

INFORMAL SECTOR

1995

Intrepid entrepreneurs work at creating

Star 7/1/95
(15314)

FOR many people, such as Andries Xembé, the Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme is but one of many intricate political concepts. Meanwhile, there is work to be done.

"Gone are the days when people could simply fold their arms and use apartheid as an excuse for all the failures in their lives," says Xembé (29), who owns a tuckshop in Chiawelo, Soweto.

How is he expecting to benefit from the implementation of the RDP? "To tell the honest truth I

do not understand anything about that since I have not seen it," he says. "I do know that it is a programme aimed at correcting past mistakes and creating better lives for everyone."

As it is with many other ordinary South Africans, hawking is not a hobby but a lifeline for Mandla Ngwenya, of Zola, Soweto, the creator of the Ma-Gents Moving Tuck Shop concept.

"I started off selling peanuts, apples and oranges. I then moved to Bree Street taxi rank."

He continues. "After increas-

ing my stock I sat down to plan how I could maximise my profits. The idea of a Ma-Gents Moving Tuck Shop came up and it is working very well for me."

Ma-Gents Moving Tuck Shop is made up of a trolley packed with the stock moving around the people who are waiting for taxis. That, says Ngwenya, is better than waiting around at the corner for customers.

"I was also doing it for the convenience of the passengers to allow them to stay in their queues and yet be able to have

anything they wish without losing their positions," he says.

Ngwenya, who appears to be a very shy person, says he did not realise that he was helping to change the face of the hawking business when he put his business on wheels.

Mooisa Phungwayo (36) of Senaane, Soweto, says he started

selling oranges during a strike and has never looked back.

He says he has been able to marry his wife with the money he made through his hawking business. "It is unbelievable that I sometimes make more money now than when I was working."

When you ask Masentle Masopha (43) of Vaal Dam how she

THERE is constant talk about how the RDP is going to change people's lives. But on the streets many are not waiting for that. TEFO MOTHIBELI found that the spirit of help-yourself is alive and well.

got into the business, she can't help smiling. A mother of three, she says that when she was given notice of retrenchment in 1992 "it was like the end of the world for me and my children. But later it turned out to be a blessing in disguise."

Masopha, who runs a dress-making school with 30 students, says she could not "have realised the potential in myself until I was retrenched."

"It was not plain sailing, but I am glad my venture is so successful and I'm helping other

people to help themselves too."

Not all the pleasure of working for yourself comes from money, says barber Bongani Mathhare (25) from Orange Farm. "Although I do not make too much money out of what I am doing, I enjoy being the boss since I take no instructions from anyone but myself," he says.

Asked how he would like to benefit from the RDP, he says: "I really don't know but I think it could be better if the Government creates more self-help projects for many South Africans."

He says he believes "it is better to teach a man how to catch a fish himself rather than give him food for a day and leave him to starve".

Pauline Modise (45), the owner of a pavement restaurant, says she hopes the RDP will help her realise her dream of opening a fast-food chain.

"I only hope that all other people could wake up and make the RDP work by doing something so that the Government helps them help themselves instead of waiting for manna from heaven."

their own RDP

WeekendStar
January 7-8 1995

Northwest gives support to 'micro bank' for hawkers

THEO RAWANA

NORTHWEST province had become the first regional authority to sponsor a "Micro Business Bank" — a concept launched last year to finance hawkers, provincial finance minister Martin Kuskus said in Klerksdorp at the weekend.

Speaking at the launch of the fourth African Council for Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) "bank",

Kuskus said inaccessibility of finance was one of the most serious problems facing the informal sector.

"I say with due respect that the efforts of commercial banks to finance small business activities probably have very little impact on the financing requirements of the informal sector, if any.

"This reluctance is a worldwide phenomenon ... costs related to these small loans are high and there is a big risk element involved."

Kuskus said the Northwest government's involvement with Achib was in line with the reconstruction and development programme.

Achib president Lawrence Mavundla said other provinces needed to follow the example set by Northwest because developing small businesses would be an alternative to "perpetually sponsoring" unemployed communities.

Meanwhile, Achib has threatened to organise demonstrations against a plan by Grinaker to develop the Jack Mincer Park in the Johannesburg CBD into a shopping complex.

Mavundla said a Grinaker representative warned on Friday that hawkers trading in the park should vacate the area by today because the company had been given the green light by the new Transitional Local Council to develop the area.

Achib had requested the provincial government to "step in and see to it that we are not pushed around by big business". No comment could be obtained from Grinaker yesterday

Hawking by-laws won't alter yet

CT 24/1/95

Municipal Reporter

THORNTON residents angered by a constant stream of rubbish being blown onto their properties from pavement trading sites are eagerly awaiting new hawking control by-laws

But they will have a wait of several months as the office of Trade and Industry Minister Mr Trevor Manuel is inundated with requests for amendments to municipal by-laws to address hawking issues

"There is great concern about the lack of uniformity in the proposals submitted for approval it appears undesirable to continue in piecemeal fashion," said Trade and Industry director-general Dr Zavareh Rustomjee

He said that "in the interim, the status quo will have to remain and, save for gross violations, the Department of Trade and Industry appeals to municipalities not to take away the livelihood of hawkers"

The latest complaint involving sidewalk traders follows an outcry from Thornton residents that "a constant supply of rubbish" from the hawking sites in Viking Way, Epping, is polluting their properties.

Mr John Cooper, of Poplar Avenue, said he has to clean his front garden four times a day One of his neighbours has had to remove as many as 20 wind-blown cardboard boxes from her garden in one day, he said

(153A)

Experts lobby for positive attitudes

Jo'burg's hawkers, poor 'here to stay'

Star 2/2/95 (153A)

■ BY CHARMEELA BHAGOWAT
CITY REPORTER

The thousands of hawkers and poverty-stricken people converging on Johannesburg's city streets were here to stay and no one could afford to spurn them, experts said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a conference on rejuvenating Johannesburg's ailing inner city, urbanisation director Cedric de Beer and New Housing Company managing director Rod MacGillivray said it was time both the poor and the hawkers were viewed in a positive light.

De Beer said there were more than 7 000 informal traders on the CBD's streets as a result of several factors. One was a government proclamation in 1989 which lifted most restrictions on informal trading.

This and the fact that local authorities were not allowed to license informal traders left Johannesburg's authorities with a vacuum in which they had to

create positive strategies to deal with the issue, said De Beer.

"Informal trading is inevitable, and the rights of informal traders are enshrined in national legislation. Therefore the aim should be to minimise the negative aspects and promote positive ones," he said.

Instead of concentrating on the perceived problems caused by hawkers, people needed to consider their economic contribution, their entrepreneurial potential and the potential synergy in the "trading city".

Acknowledging that controls were needed, De Beer said the private sector should invest in assisting informal traders in whatever capacity they could, because they could enhance the city's attractions.

MacGillivray, whose company is involved in building low-cost housing in and around the city, said that while accommodation in the inner city should be expensive, like in other First World

cities, the realities of South Africa had to be considered.

Housing played a key role in rejuvenating Johannesburg, he added.

"Johannesburg is not such a First World city. The reality is different. Poverty is rife. Work is scarce, but the city continues to attract the poor who stream in daily hoping to find a way out of their hopeless destitution."

"As much as anybody might try to wish the poor away from the city, it is important to recognise that the poor are in the city and cannot be expelled."

Solutions had to be found that contributed to the upgrading of the city rather than dragging it down.

Citing the refurbishment of dilapidated and abandoned buildings as one way of upgrading the city, he said the support of city government structures, "which has proved difficult to secure and has delayed development was needed urgently."

Proper by-laws for city hawkers urged

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Problems related to informal trading on inner city streets will not be solved until real by-laws are formulated to regulate hawkers, the Johannesburg department of urbanisation said at the weekend.

Spokesman Penny Rudolph told The Star there were no laws on informal trading, and hawkers were regulated only by traffic, health and solid waste by-laws.

"The lack of formal laws for hawkers has created a gap," she said, and the council could not act with full authority against those hawkers who did not abide by the by-laws enforced by other departments.

Rudolph said business groups, including hawker bodies and the council, had formulated by-laws in May 1994. But these were not promulgated because of the city council's dissolution and its replacement by the transitional metropolitan council.

She said that since the TMC took over, the by-laws had not been considered and the council had no direction in terms of the existing informal trading structure. The TMC should either promulgate the May by-laws or create a strategy to develop informal trading.

She added that hawkers should be allowed to trade on the pavements as long as they kept the area clean and did not obstruct pedestrians.

(153A)

4 Jan 13/2/95

It's not a bargain at the fleece markets

Annie Mapoma

MANAGEMENT at two of Johannesburg's most popular flea markets, Rosebank and Bruma, are surveying their traders and intend taking serious measures against those who threaten the city's flourishing flea market industry by overpricing.

The issue was brought to light when customers complained they were being ripped-off by certain traders, especially on items like clothes, kitchen equipment and other goods easily found in conventional shops.

Both markets say their prices on conventional goods should be between 25 and 30 percent lower than store-bought equivalents.

But, during interviews with customers and traders at the Bruma and Rosebank markets last weekend, the *Weekly Mail & Guardian* discovered this was not the case.

Said one customer, Guy-Roger Ngema. "I bought a pair of shoes at Bruma for R200 and later found the same pair at the Oriental Plaza for R180."

Another customer bought a pool noodle for R35 at Bruma, only to discover that Pick 'n Pay had been selling them for R25. A Rosebank shopper bought a dress at the market for R190, and her friend purchased the same type of dress for R160 at Truworths. Yet another customer bought dinner plates from Game at R10,95 each, but



Bargain hunters: Shoppers at the Rosebank market browse for good buys, but they are often hard to come by

PHOTO HENNER FRANKENFELD

found the same plates going for R12,50 at the Rosebank fleamarket.

Experiences like these are fuel to the rapidly growing perception that flea markets are no longer cheap.

Marc Israelson, of Fleamarket Enterprises which runs Bruma, said a survey on fleamarket prices versus formal sector shops was being carried out. "If items for sale at Bruma are not cheaper than at the shops, we will

cult to control prices because he knows how much effort he put in his work," said Fisher.

The Newtown Market in the Market Theatre Precinct appears to have won the price war — "It's cheaper here than at other flea markets," said a customer — but is fighting a losing battle against crime.

One Senegalese trader lost a leather bag worth R700 last Saturday. "Three

men came to my stand pretending to be interested in my merchandise. Two of them distracted my attention while the other took the bag," he said.

An Indian trader suffered a similar fate. "A young woman picked up a blouse. When I turned my back on her, she had disappeared," she said.

Chris Colin, of the Newtown Flea Market had not responded to questions at the time of going to print.

EMERGING BUSINESS

Playing the midnight market

(153A) (68R) 7/3/95

By MICHELLE JOUBERT

SPECIAL WRITER

The streets of most of South Africa's cities are utterly deserted at midnight. But on Durban's beachfront, an all-night market of formal wholesalers and informal vendors attracts throngs of customers from distant rural areas.

They are Kwazulu-Natal's rural traders who work by day and travel to buy stock at night.

Durban's informal trade and small business director, Dean Botha, points out that traders' markets are a means for individuals excluded from the structured business community to find an entry point into the economic arena.

These hawkers of clothing, accessories and general household goods buy in bulk, and bring hundreds of thousands of rands of revenue to the city.

And this "long-haul bus" industry, as it is known, is rapidly expanding.

At first only wholesalers and dealers profited from these long-distance traders. Now, Durban's small traders are also in on the act.

The market's traders are divided into the "formal" sector, which sells factory-made clothing, accessories and household goods, and the "informal" sector, which plies, among other things, home-made



WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT Informal traders sell clothes on Durban's bustling beachfront

clothes and bottles of sea water.

Security patrols and council-supplied lighting ensures the safety of traders and buyers at the Durban country club beach market.

The all-night market is run by Dawood Parag of the Derby Street Traders' Association.

He explains that Durban wholesalers have followed the traders from the CBD to the beaches, seeing a new business opportunity. "That's where we come in."

Botha said the long-distance traders were a source of income for the city but had for years been seen as an inconvenience to the council and Durban's population.

Parag says he has worked closely with the council to solve the problems.

He has obtained a licence for the market and set up portable ablution blocks and shower facilities. But this, he feels, is not enough.

"Our market caters for an alternative type of tourism in the city, which brings in thousands of rands and supplies many with a livelihood."

"The market should be seen as an example of what is possible. It deserves permanent structures and facilities instead of the trepidation of Durban's formal business community."

"The traders, and the market, are here to stay," Parag said.

Stop mail-order medicine, say pharmacists

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter



Argus

9/21/95

A CAL to shut down mail-order pharmacies has come from the local branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa which claims these "pharmacies" are a threat to community-based chemists, and are "splitting the patient profile in half".

The Cape Western Province branch will appeal to the SA Pharmacy Council to legislate against mail-order operations.

But Pharmacy Council registrar, Chris van Niekerk, said yesterday his council had formulated regulations and presented them to Health Minister Nkosazana

Bama, and was monitoring the activities of the mail-order pharmacies.

Gus Ferguson, director of the Cape Western Province branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, said his branch had met on Monday night to discuss the impact of mail-order medicine on community pharmacies.

He said some medical and societies had arranged for patients to get their "chronic" medication from these pharmacies.

One of the motions accepted at the meeting was that the Pharmacy Council should be approached and asked to regulate, or legislate against, the mail-or-

der pharmacies.

If the council wouldn't agree to do so, a vote of no-confidence would be recorded.

Mr Ferguson said while community pharmacies dealt with acute medication, mail-order pharmacies could send off medicine for chronic conditions.

It was estimated that up to 50 percent of medicine could be defined as "chronic".

This not only posed a financial threat to community-based pharmacies, but also reduced pharmacists' professional intervention and service.

The society always recommended that clients used a single

pharmacy, where pharmacists could keep track of the medication they were on.

The mail-order pharmacies were "splitting patient profiles in half".

Mr Ferguson said while the Pharmacy Council was "not encouraging it", it had removed the ethical rule against it.

What annoyed the "profession at large" was that these pharmacies seemed to be mushrooming.

"If our estimate is correct that chronic medicine is 50 percent of all medicine, community-based pharmacies are threatened. If they disappear, it will be a loss to the community," he said.

Mr Van Niekerk responded that regulations had been formulated to control medicines sent by post.

These medicines had to be accompanied by specific information about the products.

The council preferred direct contact between patients and pharmacists, but also believed that patients had the right to choose from where they wanted to get their "chronic" medicine.

Mr Van Niekerk said the council had received a number of complaints from people who had received medicines which had been wrongly addressed, or broken, and was "monitoring" the situation.

WE'VE JUST WON

Hawkers along William Nicol worried about possible relocation

Highway traders to resist move

Star 13/3/95
(153A)

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI

Concern is growing that one of Greater Johannesburg's most well-known "shopping malls" — along the William Nicol Highway — might be closed and hawkers moved elsewhere.

But the hawkers are determined to resist any efforts to move them.

A Sandton Town Council spokesman pointed out last week that no final decision had been reached on the matter.

Hawkers were unsure of their plight, saying they had not yet received official notification.

"It is pointless to move us now because we are not interfering with anything. They (Sandton administration) want to send us to a small place where cars will not be able to park," said Ray Jonker, who sells chairs along the road all week long.

Jonker, who has been selling his wares at the site for the past six months, does not want to be tied to any flea market. He noted that the amount of space being occupied by each seller could not be matched by any market.

Artist James Mthembu said he made more profits at the roadside. "Many tourists love my stuff. I would not be able to get so many tourists at any flea market," said Mthembu, who added that he thought they had only

until April at their present site. Sandton acting town clerk Anthony Hugo yesterday told The Star that no final decision on the matter had been made as the hawking by-laws had not yet been promulgated.

"Only recently the promulgation of these by-laws was delegated to the premier of the Gauteng province (Tokyo Sexwale). He, however, is busy formulating a new small and medium-enterprise policy, as well as revising the Business Act.

"The old by-laws lapsed and the premier has not had adequate time to study the new by-laws and to look at a policy framework, but this is expected soon."

However, Hugo confirmed that the Sandton Town Council had established a working group at the beginning of this year to investigate the possibility of moving the hawkers selling along the William Nicol highway to an alternative site.

He said "The discussions are ongoing to establish the needs of all parties to ensure that any changes would meet with the approval of all the parties involved."

He said the site being earmarked was at the intersection of William Nicol and Main, not far from the area where the hawkers are trading now.



Dolls for sale . . . but hawkers along the William Nicol Highway are uncertain about their future.

PICTURE JODI BIEBER

EMERGING BUSINESS

EMERGING BUSINESS IS EDITED BY THABO LESHELO

Achib seeks state grant for informal hawkers banks (153A) 3/14/95

By SHELLEY JONES

SAP WIRE

Plans to establish 42 informal hawker banks have been shelved by the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) pending the outcome of an appeal for a R2 million government grant.

Richards Bay Minerals' small business director, Peter Morrison, and Achib president Lawrence Mavundla, who are behind the move, hope to secure the additional finance to appoint nine regional co-ordinators to control the growth of the project, to which the private sector has already pledged R1,25 million.

Based on a similar operation in Mexico which comprises separate banks run by individual hawker communities, the project running under the Achib mantle has

exceeded initial expectations.

The informal banks were established because formal banks refuse loans to this sector, which they regard as an unviable market.

There are five such banks in existence, housed in recycled shipping containers, the RBM-funded, original bank in Empangeni, the Johannesburg bank sponsored by the Anglo American chairman's fund, the Durban bank financed by the NBS, and two which have been set up by the North West government in Rustenberg and Klerksdorp.

Five new Gauteng-based banks financed by Genum are waiting to start operation, and negotiations with large corporations such as South African Breweries are also well advanced. It is hoped that each region will see a minimum of six new Achib banks by the end of

the year. According to Mavundla, "Lack of finance has been one of the major problems for these entrepreneurs for years." The banks are proving highly effective. They can be set up at minimal cost and, after initial funding, are self-sustaining.

The Empangeni bank, which was established at a cost of R30 000, now has more than 780 members, says Morrison.

Empangeni hawkers now work from covered stalls and can store goods in lockers alongside the bank for 50c a day.

Morrison has applied to the Post Office for postal boxes for traders and it is hoped that public telephones will follow.

With increased funding from both the government and the formal sector, it is hoped that individual loans can be increased.

At present, these are deterred by individual banks and the communities in which they operate.

According to Morrison, the Empangeni bank makes loans of between R100 and R200 and expects repayment at the end of the day, with a 1 percent administration fee.

In Johannesburg, he says, loans of up to R500 have been negotiated because it is a more sophisticated market.

The risk factor is low because banks are started from within the community and new applicants have to be recommended by existing members. Both parties lose their memberships if a loan is not repaid.

Morrison says the Durban bank has a "small cash flow problem" as it had not followed protocol and

had lent to too broad a community. However, a debt collector has been hired on a commission basis and he is hoping to recover at least 80 percent of outstanding loans.

This problem highlights the need for regional co-ordination, he says.

Morrison hopes the Achib bank project can become an integral part of government policy as outlined in the white paper on small and micro enterprise.

He has urged the government to seize this as an opportunity to implement strategies outlined in the document.

Trevor Manuel, the minister of trade and industry, indicated last month that the financing problems experienced by the informal sector would be on the agenda at the President's Conference on Small Business.



PEOPLE'S BANK Achib informal banker Josephine Ntambule attends to business

PHOTO: FRIENNE BOTHA

EMERGING BUSINESS

EMERGING BUSINESS IS EDITED BY THABO LESHEMO

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By Shirley Jones

STAFF WRITER

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PEOPLE'S BANK Achib informal banker Josephine Ntombule attends to business

PHOTO: ETHENE KOTIBAT

(153A) 062 2714 3195

Street trading: ²⁵ Province's concern ^(153A)

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

CT 21/3/95

AUTHORITY to pass a tough new law to control street trading has been passed back, after six months, by central government to the province

Trade and Industry director-general Dr Zaverh Rustonjee said at the time that "there is great concern about the lack of uniformity in the proposals submitted for approval."

It seemed that the government wanted a single hawker-control by-law for the whole country

The Businesses Act of 1991 deregulated street trade almost entirely. But a backlash against this resulted in an amendment being drawn up allowing for municipalities to make their own by-laws.

Cape Town drew up a proposed by-law for the whole of the Western Province which was to have been passed in September 1994 but was taken back by the government.

Street trading is to be banned in certain defined areas as well as on pavements outside shops selling similar goods. The proposed by-law carries a maximum fine of R1 000 or three months' imprisonment. Goods of transgressing hawkers can also be confiscated summarily — without warning.

Midrand council in row over flea market

253 (153A) Stan 4/4/95

■ CITY REPORTER

A row is brewing between the owners of Petticoat Lane country market north of Sandton and the Midrand administration over restrictions being placed on the flea market.

Petticoat Lane owner Kim Human has accused the council of undermining the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme and of "nipping free enterprise in the bud".

But the council yesterday denied the claims and said the actions against the flea marketeers came from the provincial government. The council said Human had applied to the Townships Board in 1993 to have the relevant properties rezoned to expand the activities of Petticoat Lane to include, among other things, more entertainment and the sale of alcohol.

The board investigated the issue in January and then submitted its proposals to the Gauteng administration, said the council. In its report, the board said Human should be allowed to open a flea market on condition it met certain requirements. Some of them are:

- No more than 130 stalls and informal traders are allowed.
- Helicopter flights, the sale of liquor, go-kart racing, bungee-jumping and live music perfor-

mances are prohibited.

■ Noise levels are not allowed to exceed those allowed by the local authority.

"These activities had been excluded because it was the submission of the Townships Board that the properties were not suitable for conducting such activities. Subsequently, the proprietors of Petticoat Lane have made no attempts to bring the engineering services in accordance with acceptable standards," said the council in the statement.

An angry Human said in a statement that the council's requirements for a flea market licence had cost her hundreds of thousands of rands.

After spending more money, the council had prohibited the use of the bungee-jumping tower and the go-kart track, she said.

"While the council was quick to prohibit the use of our bungee-jumping tower, which must rank among the safest structures ever built in southern Africa, as well as a go-kart track which cost R150 000 to develop, they have in two years not found the time to process my application," said Human.

According to Midrand, however, it was the Townships Board which prohibited bungee-jumping.

'Mavundla's dream' gives hope to hawkers

By SHIRLEY JONES

STAFF WRITER

The formal launch of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses' (Achib) mobile banking concept in Durban last week was an emotional celebration of South Africa's potential for economic revival.

"The freedom we achieved is meaningless unless it is interwoven with economic emancipation. The battle fields in South Africa have changed. We are no longer fighting apartheid. We are at the forefront of the struggle against poverty," said Jeff Radebe, minister of public works.

All agreed Achib has achieved far more than the provision of finance to people without collateral who had been ostracised by formal commercial institutions.

The banks, operating from used shipping containers in hawker com-

munities, lend amounts of between R100 and R500 to informal traders at a 1 percent administration fee.

Founded by Achib president Lawrence Mavundla, representing black informal traders, and Peter Morrison, spokesman for corporate giant Richards Bay Minerals, it is tangible evidence of what can be achieved through the meeting of black and white, formal and informal business interests.

The fact that three of the eight operating banks have been funded by the North West government, expands this miracle into a union of the public and private sector.

Martin Kuscus, North West minister of finance said his provincial government had committed R40 000 to the Achib initiative.

"Many potential entrepreneurs lack collateral for obtaining loans as a result of the small quantity of housing stock in black hands and the undeveloped market for hous-

ing in black townships. In rural areas, the tribal land tenure system prevents farmers from borrowing against their land holdings, which cannot be sold," he pointed out.

He added that provincial governments had a blank cheque and could cancel out legislation of the past, replacing it with fair and appropriate laws for the informal sector.

As far as Achib's immediate achievements were concerned, Morrison said the banks were changing lives. "They give hope to people. For the first time, someone trusts them enough to lend them money."

A slightly longer-term vision from Mavundla is of the hawkers of today moving up to become the business sector of the future.

"It is a myth that if there was plentiful formal employment, hawkers would leave their stalls. These are people with dreams. They

hope to reach the big business sector, to become the millionaires of tomorrow."

Radebe's view is more far reaching still. He said Mavundla, the charismatic father of the Achib banking concept whom colleagues say has unbounded energy and unbridled imagination, is both the country's biggest dreamer and a personification of the RDP.

Pointing out that the government did not envisage its role as that of a Father Christmas, Radebe said the initiative of people like Mavundla was what was needed to give the RDP much needed punch.

His message was that the Achib initiative needed to be emulated in the new South Africa. "It is the responsibility of the Lawrence Mavundlas, private companies, government, our communities and labour to make our economy tick. That is why it is so important to reach consensus on key issues."

(153A) CT(BR) 4/4/95

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253 (153A) SKW 4/4/95

■ CITY REPORTER

A row is brewing between the owners of Petticoat Lane country market north of Sandton and the Midrand administration over restrictions being placed on the flea market.

Petticoat Lane owner Kim Human has accused the council of undermining the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme and of "nipping free enterprise in the bud".

But the council yesterday denied the claims and said the actions against the flea marketeers came from the provincial government. The council said Human had applied to the Townships Board in 1993 to have the relevant properties rezoned to expand the activities of Petticoat Lane to include, among other things, more entertainment and the sale of alcohol.

The board investigated the issue in January and then submitted its proposals to the Gauteng administration, said the council. In its report, the board said Human should be allowed to open a flea market on condition it met certain requirements. Some of them are:

- No more than 130 stalls and informal traders are allowed.
- Helicopter flights, the sale of liquor, go-kart racing, bungee-jumping and live music perfor-

mances are prohibited.

- Noise levels are not allowed to exceed those allowed by the local authority.

"These activities had been excluded because it was the submission of the Townships Board that the properties were not suitable for conducting such activities. Subsequently, the proprietors of Petticoat Lane have made no attempts to bring the engineering services in accordance with acceptable standards," said the council in the statement.

An angry Human said in a statement that the council's requirements for a flea market licence had cost her hundreds of thousands of rands.

After spending more money, the council had prohibited the use of the bungee-jumping tower and the go-kart track, she said.

"While the council was quick to prohibit the use of our bungee-jumping tower, which must rank among the safest structures ever built in southern Africa, as well as a go-kart track which cost R150 000 to develop, they have in two years not found the time to process my application," said Human.

According to Midrand, however, it was the Townships Board which prohibited bungee-jumping.



SOMETHING FROM NOTHING Redundant freight containers transformed into offices and workshops for small business initiatives

'Hive' to aid self-employment

By THABO LESHILO

STAFF WRITER

Coca-Cola Southern Africa and Highveld Bottling have launched a micro-enterprise hive in Witbank in an effort to promote self-employment in the Eastern Transvaal.

The project involved converting redundant freight containers into offices and workshops.

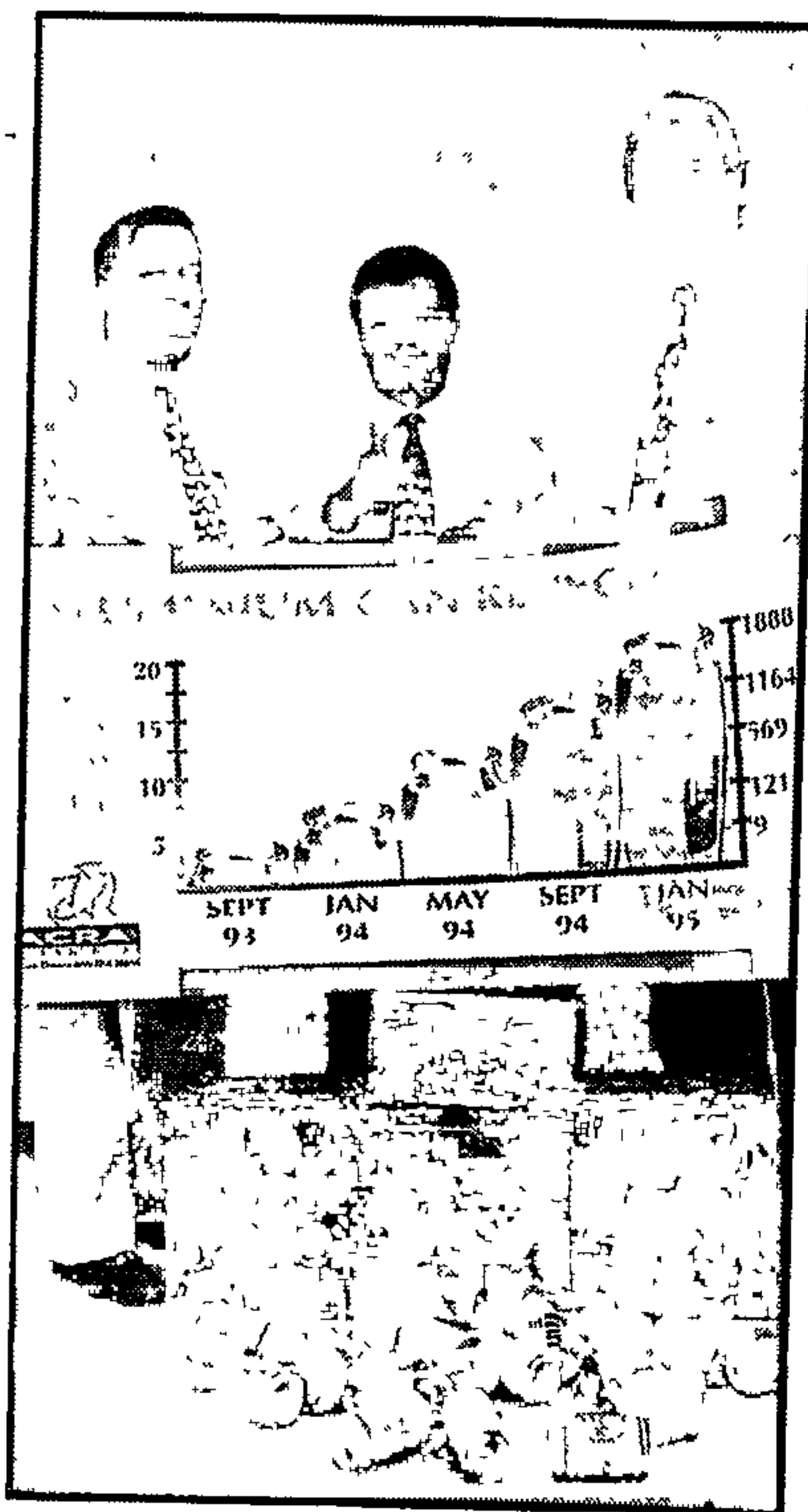
Situated in the Witbank CBD, the hive houses business activities such as sewing, carpentry, electrical repairs, spray painting and welding. The Unemployed Workers' Congress has been contracted to renovate

the containers over the next six months.

Andre van den Berg, general manager at Highveld Bottling, says the company has placed orders to buy T-shirts and overalls from the hive as well as having its colours repaired and its billboards made there. "In addition to providing the town and outlying areas with a venue for quality handcrafted wares, the village has inspired a spirit of enterprise throughout the region," says Van den Berg.

He says there are plans to extend the initiative to the township areas of Sivabuswa, in the old KwaNdebele, and Jane Furse in Lebowa.

(153A) (182) (182) CT(BR) 11/4/95



CAN DO . ARCA's Andrew Matsapola and Dawie Krugel with Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa

R4m industry thrives on a throwaway line

By DON ROBERTSON

THE informal sector has earned itself R4-million and can claim a world record for recycling aluminium beverage cans.

Dawie Krugel, general manager of the Aluminium Can Recycling Association, says that in the first full year since the introduction of aluminium beverage cans in South Africa, 20% or 1 888 tons were collected for recycling, an achievement unmatched anywhere in the world.

In environmentally-conscious Europe, for example, recoveries in the first year of recycling aluminium cans were well below this, only reaching 27% after seven years.

Between 4 000 and 5 000 people or groups are involved in can collection, a large portion of whom are from the informal sector.

"Some of the more organised collectors are earning as much as R6 000 or R7 000 a month, delivering cans to 240 collection stations around the country or to scrap merchants.

"They visit places such

as sports stadiums, cafes, office blocks and hotels and collect as much as six tons a month. This they sell at R1,50 a kilogram. Scrap merchants, who sort, bale and transport to the collection points can earn more."

Mr Krugel believes there is considerable potential for growth in this "industry" with 80% of cans now merely dumped and not recycled. In 1992, R3,8-billion was paid to members of the public in the US for cans brought back for recycling.

Internationally, 80% of all beverage cans are made from aluminium. In South Africa only 15% of the 3-billion cans used annually are made from aluminium but this percentage is expected to increase in years to come.

"A number of projects have been set up to enable black entrepreneurs to start their own small business collecting and recycling cans," says Mr Krugel.

ST (BT) 23/4/95

ARC 25/4/95

Job creation training for 200

(153A) 253

Staff Reporter

MORE than 200 jobless and penniless people in the Western Cape are to be trained by the Triple Trust Organisation to become self-employed.

The participants will complete an eight-week job creation training course during May and June in subjects like sewing, leather work and business training, said TTO financial director Paul Bradnum.

Trainees could rely on assistance from volunteers in the formal sector

and they could apply for a loan from the TTO to start their own businesses.

Sanlam donated R14 000 to the project at a ceremony at the organisation's offices in Mowbray yesterday to give six unemployed people the opportunity to become financially self-sufficient.

Sanlam's regional general manager Johnnie Roelofse said the programme enabled many underprivileged people to start and maintain some form of legitimate economic activity.

'Flea markets cheaper'

THEO RAWANA

PRICES at flea markets were on average 19% lower than those charged at formal shops in central Gauteng, a survey conducted by Flea Market Enterprises found.

Joint MD Marc Israelsohn said the survey, conducted by the organisation's market research department, compared a shopping basket of similar goods from Flea Market World and four other formal sector retail centres. (153A)

Asked why the company did not use an independent market researcher, Israelsohn agreed that this might have given the findings more credibility. "But our researcher Faruk Waja is highly qualified and it would not do to go out and hire someone from outside."

The use of Waja, a senior member of the executive, was "to ensure that accuracy and comparability was maintained all the time".

Israelsohn said the survey "conservatively omitted to take account of" bargaining at flea markets and the prices could drop by a further 10%. BD 4/5/95

■ FISH HOEK

Move street traders for one year, says leading landlady

ARG 10/5/95 (153A)

Staff Reporter

THE street traders controversy continues to make waves in Fish Hoek, with the area's leading property owner, Janet Holwill, proposing that informal traders move off the pavements in the main road as "an experiment" for 12 months.

But Fish Hoek's Hawkers' Association chairman Sydney Weller retorts that the informal traders are happy on the main road pavements and will not be "pushed" elsewhere.

Joining the fray is Fritz Bing, a local department store owner and ratepayer who is withholding his rates until the controversy is resolved. He says Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Trevor Manuel should sort out the problem once and for all.

Mrs Holwill, landlady to more than 50 tenants in the main road, says a joint effort for one year could put the area on the tourist map.

"I'm prepared to give it all I can to make this experiment work so the informal traders

can have a proper place of their own to carry on their businesses," she said. "The pavements are not the place because the traders need space and facilities."

"Together we can make them the area's top tourist attraction. We must stop quarrelling and find a place which we can review after a year."

She said the traders needed space to trade where toilets, changerooms, lock-up facilities, parking, water points, cleansing and other amenities could be provided.

"We have models of how the informal sector can work successfully locally in Gauteng without disturbing the rights of others and we should follow them," she said.

Mrs Holwill said something had to be done soon because the matter was getting out of hand and a serious conflict was brewing.

The hawkers, she claimed, were fighting among themselves, spilling over on to more of the pavement, leaving litter,

using nearby office toilets and corridors as change rooms.

Because of lack of public toilets some children were urinating on the pavement. "They have a rightful place in the economy but, like all other businesses, need regulation."

"If a solution is not found it could happen that formal small rent-paying businesses go bankrupt because people won't support them owing to the deteriorating situation on the pavement. Then everyone will lose. We want a win-win situation for all," she said.

Mr Weller said the traders would like to regulate themselves better but wouldn't move. "I don't think Mrs Holwill's suggestion has any merit," he said.

But Mr Bing said "I think Mrs Holwill's suggestion has great merit. To put the traders into an area like successful Greenmarket Square would be wonderful. Lots of traders don't pay tax, rent or VAT and the government and councils are losing out."

(153A)

Mini-loan project launched: A R6 million mini-loan project for small businesses was launched by Free State Premier Patrick Lekota in Bloemfontein yesterday. The project was aimed mainly at informal micro entrepreneurs and manufacturers. Initially, loans of R10 000 would be granted, repayable over 24 months, with a payment moratorium of two months. Interest would be 10 percent, but talks were in progress with the Bank of Taiwan in South Africa, which has an interest rate of 4,5 percent.

CT(22)11/5/95

Parade peace as traders reach deal

Dispute over selling areas

ends as rivals agree on space

ARG 24/5/95 (153A)

Municipal Reporter

PEACE has been brokered between two rival groups of traders on the Grand Parade after several months of acrimony over trading rights.

The established Grand Parade Traders' Association, which has the rights to existing tables, and the rival Black Pirates Traders' Association, who have been seeking formal trading rights at the market, have reached an agreement.

It ensures that each group may trade in a separate area without encroaching on each other's space.

It gives the Black Pirates the right to trade in a T-shaped, paved area near the statue of King Edward VII in front of the city hall, as well as a small square close to the kiosks.

Jeff Klein of the Grand Parade Traders' Association, who says he "grew up on the Parade", hopes the peace will draw more and more shoppers to the colourful Wednesday and

Saturday markets.
"The bottom line is that hopefully everybody is happy and everybody can trade," he said.

Black Pirates representative Adnaan Lawrence said "I'm happy that we could settle the matter around a table."

Among the key issues was that the Black Pirates were roving around trading out of boxes and blocking access to the established tables.

The Black Pirates were demanding the right to space at the market, where some families have held trading rights for decades.

Key figures in the new agreement were Khayelethu Mqayisa, of the Western Province Association of Hawkers and Hassan Khan of the Cape Peninsula Informal Traders' Association, who acted as mediators.

The two men have also offered their services as co-ordinators to assist the Black Pirates set up their new trading area.



Picture BRENTON GEACH, The Argus

SHAKING ON IT: Grand Parade traders have made peace over a long-standing dispute between the old-timers and newcomers to the popular market. From left are Hassan Khan of the Cape Peninsula Informal Traders' Association, Mogamat Davids and Jeff Klein of the Grand Parade Traders' Association, Adnaan Lawrence of the Black Pirates Traders' Association and Khayelethu Mqayisa of the Western Province Association of Hawkers and Informal Businesses.

Hawkers split in pavement trading row

AMC 29/5/95 (153A)
☐ *Let's move, says breakaway group*



INFORMAL TRADE: A general view of informal traders stalls on the pavement in Main Road, Fish Hoek



BREAKAWAY: Cheryl shows a pair of jeans to a customer on the pavement in Fish Hoek. She is one of a group of traders which wants to break away from the Fish Hoek Hawkers Association and move off the pavement to a covered area where their businesses can grow

Raptor sanctuary proposed for quarry

Staff Reporter

A R22 million raptor sanctuary has been mooted for the Glencairn Quarry

The quarry has been put up for tender by the Simon's Town metropolitan substructure

Funding would be put forward by Mr Vivlen Myerson, a local bird lover, who said "A bird sanctuary would be of far greater benefit to the community and future generations than yet another property development"

The towering cliff face, according to Mr Myerson, will provide an ideal place for birds of prey to nest while the open area at the bottom of the cliff would be landscaped using features such as water to separate the birds from the public

To protect the larger birds of prey areas would have to be netted to allow them to soar

Mr Myerson said he hoped a project of this nature would encourage the council to retain the land on either side creating a green belt on the mountain side

He is due to present his proposal to the Simon's town TMS

● Conservancies are catching on as a means of pooling resources for the good of nature conservation

One of the most recent to be recognised is that at Red Hill

In a bid to save the fynbos, eight privately owned farms have joined together, forming the first private nature reserve in the Southern Peninsula

It was initiated by Peter Salter, Chairman of the Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group.

