to get their 'promised land' at last

Seven years of debate lead to R15-m housing deal

PIETER GOUSEN
CITY DESK

The chairman of the South Peninsula Council urban planning committee described it as a move towards the promised land. And the residents of Vrygrond in Muizenberg, one of Cape Town's oldest informal settlements, will hopefully agree.

Last week members of the Vrygrond Trust sat around a table in Tokai with the consultants they had chosen to thrash out details of the R15-million development of services and housing in the settlement.

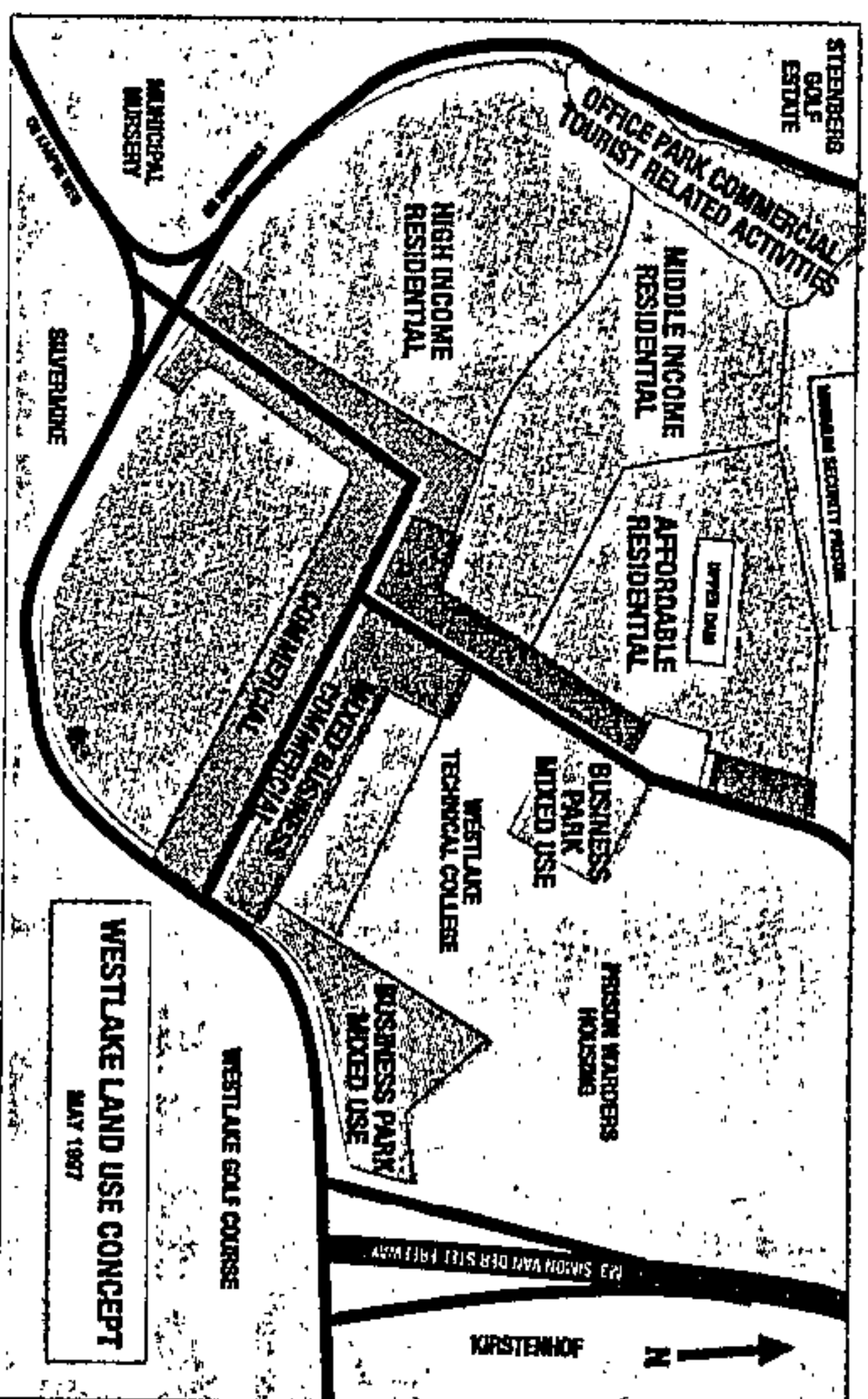
Behind the meeting were seven tough years of struggle to unite a deeply-divided community. Even after the trust was formed it had to survive hostile takeovers, dissension in its own ranks and a lot of other trauma to get where it is today.

Although the process was started by the old Cape Town municipality, the final breakthrough with the trust was made by the new South Peninsula municipality.

The South's executive director of housing, Hans Smit, said they were delighted the plan had come to fruition. Vrygrond would be laid out with streets and services for about 1 200 plots, including sewers, water and electricity.

The money would come from housing subsidies of R17 250 a family. Mr Smit said the Provincial Housing Board stipulated that, apart from services, there had to be a top structure of at least 20m, so housing would be supplied as part of the contract.

The municipality wanted the trust to oversee the housing aspect, and be responsible for appointing contrac-



tors, Mr Smit said.

The 56ha were given to the Vrygrond Community Development Trust by the South Peninsula Municipality when the Capricorn industrial and technology park - Vrygrond's neighbour - burst on the scene and announced plans to buy land from the council. The people of Vrygrond objected because they wanted the council to settle the question of their land first.

It was a major coup for Vrygrond. The council agreed to give the land to the people on condition they withdrew their objection to Capricorn.

But their problems were not yet over. The trust first threw out the council's development plan and then objected to their appointing consultants. They wanted their own professional consultants. So the council agreed.

Last week the trust, Fred Jacobs,

Trevor Siljeur, Yvonne Baard, Leon Peters, Louis Davids and Oom Thys Witbooi, sat down with the consultants and gave the project the go-ahead.

Although he is reticent about his role in the Vrygrond drama and gives the trust all the credit, some must at least go to the trust's chairman, Jonathan Schrire, the most unlikely Vrygrond Trust chairman imaginable.

Mr Schrire, although born in the Cape, has spent much of his life in London - he was an antique-book dealer - and returned not so long ago as a director of Capricorn.

When trouble began brewing with Vrygrond, he was delegated to contact the community and sort things out. So he did. Before he quite knew what was happening he found himself chairman of the trust. And nobody is more proud of the trust's



ROY WISLEY

Six-pack: Vrygrond trust members Fred Jacobs and Trevor Siljeur, project manager Andre Lamprechts, trust member Yvonne Baard, and, sitting from left, trust chairman Jonathan Schrire and South Peninsula executive director of housing Hans Smit

achievements than he is.

He said the trust, which planned to replace Vrygrond's tin-and-board creche with a community centre, had

built an internal road giving access to areas of Vrygrond previously inaccessible, and had raised R300 000 to be used for community upliftment.

ARG 919197

(387)

(387)

Holiday ends for white 'squatters'

(307)
CHARL DE VILLIERS

ST 14/9/97

DECADES of free holiday-making may be over for a handful of Namaqualand whites — including former "Kubus King" Adriaan Nieuwoudt — who are being investigated for illegal squatting on state land earmarked for a new national park.

The National Parks Board says the new park has been delayed for more than two years because the "squatters" have refused to demolish their holiday homes. They are now being investigated by a special unit headed by Mr Justice Willem Heath.

The unit has served 54 eviction notices on the "squatters" occupying state land at the mouth of the Groen River, about 350km north of Cape Town.

"We believe they have no right to be there," Peet Nel, a lawyer with the unit, said on Thursday.

But this has been disputed by the shack-owners, who will be appearing before a special tribunal on Tuesday to argue their claim to the land, their attorney, Tobie Lerm, said.

The parks board, De Beers Namaqualand Mines and local communities have been involved in years of sensitive negotiations to set up a 38 000ha park along a 47km stretch of coastline between Spoeg River and Island Point in central Namaqualand.

The board's Dr Anthony Hall-Martin said the proposed park spanned some of the most pristine territory on the Namaqualand diamond coast.

Outstanding features included the only permanent estuary in the area, unique marine biology and one of the world's most species-rich arid zones.

Tourism and initiatives such as the proposed park offer hope for the about 15 000 rural villagers in the area.

The local fishing industry has effectively collapsed and stock-farming provides a meagre, subsistence existence for the descendants of the region's San inhabitants.

Hundreds hail Westlake plan

Packed meeting hears how to spend a billion

(307) MAY 15/9/99

PETER GOUSEN
CITY DESK

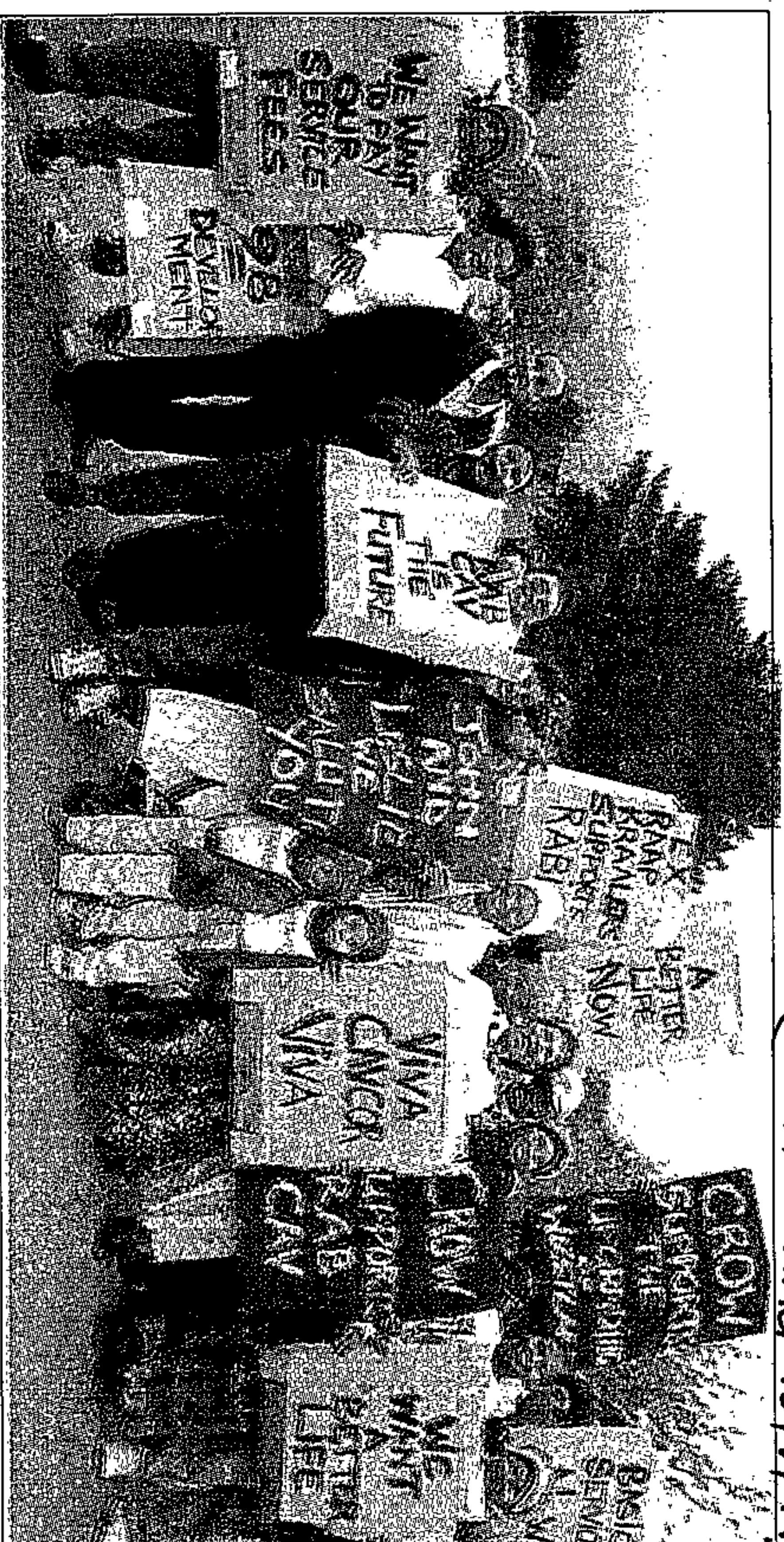
Residents of the Westlake informal settlement demonstrated outside a Tokai church last night in support of the R1,1 billion Westlake development, which will house 700 people.

There was standing room only in the Tokai Road church hall when more than 500 people met to hear a presentation by developers Leslie Viljoen of Cavcor and John Rabie of Rabie Properties.

Nearly 100ha of Westlake is to be developed, after an intensive three-month public participation programme. Houses for the poor, up-market housing and commercial and light industrial areas to provide jobs for the former squatters are planned.

Mr Viljoen said the first step would be to appoint a working group of professionals and a community committee from Westlake and surrounding suburbs like Lakeside and Kirstenhof. These committees should be in place by the end of October.

It was hoped that the public participation programme could be completed in three months and a



BRENTON GEACH

Better life beckons: residents of the Westlake squatter camp demonstrate in support of the R1,1 billion Westlake upgrade

final plan be drawn up in nine months.

"We must have consensus at the end of the day. Without consensus we just won't be able to go ahead.

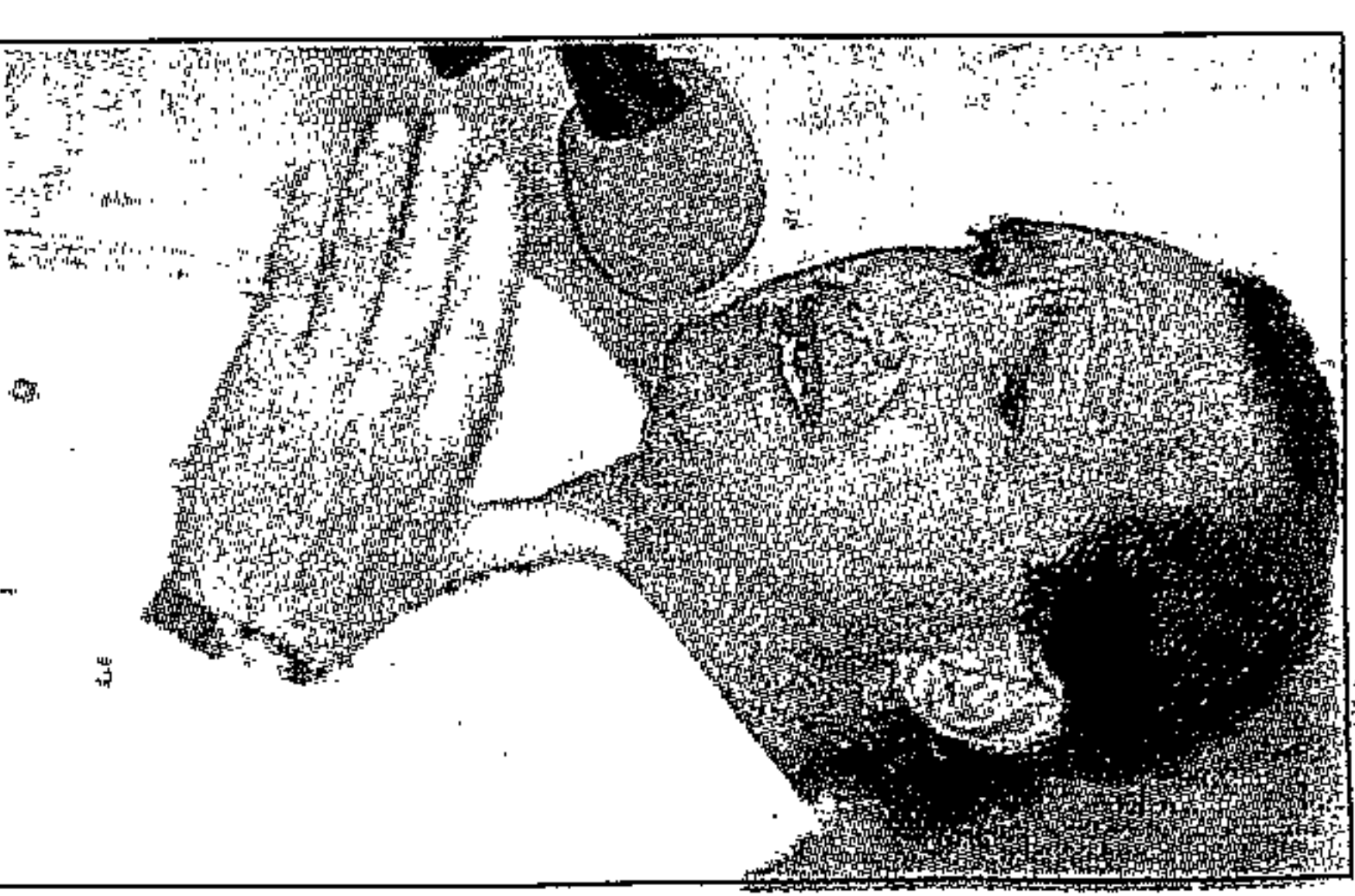
"It's not going to be easy.

People are going to get cross. They all have fears and aspira-

tions. People will have to accept compromises, but we are confident it can be done."

Mr Viljoen fielded some tough questions from the audience, but a large cross section appeared to be in favour of the scheme.

Opening the presentation,



Outline: John Rabie explains the plan

It would give the council 700 homes for the poor, and a new, large rates base at no cost to the ratepayer.

■ Cavcor and Rabie Properties are the developers of the similar Milnerton development, Marconi Beam.

Sun Valley outrage over influx

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The continued influx of hundreds of people to controversial Masiphumelele township has residents of neighbouring Noordhoek and Sun Valley up in arms.

At an emotional meeting in Sun Valley last night, residents expressed anger at the presence of new squatters.

Local government director of housing Hans Smit said about 38 new shacks had been demolished last week and between 54 and 64 a few weeks ago.

(307)
The land on which the informal settlement is situated belongs jointly to the provincial government and Communicare.

The area is being developed for an estimated 7 000 residents.

However, neighbours fear the latest influx could result in other land in the area being developed for informal settlement.

A Sun Valley resident said a clear agreement had to be made between the South Peninsula municipality, the provincial government, Communicare and the Masiphumelele residents that only people in the township before 1994 could stay there.

He said residents had had their share of squatters and enough was enough.

Another resident said there was no control over people moving in and out of Masiphumelele.

People had to be forcibly removed after their shacks were demolished, the resident said.

The only representative from the Masiphumelele community at the meeting said there had been no consultation with residents before shacks were demolished.

This was disputed by Mr Smit who said the relevant people had been approached.

ARG 7/10/97

Row over squatters in Athlone hots up

Cobbet moves on housing plan

(184)
(307)
ART 3/12/97

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town's new director of housing Billy Cobbett is to recommend to his housing committee tomorrow that a controversial project to build houses for 180 Athlone squatter families goes ahead.

But the proposal has been met with fierce resistance from residents whose homes border the project.

They have told Mr Cobbett his recommendation "stinks".

The council originally intended to build low-cost houses for 101 families living next to Vygieskraal Stadium and 79 families living in Jane Avenue, Rylands, on the site where the Vygieskraal families are squatting.

The project was passed and money was available from this year's council budget and the central Government's housing subsidy scheme.

But the plan was halted amid vociferous objections from the Belgravia Estate Civic Association, which said it was not consulted about the project.

Mr Cobbett was instructed to re-examine the matter and make a rec-

ommendation on how the council could resolve the impasse.

After visiting the area, Mr Cobbett made his recommendation to all role-players this week.

He has decided that the project should go ahead to uplift the living conditions of the squatters, some of whom have been without homes for more than 20 years.

But Mr Cobbett believed that instead of uniting the two squatter communities, the project should be separated and houses be built for the Vygieskraal families on the council land they were presently occupying.

He also believed the council should negotiate with the owner of the land in Jane Avenue and build homes for the families living there.

At a lively meeting attended by about 60 members of the civic association, Mr Cobbett said the council had previously misled Belgravia residents and he believed it would not be right to move the families from Jane Avenue and to Vygieskraal.

He said that by separating the communities densities would be much lower and the chances of improving living conditions better.

He believed that the proposal to build houses for the Vygieskraal com-

munity could be successful if it had the support of Belgravia residents.

However his proposal was flatly rejected by the residents, who opposed any housing project on the land.

"Your proposal stinks. We want you to say to council 'no housing here'. Council should see to the ratepayers first, instead of seeing to people living on land illegally," a resident said.

Chairman of the Belgravia Civic Balakrishnan Reddy said the land was originally intended for amenities for Belgravia, but he believed this would not be possible if the project went ahead.

A woman said residents were concerned about the crime rate because of the squatters' presence. Rapes and robberies were commonplace. She said residents would go on a rent boycott if the project went ahead.

The owner of the Jane Avenue land, prominent Athlone businessman Kanthi Patel, wants the council to move the squatters as he has already sold most of the land.

After tomorrow's housing committee meeting, the matter will be referred to the full council for a decision.

M Plain fury at Cardboard City move

'We weren't asked'

ARG 11/12/97 (307)

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Controversial Cardboard City, the shanty town under the Western Boulevard flyover, is again embroiled in controversy.

After three months of negotiation with the Cape Town municipality, the 200 residents have agreed to go voluntarily to Mitchell's Plain, but their new neighbours object vehemently to the move.

The bridge settlement has given city managers endless headaches because of its position less than a kilometre from the entrance to the Waterfront and a spate of attacks on tourists in the area.

The squalid settlement of about 50 wood, cardboard and corrugated iron shacks has been labelled a "criminal nest" by Cape Town Central police commissioner Raymond Dowd.

The move to a site close to the Lentegour Psychiatric Hospital, announced by city director of housing Billy Cobbett this week, was widely welcomed.

The municipality has identified about 340 sites where it intends housing the Cardboard City residents and Mitchell's Plain families in need of accommodation.

But people living nearby have objected, claiming they were not consulted.

At a public meeting attended by about 200 residents this week, there were strong protests about the impending move.

Sheleena Faure of the Sharemore Ratepayers' Association said residents were concerned that the influx of people would have a negative impact on their community and were unhappy that the municipality had not consulted them.

"The community feels muggings are a big worry if the squatters move in and feel that the value of the houses in the area will drop overnight.

"We are not saying the people must not get houses, but why can they not be relocated to another area and why were the people here not consulted?" Ms Faure said.

The area's ward councillor, Wilhelm Scheepers, said he was "100%" behind people objecting to the presence of the squatters.

"They do not accept it because the housing committee did not consult with us," Mr Scheepers said.

The matter will be discussed at a Cape Town council meeting today, where there is expected to be much debate on the issue.

Cardboard City calls off M Plain exodus

JERMAINE CRAIG

STAFF REPORTER

(307) 12/12/97
ARG 12/11/98
The trek to Mitchell's Plain by the 200 residents of Cardboard City shantytown under the Western Boulevard flyover is being delayed amid claims that Cape Town councillors tried to disrupt the move.

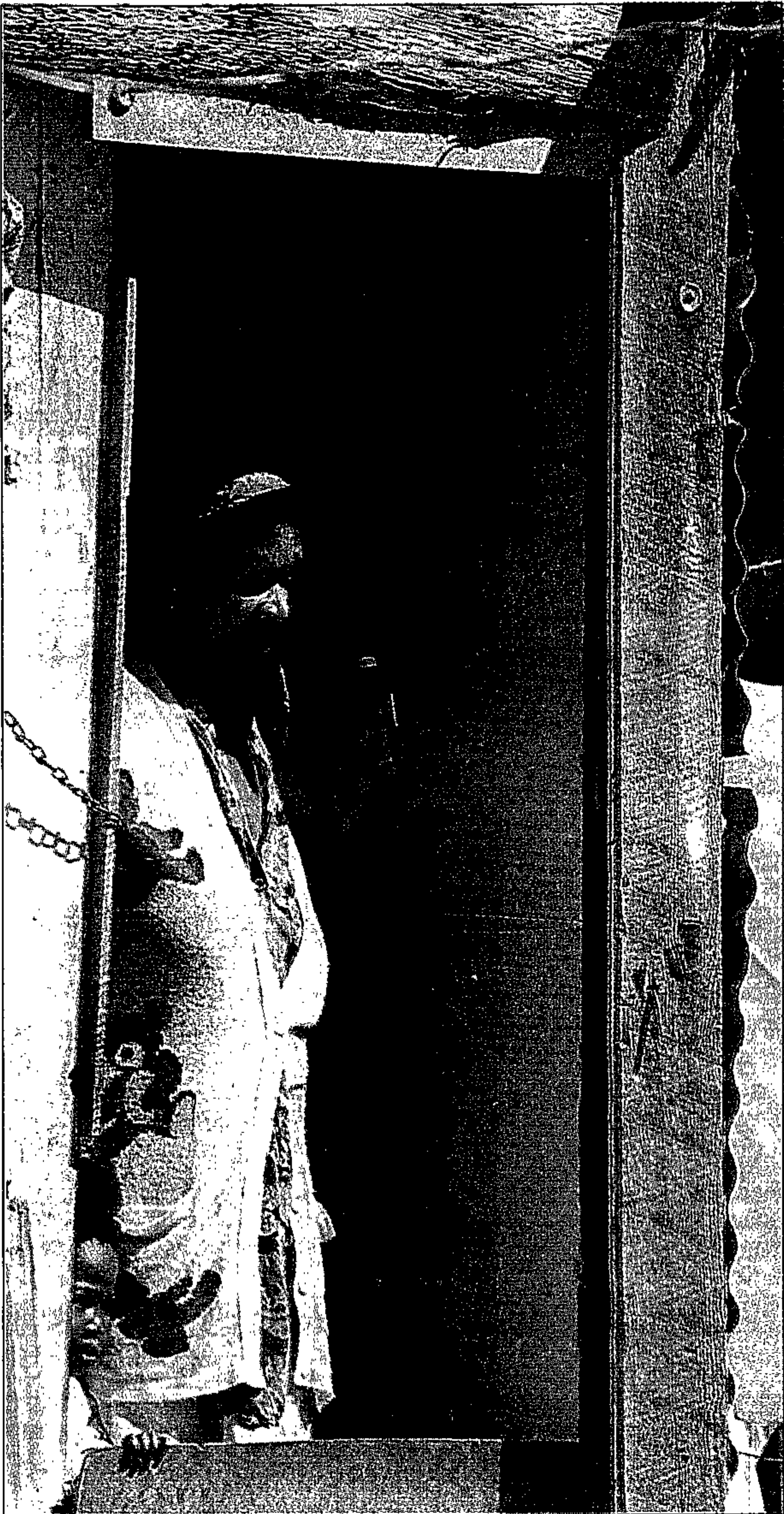
After three months of negotiation with the municipality, the residents agreed to move this week, but their future neighbours objected, saying they had not been consulted.

At a council meeting yesterday, housing committee chairman Sydney

Ncate of the African National Congress said certain Mitchell's Plain councillors had gone to the squatters this week and told them not to move.

Representatives of the squatters, the Sharemore Ratepayers' Association and city director of housing Billy Cobbett met yesterday and signed a joint resolution, which was submitted to the council, to work with the Mitchell's Plain RDP forum to find a solution.

Mr Cobbett will report back to the council on the progress of the discussions at the end of January, which means Cardboard City stays where it is for the festive season.



SHANTY HUT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME: A Westlake settlement resident peers out of her makeshift home. The South Peninsula municipality is devising outreach programmes to improve squatters' lot.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

Influx control 'key to homes provision

CT 15/12/97

WILLEM STEENKAMP
SECURITY WRITER

INFLUX control is alive and well in the South Peninsula municipality — but its aim is not so much to discriminate as to provide established squatters with housing.

Mr Hans Smit, executive director of housing services for the South Peninsula, said the municipality was striving to become the best municipal provider of housing by early in the next century — but this could happen only if the number of homeless people coming into the area was controlled.

The municipality had 10 "major" squatter settlements with about 8 400 structures, he said.

Leaders of the settlements, such as the Westlake camp and Imizamo Yethu in Hout Bay, had been drawn into the planning in an attempt to prevent expansion.

The municipality was also establishing partnerships with the community and devising outreach programmes to improve the squatters' lot.

"If you don't work with the community, then you have a big problem," Smit said.

"Co-operation is pretty good."

Municipal patrols or "rangers" kept a lookout for new shacks. They dismantled these and sent the occupants to another site or to the place at which they had spent the previous night.

The rangers had an "extensive" network of informants who kept them up to date about the activities of squatters and homeless people, Smit said.

"We're establishing control throughout our area."

An example of the kind of assistance the municipality would welcome, Smit said, was a letter setting out how the rangers worked and where they could be contacted that was sent by a Lakeside resident to other residents. The letter was written by Lakeside resident Mrs Kim Parker and reproduced in estate agents ERA Steer's newsletter.

Parker wrote that according to "the squatter law of our country", if squatters built a shack on public or private land and were not removed within 24 hours they had a right to the land until a court order was granted to remove them or they were given "an acceptable alternative" site.

Smit, however, disputed this. He said there were different interpretations of how and when action could be taken against squatters and homeless people.

"The law protects homeless people and squatters, as it protects you and me."

Parker could not be reached for comment yesterday.

SQUATTERS - W. CAPE

1998

1 000 shacks torn down to clear housing site

Desperate Kraaifontein squatters carry wood, iron away from sheriff's men

AKA 5/2/98



Mobile homes: a mother, with baby tucked behind her back, removes some of the remains of her dwelling



Bush toilets: shack-dwellers Carina Damons, left, and Ella Ontong at the remains of the site where a home was demolished

After a short fierce clash between stone-throwers and police, it took court officials and workers about eight hours to demolish more than 1 000 shanties at a Kraaifontein site earmarked for low-cost housing.

On the huge site opposite Bloekombos yesterday, Cape High Court sheriff Isak Hugo produced an eviction order naming the applicant as the Western Cape provincial housing department.

Mr Hugo said the court order was authorised on December 12 after several meetings between local authorities and the shack dwellers.

Angry residents threw stones at passing motorists and, when police closed Old Paarl Road, dog handlers and police vans became the targets.

The large police contingent formed a cordon around court officials and workers who broke down shacks, piling building materials on to trucks.

Many residents ran to their shacks and demolished them themselves, to preserve wood, iron and other building materials. As the houses came down, hundreds of residents emerged from behind the bushes, carrying building materials across Old Paarl Road into Bloekombos.

The area was full of anxious people, trucks and bulldozers.

A Kraaifontein police spokeswoman said no injuries had been reported. She said police were not responsible for breaking down the shacks but had to ensure court officials executed the court order without interference.

Residents' spokesman Patrick Rigala claimed the Oostenberg



Demolition man: Sheriff of the Court Isak Hugo keeps a watchful eye on court workers demolishing homes

municipality had reneged on promises to install temporary taps and toilets in Bloekombos. When taps and toilets were installed at the new sites, readying them for development, shack-dwellers flooded across the road from Bloekombos. A community centre housing a children's creche also opened on the site recently.

Shack-dwellers said they did not know houses were to be built on the sites.

Mr Rigala and another community leader, Zolile Gqube, claimed that

the toilets had been built on the sites in 1994. Since then no houses had been built and the vast deserted area had become overgrown.

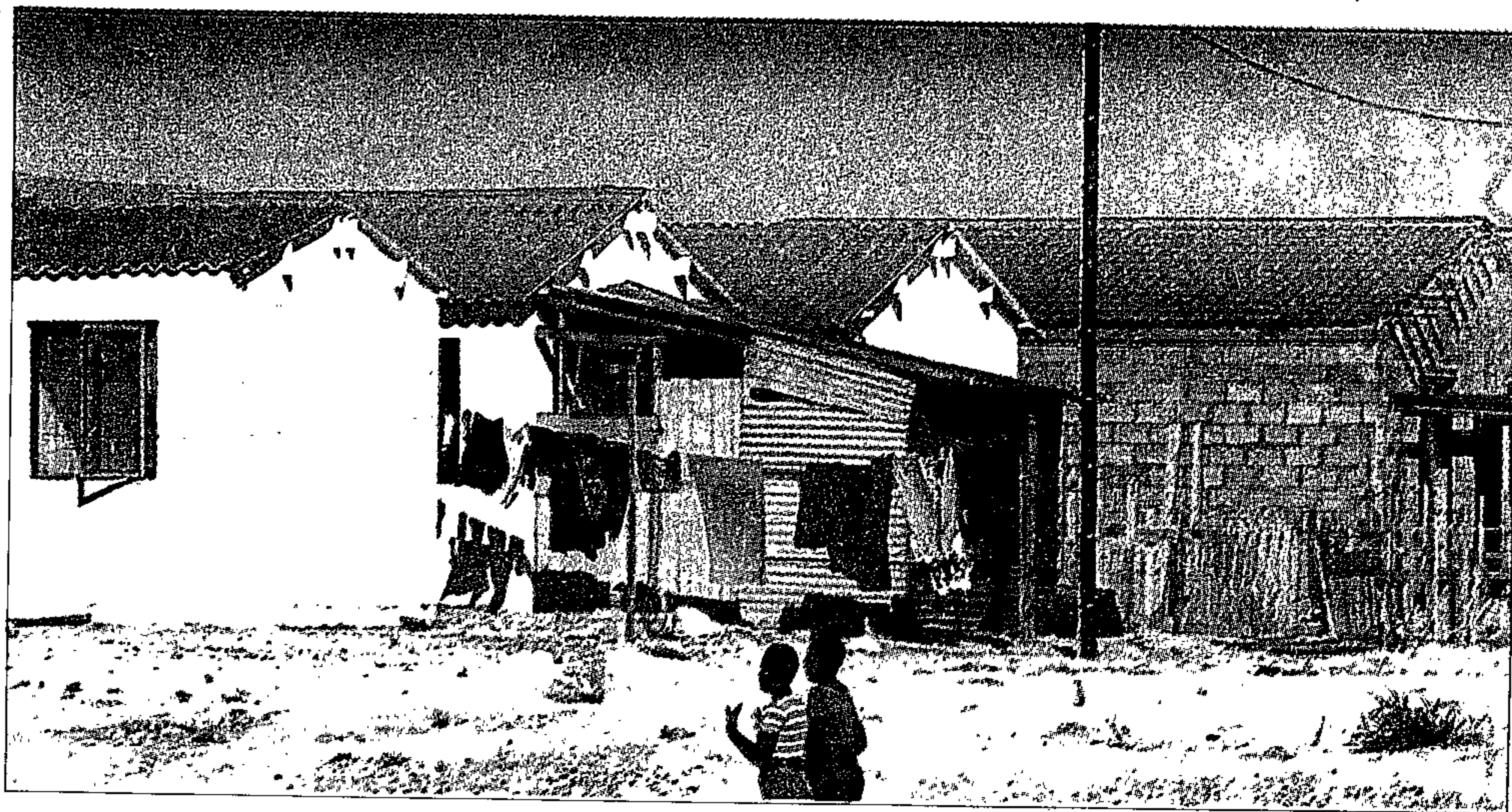
They estimated that about 2 000 people were evicted yesterday.

Oostenberg municipality chief executive officer Dave Cedras said sewerage pipes and building materials worth R1.3-million on the site had been damaged recently. He said only people whose names appeared on the council's waiting list would be eligible for houses on the site.

Report by
NORMAN JOSEPH

Pictures by
LEON MULLER





LEON LESTRADE

Shantytown: some of the half-built shacks among houses. The informal settlement has mushroomed recently and home-owners are furious

Face-off over informal camp

Milnerton residents sell as squatters move in

NORMAN JOSEPH
CITY REPORTER

(307)
ARG 19/2/98

Dozens of Milnerton homeowners are putting their houses on the market, claiming that a neighbouring informal settlement is causing property values to nose-dive.

Phoenix Village residents said an exodus would soon follow the "For Sale" boards going up outside most houses in Neptune Street and Zeus Drive. Residents have threatened to boycott the 1999 local elections if the Blaauwberg municipality does not do something about it.

Houses, starting at R175 000, were built in the village two years ago.

Owners claim the municipality promised buyers that schools, shopping centres and

other community facilities would be built, but so far nothing has happened.

Dianne Petersen said the number of shacks in the Joe Slovo informal settlement was on the increase and that property values had dropped.

She said that it was unacceptable that a shanty town be allowed to mushroom next to a settled area like Phoenix Village.

Dean and Elize Faivelowitz of Zeus Drive said their home was for sale.

So, too, was the home of Abieda Jurias, who said that, because of the settlement, people would find it difficult to sell houses in the future.

The Western Cape Housing Consumers Protection Trust said it had received several complaints about the issue.

Trust chairman Mandla Mdludlu said

that he and his organisation's officials would inspect the area this week.

