

SWAZILAND - LABOUR.

19 DEC. 77 - 3 July 1978.

Star 19/12/77

Terror shuts 81 schools

Own Correspondent

SALISBURY — More than 14 000 African schoolchildren in Matabeleland are being denied education as a direct result of the closure of 81 rural schools by terrorists.

Most have shut down because of terrorist intimidation aimed at staff and pupils. Many others have had equipment and educational books destroyed. Some schools have been burned to the ground.

Since March, four headmasters and one woman teacher have been murdered. Many more have been severely beaten for trying to keep their schools open despite terrorist threats.

RESIGNATIONS

A large number of teachers have resigned. Others have sought the safety of the cities to avoid terrorist retribution for attempting to keep schools running.

A Ministry of Education spokesman said: "It is tragic that the education and future of so many children should be jeopardised by such senseless acts."

The Northern Province had been worst hit.

Fifty-nine schools have been forced to close, affecting nearly 11 000 children and several hundred teachers, mainly in the Lupane, Tjolotjo and Nkai areas, where terrorists loyal to Joshua Nkomo's Zipra are active.

In Matabeleland South, 22 schools have shut down. Nearly 5 000 schoolchildren and more than 120 teachers are involved.

Authorities are desperately trying to place as many children as possible in schools running normally — but they will only be able to absorb a small percentage of pupils.

Minister will decide what can be published

The Star's Africa News Service
SALISBURY — Censorship regulations which state that the Rhodesian Information Minister can stipulate how information on the war should be published inside or outside the country, appeared in today's Government Gazette.

The regulations also state information on the war should be published in the form in which it was authorised.

This means that reporters will no longer be able to add to official government communiques on the war, or analyse them, without official permission.

The Minister of Information, Mr P K van der Byl, may now also "impose such conditions to the manner or form of communication, publishing or dissemination as he sees fit."

OFFENCE

The regulations say that if a newspaper contravenes the code, "the owner of that newspaper, the editor of that newspaper and every other person responsible for such publication" will be guilty of an offence.

Information covered by the censorship regulations includes any measure by the security forces in "combatting or suppressing terrorism, or reducing the incidence thereof in Rhodesia."

Such information may only be published if it is contained in an official government communique, if it is revealed in court, if it is revealed in Parliament or if subject to the stated conditions, permission is obtained from the Minister of Information after consultation with the Minister of combined operations, Mr Roger Hawkins.

Agreement drafted at talks

The Star's Africa News Service

SALISBURY — In spite of a new hitch at the Rhodesian internal settlement talks, a draft setting out the agreement on broad principles between the four negotiators and the intention to form an interim government is being prepared.

The hitch occurred yesterday when nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa objected to the method by which the 28 whites in the future 100-seat Parliament will be elected. Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Premier, believes the white MPs should be elected solely by white voters, a concept which the Bishop finds unacceptable. He favours a common roll for all voters.

Special teams at the conference have meanwhile drawn up a draft identifying the areas of agreement between the Government and the black nationalists. The draft also outlines the duties of the transitional Government which will be formed once the settlement "package deal" has been signed.

Rhodesia puts new curbs on Press

Deon du Plessis,
The Star's Africa
News Service
SALISBURY — Widening
already sweeping powers
of Press censorship, the
Rhodesian Government
last night restricted the

nation's largest daily news-
paper from publishing
without permission state-
ments from a number of
black nationalist political
and guerilla organisations.
Any statements from
the leaders or officials of

these organisations made
in or outside Rhodesia
may now not be published
without approval from a
body known as the Natio-
nal Security Council in
terms of a D-notice served
on the Rhodesia Herald
in Salisbury.

The organisations are:

- The African National Council Zimbabwe (ANCZ), political organi-
sation inside Rhodesia of
Joshua Nkomo.

- The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), Political
movement, banned in
Rhodesia, founded by Mr
Nkomo.

- The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), another political
organisation banned in-
side Rhodesia.

- The People's Movement (PM), a politic-
al organisation inside
Rhodesia loyal to Robert
Mugabe.

- The Zimbabwe African National Liberation
Army (ZANLA), fighting
wing of Zanu.

- The Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary
Army (ZIPRA), the mili-
tary wing of Zanu.

A similar D-notice was
served last night on the
Zimbabwe Times, a new
daily newspaper aimed
mainly at blacks.

Offences under the D-
notice regulations carry a
fine of R13 000 or five
years or both.

One effect will be that
statements made by Mr
Mugabe or Mr Nkomo or
their representatives at
their Malta conference
next week with British
Foreign Secretary Dr Dav-
id Owen are now subject
to censorship in Rhodesia.

The Rhodesian Guild of
Journalists, through its
president, Mr Mike Hart-
nack, said: "Rhodesians
are experiencing a flood-
tide of censorship as first
one topic, then another,
then legitimate comment
and debate within the de-
cencies of controversy, are
brought within the ambit
of the censors."

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Extraordinary rumpus over infant TV service

STBC

SWAZI AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING CORPORATION

COMPANY THAT PUT IT ON THE AIR CANCELS DEAL AFTER ONLY 18 DAYS

By KITI KATZIN

AN extraordinary behind-the-scenes drama over Swaziland's 18-day-old TV service can be revealed by the Sunday Express today.

The drama this week led to:

- The management committee that put the service on the air cancelling its contract and pulling out of the R1-million venture.
- Two urgent legal actions, one of them involving a R40-000 claim for damages.
- A threatened disruption of programme continuity on the fledgling service, with



● Marge Hughes . . . she turned down an offer to work for the new bosses.

was asked on Friday afternoon by STBC's attorneys to hand over the films. On Friday night STBC filed a counter claim in an

As a result, it had decided to cancel its contract with STBC.

ETS further claimed that it had done so as it believed STBC, which had hired the company to set up the Swaziland television service, "clearly intended" to continue operating the service itself.

ETS Swaziland also claimed breach of contract — the basis for its damages action — on the grounds that STBC had solicited and recruited its executive staff at its offices in Mbabane and Johannesburg to continue running the service.



● Mr Bill Norris, managing director of Executive Television Services, Swaziland, with the 200 disputed films due for screening by Swaziland's TV service within the next few weeks.

Picture by DANIE COETZER

indemnified against any possible damages they may suffer as a result of terminating their service with ETS.)

ETS, in its court application, applied also for the attachment of assets like furniture and certain video cassettes.

The 200 films, which have been placed in safe keeping, were due to be dispatched shortly to STBC.

ETS Swaziland also attached contracts signed with Johannesburg advertising agencies worth R65 000, again pending the outcome of its damages claim. Meanwhile, as a result of

Swaziland's first television service, now faces an uncertain future.

At least 10 of its Johannesburg staff could be without jobs, including managing director Bill Norris and co-director Sandy Postle, who was responsible for co-ordinating the launch on February 1.

ETS's decision to cancel its contract has shocked the television industry both in South Africa and Swaziland, and has given rise to immediate fears that the fledgling service may deteriorate rapidly.

There is also a fear that the move could lead to a loss of confidence from advertisers at a time when 1 500 sets have been sold or rented to Swazi viewers.

The Holiday Inns group has spent R300 000 installing colour TV sets at its complexes throughout Swaziland.

A spokesman for STBC admitted on Friday that all

advertis programmes be ing impounded by a court. The threat led to two im- mediate legal actions — one in the Rand Supreme Court, on Tuesday before Mr Justice Esselen and the other in the form of an urgent application at a judge's home on Friday night.

In the first action, Ex- ecutive Television Services, Swaziland (Pty), the management company of the new TV service, brought an action to attach assets of STBC to enable it to bring a claim for R400 000 damages against the corporation.

In addition to these un- contested actions, ETS Swaziland also obtained an order to attach at least the right of STBC to claim 200 films, mainly features and documentaries, scheduled for screening in Swaziland within the next few weeks.

Twelve of the films were due to be shown this coming week which meant STBC would have been compelled to undertake a massive programme rescheduling operation if the films were not released and handed over in time.

By Friday night the films were still being held by ETS Swaziland at the offices of its parent company in Johan- nesburg.

Mr Bill Norris, managing director of ETS Swaziland,

urgent application heard by a judge at his home.

In terms of a settlement Mr Norris agreed to hand over three of the films, which he did at 8 am yester- day, and agreed to supply STBC with additional films, to be replaced on a rotation basis with films from STBC.

The judge ordered STBC to file supplementary af- fidavits by 5 pm on Tuesday and ETS Swazi's replying af- fidavits the next week.

SBTC's claim for the return of the rest of the 2 200 films will be heard on March 1.

Earlier this week STBC launched emergency plans to fill in gigantic gaps — some of the attached films run for 60 minutes — with whatever material program- mers could lay their hands on.

But pressure has now been removed, and the ser- vice is expected to continue according to plan.

The original order to at- tach the films was granted to Executive Television Ser- vices pending the outcome of its R400 000 damages claim against STBC.

In the Rand Supreme Court on Tuesday, ETS claimed that its contract with STBC had been breached, depriving it of an estimated R400 000.

(I established that at least 12 employees resigned on Friday. All are now employed by STBC.

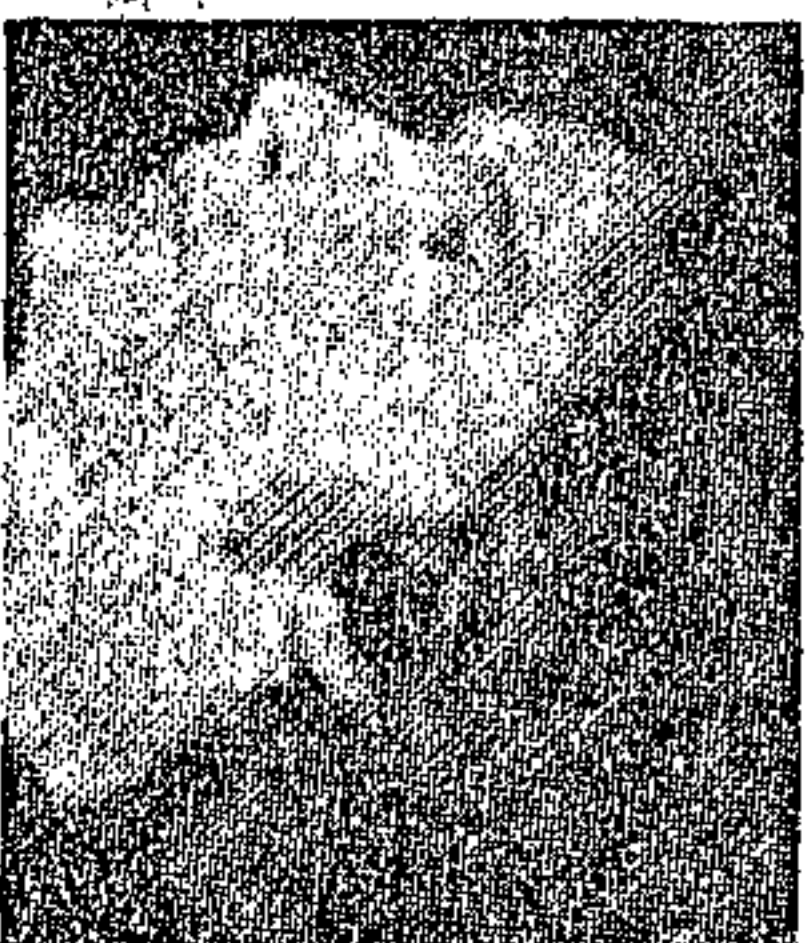
In approaching these employees with fresh employment offers, STBC assured them they would be

THE contract dispute in- volves, I understand, the principal financial backer of the new service, the British- based Electronics Rental Group, which is controlling the operation through its rental firm in South Africa, Visionhire, in which it has a 40% interest.

Visionhire which, with Teljoy, has wrapped up 80% of the South African TV ren- tal business, is also part- owned by Nedbank (40%) and SA Phillips (20%), the principal equipment con- tractor for the Swazi TV pro- ject.

Visionhire SA and the Electronics Rental Group (ERG), after being commis- sioned by STBC to run the overall service, hired Mr Bill Norris and his company, Executive Television Ser- vices, Swaziland (Pty), to provide and be responsible for the management and operating programme.

This man's dream is shattered



Mr Jamie Spence, former executive television services transmission controller, now on the new management committee.

This included obtaining advertising, making com- mercials, obtaining programmes, training technical staff, like news readers and continuity an-

whether the service will be able, in the intervening period, to continue broad- casting its ITN-news at 10 pm.

Copies of the popular new- scast were obtained in London, immediately after

service was facing "tremen- dous pressures". He declined to comment further.

Mr Norris worked with a staff of 23 for 20 hours a day to meet the 17-week "switch-on" deadline.

nouncers, and producing local news bulletins.

He also bought equipment worth R70 000.

In terms of the initial con- tract, between Visionhire (Swaziland), STBC and ETS (Swazi), it was agreed to pay ETS running expenses and a R10 000 management fee annually.

In addition, once the sta- tion reached break-even point, ETS was to receive 20% of gross advertising revenue after expenses up to the first 1 200 000, and 25% thereafter. Visionhire guaranteed the contract.

Within 18 days of the launch, ETS obtained adver- tising worth R15 000, and year, of which it would be entitled to R5500 and STBC R198 000. The drama over the contract started the day after Mr Norris had launched the TV service. He was, in fact, the first person to appear on the screen when he introduced King Sobhuza, who officially opened the network.

He was summoned to an urgent meeting to discuss and agree to an important amendment to the original contract.

Because the Swaziland Government, at that stage, objected to the participation of South African companies

in its television network, it was suggested that STBC should become wholly owned by the United Kingdom Electronics Rentals Group. It was therefore proposed to substitute Electronic Ren- tals (Swaziland) for Visionhire, being a South African company.

Mr Norris, I understand, refused to sign the amend- ment, asking for time to study it and refer the con- tract to his attorney, Mr Dennis Cohen.

Mr Norris, it is believed, feared the move was aimed at preventing him from tak- ing action against South African interests involved in the TV venture in the event

Later that week, when he tried to discuss the matter again, he was unable to reach Mr Roy Black, manag- ing director of Visionhire, and Mr Morris Fry, chairman of Electronic Ren- tals Group (UK).

He also offered to fly to England to discuss the issue with the ERG board, but he was told by telex they declined to see him and that he should make contact with the group's attorneys in Johannesburg.

As a result, Mr Norris cancelled his contract after establishing that his staff was being recruited.

19/2/77

(5/2)

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Warning

DEGREE SOW

on wages

The Star Bureau

As certain funds may be available in the future, the Committee of the Staff Common Room yesterday Board at its meeting to-day prior to the recommended staffing position in the Arts. The following students are recommended for the following studies:

MBABANE — King Sobuza II of Swaziland, yesterday summoned the country's leading businessmen to the Parliament buildings to issue a stern warning on "wage discrimination" in the country.

The King said he had heard of complaints that Swazis were not receiving the same wages in some industries and businesses as they would if they did the same job in South Africa.

Staffing Committee in the not too distant future at a meeting held in the Beattie building to present to the Arts Faculty following amended list of its most urgent committee appointed to investigate the requirements for the approved D.C.63, 2.4.76)

from Contingency and Emergency Funds for special sessions (see letters attached).

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| 1. Consolidation of Tempo and request for Political Science: conversion of part-time clerical assistant to full-time | Business Finance | 2/2 |
| These follow in alphabetical order: | Political Science | 2/1 |
| (a) Economics: 10 demonstrators | Marketing | 2/2 |
| Bergtheil, J.H. | Business Finance | 2/2 |
| (b) Political Science: 8 demonstrators | Business Finance | 3 |
| Brodovicky, K. | Personnel Management | 2/2 |
| (c) Political Science: 8 demonstrators | Economics | 2/2 |
| Davidson, D.J. | Law (B.Bus.Sc./Ll.B.) | 2/2 |
| (d) Religious Studies: R1 140 clerical assistance | Law (B.Bus.Sc./Ll.B.) | 2/1 |
| Dennis, R.J. | Lectureship (Intensive course) | 3 |
| (e) Speech and Drama: R3 000 teaching assistance | Actuarial Science | (Annexure A) |
| Goldblatt, M.C. | Law | (Annexure B) |
| 2. German | Junior Lectureship | (Annexure C) |
| Harrison, C.A. | Business Finance | 3 |
| 3. Haupt, P.K. | Marketing | (Annexure D) |
| 4. Political Science | Chair of Italian | (Annexure E) |
| Isaacs, R.W. | Personnel Management | 3 |
| Jacobs, M. | Business Finance | (Annexure F) |
| 5. Romance Studies | Lectureship | 3 |
| Klein, L. | Business Finance | (Annexure G) |
| Lauder, C.H. | Business Finance | 3 |
| 6. Religious Studies | Business Finance | (Annexure H) |
| Exton, A.D. | R3 500 teaching assistance | 3 |
| McDonald, J.A. | Law (B.Bus.Sc./Ll.B.) | (Annexure I) |
| 7. Librarianship | Lectureship | 1 |
| Morley, C.D. | Actuarial Science | 2/2 |
| Papilsky, D.M. | Business Finance | (Annexure J) |
| 8. Cultural History of W. Europe | Actuarial Science | 1 |
| Richardson, A.C. | Business Finance | (Annexure K) |
| Rimer, B. | Junior Lectureship | 3 |
| 9. School of Economics | Personnel Management | (Annexure L) |
| (Division of Economics) | Marketing | 2/2 |
| Slatem, D.J. | Junior Lectureship (Xhosa) | (Annexure M) |
| 10. African Languages | Personnel Management | 3 |
| Morley, C.D. | Law (B.Bus.Sc./Ll.B.) | 2/1 |
| Urquhart, G.A. | Junior Lectureship in Social Anthropology | (Annexure N) |
| 11. Anthropology | Business Finance | (Annexure O) |
| (28) | | |
| 12. Speech and Drama | Senior Lectureship in Drama | (Annexure J) |
| B. Students requiring courses to complete degree: | | |
| 12. School of Economics | Part-time clerical assistant for Econ. History | |
| Drummond, J.R. | Actuarial Science I (Assistant for Economics) | |
| | Actuarial Science II (R) | (Annexure G) |
| 13. Dunn, M.P.W. | Accounting | (Annexure H) |
| Romance Studies | Junior Lectureship in French (Intensive course) | (Annexure K) |
| | Business Finance | (Annexure J) |
| 14. Speech and Drama | Communication Instructor | (Annexure L) |
| | Costing (Management Acctg) I | |
| 15. Archaeology | Taxation & Estate Duty (Conservationist) | (Annexure M) |
| Elkin, B. | Sake Afrikaans | (Annexure N) |
| N.B. Annexures will be attached to the list when forwarded to Staffing Committee | | |
| | Introduction to Computing (R) | |

Sun. Exp. 14/8/77

Who'll pay for Swaziland's new R25-m rail link?

PAG

For
the

red by

SWAZILAND has begun building a R25-million rail link with South Africa — but, officially, nobody knows where the money is coming from to pay for it.

The new link to the sea has important strategic implications for South Africa and a vital economic potential for Swaziland.

Diplomatic sources in Mbabane and Pretoria believe the Swaziland Government is relying on South Africa to provide most of the money for the railway.

By DEREK TAYLOR

The Swaziland Minister of Works, Power and Communications, Dr Allen Nxumalo, announced that work on the line began last week and that it would be paid for by his government and "other sources I cannot disclose".

It is understood from a reliable source that the South African Cabinet has not yet met to discuss aid for the link.

One diplomatic source believes the apparently

premature initiation of the project may represent a form of pressure on the South African Government to speed its decision on the scope and form of financial aid for the railway.

More than two-thirds of Swaziland's exports depend upon the existing route to Maputo, where harbour charges have tripled recently and deteriorating port machinery will extend delays through congestion.

In a statement interpreted as a sop to the Mozambique Government — which is basically hostile to the Swaziland Government — Dr Nxumalo said the new rail route to Richards Bay and Durban was an additional outlet and not an alternative to Maputo.

Spokesmen for the Department of Transport and South African Railways have denied any knowledge of financial aid to the project.

"Our only involvement, apart from agreeing to accept their traffic, has been to supply a nearly retired railways civil engineer to help them sort out tenders," a railways spokesman told the Express.

"But they will be paying his salary or fees."

After the announcement of the link's initiation in Mbabane, the Express learned that senior Canadian railways staff, including the Swaziland Railways general manager, were unexpectedly refusing to extend their service contracts.

None of the Canadians — lent through the Canadian Government — would comment on their reasons for leaving.

The new rail link is thought to have been planned for more than six years.

It was discussed at a meeting between the South African Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, and Prince Makhosini Dlamini, then Minister of

A full
due course.

5 August 1977

Earlier this year, a Swazi Government delegation called on the Minister of Transport, Mr S L Muller, to push the project.

The line will run from Phuzumoya, in eastern Swaziland, to the Lavumisa border gate, near Gollela, a small town which is half in Swaziland and half in Natal.

A feasibility study on the link by the University of Natal has indicated that in the first year of operation — now calculated to begin in March, 1979 — the line could carry between 650 000 and 1.1 million tons.

An important factor was the waning life of Swaziland's iron mines which will have no more ore to export through Maputo in about eight years time.

The new link was judged vital to Swaziland's exports of coal, timber, asbestos and citrus and for the import of heavy capital goods as the country's industrial potential is realised.

Since Mozambique fell to Frelimo, the link has acquired a new strategic value for South Africa.

In the event of a serious threat from the north, allied military operations with Swaziland would benefit from the rail link with the high capacity line between

SWAZI PEARS FOR EUROPE

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Finance Reporter
Sun. Trib. 14/8/77

SWAZILAND's avocado pear industry will break into the overseas export market this year with the sale of 12 600 kilogrammes of the fruit to the European Common Market.

Dwaleni Investments (Pty) Limited, based in the south of Swaziland at Nhlanguano, will rely on their marketing agency in Kent, England, to distribute and sell their crop.

Investment in the avocado project is in the region of R100 000, and by 1982 the company hopes to have recouped their stake in the 58-hectare orchard.

A small trial crop was exported last year.

The pears were air freighted from Jan Smuts, but next year Dwaleni will export by sea from Cape Town. As a member of the EEC, Swaziland is given preferential treatment with exports.

"Our avocados grow as well as they do in the best growing areas in South Africa," said Dwaleni managing director Bill Meyers.

Swazi job policy under fire

The Argus Africa News Service

MBABANE. — The Swaziland Government has been accused of trying to force employers to replace white expatriates with inefficient and unqualified blacks.

The accusation was made by the director of the Swaziland Federation of Employers, Mr Gordon Bevan, in a sharp attack on the Government's 'localisation' policy and on the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Zonke Khumalo.

Speaking at a seminar on technology, Mr Bevan criticised Dr Khumalo for making 'wild and unfounded' allegations against white expatriates, accusing them of sabotaging Government policy.

NOT REALISTIC

He accused the Government of exerting illegal and improper pressure on white expatriates.

Referring to a recent statement by Dr Khumalo that he would like to see localisation completed by 1981, Mr Bevan said he did not see this as a realistic objective.

The displacement of expatriates should be planned properly and not in such a rushed and improper manner, he said.

Employers were trying to speed up the 'localisation' of jobs by giving them to Swazis, but some jobs were highly specialised and it would not make sense to replace highly qualified workers with semi-skilled ones.

If this were done standards would drop. The economy would suffer and investors would be reluctant to put money into the country.

C. T. 10/10/77

Glassworks in Swaziland

(311)

MBABANE. — An agreement has been signed between the Swedish International Development Agency and the Swaziland Small Enterprises Development Company to set up a glassworks in Swaziland.

A site at Ngwenya is being considered. The glassworks could absorb workers from the iron ore mine in the area which is to close soon.

Production at the glassworks would embrace domestic glassware, art glass and ornaments. — Sapa

out on
King



LOBAMBO: A large number of disgruntled Swazis walked out of Royal Cattle Byre here yesterday during an inconclusive speech on the students riots by King Sobhuza II.

About 4,000 Swazis had gathered to hear what they hoped would be a definitive statement on the violence that has rocked this normally peaceful nation this week.

Instead of giving a conclusive reply to striking teachers' demands for a review of their pay the King simply ordered them to return to classes tomorrow.

He placed the blame for the troubles, which he said, were not the Swazi way, squarely on the shoulders of parents and teachers.

He said the strike and riots stemmed from the problem of money. He told parents and teachers to stick to tradition.

Guarded by riot police and steel helmeted troops carrying FN rifles with fixed bayonets but no magazines, the byre and the Royal Kraal was closed to young people. Police turned back students.

The King's speech, which consisted of a long rambling parable, left most observers somewhat nonplussed as to what he meant.

Sapa reports that the SABC said yesterday that news had been received from Mbabane that pamphlet containing a threat to murder the acting Prime Minister, and the Commissioner of Police, had been distributed.

The pamphlet, signed "fellow students," said the offices of the Swaziland Education and Finance Departments would be destroyed unless the Government agreed by tomorrow to the demands made by the country's teachers.

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and is easily
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and for carrying
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used for pulling
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[illegible]

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RDM 18/10/77

Now (311)

Swazis face general strike threat

MANZINI — Swaziland, which last week had student riots and a teachers' strike, yesterday faced the threat of a general strike amid signs of growing support for the dissidents.

Students and teachers have been visiting homes, factories and offices urging workers to go on strike from today, employers said.

Swazi teachers boycotted classes in Manzini and Mbabane 10 days ago in support of demands for higher wages and hundreds of students demonstrated in the streets in sympathy.

Police quelled sporadic rioting by using teargas.

Yesterday schools reported that most teachers and between 50% and 95% of secondary and primary school students were back in classes.

They were urged to re-

Report by Pierre Claassen, 77

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Newspaper at the weekend

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(Report by Bernard Wessels,
Van der Stel Building, Pretorius
Street, Pretoria.)

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HAROLD FRIDJHON

outlines

Swaziland's R140m project

Creation of a sugar giant

Work has already begun on a R140m internationally financed sugar project which will change the face of north-eastern Swaziland and bring new wealth to the tiny, fiercely independent kingdom.

Bulldozers are uprooting bushveld scrub to make way for future canelands and model villages, for a large new mill with the capacity to process 130 000 tons of sugar a year and for workshops to service the squadrons of vehicles and field machinery that will be deployed in and around the fields.

Some 16 000 ha of bush will ultimately be cleared of which nearly 10 000 ha will be under cane. Within three years the somnolent bushveld will be

transformed into a clatter of industrial activity involving nearly 3 000 workers who will acquire new skills, new trades and a settled security.

Drift

One of Swaziland's major problems is to create jobs for its people.

In order to stem the drift of the underemployed away from the rural areas either to seek opportunity in South Africa or to loaf hopelessly in the already overcrowded urban areas of Mbabane and Manzini.

About four years ago, Dr Sishayo Nxumalo, the present Minister of Industry, Mines and Tourism, set in motion studies to extend the lowveld sugar industry. Two mills, the one at the north of the country at Mhlume and the other in the south at

Big Bend, were producing upward of 180 000 t of sugar a year, mostly for the export market.

Sugar, Dr Mxumalo argued, would not only be a foreign exchange earner, but if the project were well-planned and properly designed with model townships for the workers, family life in the rural areas would not be broken up; on the contrary new communities would develop and thrive.

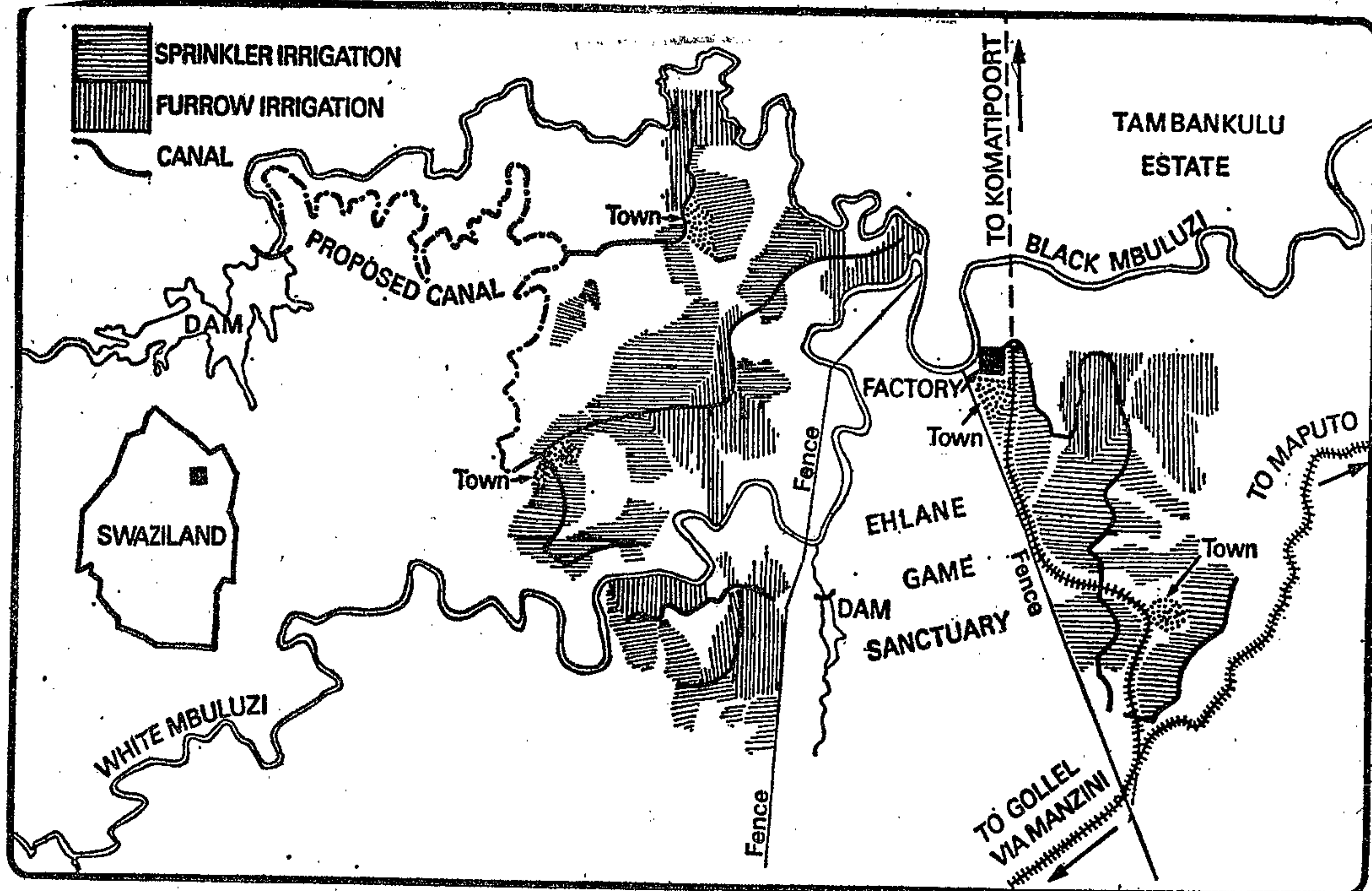
Overseas

The stumbling block was finance. Swaziland did not have the resources to carry through any meaningful project even though the country, by African standards, was rich with a balanced budget and with a surplus on its trading account with the rest of the world. Money had to be raised from abroad but in order

to do so the project had to be properly researched to prove to lenders that the scheme was practical and viable.

Tate & Lyle, the British sugar giant with interests in many parts of the world, was commissioned to do an in-depth study. Water resources, soil surveys, lines of communication had to be researched; market possibilities had to be examined. As far as markets are concerned, Swaziland is in a favourable position. The Lomé agreement provides access to the European Economic Community; as a developing country it is entitled to an American quota. The fact that the world sugar market is at present over-supplied, with the international sugar price weak and flaccid, does not detract from the long-term prospects.

The T & L studies were



favourable. As proved in the north and the south of the country, the soil was suitable for cane-growing and for overhead and surface irrigation, but the water supply had to be ensured. A dam was needed for storage so that irrigation was not dependent on climatic vagaries. Included in the estimate of costs was R21m for damming the perennial Mbuluzi River at Fairview and then leading the water along 27 km of lined canals to the cane-fields.

With the feasibility studies providing the green light for the Nxumalo dream, the Royal Swazi Sugar Corporation came into being and the search

for finance began. This was not easy; the world investment climate was not favourable and, in some quarters, African investment in particular was under a cloud. It required time, patience and effort to prove that Swaziland is not a wild-spending free-wheeling emergent state, but a country run on conservative, almost austere principles. King Sobuhza is not given to so-called prestige projects which do not produce a return in either cash or comfort for his people.

The overall plan called for R140m — R21m for the dam — the remainder for building the mill and

the towns, for clearing the bush, planting cane and providing irrigation. It was decided to fund this expenditure by means of R40m in share capital and the balance in loans and suppliers' credits. The Swazi government and the Swazi National Fund — a trust which invests in the name of the people, a national financial entity within the State — each took up R13m so that control of the venture would inalienably be Swazi. The balance of R24m was taken up by Nigeria, Tate & Lyle, DEG, (a German bank), the Coca Cola Corporation, Mitsui, the Japanese trading and banking cor-

poration, the Colonial Development Corporation of Britain and the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank.

All the shareholders with the exception of Mitsui, Coca Cola and Tate & Lyle, have provided loans and in addition the European Investment Bank, a Common Market agency will also contribute loan capital.

Although the Fairview dam is germane to the sugar scheme, its ultimate contribution to Swaziland as a whole goes far beyond the limits of the canefields. The stretch of water 11 km long and 6.5 m wide across its broadest

reaches will stimulate village agriculture along its shores and lift the carrying capacity of the lands flanking the hundreds of kilometres' water line. Seepage will prevent the lesser stream in the Mbuluzi catchment area from running dry and will also provide new water holes in the Ehlane game sanctuary. In a few years to come fish will be bred in the dam, a magnet for tourists and a source of food for the people.

Because of its far wider implications, the financing of the dam has been a separate exercise. Money has been raised by the Government assisted by overseas bankers. Their investment is secure because revenue will be generated from a charge levied on the sugar corporation for water supplied.

While many of the preliminary operations appear to be running at the same time, the prime priority is houses for people, providing the environment which will attract the workers. Contracts have been placed with Roberts Construction for the building of 2500 homes which will read over three main towns. Plans are for two bedroomed houses with kitchen, dining room, bathroom, water and sewerage. Family homes, simple practical, basic. But it is

24/02/78

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With the price of sugar currently in a trough, capital costs of the project dared not be allowed to run away.

management of the sugar project will be in the hands of Tate & Lyle through one of its service subsidiaries and during this first decade young Swazis will be trained ultimately to inherit the management. While the Swazi government fervently believes in creating jobs for its people, the policy is not to Africanise at all costs. In this cost-conscious society, it is recognised that positions in top management must be earned by ability not by any so-called rights. This is why the Swazi government is spending millions a year on higher education scholarships: to train the managers and technicians of the future.

Meanwhile, the development of the scheme is offering opportunities to South African business and engineering enterprises. When finance for the scheme was first

being canvassed, the African Development Bank, and agency of the OAU (Organisation for African Unity) lent R5.3-million to the Swazi government and tried to impose conditions that this money would not be spent in the Republic. Similarly, the other international lenders had hoped that they could use their influence to induce contracts to their national advantage.

Contracts

To overcome prejudices and influences which could have had the effect of escalating the starting up costs, the Royal Swazi Sugar Corporation and Tate & Lyle have set up a tender board which calls for tenders from companies and organisations all over the world; contracts for plant, machinery and construction are awarded on price — and efficiency

— no matter from where they emanate.

This puts South Africa in a most favourable position. Companies operating from South Africa do not only enjoy a considerable geographic advantage, but as the engineering and construction industries in this country are at present under-employed with production capacity under-utilised, tenders from this country could be considerably lower than those from overseas sources. And costs are being scrutinised and watched with a Scrooge intensity.

Exchange

With the price for sugar currently in a trough, capital cost of the project dare not be allowed to run away. Indeed, if they can be contained to estimate levels the more likely the ultimate viability

of the project.

Swaziland is looking for foreign exchange earnings of the order of R25m a year from the third sugar mill. This money is needed not only to maintain a favourable balance of payments as iron ore earnings and the income from asbestos fall away, but also to build up foreign exchange reserves and a reputation for financial stability so that future dreams and schemes for the little kingdom will win support from international financial organisations.

Tourism is currently an important earner of foreign exchange and during the years that lie closely ahead, the Government is determined to extract the utmost revenue it can from this source. Discussions are on the go for the building of more hotels; it is understood that the Hilton organisation is interested. The Fairview lake should be a new tourist attraction and King Sobhuza is determined that the Ehlane game sanctuary will develop into a touristic lodestone.

Ehlane forms a wedge between the two major cane growing areas which are to be planted for the sugar project. It would have been logical for the cane to have been planted in one wide unbroken sweep. It would have been easier to manage and cheaper to run. But no argument could convince the king that his game sanctuary would have to be sacrificed to commercial exploitation. Ehlane will remain.

And indeed Ehlane will flourish as a result of the damming of the Mbuluzi

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(313)

WOMEN

Finance
does
concern
you



DAWYNE ORR . . .
"women must start
taking an interest in
the family finance."

'Let's

**get
into
cash**

now'

24/2/78

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Ehlane—a reminder of what was

and the consequent seepage of water towards the south-east. The veld should flourish; new water holes will gush, reinforced by a little storage dam that is to be built in the waist of the time park. And in three years' time, game will not all that will be conserved in Ehlane. With a sea green cane on either side of the enclave, Ehlane will remain as a reminder for future generations of what the low-lands once looked like before man exploited its resources for gain.

500 firms in queue for Swazi contract

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — More than 500 firms world-wide have registered with Tate and Lyle Engineering, part of the British Tate and Lyle sugar group, to tender for jobs in the R125m Royal Swaziland sugar company project at Ngomane in Swaziland.

It is the biggest single sugar production scheme yet undertaken by Tate and Lyle Engineering, and its complexity of shareholdings sets the pattern for the future, according to Mr John Willsher, a director of Royal Swaziland Sugar Company and Tate and Lyle's man-in-South Africa, based in Durban.

"New sugar projects are extremely expensive to launch, and no one company can afford to undertake one because it cannot get money at economic rates," says Mr Willsher.

Shareholders include the Swazi nation, Coca Cola of the United States, Mitsui of Japan, the West German Development Corporation, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the Government of Nigeria, the World Bank and, of course, Tate and Lyle, which has a minority stake.

One loan has a 25-year term at an interest rate of only three percent. "If South African industries could get money at that rate they would be laughing," says Mr Willsher.

Tender documents are due to be issued next month and are expected to be signed about mid-year.

July 3, 1978

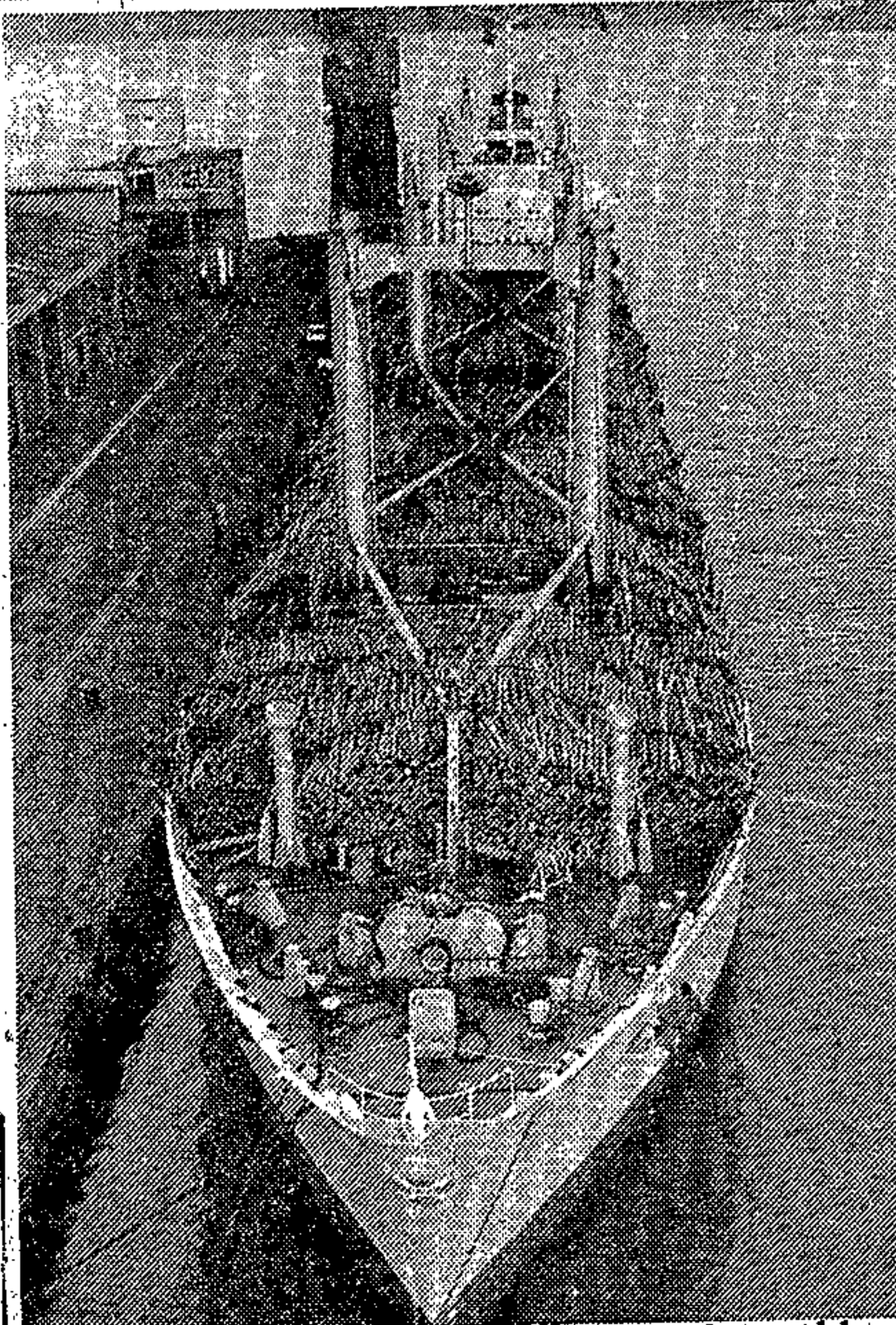
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SHIPPING

Wilf Seifert



A RECEPTION was held by Safcorship at Durban's Maharani Hotel to mark the inauguration of Swaziland's first shipping line, the Royal Swaziland Maritime Company (Swazimar), last week. Among those present were (from left): Mr. Hoppy Dlamini, Swazimar chairman; Dr. Allen Nxumalo, Swaziland's Minister of Works, Power and Communications; Prince Charles Dlamini, a Swazimar director, Sir John Fakudze, the company's managing director; Princess Geinaphi Khumalo; Mr. Walter Dlamini, secretary and a director of Swazimar, and the master of Swazimar's first general cargo ship, the Swazi Maiden, Captain D. Kahrilas.