Now part of the Table Mountain Chain, it will be managed with assistance from Cape Nature Conservation

Southern Reporter

A BREAKAWAY group has emerged among traders in Fish Hoek to challenge the hard liners who insist on staying on the pavements to do business

This follows heated debate about the issue between shopkeepers and traders as well as separate meetings involving both parties with the Fish Hoek, Kommetjie Noordhoek Transitional Metropolitan Substructure

Several traders want to breakaway from the Fish Hoek Hawkers Association (FHHA) saying they are not "growing by trading on small pavement spaces in an atmosphere that is deteriorating"

One of the places the group favours for an undercover craft market would be in Recreation Road with a fleamar ket close to the station

FHHA chairman Sydney Weller said nobody had approached him about the break away yet but he wished the group well

There is no further comment I wish to make on the matter because the press does not print my side of the story"

Cheryl Bradbury, 32, who started trading in Fish Hoek 18 months ago because she was unemployed, has been assaulted and insulted over "rights" on the pavements

She says on behalf of the breakaway group "I'm not interested in constantly being told it's the new South Africa so people can do what they like. The word 'free' in free enterprise is being abused. Although I am a member of the FHHA I think we should move on"

She said there was no dignity in trading on the pavement and the group feared winter again

"We all have children to support so we need to be in good health all the time and do our business under cover. In the busy months at the end of the year we have to get up at about 2 am to get a good place on the pavement"

A proper place that we know is ours, with low rentals we can all afford, would boost our incomes because we could expand using proper amenities

"People will come to us if we are more market orientated. We will be able to employ others who are unemployed to assist us as we grow"

She said she also saw the shopkeepers point of view on pavement trading

"We can't build up a town or a family business with the type of traders who insist on doing business on pavements. Street trading shouldn't be banished — it should be regulated and have its own niche but off the pavements"

A fax to the Southern Argus from the Fish Hoek, Kommetjie, Noordhoek transitional council confirmed traders had met with them to discuss problems

It was agreed they would work together with the council to find an amicable solution to the problem

Focus on informal traders

Theo Rawana

(153A)

THE greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council had produced a discussion document on informal business, council economic development promotion head Sias Reyneke said yesterday.

At a conference in Midrand, Reyneke said successful implementation of the policy could regenerate the CBD.

It could also see substantial upgrading of products sold, establishment of home industries, to manufacture and distribute products, and development of larger and more viable businesses.

Informal markets and precincts could develop into tourist attractions, Reyneke said.

In the document, the

council said there were about 8 000 informal traders in the CBD.

Fruit and vegetables were sold by 32%, while 42% sold prepared food and drink.

Most (83%) used planks, boxes, crates and plastic to trade from, within an area ranging between 1m² and 6m² in area, depending on the width of the pavement.

Most traders in the council's area of interest sold from the same spot every day and had built up stable clientele.

Emphasising the multiplier effect, Reyneke said: "At the Johannesburg Market they spawned a new industry, the bakkie brigade, where black entrepreneurs help in distribution."

The greatest challenge to

local government was promoting and managing informal trading effectively.

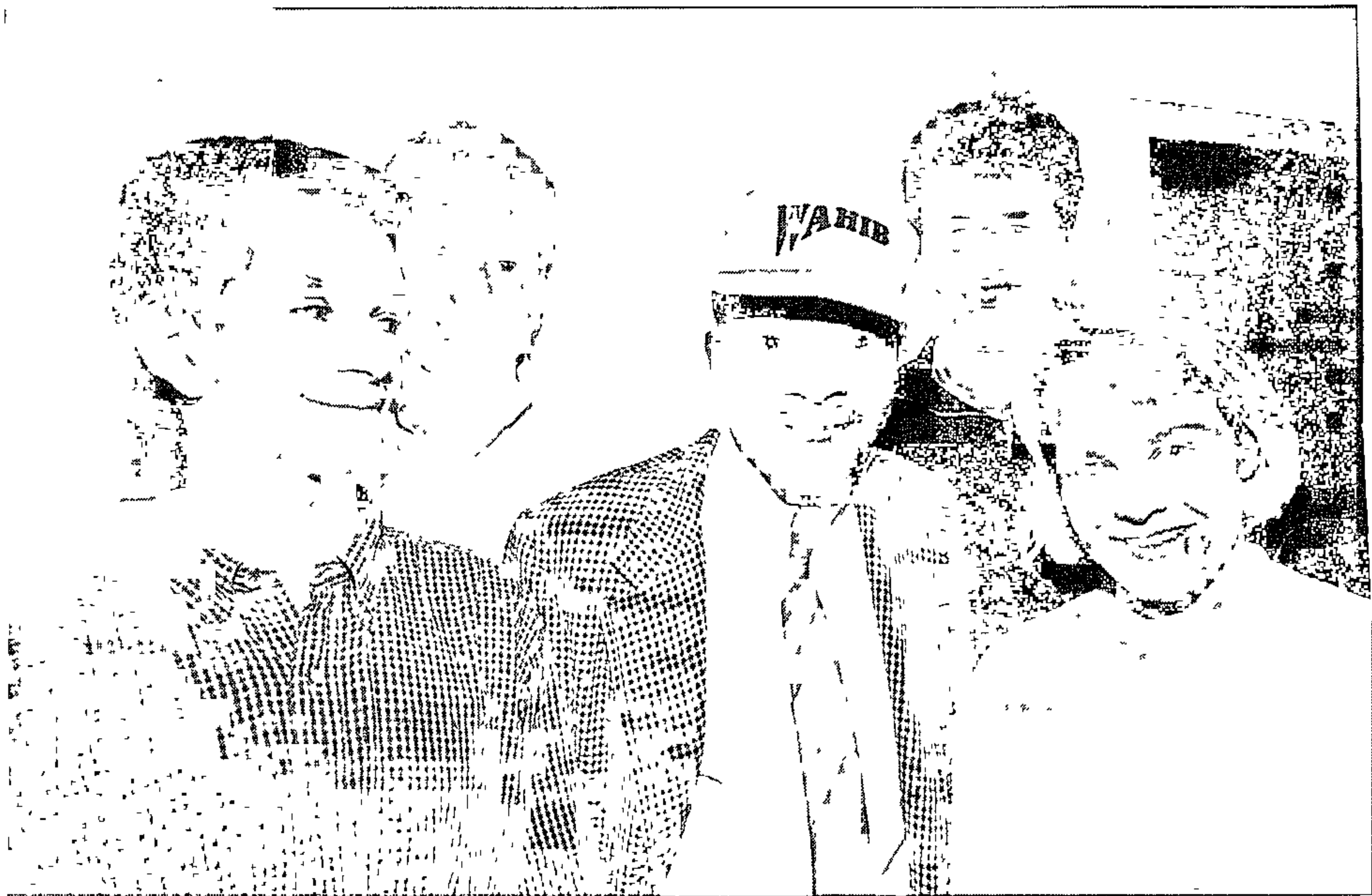
Development of legislation and policy was necessary if such trading was to be included in the city in a holistic manner.

The council was working towards setting up street facilities and allocating structures to traders for nominal fees.

The proceeds of this would be ploughed back into development.

The council supported the education of informal traders on city by-laws and the development of positive attitudes.

It also encouraged communication between residents, the business community, hawker associations and other interest groups, Reyneke said.



BUSINESS LINKS Students from London's Cranfield University School of Management are supporting small business in the Western Cape

UK students help Cape informal traders

BY FRANÇOISE BOTHA

STAFF WRITER

Small business in the Western Cape has received a boost from a visiting team of MBA students who have instituted a range of programmes that have garnered support worth more than R2 million.

The projects, which are aimed at assisting enterprise development, have been proposed and structured by students from the Cranfield University School of Management, based outside London, and are being run in conjunction with the Cape-based Western Province Association for Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Wahib).

While the business school runs international entrepreneur programmes based on developing or-

ganisational, strategic and opportunity skills, the students have taken the practical side much further and have set the wheels rolling for three projects.

A joint venture initiative with a Slovakian firm, which has agreed to supply Wahib with assistance to the value of R1,2 million, has been structured. The company has agreed to supply sock-making machines and fund training and development to set up the venture which will be launched in Khayelitsha early next year.

Wahib has applied for reconstruction and development programme (RDP) funding to finance its commitment to the project and will organise the supply of labour.

The project is expected to create 200 jobs.

"The project will probably take a while to be launched because we will have to wait for reciprocal funding from the RDP," said Wahib's executive director Khayelithu Mqayisa.

A Japanese sewing machine manufacturer has also pledged support for a clothing manufacturing project in the township. The 300 sewing machines worth more than R880 000 will employ more than 300 women, but the project is still at proposal level.

The students have also provided guidance as to how the organisation can achieve its objectives with the resources they have.

Amongst the objectives is the organising of the hawker trade in the Western Cape.

To date, the organisation has

established itself among 5 000 Western Cape hawker members and has provided discount schemes, credit facilities, insurance and training.

"We are an independent party and provide a common bridge with the authorities," said Mqayisa.

The students have, however, recommended certain changes to try to bridge the gap between the hawkers and big business. Part of the focus has been directed at marketing and public relations.

While the organisation has 19 branches in the Western Cape, it has been operating for three years without any outside funding.

Proposals have been made for funding by organised business and the response has been "encouraging," said Mqayisa.

CT(MR) 4/7/95

(153A)

Start-Up Fund 'releases' R1,5-m

(70)(153A)
By Isaac Moledi

SINCE its inception two years ago, the South African Start-Up Fund has released about R1,5 million to over 2 000 emerging businesses in the informal sector and is now expanding its operations nationwide.

The fund's chairman, Mr Tony Davenport, says experts of the international development organisations have been impressed by the fund's performance.

"To our astonishment the fund was described as unique in the international field of micro-credit delivery," says Davenport.

"This is due to our innovative electronic systems whereby we use the commercial banking infrastructure for the delivery of small business loans to emerging entrepreneurs throughout South Africa," he adds.

The same system is used to enable the borrowers to make their repayments to the fund.

Because this method of transferring funds to and from borrowers is so efficient and economical, Davenport says the Start-Up Fund is able to cover all its operating costs from the interest paid by bor-

rowers - without changing the exorbitant rates.

The Start-Up Fund, a non-profit organisation providing an incentivised and incremental micro-credit programme aimed at unemployed people entering into self-employment, is backed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the IDT, Nedcor, Anglo American Corporation, Metropolitan Life, Southern Life and JCI.

Davenport says the programme is designed in such a way that the borrowers willingly make their repayments because they want to obtain bigger loans as they climb the ladder of opportunity provided for them by the fund.

"Progress up the ladder depends on each borrower's repayment. The borrower does not receive the next loan until his repayments are up to date," he says.

The fund offers loans from R200 up to R2 000.

"Now that the Start-Up Fund has been functioning very successfully for nearly two years, our operations are being expanded in all nine provinces with additional funding from local and international sources," adds Davenport.

Sowetan 6/7/95
R1

Informal

traders

seek (153A)

solutions

RR48/7/95

THEY came from across the Western Cape, hope in their eyes and faces alight with determination

Looking for opportunities, experience, and assistance, many were vendors and hawkers. Others ran Spaza stores and still others were small manufacturers.

About 450 in all, each paid his or her own way to the two-day workshop for small, medium and micro enterprises, held at the University of the Western Cape and organised by the provincial department of economic affairs and RDP

They were invited to come and brainstorm for solutions to problems they face as aspirant business people who have little or no experience of banks, have never owned fixed property and who in most cases have no formal business training or tertiary education.

Most were from what is known as "the survival sector" — emerging businesses in the new South Africa.

It was no news to them to hear that they had inherited an economy governed by "vested political interest, government policy biased towards big business, monopoly control, and exclusion of African, coloured and Indian business," as described by Chris Nissen, Minister of Economic Affairs and RDP, when he opened the workshop.

"I want experience about get-



GETTING TOGETHER: For the first time in the Western Cape, rural and urban informal sector businesses like this one got together with other small businesses to discuss and seek solutions to common problems. The occasion was a two-day workshop at the University of the Western Cape, organised by the provincial department of Economic Affairs and the RDP

ting financing to help my business grow up," said Elijah Ndyumbu, who runs a panel beating workshop in Khayelitsha.

Said Ashia Sebastian, a food trader on Cape Town station. "This is my first conference. I am here to see what we can do to improve our market. As a trader I am struggling to get financial assistance."

Moosa Mathonsi of George, a distributor of hair products for men and women, said: "I'm here to learn more about marketing and maybe there will be an opportunity

for more financing to expand my business."

Queenbeth Gxothelwa, who has a laundrette in Philippi, said she was invited through the Masincedisane Business Development organisation to which she belongs

She and Barbara Manata, a baker, said their organisation encouraged them to attend to "get education on how to get the RDP to reach grassroots".

Mrs Manata said "They (the RDP) don't even know that in the townships there are lots and lots of organisations

and people who are doing business, but who are struggling financially to start their business."

Ernest Buyeye, a grocer from Khayelitsha, suggested a way to overcome bank reluctance to grant unsecured loans

"We belong to the United Farmers' Association. Banks need not fear when there are people with well-established organisations. If one individual doesn't pay, the organisation takes responsibility."

They heard Mr Nissen tell them to "help each other to

become smarter, to overcome the painful legacies of the past".

They were given lots of time to question speakers, who told them about plans to overcome bank financing obstacles, assistance programmes pending, plans to gain access to markets, and support systems available to them.

And some went away as interim representatives on what will become a Western Cape small business council, to be formed within three months to act as the voice of people who for too long were the voiceless.

Job creation is top priority — Sunter

ALG 24/2/95

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

SOUTH Africa had to focus its Reconstruction and Development Programme efforts on job creation rather than housing, or the country would be building houses no-one could afford.

This is the view of Anglo American future trends expert Clem Sunter who added that South Africa should also take more seriously long-term threats to the economy, notable among them Aids which could cripple society in five to 10 years.

In a talk at the 33rd conference of the Institute of Town Clerks of Southern Africa in Cape Town yesterday, Mr Sunter said South Africa should be focusing its efforts on encouraging entrepreneurship to achieve the five percent growth rate it needed if the transition to democracy was to be successful.

If it did not achieve this kind



Jobs first: Clem Sunter

of growth it would not draw the masses into the economy and society would start cracking along the "old fault lines".

"If we do not target five percent, we simply will not make it through the transition," he said.

He described South Africa as being like the QE2 ocean liner, top heavy with structures, but driven by a manufacturing base the size of a lawnmower engine.

To turn this around, the country would have to encourage seriously entrepreneurship which should be the "life and soul" of the economy.

His view of the RDP was completely different from the prevailing view, he said.

The country needed to throw its efforts behind educating and training the masses to start their own businesses, he argued.

Local authorities should be less concerned about maintaining clean streets and order, than about creating an entrepreneurial society.

Unless such attitudes were changed, there would be an ordered society inside a fence "but you will have masses and masses of people against the fence".

'Rent space to hawkers'

Municipal Reporter (153A)

COUNCILS should consider leasing sidewalks to hawkers rather than moving them off the high streets.

This is what Anglo American scenario planner Clem Sunter told town clerks at their annual congress in Cape Town.

Mr Sunter said councils should encourage entrepreneurship positively to get South Africa's economy going. He did not believe shops and hawkers needed necessarily to be in conflict, because shops got a lot of business from hawkers.

They hawked their wares in the main streets because that was where the pedestrians were and their businesses would not be viable if they were moved.

Commenting on the proposed hawking bylaw, he said he was against too much regulation and preferred the idea of renting the pavement because one of the chief grievances of shop owners was that they could not compete against people who paid no rent.

ALG 27/2/95

Call for action on hawking

Municipal Reporter

(153A)

A DELEGATION of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has appealed to Economic Affairs Minister Chris Nissen to ensure that a proposed by-law on hawking becomes law as soon as possible.

The by-law, which was submitted to the authorities in September last year, has not yet been promulgated. ARG 28/7/95

Mr Malone said the by-law would "empower the city to take the necessary steps to manage the informal sector in a constructive and fair way".

Informal sector a gold mine for the Receiver

ET(BR) 3/8/95

(153A)

A plethora of new businesses is mushrooming in South Africa

This is line with the changes taking place in the country. These enterprises will, in time, become the bedrock of the South African economy.

The Government Gazette recently reported there were more than 800 000 small, medium and micro-enterprises in this country. The growth of small business will create a new base from which tax can be collected.

Inland Revenue is sitting on a gold mine because of the growing informal business sector.

Attempts by the government through the tax amnesty to spread the tax net to include the informal sector are most welcome. Those already on the register cannot further fund the government as they are overburdened.

The inclusion of new leaves blossoming from the fiscal tree may result in a reduction in tax rates, providing taxpayers with some breathing space in the suffocating atmosphere of high tax rates.

The situation is desperate and cries out for attention.

Michael Katz, the head of the Katz Commission, says "Tax reform is a national endeavour. Its primary objective is to support reconstruction and development. Tax is now a legitimate instrument to achieve national democratic objectives and is no longer a means

TAXING QUESTIONS



By MATSHERU MATSHERU

Small businesses must be welcomed into South Africa's tax system

of funding repression."

The time for using the tax system as a political football is past. It is now time to use the tax system as an arena for stability and economic development.

As someone once said "The real test of the government is not winning the election (but) in governing the nation."

However, simply bringing new taxpayers into the tax registry will not result in tax obedience. To ensure tax responsibility, the authorities must be ruthless in applying tax regulations.

For example, small businesses should not be granted a business loan, be allowed to open a bank account or be given government tenders without first producing a tax number.

The commission's recommen-

dation that small enterprises be allowed to choose to be taxed on a cash flow basis, which allows revenue and expenditure to be recognised only when cash is received or payment is made, is commendable. Many small businesses do not have a reliable record-keeping system.

However, if the owner of a small business finds that the cash flow approach is good for him he may opt to remain small. This could hamper economic growth and the creation of employment.

South Africa does not need a government with questionable economic values.

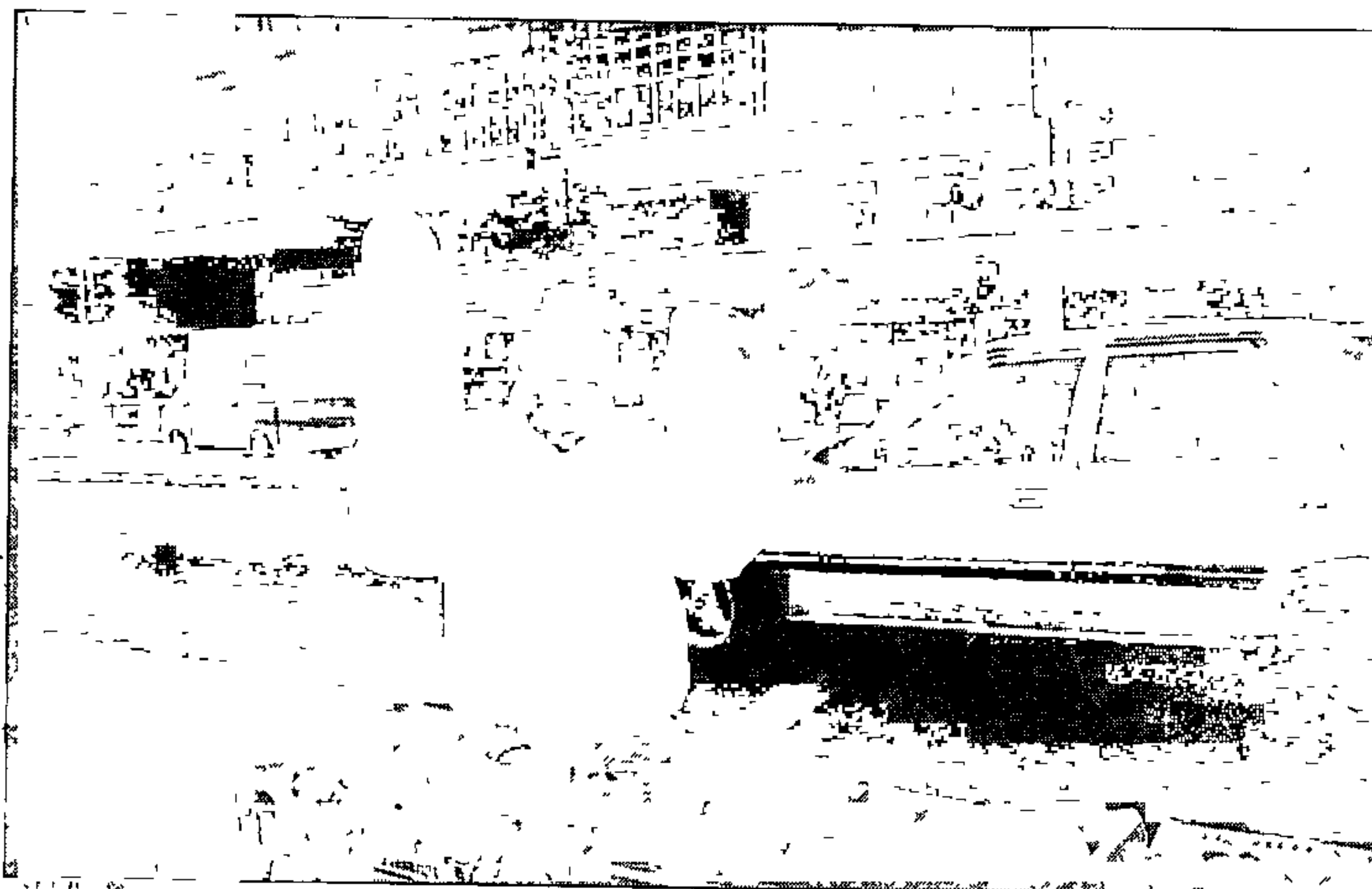
Encouraging small businesses to participate in the mainstream economy and to contribute to the cost of running the state may backfire. Small traders, who are mainly sole traders, are taxed at a high maximum rate of 45 percent.

To enhance the credibility of the tax system, the government could consider opening tax collection offices in former black townships.

To the owner of a small business who is entering the tax registry for the first time, welcome to the tax club and may you remain an honourable member of the club until you die.

In South Africa, fiscal policies must be led by tax surgeons who will remove all traces of tax irresponsibility.

□ Matsheru Matsheru is an independent tax consultant



HANDLED WITH CARE: Street trader Mr Peter Koopman shows off some of his fruit in Adderley Street while politicians and businessmen discuss his fate elsewhere and decide on another delay in implementing more controls through a hawkling by-law

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

Hawking by-law delayed again

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

A BY-LAW to control street hawking is likely to be delayed by at least another three months, because it is to be advertised again for comment.

This emerged from a meeting between the Provincial Government, the Cape Town City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

A disappointed Mr Alan Lighton, executive director of the chamber, said consultation over

the proposed by-law had already been prolonged. The by-law, drawn up by Cape Town, had been with the Department of Trade and Industry for months, and then authority over such matters was devolved down to provincial level again.

"We are very concerned that the by-law should be put in place," he said. "In our view, it is a framework that can then be used at the local level for the next round of negotiations — on rules for specific sections of pavement"

The by-law has been coming since 1993 and will permit municipalities to lease pavements and issue permits to vendors to trade from there. It will also allow municipalities to ban hawking of certain goods in front of a formal business selling similar goods without the business' consent.

Hawking may even be banned outright in limited areas, after the council has considered if supervision, control or negotiation would be effective, or if a ban would drive many vendors out of business.

CT 4/8/95

(153A)

WS

Keegan hits out at Nissen

CT 7/8/96

(153A)

FORMER mayor of Cape Town and ANC councillor Mr Clive Keegan has slammed the apparent reluctance of provincial Economic Affairs Minister Mr Chris Nissen to promulgate the city's proposed by-law controlling street hawking.

Mr Keegan said at the weekend that the provincial authorities' proposal to advertise the by-law for comment for another three months is "an entirely unacceptable response to growing public alarm about the extent to which uncontrolled street trading is overwhelming Cape Town's public places".

The official who drafted the by-law, Mr Peter Alston, said a proposed ban on the hawking of certain goods in front of businesses selling similar goods, without the business' consent, had fallen away.

— Municipal Reporter

Army takes stock of shift in

command

ARL 31/7/95

□ Second W Cape unit to go

Staff Reporter

THE geography of the new South Africa is making itself felt in the shape of the defence force

One of the first shifts in command took place at Beaufort West yesterday when the army's Western Province Command handed Group 5, based in this town, over to Northern Cape Command

The town's Royal Hotel played host to an unusual parade at which the officer commanding Western Province Command, Dan Lamprecht, officially signed over the group to the second-in-command of Northern Cape, Mos Grobler

The South African National Defence Force had to wait for the politicians to decide how the force was to be re-organised, and then had to tackle the

task of transferring logistics and administration, an army spokesman said.

In the process, Group 5 had to shed a portion of the area it had under its jurisdiction. The group's headquarters will be moved to De Aar at the end of this year

Victoria West Commando, Middle Karoo Commando and South Western Karoo Commando, the latter without its Laingsburg District, will stay under the jurisdiction of Group 5. Laingsburg District will in future fall under Worcester Commando, and Karoo Commando will be handed over to Group 4 at Oudtshoorn

In his speech, General Lamprecht said Group 5 had played a valuable role over the years and would be missed by Western Province Command



SIGNED: With Dan Lamprecht, left, looking on, Mos Grobler signs the documents which place his Northern Cape Command in charge of Group 5.

Picture: HENRI DU PLESSIS, The Argus.

"Today we know the future looks good, the part-time forces are assured of a place in the new dispensation," he said

General Lamprecht also used the occasion to award medals — including the new seven-point star which symbolises the seven forces which have combined to form the new SANDF, and in the middle of the star is an alpha symbol which reflects the new beginning we have made."

Group 5 is the second unit

Western Province Command has had to hand over to the Northern Cape. Last month, the commandos of Calvinia, Alexander Bay and Springbok were also placed under the orders of Northern Cape Command

Nissen's hawking decision defended

CT 8/8/95

(153A)

STAFF REPORTER

PROVINCIAL Transport Minister Mr Leonard Ramatlakane yesterday defended Economic Affairs Minister Mr Chris Nissen against criticism over his reluctance to promulgate the city's proposed by-law controlling street hawking.

It was decided last Thursday to advertise the by-law for another three months.

At the weekend ANC city councillor Mr Clive Keegan said the proposal to advertise the by-law was "an entirely unacceptable response to growing public alarm."

Mr Ramatlakane said the meeting had democratically decided to advertise the by-law. Many traders felt there had not been enough consultation on the issue, he said.

Hawking law: Nissen hits back at critic

(153A) ARG 8/8/95

Municipal Reporter

WESTERN Cape ANC leader Chris Nissen has hit back at public criticism by fellow ANC member Clive Keegan about his handling of the proposed hawking by-law

Mr Keegan criticised Mr Nissen for delaying the by-law by introducing a three-month consultation process

But Mr Nissen has responded by saying the decision to extend the consultation process was taken at a joint meeting last week.

In a statement, Mr Nissen says Mr Keegan showed a "total disregard for the need to arrive at a solution that is going to form the basis of legitimate informal trading policy for the Western Cape"

In a meeting of more than 20 organisations — among them informal traders, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Cape Town City Council — agreement had been reached on several points

These were that the draft by-law would serve as a guide for the whole of the Western Cape, and that a further three months would be allowed for consultation.

'FIREARM BRANDISHED' AT MEETING

Fleamarketers vie for new Green Point land

CT 11/8/95

(153A)

FIERCE competition is building up between rival fleamarket groups contending for a new strip of land the City Council is leasing at Green Point. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.

FEELINGS are running so high among Green Point fleamarketers over the prospective lease of a strip of land by the council to traders that a firearm was brandished at a recent meeting, councillor Mr Chris Joubert told an exco meeting yesterday.

Mr Joubert said he and Mr Sedick Soeker, Mr Riedewaan Isaacs and Mrs Z Mallick, all councillors, had held a meeting on Wednesday with the five applicants who want to lease the strip at the stadium to hire out to fleamarketers.

When the group emerged from Seagulls Restaurant after the meeting, there was an angry crowd of fleamarketers outside who support Mr Brian Purwitsky, the chairman of the Green Point Fleamarket Traders' Association.

They made clear their antipa-

thy to Mr B Chabaan, a rival applicant, who went back into the restaurant and only emerged later, Mr Joubert said. He had been told someone had brandished a firearm.

Mr Purwitsky and Mr Chabaan are the main contenders for the lease for the new land. They have been rivals before — in 1993, when the council put renewal of the lease of the Fleamarket Traders' Association land up for tender.

Mr Chabaan, who controls several other fleamarkets in Cape Town, including the one at the station, put in a bid (with a partner) of R27 500 a month for the Green Point land near the stadium.

Mr Purwitsky's association bid only R5 000 a month, but after legal action and reconsideration by the council, the lower bid was eventually accepted because

money was not the only consideration.

Mr Purwitsky had the solid backing of his association, whose 500 or so members believed they would have to pay higher fees to Mr Chabaan should he get the contract.

The council would be quite prepared to accommodate all five applicants on the new strip it wanted to lease, dividing it up between them, Mr Joubert said.

Re-advertise

He understood that Mr Purwitsky's supporters did not want Mr Chabaan to have any of the new area.

Council legal experts told him yesterday that all contenders had to be treated equally.

If the five applicants could not meet together to sort things out the council would have to re-advertise the proposed lease, and start the process all over again.

that almost killed them.

Picture: JACK LESTRADE, The Argus.

Tempers flare as market traders vie to control Green Point space

Municipal Reporter

TRADING rights at Green Point Market have become the subject of heated dispute as five applicants vie for a new area of 7 000 m² of space being opened up by the Cape Town City Council.

The two main protagonists are Badia Chabaan, who operates lower Greenmarket Square and the lower station deck markets, and the Green Point Market leaseholder Brian Purwitsky.

Mr Chabaan previously applied to take over Green Point Market in a case which ended up in court with Mr Purwitsky retaining the lease.

Physical threats and verbal abuse were traded during a heated on-site meeting in the rain at Green Point when city councillors Chris Joubert, Sedick Soeker, Riedwaan Isaacs and Zorayah

(153A) APR 11/8/95
Mallick tried to negotiate a solution.

The meeting, which was supposed to be only between the five applicants and the councillors, turned into a lengthy wrangle as traders arrived in force to express their views. Mr Joubert told the Cape Town City Council's executive committee.

Mr Joubert said taxi disputes were "Mickey Mouse" compared to the confrontation that took place.

He said it was very important that the matter be taken seriously.

Traders who supported Mr Purwitsky claimed that Mr Chabaan would charge them too much, while Mr Purwitsky was willing to hand over profits from the market to charity.

Mr Chabaan's supporters main-

tain that Mr Purwitsky has ample trading space in the 11 000 m² which he holds.

To further complicate the matter, Mr Purwitsky is also allowing traders to spill over into about 1 000 m² of space on the fringes of his market.

Mr Joubert asked the executive committee to give him and his fellow councillors a mandate to negotiate a settlement for the additional trading area along Bill Peters Drive.

Legal advice from the council was that no individual application could be rejected out-of-hand because other applicants did not like him.

If this happened, the site would have to be readvertised.

Mr Joubert undertook to organise another meeting with the traders.



ALL THAT GLITTERS ... These hawkers, whose colourful presence characterises our city streets, are now thought to tarnish the image of the 'City of Gold', and may be removed.

Hawker fury at 'pavement cleansing' plan

(153A) CP 13/8/95
JEFFERSON LENGANE

A SHOCK announcement by Johannesburg authorities who propose to remove hawkers from the city's pavements to make it more attractive to tourists has provoked furious reaction from hawkers' representatives.

The announcement was made by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council's chairperson, Isaac Mogase, who is also Greater Johannesburg's first black mayor. He was speaking at the Johannesburg Centennial Business Awards held in the city on Tuesday.

Mogase said: "Council is looking at ways to remove them (hawkers) from the streets and find them a place where they can trade

Thereafter, the council will be in a position to clean the city streets, which at the moment do not reflect the real City of Gold, and are an embarrassment when tourists come to the city."

However, the African Council for Hawkers and Informal Business is furious about the 'pavement cleansing' proposal.

George Ngwenya, manager of Achib's Gauteng region, told City Press "Achib and the Central Johannesburg Partnership (property owners in the city who allow hawkers to trade outside their premises) are opposed to the idea of removing hawkers from their place of business

"We support the idea of improving their business conditions, but totally removing them will be met with resis-

tance by the hawkers themselves, and with strong support from Achib."

Making the announcement, Mogase said: "It must be taken into account that the pavement hawkers were in the streets as a last resort to survive. We must create jobs that will provide them with employment. Only then will they leave the streets"

Mogase warned that the government could create an environment conducive to economic growth, but that the entrepreneurship and commitment of those who start new business will finally bring sustainable economic growth and prosperity

He expressed a wish that "100 years from now many fledging black businesses would also qualify for Centennial Business Awards".

The award ceremony, whose theme was "a 100 Years of Pure Gold", is an annual event. The awards are made to companies which have successfully traded in Johannesburg for 100 years or more, and are given in recognition of the role business has played in the development of the city and her citizens.

The awards were given to eight companies by the Greater Johannesburg council and representatives from industry and commerce

The companies which received awards were LTA, Deloitte and Touche, United Building Society, Allied Building Society, The Old Mutual, RandMutual Assurance, Msele Hosken and the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society



NEW HOPE Isaac Mogase, the chairman of the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council, visited the city's hawkers yesterday

PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

Hawkers to stay on pavements

By THABO LESHLO

STAFF WRITER

Isaac Mogase, the chairman of the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council, yesterday assured the area's hawkers that they would not be forcibly prevented from trading on pavements

Mogase was reported at the weekend as saying that the hawkers would be removed from the overcrowded pavements because they presented a poor image of the Johannesburg CBD to tourists

"We have no intention of

chasing them away. I would be the last person wanting to see that happen because I have lived through difficulty myself and know that they turn to hawking as a last resort to sustain themselves and their families," he said

The council would involve the hawkers in plans to determine specific locations where proper stalls and storage facilities could be erected, he said.

"My sympathy goes especially to those selling perishable foods because they lose a lot of money if the food is not bought in time and

eventually perishes"

George Ngwenya, the regional director for Gauteng of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses, welcomed Mogase's "inclusive approach"

"We accept that people should not trade everywhere they like. We must agree on the areas where people can trade and have proper stalls but we will resist any plan to evict them by force", said Ngwenya.

Informal trading in Johannesburg will come under the spotlight at a public workshop organised by the council on Monday

(153A) ET (PR) 15/8/95

Nissen denies dragging feet on hawker by-law

2(153A)
Political Correspondent

WESTERN Cape Economic Affairs Minister
Chris Nissen has hit back at criticism from
co-chair of the city's economic development
committee Clive Keegan over the delay in
getting a new by-law for hawkers.

But, he has welcomed the Cape Town City
Council's petition to him to promulgate a by-
law as soon as possible.

Mr Nissen recently decided to allow a fur-
ther three months for consultation on the
proposed by-law which would give local au-
thorities the power to determine where
hawkers would be allowed to operate and in
what numbers.

He said this was critical if long-term solu-
tions were to be found.

This was the meaning of democracy and it
did not imply — as Mr Keegan had alleged
— that his ministry had failed to act deci-
sively.

Mr Nissen said the hawking problem had
started because the city council and other lo-
cal authorities had failed to efficiently man-
age or co-ordinate this part of the informal
sector.

Mr Nissen said if there was still no finali-
ty on the by-law after three months of con-
sultations, he would "exercise the appropri-
ate authority" as a minister.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(for the Minister of Public Works)

Yes (a) 14 394 jobs have been created under the National Public Works Programme up to June 1995, (b) The kinds of jobs that are created are linked very closely to the kinds of assets that are provided, for example, the building of roads and community facilities, the provision of water and sanitation, soil-erosion protection and brick making. Some project management jobs are created as well, (c) on the basis of projections of the expected expenditure on infrastructure by the Government, the National Public Works Programme is targeting to create between 150 000 and 200 000 jobs by the year 2000. The Community Based Public Works Programme will create 30 000 jobs during the 1996/7 financial year and 65 000 jobs during the 1997/8 financial year, (d) the same kind of jobs mentioned in reply to question (b) will be created, and (e) the communities play the key role in identifying potential workers for the Community Based Public Works Programme. They develop their own criteria for selecting people but relate this to the broader National Public Works Programme target group which includes the youth, women and women-headed households. Only professional engineers and facilitators are drawn from outside beneficiary communities at this stage.

Administration of laws assigned to Province of KwaZulu-Natal

*15 Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ asked the Minister for the Public Service and Administration

- (1) Whether the Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal has requested the administration of any laws to be assigned to this province in terms of section 235 of the Constitution, if so,
- (2) whether the administration of any laws or sections thereof in respect of which such a request was made, was not so assigned, if so, (a) which laws or sections thereof, (b) why in each case and (c) by whom was the decision made not to assign the administration of each such law,
- (3) whether the reasons for not assigning the administration of such laws have been conveyed to the said premier, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

S297E

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- (1) Yes,
- (2) and (3) I am not in a position to answer the questions as posed in 2(a), (b), (c) and 3. The assignment of laws is a massive process which commenced on 17 June 1994 and is still continuing. Altogether 56 proclamations have already been issued in the case of KwaZulu-Natal alone, 219 regional laws and 44 RSA parliamentary laws have been assigned. In view of the volume of the work involved, it has not been possible to build up a record which would make it possible to answer the questions as posed.

However, I would like to give the assurance that the matter concerning laws which have not yet been assigned, is receiving continued attention. In this regard the Intergovernmental Forum on 12 August 1994 resolved that, *inter alia*, political functionaries at the national and provincial level entrusted with matters referred to in Schedule 6 of the Constitution, should establish joint technical committees to propose an appropriate distribution of powers and responsibilities in terms of section 126 of the Constitution. As a consequence ministerial forums and technical committees were instituted for the major line functions. Provincial administrations are fully involved in the functioning of these forums and committees and the KwaZulu-Natal authorities are expected to promote their interests at these forums.

A great deal of progress has been made with the assignment of laws. The time has, however, arrived to determine as accurately as possible what still remains to be done. To oversee the completion of the assignment process properly, I requested the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and other Premiers in writing on 19 May 1995, to furnish me with particulars of laws, the administration of which they consider should be assigned to the provincial government and which have not yet been so assigned. The laws thus identified will be brought to the attention of the relevant national line function departments for further consideration in consultation with the

State Law Adviser to date I have received no reply from the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal

Handwritten: Hansard 17/8/95

*16 Sen Dr G MARAIS asked the Minister of Trade and Industry †

- (1) Whether his Department is investigating the possible regulation of the informal street trade and markets, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) when did the investigation commence and (b) when will the findings and recommendations arising from this investigation be made known,
- (2) whether his Department intends taking any steps with the view to regulating the informal sector in South Africa in the future, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what steps?

S298E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY Mr President, I think this is a strange question to be asked by someone in the NP, because we are often accused of keeping too much at the centre. If the Senator had followed proceedings here he would have known the answer.

- (1) No. Informal street trade and markets are regulated by local authorities in terms of bylaws adopted by such authorities in terms of the Businesses Act, 1991 (Act No 71 of 1991). The Businesses Act was assigned to the Provinces on 9 March 1993 (*Gazette* No 16302 of 9 March 1993) and is, therefore, a competency of the provinces and local authorities.
- (a) Not applicable
- (b) Not applicable
- (2) Yes. The Department of Trade and Industry has formulated model bylaws and interacted with local authorities as part of an awareness-raising exercise. The Department will continue with educational activities so as to streamline regulations across municipalities and inform local authorities of the best practice with respect to regulation.

Sports teams representing SA: racial quota introduced

*20 Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation

Whether his Department is planning to introduce racial quota requirements for sports teams representing South Africa, if not, why not, if so, (a) what will be the (i) nature and (ii) extent of these requirements, (b) when will such requirements be introduced and (c) to whom will they be applicable?

S302E

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION (for the Minister of Sport and Recreation)

No. As I explained fully during my budget vote speech in the Senate on 24 May 1995, selection of national teams on merit remains the norm. Otherwise, we will be tempted to gravitate towards a situation in which we select the national sides artificially. That would mean departing from the ideal of non-racialism, which is the basis of unity in sport, and reverting to multiracialism or even tokenism. The responsibility of team selection is best handled by national sport federations and the role of the Department is to ensure that all South African sportpeople, including those from disadvantaged communities, have an equal opportunity to represent their country at the highest level of competition.

Questions originally put on Question Paper for reply on 29 June 1995—no sitting of Senate

Australian development aid to SA: agreement signed

*1 Sen Dr G MARAIS asked the Minister without Portfolio †

- (1) Whether he recently signed any agreement with a certain person, whose name has been furnished to his Office for the purpose of his reply, in respect of Australian development aid to South Africa, if so, (a) what are the details of this agreement and (b) for what kind of development is this aid to be utilised,
- (2) whether such aid is being granted by means of an unconditional donation, if so, what are the relevant details, if not,



FOCAL POINT Durban's Victoria Street market draws local as well as foreign tourists

PHOTOS: STEVEN NAIDOO

Vibrant Victoria Street market confounds critics

By SHIRLEY JONES

STAFF WRITER

On March 16 1973, Durban's original Victoria Street market was razed to the ground

Newspaper reports of the time described the blaze as lighting up the night sky, with fireworks exploding, the green flames from melting copper flaring upwards, and the smell of incense, spices and burning meat filling the air

Dating back to 1910 and visited by Mahatma Gandhi before his return to India, the market survived many demolition deadlines to become a thriving informal commercial centre and major tourist attraction before it was destroyed by the fire, the cause of which remains a mystery



mall with prohibitive rentals. The traders turned to the SBDC for help

"Our brief was clear but multifaceted," says Tony Kedzierski, the SBDC's KwaZulu Natal general manager at the time. "The traditional Indian trader needed protection and understanding. His safety and viability held great potential benefit for Durban in that, once again, we could boast a market as a tourist attraction."