A spokeswoman for Seeff Property in Milnerton said that fed-up Phoenix Village home-owners wanted to sell, but added there had been no effect on property values.

Municipal spokesman Irwin Robson said: "I can confirm we are aware of the problem. We and all the roleplayers had a meeting this week and are dealing with it."

Mr Robson said three working group committees had been formed.

One would investigate the extent of the problem, another would come up with solutions and strategies and the third would check the fire hazards in the area.

"The three committees will report back on February 26 and then proposals will be made," he said.

Down and out among the golf courses

Andy Duffy

Two signposts on the road to Muizenberg in Cape Town look hopelessly out of place.

The first is a typical developer's billboard — an eye-catching affair, beaming optimism about an exciting new development called Westlake. The second, metres away, is a far smaller, typical council sign, advising in three languages that no squatting is allowed.

Behind both signs sits Westlake, the squatter camp. About 700 families live there — people from across the province, across the country, and across Southern Africa. And like other squatter camps, Westlake is far worse than it looks from the road.

There is no electricity, no sewerage system and few communal water taps. There are dozens of children but no schools. Medical services are limited.

The first of the 320 shacks went up nearly 10 years ago, but the camp only recently secured portable toilets and refuse collection from the municipality. Most of the squatters

are employed as caddies at the nearby Westlake and Steenberg golf courses.

Whether the squatters stay in the camp or move into new low-cost housing depends largely on the success of the new development.

Cape developers Rabie/Cavoor cut a deal with the province last year to develop the 95ha site as a business and retail park, sell space on it, and use some of the proceeds to build "social houses" for the squatters. The low-cost housing subsidy of R15 000 will cover less than half the cost of the houses Rabie/Cavoor plans to build.

The developers and the province could make good money as Westlake sits on prime land. Rabie/Cavoor used a similar development scheme at Milnerton, which so impressed President Nelson Mandela that he chose the site to launch the Masakhane campaign in 1995.

The R1.1-billion Westlake development has its obstacles, however. It involves shifting the JP Marais Hospital, which shares the site, the Ark City of Refuge, a shelter for the

down and out, and the squatters to an area close to the grounds of Pollsmoor prison — which isn't a widely popular choice.

There is also some confusion about when the building starts. Cavoor chair Leslie Viljoen says the first houses will go up from June, and he is just waiting for rezoning and clearance from the provincial housing board for the subsidies.

But the provincial housing board says it has not seen a subsidy application for the scheme. "Obviously there's something amiss here," says one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We don't know anything about this."

Neville Riley, chair of the South Peninsula municipality's urban planning committee, says building will probably start at the end of the year. Applications for housing subsidies are still being compiled, he adds. The houses will go up at the rate of 100 a month.

Westlake's residents have read about it in the newspapers, and some have been consulted. No one, however, has started packing just yet.

MTC 20-26/2 198

(307)

Isaac Davids, a 24-year-old from Durban, moved to Westlake two years ago, sharing a shack with Pamela Price, a 42-year-old former sewing instructor from Strandfontein. It took him a year to put the shack together, with discarded wood and corrugated tin from around the site.

The two have completed housing subsidy application forms, and even have certificates, written last October, which stake their claim on one of Rabie/Cavoor's new houses.

But there's a lot of suspicion about the development plan, not least because many in Westlake believe they've been hijacked. The name Trevor Trout comes up often. He doesn't live in Westlake, but is vice-chair of the Combined Residents of Westlake — and has done much of the negotiating with the developer and council.

Approached for comment, Trout says the Westlake development will actually be worth R3.5-billion and adds that "it's a whole can of worms". He doesn't elaborate. "People here can't stand up and

speak for themselves," Davids adds. "We don't know what's going on."

The co-founder of the Westlake camp, John Taylor, enjoys wider acceptance as the settlement representative. He says he is 39, but looks 20 years older. He put up his shack at Westlake 10 years ago after he was pushed off three other sites in the area. Like many in the settlement, he now earns his living caddying (R60 for 18 holes). His regular customers include TV presenter Robin Jackman.

Taylor thinks building will start in April, and maybe everyone will get a house and a job on one of the new businesses the development will spawn.

Others in his front room, a *de facto* communal meeting place, offer their own theories, ranging from Trout's influence to the developer's ties with the National Party (which Viljoen dismisses) to the idea that Westlake residents would have done better if FW de Klerk was still in power.

Outside Taylor's house, among the chicken wire, empty beer bottles and charcoal ash, the name Rabie/Cavoor is mentioned.

Good walls make good neighbours: Westlake squatters (left) and Pollsmoor wardens (right) have nothing to do with each other. PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

bie/Cavoor, Trout or Sankie Mthembi-Mahanyele arouse little interest. Hendrick (surname not volunteered but formerly of Uppington) gives an impromptu guided tour that ends at a huge concrete wall. Behind

the wall is the housing estate built in 1992 for Pollsmoor wardens. The houses are modern, all pastoral tones with gardens that run into each other. Fewer than 200 people live there. Colin Dick, a warden in Polls-

moor's maximum security section, knows nothing about the Westlake development. And in the three years he's lived there, he has never gone behind the concrete wall to meet his neighbours.



School squatters face eviction

Residents threaten to take law into own hands

ART 6/3/98 (307) #

CHENÉ BLIGNAUT

Staff Reporter

The provincial government has taken preliminary steps to evict 250 people, including illegal aliens and children, from a derelict primary school in Retreat.

Michael Louis, African Christian Democratic Party Minister of Public Works, this week applied for a court order to evict 52 families from Princess Vlei Primary School in 10th Avenue where classrooms have been turned into makeshift homes.

The building has no running water, working toilets or electricity.

The order follows increasing tension between the squatters and nearby residents, who have threatened to take the law into their own hands if the provincial government does not intervene.

Residents say the settlement is a health and safety risk.

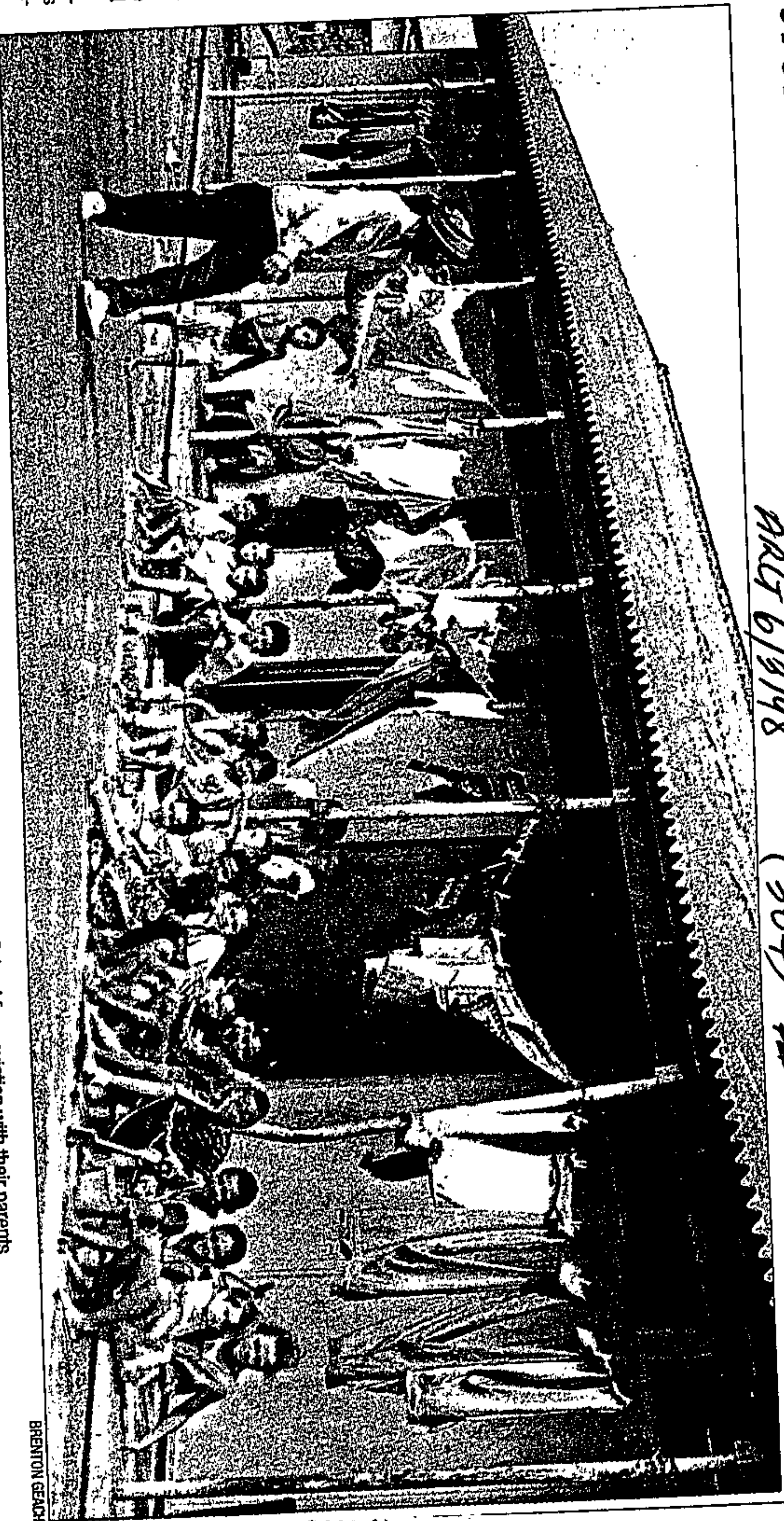
They say the squatters relieve themselves in the playground and several children are sick.

They fear fires made in the classrooms could spread to homes because the buildings are surrounded by trees and grass.

But the squatters are determined to stay put unless they are offered homes elsewhere. Previous attempts by the province to evict them were unsuccessful.

In a raid last year, Steenberg police confiscated crack cocaine, alcohol and unlicensed guns.

The problems started three years ago when the Public Works Department leased the school to an entrepreneur who sublet classrooms to



BRENTON GEACH

A school called home: children belonging to the 52 families squatting in the derelict Princess Vlei Primary School face eviction with their parents

seven families at R200 a month. The department cancelled the lease, but the families were never evicted.

When he took over his portfolio this year, Mr Louis decided to take a tough stand on illegal occupation of state land.

"What will happen if we just

allow people to occupy our courts, schools and houses?" he asked. Alternative land would be made available to the squatters, he said.

At the school, the atmosphere was tense and anxious this week.

"We have done nothing wrong, we have even joined the police forum," said Robert Holmes, 37.

The school has been home to him, his girlfriend and two children for the past two years.

"We will use violence if they try to evict us," he said. But if the Government gave them land and allowed them to break down the school for materials, they would move.

"Will there be mercy for us?"

asked Florrie Swart, 68, who shares a classroom with her elder sister, daughter, son, daughter-in-law and five grandchildren, including a week-old baby.

The classroom is partitioned off into sections with curtains and cardboard. There are fresh flowers on the kitchen table.

Council to decide on Cardboard

Task team wants shacks under flyover demolished

JERMAINE CRAIG
City Reporter

The fate of the Cardboard City squatters will be discussed by the Cape Town housing committee tomorrow.

A high-level provincial task team has recommended that the shacks under the Western Boulevard flyover

be demolished to help combat crime in the city.

The controversial settlement has been a bone of contention for months and the municipality so far has been unable to carry out plans to move the residents to Mitchell's Plain.

The task team of provincial ministers set up to tackle crime said last week that Cardboard City must go.

(307)

Late last year, Cape Town Director of Housing Billy Cobbett announced to the delight of many that the 200 squatters would move into 80 houses in a development of 341 houses in Mitchell's Plain.

They were about to move when objections from existing residents of Montrose Park scuttled the plans.

Mr Cobbett's office has been

involved for three months in negotiations with all concerned to try to resolve the impasse, and are said to be close to agreement.

A report from Mr Cobbett's office to be handed to the housing committee tomorrow will ask the council to develop the Montrose Park site for housing and allocate 80 of the sites to the Cardboard City squatters.

A spokeswoman in Mr Cobbett's office said yesterday most of the role-players seemed willing to make the move a success, but Montrose Park residents were prepared to accept only formal housing in their area.

Coleridge Daniels, a social worker mediating on behalf of the squatters, said they were prepared to move if the municipality provided houses.

City squatters

to help curb crime

Mr Daniels said conditions in Cardboard City were bad and that it was high time the residents moved into a better environment.

Police spokesman André Traut said there was not a major crime problem in Cardboard City, but police had information that some people staying there committed crimes.

He said the settlement was a danger

to tourists, who were assaulted and robbed walking to the Waterfront.

"I am not saying that all the people staying in Cardboard City are criminals, but that there are people there who commit crimes, and we do have a problem in that area," said Captain Traut.

He felt the demolition of the camp would definitely help to reduce crime.

Council to sell Cardboard City site

Many in Mitchell's Plain ready to welcome squatters

(307) ACT 3/4/98

JERMAINE CRAIG
CITY REPORTER

Cape Town Municipality plans to sell the land near the Waterfront presently occupied by the squatter settlement Cardboard City - once the residents are moved to Montrose Park, Mitchell's Plain.

This statement was made yesterday by the chairman of Cape Town's housing committee, Sydney Ncate.

The decision to move the residents out of the area was taken as one of the measures to lower the crime rate in the area - Cardboard City has gained a notorious reputation as a haven for criminals.

But residents of Montrose Park are divided about whether or not they will accept the 200 inhabitants of Cardboard City in their area and fears have also been raised that the project could set an unhealthy precedent for the city.

However, the Cape Town municipality has denied that people in squatter settlements will be given preference for housing, saying that the situation of the squatters under the Western Boulevard flyover is an urgent matter.

Mr Ncate said the council was looking to sell the plot of land which the Waterfront squatters were presently occupying and needed to solve the problem speedily.

He said 341 houses would be built in Montrose Park, 80 of which would go to the squatters and the rest to people on the waiting lists.

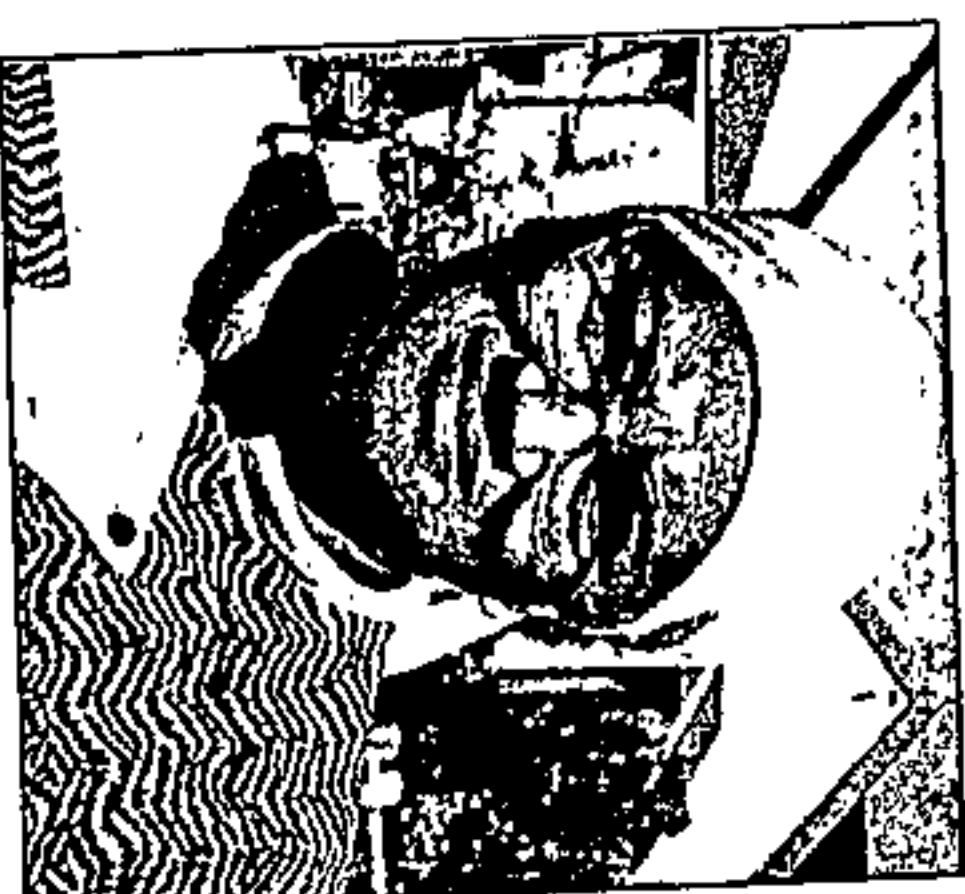
He said land invasions would not be tolerated and the council would appeal to civic organisations to educate people about the council's housing process.

The council's executive committee deputy chairman, Saleem Mowzer, said the previous council had allowed the situation to deteriorate, and the new council now had to deal with the problem.

The council would not allow it to become a precedent for land invasion in affluent areas and would not tolerate such actions.

He said that once the Cardboard City squatters were moved from the area, the council in conjunction with the police would ensure that the site remained vacant.

Johanna Farmer, a member of the



Show of support: Mareldia Tinker was at first strongly opposed to the move, but now steadfastly supports it

Montrose Park Ratepayers' Association, was adamant that the Cardboard City residents should be allowed to move into the area - and could not understand how people could object to the move.

"I cannot see how some can refuse to have people move in here irrespective of the area they come from. If it had not been known that they were from Cardboard City, no one would have objected," she said.

The ratepayers' association fully supported the project and was trying to garner the support of all the residents. However, this was subject to the council providing proper housing for the Waterfront squatters.

Mareldia Tinker said residents were at first strongly opposed to the Cardboard City squatters moving into their area, but had since changed their minds after hearing that proper housing would be erected and shacks would not be put up.

There had been lack of consultation and people had thought only shacks would be erected, which residents were prepared to burn down.

"We have looked at the situation properly. We also waited on the waiting list - I was on the list for 19 years. Just like us, they also have children to feed," said Mrs Tinker.

But Akbar Adams, a member of the neighbourhood watch who owns a house shop in the area, was not as accommodating and said there would be demonstrations if the move went ahead.



Concrete jungle: members of the Cardboard City squatter community go about the business of surviving another day in the city



No way: Akbar Adams says the move will lead to an increase in crime in the area

"We do not want them here - we do not want crime in our area. If they do give people houses they must be people from Mitchell's Plain who are on the waiting list. If those people move in here I will have to sit with my gun and two dogs to guard my property," said Mr Adams.



Thumbs-up: Johanna Farmer, on the site for the squatters, supports the move

JERMAINE CRAIG

Shacks are set to mushroom, warns council

STAFF REPORTER

AKT 7/8/98 (307)

The South Peninsula municipality does not have enough field officers or finance to prevent the spread of shacks in informal settlements.

This means the 8 000 structures in five settlements are likely to increase virtually unchecked.

It's likely that all the local authorities in the Western Cape will find themselves in the same boat.

The south's director of urban planning, Hugh Paton, told the municipality's housing services committee yesterday that with the withdrawal of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, no one may be evicted from his or her home and the home may not be demolished without an order of court.

"More staff would require more funds, and similarly more court cases would also require more funds.

"An undefended ejectment order costs a minimum of R800. If defended, this could cost in the vicinity of R5 000 - a case between the old Cape Town City Council and a group of unauthorised households has already cost R18 000 and the case is not yet resolved," said Mr Paton.

With the present financial and staff constraints, informal settlements would grow.

Field officers generally worked normal hours and were involved in the distribution of notices, the demolition of structures, and time-consuming surveys of structures and people.

They did not visit every corner of every informal settlement every day and every week.

Although officials would try to control the growth of structures in informal housing settlements, there was a need for active assistance of councillors to limit the growth of informal settlements.



Taking a stand: West Metropole Area Commissioner Ganief Daniels told the meeting in Hout Bay last night he would fight the closure of the local police station

Angry shack folk demand say in Hout Bay meeting

ARG 8/4/98

(307)

Walkouts mar bid to save police station

BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

Angry clashes erupted at a meeting of Hout Bay residents to fight the closure of their police station when it was disrupted by about 150 residents of the Imizamo Yethu informal settlement.

The Hout Bay residents met at the Kronendal Primary School hall last night to discuss the imminent closure.

Soon after the meeting started, a singing crowd marched in and took over the stage.

A spokesman for the group said they had disrupted the meeting because "racist, white"

Hout Bay had excluded large sectors of the Imizamo Yethu community by not inviting them or the coloured community.

The people from the informal settlement demanded an interpreter so that they could also take part in the meeting.

After angry exchanges the meeting proceeded, but there were several walkouts over interruptions as a translator was called on.

Among those who quit the meeting was Director Leonard Knipe, whose portfolio is serious violent crimes.

The building that houses the police station has been leased by SA Police Services since 1990

and now the Department of Public Works has refused to pay the R12 000 a month rental.

There have been numerous attempts to change the present situation with success.

The residents believe that a new site for a police station should be found.

West Metropole area commissioner Ganief Daniels pledged that the police station would not be removed.

He told residents to stand together and demand the Department of Public Works provide alternative premises.

"I will never allow this police station in Hout Bay to close - even if I have to put up a shack

in the street," said Commissioner Daniels.

Public Works reportedly asked that police try to "down-size" the operation. But Hout Bay police have said this is impossible, as present resources are essential to the operation of the station.

Hout Bay councillor Dick Meter presented Commissioner Daniels with a memorandum to be passed to police MEC Gerald Morkel.

The memo has the support of the Imizamo Yethu Civic Association, Hout Bay Action Committee, Children's Resource Centre and the local African National Congress branch.

Shack folk see homes destroyed

Green Park families slate Oostenberg municipality

ARLT 9/4/98 (307)

MANDLA MINYAKAMA
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Inhabitants of the Green Park shack settlement near Delft have accused the Oostenberg municipality of using apartheid tactics to harass people after it demolished about 24 shacks yesterday.

Elders and leaders tried to stop Oostenberg employees, who alongside armed guards trampled already demolished shacks, dragging away corrugated iron sheets before loading them on to a truck.

Several fences were trampled down as well and wooden poles that were used to erect them left lying on the sand.

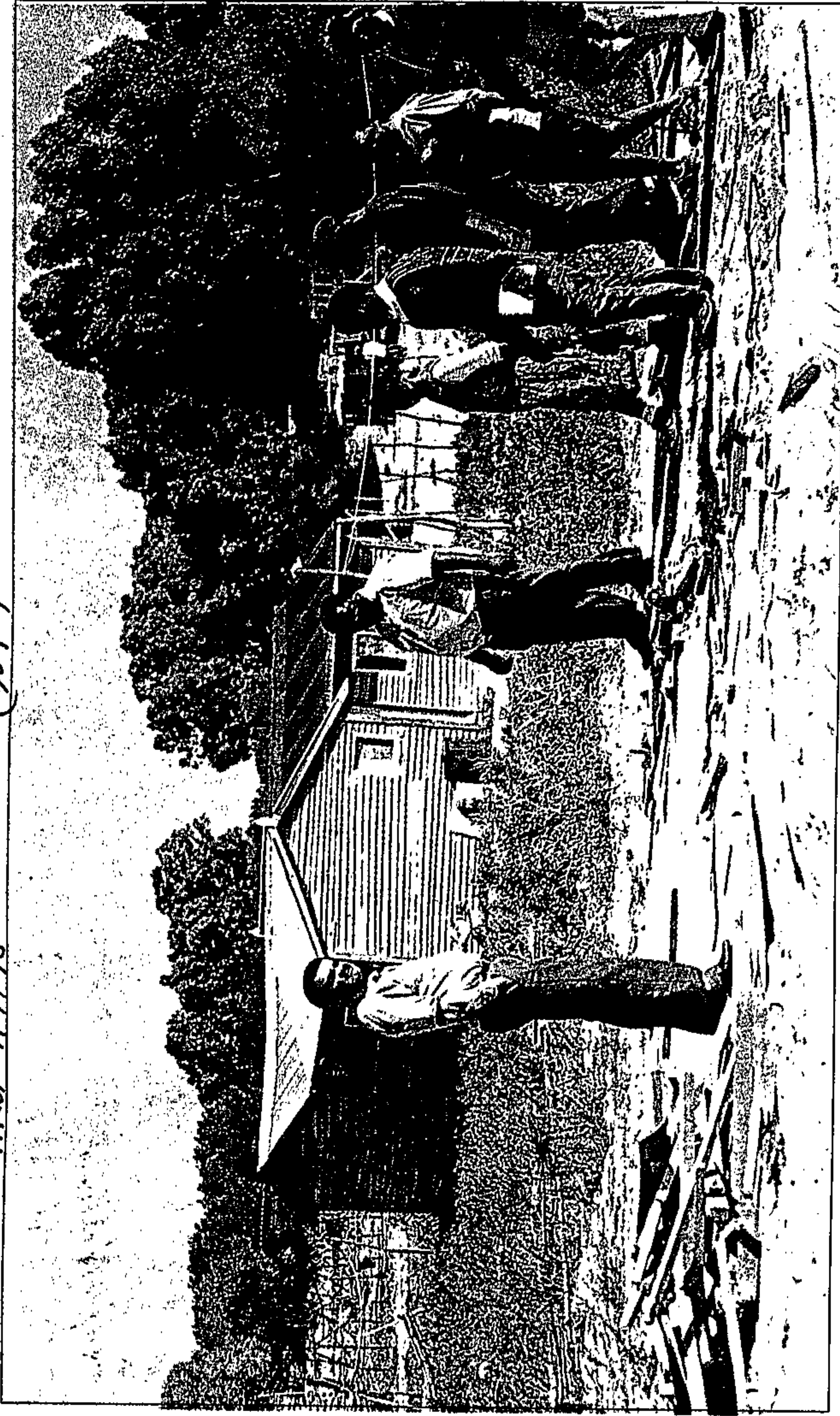
The workers were alleged to have taken away all new-looking material. Other shack dwellers gathered and watched their homes being destroyed.

Residents claim that the actions of the Oostenberg municipality were suspicious in that corrugated iron sheets were removed from the site.

They demanded to know where they would sleep tonight now that their shacks had been destroyed. They said the reason they had been forced to build the shacks was that the Government had not supplied them with houses.

One victim said the incident would cause anger - not only among them but also among their children - the future generation - who saw their parents' shacks being kicked and trampled down for no reason.

Another resident, Alfred Masimini, who is unemployed and had done casual jobs since he arrived in the area four years ago, said they did not know what was going on. He saw his shack demolished only a month after erecting it. "I won't have a place to



MANDLA MINYAKAMA

Ruined: former Crossroads squatter leader and National Party MP, Johnson Ngxobongwana, left, looks at the damage after a Green Park squatter shacks was demolished

sleep tonight. I've just built my shack but now all those new sheets are gone - with only planks left behind."

Another resident said: "This is inhumane. Not even animals treat their kind like this."

The former Crossroads squatter leader, Johnson Ngxobongwana, who also approached the group to find out what was going on, said no one wanted to listen to him.

"I tried to speak to them but they

only told me that it was their right to demolish all the half-built shacks. I want all that building material they took returned. People here built their shacks bit by bit as they got money," said Mr Ngxobongwana.

The settlement was founded by former Crossroads residents who moved to the area during faction fights in Crossroads. Officials of the Oostenberg municipality could not be contacted for comment.

Squatters cry betrayal as mass eviction looms

Council seeks court order in face of pre-election 'disruption campaign'

ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporter

A groundswell of anger is gathering among squatters facing eviction in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, as well as residents, over "broken election promises" by political parties.

About 800 people, most of whom claim to have been on the housing waiting list for 10 to 15 years, have squatted illegally on Cape Town municipal land in Tafelsig since Friday.

Now the council and the squatters are heading for a showdown. The council will seek a High Court interdict to evict them today.

The squatters, who vow they will not give up without a fight, have called the settlement "Home at Last".

Many of them said yesterday they were furious over unfilled "promises" used by politicians to secure votes in 1994 general election and the 1996 local elections.

The squatters started clearing 6 000m² of dense bush on Friday and spent the weekend erecting small wooden and tin shacks.

Established residents and squatters joined yesterday in expressing anger at the housing crisis, continuing crime in the area and pitiful health conditions.

Najura Gallant of the Tafelsig People's Forum said hundreds of families were forced to live in or more to a house because people did not have their own houses.

The council had informed the forum that there were 40 000

people on the housing waiting list in the Peninsula and it was impossible to accommodate all those on Tafelsig's waiting list.

WHAT THE SQUATTERS SAY
Ms Gallant said that because of the crisis, families with four or five children were forced to rent single rooms.

Others had to make do with shacks in other people's backyards and were being charged hundreds of rands a month rent, although residents of the area were not paying rent, she said.

Jaaneem Taliep, a volunteer at the Tafelsig clinic, said most of the children in the area were undernourished and susceptible to tuberculosis and other chest infections. "It is high time that the politicians see to the people. Our children are dying like flies," she said.

Crime had also increased and residents stumbled across the bodies of murder victims in the dense bushes surrounding the township.

Most of the victims were young girls who were dragged into bushes, raped and killed.

There had also been a continued increase in gang activity. "Our people just want a piece of land. We want our rights. We are suffering too much," said Mrs Taliep.

Diane Andrews, whose three-month-old baby is fighting for her life in hospital after developing asthma and pneumonia, said the child was sick because they were forced to live in an overcrowded house.

Elizabeth Charles said her family of six were to be evicted from a single room at the end of the month. Her children also had chest infections, she said.



LEON MILLER

Sidewalk gathering: land occupiers gather at the side of the road next to their informal settlement



Protest: Illegal land occupiers protest against the delays in housing delivery



Hammering it home: Farouza Abrahams builds her shack with hammer and nail



At work: Shariefah Lewis digs a foundation for her shack

JEROME CRANE
City Reporter

Cape Town city councillors believe a campaign involving bids to assassinate them, and mass invasion of land is in progress to disrupt and divide communities in the run-up to the elections.

It was disclosed at the council's executive committee meeting yesterday that between 500 and 700 shacks had been erected illegally this week on municipal land in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain.

The invaders had told council officials they were from Driftsands, Khayelitsha, the stronghold of former Crossroads warlord Johnson Nxobongwana who is now a National Party member of the provincial legislature.

The council's executive director of municipal services, Mike Marsden, said last night that the council would seek an urgent interdict from the High Court today to evict the invaders, and had asked the police for their help.

Executive committee deputy chairman Saleem Mowzer said the land invasion looked like a "well-orchestrated plan".

The recent sit-in of people on council property in Crossroads and an assassination attempt on African National Congress councillor Depoutch Eliese showed that a campaign like the one before the 1994 elections was being waged.

Mr Mowzer said Mr Eliese had been lucky to escape with his life last Thursday night when he was ambushed by eight armed men in Crossroads on his

way home.

His car was riddled with bullets, but he escaped the attack unharmed.

Mr Mowzer said the attack had resulted in a "warlike" situation in Crossroads, with the community being threatened, and the council having to call the police.

Mr Mowzer said the council had received "untested information" that the people occupying the Tafelsig land were from Driftsands, Khayelitsha. It was believed that the invasion could stir emotions among people in Mitchell's Plain and spark a volatile situation.

"We are testing the information we have received from people occupying the land.

"They told us they were waiting for Johnson Nxobongwana to come to address them.

"At this stage we cannot say which political parties or individuals are involved, but we will get to the root of who is responsible and expose them," said Mr Mowzer.

"We see this as a trend over the past two months.

"First it was Crossroads, with the invasion of council premises, then the ambush of one of our councillors.

"We saw a similar pattern of destabilisation before the 1994 election.

"Tafelsig is once again being used as a base to create division and tension.

"Once again we see a pattern of fear being instilled into communities. As a council we take the land invasion very seriously and will act strongly against it," Mr Mowzer said.

WHAT THE COUNCIL SAYS
The council has received information that the people occupying the Tafelsig land were from Driftsands, Khayelitsha. It was believed that the invasion could stir emotions among people in Mitchell's Plain and spark a volatile situation.

on rocks council

CT 29/4/98

(307)

THE ARMY MAY be deployed to repel a 'massive and dangerous' land invasion in Tafelsig as up to 3 000 squatters are settling into their 'new home'. **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH** and **ERIC NTABAZALILA** report.

THE Cape Town City Council will apply first thing this morning for an urgent court interdict to remove as many as 3 000 people illegally occupying land in Silver City, Tafelsig, following a land invasion this weekend.

Described by council officials as "massive and dangerous", the land invasion encroaches on Wolfgat Nature Reserve.

Police and possibly the army will be called in to help the council evict the squatters — apparently from Khayelitsha, Driftsands and Mitchells Plain — at around noon today.

"This is a very significant and apparently well-orchestrated land invasion. An estimated 500 to 700 shacks are being built in road reserves, across roads and on school sites," Cape Town's housing director Mr Billy Cobbett told a special exco meeting yesterday.

Executive director for municipal services Mr Mike Marsden added: "This is on a scale far larger than the council is capable of dealing with by itself."

Legal adviser Mr Chris Glaum told the meeting that the council would not need an interdict to demolish the shacks if the "invaders" had not moved into them. "But in terms of the law they have established themselves in homes and so we do need one," said Marsden. The decision was also influenced by "capacity constraints, the potential for violence and the fact that the police will be reluctant to act without a court instruction".

"This is going to be a massive operation," he warned. "We should act decisively and move as quickly as possible."

The squatters have erected a huge banner across the street reading: "We're home!"

"The situation is tense and gangs have emerged to protect their turf. There's nothing we can do as a unit," a member of the council's squatter control group told exco.

During the debate, the involvement of a leading member of the NP and former Witdoek vigilante leader who was prominent in attempts in the mid-1980s to oust United Democratic Front "comrades" from Crossroads, was referred to.

The same man was, according to reliable township sources, one of the people who whipped up emotions prior to the shooting of two people when a political feud became a pitched battle in Crossroads last week.

"This is a very serious situation and we need to ascertain who the people are behind this plan," said deputy chairperson Mr Saleem Mowzer. "We can see a pattern emerging in different parts of our city," he said, referring to the Crossroads incident.

He said the council must act "quickly and urgently" in applying for an interdict and call on the army and police for assistance before "all hell breaks loose".

NP member Mr Howard Parker said there was an "outside possibility" that the invasion was not a political issue.

"Let's make a big noise and do the right thing, but don't make wide sweeping statements with no facts," he told exco.

And while the council debated the matter at length, families settled happily into their new houses in the cleared stretch of land. Many claimed they had been on a housing waiting list for more than 10 years and that their action was a quick solution to their need for a roof over their heads.

Mr David Roux, on the waiting list for 12 years, said: "Every time we go to the council offices to ask where we are now on the waiting lists and when are we going to get houses, we are told there is no land available."

"Or they would tell you to hang on. But look, here is an open space of land and we have cleared it and built shacks."

Roux was renting a room in a brick house in the area, but high rentals had forced him and many others to look for a place of their own.

Mrs Nurjehan Johnson, a mother of two whose husband is a hawker, said she

used to pay R150 a month for a shack in a yard.

The Johnsons had finished their shack and had moved in all their furniture and their family. She said she was happy as the land on which she and her husband had built their shack could end up being their permanent plot to build a proper house for their family.

The invasion of the land was a blessing in disguise for Ms Ivy Rooy, living on the streets of Cape Town until last weekend when her friends asked her to come and build herself a shack. Rooy, the mother of three-year-old asthmatic twins, said she was delighted for her children as they would have a place to call home after spending their infant life on the streets.

The invasion also brought hope to Mrs Crystal Booyes, whose struggle for a home for her five children started long before the late Minister of Housing, Mr Joe Slovo, became a minister.

Other residents from the nearby brick houses said they were happy that the land has been invaded as people had been killed, robbed and women raped in

the bushy area.

Mr Jasmine Trantraal said she hoped the rate of crime would drop if the invaders stayed on the land. She said though she had a brick house she felt it was necessary for her to support the invaders, as they had struggled for houses for a long time.

"These are our people and we need to support them. We want them to have their own houses like us," she said.

When the *Cape Times* team left the scene yesterday afternoon, people were bringing in building material in trucks, vans, wheel-barrows and council-issued dustbins. The noise of hammers and saws could be heard from a couple of streets away.

They have erected a huge banner reading: 'We're home!'

City seeks peaceful way out for squatters

JERMAINE CRAIG
CITY REPORTER

(307)

The Cape Town municipality is confident it can persuade about 3 000 people illegally occupying council land in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, to leave peacefully.

Officials are meeting 15 representatives of the squatters today to try to solve the impasse.

The city council was granted an interdict by the Cape High Court yesterday allowing it to evict the squatters.