MORE than 1 700 metric tons of saligna pulp wood logs stowed on all forward deck spaces of the Greek freighter Teti N posed unusual securing problems for Storm Marine last week. Another 7 460 metric tons had been stowed in the holds — the grand total making this export consignment for Spain the biggest of its kind in South African history. Above: the fully laden Teti N shortly before sailing from Durban with her master, Captain Panos Georgantas, "hoping for good weather."

□ MIGRANT LABOUR

The Swazi connection

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JOSEPH Dlamini is one of the thousands of Swazi men who has been forced by rising unemployment and low local wages to seek work on the hazardous mines in South Africa.

Buses leave regularly from The Employment Bureau of Africa (Teba), a colonial-style building alongside an Mbabane shopping mall, where Swazi men are recruited to work in South African mines.

There are about 90 smartly dressed men — each with a single bag of luggage — waiting quietly for the bus to take them on the four-hour drive to Johannesburg.

"I'm thinking about my wife", sighs Joseph Dlamini. "She's complaining about my leaving again."

Dlamini, 28, a father of four children, works as a security officer at a gold mine in Venda. He is allowed to return home to Swaziland for four days each month.

"It's difficult, because although we want the money, it's not good for me to be so far from the children," he says. "I can't teach the children. They're completely dependent on their mother for day-to-day guidance."

What takes him back to the mines, Dlamini says, is the money.

Having left school at the age of 22 with no formal qualifications, Dlamini could only get a job in a Swazi hotel doing odd jobs and earning R80 a month. After three

years, he left.

He first went to South Africa in 1985 as a miner for R210 a month. His current job as a security guard is one of the better-paid positions for unskilled migrant labourers. He earns R800 a month.

"Looking after the mine's property and controlling labour unrest" is how Dlamini describes his work. "I have seen lots of unrest," he says. "I have to use plastic bullets and teargas."

South Africa does not figure in Dlamini's long-term plans. "I plan to work for three more years in South Africa, and then come back home, and with my savings buy a tractor to farm in Swaziland."

The dream of returning home with big savings is shared by the many thousands of mineworkers from Swaziland and other southern African nations.

Until recently South Africa pursued an "aggressive recruitment policy". In the early 1900s, for example, there were more Swazis working in South Africa than in Swaziland.

But the numbers of migrant workers have been cut drastically in the past 15 years.

Rising unemployment in South Africa itself, the fall of world gold prices (which rendered half of South Africa's gold mines economically unviable), increased mechanisation, and demands by the militant National Union of

Mineworkers (NUM) for better conditions, have all combined to make migrant labour less sought after by mine owners.

For Swazi society too, the migrant labour system has hidden costs.

One of the main problems the men face is living in the male-only hostels without their wives, girlfriends and children. "It seems there is a correlation between alcoholism and these sorts of labour reserves," says Nomtheho Simelane, a political science lecturer at the University of Swaziland.

Women who are left behind have to head households, even though in Swaziland's patriarchal society they are not supposed to take major family decisions.

"So it means things have to be on hold even though women are having to head the families."

While many of Dlamini's friends do not give money regularly to their families, he sends R400 to his wife every month. "We're not the same," he says. "Some of the men just forget about home and have girlfriends."

The bus arrives. "My children at least are used to me going these days," adds Dlamini. "They even get excited and say: 'Don't forget to bring us back something good from your workplace.'" — AIA



Without their wives for up to nine months a year ... and dreaming of returning home and perhaps buying a tractor with their savings.

Teachers' bonuses fuel common fears

Argus Africa News Service

MBABANE. — Thousands of Swazi civil servants and teachers are picking up bonuses of up to R3'000 each this week, and police have warned them to beware of thieves and common.

The awards are the fruits of months of wrangling between associations representing the civil servants and teachers and the government over the award which was claimed as backpay of salary increases.

Total costs to the Swazi government is estimated at R44 million.

Some of than 15 000 expected to benefit from the award were paid out last week and the rest can expect their money before the end of this week.

SPENDING SPREE

Businessmen especially furniture dealers and car salesmen, say they are expecting a spending spree of the "Richards money", nicknamed after the British civil servant who recommended the original pay increase.

Police at the weekend said they are concerned about so much money on the loose being a temptation to thieves.

They also warned civil servants and teachers that if they drink to celebrate the windfall they should not drive.

Swazi teachers gripes go on



MBABANE - Swazi pupils go back to school today to "disgruntled and unhappy teachers working under appalling conditions."

That was the message issued at the weekend in a press statement from the Swaziland National Association of Teachers. The unusual and controversial statement begins by congratulating teachers and pupils on successes in the 1989 examinations, but continues to stress teachers' grievances about inadequate pay and lack of housing. (313)

It says the teachers begin the new school year with "terribly low morale" about conditions of service and unfulfilled promises. The statement is being seen as the latest broadside in a three-month conflict between teachers and government over a R57 million back-pay claim by the association. The claim is based on increases awarded in 1988, which the teachers want back-dated to 1986.

Pay rise for violent miners

Argus Africa
News Service

20/12/89
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MBABANE. — Swazi asbestos miners who staged a wage protest which turned violent have now been granted a 20 percent increase.

The offer, by Have-lock Asbestos Mine, is five percent less than the miners were demanding, and five percent more than management was offering before the protest.

One man died of bullet wounds after hundreds of miners took over the town of Bulembu in the north of the country during the protest last month.

Several people were injured after riot police moved in, and Prime Minister Obed Dlamini said later more than R1 million worth of damage had been done.

Mine workers walk out on wage dispute

MBABANE — The entire workforce of Havelock Asbestos Mine was still on strike yesterday after a weekend of violence over a wage dispute.

Swazi police have arrested 22 striking mine-workers. The mine is at Bulembu, north west Swaziland.

A police spokesman yesterday said trouble began after management informed the workers the mine could only offer 15 percent wage increase instead of 25 percent demanded by the workers.

Several hundred workers converged on the mine office block, locked in the general manager and other managerial staff, began stoning the building and burning company vehicles.

A police spokesman said yesterday the situation was calm at the mine but that the entire workforce was still on strike. — Sapa.

Swazi 18/7/84

Post office worker injured by bomb

MBABANE - The condition of a Swazi Post Office worker, who was seriously injured in a letter bomb blast at Veni Post Office in Mbabane last Friday, was said to be improving yesterday.

The worker, Mr Titres Shongwe, lost his left hand and suffered serious injuries to his right hand, face, abdomen and upper thighs in the explosion which occurred in a toilet at the post office.

Post Office sources said Shongwe had been seen entering the toilet carrying what looked like a small parcel just before the blast occurred.

Police who rushed to the scene shortly after the blast, would not comment on what they had discovered, but said that they were investigating the circumstances. - Sapa.

Worker injured in post office explosion

The Star's
Africa News Service

MBABANE— A Swazi post office worker is fighting for his life after being injured while handling an item of mail.

It is not known why Mr Titus Shongwe had the letter, package or parcel with him in a lavatory at Veni Post Office, Mbabane, in the first place.

The explosion occurred shortly before 4 pm on Friday as staff were preparing to close. Staff said they knew Mr Shongwe was in the lavatory but after the blast they were too terrified to go in and called the fire brigade.

ARM SEVERED

When Mr Shongwe was brought out, staff said they could see an arm had been severed, the other was badly shattered and he was bleeding from the face.

He was rushed to hospital where he is in intensive care.

Rooms adjacent to the toilets were damaged.

Members of the Special Branch spent hours at the scene with sniffer dogs. They said they had established who the item of mail was addressed to but refused to reveal the name.

Zoo gives pygmy hippo water after SPCA call

Staff Reporter

The conditions in which a pygmy hippo was being kept in the Johannesburg Zoo have been rectified after the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals raised the matter with zoo authorities.

The SPCA says it is satisfied with the condition of all other animals and has no intention of taking legal action against the zoo.

The general manager of the SPCA in Johannesburg, Mr Archer Wilson, said zoo officials had put water into an enclosure which housed a pygmy hippo after he had approached the curator.

He said it was society policy to discuss problems with the people concerned and obtain their co-operation rather than resort to litigation. Legal action was not a step taken lightly.

"There are other problems not concerned with animal welfare, like inadequate signs and maintenance, but these are not the concern of the society and probably due to insufficient funds," he said.

Mr Wilson visited the zoo in June after allegations of mismanagement had been levelled in a city council meeting and an inquiry was launched into zoo affairs.

During his visit Mr Wilson described the conditions in which the hippo was being kept as "shocking, disgraceful and utterly cruel".

He said: "There is no doubt in my mind that standards at the zoo have deteriorated markedly and that there are problems which appear to be as a result of bad management."

"While there are no signs of overt cruelty to animals ... these problems are likely to filter down."

Go-slow chaos at Gatwick

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Air travellers heading for London's Gatwick airport face chaos today as work-to-rule by immigration officers threatens to delay incoming passengers by up to four hours.

And outgoing flights to all parts of France could be restricted or extensively delayed as French air traffic controllers start a work-to-rule for higher pay.

At Gatwick, where angry passengers have been slow-clapping and hurling abuse as long queues build up, immigration staff will protest until tonight — and possibly daily — at being awarded a lower increase than at Heathrow.

TELJOY
HOT WINTER
OFFER

Swazi PM replies on union detainee

The Star's Africa News Service

MBABANE — Swaziland's Prime Minister has responded confidentially to a request by bank union officials for an explanation for the detention last week of one of their leaders, it was reported here today.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Sotsha Dlamini, Mr. Paul Shabangu, told a Swazi newspaper that he could not reveal the contents of the Prime Minister's reply, but it would reach the bank union offices today.

Bus blitz leaves Swazi workers walking 313

The Star's Africa News Service
MBABANE — Thousands of Swazi commuters were late for work today, or took a holiday, and they held just one man responsible.

The man is Mr George Tsela, the official Government Vehicle Inspector, who has been nicknamed "Terror" Tsela by public

transport owners. His job is to check buses and taxis for road-worthiness, and yesterday he had a blitz around Mbabane.

As a result, routes between the two biggest suburbs, Msunduza and Nkwalini, are virtually without buses today.

A number of taxis were also

taken off the road by Mr Tsela, who has been known to fail a vehicle because it had torn upholstery. His argument in that case was that a spring could work its way through the tear, distracting the driver.

Police said today the checks would continue.

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Creating jobs
MBABANE — The prime minister of Swaziland, Mr. Sotsha Dlamini, says the government intends to tackle the problem of unemployment next year by registering the unemployed throughout the country. Jonathan 3/1/89

Creation of jobs

Swazis' big need

Argus Africa

News Service

MBABANE. — Swazi-land's most pressing need is for jobs to meet the increasing popula-tion pressure, says the Prime Minister, Mr Sot-sha Dlamini.

He was addressing more than 40 United States Aid directors from all parts of Africa who are holding their annual conference here this week.

"Conditions of peace and political tranquillity cannot be expected to prevail long in a country that is beset by rampant unemployment, a chron-ic food shortage, poor housing and inadequate health services," said Mr Dlamini.

He hoped the Usaid conference would not be an academic exercise but a genuine collective effort to find practical answers to Africa's problems.

The conference ends tomorrow.

Labour Minister goes to court over strike threats

Argus Africa News Service

MBABANE. — Swaziland's Labour Minister has stepped in to defuse a dispute between workers and management of a giant pulp company which is about to be taken over by the South African group Sappi.

The Usuthu Pulp company is the largest in the country's wood pulp industry, which is itself the second highest exporter in Swaziland. The company employs almost 20 000 workers.

Early this week employees served notice that they would go on strike unless three expatriates were suspended. The employees said that two used abusive language and the third, the company doctor, was not carrying out his responsibilities.

Labour Minister Senator Ben Nsibandze was granted an urgent application by the Industrial Court to stop workers going on strike, and to prevent management locking them out.

Loafing workers get a fan-belting

313 The Star's Africa News Service

MBABANE — Workers in a Swaziland parastatal organisation have introduced "fan-belt power" to deal with loafing colleagues.

Employees of the Central Transport Administration, responsible for the repair of government vehicles, have formed a libandla, or committee, which operates on tribal lines. The libandla works independently of management.

A member told a local newspaper at the weekend that if they suspect an absentee is loafing they go looking for him, and if he is found without a good reason for being away he is brought back.

The member, who did not wish to be named, said: "As soon as we get him inside, he is lashed with a fan belt until we are satisfied that he is disciplined."

There have been long-standing complaints about absenteeism at CTA, and last year management introduced penalties of fines for offenders. Libandla members say this approach was not successful. Management has so far made no comment on the unofficial work enforcement squad.

SA

away, Capt Hatchett said.
The names of the victims were not released, pending the notification of Two weapons were recovered, a handgun and a shotgun. — Sapa-AP

210 514/88 313
Union makes claims against SA

MBABANE — The Secretary-General of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Mr Jan Sithole, has attacked South Africa for allegedly destabilising the transport networks of her neighbouring states. Mr Sithole told trade

union representatives at a workshop of the Southern African Trade Unions Conference (SATUC) that, as a result of the destabilisation, Swaziland no longer had a consistent railway link with Mozambique. Mr Sithole's reference

to the Mozambique railway link was also a reference to the alleged support given to Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels which have allegedly sabotaged the line on numerous occasions. — Sapa

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Concern as 900 Swazis lose their jobs

Argus Africa News Service

MBABANE. — Nine hundred Swazis have lost their jobs with the collapse of two major companies within 10 days.

First to go was the Swaziland Meat Corporation on March 4, which closed down with liabilities of almost R8-million, and 470 workers lost their jobs.

Last Friday a timber company, Tonkwane Sawmill, closed down after a High Court dispute with a local bank over R3-million debt and 430 workers were laid off.

Tonkwane general manager, Mr Hans Glaubitz, later issued a statement saying the sawmill was a well-managed business which had been forced to close down because of the "unyielding attitude" of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

● Swazi MPs expressed alarm in Parliament on Friday about the growth of unions.

MPs claimed unions politicised workers, and said trade unionism has planted seeds of discontent between workers and employers.

MP Mr Thomas Stephens said: "We have seen the effects that unions have had on the South African mines. What could happen in a small country like ours?"

Mr Stephens asked Labour Minister Senator Ben Nsibandze if there are plans to look into unions and replace radical elements with progressive leaders.

Senator Nsibandze recalled that there was a strike in Swaziland in 1962, and the British authorities of the day brought in the Gordon Highlanders regiment from Kenya to quell it. There had been no unions at that time, he said.

Mr Brian Fitzpatrick said he was in favour of worker representation, but was concerned about the increasing use of phrases like "youth council" and "May Day."

Fate of miners sealed

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MBABANE — The fate of 392 workers at the Havelock asbestos mine, in north-west Swaziland, was sealed last night when management confirmed they would be retrenched on February 1.

The workers had hoped the discovery of a new seam of asbestos ore west of the existing mine might save their jobs.

The company's general manager, Mr Lindsay Thompson, said, however, that the prospectors would take about six months to ascertain the extent of the new resources.

The 392 workers represent a quarter of the company's workforce.

Mr Thompson said their dismissal was regrettable but unavoidable due to the low reserves of exploitable ore at the mine. — Sapa

'Slave' wages

MBABANE — Residents in Swaziland's northern Lubombo district, starving as a result of recurrent droughts, are offering their labour to local farmers and estates at "slave labour rates" — in return for maize and cabbages for food.

A spokesman for the residents, mainly subsistence farmers, Mr Mashiyabubile Dlamini,

was yesterday quoted as saying the local people were selling their labour to established farmers at the Vulani irrigation scheme and Tambankulu sugar and citrus estates.

One of the few dams situated in the Siteki area of the district has been taken over by a dangerous hippo which attacks residents who attempt to fetch water.

Union suspends its secretary

3/5/87
d/Pres

SAM Nkambule, general-secretary of one of Swaziland's largest unions - the Swaziland Commercial and Allied Workers' Union - has been suspended indefinitely from his office for making public statements without a mandate from the union executive.

Nkambule was informed of his suspension in a strongly worded letter signed by union chairman Zeblon Dlamini and vice-general secretary Dan Mango.

Nkambule's suspension followed statements he made recently at a union meeting and later in the local Press, in which he alleged that some union officials, employers and government labour department officials were guilty of corruption and immoral practices.

He claimed that certain executive members demanded sex from female applicants in return for employment and that some

union officials and certain labour department officials accepted bribes from employers to overlook the workers' grievances.

His allegations have been strongly denied, particularly by Deputy Labour Commissioner Robert Nxumalo, who accused Nkambule of using his position to get "political fodder". - Sapa.

Swazi trade union congress banned

The Star's Africa
News Service

MBABANE — An international congress for trade unionists due to start in Swaziland on Monday was called off at the last minute when the Government described it as "unprocedural" and refused to allow it to proceed.

A spokesman for the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which was to have hosted the congress, said the Ministry of Labour order banning the meeting did not explain why

its organisation was unprocedural.

Delegates from trade union organisations in Kenya, Zambia and Lesotho arrived over the weekend for the congress but have now begun to go home. The congress spokesman said it had been expected that Swazi Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpfi would have addressed the delegates.

He said talks were going on with Ministry of Labour officials to try and clear up the issue.

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SACKINGS WELCOMED

313

Soweto

MBABANE — News of the sackings of two prominent members of Swaziland's supreme council of state (Liqoqo) and the country's commissioner of police has been generally well received by the Swazi public.

The sackings of Liqoqo members Prince Mfanasibile and Dr George Msibi and the commissioner of police, Mr Majaji Simelane, were announced by the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi. 4/10/85

All efforts by the media to obtain further details and reasons behind the sackings were met with a firm "no further comment" from the prime minister's office.

Observers in Mbabane, however, said it was widely known that the Queen Regent and senior members of the Swazi royal family, as well as Prince Bhekimpi

By Sapa

and minister of justice Mr David Matse, had for some time been concerned and angered by the arbitrary and controversial decisions and actions taken by certain members of the powerful Liqoqo.

One of the most unpopular actions recently, which brought the simmering mood of the elders of the royal family to the boil, was the controversial appointment of Nigerian businessman Chief Fernandes as Swaziland's roving ambassador.

Swazi unions warned

STAR

25/9/85

MBABANE — Swazi trade unions have been warned to stay out of politics to avoid being associated with "Southern African liberation politics and rebellion", the president of the Swaziland Agriculture and Plantation Workers' Union at Big Bend, Mr Agaster Matsebula, has said.

Trade unions should have nothing to do with political activists, he said.

He also called on women employees in the country to involve themselves in union affairs and not to think that unions were for men only. — Sapa.

Unions warned on politics 313

MBABANE—Swazi trade unions have been warned to stay out of politics to avoid being associated with southern African liberation politics and rebellion.

The president of the Swaziland Agriculture and Plantation Workers' Union, Mr Agaster Matsebula, said trade unions should have nothing to do with political activists. — (Sapa)

24/9/85

Morany

Sex for jobs probe

MBABANE — The management and works committee and husbands of some woman workers at Matsapa, Swaziland, are investigating sex for jobs complaints.

Investigation began after a woman was dismissed and reported that it was because she had refused to continue to have sex with one of her seniors. Sex had apparently been made a condition of employment.

A number of other women have come forward and claimed that the middle level management at the same company had asked them to have sex before giving them a job. — Sapa.

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Union alleges employers 'victimise' its members

MBABANE. — A leading Swazi trade union official has accused employers of "victimising" union members and treating them like slaves instead of citizens.

The secretary of the Commercial and Allied Workers' Union, Mr Sam

Nkambule, was speaking at a mass meeting of union members at Piggs Peak at the weekend.

He said employers should be taught "for their own good" to respect the country's labour laws. — Sapa.

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Rm 29/9/84

Unrest brews at mine

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

UNREST is brewing over a demand by workers at Swaziland's Havelock asbestos mine at Bulembu to join a trade union in terms of the country's new Industrial Relations Act, according to a report in the Times of Swaziland.

The report said labour unrest has been brewing at the mine — owned by the British asbestos multinational Turner and Newall — since the annual wage increment in July.

It said the workers had demanded that the works council be abolished and that the workers be allowed to join the newly-registered National Federation of Trade Unions.

However, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday that all was quiet and that workers were free to join trade unions under certain conditions.

ROM 18/7/84 (313)

A stern warning for Swazi union

MBABANE. — One of Swaziland's largest unions, the Swazi Agricultural and Plantation Workers' Union (Sapwu), has been warned by the Minister of Labour, Mr Mahlangano Matsebula, about the "behaviour" of the Sapwu executive committee.

In a report yesterday, the Times of Swaziland highlighted the minister's warning which came after the Sapwu executive allegedly refused negotiations

with the Swazi Sugar Association management over pay claims. They were alleged to have refused on the grounds that the employer had not yet been recognised by Sapwu.

Mr Matsibula told the committee they should have sought his ministry's advice and also consulted the Swazi Federation of Trade Unions before taking action harmful to industrial relations.

He reminded the committee that they represented the interests of about 20 000 people, which their behaviour "certainly did not reflect".

The Swaziland Government has frequently made clear by its actions in disputes involving industrial workers that it will not allow employers to be held to ransom and disrupt the country's image of industrial harmony. — Sapa.

RDM 26/3/84 (313)

350 sent off as firm folds up

MBABANE. — Police cordoned off the Swaziland Chemical Industries (SCI) plant, near Matsapha, at the weekend when 350 workers were dismissed following the company's liquidation.

It has been reported that staff, including a large number of expatriates, received no money and were told to claim their salaries later.

Reporters and cameramen who tried to enter the prem-

ises were barred from doing so by police, as specially hired buses ferried the workers from the plant to their homes.

No incidents were reported.

SCI's financial troubles were highlighted in Parliament earlier this month when it was revealed that the company owed more than R35-million to two Swaziland banks, the National Industri-

al Development Corporation, which is supported by the government, and various other companies.

Informed sources at the company have said, however, that the American chemical company, Du Pont, another chemical company in South Africa, and a Swaziland government "interest" were planning to take over SCI. — Sapa.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1983

'Scandal' as boys 313 cut cane for R30

MBABANE — A child labour scandal has blown up at Simunye Sugar Estates in eastern Swaziland where more than 400 young boys — some nine years old — are reported to be employed by adult cane cutters working for the firm.

A newspaper report today said its investigations into the allegations showed the boys worked six full days a week cutting cane for as little as R30 a month.

The cutters who employed them privately receive a basic monthly salary of R120 plus big bonuses for extra tonnage cut.

The report said some cutters, because of the help of the boys, were able to cut up to 10 times the average daily tonnage, but kept the bonus to themselves.

One young boy is reported to have said he took the job because his parents could no longer afford to send him to school. — Sapa

night of world travel.
313 C. Time
Unions warned
MBABANE. 20/9/83
The
Swaziland Deputy
Prime Minister, Senator
Ben Nsibandze, has
warned unions in the
country that political
activities "could lead to
their early demise". He
was addressing the
Swaziland Financial In-
stitutes Union at the
weekend.

Swazi PM calls for industrial harmony

MBABANE. — The Prime Minister of Swaziland, Prince Bhekimpi, has called on all workers in the country's various industries to unite to ensure industrial harmony.

Addressing representatives from the country's sugar, citrus, coal and timber industries in Mbabane yesterday, he said it was vitally important, especially in times of worldwide recession,

that the country maintained economic stability.

He said: "There is even a greater need today for workers and employers to sit down and discuss whatever problems there might be between them."

He told representatives that they must always feel free to come to him with any problems. "As we are seated here in this Cabinet office right now, you people de-

serve the same respect that is given to Cabinet Ministers".

In another development, the newly elected leader of Swaziland's Transport Workers Union, Mr M Maseko, has publicly rejected strike action by union members as a means of solving labour disputes.

Addressing a union rally in the Manzini district yesterday, he said that govern-

ments in Africa were worried because they thought unions were only interested in organising strikes.

This was untrue.

"Responsible unions led by responsible leaders should only consider strike action as a very last resort, and then only in extreme situations," he said.

He urged all union members to follow the policies of the late King Sobhuza.

Save ten 24/2/83

3/3

~~3/3~~

~~3/3~~

'Homelands' lure Swazi investors

MBABANE — Swaziland's economy, especially its young industrial sector, is facing competition from an unlikely quarter — South Africa's impoverished homelands.

At least one local manufacturing concern has transferred its operations to the Transkei, another has expanded into the Transkei and several other companies are believed to be considering making the move.

Previously Swaziland's plentiful labour supply, political stability, conservative economic policies and its proximity to the South African market made

the country a foreign investor's dream.

Economic observers believe that apart from the constant shortage of skilled local labour, two factors are responsible for the change in heart.

The first is the ever-present threat posed by the homelands in the form of low wages (Swaziland's minimum wages are considered high by Third World standards) and the lucrative investment incentives offered by South Africa.

The second is what some observers see as "careless" attempt by the Government to employ local workers in industry by refusing work permits to skilled expa-

triate.

"Foreign investors' confidence has definitely declined," an observer said.

"Since the King's death Government officials appear reluctant to issue or renew work permits where they feel local people can be trained for the job.

"They are trying to accelerate something that cannot be accelerated. Although investor confidence is not directly linked to the death of the King he may have been able to restrain reckless officials."

A refusal to renew the work permits of a number of skilled foreign

employees is widely believed to have been responsible for the decision by a carpet factory to move to the Transkei.

The move cost more than 80 local workers their jobs. These workers may now be forced to join the growing queue of redundant workers and unemployed school leavers.

In recent months nearly 2 500 workers — many of them construction labourers — have been laid off as the kingdom shoulders its share of the world recession.

In a recent statement, the Minister of Works, Power and Communication, Mr Victory Leibrandt, said Swaziland was entering a "very bleak period of unemployment".

Most observers agree the emphasis on academic rather than technical education is partly responsible for the high rate of unemployment.

"Fortunately, a move has been started to redirect the education system and reduce the academic content," an observer said.

The drought has worsened rural poverty as more than 50 000 Swazis are subsistence farmers.

Bid to end migrant labour denied

CAPE TIMES
16/10/80
313

JOHANNESBURG: — The Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland, Mr Ben Nsibandze, has denied that black Southern African states want to end the migration of labour from their countries to South Africa.

He believes the Zambian Labour Minister, Mr Joshua Lumina, who was reported to have made this statement in Lusaka recently, was misquoted.

Representatives of Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola met in Swaziland at the weekend to discuss the export of labour to South Africa.

Mr Lumina was later reported to have announced that the seven states had formed a commission of labour ministers whose main task would be to curb the recruitment of labour by South African companies in their countries.

Mr Nsibandze said yesterday that it was economically impossible for most of the states to cut their labour ties with South Africa and that this matter was not even considered at the conference.

'Harmonization'

The commission to be established would look into the "co-ordination and harmonization" of recruitment and service conditions for labourers from the various states who worked in the Republic, he said.

"There is certainly no question of stopping the migration of labourers to South Africa."

Although Zambia has outlawed the recruitment of labour by South Africa, more than 250 000 workers from the other six states are employed in this country. They generate more than R60 million a year in deferred payments and family remittances sent back home.

Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in particular are heavily dependent on the South African mines for employment. In 1979 the figures were Botswana 19 000, Lesotho 112 000 and Swaziland 9 000.

Workers burn boss's house

MBABANE — In the second riot in the Big Bend area in a week, workers at a sugar and citrus estate at Thambuti this week looted and burned down the manager's house.

Riot police were sent to the estate and arrested many of the workers. There have been no reports of injuries.

The sudden flare up of violence at the estate is believed to stem from a wage dispute between the estate owners and the workers, who number about 1 000.

Last week workers at the sugar mill at Big Bend went on strike.

Riot police fired teargas and made a baton charge, arresting more than 90 workers. Some strikers reportedly set fire to the cane, burning out large areas.

The strikers have now returned to work and the mill has resumed production.

JAAVERSLAG

1978

SENTRUM VIR INTERGROEPSTUDIE

(Geregistreer as The Abe Bailey Institute of Inter-Racial Studies Limited (Beperk deur Garansie))

Posadres:

p/a Die Universiteit van Kaapstad
Rondebosch

in 1977 vervang deur 'n Oorsig oor die Eerste Tien Jaar.

DIE OORSPRONG EN DOELSTELLINGS VAN DIE SENTRUM

Die Sentrum word grootliks gefinansier deur die Abe Bailey-Trust wat ingevolge die testament van Sir Abe Bailey gestig is. Dit is geregistreer as The Abe Bailey Institute of Inter-Racial Studies Limited (Beperk deur Garansie) - 'n maatskappy beperk deur garansie en sonder 'n aandeel-kapitaal kragtens die Maatskappijwet 1973 (Wet Nr. 61 van 1973).

Police move to watch strikers

The Star's
Africa News Service

MBABANE — Swaziland police units have been called to Big Bend in southern Swaziland to control 4 000 striking Swazi sugar workers who staged demonstrations over a pay dispute at the mill yesterday.

At one point, demonstrators stoned police cars and some of the more militant workers reportedly threatened to burn down the sugar cane.

Police reportedly made about 20 arrests as the strikers also shouted down Swaziland cabinet minister, Prince Bekimphi — responsible for labour affairs — who led a delegation to the mill to talk to the strikers.

The pay dispute out at Big Bend sugar mill — one of Swaziland's major industrial projects — has been simmering for several months.

Three weeks ago, workers gave notice they would strike if their pay grievances were not met.

Wat die jaar-
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Fund in die Kaap,
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Vereniging vir

(c) Deelname aan Welsyns- Professionele en Openbare Organisasies

Konferensie van die Afrikaanse Calvinistiese Beweging, Potchefstroom (Oktober).

Memorante Central Committee se Konferensie oor: 'Die Rol van Geskiedkundige Vredeskerke', Gaborone, Botswana. Verhandelings voorgelê oor: 'The Role of Churches in Promoting Justice in Southern Africa' (Oktober).

14

3

navorsings-fellows het aansienlik tot die Sentrum se program bygedra: dr Sheila T. van der Horst, afgetrede mede-professor van Ekonomie, U.K., en professor J.L. Boshoff, gewese Rektor van die Universiteit van die Noorde.

LIDMAATSKAP

Soos voorneem gemeld, is die Sentrum vir Intergrasies geregiſtreer as 'n maatskappy. In die Memorandum en Statute van Venootskap word voorsiening gemaak vir die benoeming van eenhonderd lede. Tans is daar 57 lede en hulle sluit die volgende in:

a) Drie stigterslede:

Mnr J.G. Benfield
Mnr H.L. Kennedy
Mnr P.G.T. Watson

b) Sewentien persone wat gedurende die afgelope 10 jaar lede van die Beheerraad was (* dui stigterslede aan):

Professor E.V. Axelson
Professor J.F. Beekman
Professor J.F. Brock
Mnr C.S. Corder
Professor W.H.B. Dean
Dr J.P. Duminy
Professor G.F.R. Ellis
Biskop A.W. Habelgaarn
Mnr E.V.E. Howes
Professor M.F. Kaplan
Ds. W.A. Landman
Mnr G.K. Lindsay
Sir Richard Luyt
Professor S.J. Saunders
Professor H.W. van der Merwe
Mede-professor D.J. Welsh
Professor Monica Wilson

frequency of inter-settlement contact would have increased and with it the probability of friction would have grown. The level of stress would have increased until fission occurred when groups would have moved away, settled and formed the nuclei of new cultures. Each of these nuclei could have acted in turn as a centre for fission and further expansion.

In this model, as was the case for the continuous spread model, carrying capacity has been defined as psychological tolerance and the problem of limiting resources remains.

A flow diagram and computer simulation of the discontinuous spread model were prepared (Fig.3; Appendix 1).

DATA

Quantitative data. The rates of population growth used in the simulations were two, three and a half, and four per cent per annum. The values were similar to those quoted by Birdsell (1957) for human groups colonising uninhabited areas. Four values for carrying capacity were used: one, five, ten and fifteen people per square kilometer. A value of five people per square kilometer has been used as the carrying capacity for simulations on subsistence agriculturalists (Ammerman and Cavalli-Sforza, 1973). The values coincide with low population known from African ethnography (Tev, 1950), but the possibility remains that the ethnographic values are too high since they may have increased as a result of European medical attention.

Both models were simulated with three different, arbitrarily chosen, input populations: 100, 500, and 1000 people. In the simulations space was conceptualised as a series of concentric circles. The perimeter of each circle was set at 10 km away from the previous circle.

Cultural data. The bevelled/fluted complex corresponds, at least in broad outline, to the eastern stream (Phillipson, 1977). However, there are a number of problems associated with the eastern stream. Nkope has been included in the eastern stream and has been used as a link between Early Iron Age cultures in eastern and southern Africa. Huffman (1978) has shown that some of the cultures included in the eastern stream, notably the Transvaal group, do not have a high relationship to either the Nkope-Gokomere axis or to Silver Leaves material and should be excluded from the eastern stream. Similarly,

Nkope has occasional fluting and bevelling which has been used to tie it to the eastern stream, but as this feature was not common (Robinson, 1973; Table 2) and it would seem that Nkope probably belonged to a different tradition.

Phillipson (1975, 1977) has suggested that the expansion occurred as a linear continuum with Urewe as the earliest and Silver Leaves as the

Swazistrike: 90 arrested

MBABANE — Swaziland police have arrested more than 90 people — some of whom are being treated in hospital — after disturbances at the Big Bend sugar mill in Southern Swaziland where 4 000 Swazi sugar workers are on strike over a pay dispute.

Police units moved in after militant workers succeeded in setting fire to sugar cane on Wednesday and shouted down a cabinet minister, Price Bekimphi — responsible for labour affairs — who led a delegation to try to placate the strikers.

Mass demonstrations were continuing at the mill yesterday.

The Swaziland police and government spokesmen have refused to comment on the situation. But eye-witnesses at Big Bend say a number of police vehicles were stoned and a number of people injured.

The nature of the injuries is not yet known. But a number of people have reportedly been taken to the Big Bend clinic for treatment.

While there has been no official police comment, police sources said yesterday the number of arrests had exceeded 90.

The pay dispute at the Big Bend sugar mill — one of Swaziland's major industrial projects — has been simmering for several months.

Three weeks ago, workers at the mill gave notice that they would strike if their pay requests were not met.

the time taken to reach the critical population density was short and produced fast rates of expansion.

Simulation 2. The rates of advance for the wave of advance model remained the same as in simulation 1. This was also true for the within culture expansion rates derived from the discontinuous spread model. Appreciable differences were found in the overall rate of expansion, with rates from Kwaale to Silver Leaves expansion being much faster (Table 6) than from Urewe to Silver Leaves (Table 2).

313

12 000 Swazis work in mines

MBARANE — More than 12 000 Swazi nationals were recruited to South African mines last year, according to a spokesman for the Mines Labour Organisation in Swaziland.

This year's recruitment was expected to exceed last year's figure "by a big margin", owing to the drought in Swaziland, but would depend on the availability of work on the mines. — SAPA.

SWAZILAND

police have arrested more than 90 people at a sugar mill 103 km south of Mbabane following disturbances involving striking workers demanding higher pay.

Police units intervened after militant workers set fire to sugar cane on Wednesday and shouted down Cabinet Minister Bhekimpi Dlamini, the Daily Post in Swaziland reported.

Four thousand workers were reported to be on strike at the

Swazi police nab striking sugar workers

SUNDAY POST Correspondent

mill. Swaziland police and government spokesmen refused to comment on the situation. Some workers have

been treated for injuries at the Big Bend Clinic following a police baton charge at the mill on Wednesday.

Several policemen are believed to have been hurt by rocks thrown by the strikers. Production at the

mill has come to a standstill.

Unofficial estimates were that if the burned cane cannot be crushed before it starts fermenting, the mill could lose up to 40 000 tons of its 100 000 ton crushing capacity.

Sources in Mbabane said workers were seen setting fire to the cane as they fled from the police tear gas and baton charge.

The trouble came to a head on Wednesday when workers, who have long been demanding wage increases, picketed the mill and threatened others who tried to enter the mill with violence.

About 3 000 workers were gathered outside the mill when the managing direc-

Kantooradres:

7700

Republiek van Suid-Afrika

Rondebosch

Posadres: Die Universiteit van Kaapstad

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((Beperk deur Garansie))

Inter-Racial Studies Limited

(Geregistreer as The Abe Bailey Institute of

SENTRUM VIR INTERGROEPSTUDIES

1978

JAARVERSLAG

Star 27/7/79 (313)

Swazi strikers go back

The Star's
Africa News Service

MBABANE — By mid-morning today most of the sugar strikers in Swaziland were reported to have returned to work. Riot police were still patrolling the town.

Large areas of sugar cane have been burnt out near Big Bend, apparently by workers taking part in the strike, which erupted into violence at the Ubombo Ranches mill this week.

More than 100 of the nearly 4 000 workers have been arrested and some have been treated for injuries after a police baton charge at the mill on Wednesday.

Several Swazi policemen are believed to have been hurt by stone-throwing strikers.

Production at the mill was brought to a standstill.

Unofficial estimates were that if the burnt cane cannot be crushed

before it starts fermenting, the mill could lose up to 40 000 tons of its 100 000-ton crushing capacity.

Sources said workers were seen setting fire to the cane as they fled from the police teargas and baton charge.

The trouble came to a head on Wednesday when

workers, who have long been demanding wage increases, picketed the mill and threatened violence to those who tried to enter the mill.

About 3 000 workers gathered outside the mill and the managing director, Mr R Burns, was shouted down when he tried to address them.

Most irregular!

By GEOFF DALGLISH

212 *Tribune* *14/10/76*
Audit accuses

Swazi Govt

of gross inefficiency

THE Swaziland Government has been accused of a number of irregularities and gross inefficiency in an official report released by the auditor-general.

The audit was compiled by Mr G. P. Dhlamini and examines all Government accounts for the year ending March 31, 1976.

Among the claims made in the 146-page document, which is more than two years late — because of the inability or refusal of officials to submit information — are:

- The widespread misuse of Government vehicles spotlighted by a commission of inquiry has continued;

- Vehicles shown on computer records were not drawing fuel and their existence was in doubt;

- Some vehicles were being hired out when their existence was in doubt;

- The Swazi Defence Force refused audit officials access to their records;

- Many civil servants granted housing loans occupied Government quarters while letting their homes on the private market; and

- An insured bank parcel containing R4 830 disappeared at Mbabane Post Office but the official allegedly responsible was reinstated in his job.

Examining a number of irregularities, Mr Dhlamini notes: "There is a lack of accounting control of capital projects by the Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance and Department of Economic Planning."

Describing the numerous breakdowns in transmission by the Swaziland Broadcasting Service, he maintains: "My inquiries revealed that the service is sadly deficient in its establishment of technical staff... there is little hope that these posts

will be filled in the near future unless drastic action is taken now."

He pinpointed weaknesses in the telephone network. "There appears to be no standard procedure followed for the charging of telephone deposits, connection fees and initial rentals."

Apparently little has been done to clean up the mess uncovered by the previous Auditor-General, Mr W F. C. Mkhonza, in his report last year.

Peculiar

Mr Mkhonza claimed that the Minister for Works, Power and Communications had ordered instruments worth R160 840 in a "peculiar transaction" not provided for in the budget.