A consortium of JH Isaacs and Grinaker won the tender, but agreed to discuss a joint venture with the SBDC, knowing that no project could succeed without stallholders' support.

The SBDC assumed the role of financier and developer, offering bond finance to traders wishing to purchase the

(153A) LT(BR) 23/8/95

ward to gauge the full extent of the tragedy

More than 10 000 people depended on the market's 250 traders for a living. Very few of them were insured.

When the market closed that Friday night, its stalls were stacked with merchandise in readiness for brisk Saturday morning trade.

Debts were usually settled on Monday morning from Saturday's takings, and most traders had no way of paying their creditors.

But memories of the old market — with its imposing entrance, glittering trinkets, carved elephants, saris and silks, and fruit and vegetable stalls — live on in some of the shops within the new Victoria Street market.

Today's pink and green building, with its combination of Muslim and Tamil spires, arches and towers, comprises two sections divided by a link road — the bazaar or dry goods section and the fish and meat market or wet goods section.

The bazaar's 82 ground-floor stalls sell an enormous range of goods, including curios, spices, fresh produce, clothing and jewellery. Its 56 upstairs shops house clothing manufacturers, video games arcades and even an ATM.

The fish and meat market, which was the hub of the original market, bustles with activity. The 34 fishmongers and butchers sell prawns, line fish, crabs, chicken, mutton and offal. Traders call out to passing customers, offering recipes.

Success stories at the new Victoria Street market are many. One trader who started out with just one square metre of counter space selling chickens now drives a luxury car and owns a shop in the city centre.

Hawkers lining the pavements outside the market include multi merchants, fruit and vegetable vendors and even a man peddling plugs, light bulbs and electrical bric a brac.

This is a market which took many long, hard years to create. It is also a market which perfectly mirrors the small business sector's ongoing struggle to come of age in South Africa.

At the same time, it reflects what many believe to be the ambivalent role played by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC).

Dogged by controversy since its inception, the Victoria Street market has been labelled a white elephant lacking a cultural identity. At different stages in its five-year construction, it has also been dubbed a commercial failure.

But this is clearly only half the story. Although precise financial records are not available, monthly turnover is estimated to run into millions.

According to the SBDC, the average turnover of the 34 stalls in the fish and meat section is around R20 000 a month.

The medium-sized shops in the downstairs bazaar, which stock anything from curry powder to tobacco to ivory and soapstone carvings, each bring in between R50 000 and R100 000 a month.

The upstairs bazaar's tenants bring in an estimated R15 000 each a month. One of two anchor tenants — a Taiwanese wholesaler who sells to surrounding hawkers — is thought to bring in around R1.5 million each month.

Passing monthly trade, estimated to be about 30 000 people for the fish and meat market and 300 000 for the bazaar, comprises an intriguing mix of international tourists (estimated to number about 12 000 each month), locals, hawkers, and patrons of the most unlikely of anchor tenants, the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, which draws thousands to the market daily.

Owen Holland, who heads the SBDC's KwaZulu Natal property division, believes the initial problems which beset the market (which, incidentally, remains the SBDC's largest single



FISHY BUSINESS Kidavu Pillay, one of 34 traders in the busy fish and meat section, displays an array of fresh seafood

property investment nationally) were due to the changed nature of the market.

He is not sure whether, in 1990, traders were ready to move from a subsidised municipal facility to an independent commercial facility.

The now-idealised original market, modelled along the lines of the Crawford market in Bombay, was the creation of the indentured Indian labourers and Muslim immigrants who came to KwaZulu Natal in the 1860s.

Victoria Street, between Brook and Grey Streets, became a focal point for the community, with market gardeners selling fresh produce on the pavements.

Victoria Street was usually closed until 10am in those days, while horse or mule-drawn carts delivered goods from the outlying areas of Springfield, Clare Estate, Sydenham, Clairwood, Mayville and Cato Manor, which are now developed residential or commercial parts of the city.

Farmers often arrived late at night and slept in doorways or remained huddled in their carts for the night.

This pattern continued well into the 1930s — an era which saw the market thrive alongside the hustle and bustle of a busy trading area, cinemas and a beerhall, which provided a meeting place for shoppers coming in from outlying areas.

Favourite sources of entertainment were the Victoria and Royal cinemas and, later, during the 1940s, the luxury Avalon built by the Kaje Moosa group.

Despite calls for the Victoria Street market to be rebuilt after the 1973 fire, the city council decided instead to relocate traders either to the suburbs or to the bulk sales hall of the old Durban fresh produce market.

Although the traders tried to re-establish themselves and recapture the atmosphere of the past, conditions were cramped and many businesses suffered.

This culminated in the election of a stallholders' association which began to lobby local and provincial authorities as well as central government for permission to return to the original site and rebuild the market.

The association's pleas went largely ignored until the city council decided in the late 1980s to reroute traffic from the Victoria embankment.

The bulk sales hall had to go and traders faced eviction, this time with no alternative accommodation.

Calls for a return to the original site, then used as a parking lot, intensified. The council's move to put up the site for sale by public tender outraged traders who believed they had a right to a say in the decision.

They feared that the tender procedure, which would inevitably be won by private enterprise, would lead to the establishment of a shopping

base, while Grinaker took on construction of the market.

Although the R22 million Victoria Street Market opened in June 1990 to soaring turnovers and major tourist interest, business soon declined steadily.

Among the reasons were the economic recession, crime, inadequate facilities, administrative problems, and the fact that promised commuter traffic from the nearby, busy Berea Road station never materialised, due to a last-minute change in road configurations for the area.

In 1991, the SBDC took over administration of the complex, and its problems.

Chief among these was the financial crisis facing the bazaar's first-floor tenants.

The SBDC's answer was to bring in small manufacturing concerns, which proved successful, even though they detracted somewhat from the downstairs ambience of the market.

The arrival of the Taiwanese wholesaler and the church as anchor tenants also contributed to a solution.

However, in 1993, the stallholders won a lengthy battle after two-and-a-half years with the SBDC over the overpricing of the stalls they had purchased.

The parties reached an out-of-court settlement, with the SBDC admitting to a costing error arising from the miscalculation of interest as a component of the selling price.

The SBDC also agreed to pay back stallholders to the tune of R1.5 million.

Miraculously, this did not undermine the goodwill which had led to the creation of the market in the first place.

Today the Victoria Street market is fully let and thriving. Taxis and tour buses converge outside the market, where housewives, hawkers and foreign visitors rub shoulders.

Victoria Street is closer than ever to being the vibrant, culturally diverse drawcard envisaged five years ago.



HOT TRADE Stallholders in the market's bazaar section sell an enormous range of dry goods, from spices to curios and jewellery

(1534) CT(BE) 23/8/95

BUSINESS

RDP and pavements

(153A) *Howe* 31/8/95

By Isaac Molede

THE RDP has been a source of controversy since its inception. It has been accused of being a mere cash cow for the ruling party, and of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class. It has also been accused of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class. It has also been accused of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class.

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The RDP has been a source of controversy since its inception. It has been accused of being a mere cash cow for the ruling party, and of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class. It has also been accused of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class. It has also been accused of being a vehicle for the enrichment of the ruling class.

Traders fail to agree on newcomers

AKG 6/9/95 (153A)
(153)
□ More talks after rowdy meeting

Staff Reporter

PLAYERS in the Green Point fleamarket expansion controversy have gone back to the drawing board.

This was the only option open to them after a rowdy and, at times, confusing meeting attended by about 120 people in the Green and Sea Point Civic Centre ended inconclusively. No decisions were taken that would give any individual the authority to be sole trader.

Five parties are interested in trading on the grass verges around the existing market.

Brian Purvitsky of the Green Point Traders' Association said "rebels who are muscling in" were depriving his established traders of income. He claimed the council was favouring the new traders.

This was denied by city council executive committee member Chris Joubert who said all applicants had to be treated equally.

"We are not favouring anybody and we are not dogmatic," said Mr Joubert. "Mr Purvitsky is trying to bully us and we want him to sit with us to find consensus."

Mr Joubert and fellow exco members Sedick Soeker and Reidwaan Isaacs said because of the confusion it was necessary to "go back to the drawing board" to come up with proper solutions to all the problems. The confusion had been aggravated by the fact that various ratepayers' associations had claimed they had not been kept informed of developments.

All traders have now been asked to come to the next round of talks with the council with clear mandates.

Several speakers were angry that two businessmen, who, they claimed, already ran the Cape Town station and Milner-ton fleamarkets had been given permission by the council to trade on strips around their Green Point territory. The

council was accused of favouring them.

A trader from the floor suggested the "rebels" work under Mr Purvitsky's Association.

He was shouted down by others who said no one person or monopoly should control the fleamarket.

Maggie Oewies, a well-known trader, said: "Never have one boss. We are going to share."

Another speaker said traders were fighting one another and it should stop for the good of all.

"Will the new traders give to charities like we do?" asked another.

Mr Purvitsky, who represents about 500 traders, said the council threatened to put the new areas out for tender if he did not sign the document earmarking the latest pink and green trading areas set out by the council.

Fishing: Labour, business pull out

~~3/15/95~~ ARG 7/95
Staff Reporter

JUST weeks before the deadline for the submission to government of a proposed national fishing policy, big business and labour have pulled out of the fisheries policy development working committee

But the working committee has decided to press on with the process of formulating recommendations without them

Now, the labour sector is seeking the urgent intervention of the Minister of Environment

Affairs, Dawie De Villiers, and Labour Minister Tito Mboweni "to restructure the fisheries policy process"

Labour — a conglomeration of 11 trade unions and associations — had asked that it be allowed to increase its representation on the working committee from one to five

According to the working committee, it could not make a ruling on labour's proposal as it was not a decision-making body

Traders in single body

Municipal Reporter (153A)

THE three largest groups of informal traders in the Western Cape have formed an umbrella body with the view to negotiating with one voice in future.

The Cape Peninsula Informal Traders' Association, National Traders' Association and Western Cape African Hawkers and Independent Business have come together to form the Coordinating Council of Informal Traders ARG 7/9/95

The new council will campaign for the development of the informal sector.

Other objectives are the setting up of a resource centre for traders



New hawkers' body

THE hawkers community has split, with former African Council for Hawkers and Informal Business general secretary Mtutuzeli Madaleni forming a breakaway group (ISBA).

The newly formed SA Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business — which Madaleni says has 4 000 members — is to launch an anti-crime campaign today, with the presentation of whistles to members to blow on criminals.

BD 20/7/95

Informal traders ask for square deal

HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS
Staff Reporter

INFORMAL traders are bitter at allegedly being exploited or "sold out" to monopolies who lease markets from the city council, then rent out sites to hawkers at huge profits

In Mitchell's Plain town centre, hawkers have successfully ousted a council leaseholder and the merchant's association has been accused of corruption. And at Nyanga junction in Manenberg, hawkers are angry that they are beholden to huge life assurance corporation Southern Life, which holds the council lease

Some hawkers insist their money should be paid into a trust fund, to help pay for services they desperately need, including cleaning, security, toilets, storage space and canopies

Others believe they should be free to trade on public land, and demand that hawkers' money stay in their own hands

Most believe their chosen leaders should lease markets from city councils, which they consider to be the legitimate owners of public land, but at a fair price and in exchange for decent services

In cases where chosen leaders had been awarded a council lease, hawkers demanded to know how council was using the money and why council was not providing the necessary services

Hawkers said they committed all their efforts to trade day in and day out to sustain their families. Many expressed a feeling of powerlessness in the face of an unknown authority they suspected of "wheeling and dealing" behind their backs, and of complicating their lives through regulations and financial structures

Most hawkers on the station deck of Nyanga junction in Duinefontein Road, in Manenberg, said they could not afford the R260 to R300 a month Southern Life and its agents collected from them

Southern Life landlord Dominique Mngomeni said the company charged hawkers R240 each, and its agents asked a bit more for collecting the money so they could also make a profit

He said R240 was fair "considering the amount of business they're getting"

About 35 000 people passed through the station daily, but he said they did not all go past the hawkers

Cosmetics and clothing hawker, Nashreen Ahmed, mother of two young children and a baby boy who sleeps in a trolley while she trades, said she and her husband could barely "make ends meet"

"We have three children and we have to pay rent and electricity. It's hard. Sometimes we don't even make R260 a month."

"During December last year, more than R1 000 was stolen

from me. When the centre opened in October, I could pay the rent, but after that loss, I couldn't anymore

"Security is a problem, especially on weekends. The shop owners, the formal traders — they have security, but not the informal ones"

Three months ago, her husband caught a thief who stole one of her boxes of shoes, and in another incident, her bag was stolen while she was packing up, said Ms Ahmed

"I am with the Nyanga Traders' Association. We want to get on our feet and try to get the lease," she said

"We have a lot of problems, but nothing gets done. When we ask for help from the centre management, they leave us hanging"

In the packed Mitchell's Plain Town Centre, about 600 hawkers sell their goods alongside formal traders

In July, the council rejected the Mitchell's Plain Merchants' Association as the leaseholder after protests by hawkers, who claimed there was corruption in the association

The lease has been suspended and is open for tender to the highest bidder, according to boerewors and hamburger vendor Kader Girie, who is also the president of the Progressive Hawkers' Association

Mr Girie, who said 350 hawkers were members of his association, claimed the merchants' association had stolen hawkers' money

He claimed hawkers had paid the merchants' association between R100 and R250 a month while the merchants' association had leased the grounds from the council for just R12,50 a month

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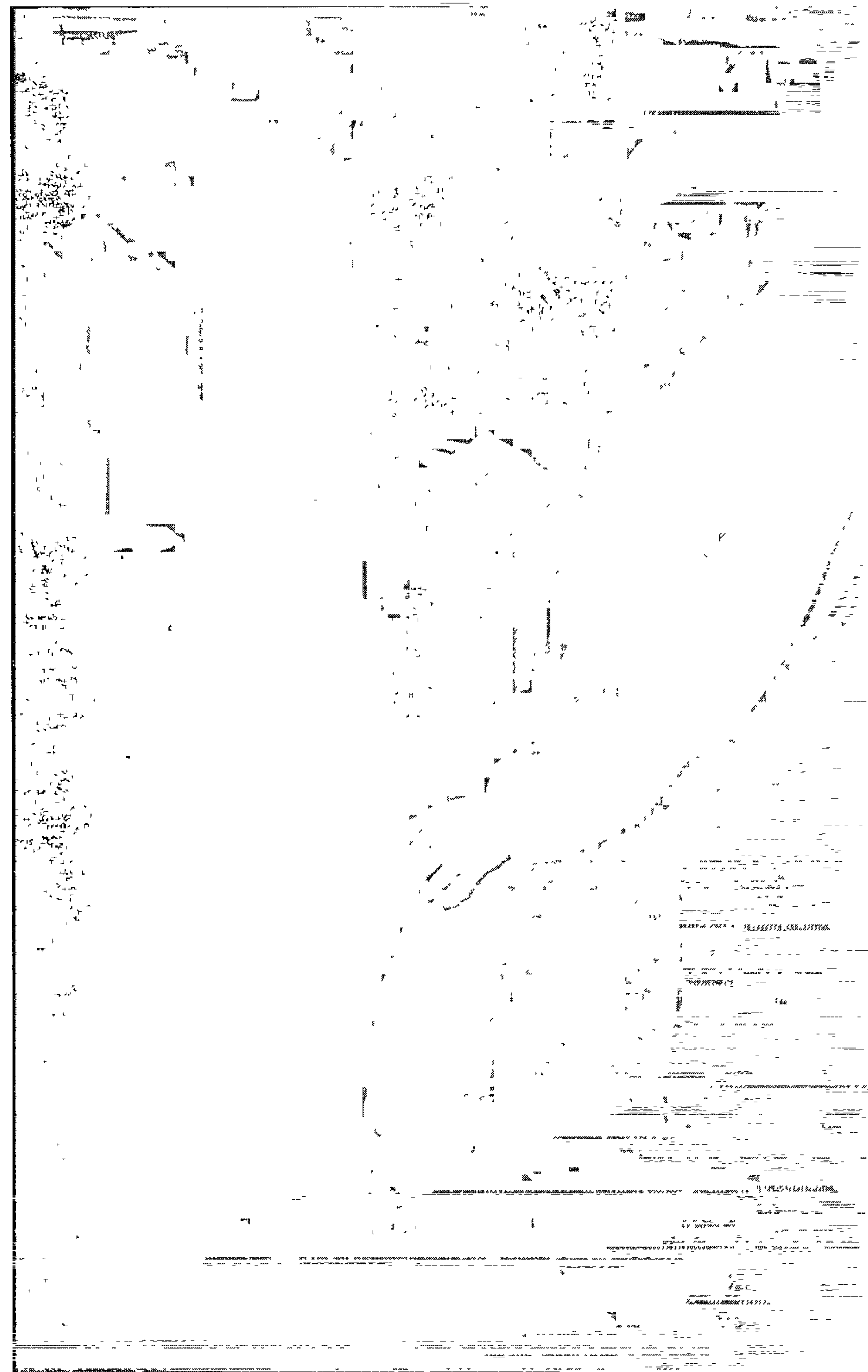
Mr Girie said the merchants' association lost the lease after four of the traders' associations operating in the town centre approached the council with the corruption allegations

"I'm working from hand to mouth to support my sick wife and two children at technikon. And these fat cats are just getting richer and richer while the poor get poorer and poorer."

"This is blatant corruption. The merchants' association has employed a bunch of criminals as security. They have been wasting thousands of rands."

Mr Girie said hawkers should pay the council through their various associations in return for control and services, or a trust fund should be created for them.

Another hawker who sells fruit and vegetables there, Edries Roodt, said, "No-one seems to know what happened to our money. Security doesn't work and we have problems



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

MARKET FORCES: Representatives of the National Traders' Association, which lobbies on behalf of informal traders on Greenmarket Square and in St George's Mall, with traders who sell clothes on the square. In front is public relations officer of the NTA, Mitch Samsodien, and at the back, from left, are informal trader Greg May, chairman of the NTA Quinton Fredericks, and informal trader Faldielah Dollie.

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A boerewors vendor, who did not want to be named, said he had refused to pay rent to the merchants' association because the money had been used to enrich members of the association

On Green Point common, members of the largest traders' association have rejected a council plan to allocate the whole of Vlei Road behind the Green Point stadium to "fat cat businessman" Badia Chabaan

Hundreds of members of the Green Point Fleamarket and Traders' Association agreed at a recent meeting that they wanted Mr Chabaan, who already controls the whole station market and two thirds of the lower half of Greenmarket Square, out of Green Point

Chairman Brian Purwitsky described Mr Chabaan as a "fat cat" who wanted to "enrich his own pocket"

The National Traders' Association, which leased the St George's Mall market and the remaining third of the lower half of Greenmarket Square from the council, said the council should negotiate exclusively with a non-profit association of the fleamarket traders, and not

with commercial lessors

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"We're running at a loss in the mall between May and October, and we have no proper infrastructure, no toilet facilities, cleansing services or security"

"We need transparency on this point. For at least three years we've been asking them what they do with our money, but we still don't have an answer"

Council normally awards leases to the highest bidder, who pocketed the profits, and this tender system discriminated against small and micro businesses

"Markets should be run by elected representatives of traders, not people who look after their own pockets"

"Public land is being rented by a lessor. This shouldn't happen. The land must be given to the people so that they can decide how to structure the market," said Mr Fredericks.

He said the creation of a trust fund for hawkers would be in accordance with government thinking to support the growth of the informal sector.

Hawking: Chaos on streets to continue

Staff Reporter (1531)

THE informal trading sector is in chaos because there is no official policy or laws to control hawking.

The scramble for power and trading ground continues unabated, and informal traders, formal traders, council officials and big business are locking horns on any conceivable issue related to hawking.

Presently, hawkers can trade anywhere they like without licences, according to the Business Act.

A proposed council bylaw to forbid hawking in certain areas will come into effect before March next year, and definitely not before the hectic Christmas season.

The bylaw will affect every hawker in the Western Cape because all municipalities will adhere to it.

"We have been awaiting the promulgation of the bylaw for more than a year," said Clive Keegan, co-chairman of the Cape Town city council's economic development committee.

He has criticised Western Cape Economic Affairs Minister Chris Nissen, who has postponed the promulgation of the bylaw until October to allow for more consultation.

"The mere passing of the bylaw, if that happens in October, won't have an affect on the Christmas season."

Discussion and public consultation about specific regulations "could go well into next year", said Mr Keegan.

Each municipality would have to decide which areas within its boundaries would be declared hawking or non-hawking zones.

Mr Keegan said all sectors of the city were "totally frustrated at the perceived lack of desire by the council to rid the areas concerned of litter, filth, congestion and inconvenience that results from the existing uncontrolled informal trading situation".

The National Traders' Association (NTA) has challenged the city council to appoint a member of the Informal Trading Liaison Committee (ITLC), which represents about 20 traders' associations, to consult with all stakeholders and recommend changes to the proposed bylaw.

NTA chairman Quinton Fredericks said: "The lack of official development policy is a major problem. Many crisis issues will be resolved once this is in place. The role of local authorities in this should be spelled out clearly as they will be the delivery agents in developing the sector."

"Formal recognition must be

given to the ITLC as a consultative forum which comprises all stakeholders and where policy recommendations will be decided upon."

This was crucial to the development/consultation process. In the absence of such a forum the trader would not "buy in" to the process, creating difficulty with enforcement.

According to the proposed bylaw, hawkers should be in possession of written approval to trade, issued by the council.

Illegal hawkers could have their goods removed by an officer, who should give hawkers a receipt of goods removed and deliver such goods to the council.

The council could prohibit informal trading if it obstructed:

- visibility of a display window in business premises if the owner objected;

- pedestrians on sidewalks;

- access to any vehicle;

- access to any entrance to or exit from a building;

- access to a fire hydrant;

- access to bus passenger benches, shelters and queues; refuse disposal bins or street furniture;

- access to a pedestrian crossing;

- a roadway; and

- access to parking or loading bays or other facilities for vehicular traffic

Hawkers would not be allowed to trade on verges contiguous to a building belonging to the state or council, to a place of worship or to a national monument.

Hawkers would not be allowed to create a "nuisance" or a "traffic hazard".

The bylaw further states that no hawker can accumulate or dump waste material anywhere else but in a "refuse receptacle" approved by the council.

Hawkers had to keep their goods and sites clean.

Failure to comply with provisions of the bylaw could lead to a conviction and to a sentence of a fine or three months' imprisonment.

Mr Fredericks said the NTA supported the bylaw, but believed its current provisions were "inadequate".

The bylaw also did not deal with the head lease system, which allowed big capital to control hawkers' lives by demanding high rentals.

"The poor have been marginalised by the past political regime and will now be marginalised by big capital."

● Tune into Bush Radio on 89.5 FM on Wednesday nights at 8.30 pm for discussions about informal trading.

Informal traders ask for square deal

HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS
Staff Reporter

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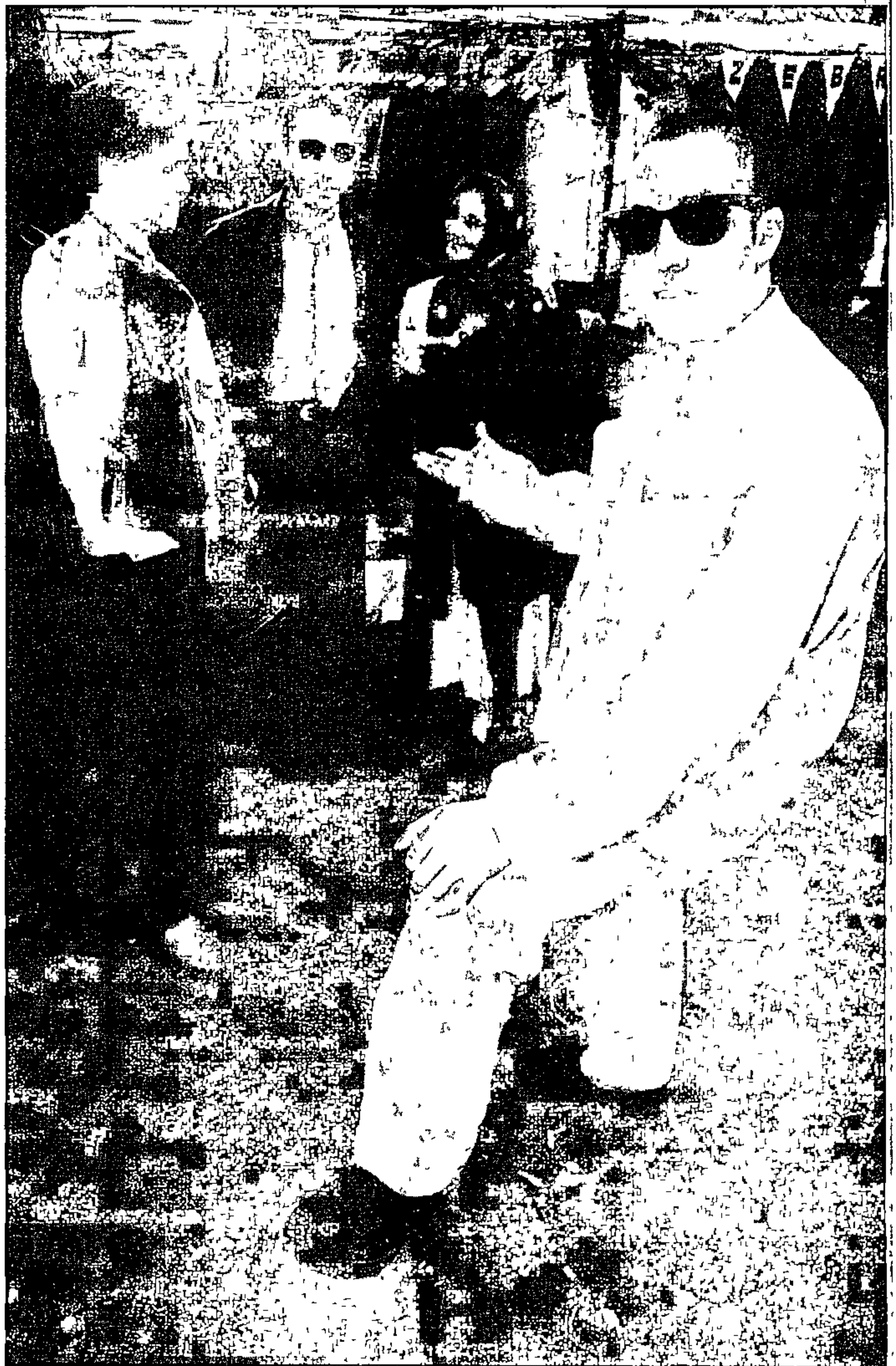
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Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

NGOs: Building a new partnership after power shift

JOSEPH ARANES, Municipal Staff

THE government of national unity is faced with all sorts of problems, and topping the list is making good on the promises made during last year's elections.

It may be only just over a year since the government took office, but people's expectations were raised to new levels. And although the reconstruction and development programme is in place to realise the government's objectives, bureaucratic red tape appears to be holding up the delivery of many projects.

While it is true that the reorganisation of government and the redirection of priorities has helped the government focus its spending on the needs of the people, more work is needed.

And it is in this regard that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can play a leading role, as they have done in the past.

But are these watchdog bodies up to the task, or are problems like a lack of funding, an absence of clear leadership and the co-opting of organisations into government affecting their ability to perform? Sharon Follentine, chairwoman of the Western Cape NGO Coalition, said that while the government and NGOs were still trying to find their feet in this transitional period, she was sure the problems would be overcome.

"We are in a phase where we have not fully clarified our relationship with the government, but there is an understanding that we need each other and talks are ongoing to see how we can comple-

ment each other's work.

"The cream of the NGO leadership has either moved into government or the private sector, and although this left us with a dearth of skilled people, we are organising ourselves to face the challenges that are lying ahead."

She said the government inherited a myriad of problems and while many of those in office had very little experience in implementing programmes, a lot of policy documents had been drafted.

"And NGOs are, in many instances, part of these processes, so while we understand the concerns of people on the ground, we are not too critical of the government at this stage, but are adopting a wait and see' attitude."

"The government has most of its objectives set out in the RDP but because of economic and political factors, is experiencing problems, predominantly in areas of delivery."

"I am optimistic that once we have struck a good working relationship, the programme won't be as bogged down in democracy as is the case now. Unlike the government, NGOs are generally smaller and have less bureaucracy and can do things faster."

"We can be more creative and innovative when adopting development strategies but remain constantly in touch with people on the ground, and this is very important for the success of the RDP."

But while this may be the case, many NGOs are either scaling down their operations or closing

shop because of a lack of funding, or more precisely, because most of their foreign donors are now channeling the funds directly into the government's RDP fund.

And this has meant that many NGOs have either been co-opted into government or are working very closely with government, so that there hardly seems to be a difference between the two.

Ms Follentine said this was not necessarily a bad thing, as NGOs had been involved in the drafting of a number of government policy documents and white papers, and the implementation of these projects was just an extension of their own vision.

"Generally we are intent on keeping our independence and it is only because of the more open and transparent approach by government that it seems as if we are sucking up to them."

"It is true that a small number of NGOs may be co-opted into government and that a number of prominent NGO leaders are serving in government, but the vast majority are continuing with the work we set out to do — to empower our communities and help provide and develop a better life for all."

● The (NG) sector is draft bill it published restrictions

The draft Non Profit comment and will b soon

It looks at the role organisations in

● The process of reconstruction and development

● The nature of the existing public policy, legal and fiscal environment affecting development organisations; and

● The nature of the legislative, administrative and policy changes which may be necessary in order to create an environment conducive to participatory development work.

Ms Follentine said she hoped the bill would strengthen the non-profit sector's capacity to contribute to development.

"The undemocratic nature and the unmanageable bureaucracy of the present legislation resulted in a high degree of non-compliance with the regulations, and organisations wanting to raise funds had to wait up to 16 months just to get a fundraising number."

"This has been particularly prejudicial to small community based organisations, but the new bill hopes to change all this."

She said it proposed that all organisations register and submit a statement of accounts to a registry office showing how money was being spent.

ASSASSIN

WHO KNOWS WHERE?



WHO AM I? Conradie Hospital staff are looking for information about this patient, who has a serious head injury and cannot remember his name. He was fetched, by ambulance, from a police station on Saturday August 26. It is unknown in which area the police station was because the ambulance slip has disappeared. The patient is about 34.



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM Staff Photographer

□ STRIKERS Sea Harvest strikers in Saldanha toy-toy outside the company's factory

AKR 23/9/95

Strikers simmer



MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION Senior PR man Golden Ar

Bus company goes

Staff Reporter

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Red tape may kill RDP, experts warn

Political Correspondent

THE government has been warned that its bureaucracy could wreck the RDP, centralised control of spending is stifling provincial efforts, and excessive "community consultation" has all but halted crucial development.

This multiple warning — which comes as parties launch their campaigns for a fiercely contested local government election — was delivered yesterday by the respected Independent Development Trust and, separately, by Western Cape ministers and legislators.

The alarm was sounded by ● IDT board of trustees chairperson Mamphele Ramphele, who said bluntly at the launch of the Trust's fifth annual report that "the government may be creating a bureaucratic

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● Provincial legislators, who warned that a pervasive demand mentality was undermining investor confidence and spawning bitter resentment among law-abiding citizens.

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- IDT board of trustees chairperson Mamphela Ramphele, who said bluntly at the launch of the Trust's fifth annual report that "the government may be creating a bureaucratic nightmare which could undermine a development capacity nurtured over many years", and stressed that development be kept "independent of party political interests of the day".
- Western Cape Finance Minister Kobus Meiring, who delivered a grim mid-year report on the province's finances, showing that severe central government funding cuts would lead

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Dr Ramphele said that while she welcomed the government's proposal for a National Development Agency to channel development funding, she was concerned that South Africa's enviable developmental "energy" — generated largely outside government structures — "has been slowed down

the pre-ent has de-ic machin-

to be "un- can and t capacity



MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION Senior PR mar Golden Ar

Bus company goes

Staff Reporter

THE Golden Arrow Foundation has made a gift of 3 km² of farmland worth R61 000, to Western Cape community organisations.

Senior public relations manager of Golden Arrow Bus Services, Bob Krause, said the foundation had been a company's previous efforts for development.

But new union phased in and now had no us Mr Krause said Management

IBA to hear application

Staff Reporter

THE Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) will hold a special hearing on October 3 to consider an application by the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) for amendment of its constitution.

IBA spokesmen said the application involved a technical c

HELP GROW A HOS



COLIN DOUGLAS
Staff Reporter

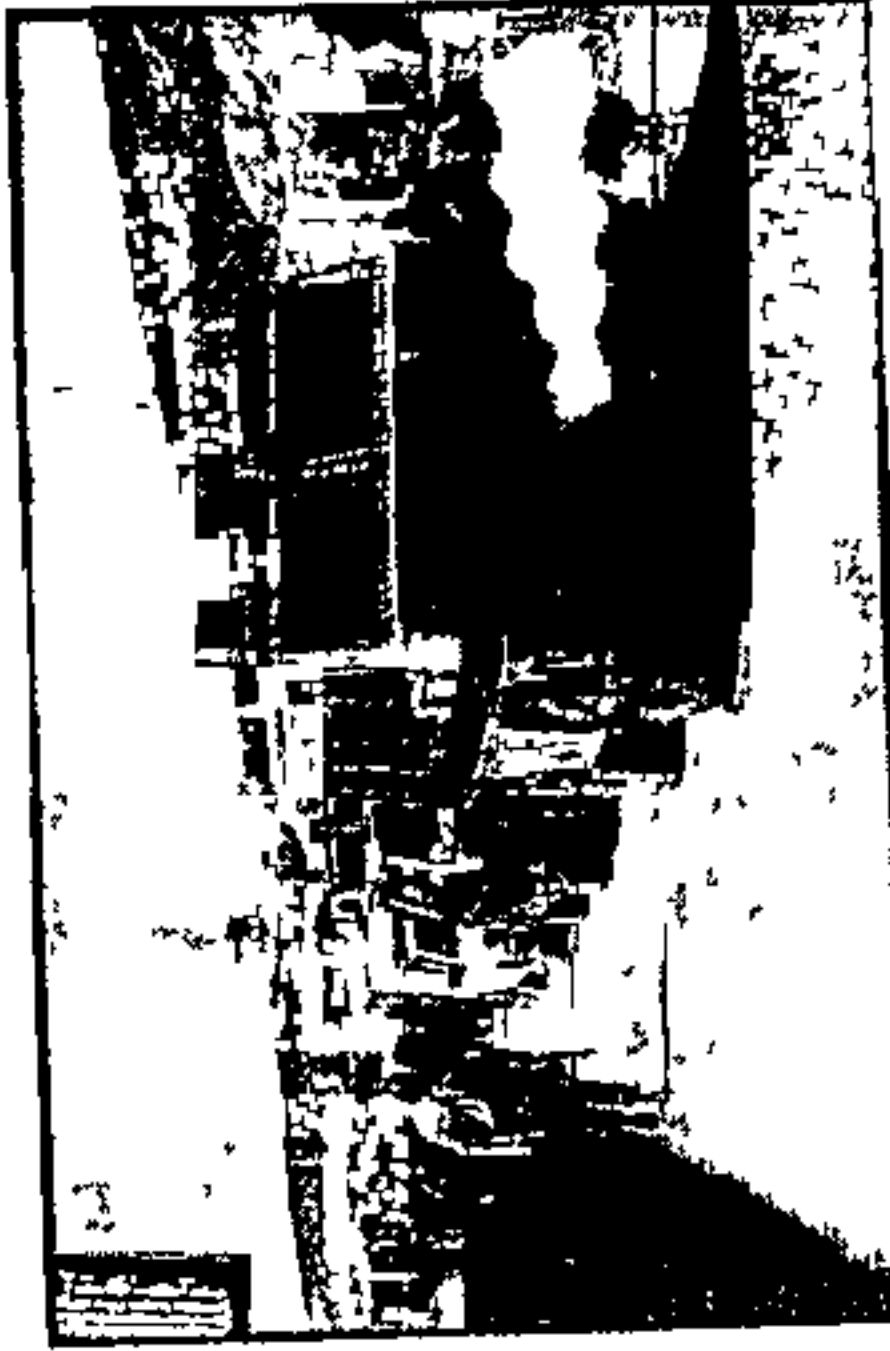
THE sun was out, the sky cloudless and the blue water of the lagoon lapped gently on the beach. It was a perfect day for a fight.

The usually tranquil town of Saldanha turned ugly yesterday as hundreds of striking factory workers confronted their employer, fishing giant Sea Harvest.

Scores of heavily armed policemen lined the Sea Harvest shore-side factory after the company obtained a court interdict restraining the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU) and its members from coming within 500 metres of its premises.

This followed uproar the previous night, when strikers were said to have trashed the company's administration block.

The interdict also prohibited



POLICE ESCORT Heavily armed police escort the Sea Harvest payroll to the company's Saldanha factory after clashes between strikers and security guards

co-employees who wished to be injured — although not seriously — when security guards in the factory fired at them.

Soon after the interdict was issued, two strikers were in- while fears that the scene



STRIKERS: Sea Harvest strikers in Saldanha town outside the company's factory

Strikers simmer in pay stand-off

Peace was restored as strikers and non-strikers alike queued for their pay in the wake of violent clashes between with police

Being a Friday, it was payday and thousands of rands were on their way into the factory.

Police escorted the funds safely into the factory and strikers and non-strikers alike joined the pay queues, bringing a more relaxed atmosphere to the scene.

Meanwhile, on a hill overlooking the factory, Sea Harvest managing director Louis Penzhorn chatted with advisers and fretted about a strike that he said could have been avoided and which had shut down operations.

The strike, over wage increases, erupted after management made an offer of a 10.1 percent, well short of the 28 percent demanded by the union. Negotiations are continuing.

Plan to clear traders from pavements

□ ... and beautify unsightly area *ARL 27/9/95 (153A)*

Staff Reporter

A R2,5m project that could clear Fish Hoek's crowded pavements of informal traders — and at the same time upgrade and beautify an unsightly area close to the railway line — is awaiting a "go-ahead"

Pushing for the scheme is the Fish Hoek/Kommetjie/Noordhoek Transitional Metropolitan Substructure (TMS). They have informed Intersite, who own the land, that the money "is available and they would like to begin work as soon as possible"

The proposed development on an area between the old goods shed and the station building could involve addition-

al parking for taxis and buses, covered commuter parking for at least 50 cars and an area set aside for about 40 informal traders

Intersite, property arm of the S A Rail Commuter Corporation Ltd, has told TMS that if they cannot find a private developer for their plans within five weeks, beginning September 11, TMS might be able to go ahead with their plans. A meeting is scheduled between the two parties to discuss the matter further.

Harold Chapman, town clerk of Fish Hoek, Kommetjie and Noordhoek TMS, said R2,5m has been made available from the Metropolitan Transport Interchange budget for their plans. "We have had our plans for Intersite's land around the

station for at least five years and we would like to move ahead now," he said

Mr Chapman said plans to develop an area for informal traders would be taken in consultation with them. "We would like to make an area for them as attractive, functional and acceptable as possible. We would like to encourage them to be there and not on the pavements"

A colourful market could be a big tourist attraction in the town but it must be done properly. "We hope to get together soon to discuss our plans"

Mr Chapman said the TMS had the power to restrict hawkers in the main road but it would not do so until an alternative venue was found

Water restrictions cost greater Johannesburg R5,8m in fines

BD 24/10/95 (123)

Bonile Ngqiyaza

A TOTAL of R5,8m in punitive tariffs has had to be forked out by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council since the imposition of water restrictions in August this year, director of water and gas George Keay said at the weekend.

About R26m a month in water tariffs had to be paid by the council before the restrictions.

The R5,8m, he said, had to be paid because greater Johannesburg had exceeded the 20% quota imposed by Rand Water. "For the first month of August, we paid an additional R2m. In September the additional charge amounted to R3,8m." Commenting on recent rains in greater Johannesburg, he said they would not make "much of a difference" as the Vaal river catchment area supplied the water in the area. "The decision whether to continue water restric-

tions or not will depend on the inflow of water to this area."

Keay said, however, restrictions had had some measure of success in reducing water consumption in greater Johannesburg. "There has been some saving on consumers' part, but it is still unsatisfactory because the target of 20% has not been achieved."

In August, an overall reduction of 14% was achieved and the amount of water saved dropped in September to 13,8%.

Meanwhile, director of natural resources Kobus Visser of the SA Agricultural Union said the current drought affected especially irrigation farmers because they not only had to deal with the 40% water restrictions, but were also dependent on government water schemes and rivers.

"It means such a farmer has to scale down on labourers. Crop farmers have to decide on whether

to concentrate on certain crops."

It had a negative effect on finance, he said, and a "huge impact" on labour. "It is a very big issue for us at the moment."