More than 500 shacks were erected this week in what council housing director Billy Cobbett described as a "very significant and apparently well-orchestrated land invasion".

As the situation was potentially explosive, the council decided to take legal action to remove the squatters and met police today to ask for their assistance.

The High Court yesterday asked the council to erect signboards informing the invaders why it was removing them from the land.

The council will also have to make 2 000 copies of the notice to distribute to the squatters.

Council spokeswoman Leonora de Souza said today that the council would try to negotiate the removal of the squatters first.

"Actual evictions and physical removal will be the last resort. We at the City of Cape Town believe we can settle this through negotiation. However these people have broken the law and the city is seeking a solution through the law and through negotiations," she said.

The Congress of SA Trade Unions has meanwhile entered the fray, calling on the authorities to act with restraint and to avoid the use of heavy-handed tactics.

(121) (307)
Delft squatters agree to move

ABOUT 40 people occupying the housing marketing office at Delft undertook to move out last night. If they do not they will be ejected today.

Earlier the Provincial Housing Development Board and Indlu Marketing cc, brought an urgent application in the High Court against Mr David Sinazo, Ms Cynthia Mbeki, the occupants of the marketing office and the people occupying 375 houses.

Sinazo is chairperson of the SA National Civics Organisation's Delft branch and Mbeki is its secretary.

An interim order was postponed to June 2. — Justice

Writer

CT 30/4/98

Council gets interdict to oust Tafelsig land invaders

ERIC NTABAZALILA

THE Cape High Court yesterday granted the Cape Town City Council an interdict to remove more than 3 000 people who had illegally occupied land in Silver City, Tafelsig, over the weekend.

City Council spokesperson Ms Leonora de Souza said the presiding judge had asked the council to first erect signboards informing the invaders why the council was intent on removing them from the land.

The council would also make 2 000 photocopies of this notice. She said it was up to the sheriff of the court to decide whether to send in the army, but police would be present when the signboards were erected. This was to take place today.

De Souza said she did not see any chance of the people resisting, as the legal process had been followed.

"I think they will not resist the law. Confrontation is the last thing we need and I hope they will move peacefully," she said.

A legal adviser told a council meeting on Tuesday that the decision to seek an

interdict had been influenced by "the potential for violence and the fact that police would be reluctant to act without a court instruction".

Cape Town housing director Mr Billy Cobbett told a special exco meeting that "this is a very significant and apparently well-orchestrated land invasion. An estimated 500 to 700 shacks are being built in road reserves, across roads and on school sites."

While the court and city council officials were busy with the interdict yesterday, more and more families moved into the area and began building new shacks.

The few people the *Cape Times* interviewed, who asked not to be identified after a newly self-elected committee told them not to make statements, said they would not like confrontation with police and the army but "felt strongly" that what they were doing was their right.

Meanwhile, the Congress of South

African Trade Unions (Cosatu) yesterday called on the authorities to act with restraint and to enter into negotiations with representatives of the people concerned instead of using hard-handed tactics which could have disastrous consequences for the Western Cape.

Cosatu said it was willing to mediate in the dispute and offered its services to help resolve the issue in an amicable and meaningful way.

"We have repeatedly warned that working-class communities in the Western Cape have not seen any substantial improvement in their living conditions and quality of life under the

current provincial government. We share the concern for the proper provision of housing and other social services like quality public education and health care.

"However, we must be cautious when employing methods like land invasion," the union movement said in a statement.

● See Page 3

This is a very significant and well-orchestrated land invasion

CT 30/4/98

(307)

Tafelsig 'land invaders' told to be out by Monday

Squatters 'tired' of living conditions

JERMAINE CRAIG
City Reporter

People who have invaded public land in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, illegally have been given a three-day reprieve to move peacefully – or be evicted on Monday.

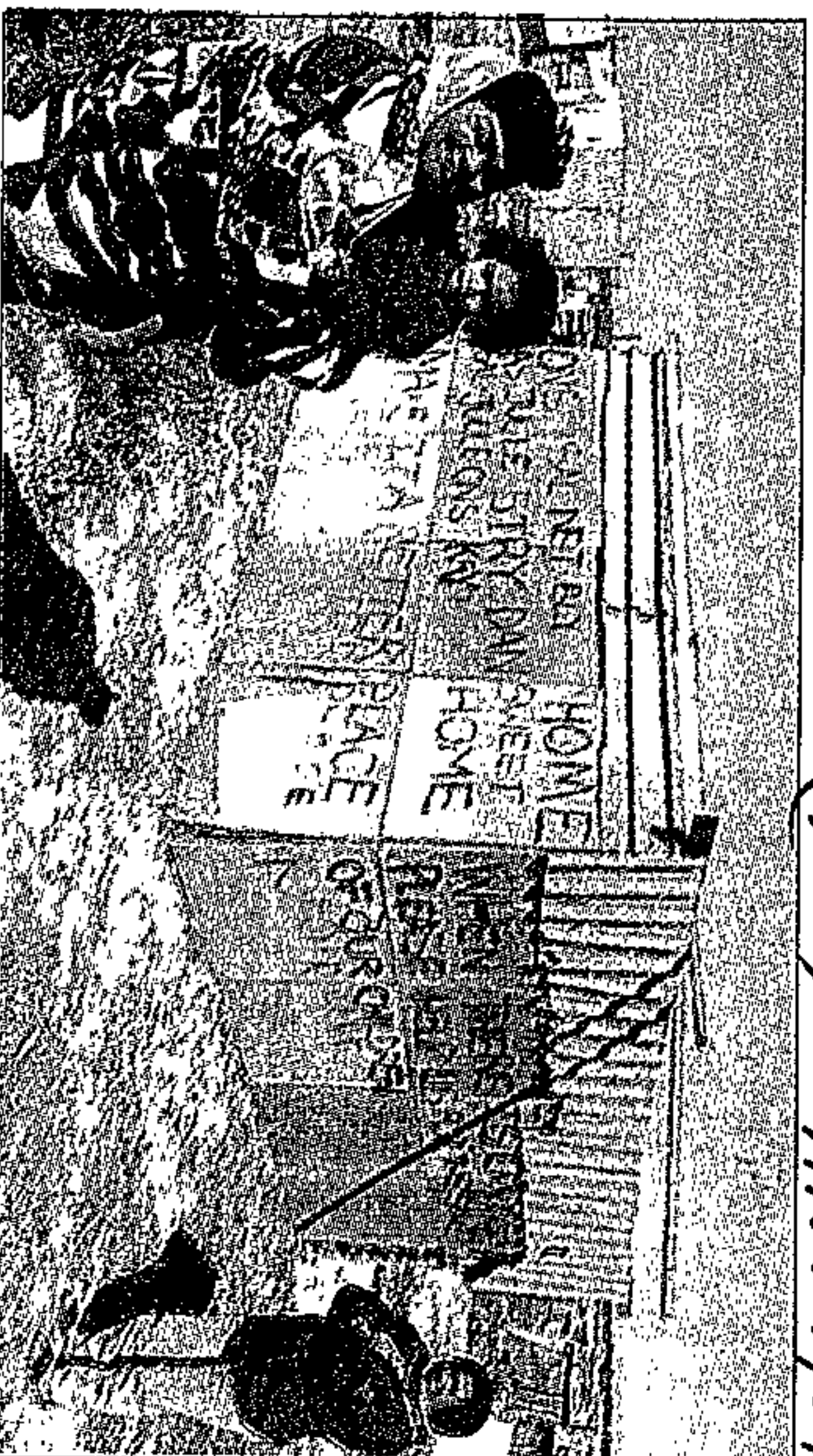
This was the outcome of a meeting yesterday between officials of the Cape Town municipality, the police, justice department and representatives of the community who have erected about 500 shacks on municipal land in the past week.

Officials said the action seemed to be a "very significant and apparently well-orchestrated land invasion".

Late yesterday more people were moving on to the land and erecting shacks.

The meeting, initiated by the police, was called to explain to community representatives the implications of a court order granted to the council by the Cape High Court enabling it to remove the invaders.

At a press conference after the meeting, the leader of the council delegation, Saleem Mowzer, said the community representatives had said they were tired of the conditions



LEON LESTRADE

Home sweet home: Aniena Hendricks, Masiwera Brenner, 1, and Aziza Lawrence

under which they had been living and had been on council housing waiting lists for up to 30 years.

They felt that nothing had been done to improve their lot, could not take it any longer and had decided to invade the land.

The community representatives appealed to the council to find accommodation for them and consider

putting them high on the waiting list.

"We told them we have a waiting list of over 41 000 families. We cannot have a situation where people occupy land illegally and then want council to consider them first.

"We explained that there were in fact thousands of people in this city who found themselves in a similar situation. Our view was that we needed

to treat all people fairly," said Mr Mowzer.

The council wanted to handle the situation in a "humane" way and had decided to give people three days to consult and move peacefully before implementing the court order.

"We want to resolve this in a manner which will not lead to violence, conflict and tension in surrounding communities," said Mr Mowzer.

Although he said he was hopeful of an amicable outcome, it was his personal assessment, judging from the meeting, that the people were not prepared to move voluntarily.

The city's handling of the housing issue has come under the spotlight recently with officials divided about whether to act against housing committee members accused of halting the eviction of illegal tenants.

But yesterday the council formed a united front with all parties strongly condemning land invasions and saying that strong action needed to be taken to halt similar behaviour in future.

The families occupying the land are to be notified in writing of the council action – and notices will also be put up in the area.



Finishing touches: Yusuf Salaam works on the sh

Return to homelessness for Tafelsig squatters

By MAPULA SIBANDA

THE BULLDOZERS will arrive tomorrow.

And the police vans will be there too, to make sure that the Cape Town City Council goes ahead with the interdict to evict illegal squatters from Tafelsig.

Maybe the residents will offer some sort of resistance, judging from the many who were still erecting shacks on Friday, despite the court judgement.

What everyone prays for though – both the council and the people of Tafelsig – is that no blood will be shed.

With their determination to stay however, it remains to be seen tomorrow if the squatters will voluntarily move out – as suggested by the council and community leaders – to avoid unnecessary confrontations.

Holding her six-week-old baby and watching over her seven-year-old playing in a field, Charmaine Claassen – one of the 3 000 families who have occupied this area since last weekend – said she was tired of moving from backyard to backyard and wanted her own home.

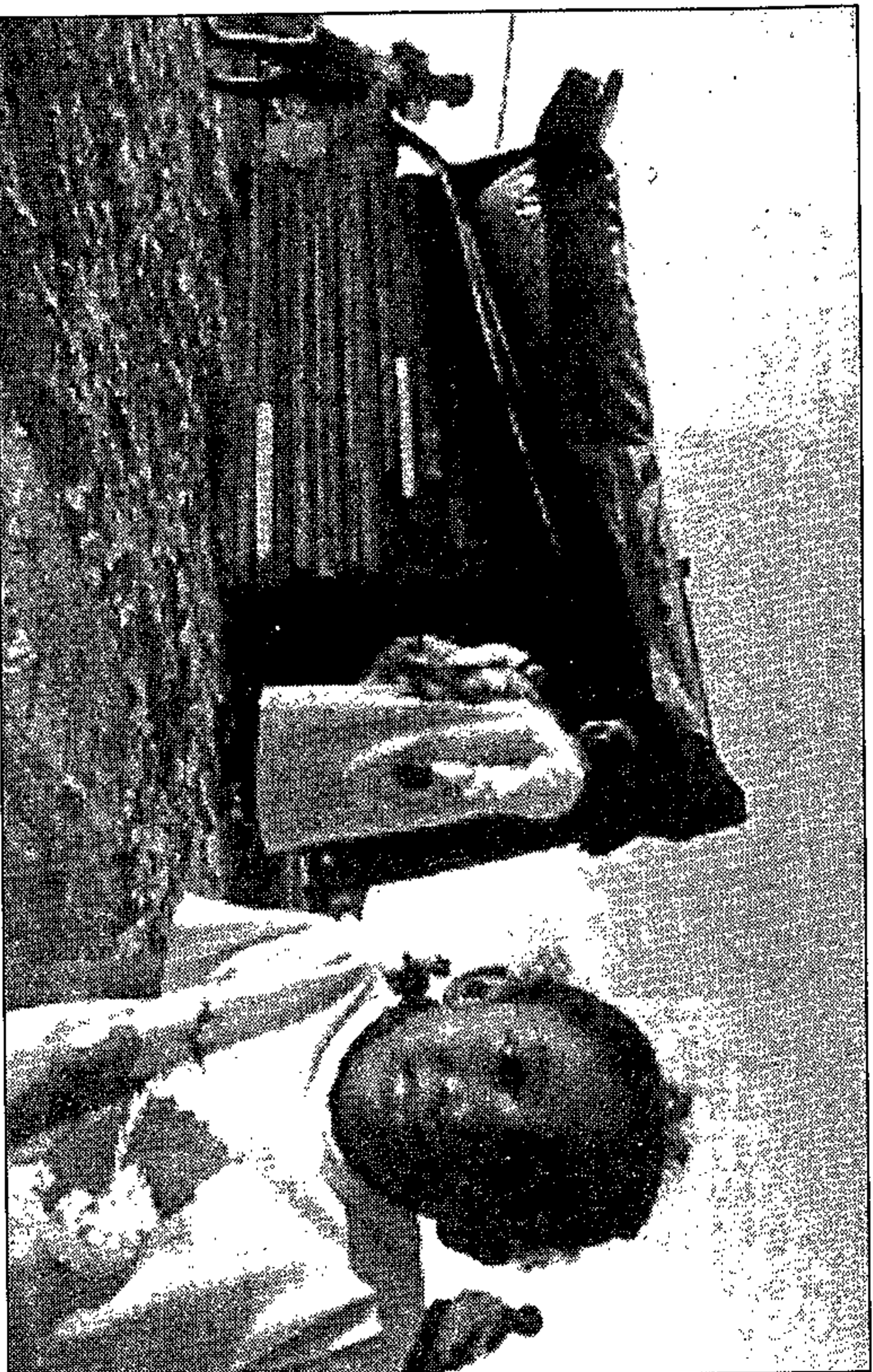
Chrystal Booys – a single parent with five children – nods her head in agreement. Between them they have been on the council's waiting list for the past 20 years.

"I have moved so much in my life, my eldest daughter has even dubbed me a 'voortrekker'. It makes me so ashamed to hear it coming from her. All I want is a place of my own," said Booys.

Booys and Claassen think the council is being unfair. All they want is a roof over their heads, for which they are willing to pay.

The Cape Town city council, faced with the shortage of land and the millions who are homeless, find themselves in a predicament when people occupy land illegally and then expect to jump the queues in the lengthy process of being awarded houses.

In this instance racial undertones surround the Tafelsig occupation, as some people alleged that coloured squatters were dealt with more harshly



WAITING FOR THE BULLDOZERS... The rickety homes of these coloured squatters in Tafelsig are soon likely to be levelled. **Pic: FANIE JASON**

than blacks as they were not offered an alternative site, a fact which the council refuted by quoting several cases in the past years where black squatters had to be evicted.

But no matter what their colour, the fact is that when the council deals decisively with the squatting problem, they are aware that they risk being viewed as insensitive to the needs of the poor and the defenseless.

"We have to deal with this interdict in the most

humane way". We acknowledge that there is a vast majority of people who do not have houses. As a council we need to treat all people fairly, and those who break the law to gain access to houses will not be given first priority," said the council's spokesperson, Saleem Mowzer.

And as instructed by the interdict, when the bulldozers arrive tomorrow, for the squatters it will be more than just the hopes of a roof over their heads that will be crushed.

Squatters set to defy bulldozers

JERMAINE CRAIG
CITY REPORTER

About 800 Tafelsig squatter families stood firm today as the minutes ticked by to the deadline for them to move or be evicted from land they have been occupying illegally for two weeks.

The squatters said they would "rather die" than move, and planned to form a human shield around the area when police and sheriffs of the court arrived with bulldozers to evict them.

But by noon today, with the squatters chanting and dancing in the streets, there was still no sign of bulldozers, police or sheriffs.

Representatives of political parties, including the Inkatha Freedom Party and the United Democratic Movement, and Muslim organisations Quibla and the Muslim Judicial Council, had arrived to show solidarity with the squatters.

The squatters, who include an 85-year-old woman and a mother with two-month-old twins, were given until 10am today by the

(307) ARG 4/5/98
Cape Town municipality to move peacefully, or be evicted by force.

Many meetings have failed to resolve the impasse, and the council has vowed to act firmly against people invading its land, as there are more than 40 000 families on the waiting list for homes.

Among those waiting this morning was security guard Linda Wolmarans: "We would rather die than leave here. If they take me to jail today it will be better than this."

'We shall not be moved,' page 3

Council to evict 3 000 squatters

ET 4/5/98
(307)

FATIMA SCHROEDER

THE Cape Town City Council is to evict more than 3 000 squatters today from land they are occupying illegally in Silver City, Tafelsig.

This was announced at a heated meeting yesterday between the council and delegates representing the squatters.

Emotional squatters told the council members they refused to leave as some of them had been on waiting lists for homes for up to 30 years.

"The council is very unfair. I've been on the waiting list for almost 13 years," said Ms Chrystal Booyis.

She said a councillor had given her permission to squat in Tafelsig and insisted that "I will just stay here".

Chairperson of the Cape Town City Council executive committee, Mr Saleem Mowzer, said the council had given the squatters 3½ days to vacate the land and that a time extension would be a "mockery of our legal system".

He said the council had made sure they were acting legally and that they had applied for a Cape High court interdict to evict the squatters.

The presiding judge had asked the council first to erect five signboards informing the invaders why the council was determined to remove them from the land.

Five hundred copies of this notice had already been distributed to the squatters and another 1 500 would be distributed to families later today.

The court sheriff and police would be

forced to break down the shacks if the squatters still refused to leave.

A report-back meeting with the entire Silver City community was held yesterday evening to explain what might happen.

Mowzer said the council recognised some of the problems the squatters had, but said it could not allow people to take the law into their own hands.

"Can you imagine what will happen if 120 000 people from different poor communities embark on the same action as the people of Tafelsig?" he asked at a press conference yesterday.

To avoid tension, Mowzer urged the squatters to vacate the land peacefully and said the council wanted to deal with the issue in a humane way that would not lead to conflict and violence.

"We made it very clear from the start that we want to resolve the matter in a humane way ... that does not lead to violence and tension."

Referring to alternative land for the squatters, Mowzer said: "They must go back to where they were living previously."

He admitted there was a chronic housing shortage in Cape Town and that local authorities were slow to deliver.

However, nowhere in South Africa had the new democratically elected government, or local government, given support for or allowed illegal land invasions as a means for communities or individuals to meet their housing needs.

Asked if the council would consider giving the squatters more time, Mowzer said: "We cannot allow this to continue any longer."

Squatters face a cold, uncertain week

High Court asked to reconsider eviction of 'land invaders'

JERMAINE CRAIG AND GUYMMS UNDERHILL
STAFF REPORTERS

The illegal squatters of Lost City in Mitchell's Plain won a four-day reprieve from eviction in the Cape High Court after a day fraught with tension and conflict.

The Cape Town municipality obtained an urgent High Court interdict to evict the squatters who had built tin shacks on a field in Tafelsig earmarked for a school.

The squatters were given until yesterday to move peacefully or be evicted, but the Legal Resources Centre, for the squatters, yesterday asked the court to reconsider the order.

The court will hear the matter on Friday and the municipality has undertaken not to bulldoze the shacks in the meantime.

Tensions ran high yesterday as squatters formed a human chain to prevent evictions.

Political organisations and parties, including Islamic movement Ghiba, the Muslim Judicial Council, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the United Democratic Movement, moved in to support the residents.

Mitchell's Plain police station commander Johan Kleyn visited the settlement and told the Cape Argus he was not prepared to risk evictions at this stage as there was potential for conflict.

Cape Metropolitan Council Mayor William Bantom, who is a Mitchell's Plain resident, drove around Lost City as tensions grew.

Mothers clutching children



ROY WINTER

Under construction: men continue to build shacks yesterday

braced themselves against the cold, while supporters set up soup kitchens on the wet roads. Residents and supporters chanted slogans and marched in protest at the planned evictions.

But the council intends going ahead with its controversial eviction of people who occupy land illegally. Evictions have taken place recently in Langa, Gugulethu and Rondebosch East.

"We have 120 000 homeless people in the Western Cape. Imagine if everyone decided to grab land," said municipality spokeswoman Leonora de Souza.

"There would be anarchy. The way the housing list was handled in the past was problematic. But the

council now has adopted a housing policy to address the problem."

Cape Town manager of existing housing Mervyn Bregman said the situation in Lost City had become "extremely volatile."

"We have been told there are taxi blockades and children being used in human chains. In view of the circumstances the evictions will be done only if appropriate," he said.

The settlement had become the illegal home to 200 people, and not 3 000 as had been reported, said Ms De Souza.

Meetings were held between the provincial minister of housing Cecil Herold and Cape Town housing chief Billy Cobbett yesterday.



LEON UNDERHILL

Bosheraad: neighbours gather around the fire in the Tafelsig squatter camp contemplating their common plight

It's only a shack at Tafelsig, but it's home...

BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

It's only a shack, with the pungent smell of paraffin and lit by candles in old wine bottles, but it's the best home Hassiem Martin and his family have had.

The Martins, who are among the 200 families who built shacks on municipal land in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, have lived as nomads in Cape Town for years.

"We used to live in a family's front room before this, and my wife, Had

ARG 5/5/98

jera, used to cry every day because of how we had to live," said Mr Martin.

He said his wife had to keep house for the host family and cook for the children while he worked as a bricklayer to earn just enough to pay for rent and food.

Their wanderings took them across the Cape Flats, and they were even given shelter in the Mitchell's Plain police station cells when they were desperate.

Mr Martin said he felt stripped of his dignity because he could not provide a proper home for his family.

"We are willing to pay the council just so they can give us a start in bettering ourselves and get somewhere." But he holds up the notice saying he has to move yet again.

On the walls of his sparsely decorated home is a picture of his parents on their hajj to Mecca, a pilgrimage which must be performed by all Muslims capable of making the journey.

"First, I need to have somewhere to call home, then someday ..." he says wistfully.

The Tafelsig squatters won a reprieve yesterday, when the Cape

Town municipality agreed not to bulldoze shacks pending the outcome of the hearing of an application in the High Court to overturn the eviction order, but it is for only four days.

The fire in front of the Martins's shack heats water in a cast-iron container for five-year-old Ederies and his three brothers to have their baths.

A north-westerly wind howls across the Cape Flats, the harbinger of the winter rains, and Mrs Martin confesses: "I just don't know what's going to happen after Friday ..."



LEON UNDERHILL

Happy here: the Martin family who are unsure where they will spend this winter

Tafelsig row sets bulldozers on election trail

ANC backs council line - but other parties rally to squatters' plight

MICHAEL MOORS
Special Writer

Political sniping over the Tafelsig squatter saga heralds an early start to an election campaign in the Peninsula likely to be underpinned by fierce competition for resources.

A racial element is already evident. While African National Congress leader Ebrahim Rasool took a strong line against the "land invasion" yesterday, warning that it offered no solution to the housing crisis, other political groupings opted for positions ranging from a bluntly pro-coloured stance to criticism of the Government's failure to meet its own

housing targets.

The illegal squatters of Lost City in Mitchell's Plain won a four-day reprieve from eviction in the Cape High Court on Monday.

But party political interest in the Tafelsig saga is mounting. As tensions ran high in the community on Monday, no fewer than four organisations moved in to offer support and solidarity. They included the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Muslim Judicial Council and the United Democratic Movement.

Mr Rasool said "actions" such as the land invasion of Tafelsig "contribute to a climate of lawlessness and only exacerbate tensions between the poor and homeless".

It was "highly irresponsible for certain community leaders to initiate such invasions". The poor and vulnerable were often used by "unscrupulous elements to gain influence and control".

The ANC supported the city council's stand. "If firm action is not taken, a message goes out saying that anyone who wants land must simply take it. This is no way to govern."

The ANC supported the city's call for an urgent metro-wide summit.

A solution depended on:

■ Rapid release of land throughout the metro for low-cost housing and informal settlement.

■ Immediate implementation by the provincial government of the

Development Facilitation Act to fast-track land availability.

■ Introduction of an integrated metro-wide waiting list.

■ Building rental accommodation.

■ A housing programme which integrates communities and brings the poor closer to the workplace.

■ Business, religious and community leaders working together to create a better life.

But the Inkatha Freedom Party took a different view. Its Western Cape chairman, Abdul Moos, said:

"We want everybody to be treated the same and the fact is that, in the same area two years ago, black people occupied the land and the council gave them alternative land and provided

them with materials to build their shacks.

"Now, when it comes to coloured people, they are saying they must be evicted. We are saying the council must be fair to everybody, and not discriminate against coloured people."

He said the council had not allowed enough time for a negotiated solution, and had "wasted ratpayers' money" in seeking an interdict to evict the squatters, since a solution would have to be negotiated anyway.

Mr Moos said the people of Tafelsig were being used as a "political football", but denied the IFP was using the issue to advance its own party political interests.

"For us, this is not about the

election. I think for other parties it might be, but we have the plight of the people at heart," he said.

Muslim Judicial Council general secretary Sheikh Achmat Sedick said the MJC was against eviction, because there had been insufficient consultation with the squatters, and felt there was no room for a "harsh" attitude on the part of the council.

"There is already talk of racism, with people saying blacks have been given land, or are allowed to occupy land illegally, but we are trying to circumvent racial tension building up over this. We are trying to stop that attitude from becoming entrenched," he said.

He said although the Tafelsig

group was predominantly Muslim - "about 80%" - this was not a "Muslim issue". "It's not a religious thing, it's a multicultural issue."

"Perhaps there is a political agenda here, a ploy to get the council to act more speedily. But our concerns are that there must be proper consultation, and that people should not be made to suffer."

The MJC was keen to support the people in their plight, but did not support illegal land occupation.

Alan Phillips of the United Democratic Movement said the people of Tafelsig risked becoming "pawns in a power game". "The Government's 'non-delivery of housing' was a big contributory factor



SUPPORT FOR SQUATTERS: Members of the Muslim movement Qibla, the Muslim Judicial Council, the United Democratic Movement, the Inkatha Freedom Party and other organisations turned up at the Tafelsig squatter camp to demonstrate solidarity with the community, who were braced for the arrival of bulldozers yesterday.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Tafelsig squatters gain reprieve of a few days

CT 5/5/98

(307)

CHRIS BATEMAN AND RONALD MORRIS

THE 3 000 squatters who have moved on to vacant land in Tafelsig have gained a reprieve with the Cape Town City Council's giving a High Court judge an undertaking that it will not bulldoze their shacks this week.

Four of the squatters, Ms Karen January, Ms Shaheda Heynes, Ms Chrystal Booys and Ms Rashieda Davids, have applied to the High Court for the council's interim order, granted last week, to be dismissed with costs.

Following discussions in Mr Justice J Hlophe's chambers yesterday, the council gave an undertaking that the squatters' shacks would not be bulldozed until the application had been heard this Friday.

The squatters, meanwhile — unaware of this development and expecting their shacks to be demolished yesterday — remained jittery on the 6 000 square metres of land they had cleared and turned into an "instant" settlement dubbed "Freedom City" or "Home at Last". Shouting and screaming erupted whenever a police Casspir or van approached.

Settlement in "Freedom City" apparently began as a spontaneous land invasion born of frustration with the city council's housing waiting list. By yesterday, it had been turned into a political opportunity for every organisation imaginable.

Supporters of Pagad were at the site, as were members of Qibla, and representatives of the mainstream political parties, including the

Inkatha Freedom Party, had become involved.

However, Ms Shereen Rowlands, spokesperson for the Tafelsig People's Association, the body purporting to represent the settlers, said the squatters had lost all faith "in any of the political parties".

"The people are shying away," she said.

"They say they don't want to be kicked around as political footballs. They say they were good enough for votes, but nothing else."

Most of the 3 000 squatters had moved from overcrowded homes and backyard shacks in the area, Rowlands said.

They had been on the council's waiting list for between four and 15 years.

"It began with a lady from one of the more formal self-help

homes.

"Her friends came to visit her and they were complaining of one or two evictions ... they called a meeting two months ago and approached National Party councillor Mr Philip Windvogel, who said moving here would be illegal."

Rowlands said that in the absence of further feedback, they had moved on to the land. Soon the trickle of squatters became a flood.

As far as she knew, there were no Xhosa-speaking people among their number, Rowlands said.

"I think the confusion came in when people referred to the Silver City scenario — when Xhosa speakers invaded land near Driftsands about two years ago and the council gave them electricity, water and ablution facilities."

Rowlands denied that the settlement was a "copy cat" of the Silver City invasion.

She conceded that once the land invasion had begun it became difficult to check whether people were on waiting lists.

Rowlands also represents informal traders in the Mitchell's Plain town centre and is the regional chairperson of the Self-Employed Women's Union.

● The outcome of the Tafelsig squatter issue will have profound implications for the future of Cape Town's ground-breaking new housing policy. In tomorrow's *Insight* pages, Metro Editor Claudia Cavanagh will explain this policy and why it is critical to the council — and the homeless people of Cape Town — that the situation be resolved as soon as possible.

'Invasion of land is not a solution'

CAPE TOWN — The land invasion by squatters at Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain was not a solution to the housing crisis, Western Cape African National Congress leader Ebrahim Rasool said yesterday.

He was commenting on squatters who moved to vacant land in the area last week.

The Cape Town city council obtained an interdict last week to have the squatters evicted, but on Monday

the court stopped the eviction.

The council gave an undertaking not to enforce the eviction until Friday, when the squatters would be given the opportunity to state why they should not be evicted.

"It is highly irresponsible for certain community leaders to initiate such invasions. The poor and vulnerable are often used by unscrupulous elements to gain influence and control," Rasool said. — Sapa.

BB 6/5/98

(307)

CAPE TOWN

At home in a barren land

Something fishy behind the squats

Was it a full-scale land invasion prompted by population pressure, or well-planned political theatre?

Over the weekend ending April 27, Freedom Day, hundreds of illegal squatters occupied land between Mitchells Plain and the False Bay coast. The area, known as Tafelsig, falls under the jurisdiction of the Cape Town City Council, which has demarcated it for socio-economic housing and schools. In addition, the 500-odd shacks that went up blockaded some roads and border on the Wolfgat fynbos reserve.

By the beginning of this week, the number of squatters had risen to more than 3 000, with no adequate water or other infrastructure, and they were refusing to move despite a High Court interdict empowering the council to relocate them. The squatters have been given a stay of execution until May 8, when they will state their legal case.

The settlement has been named Freedom Park/City. The squatters are not newcomers to the Peninsula. Most appear to have con-

verged on Freedom Park from overcrowded "backyard squats" in Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha. Signs along the coastal road and its extensions — from Muizenberg to the N2 and across to Stellenbosch — proclaimed this barren area "home sweet home", and the squatters, some of whom are on housing lists, say they will not move unless given alternative accommodation.

Cape Town — which has a council housing waiting list of 41 000 families, many said to have been waiting for decades — can make no such offer. It doesn't have cash. Its swiftness in seeking legal permission for the removal was prompted by Freedom Park's unwilling neighbours, who have received homes from the authorities, and resent the encroachment of queue-jumpers.

The official unemployment rate in the Western Cape is 22%-25% (nationally it is 33%). Worse, however, is that the Flats bears the brunt: unemployment in Manenberg is 66%, followed by Mitchells Plain.

Development agency Wesgro reports Department of Labour statistics stating that 50 000 new jobs must be created in the Western Cape each year to maintain social stability. But 10 000 jobs were shed last year despite a 4,2% economic growth rate.

A representative for a nongovernmental organisation involved in youth work in Mitchells Plain says she believes the Flats are being turned into "dumping grounds" for the jobless and poor. Clearly, though, a land invasion on this scale was co-ordinated. The

squatters have received support from a number of political, religious and welfare groupings including Muslim group Qibla as well as Pagad. Cosatu has offered to mediate. Court evidence this Friday could help explain the abruptness of the invasion.

The issue of housing lists in the Western Cape has been controversial for some time. Some lists were devised in the previous era when coloureds were deliberately favoured above blacks in terms of work, welfare and housing. National Minister of Housing Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele last year accused NP-orientated Cape officials of continuing to use the old, discriminatory lists.

The Freedom Park invasion is a dramatic illustration, though, of the wider malaise of an insufficiency of funds and an incapacity to deliver to the poor of whatever hue. Cosatu's comment on the situation is illustrative of how deeply the sense of grievance runs: "We have repeatedly warned that working-class communities in the Western Cape have not seen any substantial improvement in their living conditions and quality of life under the current (NP) provincial government."

This, of course, places the blame for the conditions that triggered the land invasion on the provincial administration; and pulling down the shacks will reinforce the NP's image as the party of community destruction. To be fair to the NP, however, 41 000 families cannot be housed overnight.

Peter Wilhelm

Snooze, d

Upper Class

Complimentary snoozesuits and eyeshades, cosy duvets and pillows, not to mention position. All for a business class fare. Now that's a winning combination. Johannesburg

Tafelsig squatters' fate still in balance

ARG 8/5/98 (307)

CITY REPORTER

The fate of about 800 squatter families who illegally occupied land in Tafelsig was still undecided at midday today

A High Court challenge by the squatters to contest their eviction was delayed for lack of a courtroom. The Cape Town Municipality had brought an urgent interdict to evict the squatters, but their lawyers got the High

Court to reconsider the application today.

About 30 placard-waving squatters arrived to follow the proceedings.

Among the residents at the court today was Jerome Smith, who brought with him his application for a council house dated November 11 1986.

He said his wife and three children had been staying on the Tafelsig land for the past two weeks.

Squatters get reprieve as court postpones eviction

AKG 9/5/98 (307)

JERMAINE CRAIG

The Tafelsig squatters facing eviction at the onset of the Cape winter will be able to spend the rest of the cold spell in their shacks after the Cape High Court case to evict them was postponed to August 28.

The 800 families illegally occupied empty council land at Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain two weeks ago.

The squatters greeted the news that they will be able to stay on the vacant field in the Lost City area for another three months with tears of joy and shrieks of jubilation.

"I am very happy at the moment, not for our sake, but for our children's sake," said Chrystal Booy, a mother of five who was the first person to move on to the land.

"I believe that by the end of August there will be better news for us," she said.

The squatters' lawyers were set to contest a High Court order brought by the Cape Town Municip-

pality to evict the squatters from land intended for a school.

The squatters have dubbed the site "Freedom Park".

One of their lawyers, Vincent Saldanha, said his team wanted the case to be argued yesterday but the council's lawyers had indicated they wanted more time to respond to matters raised by his team.

Mr Saldanha said the council was still keen on executing the court order to evict the squatter families, but added that his team wanted a review of the earlier High Court decision to grant the interdict to evict the squatters.

He said the squatters would be able to remain on the land until the case was argued again in court. After waiting almost six hours for the court to decide their fate, about 30 placard-waving squatters danced and sang on the court steps after hearing of their reprieve.

To page 2

Reprieve for squatters after court raincheck

AKG 9/5/98 (307)
From page 1

Jerome Smith, the father of two daughters and a five-month-old son, arrived at court with his housing application card, dated November 11 1986.

He said his family had moved from one place to another in search of a home, but had been told by the authorities that no houses were available.

Defending the decision by the squatters to occupy the land, Mr Smith said: "Who is going to help me if I do not help myself?"

Another squatter said: "At last we have got what we wanted."

Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille, who had just won a court battle to set aside a 15-day ban imposed on her by the National Assembly for abusing parliamentary privilege, gave her support to the Tafelsig group and took the squatters to Parliament for coffee and biscuits.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who emerged from the court building after the court set aside the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's blanket amnesty to 37 high-ranking ANC members, said the plight of the squatters was a "horrible thing".

"You know where my heart is. I would want for us to do all we can to ensure that people are treated decently. One of the ways for that to happen is for people to have decent accommodation," he said.

"As a result of apartheid, resources were used for stupid things like forced removals. One hopes that resources can now be used for things like housing to ensure that people are treated with decency."



HOUSING: Tafelsig squatter Jerome Smith outside the High Court with his housing application
Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

Squatter shacks torn down

BABALWA SHOTA

ST(CM) 10/5/98

TYGERBERG municipal workers and police moved in on the latest squatter camp in Khayelitsha and tore down two shacks this week as tensions mounted.

The action came after more than six months of peace at the Lindelani settlement. Joseph Mala, a member of the local street committee, said people were scared and confused by the council's actions.