He also said that the Council of Ministers had, "for unknown and unexplained reasons", provided R150 000 of public money for a proposed Swazi music festival which was cancelled.

The Council of Ministers admitted blame and "in an attempt to absolve themselves decided, in ac-

cordance with Swazi custom, that they should pay a fine in the form of a beast for this grave error of judgment."

In a reference to the Somhlolo national stadium's trading account, Mr Mkhonza said: "I am unable to say whether the handling of the account has improved or deteriorated, though the number of cash thefts being reported does not inspire much hope."

Included in his report was a communication from the Ministry of Finance, which read:

"Financial control has almost completely broken down in many ministries and departments. This is a serious situation which seems to require a carefully formulated and executed plan for selection, orientation, training deployment and appraisal of suitable staff if there is to be any improvement."

Mr Dhlamini adds: "The introduction of the computer in Government accounting has created many problems which are baffling the accounting staff."

... timing differences

3. How will the answer to 2. be of an extraordinary gain on company, amounting to R70 000 in the 19.7 financial year?

4. How does the answer to 3. deductible loss, which can

income from other sources of R50 000: Draw up an income statement assuming the deferral method is used.

5. Further to Note 4, assume now that the company has a set profit before depreciation of R60 000 in 19.8.

Draw up the income statement for the 19.8 financial year under a) liability method

b) deferral method

Assume the tax rate remains 42%

Star 6/2/91.

Miners blamed for job losses

MBABANE — A Swazi MP has accused workers of responsibility for the closure of a mine here which resulted in the loss of 2 000 jobs. (313)

Themba Dlamini said workers at Havelock asbestos mine influenced the closure because they were not "patient and conforming".

The government had invested R20 million to keep the mine going, but refused to make any more grants. — Star Africa Service.

Star 6/2/91
Employer

**crucified me,
Swazi worker
tells court**

Star Africa Service

MBABANE — A Swazi workman who claims his employer tortured him in a bizarre two-day crucifixion in a graveyard is suing the man in the High Court for R178 000.

Farm labourer Vbango Matsenjwa was working for wealthy sugar plantation owner Dumisa Dlamini in the Big Bend area of Swaziland when the alleged torture took place.

Mr Matsenjwa yesterday told the court that Mr Dlamini, claiming he had information from diviners, believed he was responsible for the death of the sugar farmer's baby daughter by means of magic.

Mr Matsenjwa said Mr Dlamini ordered his foremen to take him to the grave where the child had been buried. There, his arms and shoulders were tied to a steel stake and he was suspended from the ground.

"I spent two days in that position without food or water," Mr Matsenjwa told the court.

He also claims he was scorched with burning brands from a fire during his ordeal.

The case continues.

HOSAM WATCHES
(PTY) LTD
SA SOLE AGENT
SPECIAL OFFER TO WHOLESALERS

Town faces ruin as mine closes

(313)
Star 6/2/91

THE big buckets have stopped moving on the spectacular cableway that, for half a century, carried asbestos from Havelock in Swaziland, over mountains and valleys, to Barberton in the Transvaal.

And like so many other mining centres around the world, Havelock's residential area, Bulembu, suddenly faces the prospect of becoming a ghost town.

Almost overnight Bulembu, home to 15 000 people, has found itself deprived of its reason for existence. After 62 years the Havelock mine has abruptly closed.

It became uneconomic beyond even the government's ability to keep it alive.

The end came suddenly when the management sent out a circular last week telling the miners not to report for work the next day. Now 2 000 miners are without jobs.

Soon people will begin to move out. Shops and schools will close. The town will begin to die — unless alternative sources of income can be found.

The prospects are not good. Some miners are looking with desperate hope at the gold deposits in the area.

The Commissioner of Mines, Aaron Vilakati, has confirmed that gold has been found in tests at Havelock and said exploration would continue.

The miners know that gold was mined in the north of Swaziland before the discovery of the vastly bigger Witwatersrand reefs made the diggers abandon their claims and head for the new bonanza.

But a geologist who did not want to be named scoffed at the talk of gold replacing the asbestos as a source of income.

"It's been known for years that there's gold in the area but there's nowhere near enough to justify full-scale exploration," he said. "That's why the old-time miners left for the Witwatersrand 100 years ago."

A large urban centre in Swaziland may become a ghost town following the sudden closure of the Havelock asbestos mine. The Star's Africa News Service reports from Mbabane.

This week some miners were packing their belongings and preparing to seek jobs elsewhere — in the knowledge that there is an unemployment problem in Swaziland. Shopkeepers were trying to decide whether to hang on the hope that something will turn up, or cut their losses and close their doors. The bank must decide whether it is worth staying open in a town without wages.

Education officials have said that the two primary schools and the high school will remain open. But that promise may have to be reviewed if many of the children leave when their fathers seek work elsewhere.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Nkomeni Ntiwane, said last week efforts would be made to establish new industry in the area. He did not suggest what it might be.

Despite world asbestos prices remaining good, Havelock's production costs outstripped revenue and the threat of closure has hung over the mine for several years. For the past two years the government gave R20 million in subsidies in an effort to protect the miners' jobs, but this year it refused to give more.

Shareholder confidence may have been hit, not only by this decision but also by continuing labour disputes at the mine. At the end of 1989 striking workers took over the town for two days, looting and causing damage estimated by the government at more than R1-million. □

11 quarry workers blown to pieces

MBABANE - Eleven men were blown to pieces when a truckload of explosives blew up at a quarry in Swaziland on Monday. *Gowden 20/2/91*

The explosion at the Kwalini quarry, just off the main road between the two main towns of Mbabane and Manzini, was heard 10km away and buildings closer to the quarry were destroyed.

The blast also caused a major power cut which affected the country's largest industrial area, Matsapa, 3km away, and parliament, where MPs were in session.

Police said they were unable to recover a single identifiable body.

A worker who survived said the men who died were sitting on the load of explosives carried by the truck.

SA rescue action frees Swazi miners 3/3

THE operation to rescue 26 miners trapped 65m underground at the Emaswati coal mine in Swaziland moved into its final stage yesterday afternoon as the first miners were hoisted to the surface.

Trans Natal senior manager Bobby Jurd said the rescue mission was only hours away from completion.

At the time of going to press, a six-man rescue team from SA had been lowered into the mine through the rescue shaft sunk within metres of the trapped men yesterday morning.

MATTHEW CURTIN

The mineworkers were trapped when a rockfall blocked an access tunnel on Saturday night. The men, none of whom were hurt, reached a refuge bay from where they were able to communicate with the surface and receive food and water through a borehole. 10/6/91

The colliery, 60km from the Swazi capital, Mbabane, is managed by Trans Natal, the coal division of the Gencor group.

Dramatic rescue of 26 men at Swazi mine

Star Africa Service

MBABANE — Twenty-six Swazi miners — four of them South African citizens — were yesterday rescued by a capsule lowered down a 62,5 cm shaft drilled by a giant drill rig after being trapped 65 m underground for 30 hours in Emaswati Colliery.

It was the first time in Africa that a rescue using the giant rig has been carried out.

South African and Swazi proto teams toiled overnight at the colliery about 56 km from Manzini to drill a rescue shaft to the miners who were sheltering in a rescue bay after being trapped by an underground rockfall at about 10 am on Saturday. None of the miners was injured in the incident.

At about 3.15 am yesterday morning a massive drilling rig from Witbank sunk a tungsten-tipped hammer and lengths of steel tubing about 200 m from the miners' safety bay to prepare a rescue shaft for the "rescue bomb". Drilling at about 7 m an hour the drill reached the miners' level at 11.45 am.

Four highly trained men from the Chamber's Dundee Rescue Station were lowered into the mine to assess the situation and to strap the miners into the capsule.

First up was Milton Tsabedze (37), who was worked for the mine for 16 years. He is married with 15 children.

While he was being pulled up he was asked by Dundee Rescue Station superintendent Geoff Eave: "Are you okay?"

He replied cheerily: "Mina hamba mooshly" (I'm coming up nicely).

Father of four Mfanawenkhele Makakholo (30) said afterwards that he never expected to be rescued in such a manner. He said it was "very exciting".

The men were disoriented

Swazi coalminers rescued unhurt

313
c/10/6/91

JOHANNESBURG. — All 26 miners trapped in a coalmine in Swaziland on Saturday have been rescued — and although exhausted, are all unhurt.

The miners, who were trapped in the Emaswati Mine after a fall of ground at 10am on Saturday, were yesterday given an emotional welcome from miners and local residents as they reached the surface.

According to a statement issued by Genmin last night, doctors examined the workers, the last of whom reached the surface at 6pm, and gave them tranquillisers. The freed miners were then sent home to their families.

The men were supplied with hot food and water via an existing borehole linking the refuge bay where the miners had sought safety with the surface. The borehole also made communication possible.

Shortly after the accident the Chamber of Mines rescue drilling rig was sent from Witbank. The rig reached the mine about midnight and drilling began at 3am yesterday.

At 11.45am the drillers broke through into an area some 200m from the refuge bay. The drilling equipment was then removed and proto-team members were sent down the borehole, which was 62.5cm in diameter, in a rescue capsule.

The miners were then strapped one at a

time into the capsule which took them to safety.

However, the rescue was not effected without tragic cost.

According to a Genmin statement, Mr Piet Danhauser, the chief training officer at the Colliery Training College at Witbank where the rescue drill is kept, lost his life in a freak accident.

A key member of the drill's team, he had helped to set up the rescue rig at Emaswati before going back along the route to the mine to change a burst tyre on the mobile crane used to position the drilling rods and other heavy equipment.

While he was under the vehicle it slipped, killing him instantly. — Sapa

Dramatic rescue of 26 men at Swazi mine

313

Star 10/6/91

● From Page 1
after about 28 hours in darkness, relieved only by the glow from their caplamps.
The last of the trapped men was hoisted to the surface at 6 pm.

Doctors examined the relieved workers. Although exhausted, none was injured.

They all went home to their families after being given tranquillisers.

The rescue operation was highly organised by mine management and went like clock-work.

After the mine pillars collapsed on Saturday morning, the trapped men had acted on standing safety regulations and gone to a refuge area which had a hole pre-bored into the surface.

The men were reassured by mine officials and food and drink was lowered to them in the refuge bay.

After several "meals" of biscuits — an emergency measure — the men cheerfully demanded "pap and meat", which was lowered to them.

Michael Salamon, managing director of Trans-Natal, the company which owns Emaswati Colliery, said his first concern had been to get everyone, including the rescuers, back on surface.

After this had been achieved, management would probe the causes of the cave-in.

The success of the operation was marred by the death of the chief training officer of the Witbank Colliery Training College in a freak accident.

Piet Danhauser had helped to set up the rescue rig on site at Emaswati before going back along the route to change a burst tyre on the mobile crane used to position the drilling rods and other heavy equipment.

While he was under the vehicle it slipped, killing him instantly.

He leaves his wife, Edna, and three children.

Miners' saviours k

(313) Star 11/6/91

JULIENNE DU TOIT reports on a dramatic rescue operation that included an enormous drill swinging into operation for the first time in 14 years to save the lives of 26 trapped miners.

AFTER standing idle for 14 years at an annual cost of R500 000 in maintenance, the Chamber of Mines' huge American Ingersoll-Rand drill swung into action at the weekend, saving the lives of 26 Swazi miners who were trapped 65 m underground in Emaswati Colliery, Swaziland.

The men sheltered in a rescue bay after an underground rockfall at about 10 am on Saturday. None of them was injured.

The refuge bay was linked to the surface by a narrow bore-hole pipe from where they communicated with rescue personnel on the ground and received food and liquids.

Twenty-eight hours later they were all back on surface, brought up one by one in a "bomb" — a 2 m capsule — through a hole drilled by the Ingersoll rig, disoriented but none the worse for their experience.

The drill, said to be the largest downhole drill in the world, cost R3 million in 1977. It is part of R9 million worth of rescue equipment at Witbank. It was driven to Swaziland on its enormous truck with a compressor — itself one of the largest portable compressors in the world.

After struggling through the mud — the result of recent heavy rains — with a crane and a truck full of 9 m steel tubes, the drill was set up and the rescue operation started at 3.20 am on Sunday.

It drilled through 8 m of sandstone and coal seams in an hour.

"It was like cutting cookies

1. Sat 10am Emaswati Colliery, Swaziland

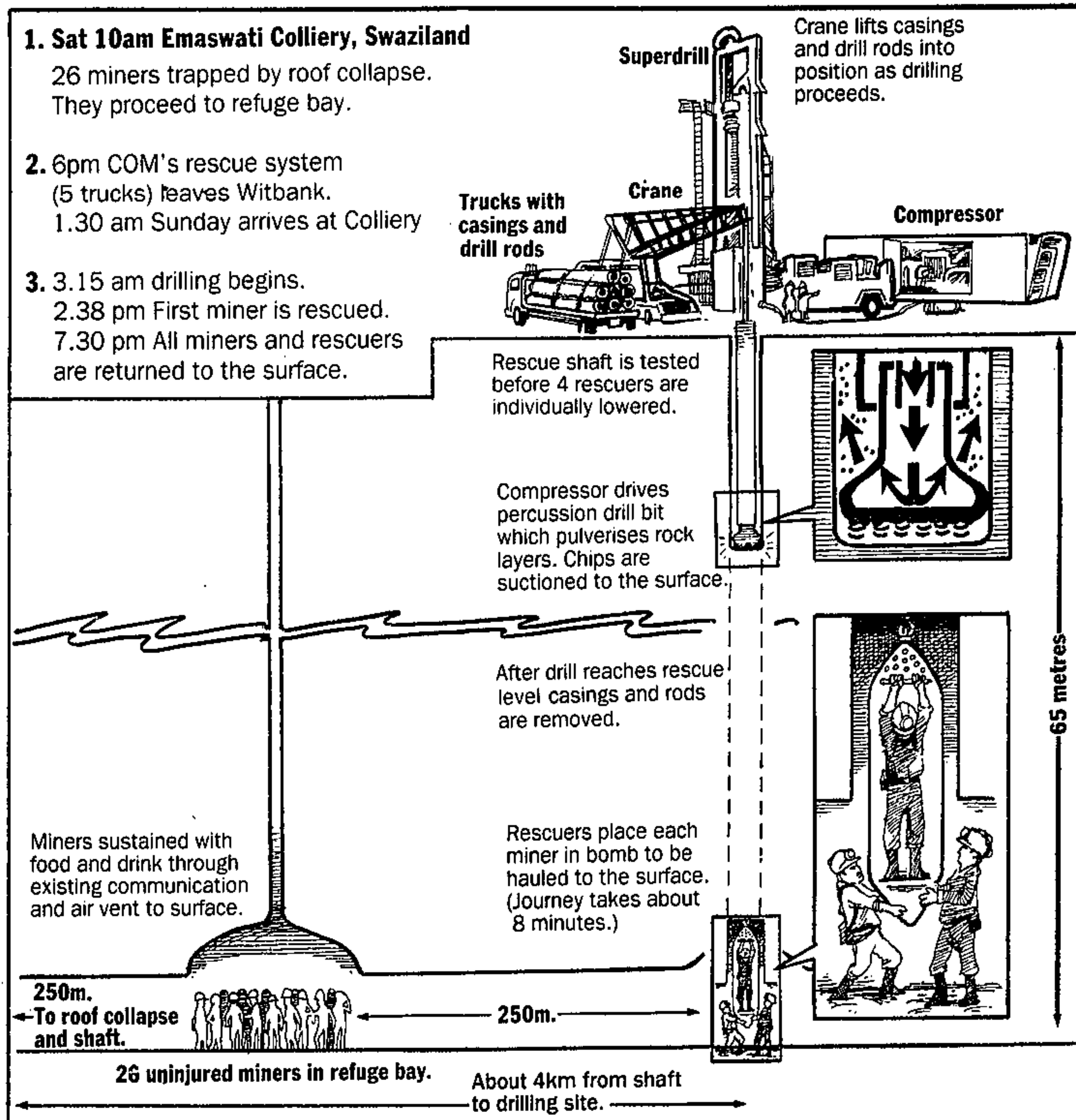
26 miners trapped by roof collapse. They proceed to refuge bay.

2. 6pm COM's rescue system

(5 trucks) leaves Witbank. 1.30 am Sunday arrives at Colliery

3. 3.15 am drilling begins.

2.38 pm First miner is rescued. 7.30 pm All miners and rescuers are returned to the surface.



out of dough," said Stan Maher, Chamber of Mines public affairs official who was on the scene.

In eight hours they had reached the men. Then it was a matter of removing the rods and testing and retesting the "bomb", a flexible structure. Four proto-team members were lowered to help bring the men up.

"It must have been totally strange for the miners. They were probably thinking they would have to dig their way out through 200 m of rockfall.

"Then some weird guy in a space capsule drops out of a

hole 250 m away from their refuge bay and says 'Come with me'," said Mr Maher.

The first man up, Milton Tsabedze (37), with two anxious wives and 15 children waiting for him, announced "Mina hamba muhle" (I'm coming up nicely) when he was being pulled up in the bomb.

After all the technological genius and heavy machinery, between 20 and 30 men pulled the capsule up and down the hole, each lowering and lifting operation taking about seven minutes.

Without the drill, the men would have died, said the Cham-

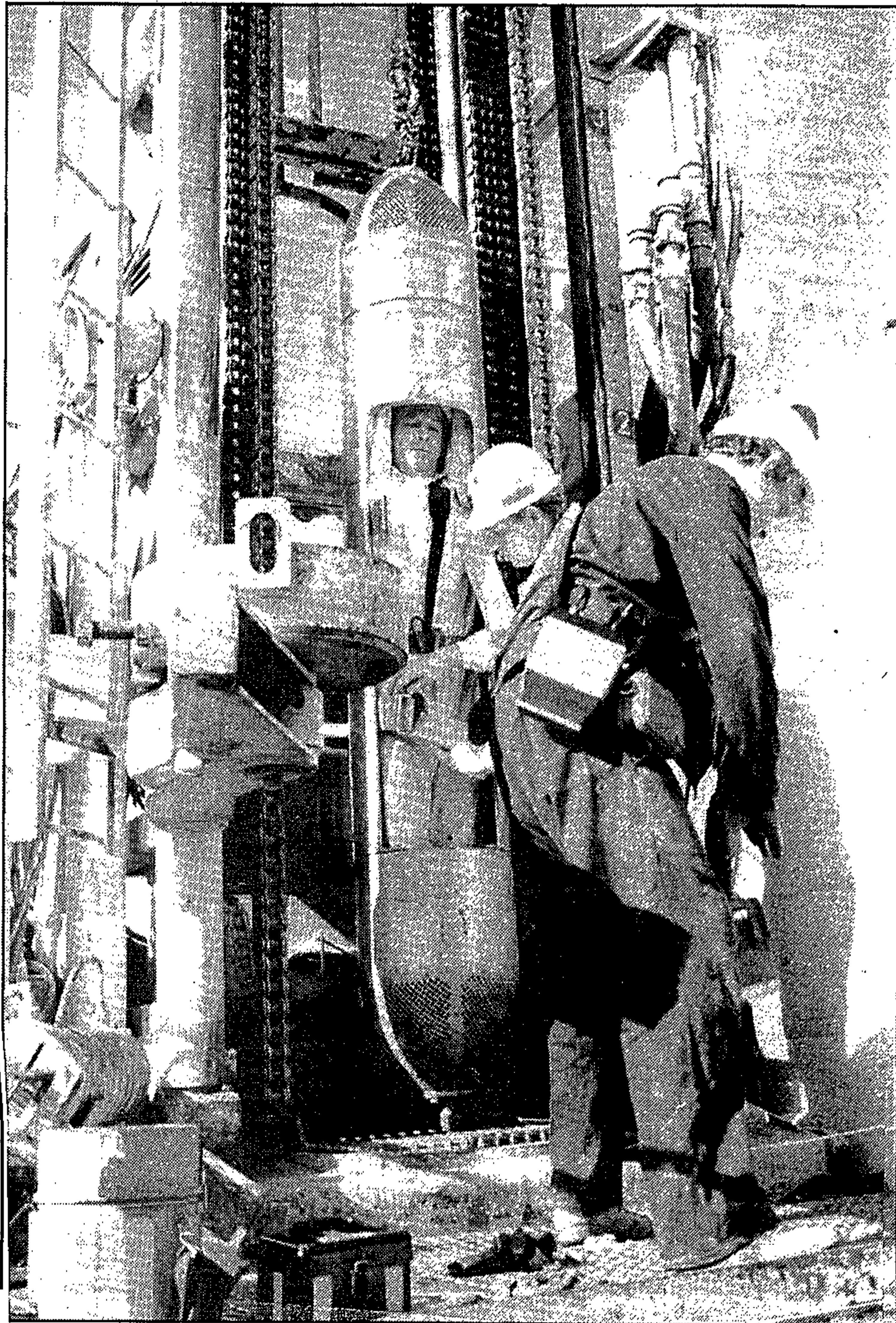
ber of Mines yesterday.

Mr Maher said it would have taken two to three weeks to dig through the rockfall to the men.

The successful operation was marred by the death of Piet Danhauser, chief training officer of the Witbank Training College, when the crane collapsed on top of him while he was trying to fix a tyre blowout.

It would take two months for Emaswati colliery, the biggest in Swaziland, to start operating normally again, said Andre du Buisson, area manpower manager for TransNatal Coal Corporation's eastern Transvaal region. □

new the drill



Going down . . . a rescue worker from the Chamber of Mines' Dundee Rescue Station goes down to holst the first of the trapped miners to the surface. Picture: Stan Maher

Swazi teachers head for home

CP News 30/6/91
CP Correspondent

SWAZILAND teachers who have been flocking to South Africa in search of big salaries are now heading back home in droves.

The exodus to South Africa started about six years ago, but since last year the teachers have been begging the Swaziland Minister of Education for their old jobs.

They say they decided to return because of the violence and high cost of living in South Africa.

The Ministry of Education has estimated that teachers are returning at the rate of five a month.

One teacher said she decided to return home when the school where she taught was taken over by pupils who dictated the terms.

"They would come to school singing political songs and turned the school into some kind of political rally," she said. Pupils would often order teachers to go home.

Another teacher, who taught at Daveyton, said he was forced to carry a gun to class because of the violent mood of the pupils.



CLOSED SHOP FOR HAWKERS . . . This week's biting winter cold was bad news for most Kiptown hawkers who were forced to pack up their wares and wait for transport home.
Pic: MIKE MZILENI

Swazi Aids workers trained

VOLUNTEER Aids counsellors are being trained in Mbabane, Swaziland, in a bid to stem the spread of the incurable disease which is spreading at an alarming rate worldwide.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 16 000 people in Swaziland, out of a population of 800 000, may be HIV positive.

So far this year 71 people have been diagnosed with full-blown Aids, of whom 20 have already died.

Available statistics show the income-earning 18 to 40 age group are the most vulnerable.

Local industries are worried about the potential loss of labour and have encouraged the home and at clinics, counselling campaign.

Industries like Ubombo Ranches Limited, Mananga and Mhlume Sugar Estates, as well as Swaziland Railways, have requested that

Aids awareness counsellors conduct talks and demonstrations at the workplace.

In June 1990, the Swaziland government initiated a public health campaign known as the National Aids Prevention and Control Programme which together with the Family Life Association of Swaziland (Flas) coordinates and implements

Aids awareness programmes in the country. A similar programme is being mounted by the foreign development agency, Project Hope.

The aim of this national venture is to train Aids counsellors who are then made available to counsel, educate and support nationals at home and at clinics, schools and places of employment.

Within the last 16 months, Flas and Project Hope have trained 95 volunteer counsellors, more than the government's

earmarked figure of 60.

Says Project Hope's national co-ordinator Thandi Nhlengetwa:

"The first phase of our training programme involved nurses and other paramedical people.

"We soon realised that the objective was to go beyond paid staff to prepare for the possible and unforeseen time when the demand for counsellors will be greater than the available staff with a medical background."

She says the next phase will be the distribution of trainers to the rural areas and industries to educate, demonstrate and counsel people.

Swaziland Railways has asked to be the first on the list in two weeks time, to be followed shortly by Ubombo Ranches.

Flas's director Nomcebo Manzini says her organisation's health education programme deals with counselling the

members of the public either as family units or individually.

"She says training of school counsellors has already been undertaken.

"We believe in peer group counselling, because young people understand and accept each other's opinions much better than when an adult is involved."

"We had to remove the morality barrier which always affects adult-youth relations. Hence, our helpline and youth counselling are staffed by trained young people."

Flas introduced a telephone helpline during the September independence celebrations this year. The service has received much acclaim and has been a permanent source of help for all kinds of problems.

Nhlengetwa says the Project Hope programme targets the 20 to 35 age

group, since statistically 2,8 percent of this age group has been found to be HIV positive or Aids affected nationally.

"She says the main problem with this group is that it tends to cover a wide interest area.

"That is why it was important to ask for volunteers from all groups to come forward for training to avoid clashes.

"For example in rural areas we have trained Aids counsellors who will be acceptable to the community chiefs and *tinkhundla*, making it easy for their communities to accept.

"Church groups also need to deal with their flocks in their appropriate language.

"That is how we hope to draw in the non-school-going, non-working and young brides who have no access to posters, films and condoms. They will be educated within their communities." - AIA

3713 (+69)
4,75 (-\$0,80)
R2,819
R3,30
537,1 (+20,8)
3,41 (+38,28)
8,50 (+12,30)



TORIAL
3-9111

RIPTIONS
2-3420

SSIFIED
2-3500

Now the men STAR 6/1/92 (313) are complaining

MBABANE — Swazi men with women bosses are being sexually harassed, a union leader claimed yesterday.

Dan Mango, of the Swaziland Commercial and Allied Workers' Union, said he knew of cases of bosses forcing subordinates to work late so they could make love. — Star Africa Service.

TELSTAR

iseu
djman has told
ert Ward to re-

committee member
Roets, was established last
year to investigate ways to

Sowetan 28/1/92 (3/3)

Swazi brain drain

MBABANE - The brain-drain of teachers has resulted in Swaziland's only teacher's college suspending the training of primary school teachers.

The principal of the William Pitcher Training College, Mr Bernard Dlamini, said an acute shortage of secondary and high school teachers had been caused by a serious brain-drain to South Africa where salaries are much higher. This had made it necessary to concentrate this year on producing more secondary level teachers. - Sapa.

(21) (313)
**Swazi meat
plant collapses**

MBABANE — Hundreds of Swazis will lose their jobs this week following the collapse of the country's only meat processing plant. *Star 20/4/92*

A spokesman for Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) confirmed the collapse, attributed to a shortage of capital.

The spokesman said efforts were being made to attract investors. SMI has major contracts to supply the European Economic Community. — Star Africa Service.

Swaziland teachers strike over housing

MBABANE — Swaziland's teachers went on strike yesterday, the day schools were due to reopen after the holidays. (3/3)

The Swaziland National Association of Teachers decided at a meeting in Manzini on Monday to go ahead with the strike to demand a housing allowance for all teachers not accommodated in government housing. 8/10/92 20/5/92

The association rejected a 5% housing allowance announced by the Ministry of Education last weekend, accusing the government of imposing the allowance without discussing it with teachers.

Teachers say that with rentals in Swaziland a minimum of R250 to R350 a month, the government's suggested figure would mean that the lowest paid teachers would receive only R25 a month allowance.

On Monday night, Swaziland's Prime Minister Obed Dhlamini unsuccessfully appealed to teachers on state radio to return to school today.

He warned as teachers provided an essential service, under the country's Industrial Relations Act the strike was illegal and legal action could be taken against the teachers' association.

Meanwhile, in northern Swaziland a strike at the country's largest sugar firm, Simunye Sugar Company, entered its fifth day yesterday.

Workers went on strike over the company's refusal to recognise the Swaziland Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union. Management said the union did not have the required minimum 40% membership among the workforce for compulsory recognition. — Sapa.

Striking teachers agree to go back

MBABANE — Striking Swazi teachers have called off their action after an appeal by Prime Minister Obed Dlamini.

Reports indicated that all Swaziland's 570 primary and secondary schools were closed.

The Swaziland National Association of Teachers called the

strike to press long-standing demands for housing allowances.

Mr Dlamini last night appealed in a radio and television broadcast for teachers to return to their schools this morning.

The association agreed, pending the outcome of negotiations.

— Sapa

Ex-miners appeal

MBABANE — The Swaziland Migrant Workers' Association, which represents about 20 000 Swazi migrant miners employed on SA mines, has called on the Swaziland government to establish a fund for retired or retrenched migrant miners. (313)

26/09/92

news in brief

Bank people go on strike

Sowetan 5/8/72
MBABANE Workers at Swaziland's banks and financial institutions began a countrywide strike yesterday in support of a 17.75 percent wage increase claim.

The stoppage involves about 1 200 employees at six commercial banks and other institutions. On Friday the industrial court rejected a labour ministry application asking for an injunction against the strike. (3/3)

Bank authorities have offered an increase of 16 percent which the union has rejected.

A goat or a cow could secure a job

STAR 25/8/92
Star Africa Service

MBABANE — If you want a job in Swaziland, you'd better have a goat, or even better, a cow. ST

According to reports, recruitment officials of many companies based in the country's industrial sites are demanding bribes of livestock, or even cash of up to R200, from job-seekers.

The racket was opened up by a disgruntled job-seeker who paid his R200, but did not get a job.

Security

Philip Mncina said that on July 1 this year he paid R200 to a personnel manager of a major company in Matsapa.

"He said that was the thank you money," Mr Mncina told a local newspaper.

"I put the money in an envelope and left it with a security guard at the gate, as arranged. But after 51 days there was no word, so I went back. But the personnel manager denied receiving any money."

Moz govt, Renamo 'agree'

ST 22/9/92

GABERONE — The president of Mozambique and the leader of the rebel movement Renamo have overcome deep disagreements over the country's future army and security services at a meeting in Botswana, Renamo said.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama have re-affirmed they intend to sign a ceasefire on October

1, ending a 16-year civil war. Mr Chissano met Mr Dhlakama here at the weekend to discuss key issues which have been holding up peace talks in Rome, Renamo said in a statement issued by its office in Portugal.

The statement said Mr Chissano and Mr Dhlakama agreed that a new national army should consist of 30 000 men, the figure originally proposed

by the government. They also agreed on a series of principles to ensure that a planned new security and intelligence service would respect the law and remain politically neutral, it added.

Meanwhile Britain has offered to train a unified Mozambican army after the government and Renamo sign a peace agreement. British overseas development minis-

ter Baroness Lynda Chalker said the offer had been made both to Mr Chissano and to Mr Dhlakama.

Mozambican Prime Minister Mr Mario Machungo has called on Renamo to accept proposals for special courts to rush food aid to starving drought victims in war zones. The British charity Oxfam said Mozambique was close to a disaster on the scale of Somalia. — Sapa-Reuter

Bus murders: Civic offers aid

ST 22/9/92

Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape Civic Association will assist police in their investigations to help find the murderers of two bus drivers in Khayelitsha yesterday.

A R60 000 reward has been offered by police and Golden Arrow Bus Services for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

The two Golden Arrow Services bus drivers were gunned down at bus stops within 700m of each other in Lansdowne Road around dawn when gunmen fired on the buses with automatic weapons — as the drivers waited for passengers.

The ANC Western Cape branch yesterday condemned the killings.

Mr O B Kerchoff, one of the drivers killed, worked as a bus driver for over 20 years, and feared for his life after Golden Arrow bus drivers were kidnapped and attacked in the townships.

A member of the Kerchoff family said last night that the family had also been fearful for his life.

Mr James Gerald Roskrug, 36, of Matherborn Crescent, Mitchells Plain, died instantly after he was shot in the head and Mr



O B Kerchoff



James Roskrug

KILLED ... Kerchoff, 47, died about five minutes later from bullet wounds in the chest.

Mr Roskrug, whom his brother Joseph described as "a kind person liked by everyone" and who had worked as a driver for three years, is survived by his wife Brenda and 11-year-old daughter Tessa.

In a third attack yesterday four passengers and a bus driver were injured when several shots were fired at the vehicle in which they were travelling in Zwelitsha Drive, Nyanga.

The latest attacks follow an increase in the incidence of stonings, petrol-bombings and attacks on Golden Arrow Bus Services vehicles and staff in recent weeks, including the

shooting and injuring of a bus driver near Cala Daries last week. A Western Cape Civic Association spokesman said yesterday: "We condemn the senseless killings and will assist the police in bringing the murderers to justice."

A Golden Arrow Bus Services spokesman said: "It seems clear that the latest attacks are linked to death threats made to about nine drivers when they were kidnapped by taxi drivers on August 17."

However, Codela spokesman Mr Kidwell Magwai denied that taxi drivers were responsible for the incidents and said there were a number of people who could be responsible.

No arrests have been made in connection with any of the attacks on Golden Arrow Bus Services personnel, a police spokesman said.

A spokesman for unions at Golden Arrow bus services said that they sympathised with the families of the two drivers.

"We have been asking the company for bullet-proof windows for a long time now and they said that they do not have money for this. We hope they have learnt their lesson through what has happened," he said.

Court interdict

against union

THE Supreme Court yesterday confirmed an interdict obtained by Golden Arrow Bus Services against several striking bus drivers and workers.

The order was granted by Mr Justice R M Marais on August 21 against the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Transport and Omnibus Workers' Union, members of the two unions and Golden Arrow employees.

In terms of the order the respondents may not instigate a strike, incite employees to take part or continue a strike, participate in a strike or sit-in and blockade at Arrowgate depot at Montana.

They may also not obstruct business or interfere with — or harass — employees who choose to work.

Miners in clash

over transport

MBABANE. Several people were injured when fights broke out between South African bus drivers and Swazi land taxi operators over the transport of mineworkers.

Police fired warning shots in the air to end the fighting at a Manzini bus terminus on Sunday. At least 100 people were involved in the fracas, which ended with police and knobkerrie-wielding mineworkers escorting the buses out of town. — Sapa

to bury the hatchet in Angola

World in brief

Bush edges forward

WASHINGTON - President George Bush has narrowed rival Bill Clinton's lead from 21 percentage points to nine points, a new poll said yesterday.

In the most recent survey of voters, the ABC News/Washington Post poll found that Clinton was ahead of Bush by 51 to 42 percent.

The poll has a margin of error of 4,5 percentage points. Last week, the same poll had Clinton leading Bush by 58 to 37 percent.

Teachers fight back

MBABANE - Swaziland's National Teachers Association has warned the government that chaos would result unless it withdrew a new act providing R14 million for a pension scheme for MPs.

A letter to Prime Minister Obed Dlamini questioned how the government could raise R14 million for

Sowetan 30/9/92
a "lucrative" pension scheme when it claimed to have no money to build houses for teachers. (3/3)

Zimbabwe opposition

HARARE - Supporters of the Forum for Democratic Reform Trust in Zimbabwe are to form a political party to challenge the ruling Zanu (PF) party.

The trust was launched four months ago and one of its aims is to act as a vehicle for the formation of a strong opposition party.

A trustee, former Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena, said it was important to have an effective opposition party. The party would be separate from the trust which would continue to act as a promoter of democracy.

Sowetan
The as yet unnamed party has nothing to do with the united front group in which the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole and Mr Ian Smith are prominent. - Sapa-Reuter-AFP.

30/9/92

SWAZILAND - LABOUR

1993 - 1997

year-old who died in a car accident.

Costly court strike

A STRIKE by Swaziland's magistrates is reported to be costing the government R30 000 a day to keep four Tanzanian magistrates brought in as a contingency measure in case the 11 Swazi magistrates are fired.

The striking magistrates have already been fined a total of R20 000 for ignoring an order by Chief Justice David Hull to return to their duties while he looks into their grievances. The magistrates went on strike three weeks ago in protest against the crea-

(313)

Swaziland 14/9/93

tion of a special municipal committee empowered to discipline them

(313)

(313)

Protest as paper boss expelled

Star

Staff of Swaziland's leading newspaper converged on the Home Affairs Ministry in the capital Mbabane yesterday to protest against a government order that the owner of the newspaper should leave the kingdom at the end of June.

About 100 staff of the Times of Swaziland met Home Affairs Minister Prince Sobandla Dlamini to express concern about the newspaper's future.

The owner, Douglas Loffler, has been ordered to leave Swaziland by the end of this month.

Loffler, a Briton, has owned the Times for almost 20 years.

The Times, Swaziland's largest-selling newspaper, is a frequent critic of the government and has often called for transparency in government.

Times employees handed a three-page petition to Sobandla expressing concern about their and the newspaper's future.

A senior journalist at the meeting said the Minister had told Times employees the matter would be reviewed.

Sources said Sobandla had indicated that although he personally had nothing against Loffler, there were influential people in the kingdom who felt differently.

Sapa.

15/6/93

Swazi teachers' strike continues

MBABANE. — Swaziland's teachers are to continue their strike after talks with the government failed to resolve a pay dispute.

(313) APR 6 17 194
"There is no way we can return to work until our demands are met. And since today's talks produced nothing new, we will continue to strike," teachers' association president Meshack Masuku said yesterday.

He said the two sides would meet again tomorrow.

Teachers went on strike last Friday to back demands for a 13.5 percent pay rise, having rejected a government offer of 7.5 percent. — Reuter.

NEWS Industrial Court has no auth

Man hurt in Swaziland's largest strike

313

Sowetan 14/3/95

■ **HAVING SAY** Call for law allowing
reinstatement of dismissed workers:

By Bhekile Matsebula
and Sapa

A TAXI driver was badly beaten yesterday morning during Swaziland's largest national strike that paralysed commercial activity.

Hundreds of striking workers and schoolchildren gathered in the main street of Swaziland's capital Mbabane. Shops and offices in the city and Manzini had been closed and according to one source contacted by phone "nobody is working".

The injured man was beaten by the strikers in Manzini after he allegedly opened fire on them. Apparently he first fired two warning shots in the air and then opened fire on the crowd.

The strikers then dragged the man from the minibus and severely assaulted him with a variety of implements.

Bleeding profusely, he was rushed to hospital where his condition was reported as critical. The national strike was called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions to back a series of demands put to the government, includ-

**(Bleeding profusely,
he was rushed to
hospital where his
condition was
reported as critical)**

ing a call for legislation allowing courts to order the reinstatement of dismissed workers. Chaos reigned in the main streets of the kingdom's major towns and industrial areas as workers and members of underground political parties disrupted traffic and stoned police vehicles.

Despite efforts by the Minister of Labour and Public Service Mr Albert Shabangu to have the strike stopped, the Industrial Court yesterday ruled that it had no authority to declare the strike unlawful. President of the court Mr Martin Banda said in terms of section 63 of the Industrial Relations Act, the court could only handle the matter if the SFTU was a trade union or an organisation, and not a federation.

CTIS/2/95
**Swazi strike
continues**

(313)

MBABANE: A general strike paralysed Swaziland for a second day yesterday as workers vowed not to return to their jobs unless the government gave in to their demands. A key demand is for the law to be changed to allow courts to reinstate unfairly dismissed workers. Petrol stations, businesses and shops in Mbabane and Manzini were all hit by the strike, called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

Sapa-Reuters AP, AFP

NOTICE

CRIS/2/95
**Swazi strike
continues**
(313)

MBABANE: A general strike paralysed Swaziland for a second day yesterday as workers vowed not to return to their jobs unless the government gave in to their demands. A key demand is for the law to be changed to allow courts to reinstate unfairly dismissed workers. "School stations, businesses and shops in Mbabane and Manzini were affected by the strike, called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions."

Sapa-Reuter-AP, AFP

Strike closes
only brewery (313)

ET 20/6/95

MBABANE: Workers striking for
more pay closed down Swaziland's
only brewery, Matsapha Brewers.

Swazi unions in strike threat (313)

CT 27/6/95

MBABANE: Swazi trade unions threatened yesterday to call a national strike unless the government granted a top unionist Swazi citizenship.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions gave the government until July 7 to grant citizenship to its secretary-general, Mr Jani Sithole.

Authorities, who last week threatened to deport Mr Sithole, saying he was a Mozambican, has ordered him to appear before a citizenship board next month.

Swaziland (313) bans strikes

MBABANE — In an apparent attempt to avoid a threatened nationwide strike on Monday, the Swaziland parliament approved an amendment to the Industrial Relations Bill on Tuesday which outlaws strikes.

The amendment stipulates that executive members of Swaziland unions may be fined R100 000, or be imprisoned for 10 years, for encouraging strikes.

The move was proposed by Labour Minister Albert Shebangu after a rash of pro-democracy strikes.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, the kingdom's biggest labour organisation, threatened this week that it would embark on a second nationwide strike — it called one in February — if the government did not immediately honour previous agreements for pro-democracy discussions. — African Eye News

Swaziland is warned to stop intimidating union (313)

By Bhekile Matsebula

THE Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has called on the Swaziland government to stop intimidating Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary general Mr Jan Sithole.