Rand Water spokesman Archer Davis said restrictions would not be lifted until an assessment of the amount of rain this season had been made. "By the end of December we will have done that and only then will we be able to make a decision."

The levels of the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams were so "dangerously low" that greater Johannesburg had less than one year of water to go on. "The Vaal Dam is at 13% and the Sterkfontein dam is below 49%. Unless we have exceptionally good rains this year, we are going to run into problems." Less than 13,2% of water was saved last month. "The target for restrictions is 20% and we are not achieving that at all. People have not been saving."

Durban council in moves to control CBD's informal traders

BD 24/10/95 (153A)

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Business has welcomed as "a clean-up move" the decision by the Transitional Metropolitan Council to gazette by-laws restricting street trading within the Durban central business district.

The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chamber Digest said yesterday there was a "political will and ability" to enforce the by-laws and find other sites for the traders.

These could include moving informal traders away from the main thoroughfares and into side streets towards the harbour.

"The city council acknowledges that formal businesses are the lifeblood of the CBD and there is therefore a determination on their part to actively clean up the city centre," said chamber law and business affairs committee chairman Richard Parsons.

The by-laws would prohibit in-

formal street trading outside shops selling the same type of items, in places "substantially obstructing" either pedestrians on the sidewalk or traffic flow on the streets and in areas where the trader would interfere with a building entrance.

Street traders would also be restricted from trading on public roads and places, sleeping overnight at their place of business or erecting any structure, except an umbrella for shade, without the council's written consent.

Informal traders would also have to be responsible for their own littering and would be barred from depositing any refuse outside of garbage bins.

Parsons said the new by-laws should guarantee improved display facilities for informal traders and raise their standards.

The council could also ensure the trader was the owner and not "a slave labourer" working for a larger illegal business.

SA 'worthy road network partner'

Theo Rawana

THE UN Economic Commission for Africa saw SA as a very important partner in the realisation of trans-African highway networks in southern Africa, commission transport, communications and tourism director Mpekisa Bongoy said yesterday.

Delivering the keynote address at the African Highways — the Road Ahead conference outside Johannesburg, Bongoy said SA had a performing interprovincial highway network which facilitated international connections.

"The Economic Commission for Africa invites SA to play a more active role in the realisation of the trans-Africa highway networks programme and, in this connection, the commission will continue to co-operate with the International Road Federation, whose goals and objectives it fully shares," Bongoy said.

A total of 19 African countries and Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

New draft by-law for city traders

1763A
Staff Reporter

INFORMAL traders have been asked to study, before the end of this month, the new draft by-law for traders in an effort to sort out problems associated with informal trading on pavements.

The draft document had been drawn up after consultation with hundreds of informal traders and small businessmen involving many organisations over a period of nine months, Tony Ruiters of the ANC Western Cape Economics Department told a recent meeting of the Claremont Business Forum.

Several traders at the meeting, who make their living on the streets of Claremont, voiced their concern about the influx of seasonal traders and said the matter was "chaotic and out of control"

Clive Keegan said the Cape Town city council did not have a good track record in dealing with the issue of informal trading so far and he would do all he could to change this "The city council does not want to impose controls from the top. A management and containment plan is what is needed and we will not deprive anyone of a living"

Some traders were concerned about the double standards imposed by the Cape Town city council allowing the informal traders to do whatever they pleased on the pavement while the formal sector had to abide by old laws. "It's first world versus third world," one concerned trader said, citing problems with the traffic department who give formal businessmen tickets if they park on the pavement while the informal sector don't get tickets.

Several traders operating in Dreyer Street in Claremont were angry about the "red tape" that has prevented a solution to trading in that street. The unresolved matter, they said, had been dragging on for too long Councillor Keegan promised to look into it.

Another trader said the manager of Clicks wanted to charge him rent for hawking outside his store.

Grand Parade stallholders say 'We've had enough' of crime and criminals

ARGUS 26/10/95 (153A)

□ Many take the law into their own hands

Staff Reporters
STALLHOLDERS on Cape Town's Grand Parade are taking the law into their own hands, apparently beating up and shooting thieves and muggers because they say the law does not protect them.

Instead of calling in the police, the apprehended criminals are sometimes being taught a lesson at the scene of their crime.

Several stallholders carry guns, one of them confirmed, as they are "up in arms" over daily muggings of visitors and tourists.

Many say their businesses have nosedived as a result of bag snatching and muggings on the Parade.

"It's useless to take the apprehended criminals to the police station because basically nothing comes of it," said a man whose girlfriend runs a stall.

While he called for a stronger police presence as a deterrent to the criminal element, he said he was not the only one who beat up thieves when he caught them. He and others voluntarily patrolled the area, on the lookout for petty thieves.

On Wednesday last week a thief who stole a pair of shoes was chased by the owner of the stall, who shot him in the back and then beat him up. Eyewitnesses said the man apparently died from his wounds two days later.

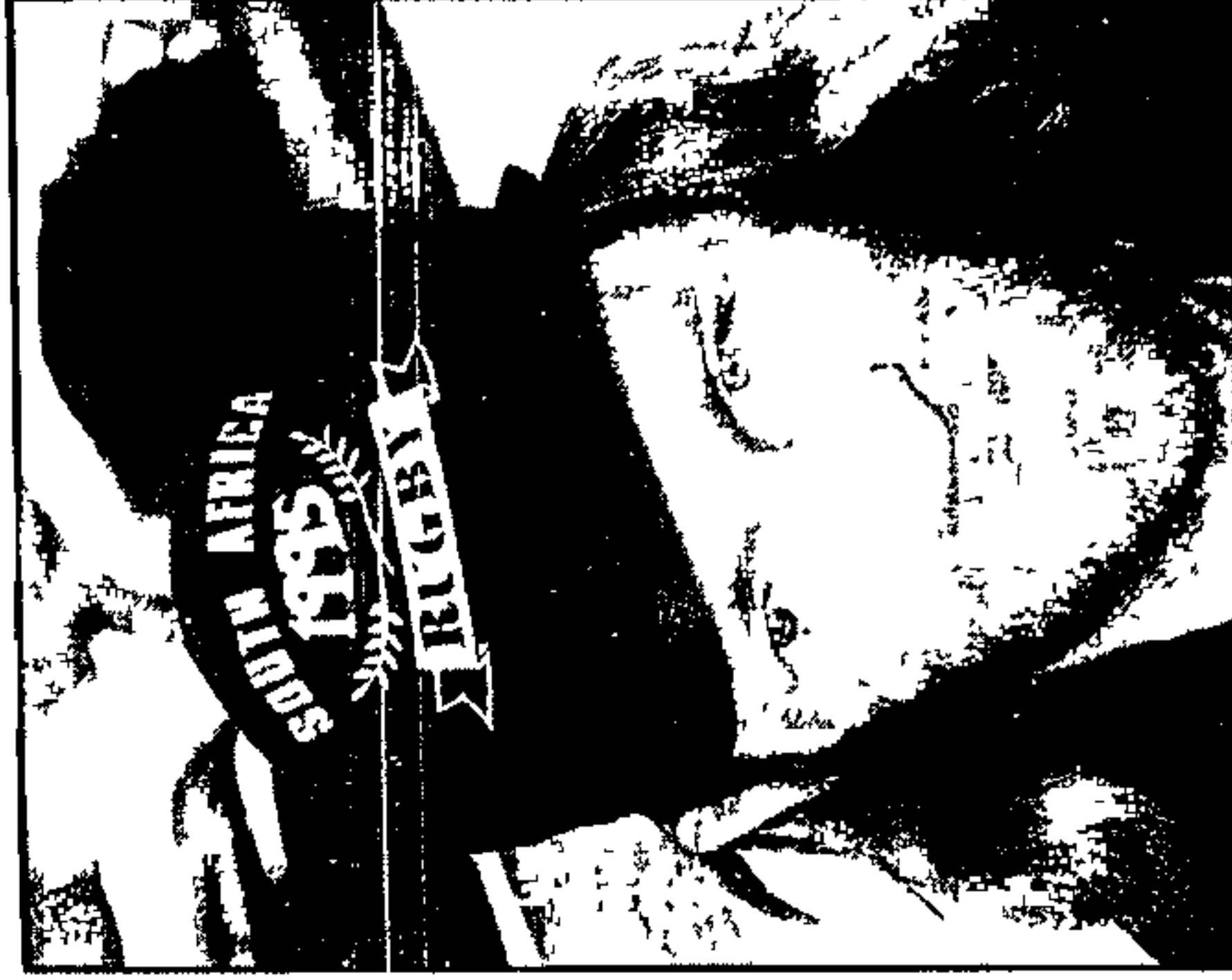
Two security guards interviewed by The Argus also confirmed that they apprehended thieves.

Many of the criminals operated in gangs and are well known by sight, they said.

The shooting was confirmed by Captain John Stierenberg who urged stallholders not to take the law into their own hands. "Make a citizen's arrest," he said, "but stay within



HASSLED We know who the muggers are, says this stallholder who asked not to be named



TAKING STEPS Raymond Knight supports his stallholder girlfriend in her business and watches out for criminals



THIEF KILLED Zaronisha Ebrahim describes a shooting

Pictures **HANNES THIAART**,
The Argus

the parameters of the law

He warned that anyone beating up a suspect would be prosecuted as a criminal. He also appealed to witnesses of the shooting to go to

the police with their evidence

While some stallholders called for a greater police presence in the muggers parade, others said it would make little difference. Crimi-

nals apprehended by police were soon back on the streets and walked brazenly past the same stalls, stallholders complained.

Captain Stierenberg said that once the criminal was brought in, they could only process the person as far as the law allowed. "We arrest the perpetrator, charge them and then it is up to the courts," he said.

Police Tourist Unit commander Carl Thuart said the situation in the whole of the city area was being monitored and unit members were doing everything they could to clamp down on criminals.

"Workshops are being held from time to time to step up security wherever necessary," Major Thuart said.

One food stallowner, who asked not to be named, said: "As far as we know, this has dealt a big blow to the tourist industry which is already under strain."

Another stallholder said: "If we are going to build up this country, we need tourists every day, but people are terrified to come to the Parade since the muggings increased."

He said he had seen a woman being robbed of her gold necklace and beaten to the ground.

People feel unsafe and business has decreased by more than 50 percent in the past six months."

Captain spokesman and former Cape Town mayor Gordon Oliver said it was a fact that crime was a major concern to the tourist industry, and that it was vitally important to see that safety and security be stepped up.

He urged the police to continue to keep a thorough watch on the Parade to bring the perpetrators to book.

I would also like to see the public sector get involved to make Cape Town a safe place for tourists," Mr Oliver said.



SKELIMS' ALERT Yvonne Mostert, who mans her own stall, warns shoppers to watch out for skelims passing off cheap jewellery as real gold



GUNS ARE WRONG We need more plainclothes policemen to keep crime in check on the Grand Parade, says council worker D Jehoma. Stallholder Farza Jacobs looks on

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ARG 26/10/95 (153A)

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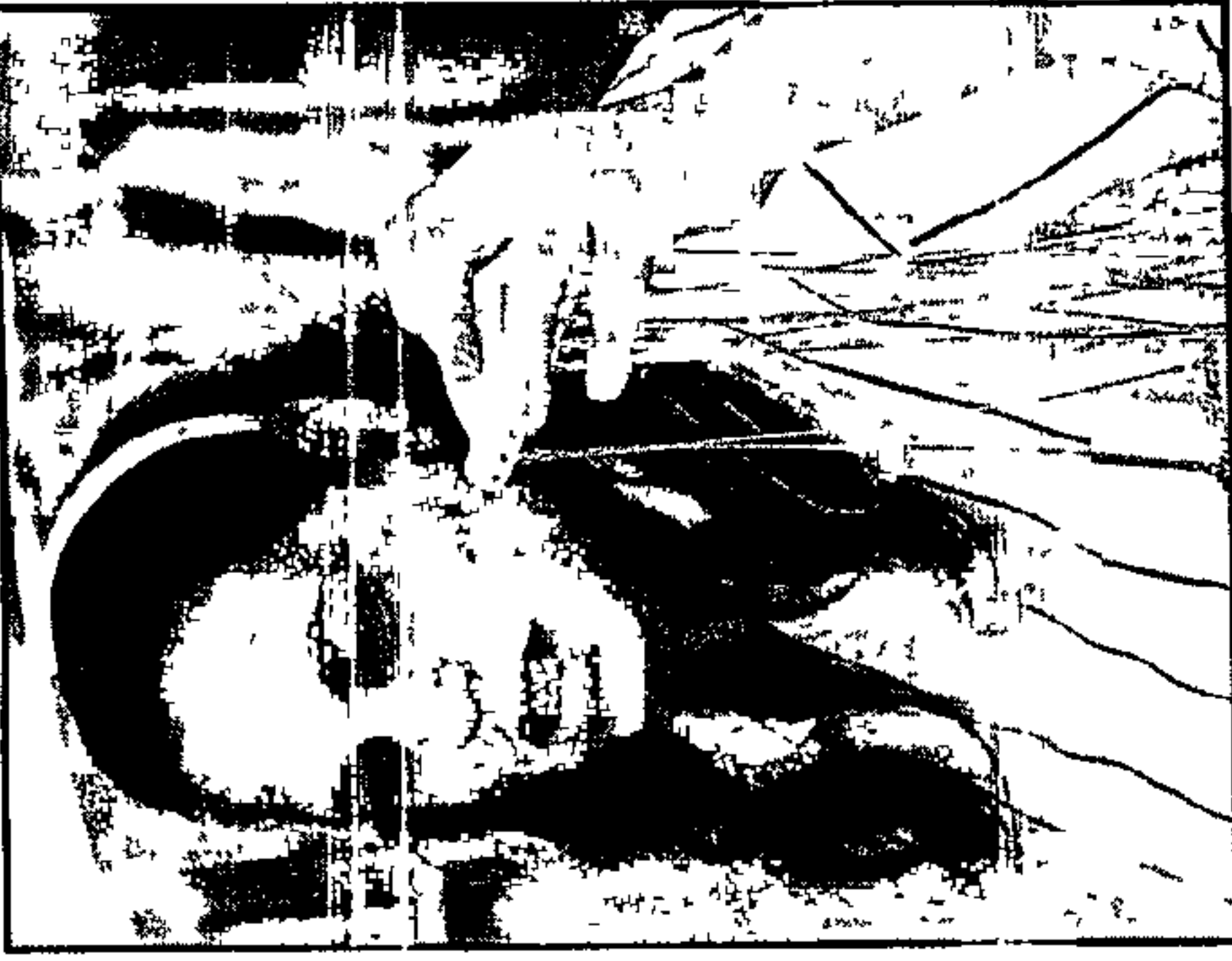
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Pictures **HANNES THIART**
The Argus

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Informal sector takes a share: Gauteng black township dwellers spent about R30 billion on goods and services a year of which about 16 percent went to the informal sector, a study by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research showed. Of the almost R16 billion spent at retail outlets, 72 percent went to the formal sector and 28 percent to the informal sector, according to the study

(153A) ET(BR) 27/10/95

Informal trade nets R5bn

Stephané Bothma

BD 27/10/95 (153A)
PRETORIA — The inhabitants of Gauteng's traditionally black townships spend more than R5bn a year at informal outlets — mainly at spaza shops and shebeens, a recent survey by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research has found.

The annual expenditure on goods and services by township residents in the province was in the region of R30bn, the survey showed.

The extent of purchases in the informal sector, which last year totalled R5,2bn, compared favourably with Pick 'n Pay's R6,7bn turnover for the financial year ending February 1994.

"The percentage of cash expenditure at informal retail outlets varies considerably by product group, from as high as 75% for fuel and light to as low as 5% for medical and dental services," the bureau said.

Of the money spent on alcoholic beverages 67% was spent at informal outlets, and 59% of reading matter and 38% of cigarettes and tobacco were bought there.

The most popular informal outlets for food purchases were spaza shops (54%) and hawkers and flea-markets (25%).

The bureau also found that almost 1,6-million or 15,4% of workers were employed in the informal sector last year. This sector contributed to an estimated R26bn or 6,7% of the official estimate of the GDP in the same year.

Informal sector accounts for 6,7% of GDP

By Roy Cokayne

Pretoria — Almost 1,6 million people, or 15,4 percent of all workers in South Africa, were employed in the informal sector last year and contributed about R25,7 billion or 6,7 percent of the official estimate of the GDP in the same year

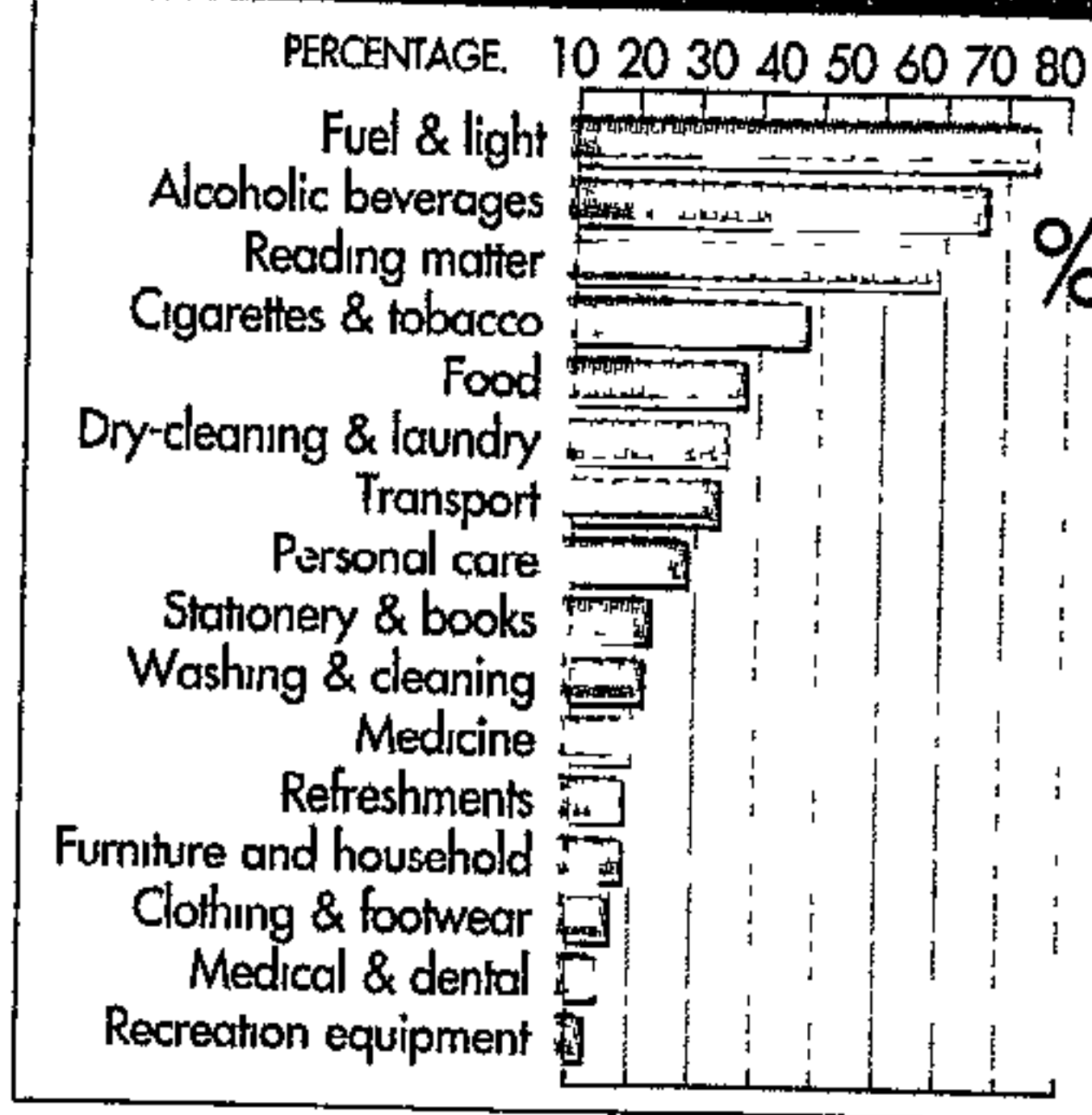
But the report on a study of South Africa's informal sector by Unisa's Bureau for Market Research said the informal sector's contribution to the official estimate of the GDP was considerably lower than the 9,2 percent for 1993

The bureau said this was indicative of the overestimation of the role of the informal sector in 1993

It said 87 532 of the total 1,57 million were employed full time in the formal sector and part time in the informal sector

It said businesses in the informal sector were fairly small, with 80 percent of those involved in the informal sector being workers for their own account. The study con-

Cash expenditure at informal retail outlets by main product groups, 1994



firmed the large-scale involvement of the black population in the informal sector, with 55,3 percent attributable to blacks, 35,7 percent to whites, 5,6 percent to coloureds and 3,4 percent to Indians

goods and services by the inhabitants of Gauteng's black townships was about R30 billion a year, with more than R5 billion of this spent at informal outlets

Of the almost R16 billion spent

According to the study, the activities of the informal sector were concentrated in trade (48 percent) and community and personal services (17 percent). Sizeable contributions were also made by transport (12 percent), construction (10 percent) and manufacturing (7 percent)

It also announced that expenditure on

at retail outlets in these areas and elsewhere, 72 percent went to the formal sector and 28 percent to the informal sector

The most important informal outlets were spaza shops, which accounted for 32 percent of informal purchases, and shebeens, which accounted for 29 percent, while flea markets accounted for 18 percent

The report said the extent of purchases in the informal sector was considerable with purchases by blacks amounting to R5,2 billion last year

It said this figure compared favourably with Pick 'n Pay's R6,7 billion turnover for the financial year to end in February this year

The study found the percentage of cash expenditure at informal retail outlets varied considerably by product group. It was as high as 75 percent for fuel and light, and as low as 5 percent for medical and dental services

Traders' body ousted

Municipal Reporter

(153A)

THE Cape Town City Council has given notice to the National Traders' Association to relinquish control over the St George's Mall trading sites.

At the same time, it has reassured all 47 traders in the mall that they will not be displaced and their fees will remain the same in the immediate future.

The council's management agreement with the traders' association expired at the end of January and, despite attempts to negotiate a new agreement, the council had had no success, it said in a statement.

The association is also in arrears with the council.

ARG 2/11/95

Burden of debt hangs over Zimbabwe

1539 m/g (Bm) 3-9/11/95

Lewis Machipisa in Harare

THE weight of Zimbabwe's debt servicing obligations dominates government expenditure, warping priorities towards repaying donors at the expense of the rest of the economy. In the present fiscal year, total debt servicing will come to US\$722-million in interest payments and US\$600-million in repayments of capital — equivalent to 47 percent of this year's total government expenditure.

From a debt of US\$100-million inherited at independence, the figure has risen to US\$4.5-billion.

"Government cannot blame the former white government because then Rhodesia under sanctions could not borrow money. At the current debt servicing we could have paid the debt we inherited in 1980 from the former government in three days," says consultant economist John Robertson.

"We have money too easily obtained and inefficiently used," says Robertson. "I am sure if the government worked for this money it would use it efficiently and wisely. Aid makes one feel comfortable about not being careful when using it."

The latest First Merchant Bank (FMB) quarterly guide to the economy notes "In much the same way that Russian and its East European partners worked themselves deeper and deeper into debt while they were

following socialist economic policies, Zimbabwe was also building up an unsustainable debt burden before it made its move to market economies."

Mismanaged borrowing has pushed Zimbabwe towards the limits of its debt-carrying capacity. The impact on the economy was one factor which forced the government into a policy turn in 1991 to embrace a donor-driven structural adjustment programme.

The government, however, did have something to show for its spending in the 1980s.

At independence, avowed socialist Robert Mugabe took over a country which under white minority rule had been run along apartheid lines. The government set about building a health care and education system that for the first time catered for blacks, particularly in the rural areas.

Life expectancy, only 45 in 1979, jumped to 64 a decade later. The infant mortality rate, 98 per 1,000 live births in 1970, fell to 46 in 1989.

However, while headway was made in health care and education, spending in other areas was far less enlightened — government machinery that at its height included 52 ministers, a stifling bureaucracy and support for loss-making state enter-

prises. An apartheid South Africa also meant a high defence vote.

And, under the cost-cutting reform programme, even successes achieved in the social sector are being reversed. Life expectancy slipped to 60 years in 1991 and infant mortality per 1,000 live births rose to 48. Education expenditure has declined sharply since 1991.

Servicing the loans made available by donors in the 1980s now amounts to around US\$3.55-million a day.

Interest charges alone accounted for 19 percent of 1994's US\$2.1-billion budget.

"These amounts are frightening for a country like Zimbabwe. The most worrying thing is that the money being borrowed is being used to repay old debt and not generate growth," says businessman and economist Eric Bloch.

"Government has to reduce its spending and increase revenue. While borrowing may have been unavoidable in the past, it was what the money was used for that was the problem," says Bloch.

"With the long overdue change to positive real interest rates, the fact that a high proportion of the money borrowed previously must have been used unproductively has become even more obvious," notes the FMB.

"And as the new funds can be acquired only at rates that are well in excess of the more easily managed negative real interest rates of the past, the debt position is bound to grow worse," predicts the FMB.

Zimbabwe, an agro-based economy hit by successive droughts, faces a classic debt-trap of having to borrow to make its repayments on old debts — digging itself deeper into a hole.

Government is making repayments of debt capital totalling US\$600-million this year, but plans to borrow US\$1.2-billion of which US\$700-million will be new money, deepening the debt burden.

This year, recurrent expenditure — civil servants' wages for example — is expected to exceed total revenue by US\$388-million. Budget estimates show that US\$440-million will be sought from the domestic market, a prospect that will keep interest rates uncomfortably high, and crowd out private sector borrowers.

High interest rates have caused havoc. The combination of low savings and high nominal interest rates largely explains the low level of investment in the country during much of the reform period.

The investment to gross domestic product ratio, at 18.5 percent in 1993, was far below the 25 percent level estimated to achieve a five percent real economic growth rate forecast for 1995. — IPS

Two million work in SA's informal sector

1539 m/g (Bm) 3-9/11/95

Rowan Callaghan

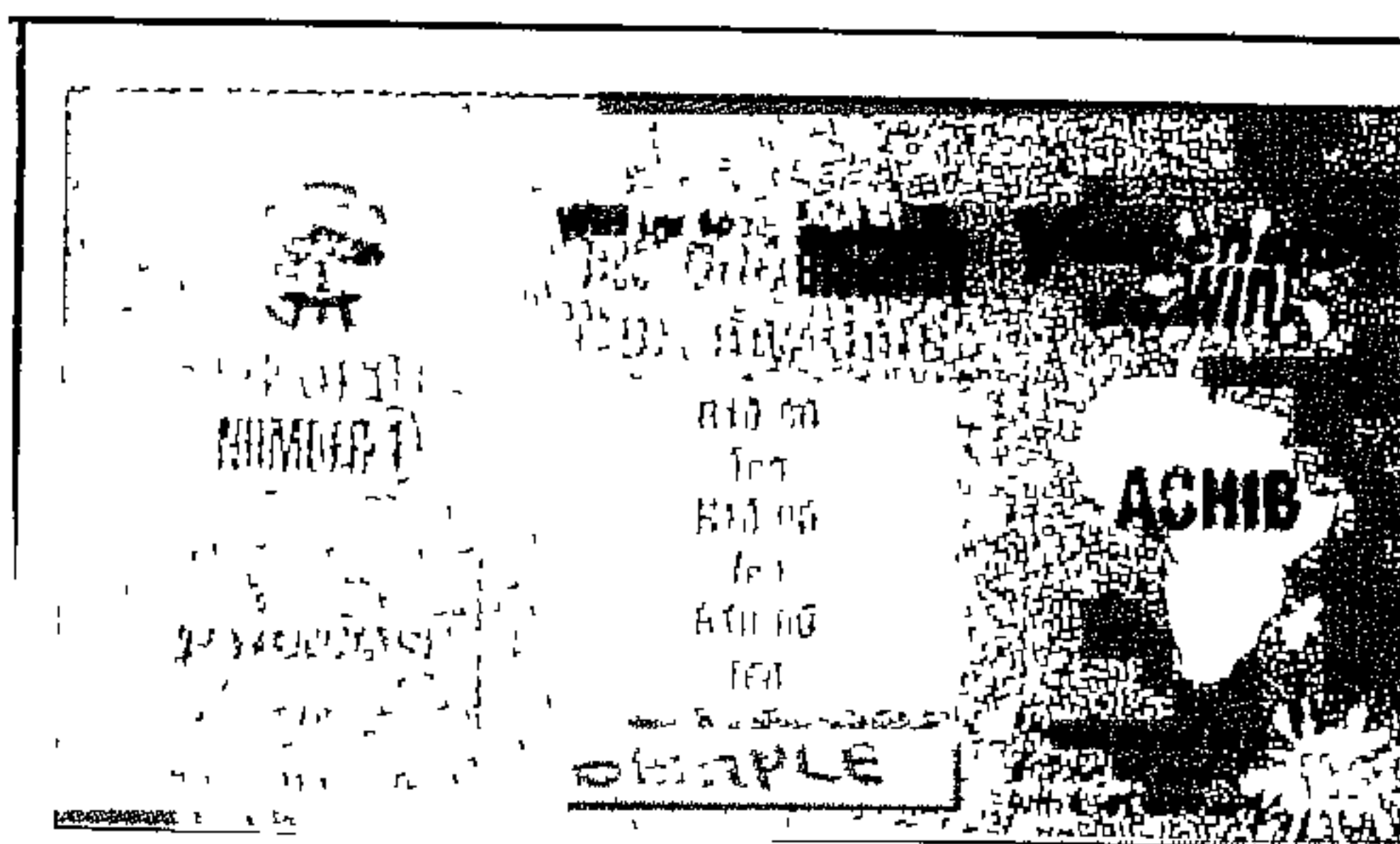
THE informal sector provides jobs for almost two million people, according to research by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research (BMR).

The BMR study found that last year almost 1.6-million, or around 15 percent, of the total South African work force was employed in the informal sector.

This sector contributed an estimated R28-billion, or around seven percent of the official gross domestic product (GDP) figure, the total value of all goods and services produced by the economy.

Activities in this sector are concentrated in trade (48 percent) and community and personal services (17 percent), with contributions from transport (12 percent), construction (10 percent) and manufacturing (seven percent).

In the traditionally black areas of Gauteng like Soweto, Tembisa, Kagiso, and Mamelodi the research found that of the almost R16-billion spent at retail outlets, 28 percent went to the informal sector.



Hawkers launch scratch card

BY THABO LESHLO

Johannesburg — The African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib) and the South African Vocational Endowment (Save) have launched a new scratch-card game to raise funds for the council.

Lawrence Mavundla, the president of the council, said the move had been initiated because of a lack of funding for non-government organisations.

"We are, therefore, happy that

Achib and its members are to benefit from the scratch-card initiative," he said. The council has established a separate company, Impilo Trading, to market, distribute and sell the scratch cards.

Kabelo Mooki, the sales and marketing director of Impilo, said the cards were being sold through hawkers registered with the council.

The cards are selling for R2 each, from which the council receives 50c, the vendor 20c, Save 20c, Impilo 30c and 80c is used to cover prizes, which range from R2 to R25 000.

(153A) (S) CT(BR) 3/11/95

By-laws needed for street trading

(153A)
ARG 4/11/95

MAUREEN MARUD

Business Reporter

INFORMAL traders want the street scene swept clean of old restrictions on hawkers. Formal businesses and local authorities also want trade to be more orderly.

So a new bylaw will be required to govern informal trading in each municipality in the Western Cape, says Tony Ruiters, deputy director-general of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Western Cape.

The bylaw must be the product of negotiation and agreement between local authorities, informal traders and formal business, he said.

His department is inviting street traders, formal business and local authorities to finalise negotiations and submit their agreed-upon bylaw.

Principles that must be embraced by each municipality's bylaw include.

- Greater economic freedom to trade in terms of the new constitution,

- Opportunity for the development of the informal sector/survivalist entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises into small, medium and big enterprises;

- Mutual co-operation and

Call for people of 'sound judgment' to serve on provincial Liquor Board

Business Reporter

PROVINCIAL Minister of Economic Affairs Chris Nissen says he is ready to set up the Liquor Board for the province.

He is inviting nominations to the Board, which will consist of five members responsible for receiving and processing liquor licence applications, transfers, removals and renewals.

The Board should be in operation by the end of January 1996.

"I have requested all the major role-players in the liquor industry, as well as

business and community organisations, to nominate individuals with good standing in the province," Mr Nissen said.

Ideally, the people nominated should have no involvement in the liquor industry, have knowledge, experience or understanding of the administration of justice, possess sound judgement and be respected by all communities, both rural and urban, Mr Nissen said.

Members of the board will serve for a two-year period.

Nominations must be accompanied by a short

CV. Closing date for all nominations is November 17, 1995.

"I will be setting up a working group on liquor affairs in the province, whose task it will be to facilitate the Western Cape input for the new national Liquor Act and new national policy of the liquor industry," Mr Nissen said.

For more information on the process of setting up the Liquor Board, please contact Tony Ruiters, deputy director general of the Department of Economic Affairs, PO Box 979, Cape Town 8000, ☎(021) 483-3840/1, Fax ☎(021) 483-3483.

competition between the informal activity and the formal business,

- Fewer restrictions, but greater participation, transparency, involvement,
- conflict resolution mechanisms.

"If all the role-players negotiate a bylaw based on

these principles, they can submit it to us and we will gazette it," Mr Ruiters said.

But it will be gazetted only after department officials have determined that it is the product of negotiation and agreement by all parties concerned, he added.

"Because of the depart-

ment's wide network, we will be able to contact the relevant informal traders' organisations to make sure they are in agreement. Then, if it is also in line with the principles, it will be gazetted."

There is no deadline for submission of each area's bylaw. In the meantime, street trading will be conducted according to the old Business Act.

"We have asked all local authorities not to act against street traders or hawkers in the interim, and have asked traffic departments not to harass them or interfere with them until we have proper bylaws in place."

For more information on the bylaw please contact Tony Ruiters, PO Box 979, Cape Town 8000, Telephone (021) 483-3840/1, Fax (021) 483-3483.

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 1995

TRADERS DEMAND AUDIT

Council to take over mall stalls in rent row

CT 6/11/95

THE CITY COUNCIL is to control St George's Mall stalls as the National Traders' Association is eight months in arrears and has only R9 000 in the bank. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

THE Cape Town City Council is to take over control of 47 informal trading stalls in St George's Mall at the end of the month because the organising body has not forwarded stallholders' rents for eight months.

The council is owed R60 000, although stallholders say they have been paying their rent every month in good faith to the National Traders' Association.

Angry stallholders said they had heard recently that the rent not been paid and that the NTA had only R9 000 in the bank.

They want to know what has become of their money and would like an audit, possibly by the police fraud branch.

The stallholders in St George's Mall and others who use a part of

Greenmarket Square that is also managed by the NTA have called an emergency meeting for tomorrow night.

Mr Grant McNeven, a former chairman and treasurer of the NTA committee, said it had been disclosed at the NTA's annual meeting three weeks ago that the association had "R9 000 in the bank".

Grants

In addition to stallholders' rents, the NTA had been given R150 000 in grants by corporations and the Kagiso Development Trust this year, he said.

Mr McNeven said he and eight other committee members had resigned in February. It was understood that they would stand for re-

(153A)

election after the annual meeting, which was to have been held in February.

"We eventually held the general meeting three weeks ago — but it was a circus. People shouted allegations at each other and in the end the meeting broke up in chaos.

"The present 'committee' has no members except the public relations officer, Mr Mitch Samsodien, who co-opted his friend, Mr Quinton Fredericks, who is now the 'chairman'."

Mr Samsodien confirmed that the NTA had not paid the rents for the past eight months, but said he was withholding the money "until the council promises us facilities such as toilets and kiosks for when it rains".

He also confirmed that the NTA had received grants and said this money and the rents were being held in bank trust accounts.

INFORMAL TRADERS OUTRAGED

Row over 'corruption' in Mitchells Plain ^(153A) *CT 7/11/95*

INFORMAL TRADERS in Mitchells Plain are embroiled in a war of words with the Town Centre Merchants' Association. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

INFORMAL traders in Mitchells Plain are outraged that those who manage their sprawling market of more than 600 stalls in the Mitchells Plain Town Centre, charge them each R40 a month to trade but only pay the City Council R12,50 a month to lease the entire area they occupy.

Several traders, who do not wish to be named for fear of intimidation, have levelled serious allegations of corruption and possibly theft against their organising umbrella body, the Mitchells Plain Town Centre Merchants' Association, which in turn claims that it has spent more money than they take in from traders on upgrading their stalls and on salaries for security guards.

But the traders also said that the security guards hired by the merchants' association were "local gangsters who threaten us, intimidate us and extort money".

Merchants' association chairman Mr Yusuf Ebrahim yesterday confirmed that until July when their lease with the Cape Town City Council expired, they had paid R37,50 a quarter — or R12,50 a month — to the council for the lease.

He confirmed that security guards were "from the community" and not from a professional company, but denied the hawkers' allegations that guards stole from traders, extorted money from them and threatened them.

Mr Ebrahim said about 600

hawkers traded on the massive market all year round, but in the holiday season up to 1 000 hawkers a day were present.

Mr Ebrahim also confirmed that since July when the market's lease expired and "dissident hawkers" had refused to pay their rent on their stalls, no money had been forwarded to the City Council, forcing it to appoint an independent mediator to sort out the grievances.

This was confirmed by the City Council last week.

"The City Council appointed us as their surrogates but you cannot tell that to the hawkers — this is a breed you cannot negotiate properly with," Mr Ebrahim said.

He said the merchants' association now wanted the hawkers to be moved to an open field beside the Mitchells Plain bus terminus.

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 1995 ★

(153A)
St George's
stallholders
want answers
CT 8/11/95
STAFF REPORTER

ST GEORGE'S MALL stallholders voted last night for a six-person committee to investigate the affairs of the National Traders Association (NTA), which owes the City Council R60 000 in rent. The NTA allegedly only has R9 000 in the bank.

Mr Miles Robertson said a group of concerned stallholders needed to know what had happened to money collected from them over the past eight months.

They also wanted to know what had happened to the NTA's deposit and receipt books and two sets of canopies donated to it, why an administrator was appointed and who authorised the salaries of NTA officials.

Answers were also needed why the name of a Mr Matthews, who is not a member of the executive committee, appeared on financial statements, why no deposits of takings were made for two weeks and why communication with the council had broken down.

He said a caretaker committee should be appointed for a full and impartial investigation.

Caltex manager of business development Mr Moegwen Harris, who chaired the meeting, said he would get an independent auditor to assist the committee.

Hawker to move after harassment'

JILYAN PITMAN, Staff Reporter

A CONCERNED Fish Hoek hawker, who believes the town is "going downhill because of the behaviour of some pavement traders", says she will gladly move to another area.

Cheryl Bradbury feels the council-demarcated area near the station could herald a new era for traders

She said she had been intimidated by Sydney Weller, chairman of the Fish Hoek Hawkers' Association and some of his followers "once too often". She looked forward to moving to the new area and appealed to other traders to join her.

"The time has come to move away from the pavements and to start a new market with proper structures," said Ms Bradbury.

"We'll make it into a pleasant and happy place where everyone will visit us. We will begin trading this weekend."

Ms Bradbury, who has been trading on the pavement outside an arcade in Main Road for two years, said she and others had often been harassed by Mr Heller and some of his followers.

The latest incident on Saturday was "the last straw". She and several hawkers were threatened with removal by Mr Weller and Ulrich Schubert.

"Few people take any notice of the regulations relating to size of stalls or pavement space laid down by the magistrate of Simon's Town," said Ms Bradbury.

"Everyone does their own thing. The whole scene leaves a lot to be desired and annoys shopkeepers."

Mr Weller refused to speak to Southern Argus.

Fish Hoek town secretary Casper Pelsner confirmed that he and Ms Bradbury had discussed a recent incident. He suggested she move to premises near the station.

"We demarcated 10 parking bays with a yellow line at least a year ago for the traders to use on the corner of Station Road and Main Road. Now we'll have to wait and see what happens," he said.

He said the status quo remained with other pavement traders. Discussions had taken place between traders and shopkeepers.

Fishing for answers

ARG 11/11/45 (153A)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Small business and the informal sector do not offer quick, easy solutions to poverty and joblessness, says a leading development analyst

Before investing vast sums in its programmes to boost small and medium-sized business, the government and the private sector should examine the whole question of intervention in the sector

This advice is contained in an article, *Before you teach a man to fish, find out why he can't*, in SA Development Digest published by the Centre for Developing Business at Witwatersrand University.