"We thought the council had no problem with us staying here. In January we wrote them a letter asking to stay here legally. We have not had any reply yet, but we know they are aware of us because they come to collect the rubbish," said Mala.

The settlement has come under fire from other local people, particularly train commuters, as it is situated next to Nonkubela train station and the Sanlam shopping centre in Site B.

As a result the residents of Lindelani have to put up with daily abuse from commuters forced to dodge between the concentration of shacks and washing lines to catch their trains.

Mala said his small community had done all it could to make it easier for the commuters.

"We have left a path where these people can run for their trains, but they still swear at us when they pass. They tell us to move, that we are making the place dirty. But we will not be forced out by the people of Khayelitsha. This is the only home we have," said Mala.

About 250 people lived in the area, but they had no running water or sewerage, said Mala. They relied on facilities at the nearby shopping centre, clinic and the Site B township.

However, people at Site B complained that their taps and sewerage were "being ruined" by the Lindelani folk.

Bongani Mtyhobille, who also lives in the settlement, said the clinic personnel chased them away whenever they went to the toilets there. He said the station's toilets closed early so people were forced to go to the clinic and Site B.

Mala said the residents desperately needed their own facilities and were worried about children crossing the railway line to fetch water.

At one stage they had negotiated with a council representative on getting bucket toilets, he said.

"But now it seems the council has changed its mind about letting us stay here. We are waiting to see what is going to happen," said Mala. "We did not choose to be here. All of us were living in other people's properties and being mistreated. Even though the houses get flooded, it's still home."

Thomas Johnson, chair community task group, said let was closed for a trial crime and anti-social beh

Morkel rejects

GERALD Morkel, premier, vironment MEC, has rejected application to sub-divide land for development at Zone said on Friday.

His decision to refuse to take a permit means the area near the Silvermine River, sula Protected Natural Area, zoned as a nature area.

Pedal power

THE race against crime in Tygerberg area this week proposed to buy bicycles.

According to a council report, 14 "Gary Fisher" bicycles were to be adopted for the local police.

A police spokesman said police foot patrols in the area.

Robben Island

FOUR crew members of the Challenger were plucked after their boat ran aground yesterday morning.

They had been trying to tow a wane trawler, the Kiar, aground on April 30.

All reports by Cape Met

merciless weather when Island to Bloubergstrand. Picture: TERRY SHEAN

It's never too late to own a piece of District Six

YVETTE VAN BREDA

A HISTORIC banking deal has made 93-year-old Amalia Kamphor a proud first-time home owner this weekend when she took possession of the District Six terraced cottage where she has lived for 61 years.

Kamphor and her family, together with 44 others in her street, were part of a deal between the Cape of Good Hope Bank and the

District Six Civic Association, which enabled 45 families to own the homes they had been renting for more than 70 years in Osborne and Francis streets, Woodstock.

"We are very grateful to the bank for giving us the chance to own our homes," said 77-year-old Grace Barron, who was born in the corner cottage she now owns.

"But it's a pity it had to come so late in my life," she added.

The widow of 27 years recalls how she was determined to stay in "my birthplace" even

though her husband had bought a piece of land in Heideveld over 40 years ago. "He had to sell it because I did not want to leave my birthplace and go and live in the bush, which it was at the time.

"I've been so happy here," she says of the little cluster of houses on the outskirts of District Six.

The houses managed to escape demolition and the Group Areas Act in the apartheid era because they were built on land classified as an industrial area.

ST(CM) 10/5/98

Milestone for the Vrygrond

Papers signed to ensure better future for families

(307) APT 23/6/98

PETER GOOSEN
STAFF REPORTER

Oom Thys Witbooi is a happy man because his dream is coming true.

He has lived in the Vrygrond informal settlement between Muizenberg and Retreat for 37 years.

He has put up with outbreaks of violence, the fires, the floods, the leaking roofs and bitter cold of winter and being sand-blasted and roasted by the south-easter and the heat of summer.

But, at the same time, he has fathered 18 children – from several wives – and 11 of them still live with him.

And at last it looks as if he will get a house with running water, water-borne sewerage and electricity.

After a seven-year battle – it's not over yet – papers were signed by South Peninsula Mayor O J. Jacobs, which mark the end of the process to wrap up the plans for Vrygrond and apply to the Housing Board for the finance to build a new Vrygrond.

"This must be the happiest day of my life. It's a dream come true," said Oom Thys.

But the problems involved in giving the 5000 inhabitants services like running water flush toilets, roads and electricity are not yet over.

It really came as no surprise when a signing ceremony at the Constantia municipal offices was interrupted by a deputation of South African National Civics Organisation and African National Congress members, who were opposed to the process by which

the development had reached the signing stage.

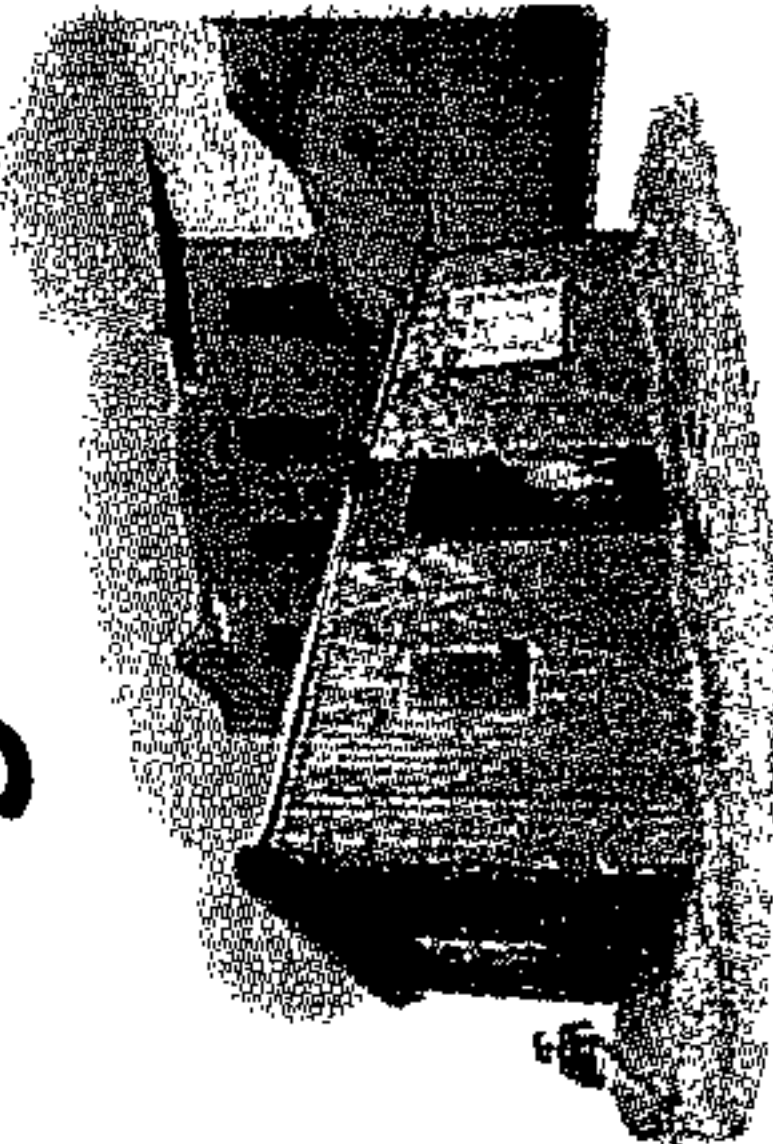
And it didn't help when, through a misunderstanding, security staff barred the deputation, who had been invited to attend, from entering the building unless they could show some form of identity.

The document signed by Mr Jacobs was the application to the provincial Housing Development Board for project-based subsidies for Vrygrond from the state capital subsidy scheme.

The feud between opposing forces in the settlement has been simmering for a long time and is complicated, to say the least. It apparently stems from the original formation of the Vrygrond Community Development Trust, the body made up of representatives from Vrygrond to be the link between the development and the Vrygrond community.

There was a walkout by some Sanco and ANC members, while other members of both bodies remained on the trust.

Neighbours



Send your neighbourhood news and notices to Peter Goosen at 488 4311, fax 488 4075 or e-mail nhood@ctn.independent.co.za

Settlement

side (2nd)

Squatters siphoning schools dry

ST(CM) 5/7/98
BOBBY JORDAN

(307)

SQUATTERS are siphoning off millions of rands in water from Western Cape schools, according to the Department of Education.

The problem has reached critical proportions in Khayelitsha, where the council is also battling to move squatters who have built shacks on top of manholes.

The department appealed to the Tygerberg City Council this week to resolve the water problem.

This follows a showdown between the council and department officials last month over unpaid wa-

ter bills of about R6-million.

The council has threatened to cut off water supplies to the Khayelitsha schools and has given the department until the end of the month to settle its account.

In a report tabled this week, council finance director Hein Herbst said the matter had been referred to Education MEC Nic Koornhof.

The department has denied responsibility for the outstanding amount, claiming the debt was largely inherited from the former Department of Education and Training.

Department officials this week said the education budget could

not be used to subsidise municipal services to squatter communities.

"These astronomical water bills are absolute proof of what we've thought all along — that water is being drawn by squatter communities," said the department's chief director of administrative services, Jan Hurter.

"When we checked the water meter figures we worked out that the figures were extremely high for each pupil — ridiculously high," said Hurter. "We can only suspect that local communities have been making use of the water."

Council and department officials would meet soon to resolve the matter, Hurter said.

Defiant De Lille under fire as squatters, cops clash over 'invasion'

ARLT 13/7/98 (307)

BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

Residents of Thornhill in Rylands have accused the Pan Africanist Congress of "playing political football" with 50 families who occupied Cape Town municipal land with the help of PAC MP Patricia de Lille at the weekend.

The community's accusations were supported by the deputy chairman of the Cape Town City Council executive committee, Saleem Mowzer, who said city officials would hold top-level talks today to discuss the land invasion and the PAC's role.

"There are some shack dwellers who have lived on the land for 47 years and who may have a legitimate claim to the property, but this could have been jeopardised by the weekend invasion," he said.

A fact-finding team from the municipality will investigate conditions at Poek-se-Bos, the shack settlement on adjacent privately owned land from which the invaders came.

Mr Mowzer suspected the owner of the land, businessman Khanti Patel, was working with the PAC to get shack dwellers off his property so he could sell it.

Today Mr Patel dismissed this accusation as "nonsense" saying he had never been "in cahoots" with Ms de Lille on the issue.

"These people moved off my land because it is waterlogged and living conditions are terrible."

He accused the council of laying all the responsibility for resolving the squatting crisis at his door. "Housing is not my problem. It is something they (the council) must sort out," Mr Patel said.

The move by the squatters led to confrontation with the municipality and police, who used teargas and rubber bullets to break a human chain trying to prevent bulldozers reaching the shacks yesterday.

After a three-hour battle, about 30 children were taken to Hanover Park Day Hospital or treatment for teargas inhalation.

The Poek-se-Bos squatters were reinforced by Tafelsig squatters ferried in by taxis organised by Ms De Lille, who said: "If I am an opportunist by helping these people then I'm a damn good opportunist. They can all go to hell! I don't need their votes."

In a letter, community leaders from adjacent Thornhill condemned the PAC's action, describing it as "the abuse of vulnerable people for short-term political gain".

Among the signatories were the Thornhill Residents Association, the Gatesville Traders Association and Athlone RDP Forum. The leaders also claimed that the PAC was working with Mr Patel.

Before yesterday's incident, the council was negotiating with Mr Patel to develop his land for housing to accommodate the people of Poek-se-Bos. Residents have suggested that having the people off his land would free Mr Patel to sell the land on the open market.

Ms De Lille fired back at the associations, saying they were "racists living in that area in luxury and opulence without lifting a finger to help the squatters living next door".

Provincial ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool called for the PAC to discipline Ms De Lille "for her direct role in orchestrating an illegal land invasion of council land".

Report, pictures: page 2

Land invasion backed by PAC

CT 13/7/98

(307)

DAN SIMON

MEMBERS of the community who have been squatting for several years on private land in Rylands, Friday invaded adjacent Cape Town City Council land with the backing of Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille and support from fellow squatters specially bused in from Mitchells Plain.

The Rylands squatters, who had been living on land owned by city businessman Kanti Patel in Jane Avenue, invaded adjoining council land in Ramola Avenue and began building shacks.

Other squatters from Tafelsig, in Mitchells Plain, were brought in by minibus taxis after De Lille called for reinforcements to prevent the council from demolishing 22 newly-built shacks.

The Rylands and Tafelsig squatters formed a human chain when a large contingent of police and city council workers arrived to knock down the shacks they had built with new materials supplied by the PAC.

Police moved in with dogs to break up the human chain and then fired rounds of teargas and birdshot to disperse the large, angry crowd, to make way for a front-end loader to demolish the shacks.

During the demolition, a group of squatters appealed to De Lille, who was watching from the sidelines, asking her to intervene and stop the council from destroying all the shacks.

A compromise was agreed to by De Lille and city council official Anwar Isaacs, and the squatters were allowed to dismantle the remaining shacks themselves.

De Lille, who was also involved



DEEP WATER: PAC MP Patricia de Lille at the site of the illegal squatter settlement in Rylands. She raised money for materials after squatters living on waterlogged land asked for help. **PICTURE: THEM BINKOSI DWAYISA**

in the land invasion issue in Tafelsig earlier this year, said she became involved in the latest land invasion after she was approached for help by the Jane Avenue squatters, who told her their area was "waterlogged" and that they wanted to move to the adjacent council property, which was drier.

"I got involved because they asked me to assist them," De Lille said. "I came to look at the conditions they were living under and realised that, even if they wanted to move their shacks, they were falling apart."

"I then went fund-raising and asked several businesses to donate money to buy materials."

De Lille said she had raised

between R10 000 and R15 000 to buy wood, nails and corrugated iron sheets.

When council officials had indicated during a meeting on Saturday that the council would demolish the illegal settlement, she had decided to call in reinforcements from Tafelsig to resist the move.

"I know I'll be grilled over this, but what the hell," said De Lille.

The PAC's role in the weekend land invasion was condemned yesterday by the Cape Town City Council, which said the PAC was "whipping up the emotions of the homeless" for political gain.

"We strongly condemn the actions of the PAC and the manner in which they used innocent people

for short-term party gains," said exco deputy chairperson Saleem Mowzer. "They (the PAC) are encouraging people to act unlawfully and this is something the council cannot condone. This is not the answer to the housing crisis."

The ANC also condemned the PAC for its "naked opportunism", saying the PAC should take disciplinary steps against De Lille for her direct role in orchestrating an illegal invasion of council land.

"The city council and the SA Police Service should fully investigate the role played by the PAC in providing materials for the building of shacks and organising the land invasion itself," said ANC provincial leader Ebrahim Rasool.

New hopes shattered after squatters' life of struggle

VINCENT LAU
STAFF REPORTER

For more than 20 years, Pooke-se-Bos resident Victoria Mbanya has been "stealing" water from various places in Rylands and Gatesville.

Ms Mbanya, who has never had a tap or proper sanitation, said she

was one of about 800 people with high hopes of settling into a decent home in a low-cost housing project in Vygieskraal.

But this dream was shattered last year when she heard that the Pooke-se-Bos community, also known as the Jane Avenue squatters, were to be excluded from the project.

Then at the weekend she and about 100 other people were forcibly removed by the Cape Town municipality and police from a piece of "decent land" near Pooke-se-Bos.

The removal happened less than 24 hours after they had occupied it and built new shacks.

Describing life at Pooke-se-Bos, she said: "We survived by asking

and sometimes stealing water from schools and residents."

Using this "stolen water", she reared two children, now teenagers.

Like most other people in the bush, Ms Mbanya, 49, does casual domestic work in Rylands and Gatesville.

Another victim of the weekend's clashes was Nancy Bool, 60, who

lost most of her belongings, clothing and furniture.

She has been living in Pooke-se-Bos for more than 20 years and has reared a son and several relatives' children.

On Sunday she was forced to move in temporarily with a neighbour whose house is already packed to capacity.

De Lille wins hearts in battle of Pooke-se-Bos

Squatters back PAC after land clashes

ARG 14/7/98 (307)

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

The Pooke-se-Bos squatter community in Athlone has become a Pan Africanist Congress stronghold overnight, say those who live there.

Residents who quit the shantytown in Rylands Estate to occupy nearby council land were faced with bulldozers, rubber bullets and teargas at the weekend when they clashed with police.

Five people were wounded by rubber bullets and 30 children were treated at the Hanover Park Day Hospital after inhaling teargas.

Jenean Roman, 2, an asthmatic, was discharged from the Hanover Park Day Hospital yesterday. She had inhaled teargas.

On Saturday about 100 people moved from the Pooke-se-Bos area to occupy Cape Town municipal land 400 metres away with the help of PAC MP Patricia de Lille.

Angry squatters said yesterday they had been living in the bush without water and sanitation for more than 30 years.

Most of them were domestic workers, gardeners and handymen in nearby Rylands and Gatesville.

Squatter representative Mieta Hofstader, chairwoman of the Jane Road Informal Settlement Association, said the Pooke-se-Bos homeless community had been excluded, without being given proper notice, about 12 months ago from a low-cost housing project in Vygieskraal about 3km away.

She said the "people we voted for" could do nothing to help the community.

"Out of desperation this community turned to Patricia de Lille and the PAC," she said.

"In three weeks, these people, who did not get our votes, did more for us than the city council and others had done for us in 20 years."

Shack-dweller Susan Manuel claimed Ms De Lille was famous for helping homeless people.

Ms Hofstader said police action



Back injury: Mervin Wanle displays the wound he sustained when police opened fire with birdshot on Sunday

at the weekend was a flashback of what happened in 1976 when police brutalised helpless people.

Amid loud applause, association member Johan Swart said the people of Pooke-se-Bos would vote for the PAC, "without a doubt", in next year's election.

However, Ms De Lille said yesterday she did not want to politicise the matter.

The focus had to be on real issues such as the need to highlight the fact that people were living in abject poverty.

"The African National Congress has implemented nothing to help these people. They were even excluded from a low-cost housing project in Vygieskraal last year," Ms De Lille said.

Editorial comment, page 11



Homeless: Nancy Bool, 60, whose shack on municipal land was demolished on Sunday

Council to probe living conditions at shack site

NORMAN JOSEPH AND VINCENT LAU
STAFF REPORTERS

The Cape Town municipality has assigned its cleansing, health and housing departments to investigate living conditions at Pooke-se-Bos shack settlement.

Saleem Mowzer, deputy chairman of the city council executive committee, said yesterday the municipality was in the process of identifying land for the people living there.

About 100 Pooke-se-Bos residents occupied municipal land at the weekend with the help of Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille.

Mieta Hofstader, chairwoman of the Jane Road Informal Settlement Association, alleges that Mr Mowzer and the city council excluded them last year without notice from a low-cost housing project at Vygieskraal, Belgravia Estate, meant for homeless people in Vygieskraal and Pooke-se-Bos.

"Saleem Mowzer was active in this community only until he got our votes and then he disappeared," Ms Hofstader said.

But Mr Mowzer rejected the accusation, saying he was part of an initiative with the Athlone RDP and other roleplayers to form one joint housing project for the Pooke-se-Bos and Vygieskraal shack-dwellers.

Mr Mowzer said the council recently resolved that only 82 houses would be built at Vygieskraal and they would be for homeless people from that area only.

He said the council recently provided protective plastic sheeting, medical assistance and a job-creation programme for Pooke-se-Bos people.

Meanwhile, a row has erupted between the African National Congress and the PAC over the involvement of Ms de Lille in the land invasion. Provincial ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool called on the PAC to take disciplinary action against her for organising the "illegal invasion".

But PAC Western Cape organiser Joe Brown hit back, saying: "Any activity by Ms De Lille to alleviate the plight of the poor must come under the title of noble deeds."

He said the PAC rejected ANC attempts to undermine "our modern-day Mother Teresa", Patricia de Lille.

Ratepayers foot the bill in city land war

Council spent more than R70 000 to oust Rylands squatters

NORMAN JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

The Cape Town municipality has forked out more than R70 000 of ratepayers' money to evict illegal occupants twice from land in Rylands Estate.

Municipal spokeswoman Leonora de Souza said it had cost about R50 000 to remove Pooke-se-Bos shack-dwellers from the neighbouring site they occupied at the weekend.

When the squatters re-built their shanties yesterday, the municipality repeated the exercise.

This had cost ratepayers about R25 000, said Ms De Souza.

On Saturday about 100 people moved from Pooke-se-Bos to Cape Town municipal land 400 metres away with the help of PAC MP Patricia de Lille.

Yesterday, Ms De Lille, senior PAC officials Avriil Harding and Joe Brown and the squatters had a tense confrontation with police and municipal law enforcement officials.

The PAC trio argued vehemently with Cape Town municipal squatter control and law enforcement officer Anwar Isaacs that the 48 hours required to evict illegal occupants and structures from a site in terms of the Land Act had expired on Sunday.

During heated exchanges they contended that people could not be removed from the land after the 48 hours expired.

They said new written warnings had to be issued.

Mr Isaacs said he was acting within 48 hours and it was not necessary for the municipality to get an eviction order.

Rylands and Gatesville residents who gathered near the scene said the



Here we go: a shack-dweller moves out with her cat and television set

squatters needed housing urgently because they had been living in squalor for many years.

Rylands resident Allie Parker said people in the neighbourhood agreed that the Pooke-se-Bos squatters had to get proper housing.

"What we are worried about is

that our property values may drop as a result of the chaos on the vacant land.

"We in Rylands are concerned about the people living in the bush for so many years without homes because they are human beings," Mr Parker said.



Cover-up: Simon Stanfield tries to hide his face as PAC MP Patricia de Lille asks Cape Argus to stop taking photographs

Pooke-se-Bos shack dwellers battle health problems

Twenty people living in the unhealthy conditions at Pooke-se-Bos shackland are battling tuberculosis and a man has died of AIDS.

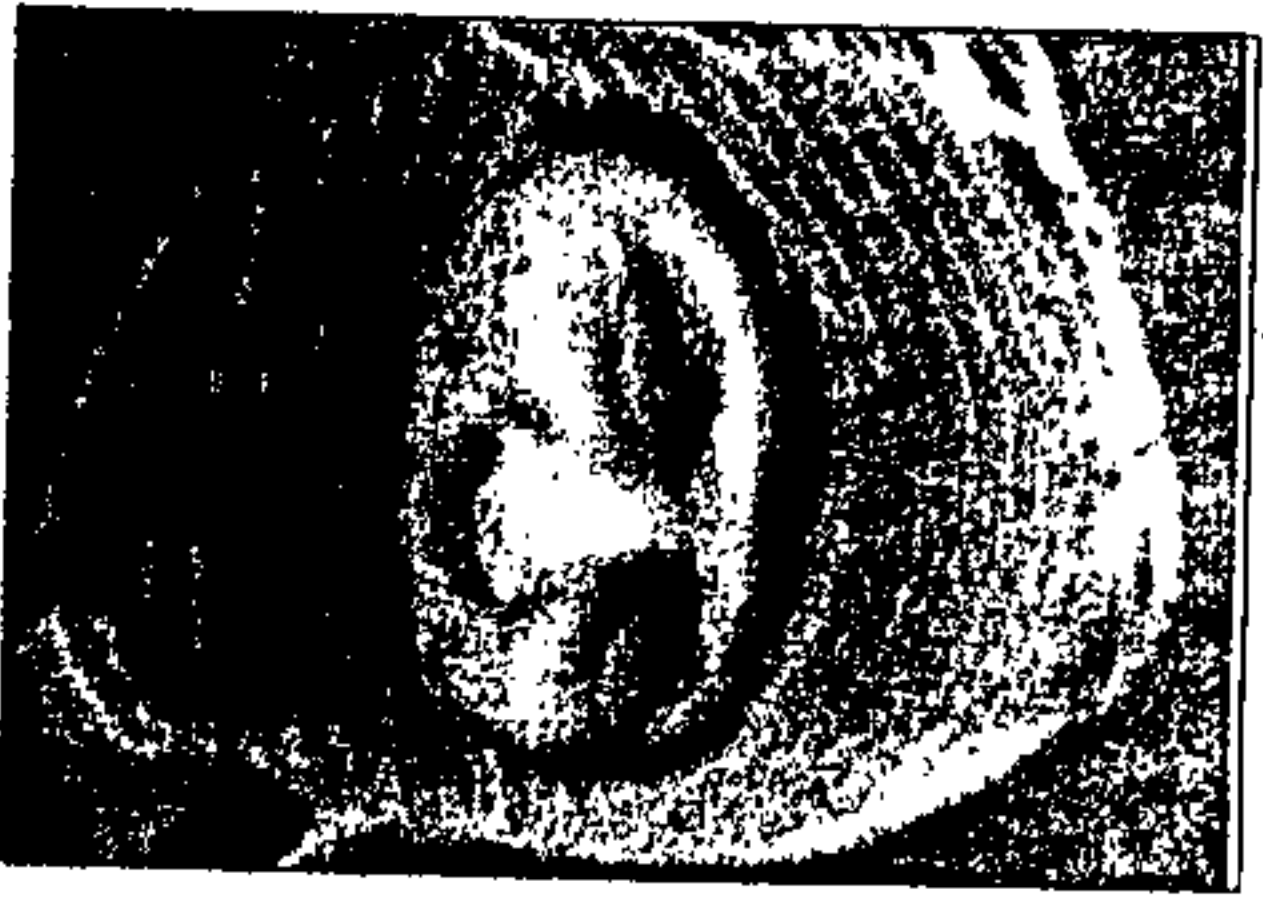
Mietia Hofstader, chairwoman of

the Jane Road Informal Settlement Association, said the lack of running water and sanitation caused extreme health problems in the settlement.

She said the squatters had been

"living like this for many years in summer and winter months".

Shack-dweller Peter Benjamin said building materials worth more than R60 000 had been damaged dur-



Face-off: Simon Stanfield

Stanfield brother among squatters

STAFF REPORTER

Simon Stanfield, brother of alleged gang leader Colin Stanfield, was spotted among squatters in Rylands Estate yesterday.

Mr Stanfield was among those at a meeting addressed by Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille. Ms De Lille said Mr Stanfield lived in Pooke-se-Bos and operated a shebeen there.

When Cape Argus photographer Obed Zilwa took pictures, Mr Stanfield covered his face. Ms De Lille protested and ordered Zilwa to stop. An altercation followed before she agreed Zilwa could do his job.

ing the evictions and some taken away by the municipality.

A council spokesman said the corrugated iron and wood had been impounded but would be returned.

CAPE ARGUS, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1998

Defiant De Lille vows to help more squatters

Poor ask PAC firebrand for talks

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Fiery Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille has vowed to highlight the plight of more squatter communities across the country.

Aided by Ms De Lille, about 100 people moved at the weekend from Pooke-se-Bos in Rylands and occupied Cape Town municipal land 400m away. This led to confrontation between police and municipal officials and the squatters, whose shacks were demolished by bulldozers.

Now people living in squalor in Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Gauteng, North-West Province and the Western Cape have invited Ms De Lille for talks.

Ms De Lille confirmed the requests, saying hundreds of shack communities had appealed unsuccessfully to local authorities for help over the years. "I will use my profile to highlight homeless people's plights because local authorities everywhere are turning a deaf ear."

Pooke-se-Bos squatter representative Mieta Hofstander said: "Out of desperation this community turned to Patricia de Lille and the PAC for help. She did not come to us; we went to her because the people heard about her good deeds."

Cape Town municipal squatter control officer Anwar Isaacs alleged that Ms De Lille was using the Pooke-se-Bos squatters, and that the PAC had whipped up trouble in the settlement.

Meanwhile, African National Congress provincial leader Ebrahim Rasool has again called on PAC leader Stanley Magoba to take disciplinary action against Ms De Lille.

In a letter to Dr Magoba, Mr Rasool claimed Ms De Lille had led squatters in an invasion of land, helped them to set up structures and brought people from other areas to resist the city council.

In response, Ms De Lille said Mr Rasool must observe protocol. The ANC's national leader should approach Dr Magoba, not Mr Rasool.

The PAC supported her and "the ANC must discipline their own members".

"The ANC and others tried to take action against me in Parliament but they failed," Ms De Lille said.



SUPPORT: Pan Africanist Congress Member of Parliament Patricia de Lille with squatters in Rylands

Picture: OBED ZILWA

Rylands squatters to get running water, sanitation

ART 18/7/98

(307)

JERMAINE CRAIG

After many years of living in squalor, the Jane Avenue squatters of Rylands are finally getting running water and sanitation facilities.

This was achieved only after they had broken the law and invaded municipal land after staying on private land for more than 20 years – with no facilities.

Land invasions have become commonplace in Cape Town and have exacerbated the enormous housing crisis in the province, with more than 200 000 Western Cape families in dire need of housing.

These invasions, such as the one at Rylands last week, in Tafelsig earlier this year and the illegal occupation of houses in Delft have served as a reminder of the desperate circumstances people are living in and want to get out of.

The situation has been described as one of “utter anarchy” which could lead to open warfare. Although many housing plans have been announced and formulated there has been virtually no concrete delivery of homes, which has become a highly emotive political issue.

In the run-up to the next general election, political parties will be using the housing issue as a vehicle to garner votes.

Many have criticised the dramatic contribution of Pan Africanist Congress firebrand Patricia de Lille in the Rylands incident, where she helped squatters invade council land – but the situation was ripe for the picking.

Ms De Lille said she was simply “championing the cause of the poor and downtrodden” and the time had come for “concrete steps” to be taken to uplift the living conditions of the thousands of homeless people in the country.

Whatever the merits of Ms De Lille’s actions, assisting the Rylands squatters in breaking the law could set dangerous precedents and make it even more difficult to deal with the problem.

In May the Western Cape housing minister, Cecil Herandien, lashed out at local councils in the Cape metropolitan area, accusing them of a “lack of interest” in tackling the housing backlog.

“They can talk very easily of housing delivery, but to me it seems they are not very serious,” Mr Herandien said then.

He then convened a housing summit in June to fast-track the delivery of houses, at which local councils agreed on a metropolitan-wide approach to tackle the housing backlog.

A task team was appointed after the sum-

mit to look at ways of taking the housing delivery process forward.

Mr Herandien’s spokeswoman, Surita Botes, said the task team had completed draft guidelines which they will forward to the minister this week.

She said Mr Herandien then intended to discuss these new measures and get them through the legislature.

Ms Botes said the ministry was doing “everything it possibly can” to get the housing process off the ground, but a major stumbling block was the lack of funds.

“The main problem at the moment is that there are no more funds available this year to execute any new housing projects. What the local authorities will have to look at is getting some means of getting bridging finance in place so that projects can start running, until province has money again.

“We have petitioned the national Government for extra funds, but their purses are basically empty as well. There are such a lot of projects that are ready. If we are given the money today they can start tomorrow,” Ms Botes said.

To date the housing ministry has received more than 95 000 housing subsidy applications and was ready to implement projects worth more than R300-million, if it had the money.

Promises of homes, but Delft illegals still face action

(307)
NORMAN JOSEPH
AND CHARLES NGULUWE

STAFF REPORTERS

ARG 22/7/98
The Western Cape Housing Development Board is pressing ahead with court action against Delft South's illegal occupants in spite of a decision to allocate houses to them.

Provincial housing Minister Cecil Herandien announced on Monday that houses would be given to "illegals" whose names appeared on either the Tygerberg or Cape Town Municipality's housing lists.

The move would hopefully end the ongoing housing conflict in Delft, said Tygerberg municipal officials.

The board is seeking an eviction order to remove about 150 illegal occupants from houses in the integrated Serviced Land Project development, the largest in Cape Town.

Last Friday High Court judge Mr Justice Ben Griesel postponed the board's application to evict the illegal occupants to Friday.

The 150 illegals would first be evicted and then the housing department would consult with them.

Housing conflict in Delft South appear to be ending but police and the justice department will continue with a clamp-down on illegal occupants.

Bellville South police commander Jan Solomons and state prosecutors held talks at the Bellville Magistrate's Court on Monday regarding charges laid by legal homeowners against illegal occupants.

Superintendent Solomons said five cases of intimidation were under investigation - 25 extra police from different units were drafted into Delft South on Monday to help prevent further clashes.

Superintendent Solomons said he hoped the fighting would stop now that the housing department made a positive move.

In the past two weeks the conflict resulted in the death of one resident and the wounding of another. Doors were kicked down and people assaulted.

Provincial housing spokesperson Surita Botes said illegal occupants whose names appeared on the waiting lists would be allocated houses, but those people whose names were not on the lists would be evicted.

Illegal occupants living in houses earmarked for legal buyers would be asked to leave and other houses elsewhere in the town given to them.

Claude Ipser, chairman of Tygerberg Municipality's standing committee on housing, said the provincial housing department's decision was consistent with its move in April to accommodate illegal Crossroads people. He said it would hopefully end the conflict, but must not be repeated.

Outsiders giving Cardboard City

(307)

RESIDENTS of the flyover shanty town known as Cardboard City have been blamed for mugging tourists, breaking into cars and the escalating violence in the Waterfront area. But they say they are an ordinary community of hard working people. **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH** and **ERIC NTABAZALILA** report.

IT'S a dank, damp winter's morning in central Cape Town. Mayor Arthur Maphike greets constituents as they leave for work and chivvies along a young street sweeper.

The crèche is up and running, a small crowd has gathered in front of the local shop and later on in the day the after-care centre will open for older children.

"If I could just sort out the crime here, I'd be very happy," he says over the din of morning traffic.

Like any good mayor Maphike is worried about his people and prepared to take up the cudgel on their behalf. But this is no ordinary town and Maphike is no ordinary mayor.

For starters, his constituency is a few hundred square metres of tarmac under the Western Boulevard and labelled the most dangerous place for tourists in Cape Town. It's Cardboard City or, as it was formerly known, the Bridge Hotel.

"I'd like the tourists who were robbed in the area to come forward and say whether it was any of us," he says with passion.

Quiet during the day, the area is a hive of activity at night when shebeens open and visitors arrive.

Less than a kilometre from the

Waterfront, it has been blamed for most of the muggings of tourists in the area. Which is why the City of Cape Town plans to fence it off.

"Good," says Maphike, "I'll keep the skollies out. We're like a big family. While there are some skollies living here, most of us work and look after one another."

Many of the 200 residents have lived in Cardboard City for years. One couple, Neville Kleinbooi and Susan Tolla have lived under the bridge for 27 years.

"Criminals are drawn to Cardboard City by stories in the press and then we become victims of crime," Maphike said.

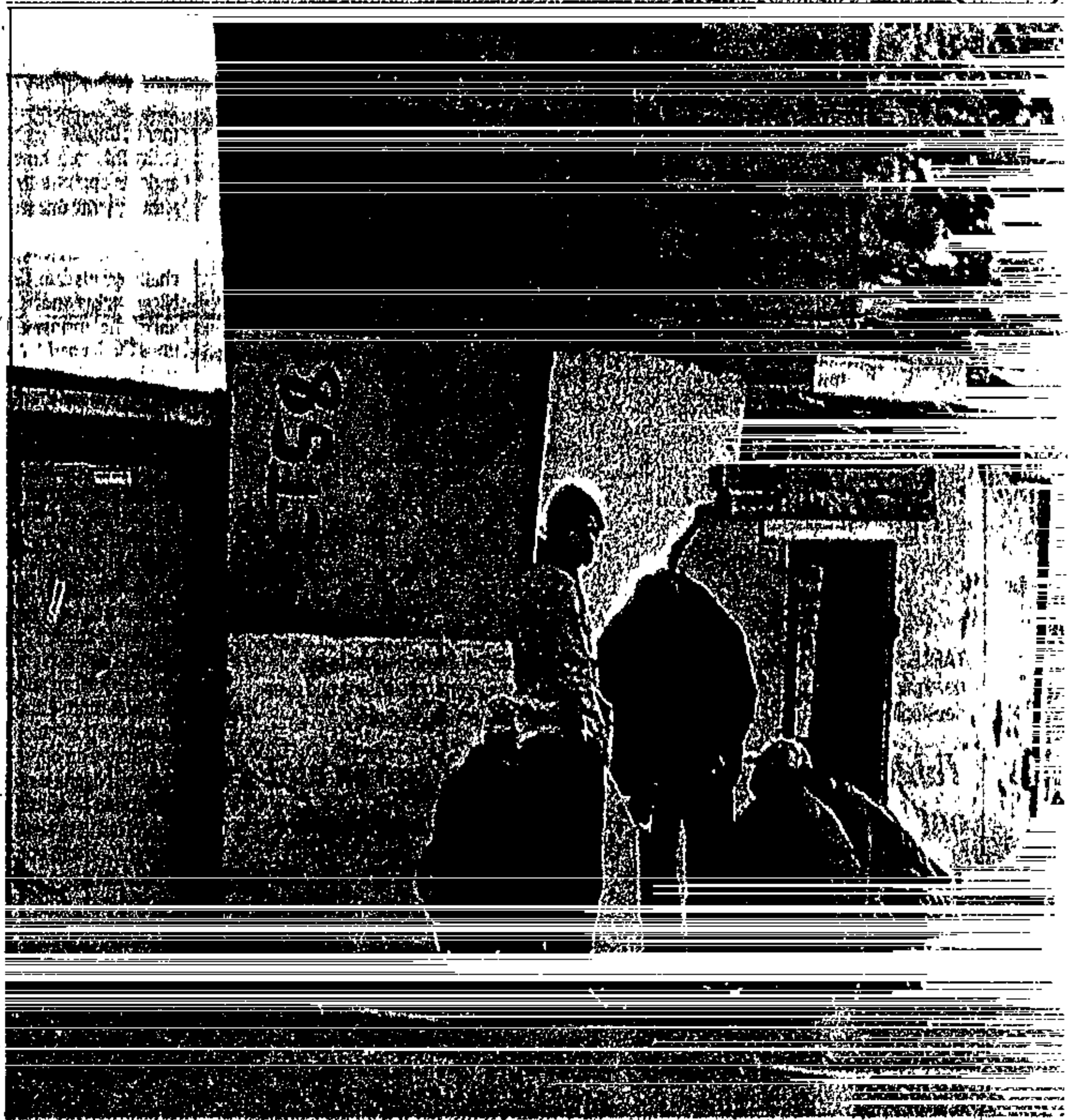
On the morning of the *Cape Times* visit, the police had been called to the aid of a resident.