ICFTU general secretary Mr Bill Jordan has warned the Swazi government in a letter to the country's prime minister, Prince Mbilini Dlamini, against any attempt to silence "the legitimate voice" of the country's workers.

"Trade unions have a universal right to voice the concerns of their members and to expect that governments will

engage in dialogue with them. ICFTU is prepared to intensify pressure on your government until these problems are resolved in an equitable manner," Jordan said.

Sithole had been receiving death threats from anonymous callers since March 17, the day SFTU-affiliated trade unions called a work stayaway in the country.

Last month the Swazi government threatened Sithole with deportation to Mozambique on grounds that he was not eligible for Swazi citizenship.

Jordan said the government's threat was surprising because Sithole had represented Swaziland in International La-

bour Organisation summits.

The SFTU had called for another work stayaway last Monday, but this was dropped on Monday after the Swazi government agreed to reopen negotiations on the draft labour law.

Meanwhile the South African High Commission in Swaziland says it fears South African businesses may decide to leave Swaziland if the country's industrial relations system does not improve.

A spokesman for the high commission, Mr Ray Deysel, told *Sowetan* yesterday that it was time the Swazi government reopened negotiations with the trade unions on the dispute over the Labour Bill.

Solidarity for Swaziland workers

Renee Grawitzky

DELEGATES at the third Southern African Miner's Federation (SAMF) congress resolved at the weekend to support the Swaziland trade union movement which is under attack from its government.

Archie Palane — SAMF's newly elected general secretary — said worker rights were being violated in Swaziland and "fundamental rights like the right to strike have been banned".

After threats of nationwide action by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, the Swaziland parliament amended the Labour Relations Bill to prohibit strikes. Union leaders encouraging strikes could face a 10-

year sentence or R100 000 fine.

Cosatu general secretary Sam Shilowa said last week that President Nelson Mandela would be approached on developments within the Swaziland labour movement. He would be asked to raise the issue of labour legislation with King Mswati III.

SAMF president James Motlatsi said region affiliates should put pressure on politicians who in turn would put pressure on Swaziland. He said he did not want confrontation but "if we need to use it so be it".

Besides the Swaziland issue discussion at the congress focused on economic co-operation, the migrant labour system, export processing zones, health and safety and the organisation of energy workers.

Mediators appointed in Swaziland dispute

Renee Grawitzky

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BD 4/8/95

INDEPENDENT Mediation Services of SA (Imssa) representatives have been appointed to mediate in a dispute between the Swaziland government and organised labour and business over the proposed Industrial Relations Bill.

The Bill is at present in the process of being approved by the Swaziland parliament.

This intervention follows a number of nationwide strikes and threats of further industrial action by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions in response to the proposed Bill and the government's failure to address about 27 demands tabled. In addition, Cosatu and affiliates such as the NUM have criticised the government's approach and have come out in support of the unions.

The Bill has been criticised by organised labour and business as attempting to undermine collective bargaining, putting all power in the hands of the government and prejudicing unions and employers.

The Bill proposes, for example,

that for every one day a worker embarks on an illegal strike, he could be liable to five years' imprisonment.

Swaziland Employers' Federation director Musa Hlope said: "The trade unions are not at war with employers but at war with government — employers also are against the Bill."

Prior to this Bill being tabled, the government was presented with reports by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Nic Wiehahn. The ILO report was rejected by employers and government as being too pro-labour.

The Wiehahn report, compiled in a tripartite forum, was seen to be more balanced but was ultimately rejected by the government.

Hlope said the parties were now back in a tripartite process and this should be given a chance.

He said that at this stage, "if outsiders do interest themselves in the process, then they should do so by way of constructive assistance".

Organised labour and government were not available for comment because they were involved in continuing negotiations.

Swaziland gets union warning (313)

CT 10/8/95
JOHANNESBURG: The world's largest trade union organisation warned Swaziland yesterday an international campaign would be launched against it if the government continued to deny a leading unionist his right to citizenship.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has slated in a report the Swazi government's "clumsy attempts" to deport trade unionist Mr Jan Sithole.

It called on the government to "declare unequivocally" that Mr Sithole, secretary-general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, is a Swazi national.

The government wanted to deport Mr Sithole to Mozambique because his father was Mozambican. Yet Mr Sithole was born in Swaziland and has lived there all his life.

The ICFTU made the warning in the report after a visit to Swaziland in July "to study the tense situation" there. — Sapa

Swazi police teargas union protesters

MBABANE. — Swazi police fired teargas to break up a protest by striking workers in the capital Mbabane today after yesterday arresting Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) president Richard Nxumalo, secretary-general Jani Sithole and assistant secretary-general Jabulani Sithole. Police said they fired teargas at the workers, who are demanding democratic reforms, after they defied orders not to march. — Reuter. (313)

Swazi police and protesters clash on second day of national strike

Renee Grawitzky

(313)

BD 24/1/96

A CRACKDOWN by police on pro-democratic forces in Swaziland and the baton charging of demonstrators in Mbabane yesterday resulted in Cosatu threatening to pursue solidarity action with the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee.

Sapa reports two Swazi policemen were critically injured and a civilian hurt in clashes between police and demonstrators on the second day of a national strike called by the Swaziland

Federation of Trade Unions and other political organisations. They were protesting against government's failure to address a list of 27 labour and political demands issued in 1994.

Police arrested the federation's three leaders under emergency regulations on Monday night. Yesterday police baton charged and chased away hundreds of demonstrators. Teargas and stun grenades were fired.

New labour legislation which has sparked the conflict will permit government to charge those held for en-

couraging unlawful strike action — an offence carrying a 10-year jail penalty or a fine of R100 000.

The crisis in Swaziland has been brewing for well over a year, but the SA government has not finalised its approach towards the actions of Swazi-land's leaders. The foreign affairs ministry said yesterday it was considering its approach.

It appears that the ministry has devised several options, including adopting a joint position with other countries in Southern Africa.

Swaziland Labour Minister Albert Shabangu said last night several of the 27 demands had been addressed and it was not possible to address unstated concerns "until such time as the union states what its real concerns are".

Prior to the strike, union leaders said key demands included the repeal of labour legislation and the unbanning of political parties.

Cosatu said it supported the strike and attacked the Swaziland government for opting to use "one of its many draconian laws to arrest the three

leaders" instead of entering into negotiations on the federation's demands.

Negotiations between the Swaziland government and employer and union representatives continued throughout last year in an attempt to reach agreement on amendments to the Labour Relations Bill. Sources said the parties were close to an agreement last week but it appeared that at the eleventh hour King Mswati III and his advisers — who appeared opposed to multiparty democracy — vetoed any proposed agreements.

Swazi strikers injure policemen

(313) et 24/1/96

MBABANE: Striking workers hurt three Swazi policemen who had fired teargas to break up a protest yesterday after arresting union leaders on charges of inciting unrest, a Western diplomat said.

"Police said three police officers were injured when they were hit by rocks," the diplomat said, adding that the injured were admitted to hospital.

He said police had said no demonstrators were injured, but government officials were unavailable to confirm this.

Police arrested Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) president Mr Richard Nxumalo, secretary-general Mr Jani Sithole and his assistant Mr Jabulani Sithole on

Monday, saying the three would be prosecuted for inciting strikers to attack businesses.

Police said they had fired teargas at the workers, who called the demonstration to demand democratic reforms, after they defied orders not to march through the city centre to the police station.

"The workers attacked the police with stones first, leaving us no choice but to use teargas to disperse them," a policeman said.

Businesses were closed here and in Manzini yesterday, where police used teargas to disperse workers on Monday.

The diplomat said the strike demonstrated the frustration of government opponents dissatis-

fied with the continued banning of political parties, which were outlawed when the constitution was suspended in 1973.

Since then the government has tolerated some political activity, but the ban on parties remains.

"The union movement has come to reflect political opposition since it's not possible through political parties," he said.

The diplomat said, however, that most Swazis opposed strikes as a way to bring about change.

"It would be wrong to underestimate the grassroots opposition to the union actions. People aren't just against the violence, but also against strikes taking place during the king's traditional period of

seclusion," he said.

He said King Mswati III was in seclusion for the "traditional renewal of kingly powers".

"It's very much against the Swazi way of life ... for these events (strikes) to be taking place during this period.

"Traditionally, this two-month period is one for reflection for all Swazis, including parliament, and a time when people wait with any projects or actions until the king emerges."

The diplomat added that most Swazis also felt the country had been moving towards political reform, with the king having indicated the country would get a new constitution. — Reuter

Swaziland business leaders meet in bid to end crippling strike

Mbabane - Swaziland business leaders met yesterday in a bid to find solutions to end the nationwide, politically-motivated strike which has crippled the kingdom's economy and is costing more than R10-million a day.

Sources in the business community said a delegation would seek an audience with King Mswati III.

"You can say without doubt that Swaziland has ground to a halt," one business leader said of the three-day-old strike called to press for a multiparty democracy in Swaziland and an end to the 23-year ban on political activity.

The usually-bustling streets of the capital Mbabane and nearby Manzini were deserted again yesterday, with not even basket sellers or hawkers to be seen. Banks and fast food outlets were closed. A heavy security force presence was maintained in urban areas.

Business sources said sugar estates, pulp mills and concentrate bottlers were all forced to close.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which called the stayaway with other organisations, said yesterday the crippling action would continue until the Government reversed a 1973 de-

creed banning political activity and agreed to start negotiations leading to a multiparty democracy.

A joint statement from the Federation of Swaziland Employers and the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry appealed to the Government and the labour federation to resolve their differences.

It expressed concern that there had been no movement to "rectify the situation and restore a normal work environment".

Swaziland government and King Mswati were unavailable for comment throughout yesterday. - Sapa.

Star 25/1/96

(313)

Swazi strike brings chaos to towns

(313)

Mbabane and Manzini were without electricity for most of the morning

MBABANE — Swaziland's main towns were paralysed yesterday, the third day of a national political strike to press for democratic reforms.

The capital Mbabane and nearby Manzini were without electricity for most of the morning. Few shops opened and petrol was scarce. Without electricity, water might soon run out and telephone lines were expected to be cut, diplomats said.

Electricity was restored at about noon but it was not clear how long it would last. Police, diplomats and unionists suggested strikers had sabotaged the electricity supply.

Quiet revolution

A diplomat suggested a quiet revolution was under way in Swaziland.

Organisers of the strike, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, claimed most of the country's work force had stayed away from work. Spokesman Lwazi Hlope said the strike would continue until the government moved to meet the strikers' 27 demands, including scrapping a 1973 law prohibiting political activity.

Diplomats and sources in the office of the deputy prime minister believed King Mswati III had summoned his Cabinet to his palace for urgent consultations yesterday morning.

The Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Swaziland Federation of Employers were reported to be dis-

cussing ways to negotiate an end to the strike.

A heavy security force presence was visible in Mbabane, with a roadblock on the way to Manzini.

Unconfirmed reports said a bus had been stoned in Manzini. No other violence had been reported yesterday.

The accidental shooting death of a girl, 16, and wounding of five people including two policeman on Tuesday was confirmed by police deputy commissioner Esau Dube. A local newspaper said another teenager had died when security forces and demonstrators clashed on the same day.

A key activist warned the government might face acts of sabotage after having met peaceful protests with violence. "The possibility is great that acts of sabotage might be carried out," said Kislom Shongwe, president of the banned Peoples' United Democratic Movement.

Six people arrested

He said six people had been arrested since the strike began. Police confirmed only the Monday arrests of SFTU secretary-general Jan Sithole, his assistant Jabulani Nxumalo and union president Richard Nxumalo, who were refused bail and remanded until January 30.

Diplomats suggested only the release of the three and an indication of the government's willingness to negotiate would end the strike. — Sapa.

Court orders Swazi union leaders must be freed as tensions rise

ARG 25/1/96

(313)

□ *Crippling four-day-old strike continues*

MBABANE. — Swaziland's High Court today ordered the immediate release of three trade union leaders detained on the first day of a national strike on Monday.

The strike has crippled the economy and left Mbabane without electricity and, in most parts, running water.

The release of Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions president Richard Nxumalo, secretary-general Jan Sithole and his assistant Jabulani Nxumalo became a key demand of strikers who have stayed away from work to press the government to make democratic reforms.

The leaders were arrested under a new Industrial Relations Act signed into law by King Mswati III on Saturday.

On Tuesday, they were charged under Section 6 of the 1963 Police and Public Order Act, which covers incitement to strike and for which bail cannot be granted.

This Act effectively replaced a 60-day detention law which King Mswati had pledged not to use and allows

the state to hold people without trial, according to Swaziland Law Society president Si-pho Nkosi.

Mr Nkosi described the Public Order Act as a remnant of colonial times, used "when the natives were restless".

Lawyers alleged the arrests had been planned by the cabinet before the strike.

The application for the release of the union leaders had been made on the grounds their behaviour was not an offence in terms of relevant sections of the Act, lawyers said.

Meanwhile, a radio broadcast has urged senators and MPs to attend a special session of parliament.

The Swazi government has yet to officially respond.

There was a strong security force presence in the mostly deserted streets of Mbabane again today.

Petrol stations in the capital were unable supply fuel.

Authorities warned against disease as uncollected garbage piled up.

A policeman guarding the

power utility said the continued lack of power "could have been caused by sabotage".

Strike organisers have said union members would use their control of water and power facilities to cripple the city and pressurise the government.

Business leaders said the strike was costing Swaziland at least R10 million a day.

South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs said its position on Swaziland was "under consideration".

It is expected some stabilising initiative will be pursued and that this will in all likelihood take the Lesotho model as its guide.

During the 1994 Lesotho constitutional crisis, the South Africans acted in co-operation with Zimbabwe and Botswana to broker a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Its success was heralded as the first example of diplomatic crisis management in which the then new South Africa found itself able to act in regional partnership for the first time. — Sapa.

Swazi govt calls for talks after freeing strike leaders

MBABANE — Swaziland's Prime Minister Prince Mbilini Dlamini called for negotiations yesterday to end a four-day strike which has brought the country to a standstill.

Sapa reports strike leaders welcomed the offer, but said the strike action would continue until the repeal of a 23-year-old ban on political activity.

Dlamini said: "The economy is at stake. We seek negotiations to find an amicable solution." He also declared the strike illegal.

Drew Forrest reports that three Swazi trade union chiefs were released from custody yesterday after government withdrew charges against them, but industry remained largely crippled by the national stayaway.

The three unionists — Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary-general Jan Sithole, federation president Richard Nxumalo and assistant secretary Jabulani Nxumalo — went into hiding after announcing they would hold a mass rally of workers to seek a fresh mandate on the stayaway.

They insisted they would not seek permission for the rally, which would be illegal under Swaziland's standing state of emergency.

Power was restored to most areas yesterday after a nationwide blackout on Wednesday caused by the sabotage of two Eskom power lines. However, Federation of Swaziland Employers di-

rector Musa Hlophe said the blanket shutdown of commerce and industry remained unchanged.

In the sugar centre of Simunye, violence erupted when thousands of demonstrators reportedly tried to invade a police station. Skirmishes were also reported from Piggs' Peak.

Sithole's arrival in Mbabane touched off joyous celebrations, but these were cut short when police fired teargas at the crowds, and the unionists went to ground.

The unions insisted the release of their leaders was not enough to bring an end to the stayaway.

Jabulani Nxumalo said the unions wanted three major demands met as a condition for talks: the lifting of the 1973 royal decree which banned political parties and gave the state emergency powers; the repeal of the controversial Industrial Relations Act signed into law by the king last week; and the revocation of the schedule of nine non-bailable offences under Swazi law.

SA's President Nelson Mandela and Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo would discuss the situation in Swaziland when they met in the Lesotho capital Maseru today for the funeral of King Moshoeshoe II, foreign affairs spokesman Peter Swanepoel said. "From the indications we have, the king does not feel he needs help in mediating the crisis."

Swazi strike likely to end on Monday

(313) Jan 26/1/96

Mbabane - The organisers of the strike that has crippled Swaziland for four days said yesterday the nationwide action may end on Monday.

Earlier, the Swazi government dropped charges and released three top trade unionists after their arrest on Monday, and said it was willing to negotiate.

Swazi Prime Minister Prince Mbilini Dlamini told parliament he was prepared to negotiate with strike leaders "so that we can have peace in this country".

The strike, which brought Swaziland's economy to a virtual halt this week, and cost an estimated R40-million, would continue today, organisers said.

Meanwhile, refuse has begun to pile up on streets, presenting a health hazard, and major towns have been without electricity for much of the week. - Sapa.

Swaziland strike bites on economy

(313) Sowetan 26/1/96

Foreign Affairs Ministry denies that King Mswati III has fled the country

MBABANE – Swaziland Prime Minister Prince Mbilini Dlamini yesterday called for negotiations to end a four-day strike which has brought his country to a standstill.

"The economy is at stake. We seek negotiations to find an amicable solution," he told a special joint sitting of the senate and house of assembly in Lobamba.

Dlamini declared the strike illegal and said his government was doing all it could to protect life and property.

Swaziland's Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday dismissed rumours that King Mswati III had left the country.

In a statement issued to diplomats, the ministry said the king was still in seclusion after the traditional *Incwala* ceremony to mark the new harvest.

Meanwhile, three top Swaziland trade unionists were released from prison yes-

terday and immediately declared that the national strike would continue until their demands were met.

"The strike will continue until we make headway in our negotiations with the government," said Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary-general Mr Jan Sithole shortly after walking out of Matsapha central prison near Manzini.

Sithole, union president Mr Richard Nxumalo and assistant secretary-general Mr Jabulani Nxumalo were met by hundreds of cheering supporters. Family members embraced the three and they were lifted shoulder-high above the jubilant throng.

They were detained on Monday, the first day of the strike that has crippled Swaziland's economy and is costing the country about R10 million a day.

The SFTU's demands include a new constitution for the kingdom enshrining a Bill of rights and a multiparty system. – Sapa.

STRIKE COULD END ON MONDAY

Swazi govt ready to negotiate

MBABANE: The national strike here seems set to end on Monday after the Swazi government released arrested strike leaders yesterday and agreed to negotiate.

IFADERS of the strike that has crippled Swaziland for four days said last night that nationwide industrial action may end on Monday.

Earlier yesterday the Swazi government released three top trade unionists arrested on Monday, and said it was willing to negotiate with the strike leaders.

Swaziland Trade Union Federation president Mr Richard Nxumalo, secretary-general Mr Jan Sithole, and his assistant Mr Jabulani Nxumalo, walked out of Matsapha Central Prison around midday after the state dropped charges against them.

Swazi Prime Minister Prince Mbilini Dlamini told a special joint sitting of parliament he was prepared to negotiate with strike lead-

ers "so that we can have peace in this country".

Police fired teargas at striking workers celebrating the release of their leaders in the capital, and in Manzini soldiers prepared to open fire on a group, but relaxed when the group dispersed, according to Peoples' United Democratic Movement (Pudemo) secretary-general Mr Dominic Mngomezulu.

The strike, which brought Swaziland's economy to a virtual halt this week, would continue today, organisers said.

SFTU leaders and other strike organisers met in secret last night to assess the politically-motivated strike, which was called to pressure the Swazi government to address 27 demands, including the unbanning of political activity and gov-

ernment commitment to work towards the creation of multi-party democracy.

Pudemo president Mr Kison Shongwe said a mass meeting of workers at the weekend would probably decide to end the strike on Monday.

But workers would not return to work without a firm commitment from the government to begin negotiations on their political demands.

Business leaders estimate the strike has cost the country around R40 million. Refuse has begun to pile up on streets and major towns have been without electricity for much of the week.

A Swazi court yesterday ordered the release of the three trade union leaders from police custody — meeting one of the demands of the organisers of a general strike — after the government had withdrawn charges.

A government official who

asked not to be identified said that the charges had been withdrawn because of pressure from Western diplomats and from the unions.

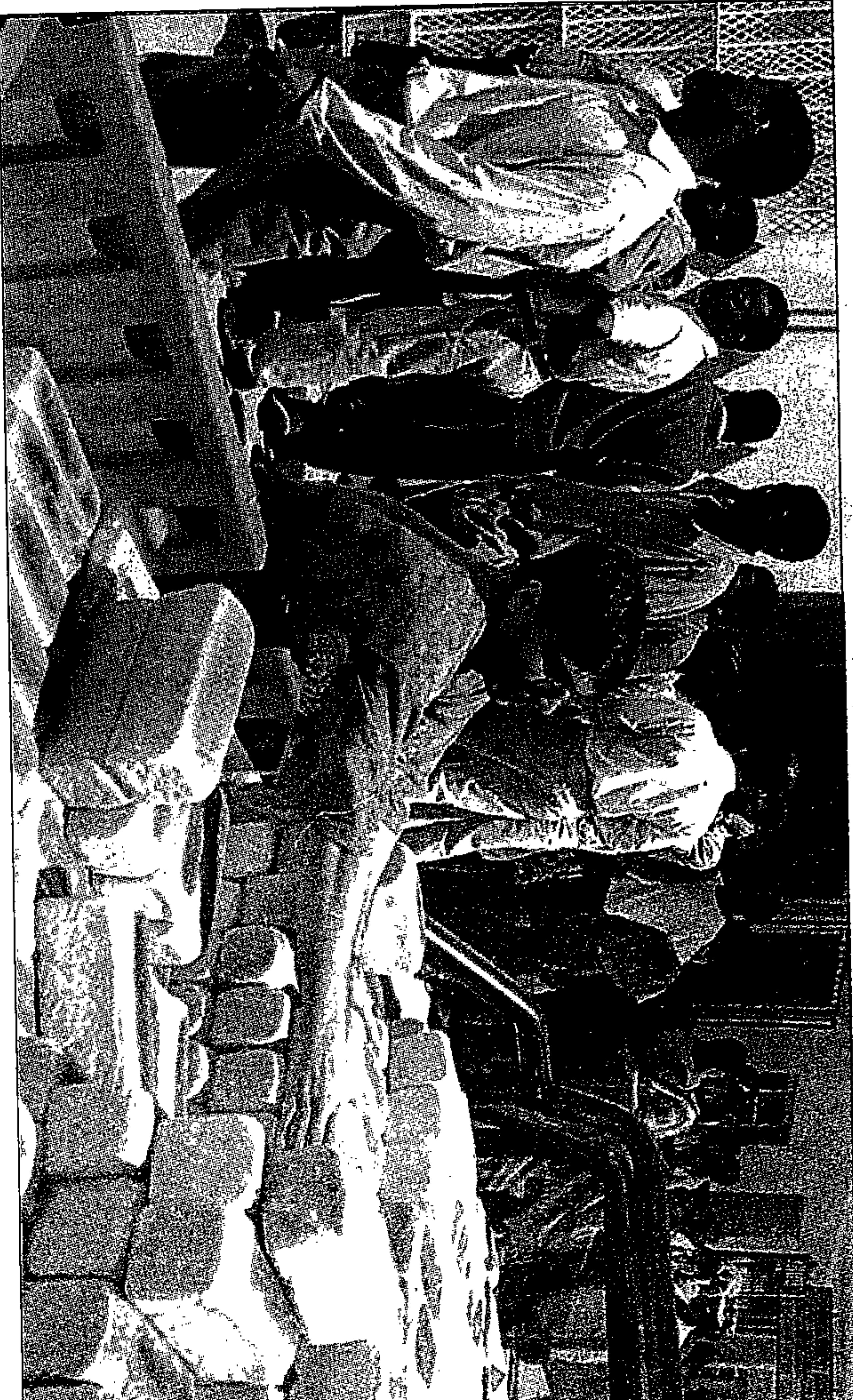
"To some extent there was pressure from certain embassies, otherwise they would still be in custody," the official said.

Power supplies were switched on again yesterday after two days of near-continuous blackouts in Mbabane.

"The release of the unionists will certainly ease tension between the government and the workers," a diplomat said.

The three men were met outside the prison by hundreds of cheering supporters.

The union's demands, which are supported by several anti-government groups, include that constitutional talks be held and political parties be legalised after almost 23 years of a ban on all political activity. — Sapa-Reuter



BREADLINE: A bread supplier offloads while people queue outside a closed shop in Mbabane on Wednesday. Soldiers, police and armoured vehicles patrolled the streets following clashes with strikers pressing for democratic reforms.

PICTURE:

Deadlock puts Swaziland in a tailspin

(313)
Star 27/1/96

By ADRIAN HADLAND

Mbabane — Swaziland remains in the grip of its greatest political and economic crisis as the government and its labour movement failed yesterday to reach an agreement on ending a week-long general strike.

The strike, which has brought the country's economy to a virtual standstill, is set to continue into next week with little prospect of an early resolution.

South Africa high commissioner to Swaziland, Walter Louw, said the impact of a further week of industrial action would be crippling to the kingdom's economy.

"If the strike continues into next week it will be a disaster," he told the *Saturday Star*.

The strike is being led and co-ordinated by the 83 000-member Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which presented a list of political and economic demands to the country's cabinet yesterday.

The demands were handed to a cabinet subcommittee yesterday afternoon by members of the country's federation of employers, which is acting as a go-

between in the dispute.

The demands include the lifting of a state of emergency, which was imposed in 1973 and which bans the formation of political parties in Swaziland; a commitment from the state not to interfere in or disperse union meetings; the restoration of a bill of rights; the scrapping of the recently enacted industrial relations act; and the lifting of a ban on street vendors in Swaziland's two major towns, Mbabane and Manzini.

Federation secretary-general Jan Sithole, who was detained by the government earlier this week for two days along with two other union leaders before charges were dropped, told an impromptu news conference yesterday the strike would continue unless a firm commitment by the government to meet the demands was received and a programme of action was instituted.

On the demands for greater political freedom in Swaziland, Sithole said: "We are convinced this system of government is unworkable and cannot be reformed."

Labour Minister Albert Sha-

bangu said the Swazi people had opted for a political system, called the Tinkhundla system, based on traditional constituencies rather than on political parties. "This system was not imposed on the Swazi people, it was what they wanted."

Looking over the demands yesterday, Economic Planning Minister Themba Masuku, who is also chairman of the cabinet subcommittee created yesterday specially to manage the government's handling of the strike, said there was little prospect of a speedy resolution.

All the issues required legislative or constitutional changes that could not be implemented overnight, he said.

Any sudden changes would also be seen as an abdication of parliament's authority and competence.

King Mswati III has been notable by his absence during the crisis.

He is expected to come out of a period of seclusion, which forms part of a traditional annual rite in Swaziland at this time, on Monday.

TO PAGE 2

◆ Crisis in Swaziland

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The end of the seclusion period, which the king has spent in a royal kraal about 20km outside Mbabane, is traditionally marked by a "state of the nation" address given to Swazi warriors at the kraal.

The king, however, has shown no sign of emerging to end the seclusion or deliver the address.

Louw said it was becoming imperative for the king to intervene in order to end the crisis.

"If the king is not going to intervene, (the unions) will intensify the strike."

Employers met the king on Thursday in a bid to have the industrial action called to a halt.

Union leaders said yesterday the strike would be expanded to include a call for international sanctions if no agreement could be reached with the government by the middle of next week.

Few Swazis doubt, in the meantime, the significance of the events of the past week. "It's a turning point, there's no two ways about it," Sithole said.

"Even a blind man is aware that something is wrong in Swaziland."

■ See Page 7

MBABANE. — A pro-democracy strike in Swaziland, the longest and most successful in the kingdom's history, would intensify until the government met key conditions and agreed to negotiate a political transition, strike leaders said.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) has called for South Africa and President Nelson Mandela to intervene.

Mr Mandela should become involved as a custodian of democracy and a symbol of political and economic cohesion in southern Africa, said SFTU secretary-general Jan Sithole.

The crippling five-day action would continue until the government or King Mswati III repealed a 1973 decree that suspended the 1968 constitution and banned political activity, he said.

The state should further guarantee freedom of expression and association, reinstate a bill of rights and end police harassment at meetings.

The draconian Industrial Relations Act, signed into law last Saturday by King Mswati just

Swazi strikers call on Mandela for assistance

two days before the strike began, should be repealed and replaced by the tripartite labour protocol, agreed to by labour, government and employers last year, Mr Sithole said.

"The strike will continue until these conditions are met," he added. *ARG 27/1/96*

Observers said the strike was a turning point in Swazi history and had garnered unprecedented support, including that of former prime minister Obed Dlamini.

Mr Dlamini, a popular union leader before becoming Swaziland's most respected prime minister, was among those pressing for change in the kingdom and has called for a caretaker government to manage a transition to democracy.

At least one senior Swazi senator is known to have sent messages of support to the unions and advised them to continue their

action while they have the upper hand.

Mr Sithole, SFTU president Richard Nxumalo and assistant secretary-general Jabulani Nxumalo were arrested on Monday — but released on Thursday after the state dropped charges.

Activists have stuck to their claims that a police murder squad tried to kill the three men on Thursday night.

Unionists said they had found two plainclothes policemen near a strike committee meeting. The policemen had loaded weapons and were driving a vehicle with South African registration plates stuck over the Swaziland plates, said People's United Democratic Movement president Kison Shongwe.

The weapons had been seized and would be handed to police with demands for an explanation, he said. — Sapa.

Union leaders in hiding

By JUSTIN ARENSTEIN and
CYPRIAN TSEBEDZE

ST 28/1/96 (313)

THE three Swazi trade union leaders who were released from police custody on Thursday have gone back into hiding following an alleged assassination attempt by two Swaziland intelligence agents.

Two 9mm pistols and a silencer, which were reportedly confiscated from the assassins, were handed to police during a press conference on Friday where Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary general Jan Sithole warned that the strike which has crippled Swaziland since Monday would continue until three key demands were met.

They were the repeal of a 1973 royal proclamation banning political parties, the repeal of the three-week-old Industrial Re-

lations Act which bans strikes and the repeal of legislation banning street vending.

Although the government rejected instituting democratic reforms yesterday, some of its own senators and ministers are beginning to voice support for scrapping Swaziland's absolute monarchy. Ironically, although the protests are directed against Swaziland's traditionalist system of government, the 27-year old King Mswati III remains popular in Swaziland.

Human Rights Association of Swaziland secretary general Simon Noge said it appeared that King Mswati had been out-manoeuvred by traditionalist elements, headed by the queen mother Nthombi Twala, in his own court. "Even under a democracy, the king would retain at least some power as a constitutional monarch, but the lesser royals stand to lose all their influence."

Swazi unionists hiding

THE THREE Swazi trade union leaders who were released from police custody on Thursday have gone back into hiding following an alleged assassination attempt against them by two Swaziland intelligence agents.

Two 9 mm pistols and a silencer, which were reportedly confiscated from the assassins, were handed over to police representatives by the three intended victims during a well guarded press conference on Friday evening.

Warning that the six day national strike which has crippled Swaziland since Monday would continue until the government agreed to three key demands Swaziland Federation of Trade Union's (SFTU)

secretary general, Jan Sithole, added that the pro-democracy alliance would also not accept international mediation until these demands were met.

The demands, which centre on the repeal of a 1973 royal proclamation banning political parties, the repeal of the three week old Industrial Relations Act which bans strikes and legislation banning street vending, were presented to Prime Minister Mbilini Dlamini late on Friday.

The government yesterday rejected legalising political parties or instituting democratic reforms.

But former prime minister, Obed Dlamini, said in parliament on Thursday that the success of the

union's mass action proved that demands for multi-party democracy were supported by the vast majority of the population. (213)

Explaining King Mswati's continuing popularity, Human Rights Association of Swaziland secretary general, Simon Noge, said that it appeared that the king had been outmaneuvered by elements within his own court.

EP 28/1/96
"It looks as if the traditionalists in the royal court, headed by the Queen Mother Nthombi Twala, have effected a type of palace coup so as to ensure that the more liberal factions in the court don't give in to the protesters," he explained.
- African Eye News Service.

ly, January 29, 1996

Unions defy king's order to end strike

BD 29/1/96

(313)

MBABANE — Swazi trade unions yesterday defied King Mswati's order to end a week-long general strike and renewed a demand for the lifting of a 23-year ban on political parties.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary-general Jani Sithole said the strike would continue until the government lifted the ban.

"If the state of emergency which banned political parties in 1973 can be lifted, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions would be prepared to call off the strike and the other issues would be addressed later," Sithole said.

King Mswati on Saturday accused the unions of trying to topple the government and staging a coup to destroy the monarchy.

"The union leaders who do not have the support of the majority are using the ongoing strike to overthrow the government and destroy the Swazi monarch," Mswati said.

"I have received full information that they are planning a coup," he told thousands of Swazi warriors gathered at his residence.

"I promise that unions will not be allowed to intimidate workers willing to work."

The king called on the warriors to defend the country against the unions.

A Swazi court on Thursday ordered the release of three trade union leaders from police custody, meeting one of the strikers' demands.

The government had withdrawn charges against the men, federation president Richard Nxumalo, secretary-general Jani Sithole and his as-

sistant Jabulani Nxumalo, who were arrested on Monday.

Police said at the time they would be prosecuted for inciting strikers to attack businesses.

Mswati said on Saturday the strike has caused a lot of damage to the country. "They (union leaders) have no love for the country and they should not be allowed to drag Swaziland into anarchy," he said.

Multiparty democracy in the tiny kingdom would be introduced only when all citizens were in favour, he said. "Until Swazis all over the country say so, no parties will be introduced and if unions continue with sabotage acts of disrupting water and power supplies, I wish to assure the nation that necessary steps will be taken and that includes the use of force, if necessary," he said.

Economists in Swaziland estimated that the strike was costing the country in the region of R6,5m a day.

Many workers in Mbabane said yesterday they had been duped by the unions and would heed the king's order to return to work today.

"I am going to work tomorrow and there is no doubt about that because my king has spoken," one worker said.

Another said Swazis were shocked "when the king exposed on Saturday that they were planning a coup".

"If we knew their agenda, we would not have supported the federation during the strike which has left us in big problems," he said.

Swaziland is the only country in southern Africa where political parties are banned. — Reuter.

Swazi king faces big test today

(313) Somerset 29/1/96

MBABANE - Swaziland's King Mswati III faces the biggest test of his authority

today after ordering his nation back to work in the face of a defiant union-backed political strike to press for democratic reform.

Diplomats and businessmen have warned that the king is ready to use force to break the strike if necessary.

But the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) yesterday insisted the crippling stayaway, which enters its second week today, would continue until the repeal of a 1973 royal decree which banned political parties and established a state of emergency.

"The removal of 1973 unlocks everything," SFTU secretary-general Mr Jan Sithole told journalists yesterday.

The Swazi parliament said

Union-backed strikers remain defiant in face of royal order

last night this condition was totally unacceptable and urged a return to work "so the suffering to the families and the destruction of the economy can cease".

"The issue of the king's decree of 1973 is a separate issue," said MP Mr William Msibi, a member of a government negotiating team set up to deal with the union.

Reopen shops

Commerce Minister Majahenkhaba Dlamini said the business community had been asked to reopen shops and businesses. "We take it everything is now normal," he said.

Transport Minister Ephraim Magagula said the government had met a request from com-

muter transport operators that they be protected at starting points and en route, and that fuel be made available.

"We have given a commitment that every operator that needs security, or extra security, that security shall be provided," he told a media briefing last night.

Observers say a critical test will be played out today - will Swazi workers heed their king or their unions?

Swaziland's major towns were last week paralysed by the action, already estimated to have cost the country around R50 million in lost production. Flights were stopped, schools closed and the tourist industry seriously damaged. - Sapa.

THEY WANT TO TOPPLE GOVT — MSWATI

Swazi unions carry on strike, defy king

er 29/11/96

(313)

MBABANE: King Mswati has accused the unions of trying to topple the government and staging a coup to destroy the monarchy. But union leader Mr Jani Sithole said the strike would continue until demands were met.

SWAZI trade unions yesterday defied King Mswati's order to end a crippling week-long general strike and renewed their demand for an end to a ban on political parties that has been in force for 23 years.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions secretary-general Mr Jani Sithole said the strike would continue until the government lifted the ban on political parties imposed in 1973.

"If the state of emergency which banned political parties in 1973 can be lifted, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) would be prepared to call off the strike and the other issues would be addressed later," Sithole told reporters.

On Saturday Mswati accused the unions of trying to topple the government and staging a coup to destroy the monarchy in Swaziland.

"The union leaders, who do not have the support of the majority, are using the ongoing strike to overthrow the government and destroy the Swazi monarch," the king said.

"I have received full information that they are planning a coup," he told thousands of Swazi warriors gathered at his residence for a traditional ceremony.

A Swazi court on Thursday ordered the release of three trade union leaders from police custody, meeting one of the strikers' demands.

The government had withdrawn charges against the men, SFTU president Mr Richard Nxumalo, Sithole and his assistant Mr Jabulani Nxumalo, who were arrested on Monday.

Police said at the time they would be prosecuted for inciting strikers to attack businesses.

Mswati said the strike had caused much damage to the country.

"They (union leaders) have no love for the country and they should not be allowed to drag Swaziland into anarchy," he said.

Many workers in the capital, Mbabane, said yesterday they had been duped by the unions and would heed the king's order to return to work today.

"I am going to work tomorrow

and there is no doubt about that because my king has spoken," one worker, Mr Thembela Maseko, said.

Swazis were shocked "when the king exposed on Saturday that they were planning a coup", said Mr Zodwa Khumalo.

"If we knew their agenda, we would not have supported the SFTU during the strike, which has left us with big problems," Khumalo added.

Swazi economists estimated that the strike was costing the country about R6,5 million a day.

Swaziland is the only country in Southern Africa where political parties are banned. Since 1973 the government has tolerated some political activity but the party ban remains.

● Southern African states would take notice of unrest in Swaziland but it was not on the agenda of a 12-nation Southern African Development Community ministerial meeting that opened in Johannesburg yesterday, Botswana's Vice-President Festus Mogae said. Swaziland is a member of the SADC.

Diplomatic sources said that with the move to democracy throughout the region, it was only a matter of time before demands for political freedom took root in the kingdom. — Reuter

Swazi unions suspend work stayaway

MBABANE — The national stayaway that crippled Swaziland for a week had been suspended pending talks with the government, Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions assistant general-secretary Jabulani Nxumalo said last night.

"The general council has recommended the immediate suspension of the mass stayaway to allow meaningful and creative negotiations between government and the executive of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions," he said. Sugar and timber employees, whose industries are the mainstay of Swaziland's economy, would return to work today.

The suspension was subject to review by employees at a mass meeting

next Sunday, he said. The government had met union demands to guarantee that employees could gather safely. Many Swazis returned to work yesterday, although a union demand for democratic reforms to the monarchy remained unresolved.

Striking workers at Swaziland's three main sugar companies defied King Mswati's order to resume work yesterday, saying they would not return until told to do so by union leaders. Swaziland Sugar Association public relations officer Busa Xaba confirmed that the sugar industry had remained idle yesterday.

Continued on Page 2

Swaziland

Continued from Page 1

Troops in camouflage uniforms patrolled the capital, Mbabane, on foot yesterday to prevent disturbances following the king's weekend call for an end to the work stayaway.

Troops guarded bus ranks and military lorries were seen ferrying people to work yesterday.

The union federation called the strike on January 22 to press the gov-

ernment to meet a list of 27 demands, which included lifting the ban imposed on political parties in 1973.

The king on Saturday accused the strike leaders of trying to depose him by force.

Many employers are sympathetic to the union's political demands. "Even if the stayaway is called off now, we will have another eruption shortly," said a senior manager in the sugar business before the suspension was announced.

"Nothing short of a real address of the political question will resolve this situation." — Sapa, Reuter.

Swazi strike put on hold

(3/3) Sowetan 30/1/96

MBABANE - The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions last night suspended a stayaway that last week brought the country's economy to a standstill.

Employers immediately welcomed the decision, reached after several days of shuttle diplomacy by a mediator from the business sector.

The suspension, announced after a marathon meeting of union bosses in Manzini, had been called to allow negotiations with the government on the union's labour and political demands, SFTU assistant general-secretary Mr Jabulani Nxumalo said.

The decision was subject to confirmation by employees at a mass meeting on Sunday. The government had guaranteed employees' safety at the meeting, Nxumalo said.

"The general council (of the federation) has recommended the immediate suspension of the mass stayaway to allow meaningful and creative negotiations between government and the executive of the SFTU," he said.

Sugar and timber employees, who stayed away yesterday while their

urban colleagues returned to work, would be back on the job by today, he added. Their union leaders had headed for plantations across the country to convey news of the strike's suspension, he said.

"We welcome this news very much indeed," said Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive director Mr Harvey Bird, saying the stayaway had cost the country about R10 million a day.

Employees in the capital Mbabane and commercial centre Manzini yesterday heeded a weekend call by King Mswati III and streamed back to work amid a heavy police and military presence.

The strike was called to press the government to meet 27 demands, among them a call for a constitutional forum and the repeal of a 1973 royal decree that banned political parties and suspended the 1968 constitution.

The government stood firm and Mswati at the weekend ordered people back to work.

Mbabane and Manzini were bustling towns again instead of the deserted shells of last week. - Sapa.