The writers say many of the assumptions underlying assistance programmes for small

business are based on the premise, repeated often at seminars and conferences, that "it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish"

"Given the decline in job opportunities in the formal sector, job-creation through self-employment is regarded by government and the private sector as a priority

"Providing assistance to the small business sector has been portrayed as a seductively simple way of achieving this, as it provides an arena for achieving national as well as personal economic wellbeing"

However, the authors argue, with the country's vast needs and limited resources, it should be asked whether "straight-forward welfare" would not be

more cost-effective and beneficial than the promotion of small business — which is slow to make itself felt and for which it is difficult to predict results.

"Policy-makers must choose between the certainty of immediate but transient benefits (with welfare) and the possibility of deferred but substantial gain (by encouraging small business).

"In South Africa the needs are too great and the resources too limited for us to be coy about costs," say the writers.

They maintain the more general the form of business help offered, the less likely it is to succeed.

The fishing analogy, the authors say, requires that someone who cannot fish, is not self-

taught and has not learned the skill from family or friends, can gain the know-how through the intervention of an outsider.

Similarly with business, not everybody is equipped genetically, educationally or socially to become an entrepreneur. "People put at a disadvantage by an incomplete education or lack of property (to use as loan collateral) generally need a lot of help before they are able to run successful, self-sustaining businesses"

While most "true" entrepreneurs will succeed without assistance, large sums could be wasted providing subsidies or protection which distort natural markets and have proportionate benefit in terms of jobs and efficiency

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 1995 ★

'FREE-FOR-ALL' AT TOWN CENTRE

Hawkers at M'Plain now 'out of hand'

ET 16/11/95

WITH NEARLY 600 HAWKERS trading at weekends, the situation at Mitchells Plain Town Centre is said to be "out of hand". **DAN SIMON** reports.

AN untenable situation has apparently developed at the Mitchells Plain Town Centre since the Cape Town City Council put a freeze on a lease agreement that helped to control hawking in the centre's business area, the Mitchells Plain Town Centre Merchants' Association (MPTCMA) said yesterday.

Town Centre manager and MPTCMA secretary-general Mr M T September said the situation had now "got out of hand" with close to 600 hawkers trading on pavements, in shop fronts and the bus terminus at a weekend, compared with the 280 hawkers just over four months ago.

Crime had increased and a Golden Arrows bus driver was

stabbed in the hand at the weekend when he inadvertently damaged a fishmonger's stall while trying to park his bus.

The incident led to a blockade of the company's Philippi depot on Monday and was diffused when management agreed to form an action committee with drivers to address their grievances at the overcrowded terminus.

Accusations

Mr September said: "The situation is very bad at the moment and is getting out of hand. Now, wherever they (the hawkers) can put up a stand, they squat."

"People cannot even walk into Pick 'n Pay or other big businesses

because hawkers are blocking the entrances.

"When we had the lease there was some measure of control but now it's a free-for-all," Mr September said.

He said the MPTCMA's problems started with a small group of "dissident hawkers" who refused to pay the Merchants' Association a monthly lease fee of R40.

A group of hawkers accused the MPTCMA of corruption and theft for charging them R40 a month to trade when the MPTCMA only paid the council R12,50 a month to lease the entire area the hawkers occupied.

Mr September said the money from the lease fees was used to pay for security guards and the upkeep and maintenance of the area used by hawkers. He also said: "These non-paying hawkers don't pay rates and taxes and VAT like we do."

(153A)

Bank plan to aid hawkers

By ROCKY MOKOENA

THE AFRICAN Council of Informal Business and Consumer Services (Achib) has launched a scratch card scheme aimed at empowering the unemployed and hawkers

The scheme has been sponsored by Mageu Number One and Nola Industries.

The scratch cards will be made available to unemployed people and hawkers, who will sell them to customers in

townships and cities.

Customers who scratch open lucky numbers will win prizes worth R20 to R25 000

Hawkers will benefit by getting a 20 percent commission on each card sold, which will give them an extra income to increase their stock, and they will be able to get more loans from Achib's micro-bank

Achib's sales and marketing manager, Sam Mooki, said the project, launched in Gauteng this week, would be launched

in the other provinces before the end of this year

He said the scheme would empower more than 85 000 hawkers and millions of unemployed people. CP 19/11/75

Achib would hold a workshop to encourage hawkers to work together so they can compete with the large stores.

People interested in the scratch card scheme can contact the Achib office in the Pan African Building, Troye Street, Johannesburg.

Hawkers reject small business council

BY THABO LESHILO

Johannesburg — The African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib) has rejected the Gauteng Provincial Small Business Council elected yesterday, saying that it did not represent the interests of medium, small and micro enterprises.

"We distance ourselves from the structure," Achib's president, Lawrence Mavundla, told a press conference after the election.

Mavundla, together with Achib's Gauteng regional manager George Ngwenya, were among the nominees to be elected.

He withdrew his nomination at the meeting and said Achib would no longer participate.

Mavundla, who arrived two hours late with a crowd of Achib members, used his chance to address the panel to call for a boycott of the council instead.

He said the 31 people chosen were all from Johannesburg and that the East Rand, West Rand, Vaal and Pretoria had been excluded from the council.

Mavundla said that Achib, "one of the oldest and biggest small business organisations", was not informed about yesterday's meeting.

Monde Tabata, the co-ordinator of the National Small Business Council, said he rejected Mavundla's allegations.

ET(BR) 22/11/95 (153A)

NEWS NATIONAL

Achib angry over business elections

lowetam 22/11/95 (153A)

By Isaac Moledi

THE AFRICAN Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses has objected strongly to the election of representatives of big business to the Gauteng Provincial Small Business Council and called on Gauteng premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale to nullify the elections.

Addressing a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Achib president Mr Lawrence Mavundla said most of the people elected to the province's PSBC came from big business and his association objected to the elections.

Mavundla said Achib would never accept the election as the association was not even represented

He also accused those elected of not having constituencies

Big business accused of butting into the affairs of informal traders

Unlike in other provinces where the elections ran "smoothly and voting represented all the region, Gauteng had elected members from Johannesburg "except Krugersdorp and Germiston where even representatives are from big business", said Mavundla

Days of apartheid

"It's hard to forget that it was big business which influenced the police to arrest hawkers during the days of apartheid

"How can we now believe that they can represent us in the PSBC? If they are in the majority, as they appear to be now, then small business stands no chance of developing

into big business," he added

He urged premier Sexwale to intervene and nullify the elections. He also said he would meet national coordinator of the PSBC Mr Monde Tabata to discuss the issue and, if there was no solution, Achib would decide at a mass meeting next Tuesday what action to take.

Tabata said yesterday he was prepared to meet Mavundla so that the problem could be resolved.

However, he denied that the new committee consisted only of big business and many of them from Johannesburg

"All regions are fully reflected in the new committee," he said

Small business elections 'a joke'

by Theo Rawana

PROVINCIAL elections paving the way for a National Small Business Council ran into problems this week when the African Council for Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) cried "foul" and distanced itself from the process in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

The council was established last March when President Nelson Mandela announced the setting up of an organisation which would liaise with government on behalf of small, medium and microenterprises.

The provincial elections have to be completed by November 30, when the national council will be formally set up.

Achib president Lawrence Mavundla said yesterday his organisation had "distanced itself" from elections in Gauteng because hawkers were not properly represented. Elections in KwaZulu-Natal were not valid because the province had no constitution.

He threatened to take the case to the Gauteng economic affairs department and ask premier Tokyo Sexwale — a patron of Achib — to declare the elections null and void.

Mavundla said Achib's objective was to get greater proportional representation as the organisation had the greatest number of members — 19 000 in Gauteng and 85 000 nationally.

He told a media conference in Johannesburg that Achib had pulled out of the elections after National Small Business Council co-ordinator Monde Tabata had objected to him bringing members from the West Rand, which is one of the provincial regions, into the election.

"All those who were elected came from greater Johannesburg. They did not represent small business, but were millionaires pulled in by the smell of R2,9m which government has set aside for small business," Mavundla said.

Mavundla said the process was

"fraudulent" because with 27 individuals taking part in the election, some got as many as 84 votes.

In KwaZulu-Natal Achib had called for the elections to be declared "null and void" because Achib had pointed out that the province had no constitution and no elections could be legitimate without a constitution, Mavundla said.

"The election was a joke because it had been hijacked by business consultants and people who have no place in small business."

Tabata said Mavundla had no cause to disrupt the process because "the door is open for us to talk this over".

Tabata said Mavundla had failed to follow procedure, submitted nominations two weeks after nominations had closed, arrived late for the election and went back on an agreement that proportional representation was not the appropriate route.

"Mavundla should come and we should talk this over," he said.

Hawkers up in arms over theft

HENRIETTE GELDENHUIS
Staff Reporter

TWO security guards employed by the Mitchell's Plain Town Centre Merchants' Association were arrested after the theft of a canopy belonging to one of the 600 hawkers in the town square.

Hawkers have consistently accused the merchants' association's 18 security guards of being "gangsters" who harass them, extort money from them, overcharge them and act with unnecessary violence and aggression.

The alleged theft is the latest incident in the bitter conflict between the hawkers and the merchants' association since the outbreak of hostilities between the parties three years ago with the formation of the flea market.

Hawker Kulsom Baker said "That canopy was worth R1000. We want to know why the security guards took it."

The chairman of the merchants' association, Yusuf Wadia Ebrahim, confirmed that two of their security guards had been arrested on Friday and were released on warnings.

But the charges against them were "concocted" by hawkers, he said.

Mr Ebrahim, a commercial property broker of Sentinel Estates, said some of the hawkers were gangsters and claimed his security guards were doing an important job.

The merchants' association lost its council-awarded lease of the flea market in July after allegations of corruption and mismanagement, but it still controls the formal shopowners at the square.

The merchants' association and the hawkers are involved in a seemingly never-ending slanging match and have instituted legal action against each other on several occasions.

Hawkers claimed the association had overcharged hawkers by asking R50 a day for a bay instead of R40 a month and alleged the association still charged some hawkers rent for space on the podium of the flea market.

Mr Ebrahim responded by saying some hawkers had paid extra because they were in arrears. He also said the association still had the right to sell space on the podium because it supplied electricity there.

Kassie Carstens, in command of crime investigation services at Mitchell's Plain police station,

□ Guards' arrest renews Mitchell's Plain headache (153A)
ARG 23/11/95



HAWKER LEADERS: Neruresa du Toit, right, the president of the Progressive Hawkers' and Traders' Association, and Kenny Brinkhuis, the president of the Mitchell's Plain Stallholders' Association

said the merchants' association's security guards had prevented crime successfully in some cases, but he had no sympathy for them if they acted in a cruel or heavy-handed manner.

Before the arrests of the security guards for theft, "four or five of them were charged with assault after overstepping the mark while arresting people," he said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Carstens said there was "a lot of dirty play and fighting" between the merchants' association and hawkers, "resulting in a total mess".

"The town centre is the heart of Mitchell's Plain, but it has become the headache of Mitchell's Plain."

The manager of Clicks Phillip de Vries, said there had been many complaints from customers and hawkers that security guards "use unnecessary force".

"We're still getting good service from them. They're doing their job and they've got to fight violence with violence."

"Maybe they go overboard the way they sometimes handle things with force. But before them we had a worse, unarmed security guard with no back-up."

"I'm satisfied and I'm depending on their service because I'm getting results."

Many of the 600 hawkers were furious and stopped paying their rent when they discovered that the association was charging between R40 and R100 a stall a month, but was paying the council only R12.50 a month to lease the whole flea market.

But Mr Ebrahim has hit back at the allegations.

He said association members had not pocketed a single cent of hawkers' money, but had used it to provide canopies and security guards.

He said the association's integrity was beyond question and this could be verified with their auditors.

Mr Ebrahim said a hawker, Jasmine Harris, had incited a "near-riot" on September 2 when she was asked by security guards and a member of the association, Mogamat Tapie September, to move her rooite stand from underneath a canopy because she was using a gas cylinder.

He said a crowd of hawkers had shouted abuse at Mr September and threatened his life, forcing

him to take out his gun.

But Ms Harris, who is the chairperson of the Mitchell's Plain United Hawkers' Forum, and trader Ms Baker said hawkers were intimidated by the association which had lost its lease in September and did not have the authority to move traders around.

Ms Baker said Mr September pointed his firearm at her. Criminal charges were afterwards laid by both parties.

Last December, the association tried to get an interdict against 18 hawkers in the Supreme Court to try to force them to pay rent and adhere to the association's code of conduct.

Mr Ebrahim said he was proud that the association tried to interdict them but "very disappointed" that the case had not been put on the Supreme Court roll.

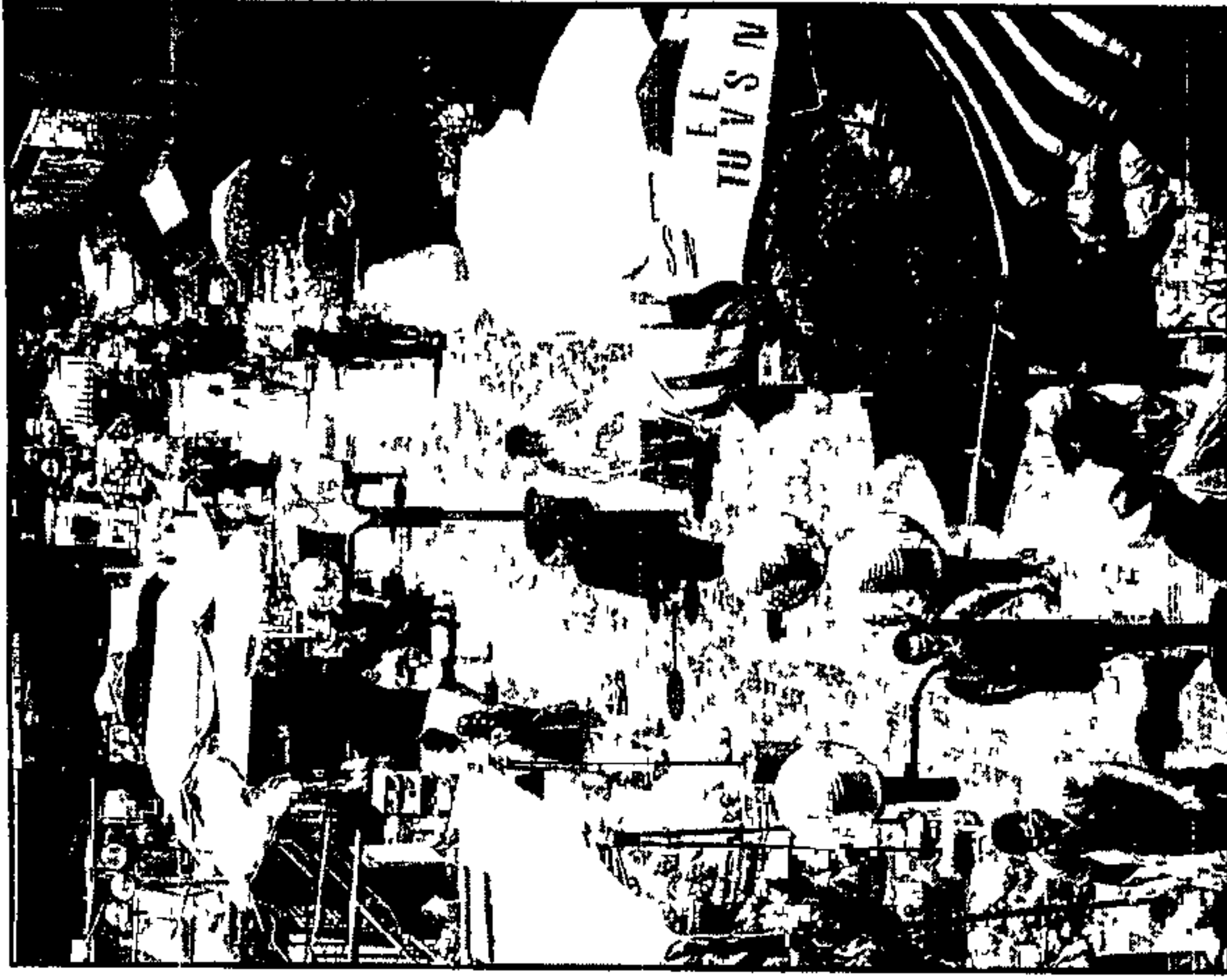
One of the hawkers interdicted, Euromisa du Toit said, "How can we feel happy about interdicting 18 poor people who are struggling? I'm a mother of six children and have reared them here."

We are the pioneers of the informal market."

Kenny Brinkhuis, president of the Mitchell's Plain Stallholders' Association, said four hawkers' associations had got together in an effort to get the lease for the informal market "so that there can be order".

"He (Mr Ebrahim) was acting like a dictator. He said we only understand order from above."

They are still charging hawkers although they have no right to do so. Those who resisted their dictatorship were the leaders and they used our money to interdict us," said Mr Brinkhuis.



MARKET SCENE. A section of the flea market at the Mitchell's Plain Town Square. Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

Lara's Linen
Everyday is Sale Day!

STARTS
THURSDAY
23 NOVEMBER
at 8.30am.
ENDS SATURDAY
2 DECEMBER

Talks on drawing up guidelines for informal trading in Fish Hoek fail

(153A) ARG 27/11/95
Southern Reporter

THE latest attempt to draw up guidelines to regulate informal trading in Fish Hoek has come to grief.

The Fish Hoek Informal Traders' Association says it is no longer prepared to negotiate with the local Chamber of Business.

"This follows months of negotiations after a proposal for a by-law, effectively prohibiting street trading, which has not materialised," said Syd Weller, chairman of the Informal Traders' Association.

He said the association opposed this, seeking rather to negotiate trading restrictions.

A sub committee was elected by the council to handle this, but its make-up had not satisfied the traders.

"We feel it's unfair to negotiate with this committee as two of its members, councillors Felicity Purchase and Clive Wakeford, are shopowners and as such have a vested financial interest," he said.

Stallholders want trading regulated and are prepared to buy permits for a nominal fee.

Problems have occurred when traders arrive and take the sites of regular stallholders (those who trade throughout the year or on weekdays as well).

Jerome Herbert, a trader of three years on the Main Road, said "There can be chaos during the season with people arriving at two or

three in the morning to take prime sites used by regulars

"The demarcation of sites and issuing of permits would solve this"

Raymond Mortlock, a regular selling leather said. "We respect each other and wouldn't dream of encroaching on someone else's site"

It's not all a bed of roses on the street. A few weeks back a scuffle broke out over a site. Mr Weller was allegedly attacked when allegedly moving the table of a trader not considered a regular, who had taken a prime spot on the premise of "first come first served"

Some of those present, but not Ulrich Schubert as incorrectly stated in a previous report, went to his aid.

Mr Weller explained "It's unfair for a trader who hasn't been seen in six months to pitch and expect a prime site"

He said newcomers were welcome but were given sites further down the road to start with.

The Council set aside a small area in the station parking lot for use by traders, which they claim is inadequate and unsuitable.

Traders in Main Road in Fish Hoek have over the past months come under fire from the formal sector for a variety of reasons.

The positioning of the stalls has been questioned from the point of view that people crossing the road cannot access the pavement.

Stallholders have also been asked not to position their tables in front of shop doorways.

Officials 'too scared' to enforce laws

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — City officials did not have the courage to implement new by-laws which came into effect on Friday and prevented street traders from operating without a licence or outside designated areas, Deputy Mayor Mark Lowe (DP) said at the weekend.

He accused both the ANC and IFP of "lacking political and moral courage" to implement the legislation, even when the two parties had the authority to govern the city.

"City officials should give traders three days notice before physically removing them from the streets with water canons. That is what happens elsewhere in the world," Lowe said.

He said more than 80% of the traders oper-

ated fronts for syndicates often selling stolen goods. "Big business should get tough and maybe suggest not paying rates until this situation has been adequately dealt with," Lowe said.

Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry law and business affairs committee chairman Richard Parsons said

many big businesses were "disgruntled" and considering moving away from the city centre. "Big business must recognise informal trading cannot be removed, but the situation has to be controlled," he said.

The chamber and city officials would hold meetings this week to solve the problem.

BD 4/12/95 (153A)

New broom set to sweep the city clean

□ Hawker-zones singled out for attention

(153A) (153B)
ARG 5/12/95

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

BEING a litter bug will cost you. R70, to be exact, as the Cape Town City Council gears up to keep the city and environs clean over the festive season.

The campaign to keep Cape Town's beaches and city centre clean during the holiday season is being mounted by the city's cleansing department.

More than R170 000 will be spent on additional labour, more equipment and more refuse containers.

Co-chair of the City Council's engineering services committee, Ian Iversen said casual labour would be employed up to Febru-

ary 9. They will be employed to remove refuse during peak periods in streets and on beaches.

Overtime is being increased by 65 percent to provide essential overlap between day and night shifts and all managers and inspectors will be on duty during Christmas.

New on the Cape Town scene will be a "green machine" a super vacuum cleaner which will operate in the CBD seven days a week. The imported machine has been loaned to the Council as part of an experiment.

A beach trailer has been allocated to help remove kelp and other flotsam from False Bay beaches. An additional 1 200 50-litre garbage bins would be put in place, 600 in the CBD and 600 on the beaches. An additional 12 660-

litre containers will be strategically placed for hawker refuse. A further 15 1 100-litre bins would be placed in high-density hawker areas.

Mr Iversen said hawkers and the unpredictable south-easter were the two worst refuse problems. Every hawker the Council could find had been given a pamphlet pointing out the advantages of keeping their area clean.

To try and counter the effects of the south-easter, 25 trial pedestal bins and 20 specially designed beach bins would be tried out at Camps Bay.

For the city centre a compactor vehicle would be dedicated to a special beat to collect hawker refuse all day and everyday. For a four week period there will be 30 casual workers in the CBD instead of the usual 12.

Informal trading set to be a problem over the holidays

CT 8/12/95 (153A)

DALE GRANGER¹

INFORMAL traders spilling out of Greenmarket Square onto surrounding streets are blocking pavements, allegedly selling dagga in broad daylight and have been tagged by the Greenmarket Traders' Association as "one helluva problem".

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman warned yesterday that more stalls were expected to pop up over the next two weeks as holidaymakers pour into the city — but the council is virtually powerless to stop the process

Adderley Street pavements are already feeling the pinch and new stalls are squeezing out pedestrian space in Strand Street, Parliament Avenue and other pockets of the city

Mr Doman said the provincial government was being urged to pass legislation to enable the council to control street trading in the same way they do with St Georges Mall

He said there had been complaints following a recent funeral at the Methodist Church in Longmarket Street where a group of Rastafarians have set

up shop outside the church. They apparently smoked dagga and blocked half the entrance, forcing pallbearers to tilt the coffin to get it into the building

Mr Paul Davis of the Greenmarket Traders Association said yesterday "these guys have been one helluva a problem but we have got nothing to do with the rebel traders".

However, trader Mr Sarah Lederman claimed yesterday he and half-a-dozen other stallholders on Burg Street paid R10 a day to the Greenmarket Traders' Association to trade.

'Abused' hawkers demand hearing

(153A) ARG 11/12/95
Municipal Reporter

HAWKERS are demanding a hearing with the Cape Town City Council's executive committee because they feel they are getting a raw deal, particularly over the festive season.

The Western Cape United Formal Sector Association has asked the executive committee for an urgent meeting to discuss the alleged harassment of their members by traffic police.

Other items the association wants on the agenda are the council's refusal to grant temporary leases and permits, and submissions on a proposed by-law to control hawking.

The association is also asking Cape Town to put more resources into the informal sector. It claims that informal trading generates R3 million for city coffers.

Also on the hawking front, a public opinion survey on street trading in Claremont, conducted by the Democratic Party, has found that residents want trading to be regulated.

The DP's Claremont branch said it would be taking its findings to the Cape Town City Council and the provincial legislature.

They sent out 4 000 questionnaires and got 158 back, a four percent response.

"It is fairly evident that all the respondents wanted certain areas to be set aside for trading and for controls to be passed on to the traders," the DP said.

Among the suggestions that were made were for a regulated multi-stall area and a basic levy to pay for cleansing.

Pavement vendor clean-up

Star 11/12/95
BY NORMAN CHANDLER

Pretoria Bureau
(153A)

Pretoria City Council has removed hundreds of pavement vendors in a campaign to clean up the city and enforce a municipal ruling earlier this year that no more than 220 of an estimated 1 500 should be allowed to operate.

The vendors are selling everything from trinkets to fresh vegetables, ignoring specially painted yellow boxes showing where they can trade.

The sweep began last Thursday and traffic police have since then been on duty on the pavements of Church, Vermeulen and Pretorius streets – the city's three main shopping thoroughfares – ensuring that the vendors do not return. Some vendors have taken to setting up their stalls on Church Square but this is also being discouraged.

A municipal spokesman said that the vendors had crowded pedestrians off the pavements, giving rise to chaotic conditions for shoppers. There was also a health hazard.

The chaos had been worsened by the ripping up of Church Street from the State Theatre to Church Square while a pedestrian mall is being constructed.

(153A) ARG 12/12/95
**Shopkeepers go
dotty over new
deal for hawkers**

ANDREA WEISS, Municipal Reporter

CAPE TOWN is about to be embroiled in another demarcation row — this time over hawking.

Cape Town City Council's traffic department has marked out trading areas for hawkers in Adderley Street with yellow dots in an effort to control an influx of Christmas traders, while keeping the pavements clear for pedestrians.

But the move has upset shopkeepers, who are now faced with hawkers stacking their wares flush against shop display windows.

Deputy city administrator Peter Alston said the demarcation was being done by the traffic manager, whose responsibility it was to ensure pavements were clear enough for a "reasonable flow of pedestrians."

Mr Alston said the action was being taken in the absence of the by-law which the council had hoped would be in place by this month, and because of pressure from trading groups to control the seasonal influx of hawkers.

He said the dots were marked outside shops, rather than on the street side, because trading on the pavement edge could damage vehicles.

Charl Adams of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry said several members had complained because the areas marked out by the traffic department were obstructing the display windows of shopkeepers.

"We're not convinced it should be against the window," said Mr Adams.

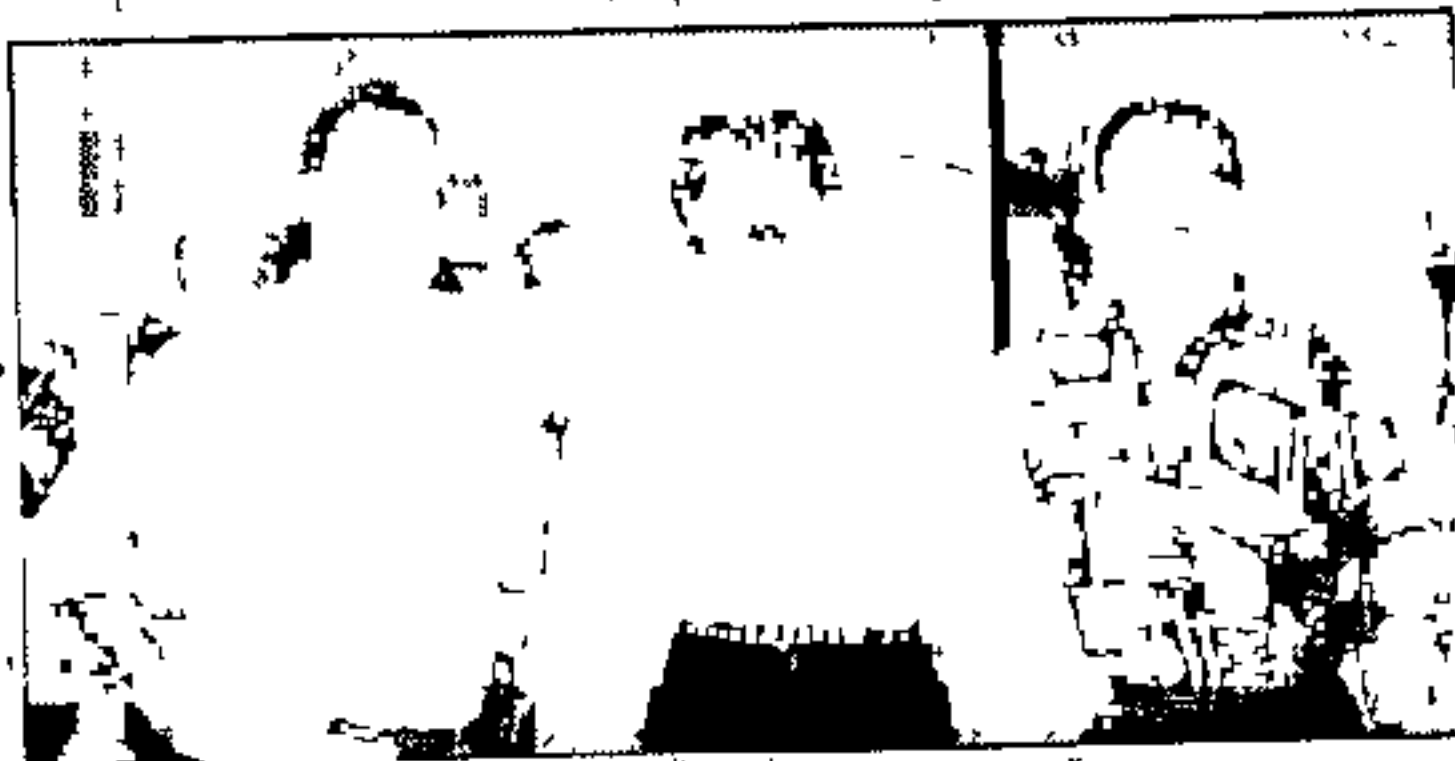
Another concern was that hawkers would view the marked out areas as permanent — even though the traffic department had given shopkeepers the reassurance that it was a temporary measure.

"Obviously Wouter Smit (the traffic manager) is concerned about pedestrianisation."

Mr Adams said the chamber believed the demarcation should be at the discretion of shopkeepers and informal traders in the area, and in consultation with those affected by it.

"I think it was done in many cases without forethought. Our concern is that what is sometimes temporary may become permanent."

The traffic department wants to contain the widening incidents of informal trade. We're saying, "Do it in consultation and on an informed basis."



Gary Israelsohn, left, a Flea Market Enterprises director, Rohny Pugin, Point Waterfront's general manager, and Preston Israelsohn, a Flea Market Enterprises director

New flea market a 'screaming success'

(153A) ET(BR) 15/12/95

By STUART RUTHERFORD

Durban — A "screaming success" was how Preston Israelsohn described the newly opened Point Waterfront flea market in Durban.

An estimated 15 000 to 20 000 people attended the flea market a week ago and spent "a good few million rand", according to Israelsohn, who is one of three directors of Flea Market Enterprises.

Israelsohn believes the success of the 216-stall market lies in its good location, professional management, high quality and the low prices of the goods sold.

He said Johannesburg-based Flea Market Enterprises encouraged stall holders to sell goods at least 30 percent less than normal retail prices. "Where we find out that it's above or at normal shopping-centre prices we do not like to have that trader trading."

He believes the group is plugging an important hole in the flea market business with their unique upmarket flea market while also providing a huge boost to small traders.

The group owns and controls five markets nationally, including the Bruma Lake flea market. It plans to open more flea markets around the country, including Durban, and two more in Gauteng in March.

The Point Waterfront flea market is open from 9am to 5pm on weekends and public holidays.

Stalls cost between R55 and R65 a day depending on their position.

Traffic chief refuses to budge on decision

□ Christmas trading blocked on Greenmarket Square
(153A) ARG 15/12/96

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

CAPE TOWN traffic manager Wouter Smit is under fire again for refusing to allow Greenmarket Square trading space to be extended over the Christmas period.

Traders, who stocked up in anticipation of selling their goods on the popular market, say they are facing serious losses because of the position being adopted by the traffic department.

For the past two years, the council has allowed traders to use a small strip of land between the demarcated trading area and bollards marking off Burg Street on the lower half of the square.

About 20 traders, who were expecting to get stalls in this area, are now unable to trade. Many of them say they have put up thousands of rand to buy stock for what is the most lucrative selling time of the year.

Many traders have also been working on Greenmarket Square during the relatively lean winter months to secure a space over Christmas.

Capital investment on the part of the traders ranges from about R10 000 to R30 000 each, and lost sales could amount to about R500 000.

But Mr Smit is refusing to budge on his decision because he maintains the strip must be kept clear for pedestrians. The adjoining road is already closed to general traffic, but is used by traders as a loading area.

Traders, who maintain they are keeping the central business district alive by providing a vibrant tourist attraction, believe the position Mr Smit has taken is unreasonable, and they cannot understand why things should be different this year.

Rat van den Heever, who sells T-shirts, said he and his partner had decided to shut down their business because they would not be allowed to sell.

Mr van den Heever said he had been trading on the square since July, hoping to secure a space when the market expanded for the summer season.

Howard Krut, who imports goods from Nepal, said he spent about R30 000 on stock which he will not be able to



GIVE US SOME SPACE: Greenmarket Square traders Howard Krut, left, Berni Coetzee and Dudley Barker in the strip which they were hoping could be used over the festive season. But Cape Town City Council traffic department says no.

display. He is a permanent trader who was hoping to have his stall extended when the extra space was made available.

Another trader, who did not wish to be named, said he had spent R15 000 on stock.

Anna Dhaher, who sells handwoven carpets, said she had secured a stall "only by the skin of my teeth".

Jamii Hamlin said he had approached councillor Chris Joubert for help. While Mr Joubert had been very supportive, he had not been able to persuade Mr Smit to change his mind.

Mr Hamlin said Mr Smit was not looking at the bigger picture which was that Greenmarket Square was a focal point for the central business district attracting people to town.

"Without the square there would not be a city centre," he argued.

Responding to the criticism, Mr Smit said it was his responsibility to control traffic in the area.

The area was presently over-traded and existing traders were already spilling over outside the designated areas.

He said there was "major

congestion" and that over the past two years when the area was traded, there had been "major problems".

● The Greenmarket Square outcry follows another decision by the traffic department to mark out yellow lines in Adlerley Street putting hawkers flush against shop windows.

The move sparked protests from the formal sector who say their display windows are being obscured. Indications now are that the city council will move the hawkers to the pavement edge.



wn.

Picture AP

Prostitutes to be included in legal reform process

(53A) AB BD 18/12/95

Kathryn Strachan

THE legal status of prostitution is to come under review next month at a national consultation of lawyers, health professionals and, for the first time in the legal reform process, prostitutes.

Lawyers for Human Rights and the Cape Town-based Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task-force (Sweat) have been reviewing the legislation.

Sweat spokesman Shane Petzer said the consultation would look at decriminalising prostitution — thereby giving prostitutes access to health services and to the legal system.

"We need to see prostitution as a human rights issue, and link it to health and to the law," he said. "We can't expect prostitution to be a healthy industry unless it is decriminalised."

His organisation was in favour of decriminalising prostitution — by removing all references to prostitution as a criminal activity from the statutory books — rather than legalising it.

Decriminalisation would leave prostitutes free to practice as any other business, while legalisation would subject them to a whole new set of laws, such as compulsory health checks.

Once a position had been adopted at the national consultation, to be held in Maritzburg, other players including the Justice Department would be approached on the issue. A health promotion programme was also on the cards.

Theo Rawana

A RELUCTANCE by white collar workers to be seen "taking money out" to buy from Johannesburg city centre's Bank City flea market had caused the market to "bite the financial dust", Flea Market Enterprises' MD Marc Israelsohn said yesterday.

This was after Flea Market Enterprises — which ran the flea market — had targeted white collar workers as a lucrative market.

But this experience had only spurred the company to greater effort, and a wiser organisation now expected a 50% increase from their present R14m turnover through aggressive expansion and development, Israelsohn said.

The group, which comprises Flea Market World in Bruma, Hatfield Plaza in Pretoria, Benoni Plaza and Kopanong Traders in Hammanskraal, specialises in structuring and managing the mostly outdoor informal retail sector.

Israelsohn said the mistake the company made when it took up space at Bank City late last year was going up-market and targeting the white collar workers.

"We spent R300 000 setting the place up, not realising that these people were not buying in

Flea market failed 'due to shoppers' reluctance to handle cash publicly'

(53A) AB BD 18/12/95

town because they did not want to be seen taking money out in public. We started with a bang in the first week, but by the following week it was clear the people were not spending."

When the company approached the market's landlord FNB with a view to changing to the food market, the bank did not agree to this.

With traders not making money, the market had to close after six months.

But Israelsohn said since last September the organisation had grown by developing and expanding in other areas.

It had committed itself to the acquisition and development of six new markets by next June and the management of its first shopping centre.

This expansion began with the creation of the organisation's first rural marketplace in the Kopanong Shopping Centre in Hammanskraal.

"This is a 200-stall, six-day-a-week market known as the Kopanong Traders Market in which the economic empower-

ment of grassroots informal retail traders is the foundation.

"The market is made up of informal traders who used to trade on broken boxes in the dust. They now trade under cover on a paved surface with a complete management infrastructure. Storage facilities are also to be provided for them in the near future," Israelsohn said.

This was quickly followed up with Norwich Properties mandating the company's newly created rural retail development and management division, Masakhane Retail, to take over the management of their R25m Kopanong Shopping Centre in Hammanskraal.

The centre formed the first phase of a R30m development of the Hammanskraal area that includes a motor city, service centre as well as retail and entertainment facilities.

Other market developments in Durban, Edenvale and Yeoville would increase turnover by more than 50% by June next year, he said.

CPI shows inflation well under control

CT(BR) 22/12/95 (153A)

By LLEWELLYN JONES

Johannesburg — Inflation remained under control in November as the consumer price index (CPI) rose a mere 0,1 of a percentage point to 6,4 percent, compared with October's rise of 6,3 percent.

The November statistic is welcome news, as a figure of more than 7 percent was widely expected after the producer price index (PPI) shot up to 8,2 percent in October from 7,6 percent in September.

The Central Statistical Services said food and housing were the major categories contributing to the monthly increase.

Food prices showed an average annual increase after falling during the previous two months. The price index for food went up 0,9 percent on an annual rate for November against a decrease of 1,5 percent for October.

The biggest increases in the price indices for various foodstuffs were: vegetables (3,1 percent), fruit and nuts (1,3 percent), grain products (0,9 percent), milk, cheese and eggs (0,6 percent); and fats and oils (0,6 percent).

In the overall food category, Bloemfontein showed the highest monthly rate of increase of 1,6 percent and the Cape Peninsula recorded the lowest monthly increase of 0,3 percent.

Food prices at chain stores showed an annual rate of increase of 0,8 percent and those at other retailers showed an annual rate of increase of 1,9 percent.

In the non-food category, the biggest increases in the price index were for tobacco (2 percent), house-

hold operation (0,8 percent), fuel and power (0,5 percent) and housing (0,4 percent).

Clothing, footwear and transport fell.

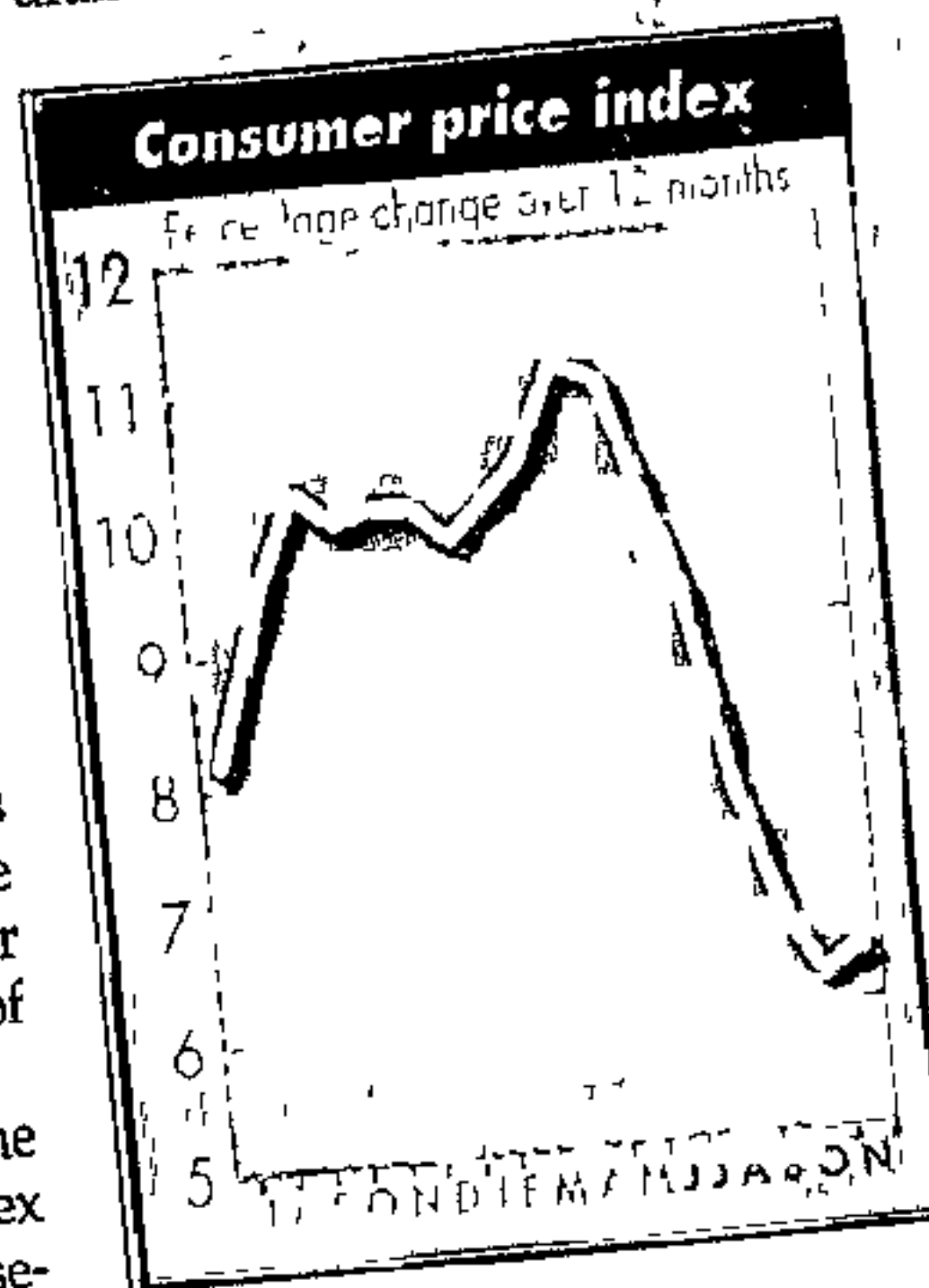
Reuter reports that Nico Czipionka, a Standard Bank economist, said the CPI was a surprisingly good figure.