"She was asleep in her shack when passers-by walked in and tried to rape her," said Maphike.

"The other day, a car sped up, dumped a whole pile of rubbish in the middle of our road, lit it and drove off. We had to call the fire brigade.

"As for the nightclub across the road, they say we break into their cars, but you should see the litter they throw around our houses."

A handful of residents, on condition of anonymity, acknowl-



GAMBLING FOR A LIVING: Some of the fathers who don't stroll around the city looking for temporary jobs spend the day playing

edged that criminals used the place as a hideout and threatened those willing to speak to the police.

But they stressed that the criminals did not live there.

"There wasn't any crime when we first started staying here about

six years ago. We were only about 76. When the population increased criminal elements used that opportunity because they knew it would be difficult for police to find them," said Justice Somayise, a residents' committee member struggling to improve the image of the shanty town.

"We need to stress to everybody, including tourists, that these criminals are not from here. I think the city centre especially around St George's Mall is more dangerous than many people think."

Zizwe Maliti, who came from J-Section in Khayelitsha about six years ago and used to stroll around the city looking for a job, said he was angry because police always arrived at Cardboard City in search of culprits when cars were broken into in Cape Town.

"Many of the people who break into cars are from other areas, like these young boys from Bokaap.

"All this bad publicity is giving us a bad name and people have stopped giving us food because they say we are criminals," he said.

But things are looking up for the people of Cardboard City.

Land has been set aside for low-cost housing near Lentegeur Hospital in Mitchells Plain and they've been promised some of the sites there — once conditions set by their new neighbours have been met by the council.

"I hope it'll all be sorted out by the end of the month. Then they can move," said City Manager Andrew Boraine.

"The area under the bridge is clearly unsafe because it is downtown, derelict dead space. It needs to be secured with a fence and a gate for legitimate residents.

"The residents are vulnerable and often unfairly blamed for crime. At least then they'll be able to sleep well at night."

Boraine said members of the private sector had agreed to sponsor rail passes to work for former Cardboard City residents, for a year after their move to Mitchell's Plain.

"The private sector will then develop the area and make it safe. It could, for instance, become a properly secured car park, a place to store boats or be rented to film studios. This will help stabilise the area," he said.

Sea Point ward councillor Chris Joubert says he's investigating extending the Rent-a-Cop scheme to the area.

But Maphike is still worried. "It's a tough life here and you've got to live with our people to really know their problems. You can't drive past and expect to know their expectations and fears.

"I want to give them a proper balanced life. We have to learn to do things for ourselves, to make our own life."



BORN IN 'THE CITY': Caroline Abrahams with her son Andile, who was born in the shanty town under a flyover.



AT SCHOOL: parking lots in

Cardboard City a bad name

(307) CT(DR) 22/7/98



Fathers who don't stroll around the city looking for temporary jobs spend the day playing dice.

six years ago. We were only about 76. When the population increased criminal elements used that opportunity because they knew it would be difficult for police to find them," said Justice Somaylse, a residents' committee member struggling to improve the image of the slum town.

"We need to stress to everybody, including tourists, that these criminals are not from here. I think the city centre especially around St George's Mall is more dangerous than many people think."

Zizwe Maliti, who came from J-Section in Khayeltsha about six years ago and used to stroll around the city looking for a job, said he was angry because police always arrived at Cardboard City in search of culprits when cars were broken into in Cape Town.

"Many of the people who break into cars are from other areas, like these young boys from Bokaap.

"All this bad publicity is giving us a bad name and people have stopped giving us food because they say we are criminals," he said.

But things are looking up for the people of Cardboard City.

Land has been set aside for low-cost housing near Lentegour Hospital in Mitchells Plain and they've been promised some of the sites there — once conditions set by their new neighbours have been met by the council.

"I hope it'll all be sorted out by the end of the month. Then they can move," said City Manager Andrew Boraine.

"The area under the bridge is clearly unsafe because it is downtown, derelict dead space. It needs to be secured with a fence and a gate for legitimate residents.

"The residents are vulnerable and often unfairly blamed for crime. At least then they'll be able to sleep well at night."

Boraine said members of the private sector had agreed to sponsor rail passes to work for former Cardboard City residents, for a year after their move to Mitchell's Plain.

"The private sector will then develop the area and make it safe. It could, for instance, become a properly secured car park, a place to store boats or be rented to film studios. This will help stabilise the area," he said.

Sea Point ward councillor Chris Joubert says he's investigating extending the Rent-a-Cop scheme to the area.

But Maphike is still worried. "It's a tough life here and you've got to live with our people to really know their problems. You can't drive past and expect to know their expectations and fears.

"I want to give them a proper balanced life. We have to learn to do things for ourselves, to make our own life."



AT SCHOOL WITH FRIENDS: Andile (centre) attends the local crèche with his friends. Their parents work at parking lots in the city centre during the day.

Squatters help demolish shacks

(307) ARG 24/7/98

Cardboard City fights newly released criminals

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town's Cardboard City residents have shown that they are serious about getting proper housing by helping the municipality to demolish four shacks taken over by criminal elements.

The squatters under the Western Boulevard flyover told the council that criminal elements, including prisoners released this week after being given a six-month remission of sentence to mark President Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday, had invaded the camp. They had erected new shacks

and thrown legal Cardboard City residents out of their homes.

Negotiations are under way to move the 80 families in the shanty town to a housing project in Mitchell's Plain.

A committee running the camp has given the council a list of the names of the 80 families involved.

The council has stipulated that only those on the list will be accommodated and has warned that it will not tolerate unauthorised people moving into the camp.

But the Cardboard City residents said people had moved in recently without the commit-

tee's permission. They included newly released prisoners who were committing crimes in the surrounding areas and had thrown a woman and her one-year-old daughter out of their shack.

Yesterday they told the council about the new people who had moved in and council workers, supported by about 50 armed police, dismantled the new shacks.

One of the committee members, who did want to be named, said that in the past people who had moved in without permission had been chased away.

"But now there are new peo-

ple coming here and they are worse. They are breaking into cars, stealing cellphones and assaulting people.

"They even stole things from an old age shelter," said the committee member.

Council spokesman Leonora de Souza said the incident was an indication of the council's good relationship with the existing squatter community.

"We were requested by the community to move in and help them re-establish the original shacks that were there.

"The community does not want the unwelcome elements here, which they feel could result in criminal activity."

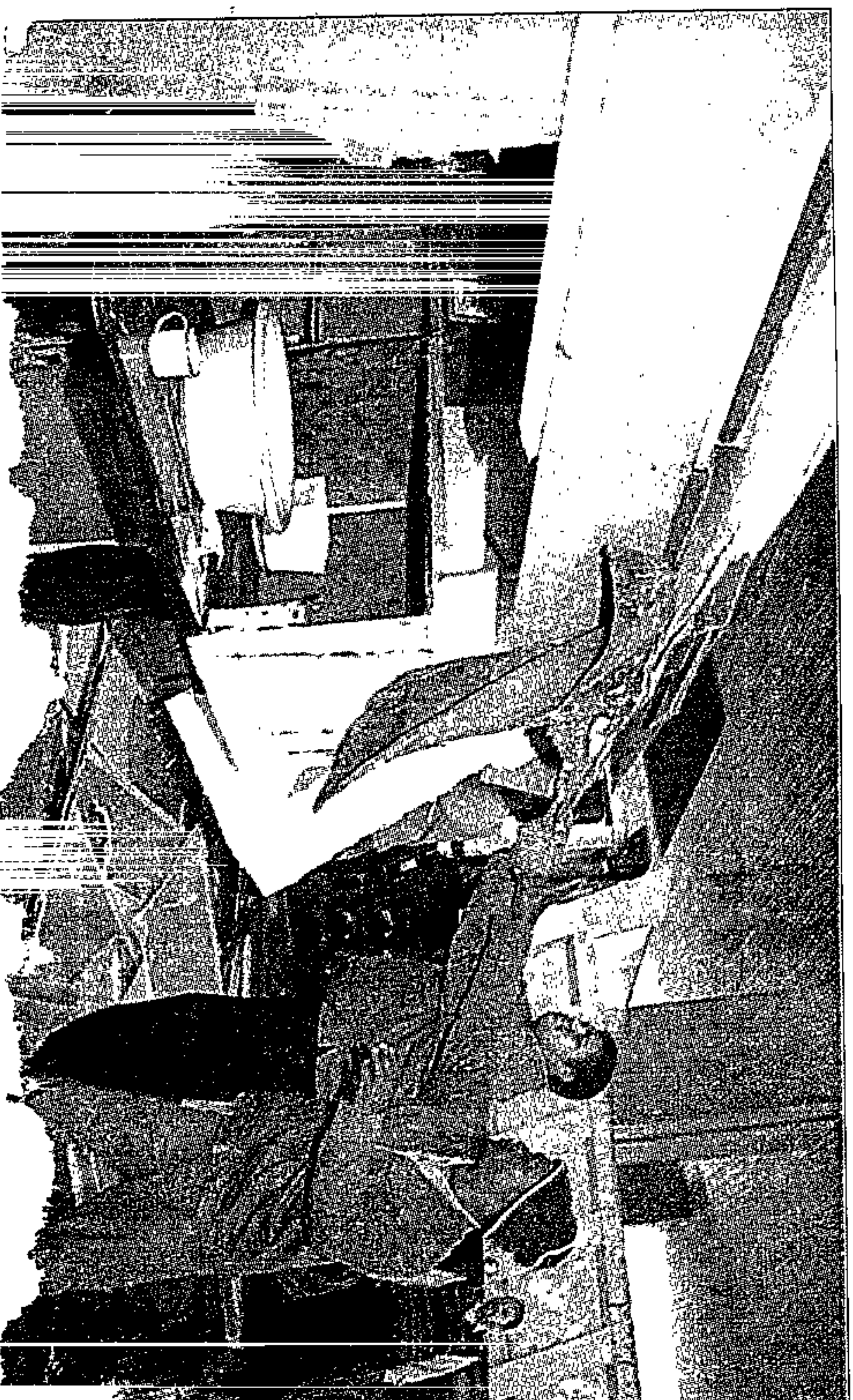
Committee members were in favour of a proposal by city manager Andrew Boraine to fence off the camp to keep out criminal elements.

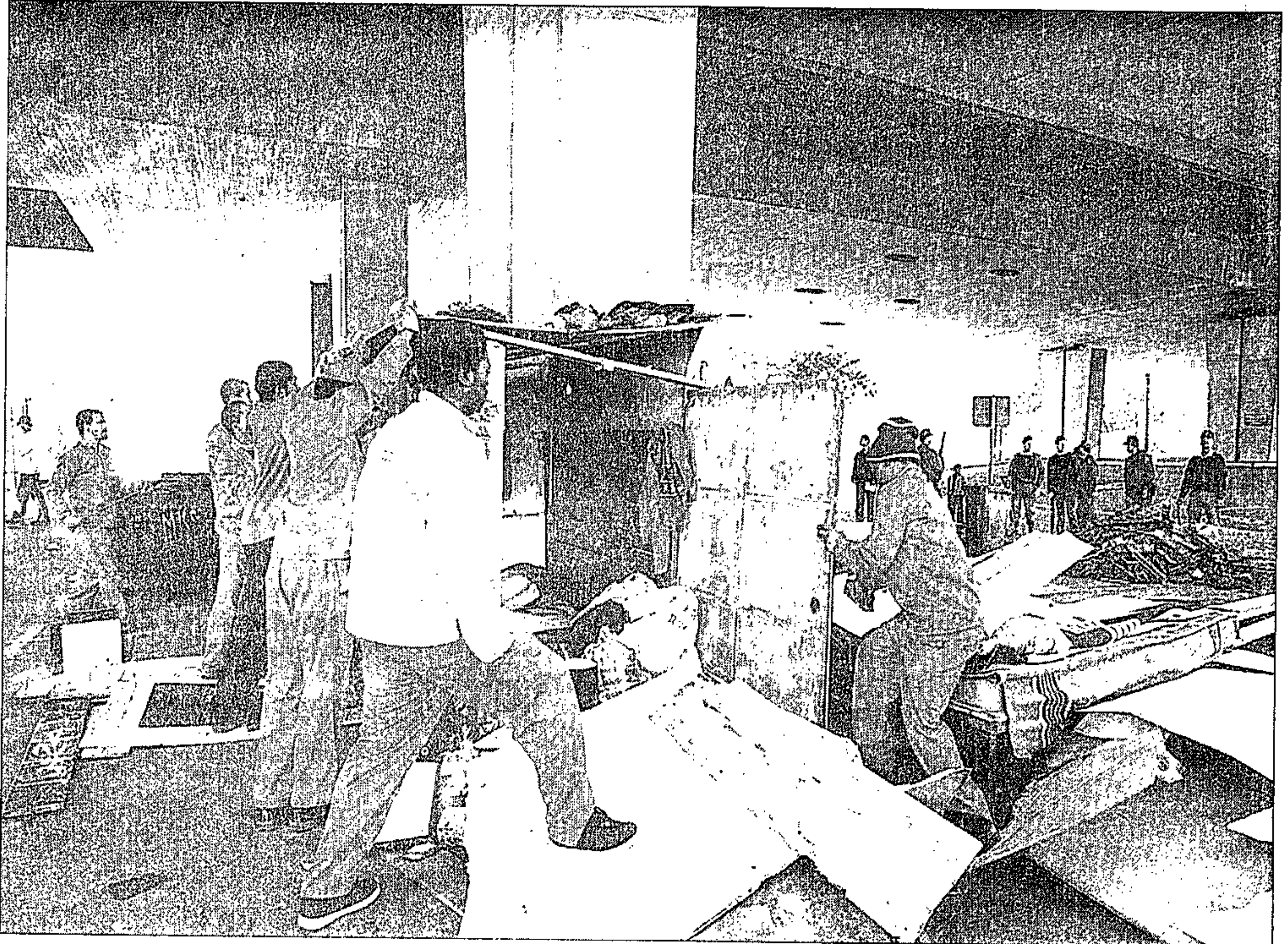
They said they wanted the fence erected "as soon as possible".

A committee member said: "We have had meetings here and we feel the safest thing for us would be to have a security fence erected as soon as possible with security guards at the gate."

Ms De Souza said the council would erect the fence only in consultation with the residents.

"If the community wants a fence, the fence will go up."





TORN DOWN: City council officials demolished "illegal" shacks in Cardboard City underneath the Foreshore flyovers yesterday, while police stood guard. Members of the settlement co-operated with the council officials and pointed out the shacks that were to be torn down. Yesterday's removal was the start of a planned fencing of the area which has allegedly been a nest for criminals.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Squatters unite to keep 'illegals' out

CT 24/7/98

807)

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

CITY council officials yesterday moved in with police reinforcement to demolish "illegal" shacks in Cardboard City, beneath the city's foreshore flyovers.

Members of the Cardboard City community co-operated with the council officials and pointed out the shacks that were to be torn down.

Yesterday's removal of "illegal" occupants was the start of a planned fencing of the area which has allegedly been a nest for crimi-

nals. Cardboard City community leaders welcomed the removal as a sign of a move to eradicate the bad elements in the community.

But the remaining residents were still frightened that they would be victimised by owners of the demolished shacks.

Cardboard City has been labelled the most dangerous area for tourists in Cape Town. Less than a kilometre from the V&A Waterfront, it has been blamed for most of the muggings in the area.

But the 200 or so people who have been living under the flyovers

for years are adamant that they are not the criminals. They say people who use it as a hideout give the place a bad name.

The Cardboard City community is to be relocated to a settlement for low-cost housing near Lentegeur Hospital in Mitchells Plain. The move is planned to take place before the end of the month.

"We are supporting the breaking down of the 'illegal shacks' because it is important to keep down the numbers of the people to be relocated," said Coleridge Daniels of the Salesian Institute.

Daniels, who has been working with the community for more than three years, says residents just want to get on with their lives and do not want criminal elements jeopardising their chances of a better life.

Cape Town City Council spokesperson Leonora de Souza said the council and the community had agreed on the relocation, but that the shacks that were originally not on the list should be excluded. The area is to be secured with a fence, gate and guard for legitimate residents until the move takes place.

Delft South 'illegals' fight with own lawyers in court

ARG 29/7/98 (307)
NORMAN JOSEPH AND CHARLIE NGULUWE
STAFF REPORTERS

About 145 angry people who have occupied houses in Delft South argued with their counsel in the Cape High Court.

This happened yesterday at the hearing of an application by the Western Cape Provincial Housing Development Board for an order evicting the people from the Delft South housing development.

The 145 people, who are opposing the application, are among about 600 people who allegedly forced their way into new houses about a month ago, claiming they had been on council waiting lists for many years.

They branded people living in other houses in the area as the "illegal occupants".

Before the hearing, they met their legal team, headed by J C Marais, who

apparently suggested they agree to move out of the houses.

This led to the angry exchanges. Later Mr Marais promised the people he would argue in court that they should not be evicted unless the Government provided alternative accommodation.

Mr Justice John Hlophe postponed the application to tomorrow, saying another judge had agreed to preside over it.

The original judge, Mr Justice Ben Griesel, was not available to continue with the case because the High Court was in recess.

Judge Hlophe told the court he had seen all the documents and it appeared the case was ready for hearing.

"The case appears to be legally complicated. I hope some kind of political solution will be found to the problem. I hope the parties, if they negotiate in good faith, will be able to agree," he said.

'Where must we go now?' Judge orders Delft illegals to move out

ARd 13/8/98 (307)

The Cape High Court has granted an eviction order against 100 people illegally occupying houses in Delft South.

Mr Justice Willem Louw ordered them to vacate the houses before August 26. Those who do not comply will be removed by the Sheriff of the Court from August 31.

Judge Louw said he took into account the section of the Prevention Of Illegal Eviction From And Unlawful Occupation Of Land Act.

This stated: "Where an unlawful occupier has occupied for less than six months when proceedings are initiated, the court may grant an order for eviction if it is of the opinion that it is just and equitable to do so, after considering all relevant circumstances, including the rights and needs of the elderly, children, disabled persons and households headed by women."

Judge Louw said he was making the order "with great reluctance" but there was "no other way open". The occupiers are to appeal.

NORMAN JOSEPH



STAFF REPORTER

against the order. They claim they have been on housing waiting lists for many years.

In June 150 homeless people moved into houses in a new development in Delft South. Of these 50 are being allowed to stay in terms of an out-of-court agreement between their attorneys and the Western Cape Housing Board based on documentation showing that they are on waiting lists.

Representatives of the other 100, many of whom also claim to be on waiting lists, gathered in front of the court building yesterday chanting angrily.

They alleged that the South African National Civics Organisa-

tion was responsible for fraudulent and corruptly allocating houses to its supporters with the help of housing officials.

Nomakwezi Bente, spokeswoman for the residents, said: "We are very disappointed. Where must we go now?"

"There are reasons for our occupation. We are on the waiting list. Other people jumped the queue."

Ms Bente said Sanco's top structure must come to the Delft housing department office to investigate its members "on the ground".

Buyiswa Bala said the court's decision was "very frustrating" and complained that no political party had so far intervened in the problem. She vowed to fight off anybody who tried to evict her from her home.

"Housing is part of basic human rights. Political parties must remember they are still waiting for our votes," Ms Bala said.

Approached for comment, Sanco's Western Cape chairman

Rose Sonto, an ANCTMP, said his organisation was totally against the illegal invasion of land and occupation of houses.

Commenting on the allegations that Sanco allocated houses to people, he said the claims warranted an investigation by the organisation.

Western Cape Housing Minister Cecil Herandien appealed to the occupiers to evacuate the houses willingly and peacefully.

"The names of the people presently illegally occupying the houses will be evaluated in conjunction with the City of Cape Town and the City of Tygerberg."

"Those identified as being on the housing waiting list of any one of these local authorities will be accommodated in completed houses in Delft South."

Mr Herandien's spokeswoman, Surtita Botes, added: "The Minister hopes the decision of the court will send a clear message that illegal occupations or invasions will not be tolerated."



Nowhere to go: angry Delft South illegal occupiers

Delft's illegal squatters to appeal

JUSTICE WRITER

"I MUST remind them (of the 1999 elections). When they campaigned in 1994, they promised that jobs and houses will be provided for all."

This, with nods from scores of supporters, was how Buyiswa Bala responded to a High Court order which gave her and 84 other illegal occupants of houses in Delft South two weeks to move out. Judge Willem Louw authorised the Sheriff to evict them by no later than August 31 should they refuse to move.

(307) CT 13/8/98
The judgment followed several court appearances after the Provincial Housing Development Board wanted to evict the occupants of 139 houses.

The court was told that Towns 3 to 6 of the Delft South project would comprise 3 700 serviced erven, of which half would go to people on the Cape Town City Council waiting list, and the other half to people in the Tygerberg municipal area.

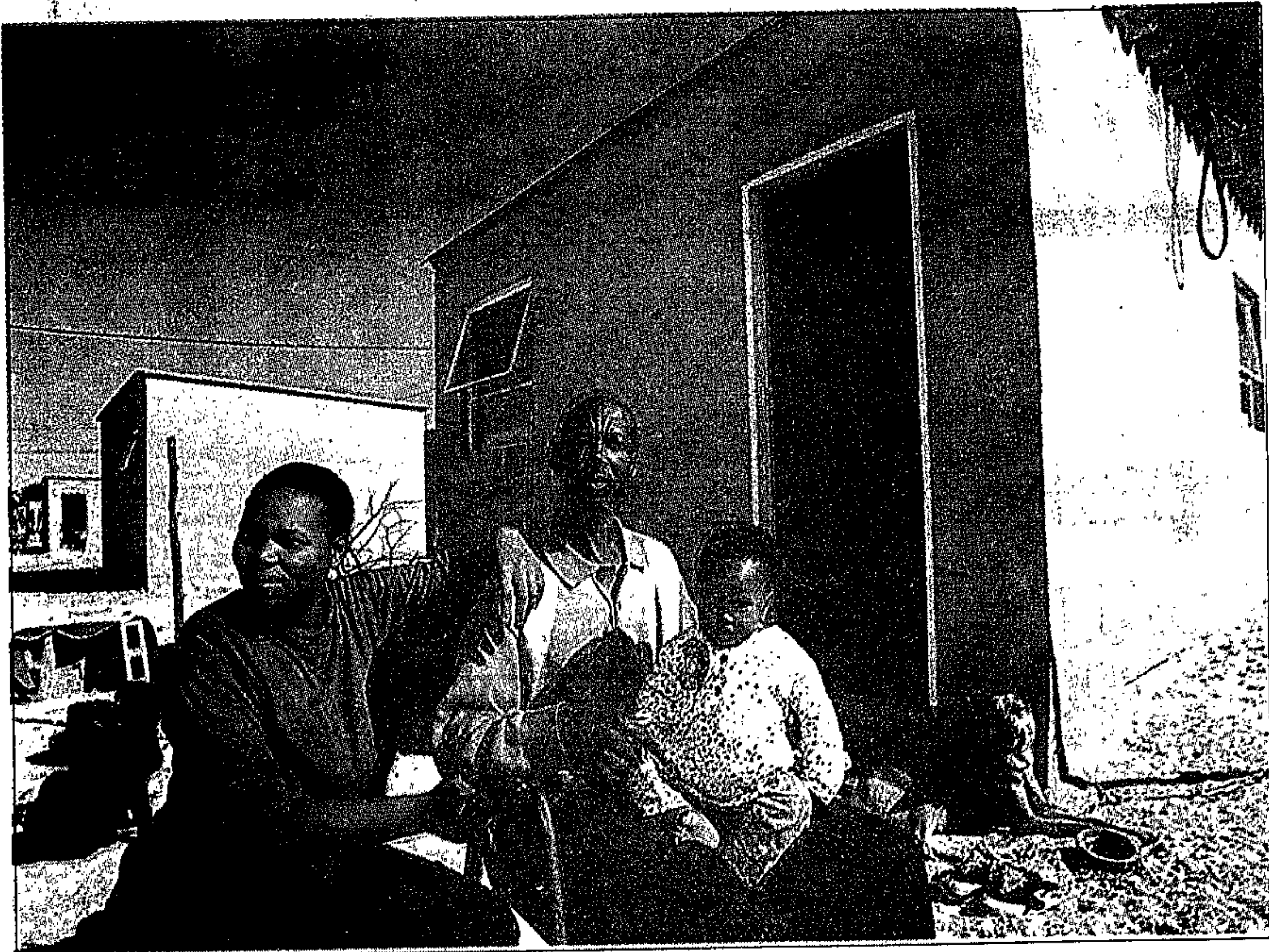
Late last month, 55 of the illegal occupants agreed to vacate the house they occupied while the remaining people had to satisfy the Housing

Board their names appeared on an official waiting list and that they qualified for a housing subsidy.

Bala said the eviction was hurtful and they would appeal: "What criteria does the housing MEC use? Do they want people with a lot of money? It obviously depends on who you are. If you are in Parliament you get everything."

Charles Louw SC and Alisdair Sholto-Douglas, instructed by the state attorney, appeared for the Housing Board. Jan Marais, instructed by Milton de la Harpe, appeared for the occupants.

NEWS



NO PLACE TO GO: Mnoneleli Ntloko, with his daughters, says that if evicted, he will build a shack next to the house that he now occupies. The provincial housing department will forcefully evict people if they are not out by August 31. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

Threat of evictions in Delft

ET 25/8/98 (307)

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

OCCUPANTS of the Delft South Reconstruction and Development Programme houses are to be evicted today from the homes they unlawfully occupied. This follows an order granted to the Provincial Housing Development Board by the High Court two weeks ago.

Spokesperson Surita Botes said the housing department has appealed to the residents to co-operate with officials during the evictions. "Those who refuse to vacate the houses will be forcefully removed from August 31," said Botes.

Meanwhile the "illegal occupants" are adamant that they will not move.

"If they remove me from this house I will erect a shack next to it until I am given another house," said Mnoneleli Ntloko.

The father of five said he has been on the waiting list since 1992, to no avail. "This is unfair because there are people who have never put their names down on the waiting list who already have houses."

Another resident, who did not want to be named, dismissed Ntloko's claims that he was on the waiting list.

"They are not on the waiting list. They occupied these houses unlawfully. I have the legal papers and a key to show that I am the legal occupant of the house."

Reiterating Ntloko's sentiments, Mlungisi Vinjelwa, who lives with his girlfriend and two children, said he is not moving anywhere.

Gehardes Ventura, the National Party councillor in the area, said he sympathises with the people who will be evicted but that there is nothing that can be done.

"We are doing everything in our power to get everyone housed but people have to be patient and wait their turn to be allocated houses," Venturas said.

"Only those people who are on the waiting list will be allowed to remain in the houses," he added.

Nomangesi Witbooi said she was devastated by the judge's eviction decision.

"Where does he expect us to go?" she asked.

"I occupied the house because I had to find a home for my children. When we move out of here where are we going to stay?"

Botes said that the provincial ministry hopes that the court's decision will send a clear message that illegal occupations or invasions of land will not be tolerated.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Face-twisting dose of harsh medicine

Producers tighten belts as generics hit the market

The pharmaceutical industry is bowing to pressure from powerful market forces which are squeezing volumes and margins.

Consumer have the most to gain in this price-sensitive environment while the industry rallies to form new alliances and strategies to cope with the increased competition.

Two main forces are driving the market — cost-cutting by the medical aid industry through the introduction of managed health care, and a marked shift away from original (ethical) medicine to generic drugs — copies of original drugs whose patents have expired.

The private-sector generics market grew 13% by value (in real terms) over the year to February 1998, while the market for originals hardly changed over the same period.

Local generics manufacturers should gain from the swing to cheaper generics, but it is bad news for the multinationals that produce original drugs.

Generics are up to 60% cheaper than original drugs and margins are far tighter in this market. Therefore a large shift to generics can be expected to reduce the overall medicine bill markedly. This is a windfall for the consumer, provided these savings are passed on by medical aids and pharmacies.

The consumer was the winner in a price war sparked last month by the entry into the SA market of the new generic antimalaria drug, Mefliam. Swiss multinational giant Roche slashed the price of its ethical product, Lariam, by 47% to compete — a move its competitors estimated would cut virtually R4,5m/year off Roche's bottom line

FM 24/4/98
(FM Focus March 13).

Generics will be in even greater demand when Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's sweeping legislative changes, aimed at cutting medicine prices, kick in.

The Medicines & Related Substances Amendment Act was enacted late last year but is on hold pending legal challenges. The Act makes generic substitution all but mandatory and allows for cut-price imports of international brands marketed by multinationals.

Patients, too, are fed up with spiralling medical inflation and are beginning to demand cheap generics.

With medical inflation having consistently outstripped the Consumer Price Index since the late Eighties, medical schemes are also desperate to cut costs and are turning to managed health care.

Managed care is a US cost containment strategy which requires the medical aid company to monitor and manage the cost, amount and quality of care every member receives to ensure that the treatment dispensed by doctors and hospitals is cost-effective and necessary. If, in the medical aid's opinion, it is not, it may refuse to pay.

Using managed care techniques, medical aids are trying to restrict doctors to dispensing only cost-effective drugs on preferred drugs lists and are encouraging them to use generics where possible.

The State is doing the same to contain public hospital costs through the introduction of an essential drugs list, made up largely of generics.

The Health Department has made no secret of its intention to scour the world for cheaper bulk supplies of

drugs for public hospitals. Some local manufacturers have cut their prices to below last year's levels — barely covering their costs — to fend off foreign competitors for massive State drug tenders.

SA Druggists' pharmaceutical division, Pharmacare, is the largest supplier of generics to the State. Pharmacare CE Kobus Nel says he is not concerned about the prospect of increased foreign competition, but he fears a provision in the Act that allows for the fast-track registration of imported generics under certain circumstances. He says that if this provision is used widely, and not just in extreme circumstances, it will mean local manufacturers will be at a disadvantage when competing against imports.

Even though the generics market is taking off, the industry as a whole has had a hard year. The 1997-1998 pharmaceutical statistics bear the hallmarks of a downturn.

The total volume of medicine sold to retail pharmacies by wholesalers shrank for eight consecutive months to February this year (see graph), and in December there was even a nominal decline in the rand value of that medicine. The indicators improved in January and February this year, but researchers say this is a seasonal phenomenon and the overall trend is still downward.

The latest medical aid industry figures also reveal a decline in medical aids' expenditure on medicine — probably as a result of managed health care and other innovations, like medical savings accounts.

According to the newly released Representative Association of Medical Schemes 1996 data, annual increases in the industry's expenditure on medicine have slowed from a high of 45% in 1992 to 14% in 1995 and 11% in 1996.

It is a bleak picture for the pharmaceutical industry, which has become accustomed to annual industry growth rates of 10%-15% since 1994.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell pharmaceutical analyst Peter Armitage forecasts a "dismal year" for the pharmaceutical industry, with volumes down across the board. "We are not going to see any new investment in the SA industry and could possibly see companies scaling back on R&D expenditure."

Mirryena Deeb, CEO of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PMA), which represents the large multinational pharmaceutical companies, says: "I don't think we are feeling the downturn yet, but there is a sense that things are going to get worse. The key thing for manufacturers, particularly those with production facilities in SA, is to keep their volumes up."



Daryl Kronson... Adcock Ingram's generics sales up by 50%

Robbie Tshabalala

Cardboard City's bid for homes

(907)
NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

FILED 26/8/98

The Cape Town municipality has applied to the provincial Housing Development Board for housing subsidies for 80 Cardboard City families.

The council plans to move more than 200 homeless people from Cardboard City, the squatter settlement under the Western Boulevard flyover, to Montrose Park in Mitchell's Plain.

The families, whose breadwinners qualify for subsidies, will move into the first phase of a 341-site development.

Acting Cape Town housing director Mervyn Bregman said that conditional on the board's decision, the families would be moved before the end of the year.

Municipal spokeswoman Leonora de Souza said the housing subsidies were for R17 500 each.

City manager Andrew Boraine said no new squatters were being allowed at the settlement.



LEON LESTRADE

Here to stay: about 300 families moved on to developed land at the Weltevreden Valley site at the weekend

City land grab 'scam' sparks row

LYNNE RIPPENAAR
STAFF REPORTER

The illegal occupation of developed land in Weltevreden Valley has been labelled a scam by the Cape Town Municipality's housing committee chairman and by Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the committee.

Mr Ntamo said that the Integrated Services Land Project already had allocated 1 015 sites in Weltevreden Valley to the Samora Machel community.

However, during a meeting with the SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco) and leaders of the Samora Machel community held on Thursday, extra land for about 428 families was demanded.

He said the Cape Town housing

committee had urged the community to write to the housing committee so that an alternative plan could be made to accommodate the extra families.

Mr Ntamo said the committee had only counted 312 illegal structures at the site.

Mr Ntamo said this could mean "there are leaders who are corrupt in that area" who had taken money from individuals in exchange for land.

"It seems like they are using Sanco's name.

"I believe there is corruption in this area."

He said the sudden disappearance of Shooter Nobom, chairperson of the Samora Machel branch of Sanco who allegedly told residents to occupy the land, made this more likely.

Mr Ntamo said that the housing

committee would consult its legal department today about action to be taken against occupants. "This is, in fact, illegal occupation," he said.

He believed this was "a planned campaign from whatever quarter", using Sanco as a "launching pad for this action".

The majority of Sanco's members are members of the United Democratic Movement.

■ Gauteng housing and land affairs MEC Dan Mofokeng has allocated residential sites to about 1 000 families, formerly from informal settlements, in Boipatong near Vanderbijlpark, reports Sapa.

The allocation of sites on Friday was made through the department's Mayibuye programme, aimed at providing land ownership to the landless.

(307) ARG 12/10/98

COUNCIL TO DEMOLISH SHACKS

Families occupy new land

THE ALLEGED false promise by a Sanco official caused the mass occupation of developed land in Weltevreden Valley yesterday. **GASANT ABARDER** reports.

DORIS Dlanga has been living in squalor with her five children in the Samora Machel informal settlement near Philippi. "I'm sick and tired of living in a squatter camp for four years. This place is dirty and here where I'm moving to is nice," she said.

Dlanga was one of about 300 people who illegally occupied a large area of developed land demarcated for homes yesterday, allegedly after Shooter Nobombo, chairperson of the Samora Machel branch of the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco), told them to move onto the land.

Nobombo could not be reached to confirm or deny these allegations.

Chris Stali, regional chairperson of Sanco in Khayelitsha, said

Nobombo had addressed a meeting yesterday morning on housing, but had told residents that the land in question was not earmarked for them. According to Stali, residents took the action on their own.

Families said that at yesterday's meeting they were told by Nobombo that they could move onto the 1 600m² of land in Weltevreden Valley near Philippi. They said they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities.

Whitley Jacobs, Cape Town City Council chairperson for housing, said the land was earmarked for people who have been living in squatter areas in Langa and Guguletu. They were to move onto their plots this week.