Swazis go back to jobs

(313)
MBABANE: Swazis returned to work in the commercial centres yesterday after a week-long general strike; but a union demand for greater political freedom in the monarchy remained unresolved.

Troops patrolled major centres and arteries to prevent disturbances after a weekend call by King Mswati III for the nation to end the strike. CT 30/1/96

Although this capital and the nearby manufacturing centre of Manzini had returned to normal by midday yesterday, many workers in the rural sugar and timber-growing areas were still on strike.

A spokesman for the Swaziland Sugar Association said the strike would have a limited impact on the industry as the cutting season began only in April. "Our refinery has been closed by the strike, so we're losing some white sugar production," he said.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) secretary-general Mr Jani Sithole was expected to decide later whether the strike should be called off.

Diplomats noted it was the end of the month and workers would want to be present for pay day.

The SFTU called the strike to press the government to meet 27 labour-related demands, but by the weekend these had been reduced to the single demand that a 1973 ban on political parties be lifted.

"The strike seems to be over, but the problems remain," a diplomat said.

"I've told union leaders they're going to inherit a wasteland, but... economic harm is their only weapon." — Reuter

New Swazi dispensation to be discussed

Star 31/1/96 (313)

STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Mbabane – Swaziland's government and labour movement are expected to meet soon to begin discussions on the framing of a new political dispensation for the country in the wake of its most severe political and economic crisis.

Trade union leader Jan Sithole, who was detained for three days during the eight-day general strike which ended on Monday, said the Swazi government had agreed for the first time to enter into negotiations on the political demands of the country's pro-democracy movement.

These include the lifting of a 1973 royal proclamation, still in force, which banned the establishment of political parties as well as the holding of political meetings.

Sithole, who is the secretary-

general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, said the government had confirmed that a negotiating team of five cabinet ministers had been appointed.

■ Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa secretly met Swaziland's King Mswati III last week in an attempt to find a solution to labour unrest in the kingdom, reports Sapa.

Phosa met the king and queen mother at the royal kraal in Ludzidzini on Friday, apparently after a confidential appeal for assistance by Mswati, African Eye News Service reported.

Accompanied by his media assistant and the Speaker of the Mpumalanga legislature, Elias Ginindza, Phosa went to Swaziland without the knowledge of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

Strike costs Swaziland R10 billion ⁽³¹³⁾

MBABANE - An eight-day pro-democracy national strike which ended on Tuesday cost Swaziland more than R10 billion in damages and lost production, Economic Planning Minister Themba Masuku said yesterday.

However, the executive director of the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Harvey Bird, has estimated that the strike cost the country about R10 million a day, or some R80 million rand in total.

"So far, we have found that we have a loss of over R10 billion, but this is subject to rise as we are still counting," Masuku said. *Sowetan*

Labour Minister Albert Shabangu told a Press conference in Mbabane that the government would claim damages from the organisers of the strike, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

Citing a provision of the Industrial Relations Act which holds strike organisers responsible for all damages, Shabangu urged businesses which suffered financially during the protest also to claim from the SFTU. - *Sapa-AFP*

1/2/96

SA 'won't interfere' in Swazi crisis

Stefans Brümmer

LATE-NIGHT visit by Mpumalanga Premier Matthews Phosa has failed, for now, to steer Swaziland's young monarch towards democracy, but diplomats believe the steady application of "friendly" pressure from, among others, President Nelson Mandela, will bear fruit.

South Africa's Foreign Affairs Department remained adamant this week it would not "interfere" in Swaziland's domestic crisis despite calls from pro-democracy groups.

Yet, South Africa clearly walked a tightrope, handing out stern advice while attempting not to come across as meddlesome.

Phosa drove secretly to the Ludzidzini royal kraal late last Friday to tell King Mswati III and Queen Mother Nthombi Twala that reform was the only way to deal with the national stayaway, then in its fifth day. It is understood Mswati — who diplomats say is eager for reform, but is hamstrung by the queen mother and other royals who hold much sway — called Phosa's office last

Wednesday, asking for help. Phosa sought advice from Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who gave the go-ahead.

A knowledgeable source said it appeared Mswati — who was not threatened with stronger South African action but was told he "cannot avoid democracy" — was ready to accommodate the striking workers, whose demands included the repeal of a 1973 decree banning party politics. In a sharp about-face on Saturday, Mswati ordered his nation back to work in a hard-line address reminiscent of

PW Botha's "Rubicon" speech, blaming "foreigners" for the country's troubles and threatening opponents with war.

Meanwhile, also on Friday, Mandela had told the Swazi delegation at the funeral of Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe that South Africa would not intervene. Later, probably after the weekend, Mandela phoned Mswati. A diplomat said the message to the king was that he would be supported in attempts to reform.

The diplomat said the obvious explanation for Mswati's about-face was that he did not want to be seen to

act under pressure. "He wants to make the announcement himself."

Other South African initiatives included steady "advice" by South African High Commissioner Walter Louw, and a pending visit by Mbeki.

Perhaps threats won't be necessary. Swaziland is acutely aware of the dependence of its insular economy on South Africa: more than half of its income is derived from duties paid by the Southern Africa Customs Union, and the distribution of customs takings between the member countries is up for review.

South African companies, and multinationals who located to Swaziland during the apartheid sanctions era, may well relocate to South Africa should labour unrest continue.

When labour took on the king, and lost

Pro-democracy strikes brought Swaziland to a standstill. But the grip of the monarchy is a strong one to break, reports
Stefans Brümmer

PATTENCE pays", the inscription on the back of the bus admonished would-be overtakers as it rambled over Swaziland's hills. The legend might as well be a national motto: it would explain why Swaziland is the last Southern African country not to have democratised, the only surviving absolute monarchy in Africa.



Said Margaret: "I don't know who [the SFTU] are. I heard on the radio that they had 27 demands, but I don't know what the demands are... We don't know, if there's change, what is going to happen. When I was born, there was the king, and there were the elders."

Mswati is held in high esteem by much of the population. For many, it was inconceivable that things would not be back to normal if the king said they would be.

Even the strike organisers have been careful not to challenge the king directly. When Mswati accused them of plotting to overthrow him, he struck a raw nerve. Silhole made a point of denying the charge, accusing

EYEWITNESS



Stefans Brümmer

I was after 6am when we topped the hill from Ezulwini Valley to see little Mbabane, capital of Swaziland, snug in the lap of the mountains.

For a week a stayaway had halted the economy and all but shut down Mbabane, a sleepy town at the best

Swazi society is deeply traditional, stratified into clans of royals, quasi-nobles and commoners. Chiefs and princes rule the countryside in feudal fashion, while 27-year-old King Mswati III and Queen Mother Nthombi Tswala have the final say in the "non-party" system of central government.

Last week, that traditional hierarchy was shaken when virtually the entire workforce, led by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), stayed away from work. The economy came to a standstill which the private sector said cost it R10-million a day. Shops were looted and power lines, water supplies and communications were sabotaged. At least one protester, a 16-year-old girl, died in security force action.

The strike was the longest in Swazi history. The SFTU, backed by human rights and opposition forces, put forward 27 economic, social and political demands, which were later scaled down to seven.

Last Saturday, Mswati ordered his subjects back to work in a headline speech that threatened "war" and accused the strike organisers of planning to overthrow him. The SFTU, which claims to represent 83 000 workers out of a total about 100 000 in the formal economy, responded by dropping another six demands.

It said it would urge its followers back to work if Mswati agreed only to revoke a 1973 decree which suspended the former British protectorate's Westminster-style constitution. The decree, issued by Mswati's father, the late King Sobhuza II, rang in a State of Emergency, still in force, banning political parties and free political activity.

Answering criticism that the strike had become overtly political, SFTU secretary general Jan Sithole acknowledged organised labour had become an "omnibus" movement where political activity was generally banned. "We haven't, as a labour movement, shifted from our main agenda... But our problems can only



Stop press: A Swazi traditionalist reads about the strike in a newspaper

PHOTOGRAPH: STEFANIS BRUMMER

be addressed where there is democracy and accountability."

Sithole need not have bothered. On Monday, as ordered by the king, a large part of Swaziland's workforce went back to work, watched over by a heavy deployment of police and soldiers.

While many workers in the key forestry and sugar cane industries, as well as the government electricity and post and telecommunications utilities — all SFTU strongholds — continued their stay-away, the capital, Mbabane, and the main industrial town, Manzini, were back to normal after a week of near-desertion.

For the SFTU the writing was on the wall: it had lost the initiative. The strike was suspended pending ratification from a mass rally, to be held this Sunday. Sithole's assistant, Jabulani Nxumalo, explained that the decision had been taken "for fear of losing life" and to allow "effective and meaningful" dia-

logue with the government.

The SFTU emerged tarnished. It had earlier argued that negotiations would be worthless until the repeal of the 1973 decree, as the government had time and again disregarded agreements and used its powers to prevent labour or the political opposi-

'I don't know who the SFTU are. I heard on the radio that they had 27 demands, but I don't know what the demands are'

tion from participating on an equal footing. Now the SFTU was again reverting to dialogue, with no guarantee the government would abide by the outcome.

Several factors spurred people back to work on Monday: many had run out of food and cash. But respect for the monarchy was equally important.

Margaret, a curio vendor in Ezulwini valley, personifies both. She said during the strike she lost R800 a day. A widow caring for eight children, she could not afford that. Neither did she understand the reasons behind the stayaway.

M + G 2-8/2/96
the "human condition, very human condition" of Mswati of misinforming him about the true aim of the protest.

Sithole argued the monarchy should remain, but be constitutionally accountable. "If we are talking of the removal of the 1973 decree, we are saying that the king should be elevated above politics; leave the politicians to do the dirty work."

Kislon Shongwe, president of the leading opposition party, the People's United Democratic Movement — which has been grudgingly tolerated since it "unbanned" itself in 1992 — agreed. "Take it from me, of all the organisations in the country, not one of them has an agenda to get rid of the king, but all agreed that he should be a constitutional monarch, and elevated above party politics."

But if the king is respected, the same does not always go for the rest of the extended royal clan, which, according to one estimate, makes up about 7% of the population.

Dhlaninis (the royal clan name) have greater access to government employment and decision-making positions and are often perceived to freeload at the expense of taxpayers. The prime minister is always a Dhlamini and the majority of Cabinet members, all appointed by the king or the queen mother, are royal.

Shongwe criticised the activities of two royal-controlled companies, started with national assets in the interests of "development" but now perceived to be mostly benefiting royal family members. Shongwe argued the royal companies should be put under control of central government and used for the benefit of "all people".

It is this kind of demand which may make the royals resistant to change. Mswati is generally held to be more progressive than most royals, but while they stand to lose privilege, the youthful king is unlikely to get much support for reforms from those who are closest to him.

or times. But, today there were strings of life, for the king had said so.

In a replay of the South African labour movement's success in forcing apartheid to its knees, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Union-led strike appeared on the verge of forcing democratisation on an outmoded and autocratic monarchy.

But on Saturday King Mswati III ordered his subjects to go back to work on Monday, and few thought to disobey.

Mbabane still carried the scars of a day of rampaging mobs: violence unprecedented in the country's modern history that claimed at least one life. Glass shopfronts remained smashed (snazzy dressed protesters having targeted snazzy boutiques), and security guards remained on duty to protect what remained of the contents.

But today the guards were joined by others in uniform. Soldiers and policemen, rifles ready, mingled with pedestrians on their way to work, and later with shoppers in the malls. Each bus had its own security detail in the form of a police vehicle. The king had told his subjects there would be war if they did not return to work, and the subjects obeyed.

People snaked into town on foot; those further out clogged the roadsides waiting for transport. Buses, bakkies, trucks and taxis obliged, but there were not enough of them: scores of commuters were hitch-hiking.

If transport was in short supply, a shortage of fuel was a feasible explanation: most garages had run dry because road tankers from South Africa had stayed at home during the week of strikes.

If some workers arrived late that morning, it was not their fault. Neither was it the king's, and this underlines his fragility: the king has no say over whether South Africa will deliver supplies to his landlocked country.

SWAZILAND

(313)

TALKS IN THE OFFING

FM 2/2/96

A Swazi government "promise" to meet five of organised labour's seven minimum demands "at the stroke of a pen" is what prompted the decision of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) to "suspend" its crippling week-old general strike on Monday, according to SFTU.

Government, it added, had further accepted the idea of "international mediation" over the protesters' central demand: to repeal a royal decree which prohibits political parties. It now seems that talks about talks could kick off this week, with the possible assistance of a group of professional SA mediators.

Fact is, however, that many Swazis heeded their king's call last Sunday to return to work, which they duly did on Monday morning — at least in Mbabane and Manzini, though the union points out that in the key sectors forestry and sugar, work only resumed on Tuesday, following SFTU's strike suspension announced on Monday afternoon. Observers also believe that with the month-end approaching, many had simply had enough and wanted to collect their pay.

"This is a period of grace to see what the government's real intentions are," explains SFTU spokesman Donald Dlamini, adding that it is possible that government's promise, and acceptance of the idea of formal negotiations by Prime Minister Prince Mbilini in a letter to SFTU, may simply be a ruse "to cool the situation" and then renege.

The government has done this before, notably last July, when the union, which had threatened a mass stayaway, was promised joy "within 14 days." Nothing happened. In fact this strategy seems to have been used for at least two years, leading to frustration which culminated in the recent strike, the most serious to hit the kingdom since 1963.

Aside from a list of industrial relations grievances, the key demand is of course for the repeal of the 1973 Royal Decree that outlaws political parties in favour of the traditional Tinkundla system of government.

There is clearly a rising tide in favour of the introduction of multiparty democracy in Swaziland, supported by former PM Obed Dlamini, in line with developments elsewhere — notably SA, whose President Nelson Mandela has been urged by

the unions to use his moral authority and intervene in the Swazi dispute. According to the SA Department of Foreign Affairs, however, conflicts in the region would be better dealt with via the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which has a mechanism to handle such matters. SA's High Commissioner in Mbabane, Walter Louw, favours the SADC route because, he argues, SA cannot become embroiled each time there is upheaval in a neighbouring State.

In any event, the young Swazi king Mswati III emphatically rejected the idea of foreign interference in his hardline speech last Sunday, which included the threat of force if people did not return to work and stop the economic damage.

SFTU, which articulates essentially similar demands as would-be political parties, notably the People's United Democratic Movement (Pudemo — led by Kison Shongwe), is by no means bent on getting rid of the king. It favours a constitutional monarchy. But the king rejects this notion as a "pipe dream."

Part of the problem, according to pro-democracy advocates and the union, is that the king is cut off from his people by a wall of traditionalist advisers with vested interests, known as the "central committee," which apparently includes the disgraced former head of the (dissolved) Liqoqo, or royal council, Prince Mfanisibili, and the country's UN representative, Mathendele Dlamini.

Despite government's stated readiness to engage in negotiations with SFTU, the wily Deputy PM Sixaye Nxumalo sounded triumphant when he announced after the return to work: "The Lion has roared" — a reference to the king's authority.

What started as an industrial relations problem has become a political one which goes to the heart of divisions in Swaziland. The strike has rammed home a lesson to the authorities. Fortunately, there seems this time to be a general realisation that the only way forward is through negotiations. ■

Swazi trade unions (3/3) press for national strike

Star 5/2/96

Protest will be second this year intended to force King

Mswati to lift ban on political parties imposed in 1973

Manzini – A national strike to press for democratic reform in Swaziland will start on February 19, trade union leaders resolved at a meeting in the commercial centre, Manzini, yesterday.

The strike will be the second this year to force King Mswati, the kingdom's absolute monarch, to lift a ban on political parties.

The ban was enforced by a royal decree issued by Mswati's father, King Sobhuza, in 1973.

A week-long national strike two weeks ago, called by the

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), with support from banned political parties, brought the kingdom to a virtual standstill and cost the ailing economy about R100-million.

A planned mass meeting called by the SFTU had to be called off yesterday after the police banned it, saying it would endanger peace and security.

Instead, the SFTU's executive committee held a caucus meeting at which it was decided to start another national strike on Febru-

ary 19.

The mass meeting was to have reported back to workers on the strike and to have sought a mandate to negotiate further with the government on a list of political and labour-related demands.

Heavily armed police and troops were present at the school sports ground in Manzini where the mass meeting was to have taken place.

Swaziland is the only southern African country where political parties are still banned. – Sapa.

ARLT 5/2/96

Swazi unions threaten (313) new strike

MBABANE. — Swazi unions said today they would call a national strike on February 19 unless the government lifted a ban on union meetings.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) president Richard Nxumalo said the federation had called a mass meeting for February 18 after the government banned a meeting scheduled for yesterday.

"We have called another workers' mass meeting to be held in Manzini on February 18. We hope this one will be allowed. If not, there will definitely be a strike on February 19," Mr Nxumalo said.

Last Monday the SFTU called off a week-long general strike staged to demand among other things the lifting of a 23-year-old ban on political parties. The strike plunged the monarchy into its worst crisis since independence in 1968.

Swaziland is the only country in Southern Africa where political parties are banned.

The ban has been in effect since 1973 when King Sobhuza II, father of incumbent monarch King Mswati III, repealed the constitution, which had been in force since independence from Britain in 1968.

Since then MPs have been indirectly elected through a system that political analysts say allows traditional chiefs to decide who is chosen.

The king has accused the strike leaders of trying to depose him by force.

Swazi unions (313) in strike threat

MBABANE: Swazi unions yesterday said they would call a national strike on February 19 unless authorities lifted a ban they imposed on union mass meetings.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions president Richard Nxumalo said the federation has called a mass meeting for February 18 after the government banned a meeting scheduled for Sunday.

CT 6/2/96
Own Correspondent, Reuter

Supreme claims will be opposed

Deborah Fine

SEVERAL large financial institutions have been granted leave by the Rand Supreme Court to defend summary judgment applications involving millions of rands lodged against them by the liquidators of Supreme Holdings and Supreme Investment Holdings.

These include Fidelity Bank, Liberty Life and Boland Bank as well as attorneys, Macauley and Riddle, and financial consultants Alexander Forbes Executives.

The liquidators claim the companies are liable for the R270m in losses suffered by public investors — who allegedly acted on advice of the companies' brokers — in the unsecured debentures offered by the Supreme Group between 1987 to '92. Supreme collapsed in November 1992, amid allegations of fraudulent and reckless practices.

The liquidators have submitted the brokers were negligent by failing to establish that Supreme was financially sound before offering the investment advice, and that their conduct was, in law, also their employers' conduct. The institutions were thus liable for Supreme's debts to investors.

Fidelity Bank has been granted leave to oppose a claim of R2,4m; Boland Bank a claim of R2m; Liberty Life R4,1m, Alexander Forbes R1,3m, and Macauley and Riddle a claim of R136 384.

An application by First National Bank for leave to resist a claim of R25,4m will be heard today.

Swazi trade unionist arrested in Mbabane

Business Day Reporter

SWAZILAND Federation of Trade Unions assistant general secretary Jabulani Nxumalo was arrested in the Swazi capital of Mbabane yesterday, days after the federation had announced another national stayaway on February 19 to press its political demands.

The arrest — reportedly on charges of fraud and perjury dating back to the 1980s — came two weeks after the arrest of the federation's general secretary, Jan Sithole. Charges against Sithole were later withdrawn.

On Monday King Mswati III assured British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker that the country's 1968 constitution would soon be revived.

He told Chalker that the revival of the constitution was one of a number of recommendations by

the Swazi people to a special political reform review committee which sounded public opinion in the country two years ago.

During her visit Chalker urged the king not to be too slow in introducing changes.

The arrest of Nxumalo, as he was leaving the offices of the Federation of Swaziland Employers, is likely to further raise tensions in the kingdom, which was hit by a five-day pro-democracy stayaway a fortnight ago.

Meanwhile, the leader of the largest pro-democracy party in Swaziland, the People's United Democratic Movement, has denounced as "undemocratic" Mswati's announcement that the 1968 constitution is to be restored.

Kislon Shongwe said constitutional issues could only be decided at a convention of political parties and other organisations.

Premier shares dream of Ulundi as capital

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose said yesterday that his dream was to see Ulundi become the "hub of the wheel of development" for the whole of KwaZulu-Natal.

Addressing IFP supporters who are pushing for Ulundi to be

proclaimed the provincial capital, Mdlalose said a constitution for KwaZulu-Natal would have to be passed, followed by legislation making the town the capital.

His vision included "spokes of development", connecting Ulundi to different areas. Ulundi would be connected to a port, and all the towns would become "great cities".

Govt backs Thor's recycling operation

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — Government officials from the environmental affairs, water affairs and labour departments yesterday threw their weight behind Thor Chemicals' plans to continue recycling toxic waste at its Cato Ridge plant, giving the company a boost in its fight against the environmental lobby.

KwaZulu-Natal air pollution control chief officer Gerrit Coetzee said mercury emissions from the plant were "much less" than emissions from some coal mines. He said the media had "blown out of context" the effects of emissions from the Thor plant.

Coetzee was giving evidence to

a government-appointed commission of inquiry which has to decide what should be done with 3 000 tons of toxic waste at the plant.

The plant was the only kind in the world. Its clients were in the plastics industry, including AECI and US-based Borden Chemicals.

Commission chairman Dennis Davis said the NP government had been "cavalier" in its approach by failing to pass legislation in the 1980s to control the importation of toxic waste to SA.

If recycling was to continue, stringent regulations would have to be in place. Coetzee conceded that this was necessary. The Air Pollution Control Act was passed in 1965 and had become a "beard-

ed man with a walking stick".

Labour department occupational and health safety chief director Faiza Saleh said recycling posed dangers but a better option was unknown. Water affairs department water quality director Sakkie van der Westhuizen said Thor had co-operated in monitoring pollution levels.

The Environmental Justice Network Forum, which led protests against the plant after the deaths of two workers, would give evidence in May. Forum national co-ordinator Chris Albertyn said Thor was leading the departments "by the nose". Recycling posed "far greater dangers" than initially thought, he said.

Arrest seen as bid to discredit Swazi unionists

(313) Star 8/2/96

Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad yesterday expressed the South African Government's concern over the prosecution by Swaziland authorities of trade unionist Jabulani Nxumalo.

Nxumalo, assistant general secretary of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), was arrested on Tuesday on fraud and theft charges dating back to the 1980s.

Yesterday, after being made to surrender his passport and travel documents, Nxumalo was released on bail and his court case postponed to a date yet to be decided.

The arrest came just days after the SFTU announced a second na-

**It will
inflame
situation,
says SA**

tional strike on February 19 to press its political demands.

SFTU general-secretary Jan Sithole said in the Swazi capital, Mbabane, that he believed the charges against Nxumalo were an attempt by the government to discredit and destroy union leaders ahead of the February 19 protests.

A strike called by the SFTU between January 22 and 29 brought the country to a halt and saw po-

lice clash repeatedly with protesters.

The strikes are part of nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations aimed against Swaziland's system of absolute monarchy and the outlawing in 1973 of all political parties.

A meeting between the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the SFTU scheduled for yesterday to discuss the situation in the troubled kingdom was postponed until today, after the Swazi delegation arrived later than planned.

Pahad said the situation in Swaziland did not require drastic action by either South Africa or its regional partners. - Sapa.

Cosatu to meet Swaziland union

Renee Grawitzky

(3/3) MD 8/2/96

THE leaders of Cosatu and the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions will meet today to discuss solidarity action by SA unions to put pressure on the Swaziland government to accede to labour's demands.

The meeting will not be attended by the Swaziland Federation's assistant general secretary Jabulani Nxumalo, who was arrested this week and released yesterday on stringent bail conditions. Sources indicated that he could not leave the country as his passport was confiscated.

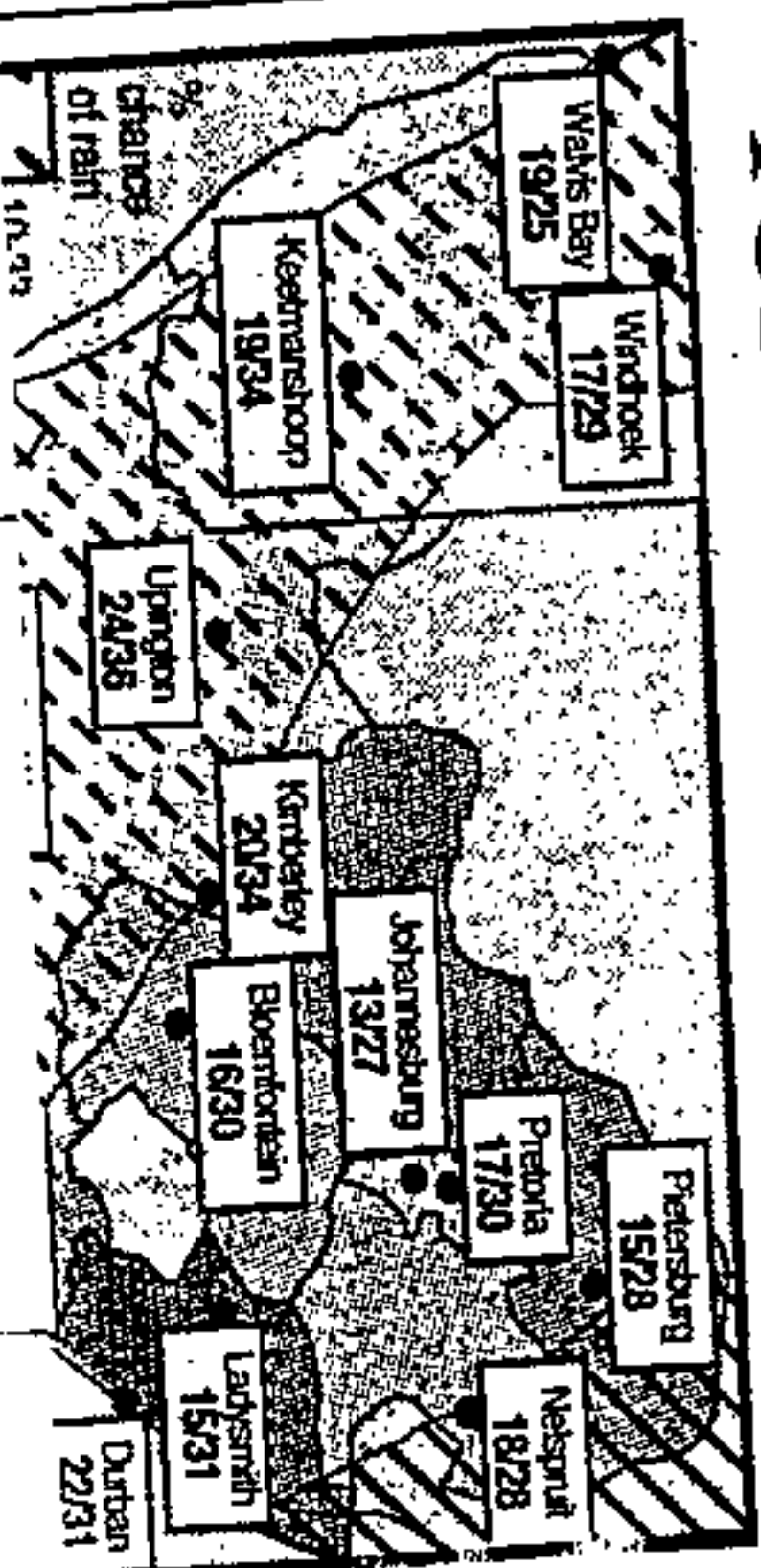
Sapa reports Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad said SA was concerned about the arrest of Nxumalo. "We are concerned that the arrest... will inflame the situation," he said in a briefing to the National Assembly's foreign affairs committee.



Cosatu assistant general secretary Zwelenzima Vavi, right, yesterday held informal discussions with Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions president Richard Nxumalo, prior to a meeting today between the two federations.

Picture: SALLY SHORREND

TODAY'S WEATHER



Cosatu seeks Swazi clamp

(3/3)

Blockade of goods and pressure on SA companies
promised if union leaders are harmed

Star 9/2/96

By JUSTICE MALALA
Labour Reporter

The Congress of SA Trade Unions and its political and labour allies have vowed to blockade delivery of petrol and goods to Swaziland - and exert other forms of pressure on South African companies trading with the country - if any harm comes to trade union leaders there.

After a briefing with leaders of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) yesterday, Cosatu assistant general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said the Swazi government's recent tactics "appear to be desperate, and if anything happens to the union leaders we will have no option but to act more dramatically".

The move comes only a day after the portfolio committee on foreign affairs met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad and expressed concern at the situ-

ation in Swaziland.

The committee said it hoped there would be a speedy move towards democracy, "which is the only basis on which the problems confronting the country can be addressed".

Business leaders were yesterday also discussing the issue with the Swazi government.

Swaziland was brought to a standstill for more than a week last month when trade unions staged a national stayaway in support of democracy demands.

Cosatu, the ANC, the SA Communist Party, the SA National Civic Organisation and the National Council of Trade Unions said they strongly condemned the "insensitive activities perpetrated on the labour movement and the entire Swazi people".

The organisations said in a letter to the Swaziland high commissioner that if any SFTU leaders or members were assassinated they

would urge the SA Government to consider taking the "sternest measures" against the country.

Vavi said the SFTU and Cosatu were compiling a list of SA companies operating in Swaziland and would develop a more comprehensive strategy on what they could do to show solidarity for the democracy struggle there.

He said this strategy could include asking transport companies and their trade union members to refuse to deliver any goods to Swaziland.

SFTU general secretary Jan Sithole said union leaders had been harassed and threatened with death, and that Swazi policemen were found recently with guns equipped with silencers at a union meeting.

He said talks with the Swazi government would resume today and that the support of church and other civil groups would be sought in the future.

SA firms in Swaziland warned

Renee Grawitzky

SA COMPANIES with operations in Swaziland might be prevented from making deliveries to that country if it was hit by further strike action, Cosatu warned yesterday. (313)

Cosatu's warning came after it had met a delegation of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions. With another national stayaway looming in Swaziland, the federation's leadership came to SA this week to brief members of the tripartite alliance, National Council of Trade Unions and SA National Civics Organisation on tensions in the kingdom.

The visit was used also to seek solidarity action by the SA labour movement.

Federation general secretary Jan Sithole appealed to SA society to put pressure on the Swazi government to engage in negotiations on a democratic dispensation. Cosatu assistant general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said consideration would be given to targeting SA-based companies which had operations in Swaziland to act more responsibly.

Swaziland reform hopes revived after meeting

Star 15/2/96 (313)

Pietermaritzburg – Hopes for negotiations on Swaziland's constitution have been given a boost after a meeting between Swaziland's royal-led government and its pro-democracy federation of trade unions.

Political protests late last month brought commercial activities in the country to a standstill.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and other groups are pressing for democratic reform in the tiny kingdom.

"The talks show there is some form of willingness on the part of the government to talk about these issues," trade union leader Thomas Dlamini said yesterday, referring to negotiations on a re-

turn to multiparty democracy. He described the meeting on Tuesday as "talks about talks".

Dlamini, the national co-ordinator of the SFTU, said a mass meeting would be held today to "reconsider the contemplated strike on February 19".

"I am sure the executive will try to sell the idea to give the government more time on the issue."

Labour Minister Albert Shabangu would not comment on the meeting.

After the four-day stayaway last month, strikers returned to work only after King Mswati III ordered his subjects back to work amid a heavy security force presence. – Own Correspondent.

Swazi unions seek mandate to strike

MBABANE. — Negotiations have ended in deadlock between the Swaziland government and the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), aimed at averting a national strike. (313)

The talks stalled last night after the SFTU insisted on going ahead with a rally in Manzini today to get a mandate to call off Monday's strike.

SFTU secretary-general Jan Sithole said after 10 hours of

talks the rally was the key to calling off the strike.

Questioned about the presence in Swaziland of top officials of the Congress of SA Trade Unions, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Mr Sithole denied his organisation's strategy was being influenced by these two groups. ARG 15/2/96

The two sides, with the Federation of Swaziland Employers as an observer, are to meet again, tonight. — Sapa.

Strike threat in Swaziland

Sowetan 19/2/96 (313)

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

PLANS by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions to embark on another stay-away action today have sent unease through the corridors of power of that tiny country.

The SFTU hopes to force the government to address the political reforms of the tiny kingdom.

But if the stay-away goes ahead as planned, the Swazi economy is set to face a further slump that may take time to recover.

Labour and public service minister Albert Shabangu said his ministry was aware of the 27 demands which workers, through their union leaders, voiced about two years ago.

"Government has all along been addressing the demands with all possible speed, except three that

need legislation," he said.

Shabangu complained that the recent five-day stay-away has greatly affected the Swazi economy and investor confidence, and said another strike would not be desirable.

King Mswati III has accused the unions of aiming to overthrow the monarchy and rendering the country ungovernable.

As a result, those Swazis concerned about the need for changes from the *tinkhundla* system of governance to multi-party politics have been labelled "unpatriotic, unSwazi and sell-outs".

The king declared war on the SFTU last month in a traditional address to his regiments at the Lobamba Royal Cattle Byre. He told his people to be prepared for bloodshed.

Some political observers feel the

SFTU, in alliance with underground political parties, have embarked on a secret agenda aimed at toppling the young monarch.

On the other hand, the government is being accused of using unfair tactics like taking union leaders to the High Court to stop them from engaging in what it terms an "unlawful strike".

The union secretary was dismissed from his employment for engaging in strike action.

The SFTU and Swazi government now both accuse each other of negotiating in bad faith.

Political observers point out that the only way forward for Swaziland is for both parties to forget about the bitter past and engage in constructive and open negotiations with the sole aim of finding long-term solutions.

It is modernity

against custom

Southern 19/2/96 (313)

By Gumisal Mutume

BABANE — When

MSwaziland's trade union federation staged a general strike in late January, its demands ranged from an end to police brutality against street vendors to the recognition of Labour Day.

But the real issue was the repeal of the 1973 ban on political parties and, by extension, the monarchy.

Once again the battle between traditionalists bent on maintaining the kingship and modernists tired of the royal rule was propelled to the forefront. And as has always happened, tradition won the day.

Since independence from Britain in 1968, the monarchy has battled to maintain its hold on this nation of about one million people.

In 1973 the then king, Sobhuza II, suspended the country's Westminster-style constitution, largely designed by the British. The action was meant to bar all political activity and forbid freedom of association.

"With the banning of political parties went the aspirations of the people to move out of the dark ages into a progressive form of governance," says a lecturer at the University of Swaziland, who opted for anonymity.

"Now political parties exist as underground movements and we all live in fear of the unknown."

Talks on in Swaziland to solve the row between unions, government

Such is the power of the monarchy that most modernists dare not publicly denounce the *status quo*. However, a growing educated middle class is fast questioning the authority of a monarch in place of a popularly elected parliament.

Swaziland is a land of contrasts where the Western and the traditional live side by side. Everywhere you look, there is evidence of its dual nature.

Modern shopping malls are just a stone's throw from *krizals* and fields, while people dressed in traditional attire rub shoulders with teenagers dressed in American fashion in the city centre.

Even the judicial system reflects Swaziland's duality: Some courts operate under Roman Dutch law while others, called the Swaziland national courts, function according to customary law, with everything done orally.

But modernity is clamouring to take over in Swaziland, as is evidenced by the growing number of strikes and protests in the kingdom.

Government and unions are currently holding talks over the political situation in the country following last month's strike, which paralysed the

economy for eight days. Another strike is scheduled for today.

"The problem with the young ones is that they go abroad and bring back alien ideas into our peace-loving country," feels peasant farmer Mandlenkosi Maisebula.

Rituals remain an integral part of Swazi life, the most colourful being the annual reed dance, performed around September, in which hundreds of bare-breasted maidens pay homage to the king. Tradition obliges him to choose a wife from among them.

The late Sobhuza had more than 100 recognised wives and more than 200 sons. His death in 1986 paved the way for King Mswati III to become, at the age of 18, the youngest ruler of the former British protectorate.

Under the current arrangement, the king is all-supreme with legislative and executive powers vested in him. He has a national council comprising a prime minister, who is also a member of the royal family, and cabinet ministers, mostly appointed by the monarch.

That system was introduced in 1978 to replace the elected parliament dissolved in 1973.

Sapa-IPS.



King Mswati III ... for decades the monarchy has battled to maintain its hold on Swaziland.

Swazi unions postpone strike

(313) Star 19/2/96
Mbabane - Swazi trade unions have postponed a general strike planned for today and given the government a fortnight to meet demands that include the lifting of a ban on political parties.
Swaziland Federation of Trade

Unions secretary-general Jani Sithole said last night that workers had decided to postpone the strike after a mass union meeting in Mbabane yesterday. He said the unions would review the decision on March 3. - Reuters.

Land issues 'key' to chiefs' survival

BD 25/3/96

Stephen Laufer

CONTROL of land allocation could be crucial to the political survival of traditional leaders in many rural areas, a study to be published today shows.

The land allocation function, says the study entitled *Down to Earth — Land Demand in the New SA*, is "critical to traditional leaders because it is one of the few remaining actual powers and sources of influence they have".

But in many areas an increasing land hunger and tendency towards urban settlement structures was fuelling warlordism.

The picture was not uniform across the country even though traditional authorities were central to land administration in all provinces except Gauteng and the Western Cape.

While the land allocation practices of many traditional leaders were "clouded by corruption, patronage, and, increasingly, the influence of market forces", many chiefs were still committed to traditional tenure forms out of a genuine concern for welfare and equity.

Complicating the picture, said one of the study's authors, Prof Tessa Marcus of Natal University, was an increasing tendency towards urban settlement patterns even in rural areas.

Reduced plot sizes, the conversion of arable and grazing land to residential use, and increasingly fragile kinship relations were weakening traditional authority.

Most people who supported the traditional authority system did not necessarily support individual

traditional authorities.

As a result, such institutions were increasingly succumbing to "the sway of powerful individuals who take and maintain control over the allocation of residential sites with the assistance of informal armed forces and party political patronage."

But the traditional tenure system had also guaranteed access to land for even the poorest of rural residents, and the baby should not be thrown out with the bath water during the land reform process.

There was a danger that a move to freehold ownership without any alternative tenure possibilities or guaranteed access to common pasturage would finally dispossess those unable to articulate or pay for their land needs adequately.

Injection

The success of alternative mechanisms for administering communal land would depend on the emergence of effective local government to provide support and services. Marcus said this could work only if there was considerable injection of finance and skills into the rural areas.

A lack of sufficient resources would make land released under reform programmes prone to "elite capture". Those who had historically been well placed — often for the wrong reasons — would be in the best position to take advantage of new land allocations.

Researched over a two-year period in all nine provinces, the study is the first attempt to analyse popular land needs across SA.

Swazi union leaves talks

(313)
Renee Grawitzky

BD 25/3/96

THE Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions pulled out of negotiations with employers and the Swaziland government last week after government took a decision to prosecute five unionists involved in leading a national strike in January.

Sources said the SFTU also withdrew from discussions with government after it failed to agree to a number of preconditions for negotiations. The preconditions included the establishment of a constitutional forum and the repeal of both the 1973 King's decree which suspended the constitution and the Bill of Rights which banned political parties.

Five unionists — SFTU members — were served with summonses last week for contravening the Industrial Relations Act which come into effect this year. The Act — at the heart of 27 demands presented to government by the SFTU — provides that unionists who incite or instigate strike action could face a maximum penalty of five years in prison or stringent fines.

Sources in Swaziland said Labour Minister Albert Shabangu had indicated in Parliament that the law was in place and had to be enforced.

Cosatu has condemned the decision to prosecute the five unionists. The People's United Democratic Movement said not only were people being served with summonses, but those involved in the strike were being constantly harassed.

Comment: Page 12

UK and SA sign defence pact

BD 25/3/96

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — The replacement of ageing SANDF equipment came a step closer at the weekend with the signing of a defence equipment co-operation memorandum of understanding with the UK.

Although the UK was not seen as the sole potential supplier of defence equipment to SA, Defence Minister Joe Modise believed the agreement placed the country in its rightful position among the leading nations of the world.

Modise said SA navy, air force and army equipment was becoming obsolete and needed to be

replaced in the near future. This included new tanks for the country's new army.

"Our army is still running tanks produced during the Second World War. Although these tanks are still effective, they are becoming very expensive to run and maintain," Modise told reporters at the signing ceremony attended by the British High Commissioner to SA Sir Anthony Reeve.

In addition to facilitating the efficient supply of military hardware and service, the memorandum of understanding also made provision for joint research and development ventures by

the two countries and for military education.