He said it suggested that the decline in inflation was more entrenched than some people had feared.

"This figure was quite critical because it will influence thinking on wage negotiations which get under way in many businesses early in the new year," Czipionka said.

Azar Jamine, of the consultants Econometrix, said the November inflation number was encouraging and should be followed by another reasonable figure for December.

"Food price rises mean December may see a further marginal increase, but there shouldn't be any dramatic change," he said.



Child unit staff outraged at council's use of device

Staff Reporter

STAFF of a child protection group have expressed their outrage after Cape Town City Council workers used an electric prodding device to remove a vagrant from Rondebosch Common.

City council spokesman Ted Doman confirmed council workers used the device, apparently sold in self-protection stores to remove a man who had been clinging to a van when his goods were removed.

Shifra Jacobson, director of Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Rapcan), which has offices nearby, said staff members found the man shaking uncontrollably in the middle of Sawkins Road.

They led him off the busy road and established what had happened.

Ms Jacobson said, "To me, a shocking device is an instrument of torture. With our aim of a new, more humane society, one would hope there would be a ban on such instruments and we would find more reconciliatory ways of dealing with problems that face us."

"Homeless people are victims of a system. We should

be finding solutions rather than blaming the victim."

The group had been sleeping on the common for several months, according to Rapcan employees.

Mr Doman said the workers, who are members of the council's squatter control unit, used the device because they did not use guns or other weapons.

He said the workers were removing possessions of those sleeping on Rondebosch Common.

When the control unit tried to leave the scene, one of the group would not let go of the vehicle. A member of the control unit then reportedly used the electric prod on the man.

The device was used to persuade him to let go.

Mr Doman said residents in the area had complained about the squatters.

When the squatter control unit visited the area they found the vagrants had building material with them.

Mr Doman said they were asked to leave, but refused.

The next day, the unit returned to remove possessions to pressurise them into leaving.

Mr Doman said squatter control staff were "only doing their job".

Rastas defy ice cream parlour over patch of pavement

Municipal Reporter

AN Italian icecream shop and a group of Rastafarians are at loggerheads over a patch of pavement on the fringes of Greenmarket Square.

The dispute is another example of the conflict over informal trading, with the Cape Town City Council unable to intervene pending the promulgation of a hawking by-law.

Elisabetta Walzi, who spent

R700 000 outfitting her shop and importing specialised equipment from Italy, claims the Rastafarians have been harassing her staff and customers. Her monthly rental for the corner shop is R4 800.

But, the Rastas, who stand outside the door, have countered that they have a claim to the space because they traded there while the shop was empty for several months.

□ **DISPUTED TERRITORY** - Milanese icecream-maker Elisabetta Walzi claims Rastafarian traders outside her shop are making it impossible for her to continue her business and she's thinking of packing up and going home



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus

In addition, the Cape Town City Council will not let them trade on the nearby paved mall area and Mrs Walzi has staked out her claim to the pavement, with plants and a table with chairs edging them out.

Anta Arends, a Capetonian who has learned to speak Italian while working for Ms Walzi, said an employee had left the shop after one of the Rastafarians threatened to kill

her one Saturday morning. She called and said she would not be returning to work.

In December, things came to a head when, after another round of verbal abuse, Ms Arends laid a charge with police working on Greenmarket Square. She said they issued a verbal warning but the matter was left there.

"Last Friday, one of them said he was in the mood for a fight. I just don't think it is acceptable," she said.

Ms Walzi, who is from Milan, said she was finding the situation almost impossible to bear because she had hope for the new South Africa and wanted to do something positive.

"I've said on several occasions, I would rather go. I'm not going to put my life on the line in another country."

Rastafarian Isaac Tafari, who was the only man trading on the day of the interview, said the problem was one of space.

Mr Tafari said they had been unable to get a trading space on Greenmarket Square or in St George's Mall.

Also, the council would not allow them to trade on the paved area, which left only the bit of pavement directly outside the shop, but Mrs Walzi put her plants there.

"We were standing here long before the shop opened. They haven't told us where we must stand. To solve this, they must organise another space for us," he said.

He said none of the Rastafarians would harm Ms Walzi or her customers because they were peaceful people.

INFORMAL SECTOR

1996 ~~1997~~

86 percent of street litter is related to hawkers, survey finds

Southern Reporter

(153A) ARG 9/1/96
A SURVEY of litter hotspots has shown that most street refuse is hawker-related.

The photographic survey carried out by the Cape Town City Council's cleansing department showed that 86 percent of litter was hawker related.

Director of cleansing Ken Kaveney said. "Littering is a huge problem in Cape Town and we are doing all we can to tackle the problem."

But with elections on the cards within a few months, the results of which would see the city council fall away and departments like cleansing transferred to more local authorities, it was impossible to draw up long-term plans

"Short-term operations like spot-fine blitzes by law enforcement officers, advertising campaigns and additional bins are in place."

In spite of this, southern areas like Rondebosch are facing serious litter problems

Cape Town councillor Ian Iversen said the problem was due to poor servicing of blue litter bins, which were often overflowing.

"If litter bins are not emptied regularly, the public cannot dispose of hand-held rubbish efficiently."

In addition, overflowing litter bins result in rubbish being spread by wind and vagrants

Mr Iversen has suggested that a call for additional manpower be put on the agenda for the engineering services department.

"Sea Point's beachfront was like a volcano over the Christmas season as far as littering was concerned," said Sea Point councillor Chris Joubert

Hawking is arguably the nation's biggest employment programme

Street sellers outperform formal sector

(153A)

By ROSS HERBERT

CT(BR) 23/1/96

Johannesburg — Streetside hawkers, with their wares arrayed on overturned cardboard boxes, blankets and milk crates, may appear to be on the lowest rung of South Africa's economic ladder. But if the earnings they claim is any measure, many hawkers are substantially outperforming formal-sector workers.

No studies confirm it, but central Johannesburg seems to be experiencing a rapid rise in street-side hawkers. The streets of the Johannesburg central business district seem to grow narrower daily with the arrays of tomatoes, bananas, sweets, knick-knacks and roasted mealies.

The business is huge and is arguably the nation's biggest employment programme. Street



BANANA KING Joseph Manjati and his partner sell 200 to 225 bunches of bananas a day for R2 each. Take home pay is R1 430 a month each, better than most formal-sector jobs offered him, with no hard work

hawkers sell goods worth an estimated R500 million a year in central Johannesburg and earn R100 million a year in profit, according to the Central Johannesburg Partnership, which

focuses on street trade

According to the government White Paper on small business strategy published last March, there were about 800 000 small, medium and micro enterprises

and an estimated 3,5 million people involved in some type of "survivalist enterprise"

Who is really better off, formal-

□ Continued on Page 16

Cosatu attacks tax proposals

FROM REUTERS

CT(BR) 23/1/96

Cape Town — The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) yesterday accused the state-appointed Katz commission of placing an increasing burden of taxation on the poor while benefitting the rich.

In a submission to the parliamentary joint standing committee on finance, the country's largest trade union federation attacked the recommendation to abolish VAT on some items and place new taxes on retirement funds.

It calculated that these and other recommendations, such as a possible increase in VAT, could raise an additional R5,6 billion in tax, mainly affecting the poor.

Cosatu was concerned that none of its submissions to the commission have been accepted. It said the parliamentary committee consider an alternative approach to VAT, including the extension of zero-rating and capping rates.

Earlier, commission chairman Michael Katz said the commission stressed that any review of VAT had to be considered alongside poverty-relief programmes. It also had to be sensitive to the effect on the poor.

Boost for jobs in Durban with development of industrial site

CT(BR) 23/1/96

By JON BEVERLEY

Durban — Work has begun on a 65-site industrial township south of Durban to be developed at a cost of R35 million by Umlazi Industrial Park — an AECI subsidiary. It will be known as Southgate Industrial Park.

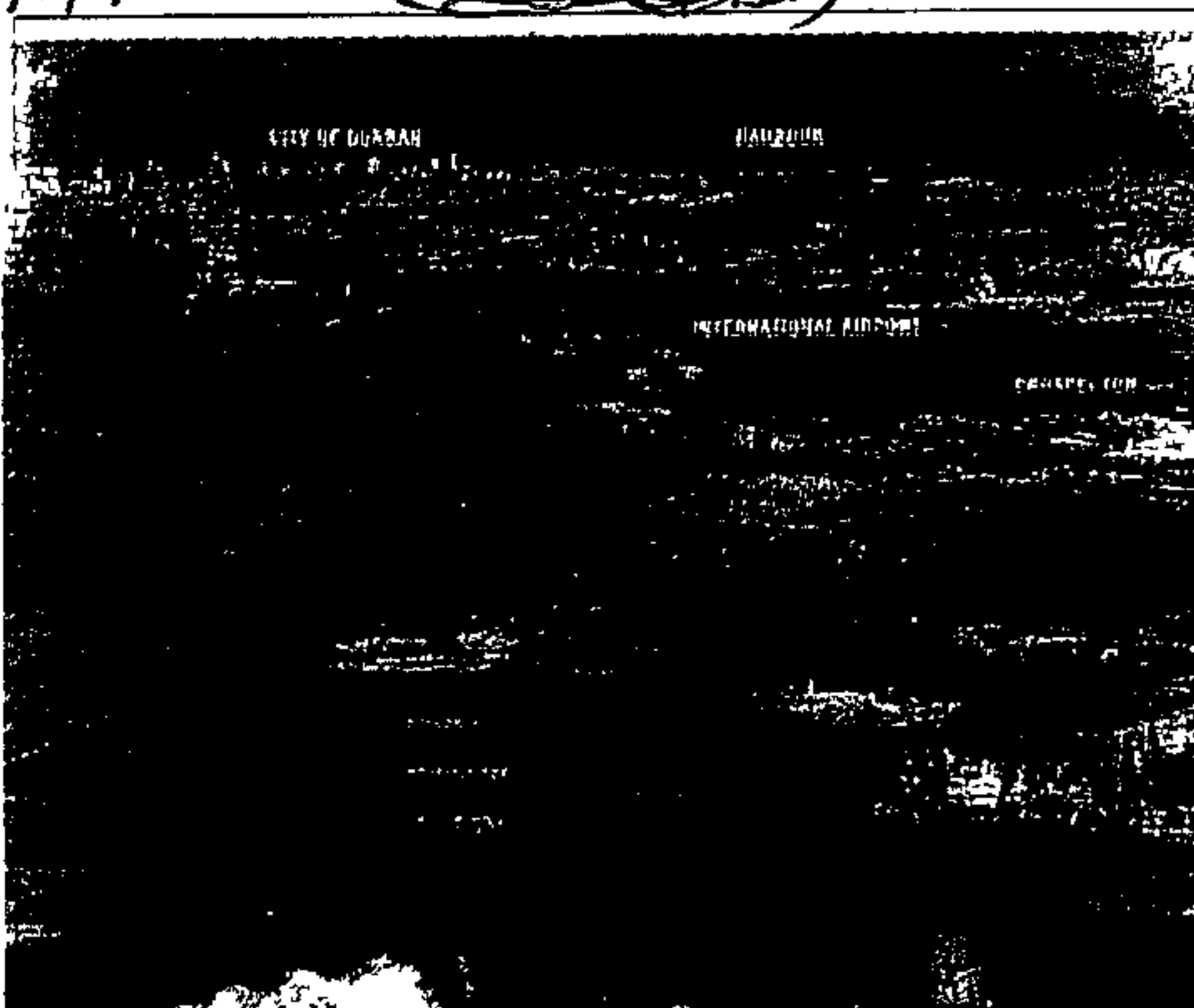
"There has been no development on this scale south of the Umgeni River in the past 20 years," said Simon Noyes-Lewis of AECI.

Some of the stands will be ready for occupation next January, but the company has already sold or reserved about one-third of the 47ha area prior to any concerted marketing effort.

The park is about half the size of Prospecton, the industrial area next to Durban's international airport. A second phase is envisaged once the initial set of sites has been sold.

Noyes-Lewis says the initial phase of clearing about 1,7 million square metres, which is now underway, will create 120 jobs, rising to around 3 500 for the construction of the park.

Over the next five years some 10 000 permanent jobs are expected to be created as office blocks, ware-



JOB CREATION Part of AECI's Umbogintwini site is making way for an industrial park set to provide employment for about 10 000 people

houses and industrial development takes place.

A new township, Lovu, is being developed a short distance away to accommodate workers.

Noyes-Lewis said that while the land was originally available for any sort of industry, he was con-

scious of the existing AECI factories and had decided Southgate would be subject to special conditions including a prohibition on noxious industries.

He said environmental reviews had been carried out and discussed with local authority representatives.

Johannesburg vendors earn about R100m a year

(153A) CT(BR) 23/1/96

□ From previous page

or informal-sector workers?

An average goldmine worker earns R800 to R1 000 a month. Entry-level workers in the steel and metal industry earn R6,74 an hour or R1 285 a month for a 44-hour working week.

Joseph Manjati, who sets up a small array of bananas six days a week on the corner of Sauer and President streets in Johannesburg, says he can sell an average of 225 bunches of bananas a day at R2 a bunch. That works out to a daily profit of R110 to R120, which he splits with his partner.

An average month brings in R1 430 for each partner.

"You need to get a good corner where you have shade in the afternoon for the fruit—and lots of people," Manjati says.

"Over the last few months the number of hawkers has definitely increased," says Saul Hertzikowitz, who is working on a programme for Anglo American Property Services to give hawkers formal steel stalls outside Anglo buildings.

"You can have 10 hawkers outside a building and suddenly you have 30 when they hear what we are doing."

Three years ago, Jasper Skosana invested R2 000 in a small Yamaha electric generator and R560 for a tent and electric hair-cutting tools. He operates across the street from Manjati, offering R10 haircuts.

Skosana says he takes home R100 to R200 a day with almost no expenses. Business varies during the week, with Friday and Saturday the best days. He still complains about traffic police who made him leave a better location on North Street, where he says he could often take home R300 a day—R7 800 a month.

Skosana and other traders also have the key advantage of not paying taxes. Asked if anyone from the government had asked him to pay taxes he said: "What taxes?"

Skosana is a high earner, but the profit of every hawker who talked to Business Report outperformed most formal-sector minimum wages.

"That doesn't surprise me, based on the clients we are servicing. For example, backyard clothing manufacturers make R3 000 to R5 000 a month," says Abbey Mahlalela, who handles micro-sector finance at Standard Bank.

A growing number of formal-sector businesses are also hiring workers to run streetside carts.



BUZZING BUSINESS Jasper Skosana earns about R2 600 a month

"The business has picked up. The public is getting used to buying from the street," says Colin Joseph, owner of Mobile Business Developments, which leases 45 carts to hawkers in Johannesburg. He says his carts pull in from R150 a day to R2 000 a day at sporting events or concerts.

Sphuwe Mazibuko sells jeans for R45 a pair near Diagonal street in Johannesburg. He rents a metal stand for R60 a month in an outdoor pedestrian mall. He takes home about R150 a day, split with his partner.

Earnings can vary widely. Sam Moshodi works at a rented stand immediately behind Mazibuko and takes home only R30 a day, six days a week.

A monthly profit of R800 is the average for members of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business, which collects membership fees from hawkers and defends them against regulation and police harassment.

"The business is definitely growing, particularly with foreign traders," says Freddy Monye-mangene, the council's executive director. The group's paid membership has grown 21 percent in the past year.

Moses Kenya and Ricardo Joao have been repairing shoes at a small stand on Sauer street in Johannesburg for the past five years. They learned the trade of putting on new heels and soles at a craft school in Maputo. But busi-

Hawkers' monthly earnings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

ness was bad in Maputo, prompting a move to Johannesburg where they each earn R50 to R60 a day, or about R1 300 a month.

Mazibuko keeps his jeans inventory in a locker for street traders, but thieves have raided it four times in three years. Once his entire inventory was taken, which took him months to rebuild for lack of funds.

Most hawkers said affordable transport of goods from purchase point to streetside was a problem.

Growing competition is also a threat. Too many street traders sell the same things, often immediately next to one another.

Schools must still wait for revised syllabuses

By [illegible]
Education Reporter

Centenary schools in the 2000 period have received syllabuses for 1996. The Gauteng department of education.

Although the department indicated in a statement that most schools have received the necessary syllabuses, a source in the department denied this.

The source said the department was busy organising the

reprinting of all the necessary material. This comprised between 500 and 700 pages per school, which meant schools would have to wait for some time.

Several schools around Johannesburg confirmed they had not received any new material. The schools said they had been under the impression that interim syllabuses received towards the end of last year were to be used.

The department defended the non-distribution of the interim syllabuses to some schools, saying it had been the "responsibility of the ex-departments to print and

disseminate the revised syllabuses to those schools which fell under their control".

The Gauteng department of education and the former education departments had signed an agency agreement before their dissolution last year agreeing to distribute the revised syllabuses to be used in 1996 to schools.

Support services director Ed-cent Williams said the department was investigating which schools required syllabuses and which subjects were outstanding. These syllabuses would be sent to the schools within the next 12 days.

[Handwritten signature] Star 23/1/96

Soweto school principal ousted after chalkdown

The principal of the Emadwaleni High School in Mzimhlophe, Soweto, has been ordered to vacate her position and be replaced by an administrator, bringing to an end a fortnight-long teachers' strike at the school.

Since the school year started, teachers at Emadwaleni have been on strike demanding Mary Zabala's transfer, accusing her of a "bad attitude". - Soweto Bureau.

Cash boost for trip to retrieve king's head

King William's Town - The bid by a Xhosa chief to retrieve the head of King Hintsa, believed to be in Scotland, has been boosted by the donation of R10 000 by two major companies.

Chief Nicholas Gcaleka, a traditional healer who claims to be a direct descendant of King Hintsa ka Phalo of the Amagcaleka and Amaraabe tribes, will leave for Scotland on January 31 to search for the head, believed to have

been cut off and taken as a trophy by British troops 167 years ago.

A South African bottling company and SA Breweries donated the R10 000 towards airfares for seven traditional healers, Gcaleka, royal family members and a provincial government member who will accompany Gcaleka.

He hopes to visit members of the British royal family and the British African affairs secretary during the mission. - Sapa.

SADC wants changes

Sowetan 1/2/96 (2732)

By Mzimkulu Malunga

IF THE PROGRAMME tabled at the Southern African Development Community's Council of Ministers in Midrand this week is implemented, Southern Africa could be a totally different place within the next few years.

The programme centres on free trade, investment and free movement of people in the region.

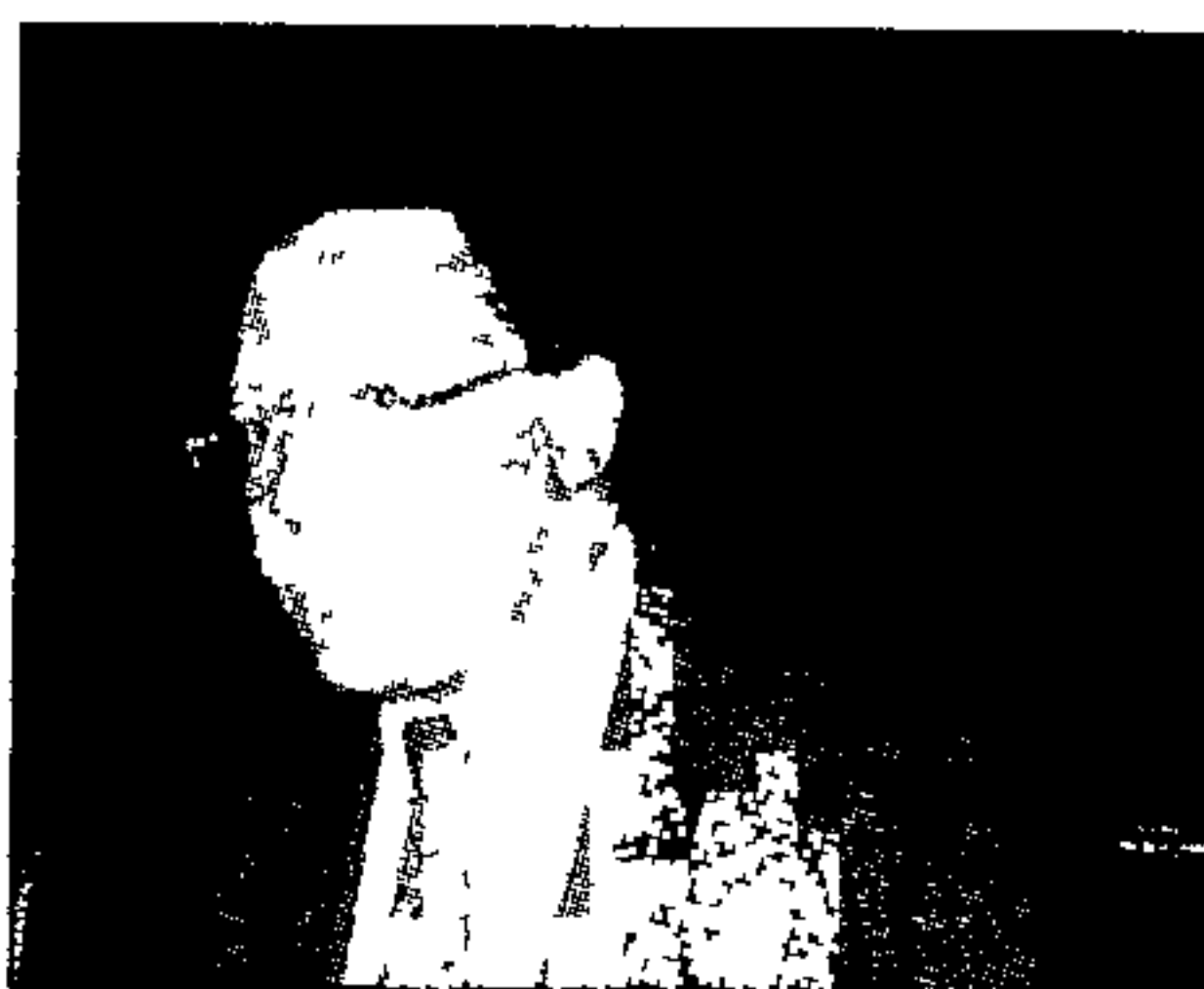
SADC executive secretary Dr Kaire Mbuende says the draft documents on free trade and freedom of movement will be tabled at the organisation's next annual summit to be held in Maseru in August.

He says the highest priority is being put on finalising agreement trade.

However, even though SADC's officials are in an upbeat mood, a closer look at the organisation's history casts some doubt on whether the mammoth task it is setting itself will be realised this century.

For instance, out of the 15 or so issues on which agreement has to be reached, Protocol has been signed on only one of them – and this is the sharing of the region's water resources.

Body hopes trade barriers will go first



SADC's secretary general Dr Kaire Mbuende

Even here, when the agreement was signed during last year's summit at the World Trade Centre, the Mozambican delegation had serious reservations and only hard behind-the-scenes diplomatic shuttling saw Mozambique put its signature to the agreement.

Throughout its sixteen-year history, SADC's main problems have not been different from those faced by all other multilateral organisations internationally.

Often national interests take precedence over regional ones and it does not look as if the organisation will be able to get over this hurdle in the short term.

While it may be easy to sign an agreement to phase out trade tariffs between states in the region, implementation is never easy.

The disagreements characterising the restructuring of the Southern African Customs Union – comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa – are a living testimony of how national interests always come before regional ones.

As for free movement of people in between SADC member states, there do not seem to be sufficient ingredients for this proposal to be implemented – at least not in the short term.

In the past, richer SADC members like Botswana and South Africa were wary of allowing free movement in the region, fearing that people from poorer areas of the region would flock into their countries creating a social problem.

Swedes keen to help informal sector

Sowetan 1/2/96 (153A)

By Joshua Raboroko

A DELEGATION of Swedish business people and parliamentarians is to visit South Africa on a mission to empower informal enterprises by investing in their operations.

The African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) is optimistic that the visit on February 24 will help boost the viability of micro businesses, including spazas and hawkers, as well as help create jobs and wealth.

Achib president Lawrence Mavundla says that during his recent visit to Europe business people expressed a willingness to help disadvantaged communities.

The visit by the delegation is the result of communication with business and politicians who feel "sympathetic

to the poor" and want to invest here in order to empower small businesses, including forming joint ventures.

Achib says it is geared to help the small business sector develop skills that will enable them to create jobs and wealth this year.

Already, says Mavundla, the council has formed "micro banks" where the informal businesses can obtain loans. The project is supported by the corporate world.

"The Swedish government will help many of our marginalised communities to start businesses," he says.

Achib marketing director Mr Kabelo Mooki says they intend to expand their "scratch card" campaign. More than 200 hawkers have been making between R100 and R300 by selling the cards.

Texfed demands transparency from the DTI

Sowetan 1/2/96 (197)

By Shadrack Mashalaba

THE Textile Federation has called on the Department of Trade and Industry to reveal its secrecy on its proposed trade pact with the Peoples' Republic of China.

"If DTI proceeds, however, and gets these negotiations wrong, enormous and irreparable damage will be inflicted on South Africa's industry," says King.

Enforcing regulations

Texfed feels the best way to prevent a flood of cheap industrial imports from China, or anywhere, is to enforce existing customs regulations, as it would eliminate the need for agreements with individual countries.

King adds that the textile industry makes a net contribution of R8 billion to South Africa's balance of trade and employs 360 000 people.

Shopping in the streets: Regulation for traders is on the cards, while a battle looms in Cape Town

Pavement vendors jostle for turf

Marion Edmunds

THERE is going to be a war," predict the fruit-sellers in Adderley Street, as they glower down the pavement at the West African vendors

"We used to be here trading in peace and harmony among ourselves. When we had quarrels we sorted them out ourselves. But these people have come with their aunties, and their uncles and their cousins."

Mohammed van Niekerk and Azim Fredericks resent the fact that people from Cameroon and the Ivory Coast have moved onto their pavements and are threatening their livelihood.

"They do not mind setting up a stall and selling the same wares as you right next to you. They are flooding the market," said Van Niekerk who is finding it difficult to flog his leather bags now that there are five or six vendors selling the same bags within his block

"They don't give a damn. My business is going down because of them."

Despite omens of a turf war, Cape Town city centre is not uncomfortably cluttered by vendors. The fruit stalls are neat and orderly and the fruit is usually of a good quality, often about the same standard as Woolworth's stock. Cape Town is, by tradition, sympathetic to vendors.

The Grand Parade has, for years, been linked to a market. Green Market Square is a haven for informal business (from clothes and trinkets to illegal drugs), and the Flower Market in Adderley Street is a hot bed of activity. Trade in St George's Mall is regulated by the Traffic Police, who also keep an eye — from horse-back — on what is going down in Adderley

Street

But since the early 1990s, the influx of vendors and goods from "up north" has been increasing. Masks and statues, cloth and bags are now laid out on pavements and their sellers sit by them silently, ready to bargain in French accents.

Edries Zongo from Cameroon, a thin man in a fez, sits near Van Niekerk — whom he regards with contempt. "I get on well with the more sophisticated South Africans and the tourists," Zongo says. "But these people, bah, they are clochards — scum."

Zongo, who is here on a tourist visa, intends to return to Cameroon next month. He says that he probably will not come back to South Africa. "I'll go somewhere else," he says.

"This is the 10th African country I have been to and I like to explore and see the world."

Zongo likes South Africa because, he says, "it is a country where human rights prevail. The police are pleasant. When there is a dispute they sort it out and they are not prejudiced against me for being a foreigner. It is only the immigration police that are not pleasant."

Zongo might have had a lucky escape. There is no lessening of the resentment in Van Niekerk and Fredericks' eyes when they watch the West Africans.

"We are ex-gangsters," they say. "We know all the gangsters here and we will deal with this problem ourselves. Either we will hit them or we will get rid of them ourselves."

Hand-a-bag:
A fruit seller
in Cape
Town's
Adderley
Street

PHOTO
RODGER
BOSCH

The 'free-for-all' in Jo'burg's streets



How much? A trader does a deal in Johannesburg's Raleigh Street

PHOTOGRAPH NAASHON ZALK

Ricardo Dunn

AGNES MAPEHLA began hawking sweets along Twist Street in Johannesburg's Joubert Park seven years ago. With a monthly income of R500 she supported four children and her husband. Today Mapehla still works 12 hours, seven days a week, but her makeshift wooden stall has become a lucrative lucky dip of fruit and vegetables, fashion accessories, cigarettes and some left-over African National Congress posters.

Mapehla remembers when there was only a handful of hawkers in Johannesburg and the only "foreigners" she came across were hawkers from Natal and Cape Town.

Johannesburg's solid waste department collects 110 tons of litter every day in the central business district. Anthony Michler, acting head of the department, says that about 20 tons of that can be attributed to the street traders.

"It is difficult at times to get into some of the areas, like Joubert Park, because the place is so packed. If you have a pavement that is 4m wide and half of that is taken up by stalls and the other

half by pedestrians, the sweepers find it almost impossible to get in there to clean the streets," says Michler.

According to the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib), the largest hawker association in South Africa, there are 17 000 street traders in Johannesburg. Achib has 85 000 members nationally — and their number is growing rapidly, says Achib President Lawrence Mavundla. Perhaps, he avers, it is time for some form of regulation.

"Today it is a free-for-all," he says. In the Eighties it was almost impossible to get a trading licence, but now the only legislation that can be enforced is the Road Traffic Act which requires that a stall be more than 5m from an intersection and not obstruct traffic or pedestrian flow.

Mavundla himself started off selling cigarettes in the mid-Eighties. Since then, he has seen several attempts by the municipality to regulate street trading. "Hawkers cannot be forced to form committees," says Mavundla. Yet the decade-old Achib has been successful, he says, because it had "come from the ground".

The Johannesburg Transitional Met-

ropolitan Council (JTCM) has prepared proposed bylaws, but the proposal will not be released until Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale, has ratified it.

Achib, meanwhile, uses its annual membership fee of R25 to train stall holders in basic business skills. Mavundla proposes a "management system" to combat complaints that the amount of litter has increased since the hawkers were given "free rein in the city".

Achib says most traders earn between R900 and R1500 per month.

Laws aim to curb crime

Ann Eveleth

DURBAN is the first of South Africa's major cities to try to regulate street traders, but a row is brewing over the traders' right to spend the night in their street stalls.

The Self-Employed Women's Union (Sewu) this week lashed out at Durban city council officials it said had "reneged" on an agreement to allow traders — many of whom live far from the city — to continue sleeping on the pavements where they sell their wares until proper accommodation could be found.

Sewu secretary Pat Horn said complaints from beachfront residents had apparently caused Dean Botha, director of the city's Department of Informal Trade and Small Business, to "renege" on his agreement with Sewu. Botha said: "The council can't just condone sleeping because then we'll have shacks all over town," he said.

Durban's new Street Trading Bylaws have been lauded as a solution to "problems" associated with the city's street traders — crime, litter and overcrowding.

Sewu, however, argues that "most of the litter actually comes from formal businesses". "If there is high crime in their area, nobody wants to take out their money to buy things," said Horn.



Joburg to be revived in a year

GRAPHIC BY VILAY GOVENDER

Millions of rands are being spent on redevelopment and rejuvenation of the inner city. In one move, new bylaws have been drafted to regulate informal traders

By Thoma Lumb

The Greater Johannesburg TMC forum established two months ago to jump-start plans to rejuvenate the inner city and to deliver the area from its present "anarchic, filthy and mismanaged" state says it intends to achieve its plans within a year.

The Inner City Forum of 25 members includes representatives from government, business and communities which reside in the city.

The forum came under the spotlight following Democratic Party criticisms last week that there had been no follow-ups to 1995 plans to rejuvenate the area, but interviews with forum members have discovered definite plans are already afoot to clean up the city.

TMC housing and urbanisation councillor Lindsay Brenner puts the lack of success of 1995 renewal plans down to the local government transition with its changing boundaries and new politicians.

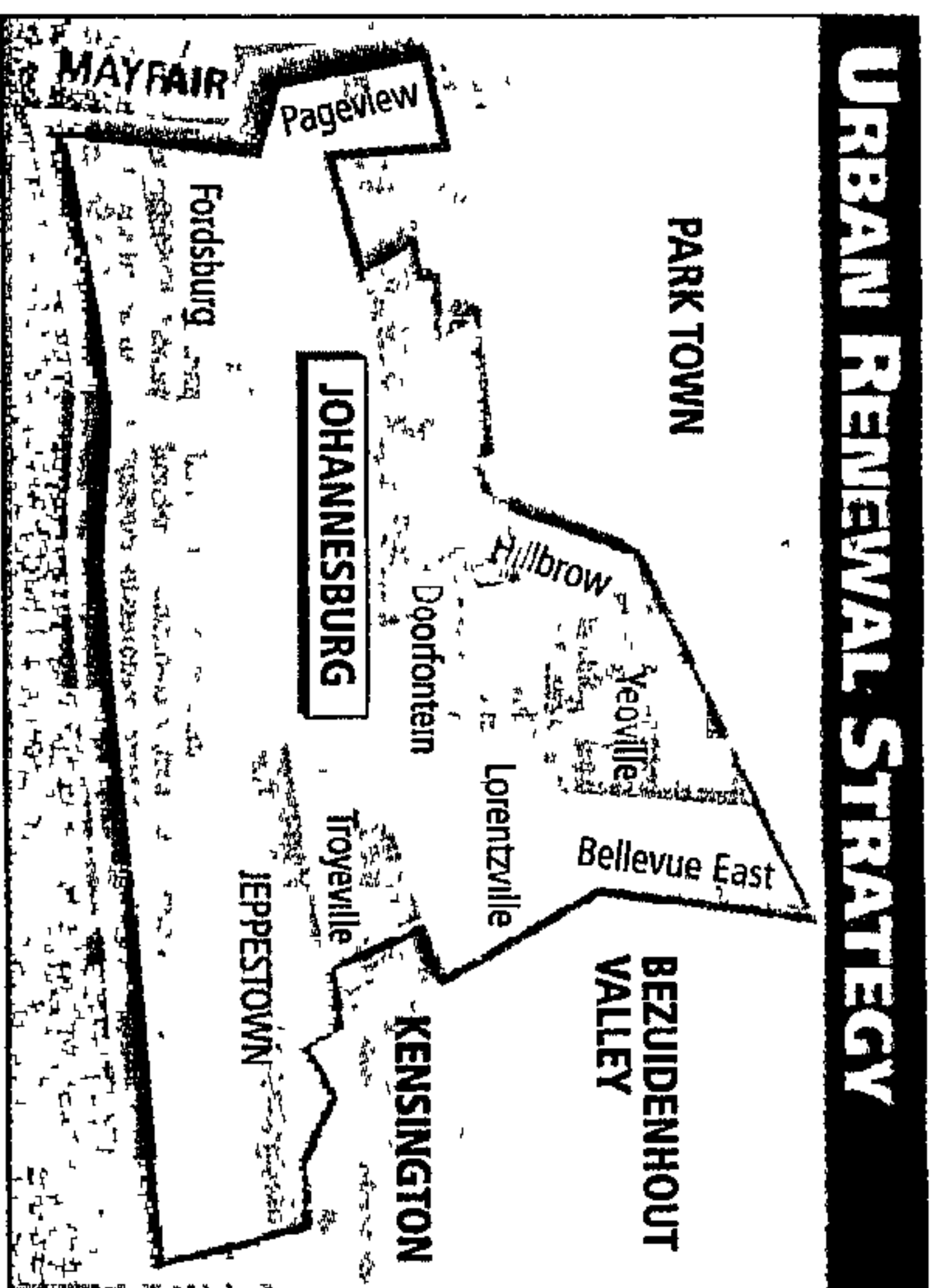
Speaking for the Central Johannesburg Partnership (the business coalition on the forum), Neil Fraser said business was "reluctant" to be part of previous renewal strategies as they were "imposing decisions from an illegitimate council".

The two-month-old forum aims at having a vision of "what the city should be" by July and to get "it running" in the following six months.

"We have always floundered because of a lack of consensus on a vision. All stakeholders will agree what Johannesburg's identity must be. A black African city, a Singapore, a world city, a gateway to Africa or any other concept that has been bandied about in the past. It will be a vision that is supported by and belongs to all stakeholders," stressed Fraser.

In the short term, the forum is involved in projects aiming to "stabilise and make the city a comfortable working and residential place".

Housing, ridding the city of slums and promoting home ownership are priorities. The TMC has also applied to the provincial government to erect eight shelters as part of the 4 000 housing subsidies the



province has made available to the city.

The forum is also involved in the R2-million community centre being built in Bertrams and the R2-million project to open Pageview's roads up to integrate the area into the city. The TMC has granted another R8-million for redevelopment in Newtown.

TMC proposals for changes to the Rent Act will transform landlord/tenant relationships and rent controls. Both have been the source of violence and non-payment in the inner city.

"People must have a stake in housing. Upgrading has to be done in view of conserving national monuments, generating economic growth and doing away with appalling overcrowding," said Brenner.

She highlighted the inner city as a complex one in which to win consensus as stakeholders ranged from the "poorest from distinct neighbourhoods" to international businesses.

Development proposals from the private sector are also being formalised. So far final plans to

redevelop the Eastern City (near Fairway station), the Carlton Centre and Newtown have been accepted.

The Inner City Forum has taken a firm stand against "anarchic informal trading". New bylaws have been drafted by the TMC to exert more control over informal traders and restrict them to market areas.

These are waiting to be promulgated by the provincial government.

"Unregulated informal trading cannot continue. It is causing a

rapid deterioration in relations between informal and formal traders. Its resolution is a matter of urgency," said Brenner.

A new refuse collection and solid waste management programme has also been worked out by council and will be implemented in the next few months.

The advantages of managing the city in a block system are being put to the test by two pilot projects in a block around the library and government buildings and another area around the Carlton Centre.

Council officials will be stationed permanently in each block and will deal with all complaints the public may have.

Plans to set up a metropolitan transport authority will address the present transport system which is "just not working".

Taxi ranks, taxi nodes, interchanges and other forms of transport are key areas being addressed.

The forum meets twice a month and is confident "the implementation of our vision will make Johannesburg a prosperous place for business and residents".

Call to bring informal sector into tax net^(153A)

CT (BR) 14/3/96 ~~(S6)~~

By FRANÇOISE BOTHA

Cape Town Existing taxpayers will ultimately pay more tax unless the Katz commission draws the informal sector into the tax net, Michael Smythe, the director and tax specialist of Southern Charter Financial Services, told Business Report yesterday.

"While the Katz commission is doing a commendable job addressing some of the important issues, it is failing to get those who generate income from the informal sector to pay tax," he said.

The majority of informal traders do not pay tax, which means that even at the minimum rate, which applies to an annual income of R50 000, their incomes are boosted by 17 percent compared with those who do pay tax.

"The Katz commission advocates a just and equitable tax system. If anything, it will further promote the culture of non-payment. Taxpayers, particularly among the middle-income group, were aware that they would have to bear most of the burden of redeveloping the country.

"The money is not going to

come from the informal sector. So, it stands to reason that the middle-income taxpayer is going to do everything to avoid paying tax. That is not an efficient tax system," he said.

The informal sector has provided jobs for thousands of people with some hawkers earning more than R5 000 a month.

Questioning the Katz commission's recommendation that the number of tax inspectors should be increased to widen the net, Smythe said that this was not viable.

"How can a tax inspector assess the earnings of an informal cash-for-service or goods industry?" he asked.