Said Jacobs: "There was a whole process that had been agreed upon. The scheme here is similar to that

of Delft," near Behar.

The families — from New Crossroads, Philippi, and surrounding areas — started bringing bakkie loads of furniture at 11am. By yesterday afternoon, shacks had already been erected.

"There is nothing we can do now. We are planning to meet with our legal department and we'll demolish the shacks after a 48-hour waiting period. I'd rather have the law on our side," Jacobs said.

Nobombo was "giving the people the wrong information by telling them to move there," said Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the housing committee of the central suburb. He said Nobombo had "confused" the residents.

"On Thursday, I chaired a meeting where it was decided that the people without houses in Samora Machel would be counted and they could write letters to the housing committee so that an alternate plan could be made for them."

12/10/98

The Samora Machel residents were not the only families to move to the new site. Jacobs said that the news spread like wildfire and residents from other townships quickly moved to the area.

Wiseman Mpangisana, 36, was erecting his shack while his wife Portia was carrying appliances and furniture to their "new" site.

"I've been living in a shack for five years with my wife and four children. We don't have lights, toilets or water. I don't want to wait for a house any longer," he said.

Sisters Yoliswa Mbheho, 21, and Yoliswa Mbheho, 19, were promised water and lights if they moved to the new site.

"We are going to have water and lights. They promised us these things this morning in the meeting," Yoliswa said.

Ntamo called the alleged action of the Sanco member "sabotage" and said it was "ironic that the planned move coincided with Masakhane week".



PROMISED LAND: Sisters Yoliswa and Yoliswa Mbheho said that they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities if they moved to the developed land in Weltevreden Valley.

PICTURE: LEON KNIFE

COUNCIL TO DEMOLISH SHACKS

Families occupy new land

THE ALLEGED false promise by a Sanco official caused the mass occupation of developed land in Weltevreden Valley yesterday. **GASANT ABARDER** reports.

DORIS Dlanga has been living in squalor with her five children in the Samora Machel informal settlement near Philippi.

"I'm sick and tired of living in a squatter camp for four years. This place is dirty and here where I'm moving to is nice," she said.

Dlanga was one of about 300 people who illegally occupied a large area of developed land demarcated for homes yesterday, allegedly after Shooter Nobombo, chairperson of the Samora Machel branch of the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco), told them to move onto the land.

Nobombo could not be reached to confirm or deny these allegations.

Chris Stali, regional chairperson of Sanco in Khayelitsha, said

Nobombo had addressed a meeting yesterday morning on housing, but had told residents that the land in question was not earmarked for them. According to Stali, residents took the action on their own.

Families said that at yesterday's meeting they were told by Nobombo that they could move onto the 1 600m² of land in Weltevreden Valley near Philippi. They said they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities.

Whitey Jacobs, Cape Town City Council chairperson for housing, said the land was earmarked for people who have been living in squatter areas in Langa and Guguletu. They were to move onto their plots this week.

Said Jacobs: "There was a whole process that had been agreed upon. The scheme here is similar to that

of Delft," near Belhar.

The families — from New Crossroads, Philippi, and surrounding areas — started bringing bakkie loads of furniture at 11am. By yesterday afternoon, shacks had already been erected.

"There is nothing we can do now. We are planning to meet with our legal department and we'll demolish the shacks after a 48-hour waiting period. I'd rather have the law on our side," Jacobs said.

Nobombo was "giving the people the wrong information by telling them to move there," said Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the housing committee of the central substructure. He said Nobombo had "confused" the residents.

"On Thursday, I chaired a meeting where it was decided that the people without houses in Samora Machel would be counted and they could write letters to the housing committee so that an alternate plan could be made for them."

ET 12/10/98

The Samora Machel residents were not the only families to move to the new site. Jacobs said that the news spread like wildfire and residents from other townships quickly moved to the area.

Wiseman Mpangisana, 36, was erecting his shack while his wife Portia was carrying appliances and furniture to their "new" site.

"I've been living in a shack for five years with my wife and four children. We don't have lights, toilets or water. I don't want to wait for a house any longer," he said.

Sisters Yoliswa Mbehlo, 21, and Xoliswa Mbehlo, 19, were promised water and lights if they moved to the new site.

"We are going to have water and lights. They promised us these things this morning in the meeting," Yoliswa said.

Ntamo called the alleged action of the Sanco member "sabotage" and said it was "ironic that the planned move coincided with Masakhane week".



PROMISED LAND: Sisters Xoliswa and Yoliswa Mbehlo said that they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities if they moved to the developed land in Weltevreden Valley.

PICTURE: LEON KNIPE

COUNCIL TO DEMOLISH SHACKS

Families occupy new land

THE ALLEGED false promise by a Sanco official caused the mass occupation of developed land in Weltevreden Valley yesterday. **GASANT ABARDER** reports.

DORIS Dlanga has been living in squalor with her five children in the Samora Machel informal settlement near Philippi.

"I'm sick and tired of living in a squatter camp for four years. This place is dirty and here where I'm moving to is nice," she said.

Dlanga was one of about 300 people who illegally occupied a large area of developed land demarcated for homes yesterday, allegedly after Shooter Nobombo, chairperson of the Samora Machel branch of the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco), told them to move onto the land.

Nobombo could not be reached to confirm or deny these allegations.

Chris Stail, regional chairperson of Sanco in Khayelitsha, said

Nobombo had addressed a meeting yesterday morning on housing, but had told residents that the land in question was not earmarked for them. According to Stail, residents took the action on their own.

Families said that at yesterday's meeting they were told by Nobombo that they could move onto the 1 600m² of land in Weltevreden Valley near Philippi. They said they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities.

Whitley Jacobs, Cape Town City Council chairperson for housing, said the land was earmarked for people who have been living in squatter areas in Langa and Guguletu. They were to move onto their plots this week.

Said Jacobs: "There was a whole process that had been agreed upon. The scheme here is similar to that

of Delft," near Belhar.

The families — from New Crossroads, Philippi, and surrounding areas — started bringing bakkie loads of furniture at 11am. By yesterday afternoon, shacks had already been erected.

"There is nothing we can do now. We are planning to meet with our legal department and we'll demolish the shacks after a 48-hour waiting period. I'd rather have the law on our side," Jacobs said.

Nobombo was "giving the people the wrong information by telling them to move there," said Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the housing committee of the central substructure. He said Nobombo had "confused" the residents.

"On Thursday, I chaired a meeting where it was decided that the people without houses in Samora Machel would be counted and they could write letters to the housing committee so that an alternate plan could be made for them."

ET 12/10/98

The Samora Machel residents were not the only families to move to the new site. Jacobs said that the news spread like wildfire and residents from other townships quickly moved to the area.

Wiseman Mpangsana, 36, was erecting his shack while his wife Portia was carrying appliances and furniture to their "new" site.

"I've been living in a shack for five years with my wife and four children. We don't have lights, toilets or water. I don't want to wait for a house any longer," he said.

Sisters Xoliswa Mbeho, 21, and Xoliswa Mbeho, 19, were promised water and lights if they moved to the new site.

"We are going to have water and lights. They promised us these things this morning in the meeting," Xoliswa said.

Ntamo called the alleged action of the Sanco member "sabotage" and said it was "ironic that the planned move coincided with Masakhane week."



PROMISED LAND: Sisters Xoliswa and Xoliswa Mbeho said that they were promised water, electricity and toilet facilities if they moved to the developed land in Weltevreden Valley.

PICTURE: LEON MWIPE

LAND TO BE CLEARED BY FORCE

Invaders to be driven off

A MEMBER of the housing committee believes community leaders have sold Weltevreden Valley land to people and are unable to repay the money. **ERIC NTABAZALILA** reports

FORCE is to be used today to remove people illegally occupying land in Weltevreden Valley.

Attempts to negotiate an agreement have failed.

About 300 people moved illegally onto the land, earmarked for houses, and began building shacks on Sunday.

Whitey Jacobs, chairperson of Cape Town's housing committee, said last night that police had advised the Cape Town City Council not to act yesterday as this would have led to unnecessary confrontation.

"We thought, after giving these people enough time to think about the invasion, they would pull out, but instead they are coming in large numbers," Jacobs said. "There are now more than 300 people in the area. We will be acting to bring the situation back to normality."

Jacobs said there had not been any confrontations between police and the illegal occupants, but the situation was tense.

The City of Cape Town viewed the invasion in the most serious light as it worked against the implementation of properly administered housing policies and the rapid release of land for housing, Jacobs said. Land invasions tended to undermine and undo these processes.

The participants in the land invasion were outsiders, Jacobs said. They had not been involved in the extensive consultations on which the orderly allocation of erven was based.

The squatters claim that they were given the go-ahead to move onto the land by a branch chairperson of the South African National Civics Organisation, Shooter Nobom.

CT 13/10/98

(104) 107



BID TO AVERT CONFLICT:
Saleem Mowzer

Dismissing this, Sanco's regional chairperson in Khayelitsha, Chris Stali has said that Nobom told the people that the land was not earmarked for them. Stali said the invaders acted of their own accord.

Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the housing committee, said the City Council had done its utmost to avert a confrontation.

"We have had meetings with these people to try to convince them that the illegal occupation of the land is not a good thing," he said.

"To me it's quite clear that some leaders within the community have sold some of the land to people in the area and surrounding areas and are faced with the problem of not being able to pay these people back. That is why they are causing this confusion.

"I think we have been fair enough to these people. It is time that we show them that our patience is running out."

Ntamo said the City Council had tried in vain to contact Nobom and his "clique" to clarify the allegations.

The chairperson of the Cape Town executive committee, Saleem Mowzer, said extensive negotiations had been held with the illegal occupants on Sunday to minimise the potential for conflict and to restore due process in favour of the people who had rights to the land.

Showdown looms on land grab

MANDLA MNYAKAMA
STAFF REPORTER

Confrontation is looming between Cape Town Municipality and squatters who occupied land in the Weltevreden Valley near Philippi at the weekend.

The squatters, from the Samora Machel settlement, have vowed not to return to the unhygienic conditions they left.

They say they will go only if the municipality provides alternative land.

The Weltevreden Valley land has been earmarked for a housing project.

Yesterday, squatters were still erecting shacks there.

Phathiswa Mpulwana, a mother of two, said if police moved in

with bulldozers she and her neighbours would ask them to stop.

Ms Mpulwana said they had waited long enough on unserviced land at Samora Machel where they had stinking bucket toilets that were collected only once a week.

Her sentiments were echoed by Nomsa Valeshiya, a mother of five, who said she, too, had had enough.

Most of the squatters said the decision to move was their own, taken at a meeting on Sunday.

They all denied reports that Samora Machel SA National Civics Association chairman Shooter Nombombo advised them to occupy the land.

Instead, they alleged that local councillors were corrupt.

Whitey Jacobs, chairman of the city council housing committee said the Weltevreden land had

been allocated to 15 communities.

"As the city council, we allocated plots according to an agreement taken by squatters themselves.

"We find it very strange for the Samora Machel community to sabotage that decision," said Mr Jacobs.

"Some people from Samora Machel have plots where they already own houses.

"But they occupied the new plots for their own benefit," said Mr Jacobs.

He claimed most of the squatters were on the council's waiting list for housing, but wanted to jump the queue.

Mr Jacobs said councillors had not been involved in the land allocation. The land allocation was done by squatters and the Integrated Services Land Project.

Four Sanco officials held over land invasion

Police stand guard as council bulldozers demolish Weltevreden shacks

NORMAN JOSEPH AND MANDLA MNYAKAMA
STAFF REPORTERS

Police arrested four SA National Civics Organisation officials as the Cape Town Municipality evicted more than 300 land invaders at Weltevreden Valley near Philippi yesterday.

Over the past few days, swarms of people from Samora Machel informal settlement had moved on to the land.

As municipal officials moved in with police in Casspirs and trucks, angry squatters gathered in Oliver Tambo Drive waved hammers and planks, chanted freedom songs and taunted the large contingent.

When they failed to comply with the order to remove their shacks within five minutes, police and the demolition team moved in.

Shacks of wood and corrugated iron were razed and the material was loaded on trucks and taken away.

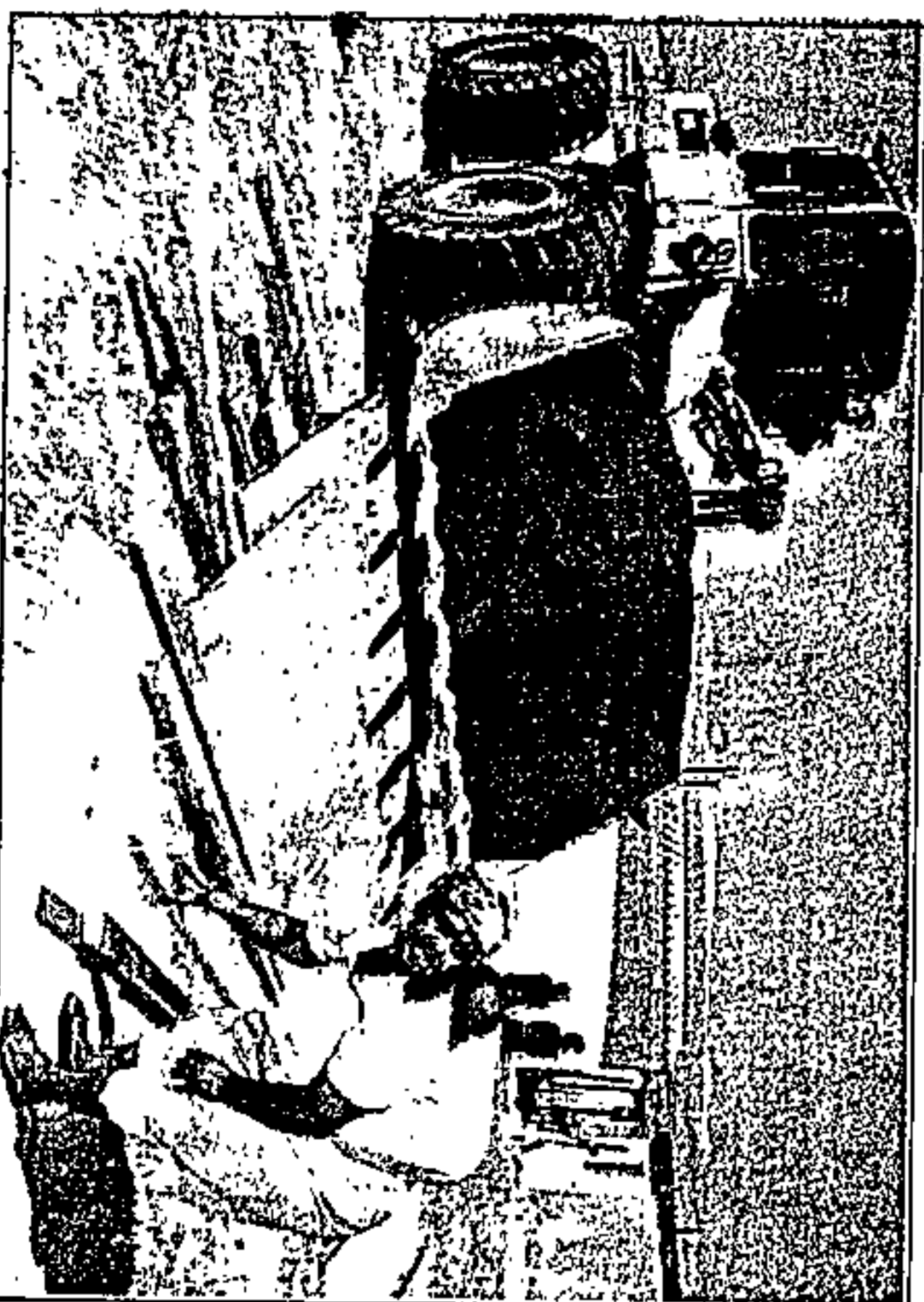
It is has been alleged that Sanco officials told people living in Samora Machel on Sunday to move on to the land earmarked for low-cost housing.

The Sanco officials were arrested in the area in connection with this allegation.

But Sanco has distanced itself from the land invasion.

Sanco Western Cape leader Roseberry Sonto stated "media and individual rumours" that his organisation had spearheaded moves by homeless people to occupy the land.

Mr Sonto, African National



No way! a squatter at Weltevreden Valley tries to stop a front-end loader

Congress MP and spokesman on housing, said it was against Sanco's policy to promote illegal occupation of any kind.

The occupation was grossly unfair to prospective home owners in low-cost housing projects.

"We did not stand back as spectators but were part of a contingent asking people to leave the land peacefully," he said.

City council executive committee chairman Saleem Mowzer said the

council would investigate allegations against Sanco. "We will comment after the investigation when a full report has been drawn up."

Mr Mowzer said illegal land occupation was viewed in a serious light by the council because it was counter-productive to the implementation of properly administered housing policies and the rapid release of land for housing.

"Illegal occupations tend to undermine and undo these processes."



Anger: a woman taunts police as they move in to demolish shacks in the illegally occupied Weltevreden Valley

Municipal housing director Meervyn Bregman said the development of Weltevreden Valley as a housing estate for 3 500 families was a provincial government project with-

in the Cape Town municipal area. Phases one, two and four were already legally settled and 446 of 780 erven in phase three had been allocated and occupied.

"The vacant land which was targeted by illegal occupants is made up of 334 erven not yet occupied by legitimate beneficiaries and public spaces reserved for recreational

(307) (407) ARG 14/10/98

purposes and amenities," he said.

Councillor Whitley Jacobs, the chairman of the council housing committee, said that in view of the project's importance, the council had agreed to help the Western Cape government on the housing project with logistical and technical support.

One of the squatters who moved on to the land, Sylvia Madim, a mother of five, said she did not know where she was going to sleep at night now her home had been destroyed. Julius Kwaainan, who used to be a stroller, alleged that he found his TV and hi-fi missing when he arrived to see his locked shack demolished.

The Weltevreden Valley is in Samora Machel, an area which initially started as a tiny squatter settlement in a bushy area as early as 1987 and developed over the years, with people from Langa, KTC, Guguletu, Nyanga and Khayelitsha moving to the area to occupy sites in the vacant land along Vanguard Drive.

In the early 1990s the land was upgraded for housing development and people from areas that included Nyanga, as well as the earlier squatters, were allocated one-room houses built on the serviced sites with money allocated for government subsidies.

Early this year, another piece of land adjacent to the developed area was upgraded to serviced sites.

These were earmarked for low-cost houses for people who squatted in such townships as KTC, Langa and Guguletu.



LEON MÜLLER

Illegal home owners: angry Delft residents outside the High Court where the Western Cape Housing Board is applying for an interdict against 486 people occupying houses illegally

ARLT 20/10/98

(307)

Delft homes 'awash with squatters'

LENORE OLIVER
HIGH COURT REPORTER

Three of the six townships in Delft are occupied by illegal squatters, the Cape High Court has heard.

This was the evidence of Bennie Rheede, provincial deputy director of housing, in the application by the Western Cape Housing Board for an interdict against 486 people occupy-

ing houses illegally.

Mr Rheede told the court that since June 26 the unlawful occupation of houses in Delft had escalated.

Yesterday groups of homeless people filled the court corridors as they waited for the case to be heard.

Earlier this year the Housing Board successfully obtained an interdict against another group of illegal occupants.

At the time Provincial Housing

Minister Cecil Herandien said he sympathised with homeless people but those trying to jump the housing queue were creating anarchy, which could not be allowed.

The squatters are demanding that Mr Herandien stick to his earlier promise that people on the waiting lists of the City of Tygerberg or City of Cape Town will get houses.

The hearing was postponed to November 2.

FIRST TO MOVE IN DECEMBER

City squatters set to become home-owners

ET 28/10/98

(907) (204)

CARDBOARD City squatters are happy to move from under the Western Boulevard flyover to Montrose Park in Mitchells Plain as home-owners, reports **ERIC NTABAZALILA**.

MANY residents of Cardboard City are about to become home-owners for the first time.

Acting city housing director Mervyn Bergman said negotiations have taken more than two years, but have resulted in all concerned being happy with the results.

"We convinced them that the city council can't provide services to them in that area. No promises were made to them," he said.

He agreed that the process had taken too long, but said all of them, including the residents of Montrose Park, had to be accommodated.

"As the city council, we are happy that everybody is comfortable with the results. Now we have to check whether they are eligible for the government housing subsidy," Bergman said.

The houses have not yet been built.

"We are not going to relocate all the residents at once. The first group of the community will be relocated on December 15."

The city council has tried on several occasions to move the Cardboard City community to Mitchells Plain, but their new neighbours vehemently objected to the move, claiming they had not been consulted. The relocation of the residents is expected to cost

about R500 000.

Zelda Ndlumbini, secretary of the Cardboard City Residents' Committee, agreed that everybody was happy with the outcome.

"We are families here, and I believe all these people will be happy to have a decent house with a bathroom, a toilet, a bedroom and a yard — something they have never had."

"I will be among the first people to move into my new home. Every night since the agreement was reached, I have dreamt about being in my own house," she said.

City council officials will visit the area today so that residents can fill out housing subsidy forms.

Although everybody in the squatter area is over the moon about the decision, there are some who are concerned because they are unemployed and it would be difficult for them to look after their new homes. Some residents do piece-work in the city centre and would have to come to town every day to earn their living.

Ndlumbini assured residents that they should not worry, as city manager Andrew Boraine had promised that members of the pri-

vate sector had agreed to sponsor train tickets for them for a year after they move to Montrose Park.

Altogether 340 sites have been identified near Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital for relocating the residents. Eighty of the houses will be given to the Cardboard City residents and the rest will be given to Mitchells Plain families who need accommodation.

The first eight squatters who were spotted under the bridge in December 1992 were evicted by the city council.

The community later approached the Legal Resource Centre, which helped them to continue staying in the area.

The pattern of rebuilding and demolishing the dilapidated buildings has continued over the years and the community has grown to 80 families.

In July, the city council decided to put a security fence around the area and place a guard at the entrance in a bid to keep out criminals who were using the place to hide after committing crimes.

This was welcomed by the residents, who defended themselves as a community of hard-working people. But the council was forced to find a solution after pressure from businesses in the vicinity that were affected rejected further delays in the relocation of the squatters.

"Every night since agreement was reached, I have dreamt of being in my own home."

R2-m housing boost for squatters

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

The provincial housing board has approved more than R2-million in subsidies for Cardboard City shack dwellers and destitute Mitchell's Plain people.

The money will be used to build houses in Montrose Park, Mitchell's Plain. (207) (114)

Provincial housing director Gerrit Erasmus said the approval was subject to the condition that the City of Cape Town prioritised housing needs in its area of jurisdiction.

A plan by the municipality to move about 80 Cardboard City families to a transit camp near Montrose Park at a cost of R500 000 while their

houses were being built was vehemently opposed by the Mitchell's Plain Councillors' Forum this week.

Members of the all-party forum said Mitchell's Plain residents did not want to see homeless people going from "shack to shack".

They wanted people moved from shacks to proper housing.

Another of the forum's grievances was that while Cardboard City enjoyed preferential treatment from the council, other squatter communities had been waiting for houses for many years.

Acting housing director Mervyn Bregman said it was decided at a forum meeting this week that 20 Cardboard City families and 20 Mitchell's Plain families on the coun-

cil's housing waiting list would be moved into completed houses in Montrose Park by December 15.

Only 40 houses would be ready by the end of the year because of the building industry holidays.

He said the Mitchell's Plain beneficiaries would be people living in inadequate conditions and in backyards.

Mr Bregman said the moving of Cardboard City residents was taking "longer than we anticipated".

City of Cape Town executive committee chairman Saleem Mowzer said the council hoped the second phase of 150 houses would be completed in January.

A third phase of 150 houses was in the pipeline and "these were a victory for the homeless".

ARG 29/10/98

Council wants a rethink on squatter laws

Protection for owners 'unsatisfactory'

ARLT 21/11/98

(707)

JEAN LE MAY

The Cape Town city council has decided to ask the Government to take another look at the new law designed to prevent illegal land occupation and illegal evictions.

Because dealing with land invasion has become an administrative and political nightmare, the council decided last week on a combined approach to the central Government by local authorities and the Cape Metropolitan Council.

A top legal expert asked to advise the city council on 10 new laws described the protection given to landowners' rights as "less than satisfactory".

There has been extensive land invasion in the Western Cape, such as in Tafelsig, where 700 squatters are living on land designated for a school, and in Weltevreden Valley. And a councillor said illegal occupation of houses was common on the Cape Flats.

The new legislation gives no special protection to local authorities that own land. They are in the same position as any private landowner.

As the law now stands, you're in trouble if you go away for a weekend and discover on your return that squatters have put up a shack on your front lawn. Because the squatters have "lived" there - even for one night - you'll have to apply for a court order to evict them.

The squatters must be given 14 days' notice of your intention to evict them. If you apply for an urgent order, you'll have to prove you will suffer more damage if the order is not granted than the squatters will suffer if the order is granted.

And the court must take into account whether alternative accommodation is available and whether old people and children are among the squatters.

Either way, you'll be faced with huge legal costs or with the cost of

arbitration by a mediator. Some mediators charge R5 000 a day, said one council official.

In June, Parliament rushed through the new law to replace the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, which everyone agreed was unconstitutional. Only the Democratic Party and the Freedom Front voted against the new Prevention of Illegal Eviction and Illegal Occupation of Land Act.

"The title of the act makes clear where the emphasis is. It's a pernicious piece of legislation," said Errol Moorcroft, the DP spokesman on land affairs.

Annelize Crosby, the legal adviser to the South African Agricultural Union, said: "It gives far more protection to the squatters than to the landowners."

Mrs Crosby said that the old Trespass Act was still in force and that there was a thin line between trespassing and illegal occupation. "If you treat an invader as a trespasser and evict him without a court order, you may find you have evicted an 'occupant' and, in terms of the new law, you will have committed a criminal offence," she said.

Cameron Dugmore, the African National Congress spokesman in the Western Cape, said the ANC unequivocally disapproved of land invasion.

But until the provincial government released more land for low-cost housing, the problem of land invasion would not go away, he said.

Cape Town city councillor Daphne King, of the ANC, also has problems with the act.

Mrs King, the deputy chair of the housing committee, described how she felt about the court order - since withdrawn - obtained by the council to evict the Tafelsig squatters.

"We can't tolerate people who invade land and houses," she said. "I feel very bad about this. We were the people who led the protest originally. We need to run the city properly - we have policies in place and we need to implement them."

People "hijacked" houses on the Cape Flats almost daily, she said. "The tenant fails to pay rent, then he moves out and gives the key to somebody else who does not pay rent. The council is faced with two problems: getting the illegal tenant out and collecting rent."

"Gangs are involved in allocating houses. We can't let up - there would be chaos."

Land invasion was becoming such a problem for the council that it organised a workshop for councillors and council officials. A report on the workshop was handed to the council's Economic Development and Property Committee this month.

According to the report, city advocate Gerrit van Schalkwyk SC advised that anyone occupying land without the permission of the owner did so illegally; but, at the same time, no unlawful occupant could be evicted without a court order.

The crucial question was at what stage a person in the process of occupying became an occupant, he said. A person was not an occupant while he was in the process of constructing a shelter or moving in furniture, he said. But "once he or a member of his family had slept one night within it, that was the stage at which an illegal occupant became an occupant".

Alan Dolby, the head of protection services, said shelters took various forms, including cardboard or plastic structures, which complicated the definition.

Anwar Isaacs, the manager of the section dealing with illegal settlements, said land invasion was often orchestrated. Officials were often placed in danger, he said. Police could be called in only if officials were threatened.

The probability of gang members moving into the settlement exacerbated the hazards and the potential for violence, he said.

Mr Isaacs added that pressure was exerted in invasion situations by groups opposed to the council's actions, including "taxi drivers, gangsters, political groups and welfare associations".

You're in trouble if squatters put up a shack on your front lawn'

Squatters invade city school

No action taken against vagrants because law protects against eviction

ARG 5/12/98 (307)

JEANIE MAY

Pupils at Usasazo School in Maitland have admitted buying dagga from squatters on the school grounds, but nobody is doing anything about it.

The police say they can't catch the dagga-sellers, while the education authorities and the provincial Department of Public Works know about the school's problem.

Education spokesman Tony Eaton said the department had spent "years" trying to find a way around it.

The buck is apparently now with Public Works, but chief director James Slabbert refused to be interviewed. A reply to faxed questions had not arrived by late yesterday.

The Cape Town City Council recently decided to ask the Government to reconsider the law which prevents squatters being summarily evicted, because of the problems it caused local authorities.

People who live in townhouses next door to Usasazo School have said that nobody was listening to their complaints of dagga-sellers, filthy conditions, fighting, child abuse, drunkenness and bad language in the squatter settlement.

Louis Thiar, acting station commander of the Maitland police station, confirmed that police had been called in to the squatter settlement in the grounds of Usasazo School.

"We have had reports that drugs are being sold to the children, but as soon as a police patrol appears the drug-sellers and their customers vanish," he said.

Captain Thiar said that incidents of child abuse and stabbing had been reported, but that no arrests had been made.

He said that the station commander had reported the situation to his superiors and he understood that "somebody was going to apply for an eviction order".

Meanwhile Fairouz Foflander, who lives in a townhouse adjoining the squatter site, telephoned Satur-

day Argus to say that her life had been made "an absolute misery" by squatters since she and her husband moved in, in April.

"I'm asthmatic, so I have to keep the windows shut because of the smoke from cooking fires," she said.

"In addition, there is the noise of fighting and swearing that goes on every night. I've never heard such dreadful language."

Mrs Foflander said that "about 20 adults were living there, as well as some children wearing the uniform of Usasazo School".

"On several occasions the police have been called because of drunken assaults. A child was so badly beaten that people feared for his life. A man was stabbed and once a dog was stabbed - the SPCA removed it, but I see that it is now back."

Mrs Foflander said that she had spent months writing and telephoning to various authorities, but that up to now her complaints had been ignored.

Charles Khari, headmaster of Usasazo School, said that "several pupils had admitted buying dagga from the squatters". As far as he was aware, no hard-line drugs had been offered.

"There is a court order stopping the squatters from being chased away unless alternative accommodation is found for them," he said. "The department applied for an eviction order, but an interdict to stop the eviction was applied for."

The squatters - "mostly street people" - were living in a shed and in two dilapidated rooms on a piece of ground which was used as a playground and sports field, he said.

"Recently, squatters took over a portable toilet which had been put there for the children. It is now unusable," he said.

"The squatters usually hide their belongings under the floor of the shed and most of them disappear during the day," he went on.

"For that reason it is difficult to estimate how many people are living there - I'd say about a dozen. Several times people have come from the



BUCKET BRIGADE: Tremble to think what will happen when the school closes for the holidays. There is no night watchman and no caretaker

council and removed the belongings, but the same night they come back," he said.

Mr Khari said that recently the squatters had broken windows into the basement of the school hall and moved into the hall over weekends.

"I tremble to think what will happen when the school closes for the holidays at the end of the week," he said. "There is no night watchman and no caretaker."

Mr Eaton said that until 1995 Maitland Primary School had occupied the buildings. When this school was

amalgamated with a school in another suburb, Usasazo moved in. The principal of Maitland Primary School had given permission for two men to live in the shed to act as caretakers before Usasazo moved in, he said.

Other people soon joined the two men. When the department objected, the squatters said they had permission and that their occupation was not illegal.

However an eviction order was obtained, but it was not executed before the new law came into force.

This enabled a representative of the squatters to apply for the interdict forbidding the eviction.

Mr Eaton said that the matter was further complicated by the fact that the provincial Department of Public Works had since taken over as "owner, curator and manager" of provincial property.

The matter was now out of the hands of the Education Department, he said.

Kobus Stander of the Department of Public Works said that it would have to be ascertained whether the

department in fact owned the ground.

A Saturday Argus reporter who visited the site was received with a stream of invective from a group of women sitting around outside the shed. They appeared to have been drinking and refused to be interviewed.

Saturday Argus reported recently that the new Prevention of Illegal Eviction and Illegal Occupation of Land Act was causing problems for local authorities whose land had been invaded by squatters.

CAPE ARGUS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Desperation makes Delft a housing hot potato

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

The illegal occupation of Delft South houses is not politically motivated - it stems from sheer desperation.

But it should not be tolerated, say politicians, who believe the shortage of houses has led to people disregarding the law.

Provincial Housing Minister Cecil Herandien will meet top police this week in an attempt to halt illegal occupation of land and houses.

Delft ward councillor Gerhardus Ventura, of the New National Party, said he believed the illegal occupations were driven by the desperation of homeless people.

But he criticised the allocation of half the houses in Delft South to people on the City of Cape Town's waiting list, with the remaining half for those on the City of Tygerberg's list.

Democratic Party deputy provincial leader Cedric McNeil said that if the authorities and councillors worked together they could ensure the law was enforced.

Western Cape African National Congress leader Ebrahim Rasool said the housing ministry had to act swiftly and not tolerate illegal occupations and invasions.

Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille said a plan of action had to be set up by the provincial government to provide more houses.

Mr Herandien insisted his department was not losing the battle to provide housing in Delft South. Since June 1996, more than 5 000 houses had been built.

ARG 22/12/98

(307)

Adderley Street squatters call on council for housing

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

Nine homeless families living under Cape Town's Table Bay Boulevard bridge have formed a committee to negotiate with the City of Cape Town for housing.

Committee leader Jennifer Meyer said more than 20 people were living in five shacks in Adderley Street, near Customs House, under the bridge.

The people, who yesterday classified themselves as homeless street people, last worked for a construction company in the city's Corn-

pany Gardens. They said they hoped the council would help them, as it had the residents of nearby Cardboard City.

The council aims to move about 40 Cardboard City families from under the Western Boulevard fly-over on the Foreshore to new houses in Montrose Park, Lentegeur, in Mitchell's Plain next month.

Two wire fences were built around Cardboard City to prevent more people moving in.

Sandra Botha, who shares a shack with another family near the entrance to Customs House, pointed towards Cardboard City and said: "If

the council can help us like it did those people, we will be grateful, because we now have no income".

None of them would say where they came from, but Ms Botha said: "We have lived on the city's streets most of the time."

City of Cape Town spokeswoman Leonora de Souza said ownership of the vacant land they occupied would be investigated.

She said the council accepted that homeless people needed to be housed and that the council's housing policy was geared towards this, but that the correct procedures to obtain houses had to be followed.



Homeless: Sandra Botha in front of her shack near the entrance to Customs House

LEON LESTRADE

Southern Sun sure of filling new Cape hotel

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — Southern Sun was confident that growth in international tourism would ensure high occupation levels for its 546-room Cape Town Waterfront Holiday Inn, Hal Perreira, the chain's managing director, said yesterday.

He said claims that the Cape Town area had too many hotel rooms for existing demand, even without the new R200 million Holiday Inn, were misleading.

"What happened was that a shortage of rooms in Cape Town itself caused hotels on the periphery, in areas like Somerset West and Bellville, to do well.

"Now that there are more rooms in the Waterfront area, which has proved a successful hotel and entertainment node, tourists and business people are

going there and hotels in outlying areas are feeling the pinch.

"International tourism is growing at a rate of 17 percent a year, even without adequate marketing overseas. The US market, in particular, is growing.

"The only problem with filling hotels in Cape Town is that it is a seasonal destination."

The Holiday Inn, to open in July, will be one of the largest hotels in southern Africa. It is part of a four-year R380 million Liberty Life Properties hotel development project. All the hotels will be managed by Southern Sun.

Those opened so far are the Holiday Inn Garden Court in Sandton, the Holiday Inn Garden Court in Eastgate, Gauteng, the Holiday Inn Garden Court in Hatfield, Pretoria, and the budget Holiday Inn Express in Eastgate.

SQUATTERS - W. CAPE
1999

Council tears down shacks

MYOLISI GOPHE
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

City of Cape Town officials have moved in with police reinforcements to demolish 16 illegal shacks in Cardboard City.

The municipality alleges that the illegal shacks under the Western Boulevard flyover are being used as hideouts by a criminal element intent on mugging passers-by and preying on businesses on the Foreshore and the Waterfront.

During yesterday's demolition, a racing cycle worth nearly R22 000 which was stolen last November was discovered in one of the shacks.