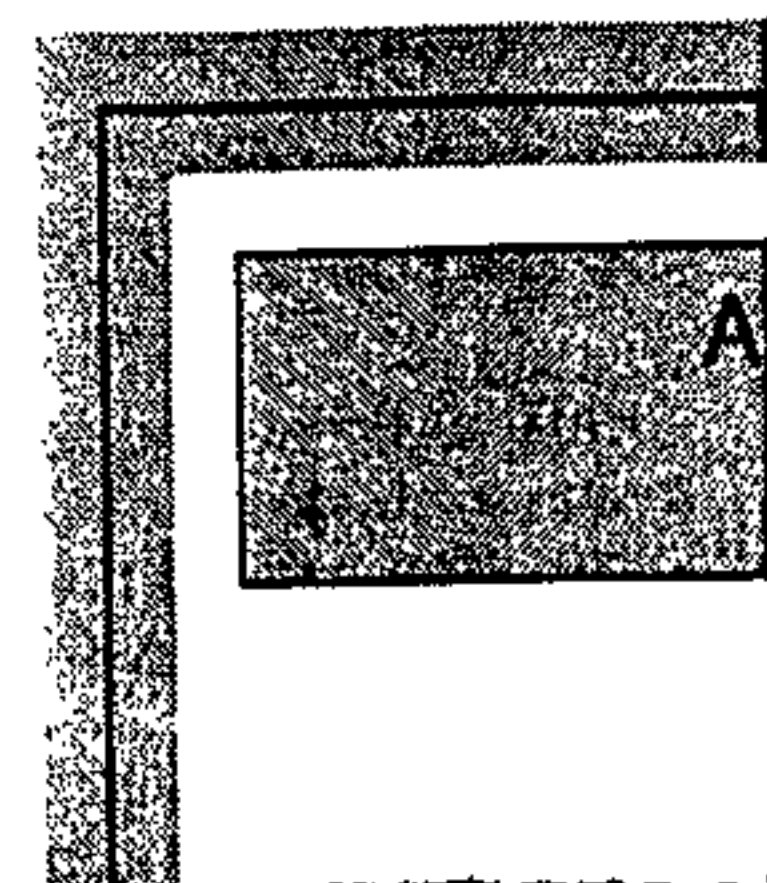
SA military officers were already being trained in the UK.

"Our defence industry has been struggling along on its own for too long. We cannot maintain our high-tech capabilities without the assistance of other countries — it is too expensive," Modise said.

The government-to-government memorandum of understanding will operate over a 10-year term and will provide both the mechanism for industry to participate in procurement competitions in both countries and a framework to carry forward

joint programmes.

Major UK defence companies, including British Aerospace, Vickers Defence Systems and the GEC group are establishing long-term relationships with companies across the spectrum of the SA defence industry, and many specific agreements are already in place.



Swazi unionists go on trial

Mbabane - Five senior Swazi trade unionists went on trial in the High Court here yesterday after the government proceeded with charges against them linked to the calling of a national strike in January.

After a short hearing, the case was adjourned indefinitely when defence lawyers demanded access to a video recording of the strike, which the State intends using in its evidence.

Around 1 000 chanting and singing workers marched on the court in support of the five Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions officials, among them

SFTU president Richard Nxumalo and secretary-general Jan Sithole.

State prosecutors plan to call 19 witnesses in the case, which workers see as a blow to their basic human rights.

The strike was called to persuade King Mswati III, who exercises almost absolute authority over his 900 000 subjects, and his aides to lift a 23-year ban on political parties.

After the protest, Mswati promised to undertake constitutional reforms, but this pledge has not yet had any notable effect. - Sapa-Agence France-Presse

Star 30/3/96

(313)

Swazi civil servants and teachers come out on strike

Star 14/6/96 (313)
Complaints of no pay increases since 1994 as government adopts hard line

AFP
MBABANE

The Swaziland government closed all schools and colleges indefinitely yesterday as more than 30 000 teachers and civil servants went on strike in demand of wage increases.

Announcing the closure, Education Minister Solomon Dlamini asked all pupils in hostels to go home "as there will be no one to attend to you".

The strike came after months of deadlocked negotiations with the Swazi government. The teachers and civil servants said they had not had an increase since the 13,5% granted in 1994.

Teachers announced they would attend classes today but do no teaching.

Swaziland National Association of Teachers secretary-general Saladin Nagagula denied government claims that teachers were being selfish. "We are just calling for what is in the budget," he said.

Civil servants, meanwhile, resolved to give government a

seven-day ultimatum to increase their salaries by 18%, failing which they would embark on an indefinite strike.

They denied they had been on strike yesterday saying they attended a meeting called by the Swaziland National Association of Civil Servants.

But the government declared their action to constitute an illegal strike under a new Industrial Relations Bill and said they would all be docked a day's wages.

Association general secretary Driven Nkambula said the meeting, held in the central town of Manzini, mandated the organisation's leaders to re-enter negotiations with the government in the hope of resolving the dispute.

Work was stopped in government offices yesterday, the first major disruption since January, when an eight-day strike by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions in demand of political reforms, supported by civil servants, paralysed the tiny kingdom which has long been a playground for South Africans.

Bid to end Swaziland teachers' strike fails

Mbabane – Swaziland's Industrial Court yesterday rebuffed a second legal bid by the government to end a massive teachers' strike, which has brought schools to a standstill for more than three weeks.

Arguing that the government had failed to prepare its case, court

president Absalom Dlamini adjourned proceedings until July 26.

A spokesman for the 15,000 teachers vowed yesterday to continue holding out for an 18% wage increase, rejecting the government's latest offer of 10.4%.

However, several thousand

civil servants who had joined the teachers' strike resolved to go back to work: "We felt the government had exhausted everything in its coffers," a National Association of Civil Servants spokesman said. "That is why we accept the government's offer." – Sapa-AFP.

Star 9/7/96

2: (313)

Crisis looms in Swaziland

By Sowetan Correspondent

THE opposition pro-democracy movement, the People's United Democratic Movement, has given the government of Swaziland until Monday to create a climate conducive for negotiations or face a campaign of *Kuyoze Kuyovalwa* (rolling mass action).

The call follows a Pudemo congress held in Manzini at the weekend. Pudemo also resolved to withdraw the organisation

president, Mr Mario "Bhanbata" Masuku, from the government-created Constitutional Review Commission with immediate effect.

Mr Masuku had participated as an individual in the Swazi King's hand-picked commission because opposition parties are banned.

The rolling mass action campaign has been timed to coincide with a mass stayaway planned by the labour movement, teachers and civil servants, who

have rejected a government offer of an 11 percent salary increase.

In a unprecedented move, junior police officers have vowed to join the planned protests, raising the spectre of a crisis similar to the one last year when Swazi teachers went on a national strike.

Swazi police may have worsened the looming showdown with the government after they arrested leader of the Swaziland Democratic Alliance Mr

Vulindlela Msibi for alleged fraud at the weekend. Msibi was among those picked by the king to participate in the CRC.

It is expected that the SDA, in alliance with the Swazi Federation of Unions and Pudemo, will also pull Msibi out of the CRC.

"This marks the beginning of the end of a process that lacked the necessary legitimacy from the very beginning," a Pudemo spokesman said.

gines fail.

paid cash from the frozen pyramid scheme funds. Albanians have blamed government for the pyramid schemes which caused mass protests across Albania last week.

Picture: AP

Swaziland angry at Cosatu interference

Reneé Grawitzky

THE Swaziland government has lodged a complaint with the SA High Commission in Mbabane over Cosatu's interference in the domestic affairs of the country which was regarded as direct interference by the SA government.

The complaint was lodged after Cosatu expressed support for the proposed two-day national strike called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and due to start on Monday. The strike was to protest against the Swaziland government's failure to agree to 25 demands tabled in 1994.

Cosatu's solidarity action included a call to all affiliates to "go slow" in handling goods delivered to and from Swaziland during the strike.

An urgent cabinet meeting was convened in Mbabane yesterday in response to Cosatu's call for solidarity action. The outcome of the meeting is not yet known.

Also yesterday, the federation was meeting the government to try to head off the strike. The outcome was not known by late last night.

SA high commissioner in Mbabane Walter Louw said yesterday that Swaziland's Foreign Minister Arthur Khoza

had been instructed to inform him earlier this week that the government was not happy with Cosatu's interference and regarded it as interference by SA.

The Swaziland government could not accept that SA had not acted concerning Cosatu's involvement, Louw said.

Sources in Mbabane alluded to the possibility that Cosatu was brought in to put pressure on the Swaziland government as popular support for the strike appeared to be lacking.

The source said people were anxious about the outcome of discussions between the federation and government as they were reluctant to participate in

the strike. He said although the strike last year was successful, people were concerned about a negative effect on the economy and feared dismissals.

The SA foreign affairs department said SA was "concerned about the situation in Swaziland, especially as it could be misinterpreted in Swaziland as SA's interference in the domestic affairs of that country".

Louw said this issue could severely strain relations between the two countries. A meeting should be convened either between the respective foreign ministers or between President Nelson Mandela and King Mswati III, he said.

Swaziland angry at Cosatu interference

(313) 80301197

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The complaint was lodged after Cosatu expressed support for the proposed two-day national strike called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and due to start on Monday. The strike was to protest against the Swaziland government's failure to agree to 25 per cent wage increases for its employees tabled in 1994.

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Swaziland government clashes with unions over planned strike

Reneé Grawitzky

THE Swaziland government had started mobilising its armed forces and setting up roadblocks in case the two-day national strike goes ahead on Monday, after the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions failed to call off the strike, union sources said.

The Swaziland government and the federation were due to meet on Wednesday to discuss government's failure to meet the union's outstanding demands, originally tabled in 1994. But the government cancelled the meeting and issued the federation with an ultimatum to call off the strike by 6pm last night — or face the consequences.

A government source would not say what the consequences were and indicated that the gov-

ernment had met the union's demands. He said discussions were to have taken place on industrial relations matters but government had cancelled the meeting after the union set a number of political preconditions. Government was not prepared to meet the union until these preconditions had been dropped and the strike called off, he said.

Federation general secretary Jan Sithole said last night that the union had advised government that it was committed to negotiations but would not heed the ultimatum to call off the strike until progress had been made in meeting the outstanding 25 demands.

He said the employers would not have joined the union in its efforts to meet government if the outstanding demands had already been met.

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 3, 1997

Swazis to strike for change

JOHANNESBURG: Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) officials, fearing arrest after four union leaders were detained earlier, met secretly on Saturday and reaffirmed their commitment to proceed with a national strike today to press King Mswati to repeal legislation banning political parties and to write a democratic constitution for Swaziland.

The kingdom has had no constitution since the suspension in 1973 of the Westminster-style independence constitution.

The unionists were detained as the Swazi government announced tough legislation, apparently intended to prevent the strike.

In terms of Legal Notice No. 9, any contravention of the Public Order Act of 1963, which covers strikes, is now an offence for which bail will be denied.

Swazis have been sharply divided in their support of the strike, and some of the SFTU's own affiliate unions had indicated that their members would not support it.

A national strike called by the SFTU and its political allies early in 1996, for much the same reasons as this week's planned action, brought the kingdom's economy to a virtual standstill until Mswati intervened and called on workers to return to work.

Mswati, however, has lost the unquestioning respect most Swazis reserve for their king. — Sapa

Swazi union federation leaders arrested

(313) BD 3/2/97
Reneé Grawitzky

THE arrest at the weekend of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions' four most senior leaders could provide additional impetus to the two-day national strike scheduled to start today.

The arrests follow the federation's decision not to heed a government ultimatum to call off the strike.

The planned strike is in protest against the failure of the Swazi government to agree to outstanding labour and political demands tabled in

1994, including the scrapping of security laws used against organised labour. Last year the issue sparked a national strike which brought the country to a standstill.

Employer sources said a meeting between representatives of government, labour and business was planned for yesterday afternoon, but by late yesterday afternoon the meeting still had not taken place and it appeared unlikely that the strike would

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Swaziland (313)

BD 3/2/97

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be called off.

A local commentator said despite the arrests of the federation's senior leadership, including general secretary Jan Sithole, the regional leadership was mobilising members in anticipation of the strike.

The commentator said a number of people who previously did not fully

support the strike had been angered by the arrests. "No one knows whether to go to work or not, while others are anticipating violence."

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) condemned the arrests and demanded the immediate release of the federation leadership. Cosatu said the government had taken such measures to counter the pending strike.

"All these actions are desperate attempts by dictators and are intended to intimidate workers who are poised to go on strike."

Tensions rise as Swaziland strike grows

Reneé Grawitzky

MBABANE — Thousands of plantation workers yesterday heeded the pro-democracy strike call by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions despite heavy army and police presence.

In Manzini tension was high after police shot into the air to disperse a crowd and a different crowd attempted to burn a bus. The union offices in the town were also raided by police.

In the Mhlume sugar belt area, where the strike has been most effective, telephone lines were cut and other incidents of vandalism were reported.

At the heart of the strike is the demand for the start of a legitimate process to draft a constitution and for the

move towards multiparty democracy.

The strike is expected to accelerate today as the Swaziland National Association of Civil Servants advised government that its members would not go to work. The education ministry urged children to return to school and assured them of police protection.

Political commentators said last week people were sceptical about the strikers' success and a number of the federation's affiliates were divided on the strike call. However, attitudes towards government hardened after four union leaders were arrested.

On Friday, government passed legislation which effectively imposed a life sentence on anyone found guilty of sabotaging essential services.

The arrested leaders have not been released on bail and the case will be heard only next Monday. The four are general secretary Jan Sithole, president Richard Xhumalo, vice-president Themba Msibi and assistant general secretary Jabulani Xhumalo.

Sources in Swaziland said SA union federation Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) had given the government an ultimatum that if the leaders were not released by today, it would begin a blockade of Swaziland. This could not be confirmed last night.

Foreign affairs said Minister Alfred Nzo would meet his Swazi counterpart Arthur Khoza in Pretoria today.

Continued on Page 2

Swaziland

Continued from Page 1

Employers, who have tried to bring labour and government together, have urged government to repeal the controversial 1973 king's proclamation which effectively outlaws fundamental freedom of assembly and expression and bans political parties.

An employer said that employers committed to long-term investment in Swaziland supported this view. Economic Association of Swaziland chairman Mike Matsebula said although the economy faced a precarious future, the current situation was not conducive to economic growth. The leadership did acknowledge the need to change, but the pace was so slow.

Former People's United Democratic Movement president Kilson Shongwe said meaningful negotiations could not

continue under the current government. After last year's strike a constitutional review commission had been established. This commission had become discredited, even before it began its work, as the members had been handpicked by the king and organisations could not make representation, only individuals. The strike, he said, would convince the local and international community that something was amiss in Swaziland.

A union official said "this is our struggle, we have to succeed".

Government has banned the reporting of strikes by the official government radio and television stations.

Meanwhile, the Brussels-based International Confederation of Trade Unions yesterday strongly condemned the arrest of Swaziland's union leaders. "Once more, the Swaziland government has chosen the path of confrontation and ignored repeated calls for dialogue and negotiations."

Strikers bring crucial Swazi sugar industry to standstill

(313) Mar 5/2/97

Mbabane - Swaziland's sugar industry, the country's largest foreign exchange earner, was brought to a standstill yesterday by a two-day-old national strike called by unions to speed political reform in the kingdom.

Swaziland Sugar Association president Brian Glassock told Reuters the industry stood to lose R3-million a day in the strike action which, although limited in the industrial sector, had hit the sugar belt hard.

"We are losing money be-

cause this is a critical time for irrigating sugar cane so that its growth is not interrupted before it is cut in April," Glassock said.

Swaziland's sugar exports are estimated at around R630-million a year, or 33% of foreign exchange earnings.

Mondi Timber Products told Reuters their Piggs Peak operations had ground to a halt. "There is no production and the factories are just standing (still)," said Mondi's marketing manager Zane Oberholzer. He

declined to give details on the cost of wasted production.

SFTU official Barbara Dlamini said the strike would continue indefinitely to press for greater political activity.

Swazi political parties are severely restricted under a 1973 decree which vested all state powers in the monarchy. After a violent strike early in 1996, reigning King Mswati III set up a commission to make recommendations for change. - Reuters.

Swaziland govt accused of using 'warfare tactics'

60 5/2/97 (313)
Renee Grawitzky

MBABANE — Organisations belonging to the Swaziland Democratic Alliance (SDA) yesterday accused the government of harassing the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and the People's United Democratic Movement during the pro-democracy strike.

This comes in the wake of the detention and alleged beating of 23 members of both organisations on Monday night. Federation spokesman Barbara Dlamini, among those detained and allegedly beaten, said a memorandum would be delivered to the government condemning its actions. SDA representatives cautioned that such "warfare tactics" could incite violence.

Workers continued to stay away from the sugar, pulp and some forestry operations yesterday while it was business as usual in Mbabane. Manzini was calm after incidents on Monday.

Commentators said there would be no normality until the government committed itself to a new constitution.

SA Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo urged Swaziland counterpart Arthur Khoza to speed up democracy.

Khoza expressed concern at interference by Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu). In the face of strikes and stayaways, the government was more concerned about a possible boycott of goods by Cosatu affiliates, to be decided next week, sources said. There are also concerns over a possible power cut by SA. Cosatu is planning a demonstration at the Swaziland high commission tomorrow, a spokesman said.

It was still unclear whether the strike would continue today.

The second day of the strike coincided with the oath-taking ceremony of the constitutional review commission, set up to draft a new constitution. An observer said it was ironic that a federation official could not take his oath as he was still imprisoned by the very government which appointed him to assist in drafting the constitution.

To date, the president of the movement, Mario Masuku, had withdrawn from the process with speculation that Jerry Gulé of the SDA may do the same, in which case the commission would be dominated by conservatives.

Comment: Page 9

Swazi cops arrest activist

MBABANE – Police arrested a leading pro-democracy activist in Swaziland yesterday in an apparent attempt to break a national strike that entered its third day.

Mr Simon Noge, chairman of the Swaziland Democratic Alliance, was picked up at his home in the capital Mbabane early in the morning, pro-democracy activists said.

Noge is being held in connection with a police investigation into a spate of mysterious small explosions in the Manzini area in the past two days.

The treasurer of the opposition People's United Democratic Movement, Mr Dennis Fruhwirth,

said a Pudemo regional chairman, Mr David Mngomezulu, and two other party members were also arrested yesterday. This could not be confirmed independently.

"At this stage anyone can be arrested," Fruhwirth said. "The government appears very desperate."

Many of the key organisers of the strike are now in police custody.

Four leading members of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, the major organiser of the strike, were detained at the weekend and could face life imprisonment if convicted under hastily amended legislation aimed at maintaining public order.

Strike organisers vowed yesterday to continue with the stayaway until their leaders were freed and the government seriously addressed its 27 political and labour demands.

Activists said security forces were continuing their campaign of intimidation to try to break the strike. Several activists, including Pudemo general secretary Mr Bonginkhosi Dlamini, have been beaten up by police and soldiers, Fruhwirth said.

In Manzini, the highest ranking SFTU member not in detention, assistant general-secretary Ms Barbara Dlamini, said the organisation and its allies had decided to continue with the strike. – Sapa.

More Swazi union leaders are arrested

(313) Star 6/2/97

By Tom Holloway

Mbabane - Swaziland police arrested seven more top union and political leaders yesterday in a major clampdown on the third day of a mass stayaway which has paralysed some industries and sparked unrest, including the detonation of several firebombs.

After the arrest of four leaders of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) - organisers of the stayaway - police confirmed yesterday they had arrested another seven political and union leaders in connection with explosions in and around Manzini.

However, unionists and opposition politicians claimed they had been arrested to try to thwart the stayaway, which went into its third day yesterday and has been especially successful in the vital sugar and forestry industries.

Swaziland Chamber of Commerce executive director Harvey Bird said the stayaway would be intensified if the leaders were not released, increasing the heavy losses already sustained by the

sugar and forestry industries.

The people arrested yesterday included Gerry Nxumalo, chairman of the Swaziland Democratic Alliance, which includes the SFTU and the illegal Peoples United Democratic Movement; Borman Tsela, president of the Swaziland Youth Congress; human rights activist Simon Noge; and Swaziland University lecturer Temba Manana.

Swaziland remained tense yesterday after the explosions and arrests although there has been no repetition of the street battles which characterised last year's stayaway by the SFTU.

On Tuesday South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo met his Swazi counterpart, Arthur Khoza, to discuss Swazi allegations that South Africa was interfering in Swaziland's internal affairs. The charge arose because of Cosatu's outspoken support for the stayaway and its threat to impose an economic blockade on the landlocked kingdom if the arrested union leaders were not released. - Star Foreign Service.

Saboteurs strike as Swazi strife intensifies

BD 6/2/97 (313)

Reneé Grawitzky

POWER lines were sabotaged and three more people arrested as conflict in Swaziland intensified yesterday and the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions vowed to continue its pro-democracy strike.

The strike, which began on Monday, was planned to last two days, but the federation said yesterday it would continue until government had met all its demands and released detained union leaders.

Swazi government and labour representatives were scheduled to meet last night. Sources said a meeting had also been scheduled between King Mswati and the Swaziland Employers'

Federation to discuss the strike, but this could not be confirmed.

Eskom said two of its three main power lines into Swaziland had been sabotaged, leaving large areas without power. Employer sources said two trucks from SA had returned empty because Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) members had refused to load them. Cosatu spokesmen could not be contacted to confirm this.

The four Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions leaders — including general secretary Jan Sithole — arrested on Friday under the Public Order Act have not yet been released.

Yesterday, Swaziland Democratic Alliance chairman Simon Noge, University of Swaziland economics lecturer

er Themba Manana and People's United Democratic Movement (Pudemo) regional chairman David Mngonmezulu were arrested.

Prior to his arrest, Noge said he was concerned that the government was continuing to incite warfare. He claimed that the government had started unjustified political harassment, saying police and soldiers raided his house on Monday and harassed his 10-year-old son.

Although it was business as usual in Mbabane and Manzini, the strike continued to affect the lowveld sugar belt and forestry operations.

Sugar industry spokesman Brian

Continued on Page 2

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Glasscock said the industry could lose more than R3m a day because farmers were unable to irrigate.

Employers are divided over the strike, with some acknowledging that

it was a political battle.

However, an SA employer with operations in Swaziland said business should not get involved in what was a job for the government.

Meanwhile, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions said it would send a delegation to Swaziland next week to call for the release of detained unionists.

More activists arrested in Swazi strike standoff

BD 7/2/97

(313)

Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE standoff between Swaziland's labour movement and government continued yesterday with more youth and labour activists arrested amid reports of a police and army presence in Mbabane, Manzini and surrounding towns.

A Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions spokesman, Thomas Dlamini, said 12 demonstrators were arrested in front of the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon.

The federation's supporters were arrested while protesting against the detention of two People's United Democratic Movement (Pudemo) activists and a Swaziland Youth Congress member yesterday.

Political organisations and trade unions yesterday vowed to continue a national strike embarked upon five days ago and said major industries — particularly the vital sugar belt incorporating Bent, Simunye and Mhlume, the pulp plantations at Bhunya and the Mondi-owned Peak Timbers — had all been brought to a standstill.

Pudemo president Mario Masuku

said the town of Nhlangano had not had any power since the announcement of the national strike and the capital Mbabane had reported disruptions to its power supply.

A meeting between labour, political and youth leaders and human rights representatives on the one hand, and government on the other, was still in progress yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was called to discuss the release of the activists and to initiate talks which it was hoped would lead to political changes in the country, a trade union spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that about 100 Congress of SA Trade Union members presented a memorandum to the Swaziland high commission in Pretoria yesterday condemning the arrest of union secretary general Jan Sithole and three senior colleagues at the weekend, and demanding the withdrawal of all charges against them.

The memorandum further demanded that the Swazi government scrap the Industrial Relations Act and the King's Decree of 1973, which Cosatu said prohibited political freedom.

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WORLD

Swaziland strike goes into fifth day as late-night talks fail

STAR FOREIGN SERVICE AND SAPA

Talks between the Swaziland government, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) and the country's chamber of commerce to end the national strike which started on Monday were adjourned at midnight last night, but are due to resume today.

Minister of Enterprise and Employment Rev Absalom Dlamini said the discussions had been cor-

dial and a number of issues had been raised by both sides.

The stayaway has been particularly effective in the sugar growing and forestry industries, where two affiliates of the SFTU have joined the strike.

Other major unions in commerce, industry and banking have ignored the SFTU strike call. Swaziland's main industrial area of Matsapa has not been affected by the strike.

Four arrested SFTU leaders face charges under the Public Order and Security Act for inciting a strike for which they could be imprisoned for up to six months.

The Act does not make provision for the granting of bail.

The four-day mass stayaway paralysed several industries, provoked sabotage of electricity supplies to large parts of the country and prompted the Congress of SA Trade Unions to call for a regional

blockade of the kingdom.

The SFTU's top leaders are all in jail but the highest-ranking official not in custody, acting secretary-general Barbara Dlamini, said the SFTU executive committee would be meeting a government delegation likely to include several cabinet ministers.

The stayaway was called to pressure the government into introducing democratic reforms in the country.

(313) Star 7/2/97

had been agreed to."

Union threat to blockade Swaziland

(313)
Bonile Ngqiyaza
11/2/97

THE Swazi authorities have been given an ultimatum to drop charges against trade union leaders or face industrial action, which could include a blockade by Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordinating Council affiliates.

Congress of SA Trade Unions spokesman Nwethu Mpati said yesterday that the council, which represents southern African trade unions, would meet President Nelson Mandela this afternoon in a bid to get him, in his capacity as Southern African Development Community chairman, to intervene in the Swazi dispute and secure the release of the leaders.

The council has criticised a "total lack of sensitivity" by the Swaziland government in its failure to address 27 demands — touching on labour, political and socioeconomic issues — communicated in 1993 by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

Meanwhile, the offices of an SA Broadcasting Corporation and British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Mbabane, Swaziland, were burgled on Friday evening.

The burglary followed the distribution of a pamphlet, in the name of banned People's United Democratic Movement, which allegedly threatened to assassinate reporters who reported favourably on the government over a trade union strike calling for multi-party democracy.

The strike — which entered its eighth day yesterday — has disrupted the vital sugar and forestry industries.

In another development, four trade union leaders appeared briefly in the Malkern Magistrate court and were remanded until Wednesday next week.

Six shot as Swazi strike turns violent

(3/3)

STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Star 12/12/97

Mbabane — The continuing Swazi-land workers' stayaway turned violent yesterday when police shot and injured six people attempting to disrupt essential services at the Ubombo Ranches sugar mill in the lowveld Lubombo region.

The six were hit in the legs by rifle fire and taken to hospital where one was reported by police to be in a serious condition.

The stayaway, led by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) to press its demands for democratic and union reform, goes into its 10th day today with no sign of a settlement. Yesterday's shootings are likely to aggravate tensions.

A police spokesman said when the strikers found the road to the company blocked by a contingent of about 50 members of the security forces in riot gear, and armed with rifles and batons, they became angry.

Ignoring warnings by police to stop, the crowd was said to have rushed at the police, hurling stones. A number of policemen were injured.

Today four leaders of the SFTU, imprisoned since last week, will appear in court again, charged with intimidating bus operators to join the stayaway.

It was learnt yesterday from very reliable sources that at their court appearance on Monday the four accused had been offered their freedom and the withdrawal of the charges against them by the government negotiating team, which has been continuing urgent talks with employers aimed at trying to defuse the crisis.

However, the four leaders refused and opted to return to prison. It is believed they did so because they have seen that their imprisonment has brought about unprecedented solidarity among their members.

Six shot as Swazi strike gets violent

313
FOREIGN SERVICE

ARC 12/2/97

Maseru - The Swaziland workers stayaway turned violent when police shot and injured six workers who were attempting to disrupt essential services at the Ubombo Ranches sugar mill in the country's lowveld Lubombo region.

The six were hit in the legs by rifle fire and taken to hospital where one was reported by police to be in a serious condition.

The stayaway, led by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) to press its demands for democratic and union reform, entered its 10th day yesterday with no sign of a settlement.

On Monday morning, several hundred striking workers armed with sticks and other weapons marched from the living quarters of the Lonrho-owned Ubombo Ranches sugar mill to the mill itself, chanting and singing slogans.

The mill has been shut down since the start of the stayaway but essential services have been maintained by agreement between the owners and the SFTU to prevent long-term damage.

Strikers had earlier resolved at a meeting to invade the mill and force remaining workers to join the stayaway. Police said when the strikers found the road to the company blocked by a contingent of about 50 members of the security forces in riot gear, they began hurling stones and a number of policemen were injured.

Police retaliated with teargas and fired warning shots but when this failed to stop the crowd they fired low with live ammunition, hitting six strikers in the legs. The crowd then scattered.

Police, crowds clash outside Swazi court

(313)
Star 13/2/97
SAPA

Mankayane

Swaziland riot police clashed with several hundred demonstrators outside the Mankayane Magistrates' Court, where four Swaziland Federation of Trade Union leaders appeared yesterday.

It was not immediately clear if there were any injuries, but a Sapa correspondent said police beat protesters with batons.

The SFTU called a national strike one-and-a-half weeks ago to demand rapid progress towards the establishment of a multiparty democracy in the kingdom.

On Monday, six workers were seriously injured when police opened fire at the Ubombo Ranches Sugar Company in Big Bend.

The four SFTU leaders - president Richard Nxumalo, his deputy Themba Msibi, secretary-general

Jan Sithole and his assistant Jabulani Nxumalo - appeared in court yesterday. Earlier, they had refused a conditional government offer for their freedom.

The leaders demanded an unconditional release and said they were awaiting a mandate from SFTU members.

The trial was postponed to today.

The prosecutor said he had not been served with the notice that the defence intended to apply for the charges to be dropped - on the grounds that the charge sheet did not name individuals.

The four have been charged with intimidating bus drivers during a meeting at Manzini on January 19.

Prosecutor Musa Nsibandze argued that he was not officially informed of the intended application and requested a postponement.

Swazi police clash with demonstrators

(313) BDI3/2197

MANKAYANE — Swaziland riot police clashed with several hundred demonstrators outside the Mankayane Magistrate's Court where four Swaziland Federation of Trade Union leaders appeared yesterday, witnesses said.

It was not clear whether there were any injuries, but a witness said police beat protesters with batons.

However, local police denied the reports of violence.

The four union federation leaders — president Richard Nxumalo, vice-president Thembe Msibi, secretary-general Jan Sithole and his assistant, Jabulani Nxumalo — face charges under the Public Order Act related to the 10-day illegal mass stayaway called by the federation to back demands for rapid progress towards the establishment of a multiparty democracy in the kingdom.

On Monday six workers were seriously injured when police opened fire at the Ubombo Ranches Sugar Company in Big Bend.

The four trade union leaders stand accused of intimidating bus drivers during a meeting at Manzini on January 19.

Prosecutor Musa Nsidandze said yesterday that he had not been served notice that the defence intended to apply for charges to be dropped on the grounds that the charge sheet did not name individuals. He requested a postponement.

Outside court crowds sang political songs and toyi-toyed. Meanwhile inside the courthouse, defence and prosecution lawyers spent two hours debating legal technicalities.

During the proceedings Nxumalo was sent outside to appeal to the crowd to quieten down.

The crowd blocked the main road and court gates, forcing the prisoners' vehicle to leave by a side entrance.

The case was postponed to today. — Sapa.

News on Swazi strike 'banned'

The Swaziland government has banned state-controlled radio and television from reporting on the continuing national strike, the Media Institute of Southern Africa said today.

The directive came from the cabinet. The ban was under a section of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act which bans all material likely to "incite the public against the government".

A senior journalist at the national radio station told Misa the Act was drafted and passed on

February 2 and implemented on February 3, the day the strike started.

"Although I may not confirm the ban, events at the television station indicate there is one," a senior broadcast official said.

Both he and his journalist colleague were too afraid to be named.

Misa said it had been informed by workers at the national TV station that several programmes focusing on the strike had to be shelved. - Sapa.

(313) Star 14/2/99

Union leaders' fate undecided

(313)

Reneé Grawitzky

BD 14/2/97

THE general strike in Swaziland enters its 12th day with no final decision handed down on the release of the senior leadership of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions whose fate will be decided upon today.

The Human Rights Commission yesterday condemned the arbitrary arrest and detention without bail of the leadership while a delegation from the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council was scheduled to meet the Swazi prime minister last night or today.

The delegation includes representatives from the National Council of Trade Unions and labour federation Cosatu.

The four leaders, including secretary-general Jan Sithole, face judgment in the Malkern Magistrate's Court today. They face charges of intimidation, with an alternative charge of molestation.

They allegedly intimidated bus operators by threatening at a general meeting that they would inform insurance companies not to honour any claim made by bus operators in the eventuality that buses were damaged during the strike. The four have been in prison since 31 January.

Cosatu called yesterday for the unconditional release of the leaders while the Swazi labour federation rejected a conditional government offer which provided for the leaders' release on condition that the strike was suspended for a 30-day cooling off period.

Sources said the federation leaders rejected this because they wanted the court to release them and drop the charges to show the world the charges were a farce.

Diplomatic sources said that there was concern about restoring stability to Swaziland to ensure that future investment was not jeopardised.

Cosatu ready to put up a wall around Swaziland

CP 16/2/97 (313)
By BHEKI MATSEBULA

THE CONGRESS of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has threatened to start a mass rolling blockade of all borders between South Africa and Swaziland on March 3 if the Swazi government refuses to release the four arrested Swaziland Federation of Trade Union Leaders and address the 27 demands submitted to the government three years ago.

This follows the Swazi government's apparent refusal to heed a call by Cosatu and international labour unions for the unconditional release of the SFTU leaders.

"We will mobilise and organise transport for our affiliates to block all border gates with Swaziland on March 3 should the Swazi government maintain its stubborn stand," said Cosatu's deputy secretary general, Zwelinzima Vavi.

SFTU president Richard Nxumalo, vice-president Themba Msi-bi, secretary general Jan Sithole and his assistant Jabulani Nxumalo were arrested two weeks ago for allegedly intimidating bus owners by telling them not to operate their buses during the mass stayaway which has been in force for two weeks.

Cosatu's threat to isolate Swaziland economically was supported by the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council, whose secretary general, Morgan Tsvangirai, said SATUC would

also mobilise its affiliates to do something about the labour crisis in Swaziland.

"We have given the Swaziland government two weeks to address the issues facing the country. It is unfortunate that we have to be so tough on them but they have shown they are not willing to co-operate. Therefore we will make sure that international pressure is placed on the government," he said.

Tsvangirai told reporters that his delegation, which arrived this week to hold talks with the Swaziland government, had been snubbed by the prime minister, Sibusiso Dlamini, who refused to meet them on Thursday and Friday to discuss the labour unrest.

"That shows that the Swaziland government is reluctant to go back to the negotiating table. It has even ignored South African President Nelson Mandela and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, who advised King Mswati III to release the SFTU leaders," he said.

□ Meanwhile, King Mswati III on Friday threatened to deal firmly with foreign trade unions, including Cosatu and SATUC, which he said were interfering in Swaziland's internal affairs.

Speaking for the first time after a two-month seclusion in honour of the Incwala ceremony, the 28-year-old absolute monarch said the interference was uncalled for and they should leave Swaziland alone.

Magistrate accused of bias in Swazi unionists' trial (313)

By BHEKI MATSEBULA

MAGISTRATE Mcabango Dlamini, presiding over the trial of four Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions leaders, was on Friday asked to recuse himself because he had allegedly already developed an attitude on the matter.

Lawyer Peter Dunseith, representing the four SFTU leaders, asked Dlamini to recuse himself after Dlamini had refused to hear any submission by the defence when he ruled that the charge sheet be amended.

Investigations by City Press revealed that Dlamini, who is the son

of the late Prince Sozisa Dlamini who headed the supreme council of state after the death of King Sobhuza II, had been given instructions to delay the case by authorities from the royal family.

The investigations also revealed that Dlamini had been constantly consulting with the authorities.

Swazi workers vote to go on striking

Reneé Grawitzkys

THE general strike in Swaziland enters its third week today after about 3 000 plantation workers voted yesterday to continue with the action affecting sugar, pulp and forestry — seen to be the crucial sectors of the economy.

The decision comes in the wake of the further postponement of the case against the Swaziland Federation of Trade Union leaders who have been in prison for about three weeks.

A source in Swaziland said workers were initially divided over whether to continue with the strike. He said workers were also criticising King Mswati for failing to resolve the continuing dispute.

In his opening address to Parliament on Friday, the king said there was a need to end the industrial action because people in the

country were using labour for their own political aspirations.

The trade union federation called the strike in response to the government's failure to agree to 25 out of 27 demands initially presented in 1993.

The demands focused on both political and labour rights.

Divergent opinions exist as to whether such demands have been addressed with government indicating at the outset that it was not in a position to discuss political demands with the union movement.

Mswati said the Southern African Development Community was not set up to intervene in the affairs of member states, but that it should provide sympathy and support, not intervention.

He said the country's neighbours, who shared this sentiment, did not support elements in their own countries causing trouble in

Swaziland and that they would discourage it.

The case against the federation's leadership will continue tomorrow after the magistrate, Mcabango Dlamini, agreed to recuse himself after an application by the defence lawyer because the magistrate is the son of a Swazi Prince Sozisa. Newspapers suggested he might be biased.

Meanwhile, the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) has indicated that it is planning to blockade Swaziland's borders later this month.

After Cosatu's executive committee meeting last week, the leadership said workers in SA were recipients of solidarity action and thus could not sit back as worker rights were trampled in Swaziland.

Cosatu said there were no boundaries for solidarity action.

'Unpopular' Swazi trial goes ahead

(313) Star 20/2/97

By Tom Holloway

Mbabane — The crippling Swaziland national strike which is attracting threats of international sanctions and unfavourable attention, went into its 16th day yesterday, as the trial of the four top unionists who launched the strike began at last in Manzini.

In Cape Town President Mandela hosted a summit of regional heads of state yesterday where the Swaziland crisis was discussed, and a delegation of international trade unionists left Swaziland yesterday after meeting government and union leaders to try to end the crisis.

Ten days ago Mandela and Mozambican President Joaquim

Chissano met Swazi King Mswati III in Pretoria and are believed to have urged him to release the four leaders of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which organised the stayaway.

SA Government sources say the king agreed to do so but was dissuaded by powerful advisers, possibly including his mother.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions has threatened to launch a blockade into and out of Swaziland on March 3 if the four unionists are not released, and claims to have the support of Mozambican unions.

A blockade would do further damage to an economy which has already lost more than R80-million, according to the Cham-

ber of Commerce, mainly in lost production from the sugar and timber-pulp industries, where worker absence has been almost total, and in related industries such as sweet and cold-drink factories.

In Manzini the delayed trial of the four top SFTU leaders began yesterday. They are accused — under harsh new laws which carry life sentences and allow no bail — of intimidating bus operators to obey the call for a stay-away.

The government's continued imprisonment of the unionists is losing it public support. Most Swazis feel it should have withdrawn the charges. — Star Foreign Service.

Intrigue, ambition cloud Swazi strike

SWAZILAND has all the ingredients of a melodrama that could turn into a tragedy — palace intrigue, secret cabals, nepotism, different groupings vying for power, and a lack of transparency and accountability in decision-making.

The country is in the midst of a strike in which workers are demanding democratic reforms.

Swaziland, ruled like a fiefdom from bygone centuries and one of the world's last absolute monarchies, is a country lost in a time warp. Those opposing change, in the form of a western-style democracy, argue that an African form of democracy exists in the tinkhundla system.

Since 1973, the tinkhundla system, designed to facilitate the practice of western and traditional styles of government, has been in place. It provides for the nomination of individuals by the king, and election of representatives to parliament by the people. Deputy Prime Minister Simon Nxumalo says this system represents the trust form of a democracy, as the people can elect individuals of their choice, and voting is not based on party lines.

The growing call for a change highlights the problems inherent in the system. Real power is centred on the traditional structures and appears to make a mockery of parliament. Nxumalo rejects this view, and says the sovereignty of parliament is protected.

The ruling class and sections of business take comfort in this, and pride themselves that Swaziland has not "gone the same way" as other African countries.

It may well be true that the country has not been racked by civil war or socialist-style misrule. However, it faces many of the economic ills and other problems common to Africa, such as poverty,

Labour protests in Swaziland have hit at the heart of the country's economy. René Gravitzky looks at the complex political issues behind the protests

ty, unemployment estimated at between 30% and 40%, high levels of illiteracy and AIDS.

Over the years, folklore has developed around a number of scams in which the royal family is alleged to have been inadvertently involved, including the purchase of a nonexistent ship.

No one in power is willing to take responsibility for the current strike which has hit at the heart of the Swazi economy at a time when the growth rate is falling way behind the birth rate — one of the highest in the world. The high population growth could be partly due to the fact that women have few rights and still fall under customary law, which prevents them from owning a business or borrowing money without permission from a husband or father.

The strike, called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and now in its third week, centres on a range of worker and political demands. It is largely politically motivated. The union federation and a number of organisations aligned to the Swaziland Democratic Alliance, including the People's United Democratic Alliance (Pudemo) and the Swaziland Youth Congress, are calling for a constitutional monarchy, the repeal of the 1973 royal decree which effectively bans political parties, and the formation of a Codesa-style constitutional convention. It is at best sceptical about, at worst strongly opposed to, the constitutional review commission appointed by King

Mswati in August last year.

The traditionalists, in the form of the 280 chiefs, the royal family and those who receive their patronage, fear losing their positions of power. Against them are ranged the "young radicals" and intellectuals, influenced by the political transformation in SA and other southern African countries, who are pushing for a multiparty democracy. This camp includes a growing number of entrepreneurs or aspirant entrepreneurs.