Smythe said the system was not encouraging foreign investment or promoting the growth of the informal sector.

"A revised version of the current tax system will not adequately address the concerns raised by business and foreign investors. The Katz commission should be looking at other tax options, such as a flat-rate or end-user tax options so that everyone has to contribute to the economy," he said.

'Commissioner should be considering other options, such as a flat tax rate'

Call for street traders to pay clean-up levy ^(153A)

Old Mutual will consider long lease on Werdmuller Centre

Staff Reporter

THE OLD MUTUAL would favourably consider informal traders using the Werdmuller Centre in Claremont on long lease, should a suitable proposal be submitted

This was the response of Derek Stuart-Findlay, operations manager of Old Mutual Properties, when asked to comment on a Democratic Party opinion survey about street trading in Claremont

The DP's poll indicated that most people believed the street traders should pay a small monthly levy to conduct their

business on the pavements, to cover the city council's street-cleaning costs, and that they should take responsibility for policing themselves, subject to guidelines approved by traders and the council

Some respondents suggested that the Werdmuller Centre or the Atrium could be converted entirely for the use of small market traders

Mr Stuart-Findlay said the Old Mutual would have to have a proper income if a lease was negotiated "It is a matter we have thought about but the figures have not added up," he said

"Also, there would have to be consent from our existing tenants and there should be no conflict with them"

Among other replies from people who answered the DP survey were comments that street traders should be made to leave room on the pavements for pedestrians and that certain areas should be set aside where traders could trade without any restrictions

Some respondents said it was important that shoppers should be able to see window displays. Others complained that parking bays were commandeered by street traders, who stored goods

in vehicles parked there, thus reducing the number of metered bays available in central Claremont

The DP office in Claremont sent out 4 000 survey forms to residential addresses in Kenilworth, Claremont and Newlands - none to businesses or street traders. About 160 were returned

The survey, in response to public concern about the numbers of street traders and the problems that occur, had "an almost 4 percent response which, in direct mailing terms, represents an above-average response," said the DP

ARL 19/3/96

Craft market organisers, traders plan protest march

Site leased off Witkoppen Road by former Petticoat Lane does not meet town planning requirements, says council

By SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Angry Fourways Craft Market organisers and traders plan to stage a protest march to the Eastern Metropolitan Substructure's (EMSS) mayor's office at 6pm today to hand in a petition appealing for permission to continue trading on a site leased off Witkoppen Road.

Originally operating as Petticoat Lane in Midrand, the market was forced to close down in December when owner Eric Kay was unable to afford legal costs to defend council orders to stick to town planning rules.

He reopened this month on leased land off Witkoppen Road, Sandton, then obtained a two-week reprieve from a Supreme

Court order obtained by the EMSS which prohibited business on the leased site because the owner had not met all town planning requirements.

Time ran out this weekend when the court order took effect.

Kay's traders took to the pavement in front of the vacated plot, a stone's throw from the William Nicol Drive pavement traders.

An incensed Kay said "About 80 traders moved on to the roadside, and some left in disgust at the appalling and dangerous conditions in which we had to work."

Threatening to leave the country, he added. "We were led by the landowner to believe he had obtained the necessary rights."

An EMSS spokesman said the council had acted against the

landowner after receiving a petition from neighbouring property owners.

The flea market was not being operated in accordance with the town planning scheme and the Gauteng roads department was concerned about the traffic hazard created by access to a busy flea market off Witkoppen Road.

He said the EMSS had indicated its commitment to informal traders by providing a permanent site for the William Nicol traders.

The council did not plan to act against Kay's group operating from the pavement on Witkoppen Road, as informal trading was allowed on road reserves as long as it did not interfere with traffic, pedestrian movements or neighbouring properties.

(1537) Star 26/3/96

Stricter laws for street traders in sight

Star 4/4/96 (153A)
By TROYE LUND

Johannesburg's street-traders will soon be governed by stricter by-laws which will get "the city working properly again" the Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) has announced.

The TMC has submitted a set of by-laws for greater Johannesburg to the provincial government for promulgation, and has requested this be done as a matter of urgency.

Executive chairman Colin Matjila told councillors at a meeting yesterday that control over street trading in the city was a "serious and urgent" matter. He has asked Gauteng Premier Tokyo

Sexwale not to further delay promulgation of the TMC's proposal.

A spokesman for the provincial government explained that the delay had been caused by the provincial government's commitment to formulating, through extensive consultation, a uniform model for the whole province.

Councillors agreed that, in view of the TMC model possibly being used as a base for provincial negotiations, the TMC proposal should be implemented while province finalised its model.

But the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business believes the TMC should wait until the provincial model has been finalised.

Johannesburg 'to be cleaner and safer and make more jobs'

By TROYE LUND

Johannesburg-based businesses, government and residents have joined forces to rejuvenate the city and establish it, over the next 20 years, as a competitor with the most eminent of world cities

This was announced at the weekend at a press conference called by the four major stakeholders committed to the Inner City Development Forum – civic groups, business, local and provincial government

"Regeneration of the Johannesburg inner city is imperative, especially considering that it generates nearly 50% of the provincial GDP and Gauteng in turn contributes 40% of the national GDP. It is the banking, communication, transport, business and provincial government nerve-centre and it surely must be the gateway to Africa. It must become

home to the rich and poor," said Development, Planning and Local Government MEC Sicelo Shiceka

He stressed how the city infrastructure had to be used 24 hours each day and development initiatives had to ensure Soweto was drawn into the urban economy

Stricter by-laws for street traders

TMC councillor Lindsay Bremner highlighted some of the renewal projects local government intended using to "manage the city better"

A trial block management system has been started in some areas of the CBD, involving TMC officials being on duty, around the clock, for the public to direct com-

plaints to and get information from. A full-time city manager has been appointed. He will co-ordinate and manage all service deliveries, such as refuse removal

The TMC is about to start various new waste management and waste recycling projects. These will be designed in a way that creates jobs at the same time as maintaining clean streets

Stricter by-laws for street traders have also been drawn up by the TMC and will be promulgated in the next few months

Local government aims to improve transportation in the city and manage taxis better, and several provincial and local forums are currently tackling this issue with taxi owners

Bremner has also assigned teams to report on the needs of specific neighbourhoods in the city. These reports will include how rejuvenation of each neigh-

bourhood can best be achieved in conjunction with other projects and business ventures which will boost employment

"Business is highly optimistic. There is a great deal of room for 50% expansion in floor space. This could double the current 280 000

Soweto has to come into the picture

formal jobs," said Inner City Development spokesman Neil Fraser

The Inner City Community Forum – representing city residents, religious, political and civic groups – endorsed Fraser's sentiments. ICCF spokesman Hop Papo said people living in the city were prepared to work with police to eradicate crime syndicates.

Star 8/4/96

(153A) (153)

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, April 9 1996 3

Hawker regulation 'working'

(159A)
Nicola Jenvey

9/4/96

DURBAN — Efforts to clear the streets of unlicensed hawkers and implement the bylaws controlling trading outside designated areas appeared to be working, deputy mayor Mark Lowe said recently.

He said the by-laws, which prevented street traders from operating without a licence, had come into effect earlier this year and police had been actively controlling the situation since mid-January.

However, Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry law and business affairs committee chairman Richard Parsons said the situation in the city centre had improved but had begun deteriorating again.

He believed there were still unlicensed traders operating in the city centre and more policing was essential before the system worked properly.

Producer price inflation falls

~~153A~~
Business Editor

ARC 11/4/96
PRODUCER price inflation in February fell to its lowest level in nearly two years, the Central Statistical Service has reported.

Figures released today show the producer price index (PPI) rose 6,3 percent over the year, compared with 7,2 percent in the year to January.

Consumer prices usually follow the same trend as producer prices, though with varying time lags. But further drops in inflation are likely to be tempered by the fall in the value of the rand, which makes imported goods more expensive.

Prices of goods produced in South Africa rose 6,7 percent over the year to February compared with 7,8 percent over the year to January.

But the rate of increase of prices of imported goods rose from 4,7 percent a year to 5,7 percent a year - a trend which is likely to continue.

Inflation rate is likely to remain muted

(130) (153A)

February PPI plummets to 22-month low

CT(BR) 12/4/96

By SEAN FEELY

Johannesburg. — The rate of increase in producer prices fell to a 22-month low in February, confirming that inflation was likely to remain muted and which fuelled a decline in bond yields yesterday to near their lowest levels this week.

The producer price index rose at an annual rate of 6,3 percent in February, 0,9 percentage points lower than January's figure of 7,2 percent because of a decline in the price indices for agricultural products, electricity, gas and water, the Central Statistical Service said yesterday.

That is the lowest rate since it hit 6,2 percent in April 1994, and below economists' forecasts of an increase of between 6,5 percent and 7 percent in February. Traders said local institutions were aggressive buyers of bonds yesterday morning, because gilts prices had dropped to near eight-month lows, adding to the drop in rates.

"The PPI confirmed what we knew before the rand's plunge, so those figures are history now," said a bond trader at a large bank.

"What the rand's impact is going to be on inflation and reserves is the big question."

The rand strengthened yesterday morning to R4,13 against the dollar from Wednesday's R4,18 close before trading near the R4,15 level in the afternoon as foreign sales of the local currency resumed.

"Foreigners are unwinding their positions, they're just selling."

"They seem to want to limit their exposure and re-assess what's happened," said a rand trader.

The rand's fall against the dollar since mid-February, when the currency's rout first started, indicates

that capital has flowed out of the country, which will hurt foreign exchange reserves and delay a cut in the Reserve Bank's key interest rate.

The rand's 13,7 percent plunge over the past eight weeks was also likely to spur an increase in import prices and increase inflation, analysts said. That would further dim expectations of lower interest rates.

"Yields may even go over 16 percent if the picture doesn't change in the next week or two," said a merchant bank bond trader.

The yield on the R150 traded at about 15,7 percent late yesterday afternoon from 15,82 percent at Wednesday's close.

Gold shares will probably benefit from the rand's fall.

That and an increase in bullion prices pushed the gold index up 23,7 points, or 1,3 percent, to close at 1798,6 yesterday.

The all share index declined a marginal 0,4 points to 6653,9 as the industrial index slumped 25,10 points to 8060,6.

The producer price index's monthly increase was 0,4 percent because of relatively large increases in the price indices for mining and quarrying products, and food at manufacturing — but it was unchanged after being seasonally adjusted, the statistical service said.

The PPI for locally produced commodities rose 6,7 percent in February — 1,1 percentage points lower than 7,8 percent in January and the lowest rate since December 1993's 6,3 percent — while imported producer prices rose 5,2 percent, which is 0,5 percent higher than the 4,7 percent posted in January.

□ See Business Watch, Page 14

Hawkers, council agree to clean up Jo'burg CBD

BD 16/4/96

(153A)

**Mduduzi ka Harvey
and Bernard Sathekge**

HAWKERS have vowed to work with the city council in a bid to clean up Johannesburg, particularly the deteriorating CBD

Stringent regulations on street traders would be imposed and the influx of foreign hawkers controlled, they said

At a meeting between hawkers and officials of the greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council, addressed by Johannesburg mayor Isaac Mogase yesterday, hawkers resolved that every street trader would be required to have an identification permit while doing business

African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business member Louis Chauke said this would assist council officials in identifying illegal traders and also help them monitor those who did not keep their trading areas clean.

It would also contribute to better hawker organisation as traders would be forced to join recognised hawker bodies.

Hopefully the system would eventually be used nationwide.

Chauke said this was only the first in a series of strategies aimed

at controlling hawkers.

In addition, to curb the territorial conflict between local and foreign hawkers, it was suggested that foreign traders would have to prove they had a valid passport or identity document, that they belonged to a recognised hawker body, were legally in the country and had a permit to trade locally

A process to register hawkers was also implemented. Applicants would have to be SA citizens or legal immigrants that had lived in SA for five years, traded within the Gauteng government precinct for not less than 12 months; be self-employed, a partner in a business or earn less than R120 per week if employed

Other plans in the pipeline include the formation of hawker forums at national level, workshops on how cities could be kept clean, and developing a united front to address grievances and how to lobby government.

Hawkers have called on the council to provide them with cleaning utensils, chemicals and refuse bags

Hawkers also promised Mogase that they would help combat crime through blockwatches, where block leaders would liaise

with the council on hawker matters and work with police to resolve any conflict in their areas.

Mogase said there was an exodus of overseas and local business from the CBD because of accelerating crime and deterioration. After assurances by hawkers to keep the city clean, Mogase said he would tour the city to ensure the agreement was honoured.

Sapa reports that agreement was reached at yesterday's meeting that hawkers in the CBD can continue trading until June 10 when the city council will introduce regulations to control street hawking.

Hawkers would in future have to fill in application forms for stalls for better control, a council official said.

The meeting failed to agree on the size of stalls. The council proposed 3m by 2m stalls, but hawkers wanted larger ones.

It was agreed that applications would be opened to everyone, including immigrants.

The meeting also agreed that hawkers trading on behalf of absentee bosses should be paid at least R120 a week. At present, some are being paid between R40 and R70 a week. — Sapa

Hawkers targeted in city centre cleanup

(153A) Star 16/4/96

By MANDLA MTHEMBU

The Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (GJTMC) announced yesterday it would begin a process to control the deterioration of the city centre and the mushrooming of informal trading.

The council said this was in line with the formulation of by-laws which propose a ban on the obstruction of pedestrians, roads, traffic and public facilities, and demand greater cleanliness in trading areas, as well as a ban on trading in specific public buildings, places of worship and national monuments.

The process, to start next month, would involve the registration of

hawkers and would be followed by a workshop on June 10 to discuss suitable sizes for hawkers' stalls.

Among other conditions for registration, hawkers, who must have been trading for more than 12 months in the central business district, should be permanent South African citizens or legal immigrants. The GJTMC said hawkers who were not self-employed but worked for big businesses would not qualify for registration.

It was also proposed that employed hawkers should be paid at least R120 a week. At present, some earn between R40 and R70 a week.

Competitions to encourage hawkers to tidy up areas around their stalls would be held throughout

the year, with hawkers trading in the Joubert Street mall having their competition next week.

Speaking at a meeting yesterday attended by about 100 hawkers, council spokesman Goodwill Buthelezi said these measures would enable the council to cut down on the more than R1 000 paid to remove 1 ton of garbage from the streets.

"It costs the council only about R100 per ton to remove dirt from bins," he said.

Buthelezi appealed to hawkers to help keep the city centre clean so that the R25-million budgeted for refuse removal could be used for other important issues such as training and housing.

Environmental health

spokesman Jerry Thanyane said training programmes, particularly for hawkers selling cooked food, would be conducted, involving the preparation and handling of food.

"Instead of keeping on fining hawkers, we have decided to change their behaviour patterns," he said.

The GJTMC has also identified several toilet facilities to be upgraded for use by hawkers. Since hawkers were experiencing problems about storing their goods, the council has proposed that storage shelters be erected on the northern side of the Library Gardens and next to the former Rissik Street post office.

A police forum would be set up to help prevent the robbing of hawkers.

Hawkers to march against new laws

(153A)

BY MANDLA MTHEMBU

Star 17/4/96
Johannesburg hawkers plan to march on the Gauteng legislature tomorrow in protest against the introduction of by-laws which would prevent them from trading in certain areas of the city centre.

The African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses said it had not been consulted about the by-laws and was opposed to their implementation as they would put hundreds of hawkers out of jobs. The ACHIB claims it has a national membership of about 85 000.

Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council spokesman Goodwill Buthelezi said the by-laws were aimed at cleaning up the city and limiting the number of hawkers.

He said the new by-laws proposes a ban on the obstruction of pedestrians, roads, traffic and public facilities, and demand greater cleanliness in trading areas.

Temporary bylaws regulating Gauteng street trading released

Ingrid Salgado

THE Gauteng government released model street trading bylaws this week to which all local authorities would be obliged to conform when drafting their own regulations.

The model was a temporary measure arising from the lack of co-ordination that developed from deregulation of the informal industry, a provincial spokesman said.

The model — adopted by local authority, hawker, formal business and government representatives — would be re-evaluated during drafting of the proposed provincial business acts. It comes amid dissatisfaction by Johannesburg hawkers at bylaws proposed by the greater Johannesburg metropolitan council. The bylaws have yet to be ratified by provin-

BD 19/4/96 (153A)
cial government

Gauteng finance, economic affairs and agriculture MP Jabu Moleketi, addressing street traders at a march yesterday, urged local authorities to forge partnerships with hawker associations.

The model provides for uniform standards on street trading across the province, but gives local authorities power to determine specific areas, times and commodities where restricted trading would occur. Government would accept local authorities' proposals on condition there had been sufficient consultation with all stakeholders in their areas.

All authorities and hawkers would be obliged to adhere to certain standards, including that trading sites were not more than 6m² without written permission, that goods could not be

stored in places such as bus shelters and that hawkers could not block fire hydrants.

Moleketi said that Gauteng, with a 40% unemployment rate, had to accept that street trading was "here to stay".

The provincial spokesman said hawker representatives had demanded greater regulation and control, primarily because of the influx of illegal immigrants into the industry.

Bernard Sathekge reports Moleketi told hawkers their grievances were legitimate. If hawkers were denied the chance to trade, they would be driven to commit crime.

He would send a letter to greater Johannesburg metropolitan council chairman Colin Matjula and his deputy Kenny Fihla requesting a meeting to discuss the future of hawkers in the city.

Hawker bodies don't see eye to eye on proposed by-laws

By JACQUI REEVES

You can get almost everything you need on the streets of Johannesburg. Goods and services are right outside your door — well, actually, they're on the pavement.

If you have the time, you can sit down on an upturned crate for an alfresco meal, or visit the open-air barber for a "short back and sides".

It was these informal traders who marched to the Gauteng legislature this week to hand in

a memorandum highlighting their opposition to new by-laws that will control their businesses. But internal disputes among representatives of the traders appear to be the cause of the problems.

The African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achnb) had been working with the South African Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business (Sachb) in drawing up a list of by-laws.

In co-operation with the Greater Johannesburg Transi-

tional Metropolitan Council, stakeholders were hoping to agree on mutually beneficial clauses.

According to Sachb director Mthuthuzeli Madaleni, Achnb pulled out of negotiations on the eve of the finalisation of the list.

"Because they were the largest group, they seemed to think they were more important than the rest and left negotiations," he said.

Madaleni said the by-law list had been drawn up with the input of hawkers, keeping their needs, and the needs of the public, in mind.

The new by-laws propose a ban on the obstruction of roads, traffic and public facilities, as well as on traders hindering the path of pedestrians.

Authorities plan to erect non-trading signs that will empower officials to remove and impound the goods and vehicles of traders found in these areas.

Sachb estimates that 1.5 million unemployed South Africans make their living each year from informal trading.

Jo'burg council to take new look at pavement trading

By HOPEWELL RADEBE
City Reporter

The Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council has agreed to reconsider its proposed by-laws which would ban hawkers from trading in certain areas of the Johannesburg CBD.

The proposals sparked a hawkers' march on the Gauteng legislature on Thursday in a bid to prevent the introduction of the by-laws.

In a weekend statement, executive council chairman Collin Matjila said it was unfortunate that information discussed by Mayor Isaac Mogase at a meeting on April 15 attended by informal traders from an area in the CBD was "construed as the implementation of the council's by-laws on street traders".

Matjila said the meeting was meant to discuss problems relating to cleanliness and matters affecting informal traders in the area.

Mogase held a meeting on Friday with the Gauteng MEC for Economic Affairs, Finance and Agriculture Jabu Moleketi to discuss the council's plans to bring under control the deterioration of the city centre and the mushrooming of informal trading which heralded an uproar from interested parties.

Moleketi said informal traders would be invited to take part in the by-law making process in a meeting to be held soon where the provincial government, formal business and the council would also be represented to review the revised by-laws.

Sensitive link between two vleis to be preserved

Metro Reporter

ARG 25/4/96
THE Cape Metropolitan Council has agreed to secure an ecologically sensitive link between Rondevlei and Zeekoevlei, which is currently in private hands and zoned for residential development.

Botanists describe the land as being of high conservation value because it contains the highly-threatened strand plain fynbos, and represents the last remaining undeveloped link between the two vleis.

At a meeting in March, the Botanical Society, backed by scientists and non-governmental organisations, and with the support of Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, suggested that the CMC be asked to intervene.

Possible action would be to exchange the land for other CMC-owned land, buying the land out or getting the developer to redesign its plans to mitigate against the negative effects.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the CMC agreed to give its chief executive officer authority to negotiate with the Cape and Transvaal Land and Finance Company to find a solution which would possibly involve a land swap.

If the CMC successfully secures the land against development, it will be incorporated into the Rondevlei nature reserve.

W Cape under-

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

WOMEN in the Western Cape are vastly under-represented in positions of power and influence, two studies on the topic have found.

The studies, one by the Development Action Group focusing on Working Women of the Western Cape, and the other by Idasa, entitled Women at the Periphery of Power, conclude that despite making up half the population, women are marginalised when it comes to positions of influence.

The DAG study found that the position was "dismal" when looking at boards of major companies and senior management in the Western Cape.

Of six large companies with head offices in Cape Town, two had no women board members, and the other four had only one each. Most had only one woman in senior management. The best was eight percent women and 92 percent men in senior

Proposed street trading by-law approved by Chamber

Metro Reporter

THE Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has welcomed the latest draft by-law to control street trading, saying it appears to be "both reasonable and workable".

In the latest Business Bulletin, Chamber president Geoffrey Ashmead describes street traders as "potential new members of the chamber - once they prosper, expand and become able to take the leap from informal business to small business".

The Chamber said it now seemed that the provincial Department of Economic Affairs, headed by Chris

ARG 25/4/96 (153A)
Nissen, was about to announce a by-law which would allow organised street trading to flourish without incurring the wrath of formal trading.

"The Chamber supports the ministry's latest initiatives in this regard and believes that the controls on informal trading which have been set out in a model by-law appear to be both reasonable and workable, and generally to not impose burdens which are unduly onerous," the article said.

The Chamber however, is petitioning for further attention to be given to the issue of shop windows being obstructed by street traders.

Auction on hold in land claim case

Metro Reporter

ARG 25/4/96
THE Cape Town City Council's estates department has decided to postpone the auction of two erven in Kenilworth, which was due to take place today, because of a land claim against the erven intended for auction.

The council-owned land in College Road was set to be auctioned at noon, but after queries by The Argus, a decision was made to postpone the auction pending the consideration of the land

claim by the commissioner. (257)
Claimant Maruwan Gasant expressed his joy at the decision, saying that if the decision went in his favour, he would build a house there. The land lies behind the original house owned by Mr Gasant's family and had to be sold in 1960 as a result of provisions under the Group Areas Act. Under the land claims law, claimants can be compensated with alternate "State" land, a provision which also applies to council land.

Recognise street traders, says business leader

ARG 7/5/96

(153A)

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

INFORMAL street trading may be too hot a potato for the central government to regulate, but the traders have found an unlikely ally in the streets, squares and malls of Cape Town.

Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Geoffrey Ashmead said it was time the authorities and big business realised that informal trading was an industry on its own, and had to be accepted as part of business life.

Mr Ashmead said the burgeoning growth of informal traders represented a normal development process of economic activity which would lead, inevitably, to these fledgling businesses maturing into potential members of the chamber - "once they prosper, expand and become able to take the leap from informal business to small business."

He said that while he understood that many of the entrepreneurs did not choose to become street traders, they were forced to do so to survive as a result of the economy failing to provide the necessary resources to prevent

people from turning to street trading to survive.

"They have now become part of the business sector and are creating employment opportunities for many others. This is part of their success story and it is happening in all parts of the world."

"But we must not let it develop into a situation where it will become a health hazard because of the lack of facilities or it becomes an obstruction to formal traders."

He said that while the traders generally speaking had taken note of health aspects, pedestrian and motor traffic, attention needed to be given to other aspects such as the obstruction of shop windows.

"The chamber has for some years now appealed to the authorities to put in place by-laws which would adequately regulate informal trading while ensuring that the formal sector, and in particular ground floor shop owners, would not be adversely affected by the pavement sellers."

"From the legislation point of view, the business community has called with increasing urgency for reasonable laws to

govern the activities of informal traders in urban areas, and for such legislation to be capable of enforcement."

"Because of central government deftly avoiding the issue and the initial lack of resources by the provincial government, a state of relative chaos was allowed to continue as far as street trading is concerned while a form of self-regulation gradually established itself."

"It now appears as if the provincial Department of Economic Affairs is at the point of promulgating a number of by-laws enabling organised street trading to function in a disciplined way, without incurring the wrath of formal traders."

Mr Ashmead said the chamber supported the initiatives and believed that the controls appeared both reasonable and workable, and generally did not impose burdens which were unduly onerous.

He said it was also time for a concerted effort by all the role-players to eradicate criminal activities including muggings, theft and serious assault which had continued to threaten both the informal and formal sectors in the central business districts.

Hawkers claim Sexwale's patronage is preferential

(153A) 20 9/6/96
Bonile Ngqiyaza

ABOUT 500 SA Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business (SACHIB) members marched to the Gauteng provincial offices yesterday in protest against preferential treatment by the provincial government to the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (ACHIB).

SACHIB spokesman Mthuthuzeli Madaleni said his organisation was disappointed premier Tokye Sexwale had agreed to be ACHIB's honorary patron, thereby relegating other organisations in the sector to a lowly position.

ACHIB, he said, had not come out in support nor co-operated with interested parties in helping to formulate Johannesburg council's proposed bylaws to control informal trading in the city centre.

Early last month the council resolved that there was an urgent need to control street trading in the province. Proposals tabled included a ban on the obstruction of pedestrians, roads, traffic and public facilities, and demanded greater cleanliness from traders in trading areas. There would also be a ban on trading near specified public buildings, places of worship and national monuments.

Other bylaws would create non-trading areas and officials would be empowered to remove and impound goods of traders failing to abide by the bylaws.

The premier's office said yesterday Sexwale had expressed a wish to hold discussions in the near future with all hawker organisations. "The premier wants to unite all hawkers in the country," a spokesman said.



Hundreds of SA Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business members marched to the Gauteng government offices yesterday to protest against alleged preferential treatment given by the Gauteng government to the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business. To highlight their protest, the marchers also laid plates — crushed to display their goods — out on the pavement and crushed them.

Picture JOHANNES VOGEL

Hawkers demand fair treatment from Sexwale

By PATRICK PHOSA

About 100 members of the South African Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business (Sachib) marched on Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale's office yesterday to present a memorandum against his patronage of a rival organisation.

Sachib Gauteng director Charles Mahlangu accused Sexwale of taking sides with the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib), adding that "when Achib pulled out of the model by-laws drafting forum, the government nullified the structure".

Mahlangu said Sexwale should "not interfere with hawkers' organisations because he is sowing tensions and divisions amongst hawkers' organisations".

Gauteng finance, economic affairs and agriculture MEC Jabu Moleketi, who received the memorandum on behalf of the premier, said his government was doing its best to improve the conditions of hawkers.

He denied that Achib was being given preferential treatment by the premier. He said Achib had approached Sexwale to be their patron, and encouraged Sachib to do the same, if they wanted him

to be their patron. A meeting is to be held on Tuesday next week to discuss the accusations of favouritism against Sexwale.

Meanwhile, Sexwale said on Tuesday at Achib's 10th anniversary in Johannesburg that his government had a responsibility to help hawkers and traders to grow into viable small businesses, especially in the key areas of light manufacturing and industry.

He said practical regulations that would support hawkers and traders and provide stability for formal sector merchants would be implemented in consultation with Achib and other groups.

(153A) Star 9/5/96

Hawkers want change in by-laws

153A
Sowetan 13/5/96

By Joshua Raboroko

LOCAL authorities are to be requested to form a joint task team aimed at removing some of the hostile regulations that restrict informal trading in major towns and cities

In an interview with *Sowetan Business* last week, president of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business Mr Lawrence Mavundla said his office dealt with hundreds of complaints by hawkers every day

It was important that the authorities relaxed some of the by-laws, he said

Restrictive laws

Mavundla was speaking after his organisation celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Standard Bank Arena

He said as a result of the restrictive laws hawkers had marched to offices of local authorities to protest

Mavundla warned "We will continue to protest even if it means marching to Parliament in Cape Town"

His view was endorsed by Mavundla's longstanding friend and hawkers rights supporter Professor Louise



Still fighting ten years later ...
Achib's Lawrence Mavundla says trading laws should be reviewed.

Tager, who said local authorities would have to investigate ways of introducing uniform by-laws to regulate informal trading

She also appealed to the private and public sector to help educate and train hawkers to keep their sites clean

including training programmes African Council

been granted by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. In addition, the responsibility for environmental management rests with the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The Department is very much concerned about the current state of affairs and proposed to the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism during a meeting on 15 March 1996 in Pretoriusburg that a meeting with all interested parties should be convened as soon as possible. This meeting will be known as the Madimbo Forum. All interested parties' interests, needs, role and plans for the area can clearly be spelt out by means of the Madimbo Forum. The Department suggested during the same meeting that an integrated development plan be urgently compiled. This plan must make provision for the needs of all interested organisations and must be to the best benefit of the province and all its people as well as the whole of South Africa.

The aim of the above-mentioned strategy is to prevent *ad hoc* development from negatively influencing the greater potential of the area as a conservation and tourism area. Unfortunately there has until now been no progress in this regard at provincial level.

- (2) Yes. The prospecting of diamonds by Madimbo Diamond Corporation is presently continuing. Madimbo Diamond Corporation is already prospecting at the third prospecting site.

- (3) Yes. A notarial prospecting contract with an option to obtain a mining lease has been granted to Madimbo Diamond Corporation by the State. The approval of the contract has been granted on 22 May 1995 by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs in accordance with section 6(3) of the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act No 50 of 1991).

- (4) Yes. A press release is attached.

Dr Dawie de Villiers expresses grave concern about the future of Madimbo Corridor

Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, says that firm action is now needed to protect the Madimbo Corridor

and that he will fully support any renewed efforts of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Northern Province to halt prospecting in this ecologically sensitive area. Dr de Villiers made this statement in view of the fact the Madimbo Diamond Corporation, formerly Duo Corporate Developers, is still continuing prospecting activities in the corridor despite a pending appeal lodged by the National Parks Board, and attempts by the provincial MEC for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Marns-Stella Sexwale-Mabiyi, to halt diamond prospecting in terms of section 31(A) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989).

Dr de Villiers stated that the Madimbo issue has now become a cause for major concern. The Director-General of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has not yet responded to the National Parks Board's appeal. No significant progress has been made by the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism despite the support pledged to them. Meanwhile, the Madimbo Diamond Corporation is proceeding unhindered with prospecting on the third site. Prospecting has already taken place on two sites in the area which was identified by the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA&T) as ecologically sensitive and not suitable for prospecting or mining.

Expressing grave concern about the current state of affairs, Dr de Villiers said that the DEA&T will back all efforts of the Madimbo Forum to develop an integrated development plan for the area. This plan should provide for the needs of all affected parties and benefit not only the Northern Province, but the whole of South Africa and its people. All stakeholders should consult widely and adopt those land-use options that would ensure the sustainable development of this pristine area in the long term. This will also provide an opportunity to take into consideration the land restitution claims made by local communities.

The Minister also re-emphasised his support for community-based ecotourism in the Madimbo Corridor aimed at promoting the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). 'Nature conservation and associated ecotourism are an integral part of sustainable development, and none of these activities can be considered in isolation of

development planning', he said. The strong objections raised by several environmental groups against mining are a good indication of the value of this area, both with regard to its ecological significance and its potential for nature-related economic growth. The corridor is a key area in the planning of an extensive transboundary peace park in a joint effort between South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Dr de Villiers said that, should the Madimbo Diamond Corporation continue prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor, it will leave him no choice but to invoke section 31(A) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989).

Issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pretoria

Kruger Park: extension of boundaries

*26 Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether it is the intention to extend the boundaries of the Kruger National Park to neighbouring countries, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what stage has the development and planning of the intended extension reached?

- (2) whether any obstacles delaying the process are currently being experienced, if so, what are the relevant details?

N563E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

- (1) It is not the intention of the National Parks Board to expand the borders of the Kruger National Park beyond the national boundaries. The concept that does exist is that of a transfrontier national park, based on co-operative management by the Board and Zimbabwe/Mozambique authorities of protected areas, one being the Kruger National Park and the others to be established in Zimbabwe and Mozambique adjacent to the Kruger National Park. The stage has been reached where a joint committee between the National Parks Board and the Mozambique authority has been established to negotiate the issue. Talks between Zimbabwe and the National Parks Board have also been initiated by

me. The Board's approach is that the initiative should come from both sides and that the Board should be neither prescriptive nor force the matter.

- (2) There are no specific hindrances, and the matter is pursuing the normal course of friendly negotiation with interaction as and when necessary.

*27 Dr T GALANT—Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (Question standing over)

Statistics on street hawkers

*28 Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has any statistics on the number of street hawkers currently trading in South Africa, if not, why not, if so, what is the number,

- (2) whether he or his Department is currently developing a strategy with regard to the coordination and monitoring of street hawkers, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N566E

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

- (1) No. There is no database reflecting the number of street hawkers trading in South Africa as there has never been any formal registration of these hawkers. The various hawkers associations estimate that there are 200 000 hawkers trading in South Africa. However the local authorities in the various provinces are of the opinion that this figure is highly overstated. Local authorities are now encouraged to register hawkers in order to build up a reliable database on hawkers trading in South Africa.

- (2) Legislative competency in terms of the Businesses Act, 1991 (Act No 71 of 1991) was assigned *in toto* to the provincial administrations on 9 March 1995. The Department of Trade and Industry and representatives of the various provincial administrations formulated street trading bylaws which can be used as guidelines in the coordination and monitoring of street hawkers.



Picture ROY WIGLEY, Staff Photographer

☐ **COLOURFUL:** Faldielah Williams, left, and Sulega Afrika with their colourful display at the flower market in Adderley Street

Colour goes out of the flower sellers as the big boys move in

Staff Reporter

CAPE Town's Adderley Street flower sellers are as much an institution as Table Mountain itself, many of them descendants of generations of flower sellers.

But they are unhappy and are feeling threatened.

The problem is that the department stores have started selling flowers in competition, causing their only source of income to dwindle.

Sulega Afrika has been selling flowers for 36 years. "Things have been better than they are today. People are losing their source of income. But we

have to just carry on regardless."

Faldielah Williams, whose family have been selling flowers in Adderley Street since the early fifties, said "This is the only job we have and the department stores are taking it away from us. It's nice for them because people who don't have cash will buy with a credit card."

She says it is unfair because department stores sell all kinds of other things which they could not

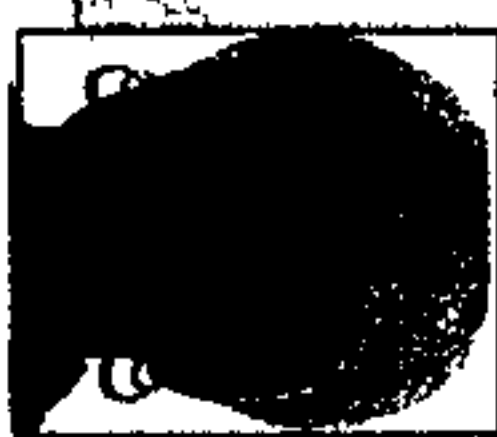
"They buy their flowers from the same place we do, so their quality isn't any better than ours, but we are much cheaper and selling flowers is our tradition," she said.

(153A) ARG 18/5/96

R3,5bn-a-year crafters to seek government funding

CT23/6/96

(1537)



THE CRAFT industry in South Africa involves more than one million people, yet receives no assistance from the government. This morning a dedicated body of people will try to get the industry the recognition they feel it deserves. **DANE GASSERE reports.**

It is an industry that can boast a turnover of at least R3,5 billion, involves more than one million people and is the largest self-employer in South Africa, yet it has no formal assistance.

This morning a group of people from the Craft Action Body (CAB) will give a presentation to the National Assembly portfolio committee on arts, culture, science and technology.

"The craft industry receives no assistance or incentive from the government," says CAB. "Indeed, there is no government policy at all on craft — until the release of the Arts and Culture White Paper early next month."

To make matters worse, big business has moved in on the "craft" bandwagon, adopting ideas from genuine crafters, having them mass-produced in other countries and re-introducing them to South Africa as curios.

One of the representatives at the presentation will be Ms Khushu Dlamini, from KwaZulu-Natal, who has worked extensively in empowerment for women. She will demonstrate how income-generating crafts have been devel-

oped in some of the country's rural areas.

Other CAB members who will make the presentation are Mr Philip Todres, Mr Sampe Ngqobe, Mr Mbuso Madondo, Mr John Sachs, Ms Sue Heathcock, Mr Peter Hinton and Ms Fessie Grant.

What they will ask for is funding, for provincial co-ordinators for six months, to push the craft industry forward. CAB members have spent hundreds of hours on voluntary work to co-ordinate crafters and committees.

Dlamini first worked for an NGO, the National Association for Women's Empowerment, which put her in touch with people in the rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal. She has since moved to Craft Association, where as part of the income-generating aspect of her job she deals with male crafters as well.

"I'm a crafter myself and enjoyed facilitating the income-generating activities in my job," she says. "The National Association of Women Business Owners organises a national craft conference in July last year in Johannesburg and

I attended.

"The idea was to co-ordinate crafts to have a national structure," says Dlamini.

"My speciality is working at grassroots level in deep rural areas. I presented a grassroots proposal which is already working in Gauteng and the Western Cape as well," says Dlamini.

Often she moves into self-populated areas for her best work, and literally hails the locals. At other times, they have heard about Dlamini's work on the radio and ask her to visit.

"I facilitate the process, and we workshop the group and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Then we hold a meeting and the women themselves liaise with the chief in the rural areas. Life is organised around agriculture and when the harvesting is over they do hand work.

"It empowers people to realise that these can be income-generating. My job is making people want to work together, to help them to organise themselves."

The groups swiftly develop a relationship with local shopkeepers.

There is also a "small, revolving loan", which can be used for buying small machines and materials in bulk. Rural crafters have to travel for two days to get material, and beads are mostly imported and expensive.

"When big business and commercialisation move in, women are exploited.

"They are not taught anything new and their crafts are mass-produced, often outside the country," says Dlamini.

"We want to establish local service centres where materials and equipment can be bought in bulk by the genuine crafters."

The CAB's definition of a craft well, says Dlamini, is a means of livelihood through the production of a broad range of useful and decorative items, manufactured largely by hand processes and with emphasis on local materials and traditional skills.

CAB will seek recognition of this definition, a realistic budget to act as a professional team and establish a database and opportunity to develop craft resources centres as training and information facilities.

Adds Sue Heathcock, "If the value of the current craft industry, based on extremely conservative estimates by Dr Wolfgang Thomas of Wesgro, is placed at R3,5 billion — which is almost 1% of the GDP for 1995 — it is reasonable to assume that an organised, creative craft industry could have a significant impact on the national economy."



GENUINE CRAFT Ms Khushu Dlamini from KwaZulu-Natal and Ms Sue Heathcock from the Cape Heritage Shop, who will be among the craft representatives tomorrow, show Mku jewellery, made locally using old bottle tops and beads, as well as fabric and bead work done in KwaZulu-Natal. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

A consumer carnival that testifies to the people's resilience

Star 11/6/96 (153A)

The pavements of Johannesburg's central business district are a rough-and-ready shopping mall, so crowded with vendors and their wares that passers-by sometimes can't pass by.

It's a consumer carnival that testifies both to the failures of South Africa's economy and the resilience of its people.

Traders display potatoes piled up on plastic plates. Women drape hand-crocheted dollies over the grimy cement. Young men in trendy jeans offer watches in velvet-lined briefcases.

A visit to the bus shelter that Isaiah Hlatswayo has transformed into a shoe shop shows that South Africa's kerbside entrepreneurs have energy, ingenuity and will, if not capital or formal education.

When Hlatswayo arrived 14 years ago from a farming town, he found prospects were poor for a 20-year-old whose farmworker father couldn't afford to send him past the first year of primary school.

Hlatswayo made do with short-term work in factories and gardens for three years before hitting on shining shoes. Soon he was repairing shoes as well.

"I taught myself I just watched the other shoe repairers as I walked around town," Hlatswayo said as he hammered heel tips on to a woman's navy pumps.



BELTS FOR AFRICA: A Hillbrow hawker peddles his wares

His customer waited in a battered chair, her stockinged feet perched on a stool.

A worker can double his income with the move from shining to repairing shoes, said Lawrence Schlemmer, an economics researcher with the Institute of Race Relations.

He said South Africa must focus on preparing people to create wealth, and could look to models such as Mexico and India, where small-scale entrepreneurs turn raw materials like silver and clay into artistic merchandise.

"Training has to become a nationwide priority," Schlemmer

said. "I don't see any hope for combating unemployment except in the informal sector."