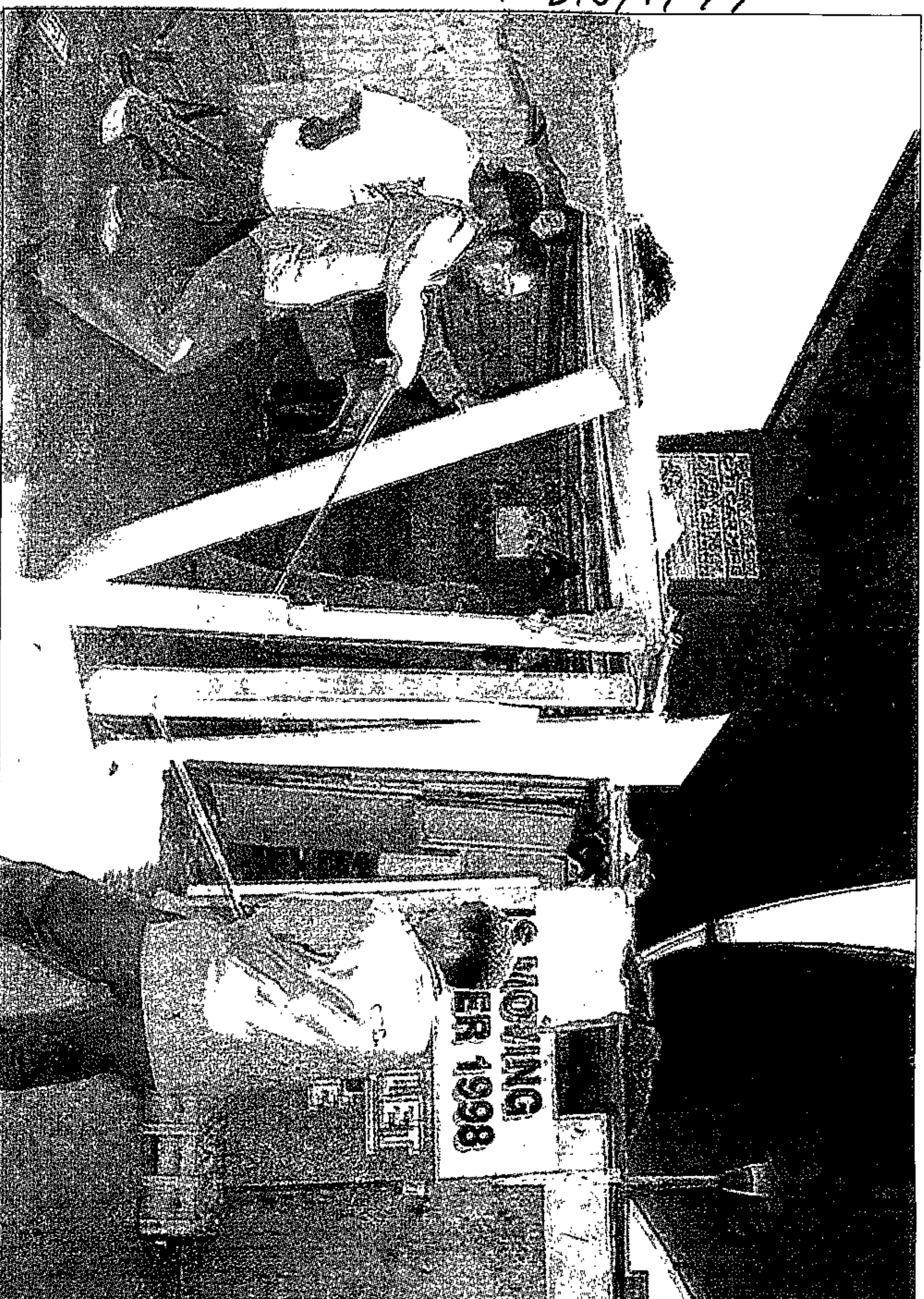
Vehicle lights and hubcaps were also found.

But Cardboard City residents claimed that they were not the culprits.

It was criminals from outside who used the squatter settlement as a hideout, they said.

Anwar Isaacs, the council's manager for informal housing, said the people removed from the area were "jumpers" who - after hearing that Cardboard City residents would be given houses in Mitchell's Plain - built shacks so that they could also benefit.

(907)
ARG 28/1/99



ROY WIGLEY

Move out: council workers demolishing shacks belonging to illegal residents at Cardboard City yesterday

Others were former convicts released after the six-month remission of sentence to mark President Mandela's birthday last year.

Many were the same people evicted last July after the area was labelled as the most dangerous for tourists in Cape Town.

Mr Isaacs said a committee running the squatter camp notified the council last week about the return of the former convicts and other new "invaders."

The eviction went quiet with no

violence or confrontation.

Vathiswa Koti, whose house was demolished, said she was planning to go back to her parents in Guguletu.

One of the remaining residents blamed the committee for letting their friends live in the settlement and accused them of drug dealing.

The man, a resident since 1993, confessed that he was also a drug dealer with wealthy white people making up the majority of his customers. Selling drugs was the main activity in the area, he alleged.

He claimed that some of the demolished houses had been marked as legitimate by the committee.

Some of these residents were on the waiting list but their numbers had been given to the new "invaders." The committee refused to speak to the media.

Mr Isaacs said the council was monitoring the situation and the list of legitimate residents was controlled by the council. Remaining residents were to move to newly built houses in Mitchell's Plain next month.

Police open fire on 'illegals' during eviction

One woman shot, another slapped during fracas as council workers oust Nyanga East 'land invaders'

MANDLA MNYAKAMA
Staff Reporter

Nyanga East residents who tried to stop the confiscation of building materials from a site they had occupied illegally were fired on and slapped by police who monitored the eviction.

Yesterday, Nomath Ficol, 20, was wounded in the right leg by a rubber bullet fired by police.

Lebu Nzwana, 21, was slapped in the face by a policewoman as she tried to stop the removal of building materials from the site along Elsleben and Lansdowne roads.

A convoy of police and council vehicles converged for the demolition of about 20 shacks and other half-built structures erected by residents on land earmarked for the Wetton/Lansdowne/Philippi Corridor.

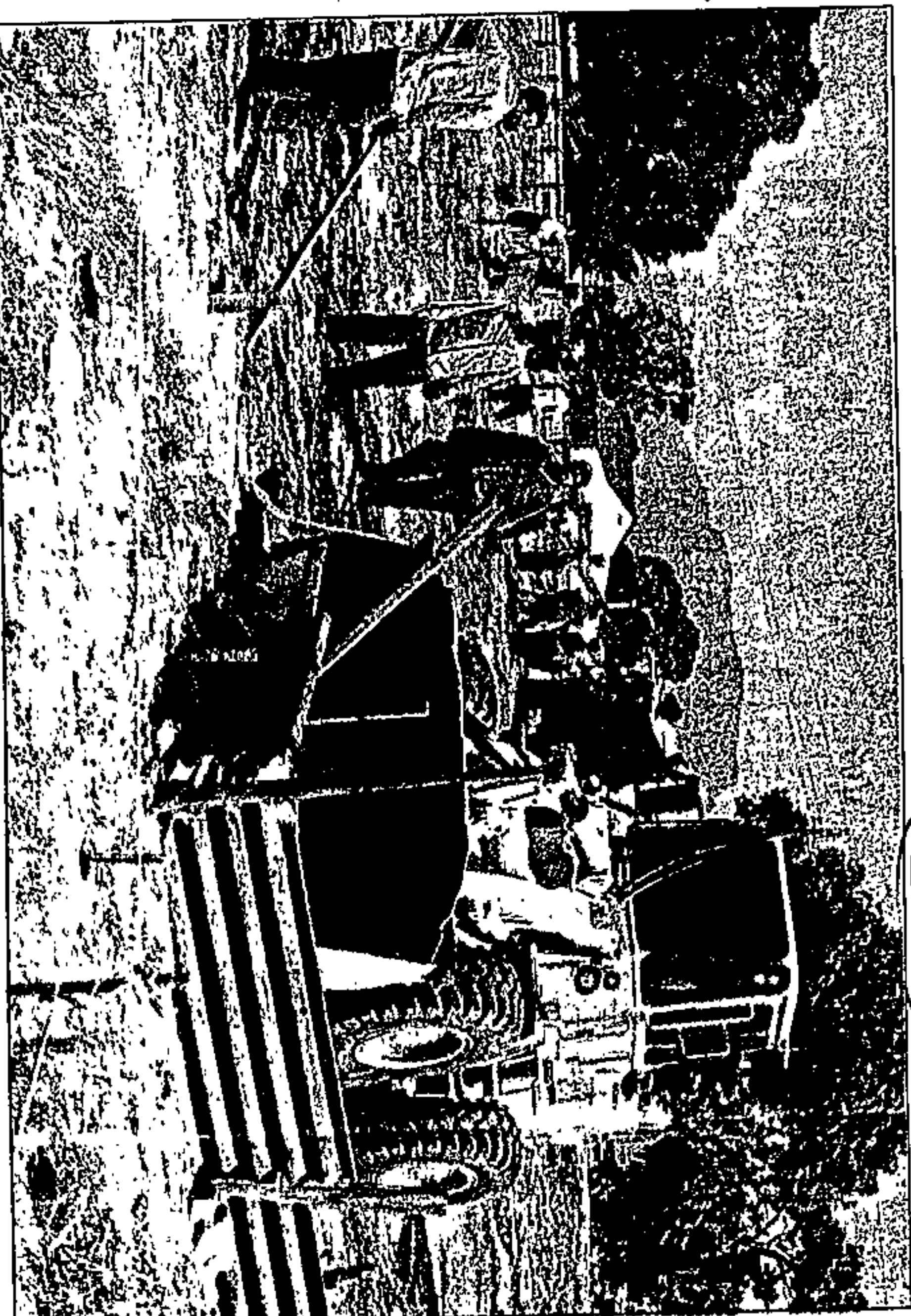
More than R40-million has been raised for pilot projects along the corridor. These include the upgrading of civic facilities, bulk services and transport interchanges.

The corridor eventually will comprise a business, entertainment and retail park worth more than R1.3-billion. It is expected to provide new services and create jobs in an impoverished area.

Two weeks ago, more than 200 residents from the Mau Mau and Zwelitsha sections of Nyanga East built shacks along Elsleben and Lansdowne roads, arguing that the City of Cape Town had earmarked the land for their use.

The occupants said they should be allowed to live on land where building would take place later.

They vowed that no shopping development would be established



Heavy metal: municipal workers demolish a shack on land in Nyanga East earmarked for civic and entrepreneurial development

on the land while Nyanga East families needed space.

Ms Nomathamba Tsetane, whose large family used to live in a two-roomed house in Mau Mau, said a new shopping complex was unnecessary as there was a Small Business Development Corporation shopping centre nearby.

Nyanga Junction and Mitchell's

Plain were close enough as well.

Yesterday, residents vainly tried to defend their building materials as front-end loaders moved in, backed up by police who fired rubber bullets as the shouting crowd grew angrier.

Confiscated goods were loaded on to council trucks.

"We are totally against this action and no matter what they do to

remove us from here, we won't go back and live in those overcrowded, small houses and backyard shacks," said a man who did not want to be named.

He said police had no reason to shoot as they had not been provoked. But City of Cape Town spokes-

woman Leonora de Souza-Zilwa said police had fired at the crowd when



Blue line: police confront Nyanga East residents while council workers confiscate building materials belonging to illegal occupants

the lives of council staff were endangered.

She said the evictions were carried out only after all methods of negotiations with the occupants, the local community, Sanco and an RDP forum had been exhausted.

Ms De Souza-Zilwa said the Nyanga East community knew the corridor had been launched as a

joint project by the city council, the province, the national government and business sector to bring industry, economic development and housing for the benefit of local people.

"They must know that we've got a well developed housing policy and we are about to launch a special purpose housing (finance) vehicle

which will look at topping up housing grants and the development of housing in our city."

Land invaders didn't make it easy for the council to address housing problems.

"It's unfortunate that a minority of people would derail a project which would benefit the majority of our residents."

Marconi squatters discover there is life after Chukutown

MOSES MITHHELU MACKAY

Marconi Beam, the once notorious squatter camp in Milnerton, used to reflect the sad face of urban poverty in the Western Cape. It is now one of the success stories of the new South Africa.

Locals called it Chukutown, the place of troubles. Living conditions were unsanitary, crime was rife and fires tore through the shacks regularly, leaving death, destitution and destruction.

But now solid houses are replacing the ramshackle shanties and residents are moving to their new homes in nearby De Noon and Joe Slovo Park.

The old informal settlement next to Milnerton's industrial area, which inherited its name from a factory, sprang up several years ago. It had no services, electricity or water and was prone to devastating fires.

But that has changed. The new Marconi Beam is proof that partnerships involving the national Government, the local government, the private sector and the people can work.

The Western Cape Provincial Administration, the Blaauwberg municipality, the national Government, the private sector and the residents got together a few years ago and decided a new future had to be found for the people of Marconi Beam.

The resulting R1.8-billion project includes the development of an industrial area around the old Marconi Beam site and the construction of low-cost housing.

The development is now well past the halfway mark, two years ahead of schedule.

Empowering people to take responsibility for their own upliftment was seen as key to the development. Under the Marconi Beam Joint Venture, led by the Rabie Cavcor development consortium (Rabecav), amenities such as schools, creches, a

temporary clinic and a church are now part of the social upliftment programme funded by the private sector.

Leslie Viljoen, the chairman of property developer Cavcor, which provided the funding, said the development framework included housing the community on 25 hectares of land and rezoning the balance of the area for light industrial, commercial and residential use.

Mr Viljoen said the upliftment programmes had been introduced to address the social issues that came with moving the community to formal housing.

He said the creation of an industrial park next to the new homes would help create an environment in which small businesses could be viable.

Squatters were told to destroy the shacks and move to Joe Slovo Park

A total of 2 150 squatter families were being moved into formal houses, 1 250 more than originally anticipated.

Mr Viljoen said 800 old shacks had been demolished, with 616 more to go. He said a list of residents in the settlement had been compiled.

People earning less than R1 500 a month qualified for a government subsidy. Formal low-cost houses would be built for them in the new Joe Slovo Park.

Mr Viljoen said the residents wanted to move because of the danger of fires and storms and poor sanitation in the informal settlement. Shack dwellers were notified in writing to destroy their shacks and to move to their new houses in Joe Slovo Park or De Noon a few kilometres down the road.

Residents said they were eager to move to the new development. Nontombi Batsba, 23, who moved to her new house in De Noon recently, said: "I am very happy now that I have my own house. It was very difficult to live in a shack in those terrible conditions."

Elda Mahlentle, the principal of Elda Mahlentle Secondary School, said the new premises had improved life for teachers and children.



(307) (407) ARK 6/3/99

HAPPY DAYS: Leslie Viljoen, left, chairman of developer Cavcor, visits Elda Mahlentle Secondary School in Marconi Beam. With him are school principal Elda Mahlentle and pupils.

STARTING AFRESH: Nontombi Batsba, 23, and her 16-month-old son Vuyani, below, which workers remove their belongings from her shack to her new house in De Noon.

Pictures: WAYNE CONRADIE



200 PEOPLE, NO WATER

Vote is squatters', only hope

AS elections loom, a Kulis River community living without even the most basic human needs has registered to vote. These citizens believe their vote is all they've got.

LINDA DANIELS reports.

EVERY morning when the summer sun rises and beats down on the Vyheid Dairy squatter camp, its 200 residents awake from another uneasy sleep worrying about their future.

There is no water in the settlement. No toilets. No electricity.

Yet the spirit of hope prevails for many there who live in makeshift cardboard and tin shacks.

Despite their situation, most of the residents have walked for kilometres into Belhar to register to vote. They grasp the power of the ballot — and are hopeful that it could eventually help them.

"I believe it could help us. What else do we have?" said Elsaby Smith, who has been living there

for six years.

Just then her husband Hendrik, a recently retrenched driver, turned to his neighbour — who did not want to be named — and asked: "Have you registered yet?"

Pleased with the affirmative answer he said, nodding his head: "Good, good."

These citizens see their vote as the only chance to change their circumstances.

Maria Krieger has had her Vyheid Dairy farm address for 26 years. She worked on the dairy farm and when the owner sold the farm to the local municipality, she stayed.

She carries her 11-year-old disabled daughter, who cannot walk or talk, on her back.

The child's soiled clothes are dishevelled on her small, lame frame. Her useless limbs hang loosely at her sides.

"We can't even bathe the children because there's no water. Where are we supposed to get water from?" asked Krieger.

According to the residents, they used water from a pipe that was laid by the municipality to water newly planted trees. When the municipality found out, it cut off this crucial water supply. That was more than a week ago.

Residents didn't think using the water amounted to stealing.

"We had no choice. We took it — it was there and nobody was using it," said Smith.

Residents, in desperation, have been collecting water from a service station close by. But now they have to pay R10 for a drum of water.

Several trips to the local municipality offices have done

nothing to ease their plight. Residents complain of being sent from one office to another to have their grievances attended to.

"People think we are dirty. But we can't help it if there's no water here," said Francina van Oordt.

The non-existence of ablution facilities has resulted in the surrounding bush being littered with human waste.

Berence Brown, who has lived here for six years, is thankful that there has been no serious outbreak of disease — yet.

Brown says that a Dr Doris at Tygerberg Hospital services the community's health needs.

A clearing close to the entrance of the squatter camp is used to dump rubbish.

Children play next to it in the loose, burning sand. Their poverty is visible in their faces, all the more tragic as they are robbed of their innocence in this harsh environment.



NOT QUITE PICKET FENCES: Francina van Oordt, a resident of the Vyheid Dairy Farm squatter camp for the past six years, looks out over her fence.



COMFORT: Four-year-old Abraham Ligman clutches his teddy bear at his home in the Vyheid Dairy Farm squatter camp.



POVERTY STRICKEN: Many Jonkers looks on as Maria Krieger tells of their struggle to find clean water. The municipality recently cut water to a pipe the residents had been using.

PICTURES: ANDREW OCTOBER

Squatters homeward bound

TOM HOOD

Westlake families to get brand-new three-bedroom brick houses — for free

WHEN Ethel Mgbanyoni came from the Transkei to live in Westlake squatter camp three years ago she never dreamed she would move into a brick house with proper roof, clean running water, a flush toilet, a shower and electricity.

She is among 700 families who are counting the days to snuffing out candles and switching on lights in their new three-bedroom houses.

Mgbanyoni, whose husband works at the development, took her baby son Sixolise to inspect four of the showhouses before the official launch on Wednesday. "I have not lived in a house like this before," she said. "I would like to move in now."

The houses will be at least double the size normally built with government subsidies and are designed so rooms can be added.

Thanks to some creative financing that supplied the houses free, Mgbanyoni will pay only for municipal rates, water and electricity.

In the shack settlement she pays R20 a month to share a tap, have refuse removed and use a bucket toilet system.

The south-easter threatens to blow away her shack and roof and the winter rains flood the camp.

The R30-million resettlement project is part of a R1-billion development that is the first of its kind in the Western Cape, involving cross subsidies from the sale of plots for expensive houses and business sites.

The houses will cost between R38 000 and R78 000 to build. The 100ha site at Tokai will eventually

have 1 900 houses, including 1 200 middle-income houses selling for at least R300 000.

About 15 percent of the area is earmarked for an office park and service-type commercial and retail businesses. The buildings are planned to provide jobs near the new homes on the lines of the R1.5-billion Marconi Beam development at Milnerton.

The squatters will move to an area bounded by Pollamoortprison and Steenberg golf course.

The state-owned land was transferred to the South Peninsula Mu-

nicipality, which dalled in two leading development companies, Rabie and Cavor, to handle the project.

"It is important that everyone pays for services," said Leslie Viljoen of the Rabie-Cavor consortium. "The success of the project lies in seeing people living there not as a problem but as part of the answer. Every industry needs a workforce just as badly as a community needs jobs."

At Marconi Beam a similar Rabie-Cavor project with 80ha of industrial development created 4 000 jobs, said Viljoen.



DREAM HOME: Ethel Mgbanyoni and baby Sixolise, who live at the Westlake camp, outside a house similar to the one they will move into later this year. Picture: KIM LUDSBROOK

Mutzenberg

Houses for

Vrygrond -

AR 6/4/99

at long last

R30-m project approved

PETER GOUSEN
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Vrygrond in Mutzenberg, the oldest known informal housing settlement in the country - dating back to 1941 - is to be developed into a formal suburb with formal housing by developers Ubuntu Home Builders.

The more than R30-million project has taken more than seven years to come off the drawing board - it has been designed and redesigned three times to satisfy both the community and the Provincial Housing Development Board.

Wynberg

Sex shop back on the agenda

PETER GOUSEN
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It's back to the drawing board for the South Peninsula and its battle to deal with the contentious issue of the Wynberg sex shop.

At the centre of the battle is the adult shop In-X-Cess, in Main Road, Wynberg, which is owned by Brian Du Plessis.

It's the first sex shop application to come before the South Peninsula Council and is being vehemently opposed by the Concerned Citizens Against Pornography and Standing Together Against Pornography groups, schools and religious organisations.

Most of the cost of the development will be borne by national housing subsidies.

It took years to get the majority of the fractious Vrygrond community together to reach consensus.

To this end the Vrygrond Community Development Trust was formed.

About two years ago Vrygrond became the responsibility of the South Peninsula Municipality, which inherited the area from the Cape Town Municipality.

One of the prime movers behind the scenes has been the south's Director of Housing, Hans Smut, who brought Vrygrond with him when



Houses for all: residents of Vrygrond - the oldest known informal settlement in the country - will soon receive proper houses

he moved from Cape Town to the south. He has nine thick volumes of documents on Vrygrond stored in his office.

Ubuntu, a black empowerment company, was given the job after a lengthy tender and selection process.

The company was the lowest tender for the earthworks and civil engineering services at just more

Neighbourhood

noticeboard

.....

Mutzenberg/Pelican Park: The South Peninsula Municipality has appointed consultants to prepare a growth management strategy to guide future development and allocation of resources in the area. People wanting to be involved in this study should contact Francis Currie at the South Peninsula Municipality, Private Bag X5, Plumstead 7801 or e-mail fourtie@CTCC.gov.za.

Grassy Park: The repair of 5th Avenue between Atkins Road and Strandfontein Road and Buck Avenue between 5th Avenue and Klip Road will be completed by the

than R13-million, and was also the only tender to meet the requirements for a 24m top structure on an average plot size of 198m.

At last week's monthly South Peninsula Council meeting, the hona fides of Ubuntu were questioned. Chairman of engineering services Deon Kruse said he had been the chairman of the meeting at which the tender was accepted by

end of this month. Sections of the road will be closed between 8.30am and 4pm, except for the section of Buck Road between 3rd and 4th Avenues which will be closed to traffic for about two weeks.

Residents' access will be open. **Wynberg:** There will be temporary holding facilities for taxis in Piers Road and Rosmead Avenue during construction of the R4-million Wynberg Transport Interchange. The roads affected are Moron, Station and Maynard Roads.

Mowbray: Construction on the Mowbray Transport Interchange, which includes toilets, passenger shelters, an information centre, a covered walkway and a bridge across the railway line, has started. Bus and taxi operations

the Vrygrond Trust, representatives of the national civics organisation Sanco, the Provincial Housing Development Board and council officials.

"Everyone agreed that to house more than 1 600 families is a major achievement by this council in a relatively short space of time.

The Vrygrond tender was unanimously passed by the council.

will be accommodated during construction but it may be necessary at times to relocate these services to holding areas nearby.

Cape Metropole: The Cape Metropolitan Council needs

information on the transportation of people who are not mobile within its area. The information will be used in the formulation of policies and strategies for incorporation in the "Moving Ahead" Integrated Transport Plan. Contact Nicole Schum of Gibb Africa, 14 Kloof Street, Cape Town, 8001, phone 469 5189 or fax 424 1388.

■ This column as a service to readers of the Cape Argus, occasionally publishes simplified versions of major applications for rezonings and removal of restrictions.

Manenberg

Two men who know where it's happening

REAGREARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

Manenberg has often been touted as a gangland where no-one is safe to walk the streets and everyone lives in complicity with gangsters.

But few people realise that the suburb houses a predominantly working class where gangsterism is just one of the problems the society faces.

For many, a more pressing problem is the 60% unemployment rate.

Two men who know all too well about the ravages that the community of Manenberg has suffered are Raghi Johnson and Owen Munro.

Since their high school days, the pair have been part of the struggle for the social upliftment of the community who they refer to as "our people".

In the past few years the lack of cohesion in the community has been evident. When a peace rally was held less than 10 years back about 10 000 people took part. For a similar event last year, less than 500 people turned up.

The two started out as politically motivated students fighting an oppressive regime, and then became founder members of an anti-crime forum, which has now mushroomed into the Western Cape Anti-Crime Forum.

They have abandoned the idea of trying to negotiate with gangsters and are devoting themselves to the grassroots movement.

"We decided to devote our time to trying to save our young people rather than to negotiating with gangsters," said Mr Munro.

About eight years ago the idea of pulling the community of Manenberg together bore fruit when the Manenberg Peoples' Centre (MPC) was founded.

With no funding available from South Africa, the centre was sponsored mostly by overseas donors.

As you walk into the bustling centre, with children of all ages hanging around, you are greeted by a plaque which reads: "Manenberg Peoples Centre opened March 1, 1991 by the people of Manenberg".



Neighbours

Send your neighbourhood news and notices to Jenny Vail at 468 4218, fax 468 4075 or e-mail nhood@cnh.independent.co.za

The centre runs a daily kitchen where people can buy a plate of food for 25c. Activities such as karate, music and DJ-ing are offered.

The main focus now is on job creation, which the executive feels addresses the most pressing needs of the people. Two weeks ago about 30 pupils graduated from a computer course run from the centre.

The MPC plans to open a panel-beating and spraypainting workshop, a printing workshop, cooking, tourism and a hairdressing school.

The workshops will be run in collaboration with recognised organisations in their respective fields.

"We are very excited about the projects," said Mr Johnson.

"In the past we had tourists coming here with other people showing them around. Tourists want to see the reality of the Cape Flats and we want our own people to show them around so that the money stays in the community," he said.

The MPC intends revitalising the tradition of court and street committees.

"What we want to do is to have people start talking to each other again. One of our members, Fadihah de Vries, organised a kids' party in her block of flats the other day. That was the first time anyone had thrown a party there as far as I can remember," said Mr Munro.

The hope is that, through social events, people will reclaim their suburb.

Invasion scupper development

JENNY WALL

STAFF REPORTER

When a group of people moved on to private land in Philippi in March and April this year and began building houses, it was the final nail in the coffin of owner Helmut Ernst's plans to build an industrial park there.

Now, in just over a month, about 2 000 people have moved onto the land, and it is an informal settlement without access to water or sanitation.

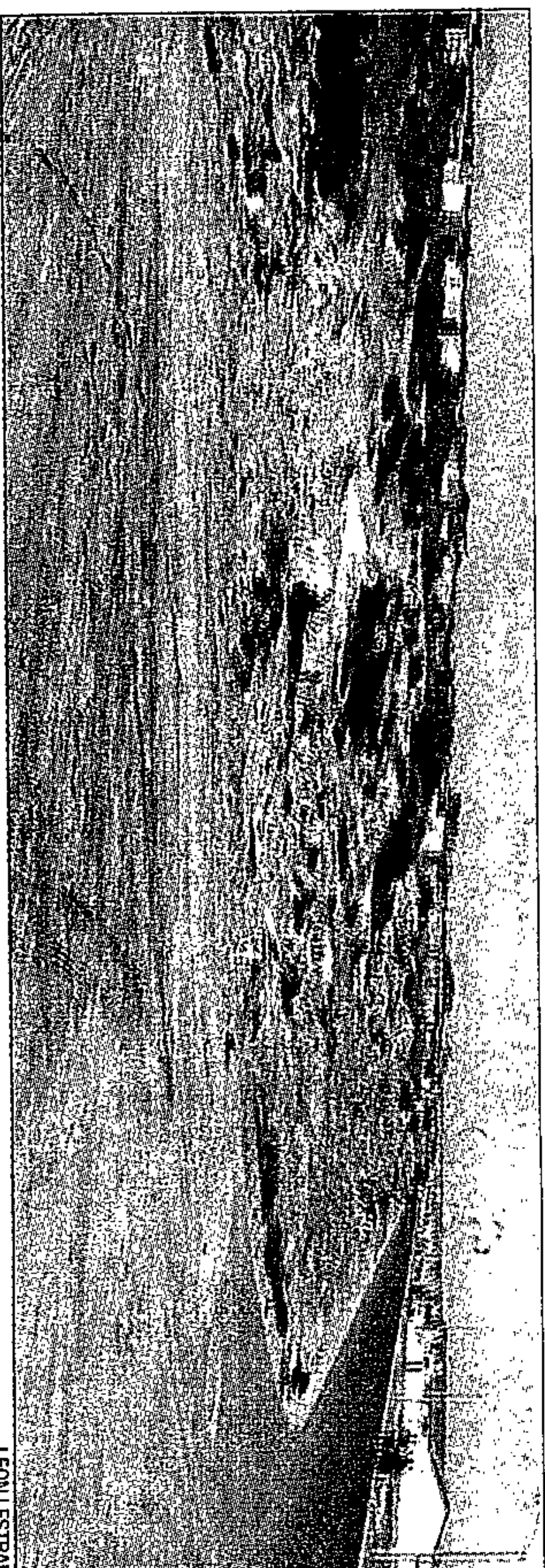
The invasion appeared to be well organised, taking place over three long weekends.

Mr Ernst videotaped the first move: the film shows sites clearly marked out with tape and people hard at work building shacks.

Mr Ernst was told people had paid R150 to R200 for a site, but he did not know who was "selling" them. He said the building material was brought to the site by vehicles belonging to the City of Cape Town's Nyanga East depot.

Apart from taking this issue up with the council, Mr Ernst said he was powerless to do anything about the squatters. There was nothing he could do at the time, and there is little he can do now to remove the people.

Police and the council say they cannot help; because it is privately owned land, he must get a civil eviction order in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act of 1998. But that is impossible because for



Invasion: about 2000 squatters have built houses on private land in Philippi, next to the newly built suburb of Hazeldene, right

the sheriff of the court to serve papers, he must have names and addresses. And when people are living illegally, these are impossible to collect.

The land invasion is not the first time Mr Ernst's plans to build an industrial park have been scuppered. His story is one of powerlessness in the face of a president's whim in 1988, and powerlessness now in the face of a new law on squatting which does little to protect the interests of private landowners.

Mr Ernst bought the land in 1982 for R500 000 and planned to develop it into an industrial park. Earmarked for industry, it was ideally situated, easily accessible by people in Mitchell's Plain, and close to a railway line and major roads.

Mr Ernst, an experienced businessman with interests all over the

world, considered it a good investment, and started drawing up plans for an industrial park which would provide thousands of jobs and attract much-needed investment.

In 1983 he invested R1.5 million in the development of the area by installing roads and services. Subdivision of the land into industrial erven was approved in 1984.

In 1988 then president PW Botha, looking for a place to move the Hout Bay squatters, did an aerial inspection of Philippi. He chose a 40ha site, zoned for industrial use, right next to Mr Ernst's land.

This effectively marginalised opportunities for developing an industrial park and alienated potential investors. The presence of the squatters, the unrest of the 80s and the destruction of services on the land meant no one was interested in

it. Manhole covers were stolen and rubble was dumped.

Mr Ernst sought legal opinion at the time and was told the government should compensate him, but after many meetings with government representatives, nothing happened.

Then, when the Philippi/Lansdowne corridor was earmarked for development, Mr Ernst hoped it would incorporate his land and allow him to get some return on his investment.

The land invasion has put paid to that.

"The situation is intolerable," says Mr Ernst.

"A segment of the population appears to hold the opinion that ownership of land counts for nothing and that vacant land can be occupied at will. The authorities are

doing nothing to discourage this view."

Mr Ernst sympathises with the squatters and their desperate need for housing. But, he says, property rights have to be protected.

"Even if we could get an eviction order it will not be a long-term solution. If existing occupants are evicted, their place is likely to be taken by others. And if people are evicted, there is every possibility there will be nasty scenes as they feel they have paid for their sites."

Practically, the people can't be moved. The issue is a political issue, not one of law, he says. "I would like the government to take responsibility for protecting property rights. They must compensate me for this loss and purchase the land from me. I want to recover my investment."

The only resort left to him, he believes, is to lobby internationally using his extensive contacts.

"The situation warrants urgent attention. The message which this situation is sending to investors who might be contemplating an investment in our economy cannot be underestimated. Overseas investors will not invest in a country where property rights are not protected."

City of Cape Town spokesman Theo Koopman said the council was investigating the allegations that Nyanga East depot vehicles were used to carry building materials.

"A *prima facie* case exists that staff and vehicles belonging to the council were used and disciplinary hearings have been set up this week to finalise the matter," he said.

NEWS

Hout Bay officials demolish hundreds of illegal shacks

Municipality declares war on new Mandela Park dwellings

SIPHOKAZI MGDULWA

Hundreds of shacks were demolished by South Peninsula Municipality officials in a raid on illegal structures in the Mandela Park informal settlement in Hout Bay on Thursday. Hout Bay police accompanied the officials.

Johann van Rensburg, area manager of the South Peninsula Municipality, said the municipality had an agreement with the community that no more shacks would be built in the overcrowded area. Extensions to existing dwellings were also forbidden.

"There is a housing office in the area where people are issued permits to build shacks and they are also given stand numbers. However, we noticed there were many shacks that had no numbers and many people were extending their shacks," said Mr Van Rensburg.

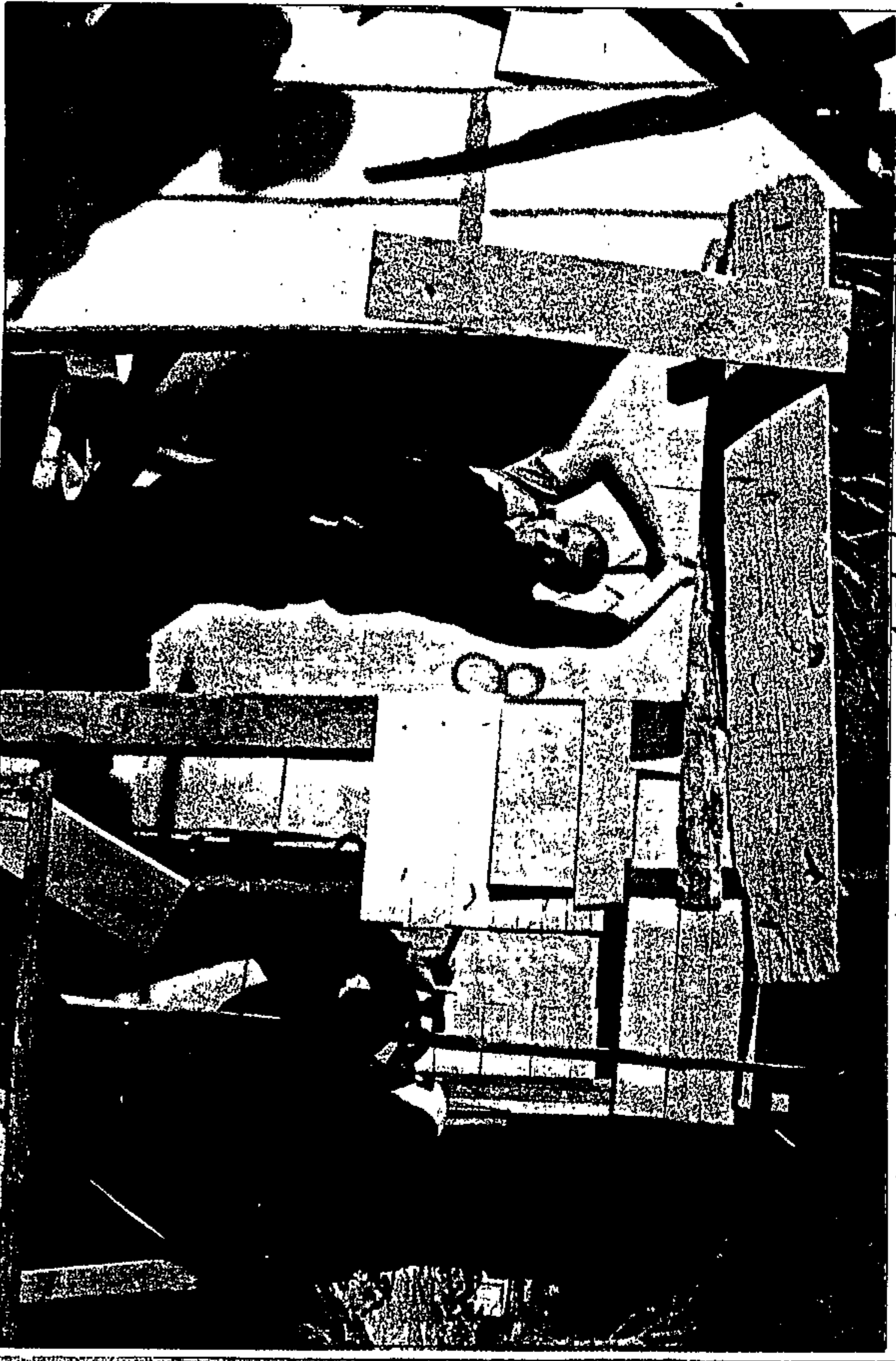
Meanwhile, Nomalady Gameni said when she came home from work last week her shack and building material had been removed. "I've lost most of my building material because I was not here when they broke down my house."