One senses that Swazi businessmen, who do not receive patronage or have a link to the royal family, see themselves as not being treated with the same consideration given to South Africans and other foreigners. As with most African countries, big foreign businesses appear to have easier access to those in power, and could receive certain concessions.

The decision to embark on the strike, made by about 1 000 people at a rally, brings into question the legitimacy and democratic nature of the union federation and the alliance. Before the strike, the federations' affiliates appeared divided on whether to take part. Only after the arrest of the leadership did support for the strike increase.

Pudemo's power base is also uncertain, with observers taking the view it is not properly organised and is riding on the back of the unions. Internal power plays and increasing evidence of political intolerance and individual ambition have become evident. Claims of intolerance have also



PO 21/2/97

MSWATI

been lodged against the federation of trade unions, which barred a conservative cultural youth group from holding a rally organised to discuss how the status quo could be maintained. An observer said such actions were not surprising, as democratic principles had not been taken root. "One may ask whether such an organisation will be able to create a climate of democracy if it comes to power," he said.

The strike also highlights the role of the SA Development Community, with specific reference to the position of SA and the role played by the Congress of SA Trade Unions, the SA Communist Party and the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League. The Swazi government claims to have evidence that SA organisa-

tions helped Swazi dissidents make bombs, and blames them for trying to destabilise the country.

Former Pudemo president Kision Shongwe says Swaziland should be the last to complain about countries like SA interfering in its domestic affairs. In 1982 Swaziland undertook to co-operate with the SA security forces in fighting insurgents based in Swaziland. "Was this not a domestic SA affair?" he asks.

Swazi government sources counter with the reminder of the role the country played in supporting the ANC when it was banned.

Discussions between SA's President Nelson Mandela and Mswati have been shrouded in secrecy, but observers believe the SA government is urging the king to introduce political change.

The appointment of the constitutional review commission after last year's strike indicated that the king acknowledged something was amiss. Unfortunately, the commission, given the task of drafting a new constitution within two years, spent the first six months deciding on matters relating to the commissioners' salaries and benefits. Some commissioners might be upset that they will receive R4 000 a month instead of the anticipated R18 000.

The commission has also come under severe criticism from Pudemo and others, who see it as a token gesture. They say the commission was given its terms of reference and that members were hand-picked by the king, with con-

servatives dominating its membership. Swazi sources said "commissioners were not picked by the king" but were chosen from lists sent to the king from all interest groups invited to nominate three people. Commissioners are not allowed to represent organisations, but must act as individuals.

Pudemo says it will not participate until the 1973 decree is repealed. However, it was initially divided over participation. An observer says the process should be given a chance. "But it should become more inclusive, with all interest groups represented."

Mswati has said he is prepared to withdraw the decree if that is the will of the people. He has also indicated that the terms of reference and composition of the commission are open for discussion.

Nxumalo says the commission will soon begin gathering submissions from the people: "They will tell us what they want," he says.

Asking the people what they would like to see in a constitution could be problematic, given the levels of illiteracy in Swaziland and the fact that the government has not initiated civic or voter education. Nxumalo counters that it is a mistake for modern democracies to assume that if someone is not educated he does not know what he wants.

Some sectors of Swazi society claim the king wants to move towards a democracy but is hampered by the queen mother and the elders. They argue that the federation of trade unions does not help the situation by "jumping the gun" and moving "too fast".

Whether they are merely intent on protecting the king is unclear. One thing is certain: Swaziland is becoming increasingly divided and faces a bleak economic future unless its problems are solved soon.

Unions gun for Mswati III

The struggle for democracy in Swaziland is becoming increasingly violent, reports **Ruaridh Nicoll** in Mbabane

INTERNATIONAL trade union leaders flew out of Swaziland this week threatening to blockade the kingdom unless its monarch, King Mswati III, releases four of their colleagues from prison and reforms the archaic system of government.

Four union leaders were jailed for intimidation following a strike lasting nearly three weeks. The courts passed a law after they were arrested, preventing them from being bailed.

Among the detained is Jani Sit-hole, general secretary of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

Swaziland is the only "absolute" monarchy left in sub-Saharan Africa. Mswati III rules through family and friends, maintaining his reign by refusing to allow the formation of political parties. Only the king's mother, the "Indlovukati" or "Great She-Elephant", has the power to veto his decisions.

"In the bad old days of apartheid South Africa and the terrible war in Mozambique, Swaziland was looked upon as a calm place," one resident said. "Now it sticks out like a sore thumb."

Even Nelson Mandela is losing patience with what is now seen as a



Close neighbours, poles apart: King Mswati III with Nelson Mandela

regional embarrassment. Last week he called the situation in his tiny neighbour "explosive".

On Tuesday an American delegate from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions stood in the courthouse in the city of Manzini, watching in amazement as the four union leaders' trial failed to start. The prisoners had been driven to the wrong court.

The Swazi union federation called the strike to try to force the government to introduce democracy. It has presented 27 demands to the government, including an end to the 24-year state of emergency, and makes a thinly veiled reference to corruption among the ruling class.

Although the king often appears at the royal kraal dressed traditionally in

a cloak and feathers, he spends more time in his palaces with his six wives.

He is still liked by the majority of his subjects. Even the reformers only want his position to change from an absolute to constitutional monarch.

There have been rumours that the king was not informed about the arrests before they occurred, that they were actually carried out by a couple of lackeys. But workers do not allow that to excuse the police shooting and wounding six strikers in Big Bend earlier this month.

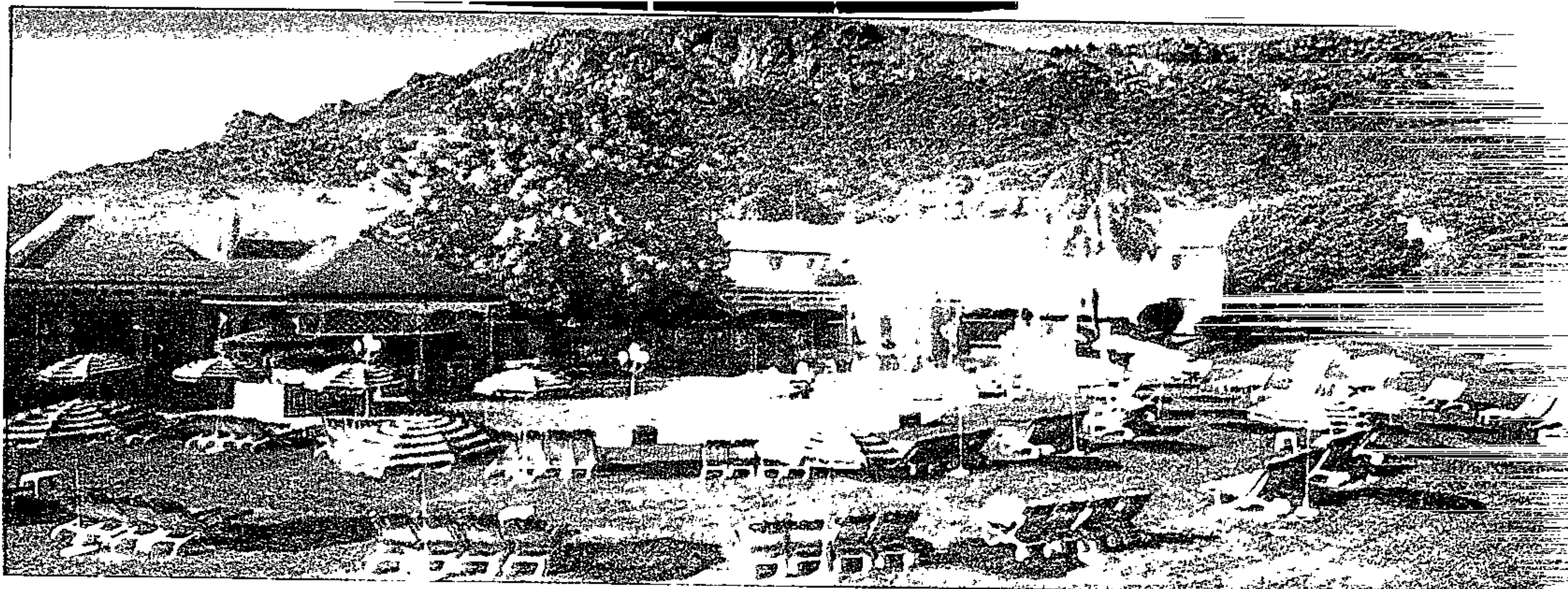
One striker unwrapped a piece of cloth to reveal empty cartridges. "Do they look like rubber bullets?" he asked, refuting police claims.

One of the federation's national executive members, Moses Bhembe, said he saw signs of compromise in the king. "Last week he went to Pretoria to meet Mandela."

Mandela is thought to have told the king that if he released the four, he need not worry about a boycott by South African trade unions. The king then offered the union leaders a deal where they would be released if they ended the strike, but they rejected it.

With each successive strike violence has increased and now business leaders are worried that irretrievable damage will be inflicted upon the Swazi economy.

Unions step up action, PAGE B1



Unhappy valley: Sun International supports moves towards a negotiated settlement in the Swaziland strike

Union's Swazi threat

M+G 21-27/2/97 (BM) (313)



South African companies are under pressure to take a stand on the Swazi strike, reports **Max Gebhardt**

SOUTH AFRICA'S Transport and General Workers Union has vowed to intensify its campaign against South African companies invested in Swaziland as the Swazi general strike moves into its fourth week. The union will meet shop stewards next week to discuss plans for a "blacking action" against various South African companies in solidarity with the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

The union's general secretary, Randall Howard, said it was considering proposals whereby union members would refuse to transport South African goods destined for Swaziland.

It has already identified two companies, Unitrans and Cargo Carriers, in an attempt to make South African groups take a stand on the labour unrest in Swaziland. The union has called on both companies to use their strategic position in the Swazi economy to "publicly condemn the dictatorial and repressive actions of the Swaziland government" and call on the Swazi government to "ensure full respect for

human and trade-union rights".

The Swazi union decided to call for a two-day national strike in response to the government's failure to agree to 25 demands tabled by the union in 1994. Central to the union's demand is the revoking of the 1973 decree banning opposition parties and trade unions in the kingdom.

Acting head of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Baba Dlamini, said multinationals investing in Swaziland were "cowards" for not condemning the Swazi government's actions during the strike. Four of the union's most senior members were arrested on charges of alleged intimidation.

"We will place every possible pressure on South African companies invested in Swaziland to take a stand against the tyrannical Swazi government," she said.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions said a one-day blockade of the landlocked kingdom would be held early next month. A representative said the trade union was also busy identifying companies invested in Swaziland in an effort to place pressure on them to call for democratic reform in the kingdom.

But South African companies contacted by the *Mail & Guardian* refused

to be drawn into events in Swaziland, saying it could harm their business interests there. They would continue doing "business as usual". All were unwilling to publicly condemn the Swazi government's actions.

Sappi chairman Eugene van As said the forestry group had been affected by the strike, which was costing the company a great deal of money in lost revenue.

"Sappi is disturbed that the two sides haven't been able to settle their differences and we would like to see the parties resolve their differences peacefully and speedily."

Unitrans chairman, Eduardo Gutiérrez-García, said in a letter to Howard: "... the interests of the trade unions and those of employers do not always run parallel to each other because ... the unions act in pursuit of certain political objectives which, worthy as they may be, could not be publicly embraced by business enterprises ..."

García did say it would use whatever influence and power of persuasion it had in the Swazi government to bring about a just and fair resolution of the current dispute.

Cargo Carriers joint chief executive Murray Bolton cautioned against med-

dling in the affairs of a foreign country.

"The only way that the Swaziland situation will be resolved is for appropriate independent third parties to be brought in to initiate negotiations and work towards a tripartite consensus on a future dispensation," Bolton said in a letter to the union.

South African Breweries also said it had been adversely affected by the labour unrest but had managed to gear up production in the weeks leading up to the general strike.

Robert Smith, financial director for the Africa interests, said it was sympathetic to workers' demands but would prefer to remain apolitical.

"We prefer to remain out of the political arena for commercially prudent reasons," Smith said.

The company had instituted a no work, no-pay policy but said no disciplinary action would be taken against those workers absent from work during the strike.

Hotel giant Sun International is also taking a neutral stance, supporting a negotiated settlement.

Group human resource director Rob Rimmer said it would be foolhardy to adopt a confrontational stand towards the Swazi government. The unions, he said, were championing political change, which fell outside the ambit of a company's responsibilities.

'We will place every possible pressure on South African companies'

Thousands of striking Swazis facing dismissal

Reneé Grawitzky

(313)
B0 25/2/97

THOUSANDS of striking Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) members face dismissal, while four detained federation leaders could be released tomorrow if a magistrate decides to throw their case out of court.

The strike, in its fourth week, backing a range of worker and political demands, has

been concentrated mainly in the sugar, pulp and forestry sectors. Employer sources said thousands of sugar workers had been warned on Sunday to return to work by yesterday or face dismissal.

Meanwhile, Swaziland Engineering, Metal and Allied Workers Union secretary-general Mary Groming said she had been fired by Steel & Wire International.

SFTU spokesman Barbara Dlamini said last night that it was still unclear whether any workers had been dismissed. She said the union had tried, but failed, to contact firms like Simunye, which had issued ultimatums to striking workers.

Reports of violence were received when some striking workers attempted to return to work at Bulembu asbestos mine yesterday morning.

The state yesterday concluded its case against the four SFTU leaders who were arrested and charged with intimidating and molesting bus operators and owners into heeding the strike call.

Dlamini said the magistrate would present his finding tomorrow and it was expected that the leaders would be released.

Sources said that during the trial police allegedly gave contradictory evidence as to whether all the leaders had intimidated the bus operators. Dlamini said none of the bus owners claimed they had been intimidated and even went as far as disassociating themselves from the trial.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for King Mswati III's birthday on April 19. Newspapers in Swaziland yesterday ran tenders for the supply of meat, snacks and drinks for 3 500 guests at his garden party at Siteki.

Cosatu blockaders arrive at Oshoek

A bus-load of members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) arrived this morning at the Swaziland-Mpumalanga border post of Oshoek, where they plan a blockade in support of striking Swazi unionists.

Officials at border posts near Pongola and Golela in KwaZulu Natal said there was no protest by 7am. There were several protesters on the Swaziland side of the border at Golela.

Both Pongola and Golela officials expect

Cosatu protesters later in the day.

Cosatu secretary-general Sam Shilowa on Friday said Cosatu's support of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions' strike would start last night.

Yesterday SFTU called off its month-long national strike from Wednesday.

The resolution was taken at a meeting in Tabankhulu of 4 000 workers. SFTU president Richard Nxumalo and secretary-general Jan Sithole briefed workers.

Union leaders urged workers to accept proposals to end the strike to avoid further damage to companies with which they had no dispute.

The workers were called to end action on Wednesday to give the SFTU committee time to report back tomorrow to the government's negotiating team. But the workers resolved to continue action indefinitely in the form of a two-day stayaway on the first and second of each month. -Sapa.

(313) Star 3/3/97

Swazi workers decide to end ^{3/3} strike 3/3/97

MBABANE

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions yesterday decided it would call off its month-long national strike from Wednesday.

The strike has been almost solely confined to the sugar industry and the forestry sector, both major foreign exchange earners for Swaziland.

The resolution was taken at a mass meeting in Tabankhulu, northern Swaziland, attended by about 4000 workers from the sugar and forestry sectors.

SFTU president Richard Nxumalo and secretary general Jan Sithole briefed workers on events since the strike began on February 3. A vote was then taken on the future of the strike.

Union leaders urged workers to accept proposals to end the strike to avoid further damage to companies with which they had no dispute.

The workers decided to end the strike on Wednesday to give the SFTU executive committee time to report back tomorrow to the government's negotiating team about the decision.

The workers, however, resolved to continue their protest action indefinitely in the form of a two-day stayaway on the first and second of each month until the government agreed to all the SFTU's 27 political and labour-related demands.

The SFTU has demanded among others a free political climate, the legalisation of trade union activity and an accord from the Swaziland government that an agreement between employers, labour and government be implemented. The government has already stated at various meetings with the SFTU that it will not discuss political issues with trade unions as these could only be discussed at appropriate forums.

Sapa

Unions halt trucks (313) at Swaziland border

Cosatu protest backs strikers

ARG 3/3/97

Johannesburg – Unionists pushing for political and labour reform in Swaziland imposed a border blockade today, preventing trucks from entering the mountain kingdom from South Africa, border officials said.

At least 20 trucks trying to cross into Swaziland at the Oshoek border post in Mpumalanga had been forced to return by demonstrating members of the Congress of SA Trade Unions, police said.

Police were reported to have fired tear-gas and stun grenades to disperse about 60 Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions members at the Golela border post. This could not be confirmed with police.

At Golela, at least 16 trucks were being held up – eight on each side of the border – by placard-carrying Cosatu members staging the protest in support of the SFTU campaign for political reforms.

Home Affairs official Flip van Wyk said only light vehicles were being let through.

Earlier at Oshoek border post in

Mpumalanga, demonstrators had tried to stop the flow of traffic, but had been warned by police, a border post spokeswoman said.

“We warned them they were committing an offence and they stopped,” she said.

Motorists were being advised to use the border posts at Nerston and Mahamba.

“We do foresee that there might be trouble. We are taking precautionary measures,” she said.

About 30 people were demonstrating at the post, singing and toyi-toying as armed police kept watch.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Joe Modise, who is on a goodwill visit to troops along the Swaziland and Mozambican border, declined media requests to fly over the blockade at Golela.

“Swaziland is a friendly neighbour of South Africa. I cannot interfere in the affairs of Swaziland,” Mr Modise told reporters before taking off in an air force Oryx helicopter. – Sapa

SA workers to blockade Swazi border today

(313) 60 3/3/97
Renee Grawitzky

THE blockade of Swaziland's borders gets under way today as thousands of Cosatu and Swaziland Federation of Trade Union members converge on border posts to put pressure on the Swazi government to meet worker and political demands.

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) said thousands of its members from KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga would be bused to the Oshoek and Pongola border posts while Swazi-

land federation members would picket at Oshoek and Lomahasha.

Swaziland employer sources expressed concern about the potential for violence today if the Swazi government viewed the action by Swazi workers as an attempt to unseat it and not as a means to push for political reform.

The blockade organised by Cosatu in consultation with the SA Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee and the Swazi federation was intended to

Continued on Page 2

Swaziland (313)

60 3/3/97
Continued from Page 1

highlight the fact that some union demands had still not been met.

Cosatu general secretary Sam Shilowa said on Friday that besides border blockades, members of affiliates in the clothing and textile, food, retail and transport sectors would refuse to handle goods entering or leaving Swaziland. The leaders of these unions confirmed that members would participate in such action while Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Randall Howard said that drivers from Cargo Carriers and Unitrans had agreed not to drive trucks in Swaziland.

An employer source said a one-day blockade would have a marginal impact as people had advance warning of the blockade. However a longer blockade could have far more impact.

Between 1 500 and 4 000 Swazi federation members gathered at a government sanctioned rally in Thabankulu yesterday to be addressed by the federation's leaders. Members resolved that the four-week strike would be suspended from Wednesday. However, it was resolved that general strikes would be held for the first two days of every month until the government had agreed to demands.

Sugar industry sources were unable to quantify the full impact of the four-week strike, but indicated that the amount lost was "money Swaziland could ill-afford".

Unions blockade SA, Swaziland border

BB 4/3/97

(3/3)

Reneé Grawitzky

HUNDREDS of Congress of SA Trade Union (Cosatu) and Swaziland Federation of Trade Union members brought trade between SA and Swaziland to a virtual standstill yesterday as trucks were prevented from entering or leaving Swaziland.

The blockade, which resulted in the closure of a number of border posts, stone throwing and the use of tear gas, was intended to highlight the Swazi federation's demands for political and labour reform.

Swaziland police spokesman Khisimusi Ndlovu said police used tear gas

to disperse demonstrators attempting to stop private vehicles at the Golela/Lavumisa border post with KwaZulu-Natal. Unconfirmed reports of tear gassing were received from several other border posts.

A spokesman for the SA side of the Oshoek border post said about 75 trucks crossed the border into Swaziland every Monday. Six crossed yesterday before the blockade started and the rest were turned away, while 12-14 stayed at the border post.

SA Broadcasting Corporation television reported that 300-400 Cosatu members, mainly from Witbank and Nelspruit, blockaded the Oshoek post.

Reports from Swaziland about the number of Swazi federation members involved in the action at border posts varied from 150 to thousands. The largest turnout was at Golela, Ngwenya and at Oshoek where 150 demonstrators gathered.

Sources said a number of roadblocks had been set up in various parts of the country as well as a roadblock on the SA side of the Oshoek border post.

The Swazi government condemned Cosatu's role, saying this amounted to interference by the SA government. Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said Cosatu was independent and government would not interfere in its actions.

Nzo backs action by Cosatu at Swaziland border

(813)

STAFF REPORTERS AND SABA

Golela - Twenty trucks trying to cross into Swaziland at the Oshoek border post in Mpumalanga yesterday were forced to turn back by demonstrating Cosatu members, police said.

And at the Golela border post, 16 lorries were held up on both sides of the border by placard-carrying Cosatu.

It had called the blockade in solidarity with Swaziland trade unions' demand for democratic reforms.

Thousands of Swazi workers have been on strike over the past weeks in an effort to make the government implement reforms.

A SAPS spokesman at the Golela border post in KwaZulu Natal said Swazi police had fired teargas at members of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions after they converged on the border.

The protesters lifted the blockade at Golela at about 3pm.

At the Oshoek border post, about 150 people had gathered by the end of the day and succeeded in turning back several trucks.

Cosatu assistant secretary-general Zwelinzima Vavi, who led a group of protesters at Oshoek, hailed the blockade as a success. Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo defended the Cosatu action, saying it did not amount to

Star 4/3/97

Talks on Swazi unions' call for reform collapse

(313) ALL 6/3/97

Durban - Scheduled talks here on Swaziland trade union demands for democracy in the kingdom collapsed when government representatives failed to turn up, a unionist said.

Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) official Sipho Mamba said the government delegation had sent a letter yesterday saying they never received an agenda for the talks.

Government sources were not available for comment.

A nationwide strike, called a month ago by the federation to force the government to speed up democratic reform, ended yesterday when workers returned to the hard-hit sugar and timber industries.

The unions have given the government a list of 27 demands that include the repeal of a 1973 royal decree which vested all state powers in the monarchy and banned political parties.

King Mswati III has set up a constitutional review commission to make recommendations on setting up a constitutional democracy. The process will take two years. - Reuter

Swaziland faces another stayaway and blockade

Reneé Grawitzky

(313)

BD 2/4/97

SWAZILAND could be hit by further industrial action and border blockades in a further attempt to put pressure on the government to agree to outstanding worker and political demands tabled by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

The federation has called for a two day blockade and stayaway, starting tomorrow, as insufficient progress has been made in discussions. Since the suspension of the five-week strike on March 3 — which cost the economy an estimated R100m — the parties have met only once.

Government spokesman Meshack Shongwe said a meeting on March 13 had been postponed after the federation failed to recall the contents of an agreement reached after last year's general strike in which the parties acknowledged the impact of industrial action on the economy.

Subsequent planned meetings did not materialise as government arrived late.

The federation has been invited to attend a meeting tomorrow. The government has indicated that the blockade was illegal and that it would ensure the economy was not disrupted.

The federation suspended the strike last month on the basis that it would call a strike on the first two days of every month until government had agreed to its demands. It was meeting last night to take a final decision on the planned action for tomorrow.

Swazi unionists to block borders

Mbabane - Swazi union militants said yesterday they would blockade borders with SA and Mozambique for two days beginning today in a bid to force democratic and labour reforms out of Swaziland's

King Mswati III.

Organisers said the move had been planned to force government representatives to engage in talks with the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions. - Sapa-AFP.

(313) Star 3/4/97

Swaziland finally comes in from cold over women's rights

Star 24/4/97

(312)

Tardy monarch agrees to ratify convention which outlaws gender discrimination

SAPA-IPS

Mbabane, Swaziland

In the tiny mountain kingdom of Swaziland it has taken audience after audience with King Mswati III for women to convince him that women's rights are human rights.

When women's groups first went to see the king so that the country could finally put its seal on the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw), the young monarch reportedly asked: "What's Cedaw?"

He has finally promised to sign and ratify Cedaw this year, making Swaziland the last country in the 12-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) to do so.

Ironically, it was in Swaziland

that government officials and members of non-governmental groups from the 12 SADC countries came together for a meeting that ended at the weekend to see how to integrate gender into the regional community's agenda.

SADC comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The conference on "gender strategies for the implementation of the (sub-regional) plan of action" was the third in a series of SADC meetings that have focused on gender-related issues. The first was last May in Botswana, and the second was held prior to the February 1997 SADC council of ministers meeting in Windhoek, Namibia.

Like the women of Swaziland,

men and women who attended the Mbabane conference noted that there were still quite a few doors to be knocked on throughout the region before headway is made.

"I have not seen much effort to integrate gender into SADC's programmes, especially in the area of agriculture and food security," said Dorcas Mbozi of the policy and planning division in Zambia's ministry of agriculture.

"We have an SADC desk within the ministry and this is where we should be getting information on SADC's initiatives to integrate gender into its programmes. But I've seen no information on SADC's gender position for the agricultural sector," she added.

Mbozi pointed out that if this was the case in one sector and in one country alone, one could

imagine the lack of information and awareness at the regional level about SADC's efforts to take gender on board.

Dudu Simelane of the Council of Swaziland Churches echoed this need for SADC to sell itself better within the region.

"Everyone within SADC needs to be aware of the importance of gender and what SADC is doing," she said. For things to get moving "it will take more than just a few" of the region's roughly 133 million people to be informed.

And those pushing gender awareness along with the need for mechanisms to mainstream gender regionally should not forget the youth, said Sakinah Morris of the Co-ordinating Association of Non-governmental Organisations in Swaziland.

ILO cites six nations including Swaziland for abuses of labour

BD 20/6/97

(313)

GENEVA — Swaziland is one of six countries cited for labour abuses by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) application of standards committee.

In its report to this year's ILO conference in Geneva, the committee "determined that the nonapplication by Iran, Myanmar, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and Swaziland of fundamental international labour standards, including through forced labour, discrimination and denial of the right to organise, were a cause of special concern", the organisation said.

Under the heading "Swaziland — C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention," the committee noted with concern that provisions of Swaziland's Industrial Relations Act "contained provisions that violated the fundamental principles of Freedom of Association, despite a direct contacts mission undertaken to the country in October 1996 ..."

"In response to accusations of an overall climate of fear and intimidation (relating to) trade union activity, including such acts as violence against, and administrative dissolution of, trade union organisations, the committee expressed its deep concern for the numerous and major discrepancies between national law and practice on the one hand, and the provisions of ILO Convention 87 on the other," the organisation said.

The committee urged Swaziland's government to respect the civil liberties essential to implementation of the convention "and to take all measures necessary to eliminate the restrictions on the right of workers to constitute organisations of their free choice, to hold meetings and to demonstrate peacefully".

The committee cited three of the six countries — Myanmar, Nigeria and Sudan — as cases of "continued failure to implement ratified conventions". However, the committee "also noted with satisfaction that in a number of cases, including many involving basic human rights, governments had introduced changes to their law and practice".

In response to serious and long-standing accusations of forced and slave labour in Sudan, the committee said: "The accusations against Sudan involve trading in slaves and the imposition of slavery, servitude and forced labour on people from the Dinka, Shilluk and Nuer tribes and the tribes of the Nuba mountains in southern Sudan."

Committee members cited evidence from witnesses and first-hand accounts which testified to gross human rights abuses encouraged or directly inflicted by the Sudanese government and its security forces.

"The committee said it had often been called upon to respond to the accusations that forced labour was being imposed with the complicity or indifference of the government and that the same allegations had been made in the various reports of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation in Sudan, and in comments made by the World Confederation of Labour," the statement said.

On Iran, the ILO said that in the committee hearings, it was alleged the "Islamic Republic of Iran continued to practise systematic discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, religion and political opinion". In light of the gravity of the accusations, the committee strongly urged Iran's government to accept a direct contacts mission as soon as possible.

Regarding Morocco, the committee said it "regretted with deep concern the large number of complaints concerning measures of antiunion discrimination and interference in trade union activities, despite the government having undertaken to submit a draft labour code to parliament in order to bring Morocco's legislation into full conformity" with the relevant convention.

Nigeria was cited in a special paragraph for nonobservance of Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, and for continued failure to implement the relevant convention.

The committee called on the Nigerian government to accept without delay a direct contacts mission to examine the trade union situation in that country, including the situation of imprisoned union leaders, the ILO said. — Sapa.

Swaziland govt agrees to amend its controversial 1996 labour law

(313)
Banele Giningza

BD 28/8/97

MBABANE — The Swaziland government has agreed to amend the Industrial Relations Act of 1996 which has led to two mass stayaways.

Both labour and business have opposed the act. Labour says it infringes on workers' rights by preventing strike action and requires government approval of union affiliation. It also defines the public service as an essential service.

Business objects to the mandatory reinstatement of dismissed workers and what it terms government interference in settling industrial disputes.

A showdown could be imminent as the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), which led the worker stayaways, has demanded a complete redrafting of the legislation, while government has conceded only to accommodating some amendments.

Cyril Kunene, principal secretary at the enterprise and employment ministry, said the government would like to involve all stakeholders. These include the SFTU, the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as the Federation of Swaziland Employers, all which have proposed amendments to the legislation.

"Following the submission of the proposal for amendment of the Industrial Relations Act of 1996 by the labour advisory board to the ministry, government has now considered the amendments," Kunene said.

The government believed they could be implemented by amending rather than redrafting the law, he said.

The SFTU has called a mass meeting for August 31 to demand that the act be re-written.

The Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry is optimistic about a better industrial relations environment following agreement to amend the legislation. It anticipates further meetings with government to thrash out outstanding issues, chamber CE Harvey Bird said.

Police block strike rally in Swaziland

FROM AP-DOW JONES

(313)
CT (B2) 14/10/97
Mbabane—Police set up roadblocks and prevented Swazi students from meeting on Sunday as the small mountain kingdom prepared for another round of labour strikes.

Two separate nationwide labour strikes were expected yesterday to focus on the low wages of teachers and the general lack of political reforms.

John Sithole, the secretary-general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, said last week workers would retaliate if police used violence.

Kimber Frazer of The Times said that on Sunday police had stopped and searched cars in the capital city of Mbabane, but there were no arrests.

Frazer also said that in the commercial capital of Manzini police prevented students from meeting at a public park to discuss the strike.

Labour and opposition groups have been pushing for years for a new constitution that would set up a multiparty democracy while preserving the monarchy ruled by King Mswati III.

The latest strikes were headed by the Swaziland National Association of Teachers, which planned a 35-day strike to coincide with yesterday's start of graduation examinations for lower-level high-school students.

The teachers want an 18 percent pay increase, dating back to last year, and will settle for nothing less, said Meshack Masuku, the chairman of the teachers' union. The government offered an 8 percent increase after a similar month-long strike this year.

Students have been protesting against the expected examination disruptions, with demonstrations and riots throughout last week, The Times reported. It estimated about 5 000 students would be affected by the strike.

The strike by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which will coincide with the teachers' strike, intends to call attention to long-simmering demands that King Mswati cancel a 1973 decree banning political parties and giving the monarch absolute power.

Musa Hlophe, the executive director of the Federation of Swaziland Employers, said he expected workers to return after two days. But Sithole said the strike would continue until the 1973 decree was lifted.

Swazi unions meeting on status of strike

Renee Grawitzky

BD #5 15/10/97 (313)
THE Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions' general council met last night to take a decision on whether to call off the national strike which began on Monday.

Swazi sources said there were strong indications that the federation might call off the action in view of growing signs that workers were ambivalent about the strike. This, they argued, could be a major blow to those fighting for change in Swaziland as government would perceive it as a sign of no support for the federation's demands which were largely political.

Another source said one of the biggest problems in Swaziland was that those wanting change did not want to be identified.

The possibility of the strike ending comes about despite its continuance in forestry and the majority of sugar companies (except for Simunye Sugar), while workers at Swazi Rail and other transport companies joined the strike yesterday.

At the same time mixed reports were received as to whether the teachers, who had embarked on a separate strike in support of a 18% wage increase, would continue their strike. The leaders of the Swaziland National Teachers' Association went to ground at the outset after it became clear that they had failed to explain honestly to their members the status of discussions with government.

As the strike, largely in support of political and some labour demands, entered its second day, police and army presence was maintained.

Swaziland Federation of Employers executive director Musa Hlope urged government and labour to work towards ending the strike today. Employers, he said, had had enough of stayaways and wanted businesses to operate with a greater degree of certainty.



Former deputy law and order minister Roelf Meyer, right, listened attentively yesterday as his former minister, Adriaan Vlok, continued his evidence to the truth commission's hearings in Johannesburg on the State Security Council.

Pictures: TREVOR SAMSON

Signals mixed over fate of Swazi strike

Reneé Grawitzky

Tuesday night's decision to end the strike coincided with a commitment from the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) to support the two-day old strike.

Various employers bodies and the sugar association had confirmed that the strike had affected these industries, as well as some sections of transport and an asbestos mine.

However, government spokesman Meshack Shongwe said no attempt had been made to get an independent report of the situation.

Employers said yesterday it appeared the strike was fizzling out and workers were planning to return to work. Greater clarity could not be obtained last night.

Cosatu's support of the strike follows with international resolutions adopted at its recent congress to build international worker solidarity.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made by Business Day to get comment from the Swaziland government.

The union's general council meeting resolved to end the national stayaway and called in support of political and some labour demands. It was not clear whether teachers would continue their 35-day strike in support of an 18% wage increase.

Meanwhile, the Swazi government criticised the coverage of the national stayaway by the SA Broadcasting Corporation. The government claimed the SABC was misleading and had distorted and attempted to blow issues out of proportion.

The SABC reported this week that the strike had affected the sugar and pulp industries.

Cosatu deputy general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said it was with a great sense of frustration that the federation supported the union's struggles against the intransigence of the Swaziland authorities.

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLE

Leon upbeat after DP's fourth victory

Pule Molebeledi

THE four successive wins by the Democratic Party (DP) in local government by-elections showed it would not be "marginally squeezed" between the National Party (NP) and the African National Congress (ANC) in the forthcoming 1999 elections, DP leader Tony Leon said yesterday.

Leon was speaking in the Gauteng legislature after the DP registered a "convincing" win in the Boksburg by-election which was contested by six parties on Wednesday night.

DP candidate Mike Masson won ward 11 with 1 742 votes to the NP's 694.

Of five by-elections it has contested, the DP has lost only one — in the Western Cape, to the NP. It

has won by-elections in Kempton Park, Witbank and Margate.

Responding to claims that the 30% voter turnout was poor, Leon said the NP had "run out of steam and excuses. If votes were going away, they were from the NP, not the DP."

Leon said the DP would be the leading party in any realigned opposition as indicated by the remarkable affirmation of "our record as an effective opposition" by voters.

He said Afrikaner voters in the former Conservative Party (CP) stronghold, voted for the DP as an alternative to the NP.

Referring to Boksburg as a "watershed for politics in our country", Leon said his party would be the official opposition after the 1999 elections.

The DP would be contesting another by-election in Roodepoort next month where, among others, the new United Democratic Movement would be taking part.

In its reaction to the by-election loss, NP spokesman Johann Killian said the DP had "something coming its way".

He denied the NP was losing its supporters to the DP.

"Our traditional support base stayed at home as it was trying to send us a message, and we are listening," he said.

He said the NP was hamstrung by the fact that it tried to be all things to all people.

"We had no clearly defined role as we were part of government and part of the opposition. We need to rethink our strategies," Killian said.

Swazi TV may effect blackout on SABC

Mbongeni Mbingo

MBABANE — Swazi TV announced yesterday that it would be effecting a blackout of SABC channels for all areas in Swaziland, in a move that was widely criticised by the viewers.

Many viewers phoned newspapers and the TV station alleging that the blackout was imposed for political reasons, after SABC's news coverage of the kingdom's mass stayaway on Monday when it reported that violence had erupted. The Swazi station, conversely, had reported the strike was uneventful.

Following a public outcry yesterday, the station later changed its mind, issuing a statement saying the move would be suspended.

Government was alleged to have earlier directed the station to block SABC. Swazi TV, which is government controlled, has satellite dishes picking up SABC transmissions, and transmitters which beam the programmes making it possible for local viewers to catch the SABC channels.

A move to block out SABC was expected to affect thousands of viewers in the Mbabane area, but should not affect viewers with their own satellite dishes.

Swazi TV said that SABC was originally transmitted in the Mbabane area to provide the Sun Group hotels with the service for their SA tourists.

Viewers would be hard hit because they would be left with only one channel, Swazi TV, which

many viewers described as boring.

Acting CEO of Swazi TV, Mike Cornwell, said the blackout would affect areas which received SABC from Swazi TV's satellite feed.

According to Cornwell, the station reached the decision purely for commercial reasons. Local advertisers would benefit as more viewers would be switching to Swazi TV, "and hopefully this will help to boost the local economy".

Meanwhile, the mass stayaway called by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, which began on Monday, was officially suspended on Wednesday.

However, the union said it would stage regular two-day blockades of goods coming in and out of the country aimed at forcing government to accede to demands.

Swazis ban solidarity group head

MTG 24-30/10/97

(313)

Solly Mapaila, leader of a group sympathetic to Swazi workers, has been declared 'undesirable', reports Mukoni T Ratshtanga

In a bid to silence sympathisers with his country's pro-democracy voices, Swaziland's Minister of Home Affairs Prince Guduza this month declared the South African director of a solidarity group a prohibited person.

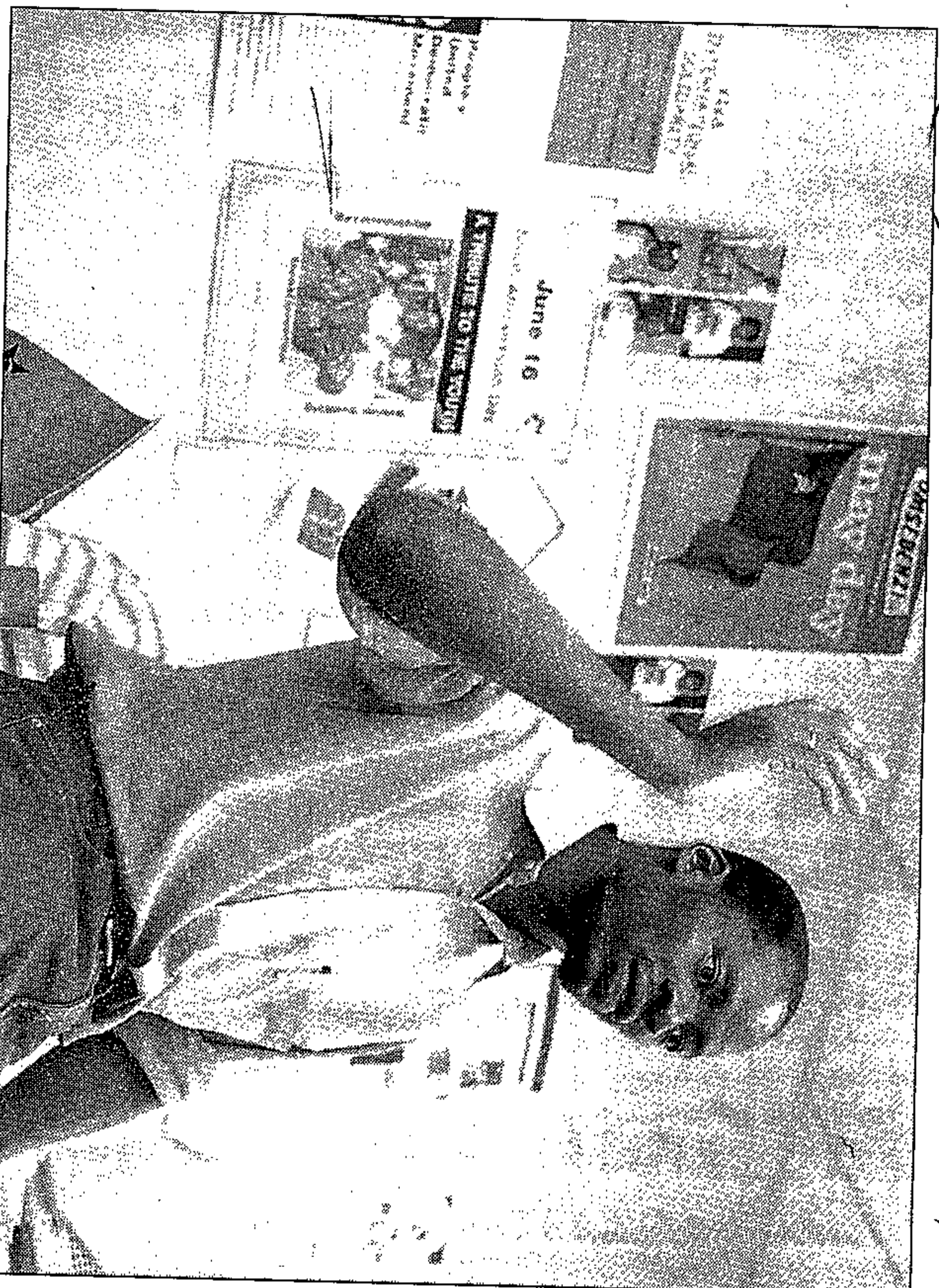
Swaziland Solidarity Network's head, Solly Mapaila, was named in a decree on October 1 which was circulated to all Swazi border posts.

But the news only reached him last weekend when he arrived with three colleagues at the Oshoek-Ngwenya border post between South Africa and Swaziland, en route to Mbabane. They were to attend a People's United Democratic Movement (Pudemo) conference.

"Customs officials and a man who identified himself as the chief of security stopped us, examined the car as if they had been told we were transporting drugs. They produced this letter and told me that I am banned from Swaziland — never to return again," said Mapaila.

Guduza used the Immigration Act of 1982 and information received from a "source considered by me to be reliable" to declare Mapaila an "undesirable immigrant or person whose presence in Swaziland is contrary to the national interest."

Mapaila, who has visited Swaziland twice this year, claims he was kept under surveillance by the coun-



Solly Mapaila: His presence in Swaziland is 'contrary to the national interest'. PHOTO: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

try's intelligence agents each time. In September, he complained to the South African high commissioner in Mbabane about intelligence agents monitoring his movements and taking photographs of him.

Pudemo is the country's biggest opposition party which leads the Swaziland Democratic Alliance — 22 labour, non-governmental organisations, political parties, women's and youth groups calling

for democratic reforms.

Swaziland's opposition is at loggerheads with King Mswati III over a 1973 government decree that banned political parties. They demand the king repeal the decree and put in place a neutrally chaired national convention to prepare the country for an interim government.

They want an elected constituent assembly to draw up a new democratic constitution. They

stitutional review process started by the king in July last year, saying it consists of people he hand-picked and does not represent citizens.

Recently, Swaziland has been marred by political strife, with workers taking to the streets in protest against the government, demanding a living wage. Last week, Swaziland's National Association of Journalists marched to the office of Prime Minis-

withdrawal of the Media Council B which they say seeks to control the media.

Mapaila's Solidarity Network was launched in April this year to help Pudemo fight for reform. "We try to take the Swazi people's struggle to the outside world and see how the world can assist," says the former Umkhonto weSizwe guerrilla.

There are 19 organisations affiliated to the network and the South African Communist Party provide office space and stationery. None of the three staffers is paid, although one committee member works elsewhere.

"To say, as reported in the Swaz press, that this network is communist-controlled is false," says Mapaila. "The SACP has nothing to do with our operations except that it is also a member of the network."

The network has written to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries asking them to impose sanctions on Swaziland. But none of the countries responded.

"The hypocritical governments — South Africa included — have always underplayed the struggle of the people of Swaziland," Mapaila said.

South Africa is still undecided about what to do against Swaziland. "South Africa would only address the possibility of punitive measures through a collective approach within SADC," says Foreign Affairs Ministry representative Pieter Swanepoel.

About Mapaila's prohibition, Swanepoel could only say his ministry "feels that the high-handed approach against Solly should have been avoided because it does not assist the process."

Swaziland's high commissioner to South Africa could not be re-

Libanon crippled as 7 000 go on strike

Reneé Grawitzky

PRODUCTION at Gold Fields' Libanon gold mine near Carletonville ground to a halt at the weekend after 7 000 workers went on strike demanding that management implement wage increases for this year agreed to by the Chamber of Mines.

The failure to reach a mine-level productivity deal has prevented workers from receiving their annual wage increase, which could range between 9% and 22%.

The industry-wide productivity deal entered into between the chamber and the National Union of Mineworkers in September linked wages with increased gold production. Workers at Libanon have not received increases because the parties failed to agree on mechanisms to raise gold production.

The industry deal aimed to raise

production by 90 tons over the next year. The target for all Gold Fields' mines is an additional 46 tons.

Gold Fields said the parties had been unable to agree on new shift arrangements in order to meet new production targets. A deadlock arose when the union refused to sign the deal.

The NUM said the problem was that mine management had been focusing on trying to implement full calendar operations while rejecting the union's proposed new shift arrangement.

After the September quarterly results, in which Libanon recorded a loss of R17,9m, Gold Fields management indicated action had to be taken to tackle the mine's losses. It is understood the union proposed a shift arrangement under which miners would work seven days on and one off, and seven days on and five off thereafter.

Gold Fields said last night that

2 000 workers marched on the offices of mine management yesterday morning demanding wage increases. The company said the group elected five representatives to talk to management.

Gold Fields has yet to sign final productivity linked wage deals at its mines, despite interim agreements having been reached at Kloof and East and West Driefontein last month. The interim agreement at the three mines provided that within 30 days of signing the deal, the parties at mine level would finalise productivity and production arrangements. These could include full calendar operations or work on additional Saturdays or Sundays.

The full agreement would then be signed, giving effect to the new working arrangement. The interim agreement ensured that workers would get their increases before the full agreement was signed.

SWAZILAND-LABOUR-
1998-1999

AFF

Swaziland faces sanctions over draconian legislation

James Hall

80 19/8/98

MBABANE — Swaziland faces union unrest and the loss of trade privileges because it failed to enact more liberal industrial relations legislation before the recent dissolution of parliament.

Swaziland's parliament was dissolved by King Mswati III in preparation for October's general elections without passing the 1998 Industrial Relations Act.

The International Labour Organisation and the US Congress had given the Swazi government until the end of the month to enact the legislation. The new law was to replace the 1996 Industrial Relations Act, scrapping provisions which, in the view of the ILO, "criminalise" labour activities.

Swiftly passed in response to a series of crippling mass stayaways by workers, the 1996 law forbids labour federations to call

mass stayaways. Only labour unions may call strikes. The 1996 act was also used to jail the executive of the government's most powerful political rival, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, during the national stayaway it called last year.

Federation general secretary Jan Sithole, who was among those jailed at the time, expressed his "disappointment but not surprise" when parliament dispersed without passing the new bill. Sithole expects a new round of labour unrest in response.

Alerted by the ILO, the American umbrella labour organisation AFL-CIO lobbied the US Congress to give the Swazi government a deadline this month to reverse "draconian labour legislation". The penalty for noncompliance will be a withdrawal of Swaziland's privileges under the generalised systems of preferences.

Swaziland's chief export, sugar, enters

the US tariff-free under the system, as do forestry and textile products.

The Swaziland Federation of Employees has called upon government to pass the new Industrial Relations Act to avert international sanctions.

The bill was gazetted only days before the king dissolved parliament.

MPs urged Enterprise and Employment Minister Majahenkhaba Dlamini to table the act as a matter of urgency. The minister refused, saying the 30 days between a bill's gazetting and the start of parliamentary deliberation must be observed.

Acting attorney-general Martin Dwamena has noted that the king may recall parliament to treat passage of the industrial relations act as an emergency measure.

The king has not recalled parliament before. Another option would be for the king to enact the law through royal decree.

Swazi govt says most major strikes were inspired by a political agenda

ED 16110198

James Hall

MBABANE — Most major strikes and lockouts during the past year were caused by political rather than economic issues, the Swazi labour department says in its latest annual report.

The department said the strikes were mostly related to the 27 workers' demands drawn up by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions. The demands for political reform cover a variety of social and political as well as economic matters.

The exception was the schools strike, involving 8 600 teachers. Their failed quest for an 18% salary increase from government resulted in a six-week strike, the longest strike by teachers in Swazi history.

During the past year, two nationwide stayaways were held to

press government to implement the 27 workers' demands.

This week the labour federation announced a march on the royal palace to lobby King Mswati III, upon his return from his tour of Asia, to recognise the demands.

The forestry industry suffered the greatest number of man hours lost (211 463) over the year as workers went on strike in support of the demands.

The agriculture industry was the second worst-hit sector, losing 103 808 man hours. Manufacturing lost 45 753 man hours to strikes, but also suffered losses during two strikes called to force employers to reinstate dismissed workers and implement a new task grading scheme.

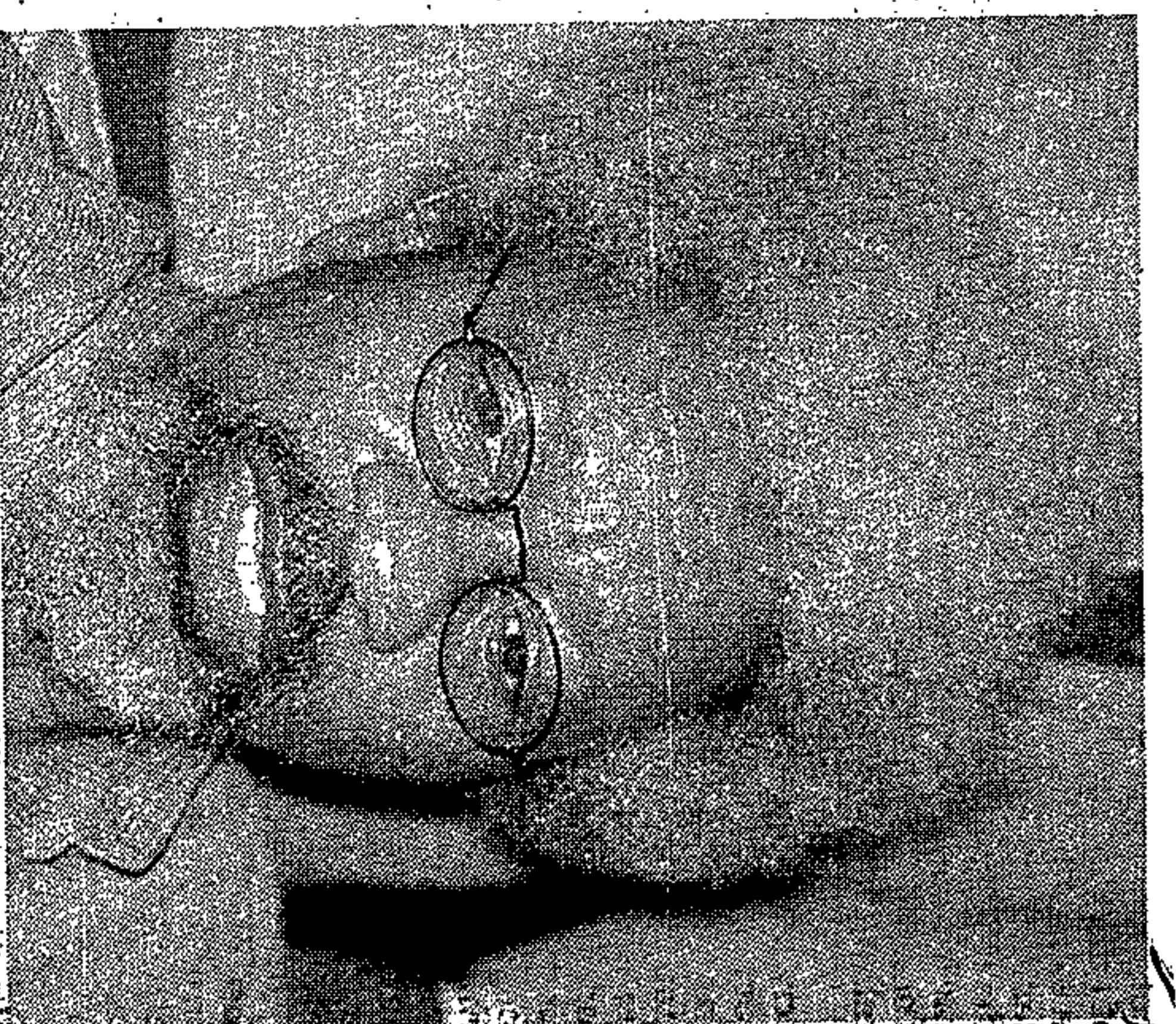
The Federation of Swazi Employers called the lost man hours figures "disturbing" and a "further indication of the need for govern-

ment and the labour federation to meet to solve their differences".

The government complained of the "changing nature" of the demands, first introduced in 1993 and revised periodically "so that as soon as one demand is met by government, another one takes its place". Enterprise and Employment Minister Majenkhaba Dlamini said.

This month the federation added an ad hoc list of political demands, including a suspension of the general elections and the firing of Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini for allegedly "lying to the nation" when he said the US would not impose sanctions on Swaziland for government's inability to enact the 1998 Industrial Relations Act.

Observers feel the new demands are a ploy to instigate a new round of strikes.



Nigerian Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka yesterday after his return to the country after almost four years in exile.

Picture: AFP

Swaziland strikes centred on workers' political demands

James Hall

(217) PD 4/11/98

MBABANE — All major strikes and lockouts in Swaziland during the past year involved political rather than exclusively economic issues, mostly centred on the 27 workers' demands drawn up by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions.

According to the labour department's annual report, the exception was the teaching service, involving 8 622 Swazi school teachers whose failed quest for an 18% salary increase from government resulted in the longest teachers' strike in the nation's history. The strike, which lasted six weeks, led to a loss of 1 293 124 man hours.

The federation's 27 workers' demands pursues a reformist political agenda and covers a variety of social and political as well as economic matters. Over the past year, two nationwide workers' stayaways were held to press government to implement the demands.

The federation plans to march on the palace at Lozitha to pressure King Mswati III into recognising the demands upon his return from an investment drive through five Asian nations.

The forestry industry, which employs only 1 504 workers, suffered the greatest number of man-hour losses — 211 463 this past year — as workers went on strike to achieve their 27 demands.

The agricultural industry was the second-worst affected segment of the economy — 1 137 farm workers participated in national mass stayaways to press for the demands, chalking up 103 808 lost man hours.

Manufacturing lost 45 753 man hours, as 33 183 workers downed tools to agitate for the 27 demands. Losses were suffered during two separate strikes called to force employers to reinstate dismissed workers and to implement a new task-grading scheme.

The labour department report also said about 11 840 man-hours were lost in the mining industry as 740 miners joined the federation's mass stayaways.

In the hotel and catering industry, 67 striking workers seeking implementation of the 27 demands accrued 1 073 lost man hours.

The Federation of Swazi Employers called the lost man-hours "disturbing" and said they were an indication of the need for government and the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions to meet to solve their differences.

The government complains of the "changing nature" of the 27 workers' demands, first introduced in 1993 and revised periodically. "As soon as one demand is met by government, another takes its place", said Enterprise and Employment Minister Majen'khaba Dlamini.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions recently added an ad hoc list of political demands, including a suspension of the general elections, the junking of the Constitutional Review Commission, and the firing of Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini for allegedly "lying to the nation" when he said the US Congress would not impose sanctions on Swaziland for government's inability to enact this year's Industrial Relations Act.

As unrealistic as these demands appear, observers believe they are a ploy by the federation to instigate a new round of stayaway activity.

Union boss arrested amid political tension

(313)

00 19/11/98

A TRADE union boss in Swaziland has been arrested, a union official said yesterday, amid simmering political tensions after the country's recent parliamentary elections.

Donald Dlamini of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions said from his headquarters in Manzini that he, federation chief Jan Sithole and two other union members were arrested on Tuesday morning.

He said that he and the two others were released on Tuesday night but Sithole remained in custody.

"They said they had arrested us in connection with a bomb explosion at a bridge last month," Dlamini said.

He was referring to a blast which occurred on October 28 that rocked an unused bridge which lies 500m from a highway where the

Swazi monarch, King Mswati III, had passed two hours before.

"We had nothing to do with it," Dlamini said. "The police say we have people who have been training in SA to carry out such acts but that is nonsense."

Trade unions in landlocked Swaziland, which is surrounded by SA on three sides, have close ties with their SA counterparts.

"I feel this is harassment and has been done to tarnish our image because we are the government's number one enemy," Dlamini said.

The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions had called on voters to boycott last month's parliamentary elections.

Opposition groups dismissed the poll as a farce because political parties are banned in Swaziland, which is sub-Saharan Africa's last

absolute monarchy.

The winners of the 55 seats that were up for grabs have been announced but the government has yet to release turnout figures.

Observers reported that turnout appeared sparse during the two days of voting.

Dlamini said that the police would not allow Sithole to see or speak to anyone, including his relatives.

"We are going to meet with the general council of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions over the next couple of days to discuss what protest action to take," he said.

He said the federation was not ruling out the possibility of strike action to protest against Sithole's incarceration.

Swazi police said they had no immediate comment on the matter. — Reuter.

Looming dispute with Kenya could give SA a bad name

By 19/11/98

Tension between Kenya and SA over trade has been simmering for some time, writes Daniel Kamanga

KENYAN trade officials are angry about SA's attitude to trade relations between the two countries and are threatening tariff barriers against SA goods and services.

Why have things come to a head and what is likely to happen in the future?

It is important to point out that political relations between the two countries — read the African National Congress and the Kenya African National Union — are not good.

Various reasons can be advanced for this, among them, a botched decision by Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi to visit SA's former president, FW de Klerk, shortly before the ANC took over in 1994. One does not need special insight to see that De Klerk needed the visit — especially from an African head of state — to consolidate the claim that he had initiated the dismantling of apartheid. No guesses as to why Arap Moi was the loser in this diplomatic game.

Between the Arap Moi visit and the recent bomb blasts in Kenya and Tanzania, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. Briefly, Kenya was pushing for a trade agreement. Just before the bomb blasts, prospects for an agreement looked dim, although diplomatically, negotiators from both sides appeared optimistic. Although the trade deal was not on the cards, Arap Moi was to make his first state visit to SA. Kenyan diplomats in SA were busy preparing for the visit when the bomb blasts happened and the visit was postponed.

It was hoped that the involvement of South Africans in assisting victims of the bomb blast, which received great prominence in the Kenyan media, would lead to friendlier relations.

Although the business community has been jittery about the presence of SA companies in Kenya, media interviews reflect a warm reception by Kenyans. This is obviously because of the greater choice, better quality and price that the competition is bringing to the market.

Now Kenya has publicly — for the first

time since the negotiations began — announced it is considering increased tariffs against SA imports.

The looming trade dispute is likely to bring to the public eye the deep suspicions that exist between the two countries; Kenya may be the economic loser, but SA will be left with a bad name. The reasons are obvious: SA is, without doubt the continent's economic "big boy" despite its diplomatic strategy to avoid the image.

In fact, ironically, SA is treating Kenya the way the European Union has treated it: SA is keen to gain access to the huge EU market just as Kenya is desperate to sell its goods and services to SA. Kenyan trade officials claim that unfair tariffs are blocking Kenyan exports to SA, particularly tea, flowers and canned foods. Despite this, Kenya has had an open-door policy towards SA goods, services and investments.

The balance of trade between the two countries is in SA's favour and is reflected in Kenya's growing trade deficit with SA. Kenya's exports to SA last year fell 60% to \$17m from \$42m the previous year, while its imports from SA rose nearly 40% to \$374m (from \$226m) during the same period.

Kenya's trade ministry has said it would raise tariffs on SA's imports if a solution was not found within weeks.

Without over-analysing Kenya's threat, some key issues emerge, the most important being SA's relations with the East African Community (EAC), the regional trading bloc with a total population of 60-million. The community, which brings together Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, is a huge market for SA. Many SA companies are already doing business in the region.

The difficulty of Kenya's threat being implemented is the fact that Tanzania is both a

member of the EAC and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), leaving Kenya and Uganda — which are both keen to have trade agreements with SA — as the aggrieved parties.

Already, Kenyan businesses are doing what SA businesses may be forced to do: using Tanzania as the springboard for business with SA and therefore enjoying whatever SADC concessions exist.

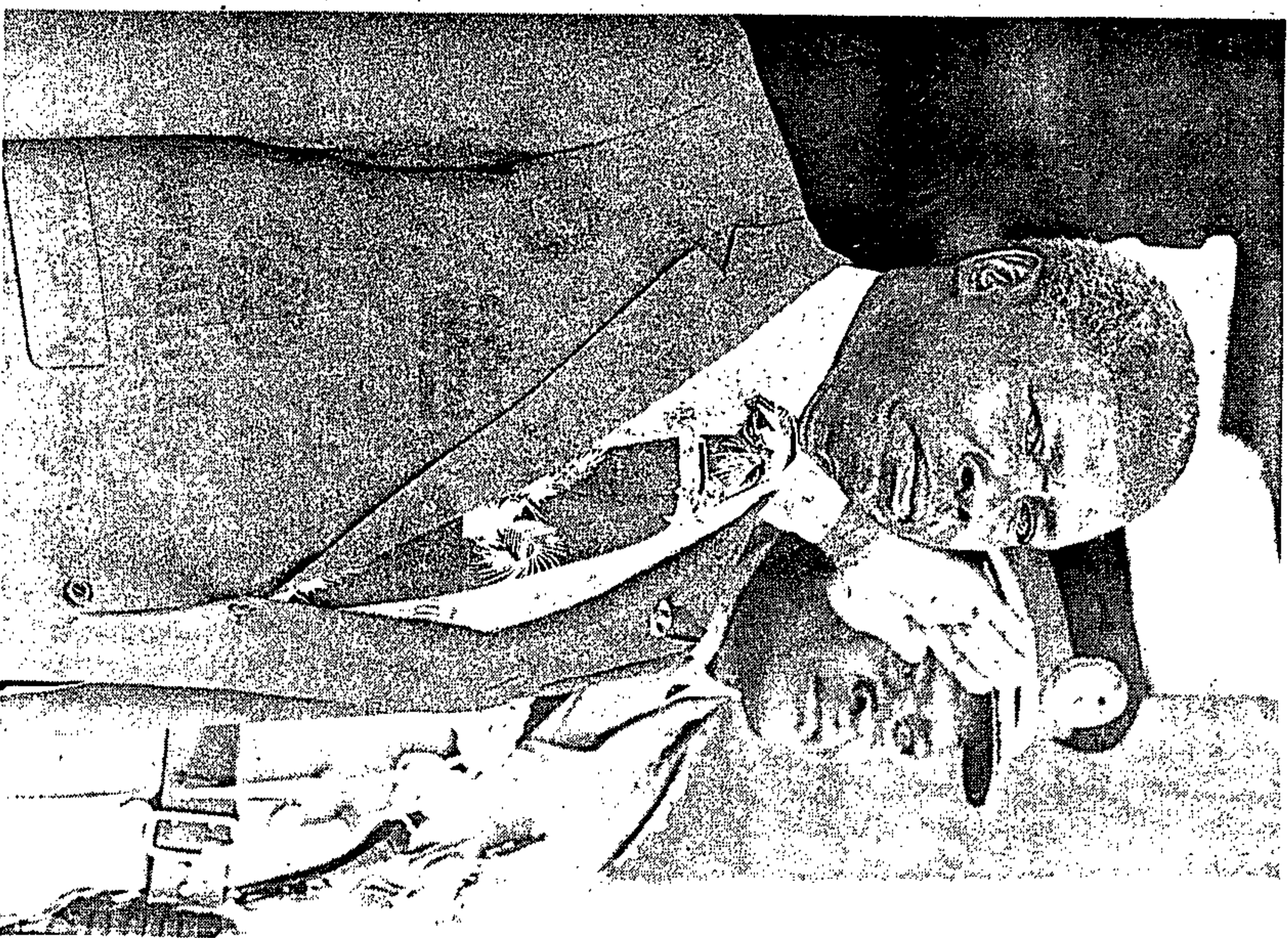
SA's chief director of Africa trade relations, Mfundo Nkulu, says Kenyan products are not being targeted or discriminated against, but in a trade dispute with Kenya SA will be hard pressed to take the line that its policies are not protectionist.

Nkulu's statement that Kenya has not sought a meeting recently to discuss the issues only confirms the deep-seated differences between the two countries. However, there seems to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel because SA has not closed the door. "If Kenya has concerns about its degree of market access we would be prepared to talk about it," Nkulu was reported as saying this week.

Although the incident in which Kenya Breweries was barred from selling its Tusker and Tusker Premium brands in SA following a trademark dispute has received the most media attention, there are more serious implications of a trade fall out between the two countries.

Kenya and SA play important economic and political roles in their respective regions. By adopting short-term and nationalistic trade strategies, they will be standing in the way of faster regional and pan-African economic and political integration.

□ Kamanga, a former business editor at the Nation Group in Kenya, is now working in SA.



Arap Moi did not get off to a good start with the ANC.

Six Swazi unions face govt deadline over financial reports

James Hall

(313) 987 1109

MBABANE — Six trade unions suspended from operating by the labour commissioner had a final chance yesterday to deregister or meet demands for financial transparency.

In a move certain to heighten tension between the Swazi government and labour, the unions were suspended last month for failing

to provide annual financial reports. Deputy Labour Commissioner Jinnoh Nkhambule gave the suspended unions a January 4 deadline to open their books for government inspection and to apply for a repeal of their suspensions. Failing that, he threatened deregistration.

The government has claimed the unions are secretly financed by foreigners seeking to topple it, and sabotage the kingdom's economy.

The suspended unions are the Swaziland National Association of Civil Servants, the Swaziland Transport and Allied Staff Association, Swaziland Mining and Quarrying Industry Staff Association, the Swaziland Agricultural Plantations Workers' Union and the Association of College Lecturers. The unions may not engage in normal activities or represent members in labour disputes.

Unions take Swazi government to court over wage negotiations

(313)
James Hall

BD 30/3/99

MBABANE — The Swazi government's attempt to sidestep labour unions and strike wage deals directly with public servants has generated confusion, legal action and an appeal for international assistance.

After a breakdown in contract negotiations with the Swaziland National Association of Teachers, the Swaziland National Association of Civil Servants and the Swaziland Nurses' Association, Public Service Minister Magwagawa Mdluli offered a 15% wage increment to any teacher, public servant or nurse who would sign a waiver agreeing to seek no additional pay hikes for three years.

He justified the offer by saying government needed to look after the interests of non-union public employees who were "suffering" due to union "intransigence".

However, the Industrial Relations Act states that when a required percentage of workers are union members, the union speaks for all workers of that sector. About 6 000 of the nation's 8 000 teachers are unionised, as are most nurses. The public servants' union falls far short of the membership quota, but government has until now negotiated with that union.

While many workers are signing the government's wage agreement, their unions filed a suit against the government in the Industrial Court this week. The court has issued an interim order restraining the government from negotiating salary increments with individual workers.

Secretary-general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Jan Sithole, said he would file a grievance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva over the government's violation of domestic and international collective bargaining procedural agreements, of which Swaziland is a signatory.

Enterprise and Employment Minister Lutfo Dlamini accused Sithole of blowing "hot air" and said negative reports about Swaziland filed with the ILO would "disturb foreign investors". Sithole responded saying: "Investors will be switched off by government's meddling in industrial relations issues."

MP Nthuthuko Dlamini challenged Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini over the illegality of government's wage negotiation strategy in Parliament, saying ministers "are emulating their father", the prime minister, who appointed a majority of cabinet members from outside parliament, instead of from the ranks of elected MPs, in violation of the Establishment of Parliament Order.

The prime minister responded by saying he merely announced cabinet appointments.

Swazi unions in disarray after abortive forays into politics

By BHEKI MAKHUBU

Mbabane - A decision by Swaziland's trade unions to take up the gauntlet a few years ago and push for political reform seems to have backfired and has left them considerably weaker.

Led by Jan Sithole of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU), the country's biggest trade union federation, trade unions in recent years turned their attention away from labour issues to agitate for political reform. Like South Africa's Cosatu, they tried to fill the vacuum left by political parties which King Sobhuza, father of present king Mswati III, had banned in 1973.

Unions were a powerful force when led by the president of the teachers' union (and now minister of foreign affairs - thereby hangs a tale), Albert Shabangu, whose forays shook the government of the day and revealed the unpopular Tinkhundla system of traditional government for what it is.

But the waning of the trade union movement since then was clear to see at last week's Southern African Development Com-

munity labour and employment conference in Mbabane, where unionised civil servants and teachers failed to draw more than a handful of workers for a planned protest to make delegates more aware of the plight of workers in the country.

The strength of Swaziland's monarchism and traditionalism, and the weakness of individual union leaders - who have allowed themselves to be outmanoeuvred or co-opted by the government - are seen by labour commentators as the main reason for the unions' decline.

From the start, the Swaziland government took a tough stance towards trade union political demands while professing to keep an open mind on labour matters - and dividing the unionists from their members by accusing them of neglecting workers' interests in pursuit of political ambition.

Sithole's failed challenge to Mswati's authority during a week-long mass stay-away marked a change in the SFTU's fortunes. The king bided his time, and when the ordinary people started to suffer because of the stayaway - receiving no strike pay from the unions - he chose his moment to



HAD HIS DAY: Jan Sithole of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions failed to move the government

order them back to work for the sake of the country. They obeyed and the unions suffered a mortal blow to their morale.

But Sithole and other leaders surged on, hoping to recoup their 1996 losses.

Shabangu always maintained he was never a political leader, but a unionist who fought

over bread-and-butter issues.

Mswati was a cunning foe, co-opting anyone who posed a threat. Shabangu was the best example. The king also commissioned Mario Masuku, president of the People's United Democratic Movement (Pudemmo), a banned political group, to the discredited, officially appointed constitution-drafting committee. Masuku accepted the job at first and pulled out only after his party protested.

The king's manoeuvres have succeeded. Now vocal trade union leaders are labelled by detractors as politically ambitious, greedy, and trying to use the country's workers as a stepping stone to higher office.

Union leaders have failed to address workers' concerns about their immediate welfare.

In one of the worst setbacks for trade unionism, the leaders of the teachers' union failed to deliver an 18% salary rise after two consecutive years of strike action of no less than 30 days each during 1997 and 1998.

The government, realising that the teachers had suffered over the strike action because of a no-work, no-pay rule, moved in this year to offer them and civil servants a

15% salary increase. When the unions re-

jected this and demanded a 22% increase, they failed to get the necessary support from their constituencies, and strike action called by civil servants and teachers failed.

Unions and opposition political leaders have not given up. Last week they relaunched the Swaziland Democratic Alliance, a movement comprising the two main banned political groups - Pudemo and the Ngwane National Liberatory Congress (NNLC).

Initially formed in 1996, the group seemed to have disintegrated since then. Now former prime minister Obed Dlamini, current leader of the NNLC - who also rose from the ranks of trade unionism - has been elected president.

On Monday they plan to present a constitution and a new way forward. But Monday is Mswati's 31st birthday - a public holiday - and the NNLC, more moderate than Pudemo, has objected on the grounds that this could be seen as insulting to the king and therefore contrary to the norms of Swazi culture.

So once again the monarchy is dividing the opposition, without even trying.

Swazi row looks set for Geneva

James Hall

(313)

MBABANE — A face-off between government representatives and the anti-government Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions looms at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convocation now under way in Geneva.

The federation's secretary-general, Jan Sithole, is a member of the tripartite Swazi team along with the Federation of Swaziland Employers and government.

Often bitter relations between government and the workers' federation have deteriorated further since mid-May, when the Industrial Relations Bill was presented late to parliament for deliberation. The labour organisation, with a membership of 80 000, opposes the monarchy of King Mswati III, and seeks a democratic dispensation "as the best way to advance workers' rights".

The Swazi senate, made up mostly of palace appointees, urged new Enterprise and Employment Minister Lutfo Dlamini to block "unfriendly organisations" from attending the Geneva conference — a thinly veiled reference to the workers' federation. It has indicated it will raise various issues of concern to labour.

50 22/6/99

US pressure speeds Swazi labour reform

James Hall

MBABANE — In a sudden turn away from anti-labour sentiment, the House of Assembly passed with no dissenting votes the 1998 Industrial Relations Act.

The legislation decriminalises strike activity penalised in the 1996 Industrial Relations Act it replaces. The previous law was seen as an attempt to circumscribe the political activities of the pro-democracy Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and its firebrand secretary-general Jan Sithole. It drew local and international criticism as a violation of workers' rights.

Just days before its passage, parliamentarians were protesting "outside interference in Swaziland's internal affairs" when the US labour federation AFL-CIO petitioned the US Congress to withdraw Swaziland from the Generalised Systems of Preferences, which allows Swazi products including its key sugar exports to enter US markets duty free. The US labour federation argued Swaziland's government had not kept a promise to have new labour laws enacted by last month's convention of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

The impetus for the legislation's swift passage came with a letter to Enterprise and Employment Minister Lutfo Dlamini from US ambassador Alan McKee, which stated if the Industrial Relations Act was not passed this month,

Congress would be compelled to act upon the sanctions petition.

Assurances from the embassy last year that Swaziland was safe from sanctions as long as the legislation was under consideration led many parliamentarians to feel the kingdom was protected. The bill was only introduced on May 12.

Debate until last week was characterised by acrimonious attacks on Sithole and labour bodies.

McKee's June 24 letter to Dlamini included a copy of the AFL-CIO's petition to Congress. Dlamini previously complained he had never seen the petition. House Speaker Mgabhi Dlamini called a caucus meeting to distribute the letter and petition to MPs, and emerged to tell the press, which had been leaked the documents, that the bill's passage was imminent.

Outgoing Ambassador McKee, who leaves the kingdom this month, played down his role in expediting the bill's passage, and emphasised the consultation among government, labour and employers that preceded the drafting of the legislation.

Musa Hlope, executive director of the Swaziland Federation of Employers, said: "With the new Industrial Relations Act, Swaziland conforms with international standards. We have laid a solid foundation for conflict resolution with prescribed procedures, which should do much to ensure labour harmony and to reassure foreign investors."

Masterfridge workers down tools on 'Aids slur'

(313) ET (BR) 7/7/99
BHEKI MAKHUBU

Mbabane - Workers at Masterfridge in Swaziland on Monday abandoned work to force management to apologise for a statement by Geoff Mangan, the managing director, that workers at the fridge plant were dying of Aids.

Seven workers have died this year and 17 died last year, raising concern that a chemical used in the manufacturing process could be the cause of the deaths.

Parliament then commissioned the enterprise and employment minister to investigate and report on why so many people were dying at the company.

Mangan immediately denied the company was using defective chemicals that could result in deaths. He pointed instead to the Aids epidemic, and said the company was bound to be affected in a country where 20 percent of the population was HIV-positive.

He said the allegations of defective chemicals were being spread by jealous competitors to

destroy the company's reputation.

The 1 600 workers at the company on Monday refused to be addressed by any other members of management when they gathered at the company premises to seek an apology, saying they wanted Mangan to explain his statement.

When they were told he was out of the country and would only be back today, they said while they were not necessarily going on strike, they would stop work until he returned and would resume duties after he gave his side of the story and apologised for insulting them.

Workers at the company contend that their colleagues are being killed by a dangerous chemical. One worker challenged journalists to investigate a colleague lying critically ill at a local hospital with swollen legs, to establish if he was dying of Aids.

At the press conference, Mangan said the company had brought in a health inspector from Zambia to counsel workers and give advice.

Swaziland unions take cue from SA

James Hall

21 (317) BD 11/8/99

MBABANE — Public sector workers are set to go on a nationwide strike tomorrow to protest against salary increases for parliamentarians and cabinet ministers and a controversial student evaluation system.

Precipitating the action by public servants, nurses and teachers was the example of SA public workers, who went on strike last week, and a belligerent challenge by Information Minister Mgwagwa Mdluli to the right of the Swaziland National Association of Civil Servants to exist as a union.

Mdluli, a former executive of the union before his appointment in the government service by King Mswati last November, said the association fell far short of a membership of at least one-fifth of the workforce of a represented industrial or public sector, which is the legal requirement for union recognition by government. The public servant union's membership, Mdluli said, was "negligible". The public servants' union has been on a recruitment drive since late last year, but refused to release membership figures.

At a mass meeting in the kingdom's central commercial hub, Manzini, the union was joined by members of the militant Swaziland National Association of Teachers and the newly formed Swaziland Nurses' Association. The strike vote was taken to press government into revoking planned salary increases and higher car allowances for ministerial heads, senators and MPs.

The Industrial Court had ruled that the unions would be consulted before all upper-tier salary increases went into effect, but this was not done. The unions want the salary increases and perks revoked.

Teachers have been battling against the education ministry's policy of continual assessment whereby the progress of students is analysed throughout their schooling by subsequent teachers. Teachers protested that they were overworked and demanded an end to the policy.

At the latest count about 8 000 teachers, 5 000 nurses and 17 000 public servants were employed in Swaziland.

Swazi police detain teachers after protest

BD 7/10/99 (313)

James Hall

MBABANE — The nine-member executive of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers was rounded up by police on Monday and detained for five hours before meeting palace advisers of King Mswati.

The Swaziland National Council Standing Committee, headed by senior princes Masitsela and Tfohlongwane, interrogated the union leaders over a peaceful but emotional protest march last week to the education ministry.

Teachers were objecting to an "unworkable" policy of continuous assessment, whereby a student's academic progress is evaluated annually by successive teachers. Noting they are responsible for classes of up to 75 students, teachers say evaluations are an intolerable burden, and schools lack computers and photocopiers necessary to compile reports.

The union leadership was not charged. Phineas Magagula, president of the teachers' union, said upon his release: "I cannot understand how the royal family can discuss such issues as curriculum reform. I thought the elders only handled cultural matters, and not

professional issues."

An adviser and one of the king's brothers, Prince Mguciso, said concern over the march was cultural. Teachers paraded a coffin through the streets of the capital, Mbabane, in a mock funeral procession, intending to "bury" the student assessment programme, breaking a taboo against the public flaunting of funeral paraphernalia.

He said the meeting with union chiefs was held at a police station and not the palace because royal family members are not permitted to view corpses or the coffin, which was retained as "evidence".

The union leaders were condemned for permitting the performance of the SA anthem, Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika, which royal advisers said was a revolutionary anthem, and insulting to the Swazi king.

Magagula said, "They accused us of challenging the king himself. But we are dealing with the ministry of education, and not the king."

Secretary-general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Jan Sithole, slated the "reprimand of teachers for peaceful protest of legitimate issues". The detention was a violation of human rights accords signed by Swaziland.

Bulembu cuts staff ahead of closure

BD 18/10/99 (313)
James Hall

MBABANE — The closure of Swaziland's Bulembu asbestos mine, which has been in operation under various names since 1939, may come as early as this week, but no longer than six months, according to the mine's management.

A last-ditch effort to make a profit from nearly exhausted high-grade fibre deposits will yield results in days.

If these are negative, mine manager Trevor Mulroney says: "We shut down completely."

With immediate effect, all noncore employees are being retrenched.

The effect on the kingdom's mining sector will be mitigated by a transference of operations to the commercial rehabilitation of discarded tailings.

About 20 tons of tailings are expected to keep the treatment facility running for 10 to 20 years. Asbestos is the chief revenue earner for Swaziland's mining industry, with production up 7% last year to 27 693 tons. The performance of asbestos outshone coal, far outpaced quarried stone and kept the mining sector from spinning into a recession following the closure of the Dvokolwako diamond mine two years ago.

However, earnings declined 11,4% last year to R56,8m, due to a 40% drop in world prices for the fibre. In 1991, the mine, then known as Havelock, was taken over by HVL Asbestos.

At the time, a six-year lifespan for the mine was predicted. Through a programme of prospecting, additional small deposits were discovered to extend the existing resource.

There is a worldwide glut of asbestos fibre, the result of stock dumping in anticipation of the European Union's (EU's) asbestos ban, to take effect in 2005.

Southeast Asian markets that had been principal customers of Bulembu Mine cut back orders in the wake of economic downturns. Japan, another buyer, seems set to duplicate the EU's asbestos prohibition to conform to the world trend. About 10 000 people living in the town of Bulembu depend on the mine.

Television staff on strike

MD 29/10/99 (313)

James Hall

MBABANE — Swaziland's television news blackout enters its third day as striking workers at the Swaziland Television Broadcast Corporation (STBC) continue to occupy the studio control room at the station.

The first day of the strike, called to agitate for a 7% salary increment, saw management delivering abbreviated bulletins. This ended when station workers confiscated news tapes brought in by an independent production firm, Ulti-pro. The company is owned by King Mswati's personal television producer, Quawe Mamba, who travels with Mswati to tape overseas trips for broadcast on STBC.

Mamba is under investigation by a committee appointed by Information Minister Magwagwa Mdluli to look into

his alleged sexual harassment of women employees and defrauding the customs department.

A police unit called in to ensure news bulletins would be read, withdrew when overwhelmed by striking workers wearing medical masks.

In addition to a wage dispute, workers are protesting against alleged corruption within the underfinanced and dilapidated government-owned station, Swaziland's only TV channel.

STBC broadcasts royal pageants, locally-produced documentaries and travelogues of the king's journeys, but employees complain that production money for original programming is diverted to luxury cars and other perks for the station board, "none of whom has any broadcasting background or knowledge and all of whom are personal friends of Mdluli", a source said.