Mr Van Rensburg denied that officials had demolished illegal structures last week. "Whoever broke down her house was not one of our officials," he said.

Mandela Park peace officer Theo Veerapen said although the community had agreed that no more shacks would be built, people were still given numbers by the housing office.

"When we demand an explanation no one is willing to answer," said Mr Veerapen.

(307) ART 8/5/99



AT WORK: officials demolish illegal shacks in Mandela Park during the raid this week

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

Unlawful occupants expelled

PRISCILLA SINGH

(307)

CT 26/5/99

ABOUT 153 families were evicted from a housing development in Saldanha yesterday morning because they had been illegally occupying the dwellings.

The Vredenburg Town Council gave orders for police to force the residents out of the houses, along with all their belongings and furniture, early yesterday morning.

Heavily armed policemen took up strategic positions to ensure that none of the residents attempted to re-occupy them.

Mark Fritz, one of the people evicted, said they did not receive any warning or notification that they were going to be tossed out of their homes.

He said at least 300 houses had been built on the site and that only half were occupied.

About 155 houses were standing empty since last year and were since occupied illegally.

Fritz said he had moved into one of the dwellings in February after his landlord kicked him out from the previous place he was renting.

He and his wife and three children found that they had nowhere to go and their only thought was the empty houses in Saldanha.

"We knew these houses were standing empty since last year already, and other people had moved in because they were tired of waiting for the council to tell them if they were going to get a house. I put my name on the housing list in 1994, but I am still waiting."

"Where are we going to go to now? They did not even warn us that the police were going to kick us out with all our things, so we could have found another place to stay," Fritz said.

He added that the police had also fired shots at a crowd of residents trying to remove the last of their possessions.

Johan Veldsman, assistant treasurer of housing, was unavailable for comment.

With winter already upon the Cape, these families are now destitute and have no place to go.

"All we're asking for is a roof over our heads, especially for the children," Fritz said.

SQUATTERS have besieged a cluster of houses, threatening to burn them down if the owners try to have them removed.

Residents of The Leagues area of Philippi said the squatters, who had occupied a plot across the road from them, had threatened them with guns and they were too scared to let their children to play outside alone.

One woman, who did not want to be named, said the squatters wanted them that they would burn down their houses if they tried to have them removed. "We are all scared because we don't know what these people will do to us. They have pointed guns at us, threatened to burn our houses and are rude."

The woman and her husband have taken leave from work to be with their children during the holidays to make sure they are safe.

"These people knock on our doors demanding water, or they simply take it from our taps. I've now moved my tap, but don't see why I should do this when I pay rent and for water and lights."

A neighbour, Bonita Meyer, who is a member of a street committee and the neighbourhood watch, said that during a meeting the squatters had told them they were leasing the plots for R40.

"We have called the police, but they say there is nothing they can do until these people actually do something to us or our properties."

Vicks Benyana, who has built a shack on the land, said the squatters did not pose a threat to The Leagues community. Instead, he claimed, they were there to "help".

"Since we moved here there have not been any muggings or stabbings in the bush because we are there. When people cross the field to go to the train station they know they are safe."

"So we are helping the community, hoping that they will also help us with things such as water and electricity. We are not here to harm anyone. We just need homes."

He said the squatters had been renting plots from people in Philippi but had been thrown out when landowners started building.

They had then moved to the open land next to The Leagues.

"Most of the residents are happy

Besieged by squatters

Families say they fear for their children after being threatened with guns and arson

(307) ST (CIN) 18/7/99



FEARLESS: Bonita Meyer, member of the neighbourhood watch, acts as a liaison between The Leagues' residents and the squatters

that we are here and they give us water. We know nothing about the intimidation some are talking about."

said Benyana.

Maree Martin, whose house is next to the shacks, said she felt sorry for the squatters. "They are just people who need homes. But they make fires

and the smoke is not good for my granddaughter because she has leukaemia."

She said, however, she felt safer since the squatters moved in — a view not shared by her neighbours.

Co-owner of the land, Michael Leseur, said it was difficult to get an

eviction order as the land belonged to a family trust.

Leseur, who has been receiving calls from scared homeowners asking for help, said the squatters were a "major problem". "They have rights, but the owners of the land don't seem to have any. I have to go

through a long process before I can remove the people."

Leseur said the situation had become "dangerous" because of the alleged threats against residents. He was doing everything he could to remove the squatters.

Captain Dyson Jacobs, of Mitchell's

Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

Plain police station, said there was nothing the police could do until

Leseur obtained an interdict.

Jacobs said: "Leseur has laid a charge of trespassing against the squatters — now he must prove ownership of the land and obtain an interdict before we can do anything."

ET 19/7/99 (307)

Invasion of the land-snatchers a 'local emergency'

MANDLA MNYAKAMA

A LAND invasion by about 2 000 shack residents in Moonwood, Philippi, was described as a "local emergency" at last week's City of Cape Town planning committee meeting — and the dispute is far from resolved.

Since February, Brown's Farm shack residents have been removed by local area committee members from land to make way

for a housing development. These residents then moved to a private site owned by a German investor, Helmut Ernst.

Ernst has earmarked the 20 hectares of land for a R12-million industrial project and is now applying for a court order to evict the invaders.

Yesterday, residents said they did not know what was happening. "We know we live here illegally and we know the land we lived

on before was to be developed for housing purposes," said one.

Elliot Ndabeni, a Philippi councillor for Ward C 20, said the land invasion was a serious problem that urgently needed to be resolved.

Madoda Giyose, chairperson of the Greater Philippi Reconstruction and Development Programme, said the issue was controversial because residents had settled in their new spot without con-

sulting anyone. "They were led by the so-called 'no-name leaders' and we are very concerned about that because on the land they previously occupied we provided them with services like toilets and water," Giyose said.

Residents who have invaded a piece of land nearby say they settled there after being moved by council officials and police two weeks ago from plots they occupied in the township.

(307) ST(CM) 25/7/99

Citizens' group to fight squatter land grab

TOM HOOD

A CAPE Flats citizens group is joining efforts to stop squatters grabbing empty land — especially industrial land that has been earmarked for factories and businesses that could provide jobs to unemployed people.

The Lansdowne Road Corridor Development Action Group says millions of rands ear-

marked for the corridor from Wetton to Khayelitsha could be wasted if the invasion of industrial land by squatters is not stopped.

A Cape Metro report recently highlighted a crisis at a R12-million industrial estate at Monwood, Philippi, where 2 000 shack-dwellers had moved onto a 20ha site and prevented it from being developed.

The owners, Helmut Ernst and other German investors, say they will apply to the Cape

High Court for an eviction order.

Will Hlatshwayo, chairman of the action group, said it was committed to working with communities and the city council for the success of the project.

"We believe the illegal occupation of land will curb development in the area," he said.

"The main reason, other than that people need land to erect their dwellings, is that people are not aware of the proposed

corridor development and ownership rights of the land, which is usually vacant.

"We are trying to correct this situation through community consultation and networking."

The group will hold a conference at the University of Cape Town this Saturday to try and draw big business into the commercial corridor project.

Community leaders, business people, government officials and potential investors are expected to attend.

Future bleak for Milnerton squatters

(307)
STAFF WRITER

THE fate of thousands of people living in the Doringbacht squatter settlement near Milnerton now rests in the hands of the courts, after the Blaauwberg Municipality and a city company served residents with court papers, outlining the inevitability of their eviction.

Tomorrow the residents' legal representative, Steve Kahanovitz, will make his first appearance in the Cape High Court to try and persuade the judge to reconsider

the order of eviction, which will hopefully buy them some time to put together a solid case.

Kahanovitz, from Legal Resources, said the private company, Cape Killarney Property Investments, to which the land belongs, is seeking an application for the eviction and served the 3 000 residents with a notice of its intent on July 7.

The *Cape Times* learned that Cape Killarney was prompted by the Blaauwberg Municipality to get the eviction notice.

In desperation, the leaders of the community went to the area's local ANC office for help and ANC MP Noel Williams responded.

Kahanovitz said that the representatives of the community were not present when the company sought the application for eviction, nor were they told in advance. "I have been asked by the residents to oppose the move and postponing the order is the first step," he said.

Williams admitted that they were aware of the notice almost six

months ago, "based on the general attitude of the municipality". "The council did not want to sit down with the leaders of the area and talk about their problems," he said.

The majority of the residents are unemployed and uneducated. There is no running water or toilet facilities and Williams claims that for years the residents had battled with the municipality to provide basic services.

Yesterday, the Blaauwberg Municipality could not be reached for comment.

CT 27/7/99

Illegals agree to leave houses

MOSES MTHEHELELI MACKAY

Staff Reporter

Illegal occupants of newly built houses in the Bloekombos area near Kraaifontein are being evicted by the community development forum.

Lennox Phongomile, chairman of Bloekombos Development Forum, said 176 families had occupied houses illegally towards the end of last year.

The problem started when the developers failed to lock the completed houses and people moved in while many legal owners were away on holiday in the Eastern Cape.

Mr Phongomile said some families refused or were reluctant to vacate the houses, but with the help of residents, the African National Congress and the SA National Civic Organisations, they had agreed to move out.

ARG 2/8/99

Rebels halt building at Vrygrond site

Court slaps ban on group

PETER GOUSEN
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The South Peninsula Municipality has obtained an urgent High Court interdict preventing a dissident minority group from holding up the construction of 1 600 houses for the families of the Muizenberg informal settlement, Vrygrond.

The group, the Vrygrond Community Organisation, has about 120 members in a community of about 5 000 and has been at odds with the legitimate leadership of Vrygrond and the South Peninsula for years.

Members allegedly used sharpened sticks to threaten construction workers on Wednesday, forcing work on the site to be stopped.

The construction group, Ubuntu, was awarded the R30-million contract and Cape Premier Gerald Morkel handed the 52-hectare site to the company on May 17.

Late on Thursday Mr Justice Comrie interdicted the organisation, its members or Jeremiah Thile and nine others from interfering or obstructing any construction activities at the site or intimidating, harassing, assaulting or interfering with any employee of the municipality or Ubuntu.

The organisation and its members were also ordered not to damage, destroy or in any way interfere with the property of the municipality or Ubuntu, or approach within 100m of the site office or construction works.

In a sworn affidavit, the resident engineer at the site, Johann Joubert, told how Vrygrond resident Jeremiah Thile, apparent leader of the break-away organisation, used a loud hailer to summon people to a public meeting in an open field on Wednesday.

About 120 people attended. After a

memorandum was read by Mr Thile, the crowd marched on the construction site, singing and chanting, and carrying sharpened sticks, brandished in a "threatening manner".

"Mr Thile said if we did not stop work they would stop it for us," Mr Joubert said.

The south's executive director of housing services, Hans Smit, said Mr Thile and the other nine, all residents, purported to represent the Vrygrond community under the banner of the Vrygrond Community Organisation.

"Such representation is disputed by the majority of the inhabitants of Vrygrond and the Vrygrond Community Development Trust."

■ The Vrygrond Community Development Trust is supported by more than 90% of Vrygrond residents.

The municipality entered into a partnership with the trust and late in 1996 the Vrygrond Working Group of councillors, officials and Vrygrond representatives was set up.

The social compact between the trust and the SPM breaks new ground in that all the plots for businesses and community purposes will be transferred to the trust. They will probably be sold to provide funds for further empowering work by the trust.

Vrygrond, established in 1942 for trek fishermen, is the oldest informal settlement in the Western Cape.

When Mr Morkel handed the land to the contractors, a key member of the trust, Trevor Siljeur, said: "The way the community has moved from outright suspicion of the local authority to a partnership with the SPM is an amazing, heartwarming story."

"This partnership and the way it has delivered to the community should be a model for the rest of South Africa."

nt

secu
num
to the
lic ser
ploye
oadca

e Misl
the se
m Den
nted a
uld pro
ly the
-AP

Grabouw digs in its heels over N2 'eyesore'

Residents battle to set up home on waterlogged site as council says there's no other land available

(307)
R&U 12/18/99

Everyone agrees that Grabouw's new informal settlement is ill-placed alongside a scenic stretch of the N2.

Not even the settlement's residents themselves - who are rebuilding their homes and lives after the devastating shack fire at the Waterworks squatter camp two months ago - are happy, because the site is waterlogged.

But the Grabouw municipality has defended its decision to establish a permanent settlement alongside the N2, saying simply: "Grabouw has run out of land."

The new settlement has raised the ire of other local residents, who complain they are now "surrounded by squatter camps". The Grabouw Residents' Association predicts the new development will "contribute to escalating crime", citing already high levels of assault, rape, murder, taxi violence and the mushrooming of shebeens.

Both the association and the local



MURRAY WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

business community regard the new settlement - the first sight to greet visitors as they approach the farming town - as an "eyesore".

The municipality wanted to move the Waterworks settlement, in the middle of the residential suburb of Pineview, long before fire destroyed most of it. Last August a Grabouw municipal committee compiled a damning report on the settlement, citing the proliferation of shebeens, escalating hijackings and armed robberies, drug trafficking and prostitution, the devaluation of Grabouw's property values, the threat of a "plague of rodents/rats in Grabouw", and unhygienic condi-

tions as compelling reasons for residents to be resettled.

The municipal committee also noted the lack of toilets, taps, recreational facilities and "proper churches" and warned that the settlement was a "huge fire hazard" inaccessible to the fire brigade.

Less than a year later, fire raged through the camp. The new land was immediately approved and rolls of razor wire laid on the burnt ground to prevent Waterworks residents who had lost their shacks from rebuilding there. The municipality has promised to raze the settlement completely once the remainder of the residents are resettled.

But the Grabouw Residents' Association is alarmed at the creation of "yet another" squatter camp. "We thought we had seen the last of squatter camps in Grabouw", specifically in Pineview, which is surrounded by squatter camps," the association chairman, Dennis Mar-

nus, complained in letters to Western Cape premier Gerald Morkel and provincial community safety minister Mark Wiley.

The new informal settlement is surrounded by the poor suburbs of Melrose Place, Sateol, Waterworks and Snake Park. The Grabouw Residents' Association has demanded an immediate halt to the development - where 563 families have been given permission to build new wooden shacks until, at the very least, sufficient street lighting is installed and a satellite police station is set up to ensure the safety of residents' and motorists on the N2.

Grabouw town clerk David Petrus said the town was an island in a sea of farm and forestry land. "We don't have municipal land at our disposal. If people say the new settlement must move, I challenge them to offer us alternative land."

The new site was initially temporary. The council approached the provincial government for financial

assistance for the provision of services, but the government said spending R1 million on a transit camp would be a waste.

The council then decided to upgrade the site's status to a permanent settlement.

The provincial government allocated R750 000 for rudimentary services - including taps and flush toilets. This was only enough to provide one toilet for every 20 families.

"But I don't see why people are panicking," Mr Petrus said. "People must realise that Grabouw is in a third world country. There are squatters all the way along the N2 between Cape Town and Somerset West, in Knysna, in George, etc."

"Either we settle them there, or we rezone the town and place squatters on vacant land in the middle of town."

The residents' association said establishing the new settlement without consultation, street lighting or a satellite police station was an

infringement of their constitutional right to safety and security.

The business community echoed the residents' concerns. "We're not saying it's these people," Bruce Green, chairperson of the Grabouw chamber of commerce said. "But a large number of people have arrived and we don't have the low crime rate we used to have."

Mr Petrus said Grabouw was not unique. "Crime is a national problem. We can only work with the resources we have. We will incrementally develop the land as soon as we get the money."

Mr Green, who is also a Grabouw councillor, concedes that the new site is not ideal. "But what do you honestly do when you have no land?" he said.

The growth in the number of informal settlement residents is fanned by rising unemployment. "With the export fruit market in doldrums, the farmers are not employing the number of people they used

to," Mr Green says. "People arrive to find there's no work."

Mr Green says the apple export market has been flooded with apples from Chile, Australia and New Zealand in the past three years.

"There used to be a lot of work in the area," Mr Green says. "In 1986 the receiver of revenue rated Grabouw as the wealthiest area in the country. But not anymore. Labour is the first thing to go."

Mr Green says the Land Tenure Act has also played a part in the growth of the informal settlements. "The government's intentions are good, but it's having a negative effect."

Farmers who no longer have work for people on their properties want them to leave lest they later claim land rights. One farm reportedly has 25 houses standing vacant.

Mr Green urged the national government to help secure alternative land. "And it has to be done very urgently," he said.

'THIS IS A VEXING PROBLEM'

A lifelong dream of a home of their own



EACH year 20 000 new families join the 2,8 million Capetonians already living here and local authorities appear unable to house the ever-growing population. **JUDY DAMON** reports on their frustrations and the state of housing delivery in the province.

THE Lwandle/Nomzamo informal settlement on the outskirts of Gordon's Bay is peppered with social evils — crime, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and abuse.

It began about four years ago, when hundreds of coloured and African families arrived with everything they owned and settled on the doorsteps of the Lwandle squatter area.

They were not welcome, but the newcomers were anxious to find stability.

Their tin houses and social networks had been uprooted three times, and they vowed it would not happen again.

After they were promised that they would not be moved again, they named their settlement Nomzamo, meaning "the struggle to be here".

This, however, was just the beginning of their housing frustration and now the race for better living conditions is on between the residents of Lwandle and Nomzamo.

Community activist Gertrude Sqweni said that the dream of having a postal address was the only thing that bound the two warring communities, and could possibly end the devastating social conditions created by the housing frustration.

"All they need is a fair opportunity to obtain homes and jobs to keep them," Sqweni said.

But with a housing backlog of over 220 000 and the addition of 20 000 new families needing a place to stay each year, their dream for homes may remain just that.

Director of Housing for the Western Cape, Seymour Bedderson, said the only way anyone was going to get a house from the state was with a housing subsidy.

Worth R16 000, a housing subsidy buys a plot, services the land and builds a 27m² house. Maintenance and upgrading is

who are largely unemployed. Some re-sell their homes and move back into the township or build shacks onto their new homes which they rent to other squatters. Another headache is the not-in-my-backyard syndrome adopted by private home owners.

After spending years and money building their dream homes, its property value instantly plunges because of their new neighbours.

Sqweni claimed the Helderberg municipality had protected private homeowners by moving new families into the already overcrowded Lwandle/Nomzamo townships.

A housing plan that appears to be working is the continuous ISLP Project in Nyanga, Guguletu, Crossroads and Lang, financed with RDP funds.

Existing since the early 1990s, ISLP has ensured thousands of cheap homes, schools, libraries, clinics and sports fields, but these projects only worked because of finance from the education and health departments.

Even if the province gets the estimated R2,1 billion to remove the backlog, Bedderson questioned the building industry's capacity to provide housing as the demand grows with developing.

Kuhn said a solution would be to upgrade existing squatter camps, instal basic services and let the residents build their own homes, creating jobs which is "really the solution to this problem".

Bedderson reluctantly gives the nod to this idea, saying internal upgrading of settlements brought a whole new set of problems.

"If someone's father has been buried under a tree that has been there for years, it is not going to be easy for him to accept having a road built through the burial site."

"You do, in the process, disrupt families and you are also likely to uproot social networks if you relocate people."

"This is indeed a vexing problem associated with upgrading in existing informal settlements, a challenge for the housing functionaries who must be sensitive to cultural environments when developing," Bedderson said.

Invasions' stump bureaucrats

THE rumbling of bulldozers tearing across the land is the only permission families need to seize the opportunity. First, a handful of shacks emerge and almost overnight, an entire community rises illegally on developing land.

Land invasion occurs for one reason — to jump the housing queue. It has been described as the "biggest headache" in housing.

"The only way to relieve ourselves of land invasion is to give them homes and they know it. So, when development is done they move in, leaving the legitimate owner stranded," says Seymour Bedderson, Housing Director for the Western Cape.

Earlier this month, the Rapid Land Release Programme was approved by the Cape Metropolitan Council and the Provincial Housing Board. It is designed to curb land invasion on state-owned land — the idea is to settle "emergency" families and to provide basic services. They are then placed on a subsidy list and the housing follows later.

"When you are in desperate need of land and you acquire it, you would jealously protect it," said Bedderson.

The Legal Resource Centre represents some 10 000 people who are facing eviction. They come from settlements in Tafelsig, Monwabisi, Atlas Park and Doornbach.

The Doornbach families have made two court appearances and lawyers at the centre say it could be

the first case to really test the new Extension of Security and Tenure Act (ESTA).

ESTA gives families a legal right to live on land and removes the fear of being evicted by providing security of tenure, says Sibongile Ndasha, candidate attorney at the centre.

Before ESTA, land owners filed their court papers under the Prevention of Illegal Occupation and Unlawful Occupation Act. Then, they only had to show that families were living illegally. Doornbach makes a good test case because families have lived there for 20 years, have nowhere else to go and claim they had permission to be there.

ESTA stipulates that before the land owner evicts anyone, all the circumstances must be taken into consideration. The court will not grant an eviction unless there is alternative accommodation.

In turn, the landowner must prove the people had no permission to be on the land, and ESTA also protects their right of ownership and allows them to set reasonable standards like any other landlord.

"We don't take on eviction cases because evictions are our speciality. We need to get the courts to set a clear precedent for private practices to also take up these cases."

"There is no clear rule as to how the law should deal with land invasions. Although the courts are grappling with ESTA, it is a step in the right direction," Ndasha said.

Tale of the two Retreats ...

THE South Peninsula Municipality promised to deliver 1 100 low-cost houses before Christmas after they were accused of dragging their feet on delivery. But for some families it was too late and they have come up with plans of their own.

"Look down any road and you will see one or even two families living in someone else's yard. Overcrowding is a big problem here and is overlooked.

"It is like having two Retreats in one. But we have a plan," says Trevor Trout from the People's Housing Project, based in Retreat.

Local authorities agree that overcrowding is one of the biggest — but most overlooked — aspects of housing in this province.

Jens Kuhn, housing researcher for the Cape Metropolitan Council, estimates that only 12% of Cape Town's population lived in shacks, while 40% were living in unhealthy, overcrowded conditions.

The remaining Capetonians lived in market-related homes or in single family units. The 40% live on the Cape Flats, Nyanga, Khayelitsha and Gugulethu. The marriage between overcrowding and unemployment has largely contributed to the city's high crime rate, the highest TB rate in the world, gangster-

ism, street children and domestic violence.

It has also led to one of the biggest breakdowns of basic services in the city's history.

Three years ago taxpayers spent R81 million to rejuvenate broken and over-used drainpipes, waterpipes, stormwater drains, and sewerage systems.

Neglect on the part of the residents was crucial in the meltdown of these amenities and local authorities fear a repeat they can ill afford as overcrowding continues.

Presently, overcrowding is addressed through the age-old waiting list system while housing projects take off slowly because of strangled budgets.

The housing department is hoping to start a fresh list by sweeping through each municipality and taking note of the number of subsidies needed to address the housing crisis.

Trout said almost 22 000 families were living in backyard shacks or wendy houses in the South Peninsula alone — the exact number of subsidies the entire province gets for a year.

If money is all that's standing in the way of clustered families getting homes, South Peninsula families have been galvanised into action to find it.

A few months ago, the People's

Housing Project approached black empowerment company, ASBF Marketing, to help them pay off their rent and rates arrears worth millions. They believed that this huge debt had led them to be sidelined.

"With this repayment we are hoping to strike a deal with the government and get them to use those millions to build houses for these families. This must work, it's our only hope," Trout said.

Providing more housing stock would be the obvious solution to overcrowding, but with the trickle of subsidies to this province, only a handful will benefit.

Said Kuhn: "Overcrowding is not about how much land is on a single plot. It is about available liveable space; and we have seen plenty of wendy houses in backyards. Why not make it liveable and upgrade that second dwelling?"

At the moment Kuhn is trying to persuade the authorities to split subsidies into two; half for new homes and the rest for upgrading.

"It is the council's job to provide water, sewers and electricity to people anyway. Accessibility could be a problem, but the biggest problem is getting enough money to get more subsidies to do this."

'Children are most vulnerable'

GERTRUDE SQWENTU, founder of South African Female Empowerment (Safe) spent 11 weeks searching for that golden link between the fighting communities of Lwandle and Nomzamo.

For this she invited 24 women, whose lives are like a tangled necklace of pearls, to a tea party, where no time limit existed to process opinions — and they were truly free to say what they felt and thought without restricting questions.

At the end of her research, Sqwentu said they were the "most amazing women" she had ever met and took their stories in their raw form as her final report, which she is sharing with audiences across the world.

Sqwentu starts by telling me about an eight-year-old girl who was raped. She spared the details and said only that if the child had lived in a house with running water, she wouldn't have had to walk to the tap that day.

If there were street addresses and numbered houses, the rapist's hiding places wouldn't have all looked the same and he wouldn't be free.

Without homes, the children are the most vulnerable, she said. In the report the women spoke of their dreams of owning a house and how that dream was killed by poverty.

Sqwentu concluded: "Essentially, these people don't have enough money to make demands on society. Nor do they have the power to initiate social amelioration on their own.

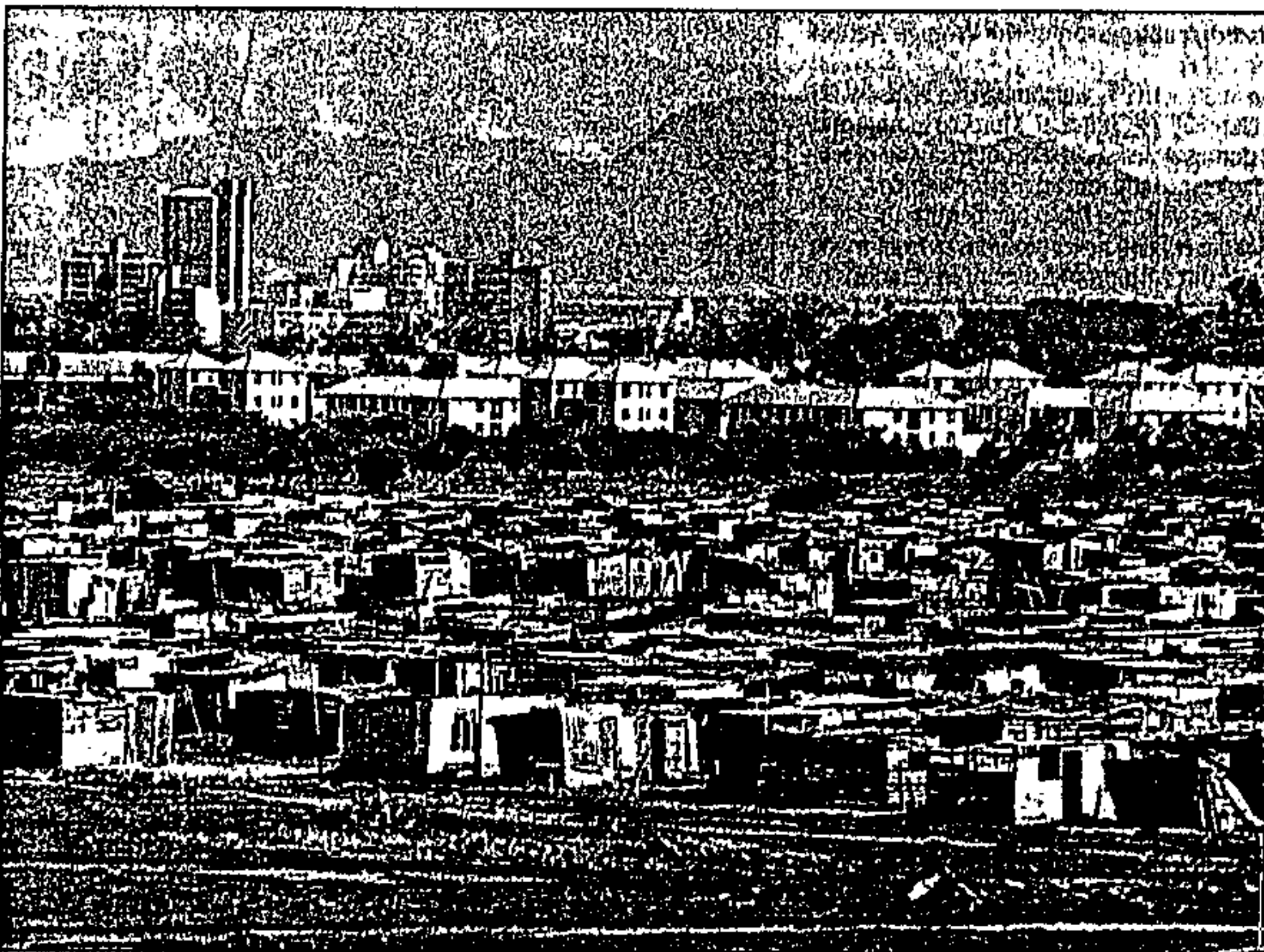
"If they start a business, it cannot grow because, in the words of a Lwandle woman, 'you have no knowledge to make things bigger and when (if) things do grow bigger, you have no means of controlling it — lack of knowledge is poverty'.

"These women want to send their children to better schools. More than sending their children outside to a better school, they want to better the local school. They want better homes — even better than the new RDP houses they know how to build better and cheaper.

"They want to change their community and we must be asking, how can we serve these people so they can carry themselves and their community farther than we could ever imagine?

"Charity, give-away housing and welfare do not help anybody. Fair pay and job security do.

"These people simply want to be recognised as human beings and treated accordingly in the workplace. That power will give them the security and resources to build their communities."



EXPANDING: Nomzamo informal community is growing rapidly and encroaching on the Strand in the background.

PICTURE: ANDREW OCTOBER

A HOUSING subsidy is worth R16 000 and provides a four-roomed house with basic services like running water and sewerage facilities. Maintenance is your responsibility. To get on the waiting list for a subsidised home you must:

- Be a South African citizen and have an identification book to prove it;
 - earn from nothing to R2 500 per month;
 - have dependents;
 - must be a first time applicant for a subsidy;
 - live close to a place under development;
 - have not previously owned a home or land;
- For more information contact your local municipality.

Morkel gets tough with squatters

(307)

ADRIAN HADLAND
POLITICAL EDITOR

AKG 2/9/99

A special anti-land invasion unit is to be established in the Western Cape to crack down on the province's growing squatter problem, says premier Gerald Morkel.

After the provincial cabinet met yesterday, Mr Morkel said while a land release programme was under way to provide land and houses for people in the Western Cape, land invasions by squatters were complicating and delaying the process.

"There have been a lot of people coming into our province and taking up housing and land," Mr Morkel said.

A recent independent survey had indicated that many more people were living in the Cape than had been assumed by the national Government or shown in the recent countrywide census.

Mr Morkel said municipalities had been given the responsibility to deal with squatters on "an agency basis", but this had not been very successful.

Provincial housing minister Cecil Herandien had begun a programme for the rapid release of land but it was being frustrated by land invasions.

"It is unfair when land has been earmarked for housing and is then invaded. The invasions deprive those who have been on a waiting list for 10-20 years."

Mr Morkel and Mr Herandien said the number of land invasions was "quite significant".

Mr Morkel said: "I believe people should not be tenants in our province but we are against land invasion. A special unit is to be established to deal with the problem of squatting."

Government officials said this week the province would put considerable effort into getting as much data as it could on the number of new residents using the Western Cape's housing and educational facilities.

Mr Morkel said more accurate data would help convince central Government that a larger allocation of funds was needed for the province.

MPs call for gun searches at schools

PARLIAMENTARIANS have called on school principals to have pupils searched for firearms after a 15-year-old Gugulethu schoolboy was shot dead by his classmate at a Mowbray school last week.

Thandokhulu High School Grade 9 pupil Onye Makhulwa was sitting in his classroom during break when he was fatally shot in the chest by a 15-year-old classmate and friend who was showing off a 9mm pistol to other friends in the school courtyard.

Pupils apprehended the armed boy after he tried to run away.

Education MEC Helen Zille established that the boy had bought the gun for R15 on his way to school.

Yesterday NNP spokesperson Andre Gaum called on principals to ensure that pupils be searched for firearms, where necessary. He said urgent action was required to ensure that schools were armed.

'STRANDLOPERS' IN BANTRY BAY

Cave-dwellers of the Cape

UP TO 40 people have taken up temporary shelter in caves in Bantuy Bay. The families come from as far afield as Port Elizabeth and Oudtshoorn. **BUNTY WEST** reports.

THE Cape's strandlopers, indigenous people who lived off the sea's bounty, are back on the Peninsula's Atlantic seaboard, living in caves at Bantuy Bay.

About 40 people, several of whom have lost their jobs and possessions, have taken up temporary shelter below some of the most expensive real estate along that stretch of coast.

Their presence was noticed about a year ago, and the authorities moved in to stop the squatters

from gaining access to the caves by erecting barbed wire along the base of the sea wall.

But work on the Bantuy Points flats prevented the coiled wire from being erected all along the wall and the people still picked out a precarious path to the caves.

The path is dangerous and slippery in the winter. The cave residents have to get over the wall and drop to a narrow path to get to their cliffside homes.

Several weeks ago, a woman who fell while walking on the

path had to be airlifted to hospital because rescue crews could not bring her up the cliff's safely.

While the views across the bay are beautiful, visitors and residents promenading along the pavement between Bantuy Bay and First Beach need only peer down over the sea wall to see the homeless people, their clothes and effluent lying on the rocks.

The families come from as far afield as Port Elizabeth, Oudtshoorn, while others moved out of places like Manenberg.

The inside of the caves are lined with plastic for warmth. The residents regularly scrounge through refuse bins for anything of value.

Councillor Chris Joubert said the area was not fit for human habitation as there were no toilets and no drinking water available.

"Social help is needed for the people living there. It is not a question of prosecuting them. They need to be provided with a more suitable place to stay as their makeshift homes are open to the elements," he said.

Last week the first batch of residents who moved in said they would resist attempts to evict them.

"We are not troubling anyone here. The big bosses are not even aware of our existence. No one has a right to take us away here," one man said.

Former Springbok | *Simply the best*

Judgment creates protection for squatters against eviction

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Illegal occupants facing eviction under new legislation now have greater protection in terms of a judgment handed down by Cape Deputy Judge President John Hlope.

Evicting illegal occupants without giving them proper notice of impending court proceedings would no longer be allowed, Hlope said in a judgment on Friday.

People facing eviction would have to be given at least 14 days "written and effective" notice of a court application.

In the case at hand, this should have included written notice in Xhosa (the mother tongue of the occupants) and the use of loud hailers to inform occupants.

Hlope's ruling comes a month after another ground-breaking judgment, also based on "second-generation rights" framed by the Constitution. In the first case, the same high court gave greater protection to tenants facing eviction.

That judgment revised procedure — in force for more than 60

years — for removing people from residential accommodation. It ruled that landlords seeking to evict tenants must do so before a magistrate or judge, and that neither a magistrate's court clerk nor high court registrar may grant the order by default.

Hlope overturned a rule nisi issued in June by Judge John Foxcroft against "about 542 families" living on a farm near Killarney motor race course in Cape Town. Some of them had been there for the past 18 years.

While Foxcroft's order gave the residents of the area an opportunity to approach the court to explain why they should not be evicted, Hlope ruled that it did not comply with the procedures required under the Prevention of Illegal Eviction and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act of 1998.

Counsel for the applicant, Cape Killarney Property Investments, said all attempts to evict the "illegal occupants" had failed. The occupants were represented by the Legal Resources Centre.

The new act, Hlope said, "has

been described as 'a great step forward in the fight for the rights of occupiers of land in general and tenants in particular' because the common law was cruel to occupiers and tenants who faced eviction". It replaced the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act of 1951.

The new act "was clearly intended to provide mechanisms for dealing equitably with a large number of people who have moved on to land without an owner's permission and established their homes" there. However, the original eviction application order did not comply with this.

Hlope said he had further problems with the order because, when served on the respondents, it was "far from effective" as required in terms of the act.

"The undisputed allegations on the respondents' papers were that the overwhelming majority of the respondents are Xhosa-speaking and many of them are illiterate."

Hlope agreed with their counsel that the copy of the order should have been accompanied by a Xhosa translation.

(307)

BD 4/10 1999