Unemployment is estimated as high as 40%, and many of those with work earn pitifully low wages.

Hlatswayo earns about R400 a month, twice as much as one of his brothers who stayed on the farm. Hlatswayo has a loyal clientele in the neighbourhood around the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

In a vacant lot behind the imposing brick-and-glass building, black women sell meales roasted over rubbish bin fires. A R2 mealie is a popular lunch for many

PHOTOGRAPH ANTON HAMMERL

The Department of Trade and Industry estimates 3.5 million South Africans are, like Hlatswayo, making their way with tiny businesses, compared with 15 million working in the formal economy.

Seeking advice on developing the vast number of "survival enterprises", the department turned to groups like the Get Ahead Foundation.

The foundation makes loans of as little as R500 to help pavement vendors to buy fruit, backyard mechanics to buy tools, and kitchen table seamstresses to buy fabric.

Don MacRobert, the group's director, said it has helped thou-

sands of vendors who would be ignored by banks.

Charles Mahlangu, regional director of the South African Chamber of Hawkers and Independent Business, said the next step was to encourage big business to support small dealers.

Mahlangu, who is the son of a hawker and put himself through school selling fruit on the streets, cited a fruit wholesaler who holds monthly seminars to teach hawkers sales and display tips as well as basic business skills.

"I need money, so I need to help myself," said one determined vendor, Elsie Gxuda.

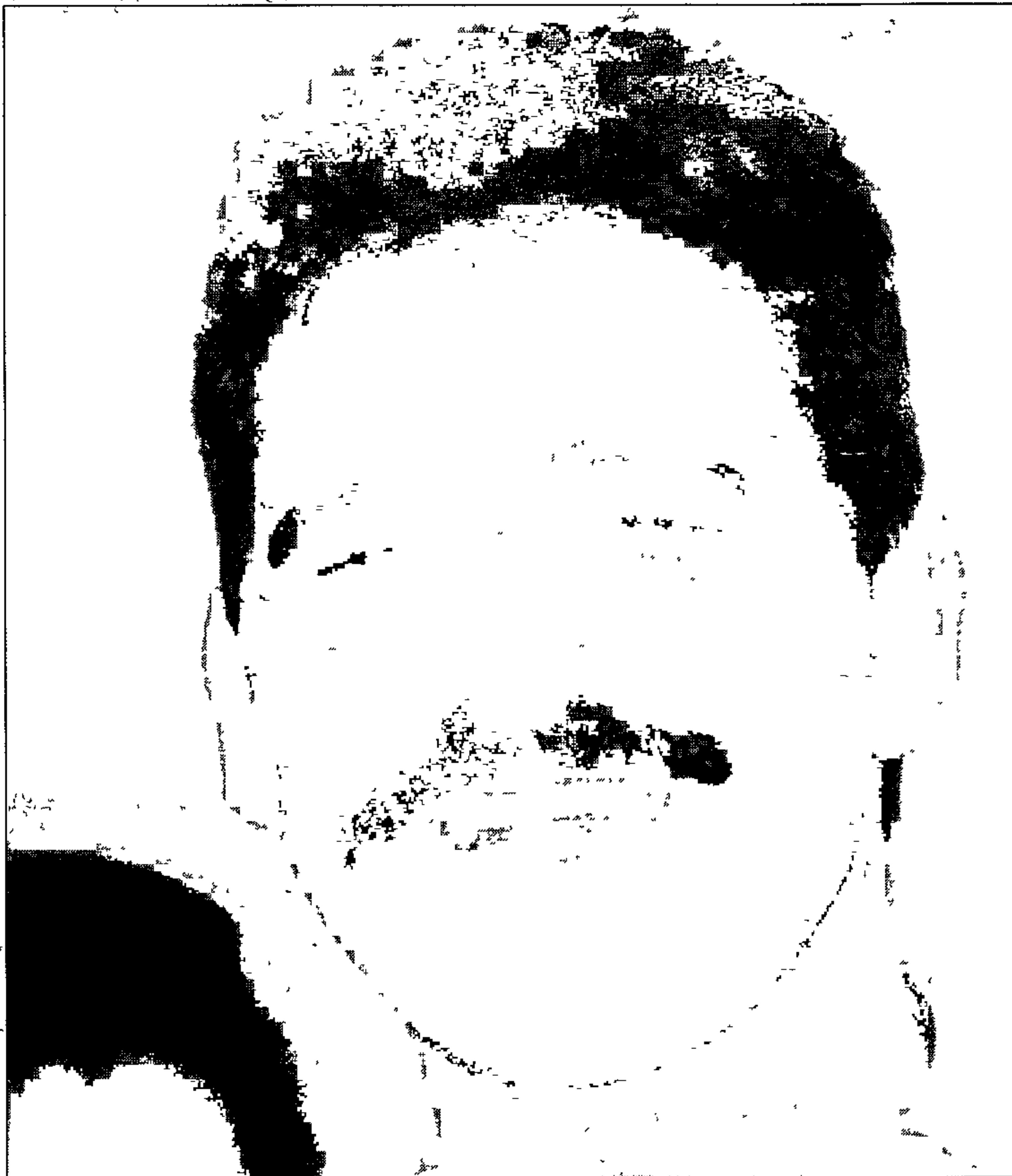
Last year she used R90 of hard-earned savings to open a shop in a wood-and-cardboard shed at the edge of a golf course.

She serves the army of neighbourhood maids, gardeners and handymen.

Gxuda has expanded from selling cigarettes and apples to offering a R6 daily lunch of beef stew and pap.

She splits the monthly profit of R400 with an assistant, and dreams of saving enough to move out of her shed into a real shop.

After rising early to get the food going, Gxuda hands over to her assistant and works the rest of the day as a maid, earning R500 a month - Sapa-AP



MEC for economic affairs Mr Chris Nissen . . . Western Cape geared for growth.

Vending risky business

By Ntsiki Zulu

MBABANE – A scene in busy downtown Manzini: a 14-year-old vendor runs away from the police. He is knocked down by a car while other vendors scatter in fear.

Street vending has become a risky trade and a thorny political issue since the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) handed the Government 27 demands – among them a call for the legislation of street vending.

Mbabane city clerk Gideon Mhlongo says street vending is not illegal, but it is not allowed in bus ranks.

However, bus ranks are the most popular spots for the trade.

The city council, supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Developments, sent the police to force vendors out of the streets and into city markets.

When vendors took to the streets to protest against their forced removal, the police responded with force.

On May 27 deputy prime minister Dr Shishayi Nxumalo invited the housing minister, representatives of street vendors and the SFTU to his office.

He briefed them about a multimillion project to build two new markets and bus ranks in the towns of Manzini and Mbabane. The markets would give adequate scope for vendors, he said.

Many big companies and successful businessmen like himself had started as street vendors.

He said he was among the first vendors to sell *emahewu*, a popular beverage in Manzini. Unimpressed with the anecdote, the SFTU secretary general, Jan Sithole, pointed out that when Swazi miners working in South Africa paid a courtesy call on Nxumalo, he said that he too once worked as a miner. Principal secretary in the ministry of housing Mbuso Dlamini, however, admitted the project had been shelved. Bus owners and vendors have rejected the site as too small and claim they have not been consulted, either through SFTU or through city councillors.

Hawkers to open new market

Patrick Wadula

(ISA)
20 21 6 96

THE African Chamber of Hawkers and Informal Business, representing more than 85 000 informal traders in SA, planned to launch a R400m fresh produce market to cater mainly for the 9 000 fruit and vegetable hawkers in Johannesburg, president Lawrence Mavundla said yesterday.

He said the market, a joint venture between its investment arm Africa Genesis Investment Holdings and 270 farmers, would be set up in New Doornfontein in opposition to City Deep Market.

In terms of the partnership, Africa Genesis would own a majority stake of 55% and the balance would be held by farmers.

The new market was expected to create more than 100 jobs. The chamber would canvass hotels, restaurants, Pick 'n Pay and government catering agencies to buy from the market.

City Deep Market director Daan Spengler said he welcomed another fresh produce market.

Call to licence informal trade

'Claremont hawkers compromise businesses'

ARG 8/7/96
(153A)

FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

SOUTHERN Substructure councillor Owen Kinahan has called on businesses being compromised by informal trading to join Cape Town City Council in pressuring provincial government to promulgate legislation for informal trading

Mr Kinahan (Ward S39) said that pavement trading in Claremont was probably among the most chaotic in Cape Town

This was after a woman fell and injured herself while trying to avoid an informal trader outside Woolworths, in Main Road, Claremont. In the fall, the woman grazed her knees

Although she was badly shaken, no one came to her aid

Mr Kinahan said legislation had been pending for too long

It was time somebody had the guts to make a decision on what was a political hot potato

"Overcrowded pavements are both dangerous and blatantly unfair to rent-paying merchants

"Public pavements are council property and the city is riding for a fall if pedestrians are



Owen Kinahan

injured or buildings are inaccessible in times of emergency because of overcrowded pavements "

Mr Kinahan said "Businesses and the council should apply pressure on provincial legislature to promulgate legislation which has been pending for at least two years "

Edgars personnel manager Johan Olwage, appealed to the authorities to enforce rules which would govern trading patterns in cities

Mr Olwage said "Be it a law

or proclamation, we need a set of rules that levels the playing grounds everywhere for customers and traders

"You have shopping centres in which no informal trading can happen because it is controlled by that centre

"Then you have a city in which a lot of uncontrolled trading takes place

"Why is trading so orderly, easy and safe in shopping centres?

"Why can't we have the same in an open city?

"The principal governing businesses is the same for informal traders and shop owners "

Spokespersons for Clicks and Foschini, both in Main Road, Claremont, said informal traders did not obstruct doorways or harass customers and therefore did not pose a problem.

Foschini acting manageress Patricia Jacobs, said "We have only four informal traders who keep the place clean and abide by our request not to display their goods in a manner which would obscure our windows "

JOBS

More to informal sector than meets the government's eye

ST (BT) 28/7/96 (153A)

By CIARAN RYAN

A NEW study by Natal University challenges the prevailing orthodoxy that informal sector entrepreneurs are poorly educated "survivalists" who would rather be in formal sector employment.

Less than 2% of the 645 black small and micro enterprises (SMEs) surveyed in KwaZulu-Natal said they intended seeking wage employment and most saw potential for growth in their current businesses. Only 15,7% expressed a desire to migrate from the informal to the formal sector, and only 3,6% intended switching to another line of business during the next five years.

The benefits of remaining in the informal sector — where tax, business licences and other regulations are widely flouted — appear to outweigh the benefits of becoming more formalised.

"This suggests that government policy should be directed at encouraging SMEs to grow without penalising them," says the study's project leader, Nick Wilkins.

One of the more surprising findings of the study is that more than 30% of the entrepreneurs had completed Standard 10 and 28,5% had a post-school qualification.

Some had university degrees or technical training certificates.

More than three-quarters of those surveyed funded their businesses out of personal savings or with help from relatives and friends. Only 5,4% received financial assistance from banks, underscoring the claim that emerging entrepreneurs have little access to formal sector financial sources.

About 44,7% claimed to have earned no more than R500 a month on average over the previous year, while 18% claimed an average monthly profit of between R500 and R1 000.

These figures must be treated with caution, says the study, as SME operators the world over tend to understate their profits. Interestingly, nearly 60% of SME operators in Durban claimed to be making a monthly profit of more than R500 a month, well above the average household income for South Africa. In the Durban area, more than 16% were making a monthly profit of R3 000 or more, against 17,1% in the smaller towns where the study was carried out.

"Despite the apparently low level of profitability for most entrepreneurs, most of them were keen to continue with their current line of informal business, an exception being an overwhelming desire on the part of entrepreneurs in small towns to formalise their businesses," says the study.

Of the 645 business surveyed, 500 employed workers other than the operators themselves, generating an additional 1 200 jobs. The total capital requirement for these enterprises was just less than R2-million. This translates into a cost a job of R1 081. The cost a job was much lower in smaller towns and as little as R330 a job in Maritzburg. Nearly half the respondents worked 30 days a month, while a further 24,5% worked 25 to 29 days a month.

The study, carried out by Data Research Africa on behalf of Natal University's Economic Research unit, raises more questions than it answers. With the National Small Business Act due to be promulgated later this year, the government might want to rethink its planned small business support programmes.

Wilkins says targeted assistance to those SMEs with growth potential would produce better results than a shotgun approach targeting all informal sector businesses. The study concentrated on SMEs with growth potential and deliberately avoided surveying the "survivalists".

The growth of businesses are constrained by a lack of training, education, access to new technology and the limited coverage provided by small business support agencies, yet the survey respondents demonstrated entrepreneurial flair, says Wilkins.

"If we were able to find the promising SMEs in the course of our research, small business support agencies should likewise have no trouble finding them. The study seems to indicate that we need stronger co-ordination among the existing small business support agencies and a more targeted assistance to encourage the better run informal sector businesses to grow. Assistance which reaches the right people would produce more and better job opportunities and more viable businesses."

The study provides no indication of the number of businesses that failed due to lack of financial support or the number of entrepreneurs unable to launch a business for want of capital.

While most formal sector banks have small business units, their penetration of this market appears to be very low and reflects a generally weak commitment to this sector.

While some argue that banks should be required by law to lend a proportion of total assets to small businesses, this might expose banks to poor commercial risks and would be strongly opposed.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATED BY SMEs IN KWAZULU-NATAL

	Durban	Maritzburg	Small towns	Rural	Total
Total number employees in sample	542	216	218	216	1 192
Total number SMEs surveyed	348	98	99	100	645

Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

ST(BT) 28/7/96 (153A)



FREE MARKET: Many people are making a living in the informal sector and see potential for growth in their businesses

About 28% of the SMEs were in the food retail sector, 25% in the non-food retail sector, 25% in services and 21% in manufacturing

Most of the SMEs received no support from the government, non-governmental organisations or private sector training and assistance programmes

The coverage of small business

support programmes was weak throughout the province, but particularly in rural areas

"Clearly, one reason for the constrained profitability of SMEs is the limited availability of support services and training available to SME operators," says the study. Access to training will naturally be of critical importance to op-

erators, given their often poor education levels"

While 20.3% of male SME operators had received some kind of assistance, only 17% of women benefited from support programmes of any kind. The variance was even more pronounced in small towns. Only 9% of businesses were members of a small

business association, demonstrating that the sector as a whole is still poorly organised

"This will have a seriously adverse impact on the ability of provincial and local government to liaise effectively with the sector in formulating and implementing policy on SME development and regulation," says the study

Informal business is vital for SA

(153A)

Sanetan 8/8/96

By Shadrack Mashalaba

FOR South Africa to achieve sustainable economic growth, it needs to have a strong informal business sector

Addressing a seminar on informal financing in Pretoria yesterday, Timothy Thahane, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank, said the legal framework was an important variable in the financing of informal sector in the country whose existence was being hampered by high interest rates

"It is the role of commercial banks to use a surplus of their savings to help the informal sector of our economy. The central bank cannot regulate the market as it does not directly accept public deposits — ours is the protection of the currency."

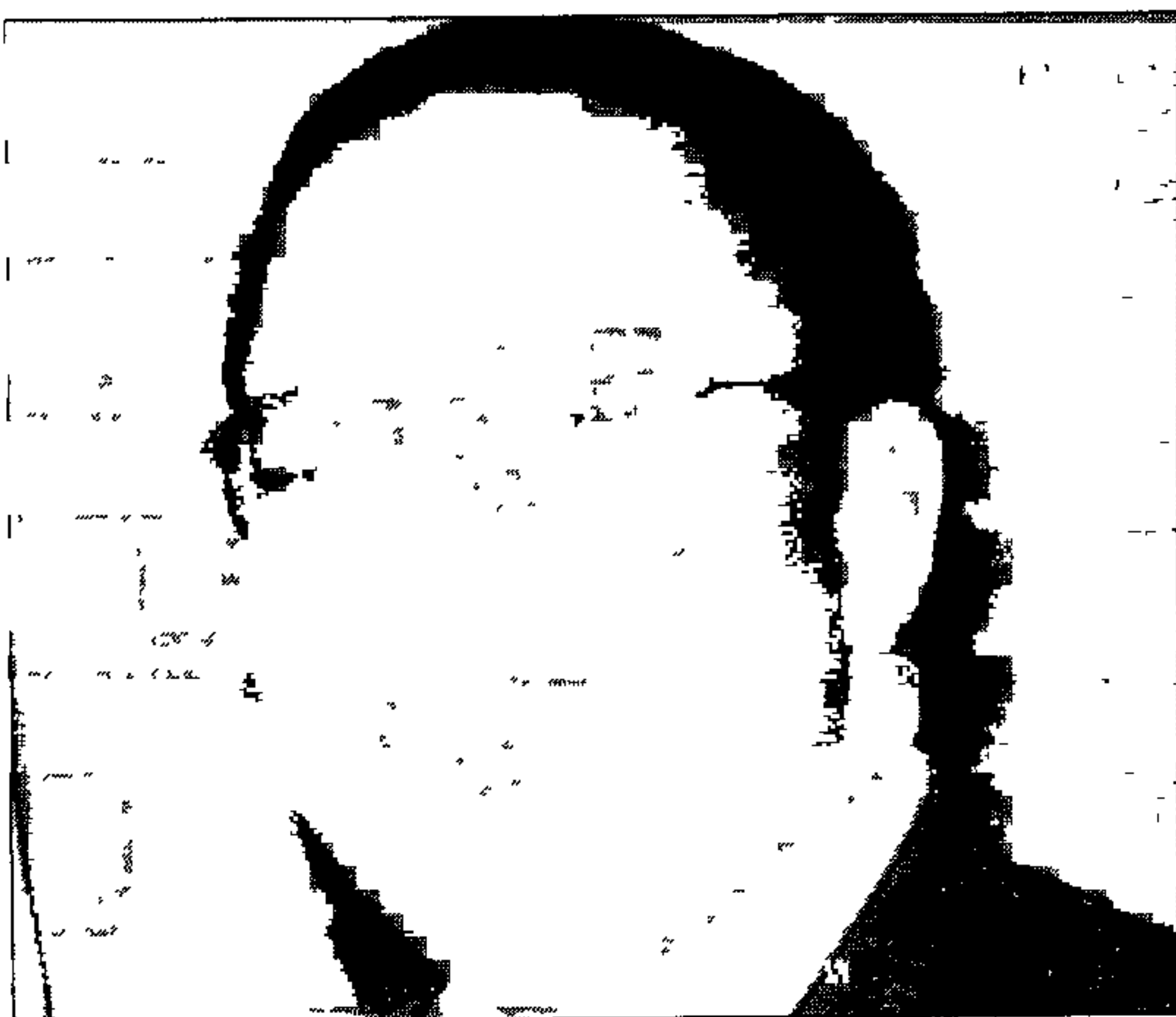
The attitude and posture of the central bank was cooperation, said Thahane. "The mushrooming and existence of informal schemes can have a huge impact on the financial system of a country therefore it is important to maintain corporate governance."

Registrar of Banks Christo Wiese said informal financing was outside the scope of the central bank, but through the Mutual Act of 1993 a regulatory instrument had been created to fill a gap between informal and formal sector.

Wiese defined informal financing as geared to those sectors which fall outside the banking sector such as credit unions and credit cooperatives.

Deputy director general of the department of finance Maria Ramos said "Informal financing in South Africa needs to undergo drastic inno-

Informal financing needs to undergo drastic innovation



South Africa needs a strong informal sector to achieve sustainable growth says Timothy Thahane.

vation to create a synergy between formal and informal sectors."

"The problems facing financing in the informal sector are historical and coupled with that is the risk factor and lack of credit worthiness the sector is faced with."

However, the availability and distribution of information can reduce risk in capital and money markets, said Ramos.

She added that personal acquaintance was an important innovation that can be nurtured to bridge the gap between formal and informal sector and the government could also play its role through risk reduction mechanisms.

The seminar was attended by representatives from financing institutions, government, credit cooperatives and United Nations development agencies.

Informal sector boosts savings for low-earners

(153A)
BY PATRICK PHOSA
Star 14/8/96

The formal financial sector uniformly bemoans low levels of personal savings, but is often slow to recognise the success of informal institutions in stimulating savings among low-income earners, delegates at the Reserve Bank's informal financing seminar heard recently.

The seminar was intended to improve awareness of opportunities, pitfalls and future of informal financing activities and to define and create an awareness of the roles of the key players.

It was also aimed at establishing whether the present legal framework meets the informal sector's needs.

Lawyer Ronald Robert, of the Moseneke and Partners legal firm, said the real challenge was to create a regulatory structure which had a galvanising power and more financial stamina.

"Even the most notorious of the pyramid schemes have undoubtedly managed to galvanise, although temporarily and unsustainably, enormous pools of capital among communities of modest means," Robert said.

He said pyramid schemes might have a place as a kind of high-stakes gambling.

"If they (pyramid schemes) carry conspicuous health warnings and do not target the gullible or naive, there is no reason why they could not, in principle, be regulated just as betting on horses is permitted and regulated," Robert said.

The Registrar of Banks, Christo Wiese, said the Reserve Bank had to be aware of developments taking place on the fringes of formal banking.

He stressed that market forces had to dictate the regulatory framework and the types of institution that come to fruition and mature.

BUSINESS

Council can act on Yeoville flea market

Gavin du Venage

FLEA Market Enterprises, the operator of Bruma Lake's flea market, could face legal action after failing to secure council permission for the market it recently opened in Johannesburg's Yeoville suburb.

Greater Johannesburg council local economic development manager Li Pernegger said yesterday the council had warned FME that the market was technically illegal.

FME had not waited for the council to conduct an opinion survey of existing street traders, formal businesses and rel-

evant council departments before establishing the market.

The council had also objected because FME was renting out pavement space and stalls to traders without compensating the council.

"Street trading is not illegal, but the erection of kiosks is," Pernegger said.

FME said it had spent nearly R400 000 on the market, but response had been poor and the venture was sustaining losses. It was considering reviewing its involvement.

The weekend market was launched in June in the parking lot built for the recently opened

Piccadilly Centre and surrounding pavements.

The market has been slated by local traders, who claim it hurts their business.

Andy Schwenk of Andy's Swop Shop said that he had been forced to close on Saturdays, one of his busiest days. He was seeking legal advice about withholding rent for the days he had to close.

He said the market's use of the parking lot, as well as the closure of the street for events like parades, had made access to his premises difficult.

Another objection was that most flea market traders sold

goods available in their stores.

The Piccadilly Centre, which opened last year after a R10m revamp, has struggled to fill space, with several tenants quitting in the weeks since the market opened.

Existing centre tenants have boycotted paying rent, claiming promised advertising support and an anchor tenant have not been provided.

FME sales and operations director Gary Israelsohn said that the market was a social responsibility project.

It was supposedly launched to help rejuvenate the area by reviving moribund business.

(153A) BD 22/8/96

(153A) CT 2/9/96

Street traders 'must be consulted'

THE MEC for Economic Affairs, Mr Chris Nissen, has hit out at the City Council for ignoring informal business in its efforts to regulate street trading

Responding to a Cape Times report last week, he criticised City Council officials for trying to submit a by-law to which only they and formal business had agreed

In a statement yesterday, he said the new approach required all three key role-players — the council and formal and infor-

mal business — to negotiate an agreement for organised street trading

"My department has drafted a by-law to guide all role-players in the Western Cape," Nissen said

"I appeal to all the role-players in the Central Substructure to submit a new by-law on street trading as soon as possible"

Nissen emphasised that he would promulgate the by-law only if it was acceptable to all levels of traders — Staff Writer

Edgars' new store will take hawkers under its wing

(153A)

BD 4/9/96

Ronny Tshabalala

CLOTHING retail chain Edgars has spent R85m on its new store in central Johannesburg — a development which will involve hawkers selling Edgars merchandise on the pavements.

The development programme was intended to revitalise the CBD amid the departure of prime businesses from the area because of crime, said store manager Malcolm Reed. The new store is the group's largest outlet in SA.

"Edgars is planning a social programme to clean up the streets around the store and encourage controlled, upmarket street trade in line with the objectives of inner city renewal."

He said negotiations were under way with various hawker associations for Edgars to invest in special trading trolleys for hawkers. The chain, with Edgars merchandise, hoped to take part in the vibrant street culture, said Reed.

It was hoped the new store, designed by New York consultants

HTI and owned by Liberty Life, would generate a turnover of R132m in 1997.

Edgars operations director Dick Greeff said there was massive scope for the retail industry to tap into an ever-expanding mass consumer market in the centre of town, particularly where outlets were positioned near bus and taxi ranks and railway stations.

"We recognise the changing face of the CBD and are taking the opportunity to capture market share through this pedestrian

hub," said Greeff. Edgars spent R20m on revamping the old Tony Factor's Intown Centre.

"This will become the largest Edgars store in the country. We have confidence in the downtown area and believe the new site will allow us to grow our current Market Street account base by 25% in 12 months."

"We have effectively doubled our trading space in the move from Market Street and have 15 000m² of floor space. The build-

ing also gives us the opportunity to grow by developing the basement when necessary."

The project included a number of Edgars-owned specialist line stores operating separately within the store.

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale said the Edgars initiative was refreshing. Other corporations in the city centre needed to follow their example. There was no reason to retreat to the northern suburbs when a thriving, accessible commercial centre al-

ready existed. By opening the largest store in the CBD, Edgars had made an unequivocal statement in its confidence of the city's potential.

Sexwale said "It is important to grow and develop the CBD, to address its problems and take the courageous step of investing money in the capital city of Gauteng."

Meanwhile, the Gauteng government is expected to launch a new drive for the regeneration and development of "a clean and safe" city.

BUSINESS

New development in self-employment

Sowetan 5/9/96 (153A)

**Business course
provides way out
for the jobless**

By Shadrack Mashalaba

SIMPLEX BUSINESS Training has launched South Africa's first practical correspondence course to help people start their own small businesses.

The course is a practical "how to" programme based on the successful One-Up Business Training project. The course, which costs R295, is available in English or Afrikaans.

The programme is linked to the Start-Up Fund, a special loan scheme currently funding hundreds of micro businesses in South Africa, and is backed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Trainees can attend quarterly workshops free of charge in Johannesburg and Cape Town, aimed at helping users with the application of training material.

Simplex chairman Tony Davenport says "Currently 93 percent of school

leavers cannot find jobs and South Africa's eight million unemployed is increasing by 450 000 a year. The main road out of this dire situation is self-employment.

The Simplex Business Training course includes several modular workbooks: market investigation, purchasing, business calculations, selling, costing and pricing, money manage-

ment, drawing up a business plan.

"Because everything you need to know is contained in the Simplex Workbooks and explained in a simple way, most trainees are able to work through the course happily on their own," says Simplex managing director, Jackie Smith.

For more information contact Jackie Smith on (021) 968-770.



Unemployment can be eliminated if South Africa takes the self employment route, says Tony Davenport.



Take a walk: Manuel Agu, one of the Nigerian traders ordered off the station deck taxi rank OBED ZILWA

'Racist' rivals shutting us out, say Nigerian hawkers

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

Star 11/9/96

~~(153A)~~ (153A)
Nigerian street traders on the station deck taxi rank have been given a chilly reception by a rival trading organisation.

The 23 traders have also been given an ultimatum by the Cape Town municipality because they are selling their goods in a no-trade area - under a covered walkway or "strip" beside the station deck taxi rank, which the council leases from Intersite. In terms of the lease, the council may not allow informal retail activities there.

The council has threatened to interdict the traders if they continue to sell goods along the walkway.

The "strip" traders have appealed to the council's property and economic development committee to renegotiate the lease agreement. In their

appeal, they said they had been forced to move to the walkway because the "topdeck" traders, who have a lease with the council, did not allow "blacks" into their ranks.

Prince Nelson from Nigeria said that when his group had approached the "topdeck" traders they had been told they were not welcome.

He appealed to the committee to allow him and other members of the group to "make an honest living".

But the "topdeck" traders refuted allegations that they were racist.

Secretary Rasheeda Petersen said they did have "a rainbow nation" in their midst but that the 270 members of their organisation had to comply with certain rules and regulations.

"We need to look at our own people born and bred in South Africa. We need to empower our own people so we can make a living as a whole."

opposition

Cape Town traders wary of streetwise

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Traders in the city centre have mixed feelings about the onset of summer, fearing the deluge of street traders as much as they look forward to the influx of hundreds of visitors with money in their pockets to spend.

Economic affairs MEC Chris Nissen has promised to come to their aid, undertaking to step into the dispute between formal and informal traders over an appropriate form of regulation by introducing control mechanisms unilaterally. He wanted a bylaw to be in place in October.

(153A) BD 11/9/96
"We have asked the role players to present a new bylaw very soon, and if this is not done we will have to seriously consider ways of introducing control at the beginning of the festive season," spokesman Norman Michaels said yesterday.

"We have idled for long enough, and now it is time to take action." The absence of a bylaw governing street trading has allowed street traders to set up business wherever they please, even if this blocks the view passers-by have of shop display windows.

Cape Town Chamber of Commerce members dependent on passing trade have complained about the negative effect these traders have had on their business.

"It is an enormous problem," chamber director Charl Adams said. "We are calling on Nissen to show political will and promulgate a bylaw without the agreement of the formal and informal sectors."

In winter the problem was not as acute as in summer when pavements and St prerequisites for this. Adams said business had insisted that without no go areas the bylaw would be a toothless instrument, whereas informal traders were equally emphatic that there should be no prohibited areas.

According to economic affairs deputy director-general Tony Reuters, his department has so far received 22 bylaws from local authorities throughout the province, of which seven have been promulgated. Street trading was taking place in these towns without any hitches.

opposition

DBSA raps state for informal sector stasis

ST(BT) 15/9/96

(153A)

ECONOMIC POLICY

By THABO KOBOKOANE

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa has sharply criticised the government for not giving policy support to the informal sector of the economy

The importance of the informal economy in absorbing the unemployed is widely accepted, though many informal salaries remain below the poverty line

A report by the DBSA, "Rethinking the Informal Economy of South Africa", concludes that the "growth" and the "survivalist" sectors, each comprising an estimated 20% of the informal economy, would be aided by policy intervention

The "growth" sector refers to micro-enterprises and the "survivalist" sector to hawkers, urban cultivators, rural collectors and street barbers

The DBSA says enacting "appropriate support frameworks" for both sectors of the informal economy would realise expanded opportunities for production and employment

The report, which synthesises literature on the informal economy, criticises as "severely inadequate" the statistical base for measuring and monitoring the informal economy

Previous Central Statistical Service figures estimated that about 4.1-million people worked in the informal sector. Of this, 600 000 (15%) were defined as "employees employed by the employers in the informal sector" — assumed to be mostly black, although not broken down into racial categories. The DBSA report estimates that the complexion of the informal economy is roughly 72% black, 22% white (noteworthy finding), 4.5% coloured and 1.5% Asian

The DBSA report says the informal economy absorbs between 4- and 5-million workers, contributes roughly 9% to gross domestic product, is highly diverse (manifesting itself differently in different regions and cities) and that it is mostly survivalist

The report says policy formulation should abandon notions of a "one policy" approach and embark on multiple policies and programmes for development,

with separate budgetary allocations for survivalist and growth enterprises

It argues that the structure and racial composition of the micro-enterprise economy bears the imprint of apartheid — skewed distribution in favour of retail and service enterprises and a correspondingly limited development of manufacturing micro-enterprises

This finding is described as "disturbing" since it underscores the fact that viable micro-enterprises comprise only 14% of the total spectrum of employment in informal economic activity

The report says the key constraints to the informal sector's development, historically, has been the state's negative attitude and legislation, but extensive deregulation has taken place

It identifies core constraints relating to micro-enterprises finance and credit, infrastructure and services provision, training, urban planning and management, and market linkages with other enterprises

"Although an appropriate legal framework for micro-enterprise development is essential, legislation is viewed at present as a major blockage to informal enterprises

"Areas for policy and programmatic interventions must relate, inter alia, to the enhancement of financing and credit availability, the extension of infrastructure and service, augmented and enriched training schemes, improved urban management programmes and expanded business linkages through subcontracting arrangements and possibly among sectoral clusters of informal enterprises themselves," the report notes

"Overall, the design and implementation of a coherent set of measures to upgrade production enterprises is the most pressing issue to be addressed by policy that will ensure a healthy and growing micro-enterprise economy in the country," the report says

Street traders get their act together

By-law will protect rights of vendors, business and public

ESAMN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

The long fight over the rights of street traders should be over soon with a by-law which could be in force before the Christmas season when hordes of tourists flock to the city to spend their money.

The by-law, which will be advertised for comment in all Cape newspapers on Monday, aims to protect the interests of the street traders, the public and the formal business sector.

Hassan Khan of the newly-formed United Informal Sector Coalition - representing some major role players in the informal sector - said a determining factor in the recent agreement on informal street trading struck with the Cape Town City Council and formal business, was the threat posed by the influx of informal traders from other African countries.

Mr Khan said Cape Town's street traders were keen to see the approval and promulgation of the by-law for the control of street trading.

Various groups of informal traders had put their differences aside and were now united in the new coalition which was negotiating with the council and formal business.

At a recent meeting called by Chris Nissen, Western Cape Minister for Economic Affairs, all the parties agreed that

■ A new by-law on informal street trading for the Cape Town municipality would be submitted to Mr Nissen's office by December 6.

■ An interim agreement based on existing legislation would regulate street trading in the municipal area from October 1.

■ All parties would be responsible for the enforcement and policing of the interim agreement.

While comment is awaited on the proposed by-law, the interim agreement is to start controlling trading in Cape Town and giving some protection to traders.

Ben van Rensburg, assistant city administrator for Cape Town, said a workshop involving the Cape Town municipality, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of the new coalition would be held on Monday to discuss and implement aspects of regulations that had been in place since 1992.

After October 21, the last day for comments on the proposed by-law, all parties will come together and a meeting of the city council's economic development committee will be called to formulate a proposal to the council, which will then be passed on to Mr Nissen's office.

Depending on the number of comments, Mr Van Rensburg said the idea was to have the by-law approved before the hectic December holiday season.

Mr Khan said the informal trading sector had, at last, got its act together via the United Informal Sector Coalition and he was confident this would help sort out problems.

"But, even if the by-law was promulgated tomorrow, it would take a few months to phase it in. You have to understand the history of informal trading and one will have to start educating people," he said.



St George's Mall: Tim Gerrard has been running a stall in St George's Mall for two years, selling imported clothes, jewellery myrrh and frankincense

ADVERTISED FOR COMMENT

New by-law for street traders to be finalised

27/9/96

(153A)

THE PUBLIC will be given the chance to comment on a new by-law that will govern street traders in the Cape Town municipal area. The law is expected to be promulgated before the end of the year, writes **PETER DENNEHY**.

A long-awaited by-law for the control of street trading in Cape Town is now on its way to being approved and promulgated — possibly by the end of November.

Councillor Saleem Mowzer announced this yesterday at the monthly meeting of the Cape Town Municipality, although he did not say when it was expected to come into effect. It will be advertised on Monday, with a three-week period for objections.

Mowzer said councillors Mr Leon Markovitz and Mr Hanief Tiseker, of the NP and ANC, had met provincial ANC leader Mr Chris Nissen a week ago, along with representatives of formal businesses and street traders.

At that meeting, all agreed that the municipality should take back the by-law and re-advertise it for comment "and eventual approval". The by-law has long been stalled at provincial level, for which Nissen has been blamed.

Mowzer's urgent motion was

adopted without any votes against it. The delay caused by advertising for comment is not expected to be more than a couple of months. Next week the local Chamber of Commerce will meet street traders to work through the proposed by-laws, clause by clause, to try to reach agreement.

According to the Provincial Gazette of Friday September 13, virtually the same by-law, which Cape Town drew up, has already come into operation in Strand, Franschhoek, Fraserberg, Gansbaai, Hermanus, Piketberg, Paarl, Vredenburg and Simon's Town.

● The proposed by-law gives the municipality power to prohibit street trading on defined areas of pavement and demarcate stands which it can hire or otherwise allocate to a particular vendor, who must carry the enabling permit.

● Those who transgress the by-law will be liable on conviction "to a fine" or to imprisonment of up to three months.

● Street vending will also be

prohibited beside houses or flats if owners or occupiers object.

● Vendors may not obstruct the visibility of display windows.

● No street vendor may stay overnight at the place of his or her business without permission.

● No structure other than something that "operates" like an umbrella may be put up, again unless the permission is obtained. Nothing may be tied to a tree, building or pole.

● Hawkers must remove all their stock and waste material at the end of every trading day.

● Goods may be impounded if the hawker has failed to move when told, or has left the goods unattended for more than 12 hours, or if the goods are found where trading is prohibited. Receipts must be issued where possible. The goods must be handed to the municipality.

It is understood that all the larger organisations representing street traders have agreed to the by-law. Small pockets of resistance remain. Cape Town's by-law will not contain a previously-included controversial clause that street traders need permission from an adjacent formal trader if they want to sell the same or similar goods.

By JEFFERSON LENGANE

Clamp-down on illegal liquor trade raises Salta's ire

THE PRESIDENT of the South African Liquor Traders Association (Salta), David Mokoena, has expressed disgust and dismay at the continued harassment of unlicensed liquor traders via legislation of the past apartheid regime

He said his organisation did not believe liquor traders should operate without licences – but the playing fields had not yet been levelled and it was unfair that those who had previously been unable to obtain licences, now received no sympathy from those with whom they had shared common oppression

“It is disgusting and unacceptable that former liberation leaders, who were given sanctuary by shebeen-proprietors during the apartheid era, are still applying the same apartheid laws to harass unlicensed liquor traders,” he fumed

Mokoena was speaking to City Press after observing a sudden increase in raids and arrests of unlicensed liquor traders in Gauteng province which often resulted in the confiscation of their liquor

However, the deputy director for the RDP in Gauteng's ministry of Safety and Security, Steven Nkutha, pointed out that there was nothing sinister in the sudden clamp-down on unlicensed liquor traders

“It is part of an ongoing campaign to reduce crime and re-introduce the culture of respect for the law. Almost all sectors of our society have adopted a free-for-all situation in which there is a general decay of this respect,” he said.

Mokoena said the application of the apartheid Liquor Act was unclear and open to abuse and some corrupt members of the SAPS were using that to advantage

“For instance, inventory of confiscated liquor is not jointly done by the owner and the arresting officers. The result is that the liquor confiscated either does not reach the courts or, if it does, it is in lesser amounts. In some instances the police either sell the confiscated liquor to rivals of the owner – or simply supply it to stokvels, where

they are members

“In short, there is no proper control of what happens to the confiscated liquor. We also have instances in which our members have been asked to pay bribes,” he said.

Another worrying factor to Mokoena is that there is no uniformity in dealing with unlicensed liquor traders who find themselves at the receiving end of apartheid laws in the new non-racial democratic South Africa, as some traders receive a fine on the spot, while some have to pay a fine, have charges laid and can get convicted

“When we fought apartheid we did not fight for the removal of faces only but also the legislation

that kept us in bondage. Liberation is total, not piece-meal,” he said

He also criticised the Liquor Board's representativeness and efficiency

“It is not representative of all the stakeholders in the industry – the disadvantaged trader is not represented,” Mokoena said

The fact that an individual applying for a licence has to put down a fee ranging from R3 000 to R5 000 made it impossible for the majority of the formerly disadvantaged to raise that money before engaging in unlicensed sales, Mokoena believes

Mokoena's organisation met with Safety and Security Minister

UNFAIR
... David Mokoena of Salta believes the fight against illegal alcohol sales is not fair.



Sydney Mufamadi on August 15 Last Tuesday the organisation met with national commissioner George Fivaz, and on Friday Nafcoc president Joe Hlongwane, on behalf of Salta, met with the Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin

“Nothing tangible has come out as yet, but the talks are continuing,” said Mokoena

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

THE chaos brought to the pavements of Cape Town by a flood of informal traders and hawkers could be brought under control by an agreement between the city council and traders' organisations.

A temporary trading agreement between the council and 10 traders' organisations was concluded on Friday and involves signing over the control and management of metropolitan traders to the organisations.

Regular informal traders have welcomed the agreement as they fear further chaos and problems as up-country and foreign hawkers continue to flock into the inner city.

The agreement is to be in place for six months, at the end of which a by-law is to come into effect.

In terms of the temporary agreement, each traders' organisation, in conjunction with the council, is to coordinate, manage and control its own area, according to spokesman Ben van Rensburg.

Individuals who apply for hawking permits through their traders' organisations automatically become party to the agreement.

This agreement still falls under the council's standard hawking reg-

CITY CENTRE HAWKERS TALK BUSINESS

ST(CM) 27/10/96 (153H)

New deal struck with council to control trade

ulations. Any signatory who fails to comply with these will be excluded from the agreement.

The proposed by-law, which is to govern the operations of traders in the metropole, is expected to be put to Western Cape Premier Hannus Kriel for promulgation by early December.

However, Van Rensburg said, the section of the by-law relating to informal trading is to be implemented in April.

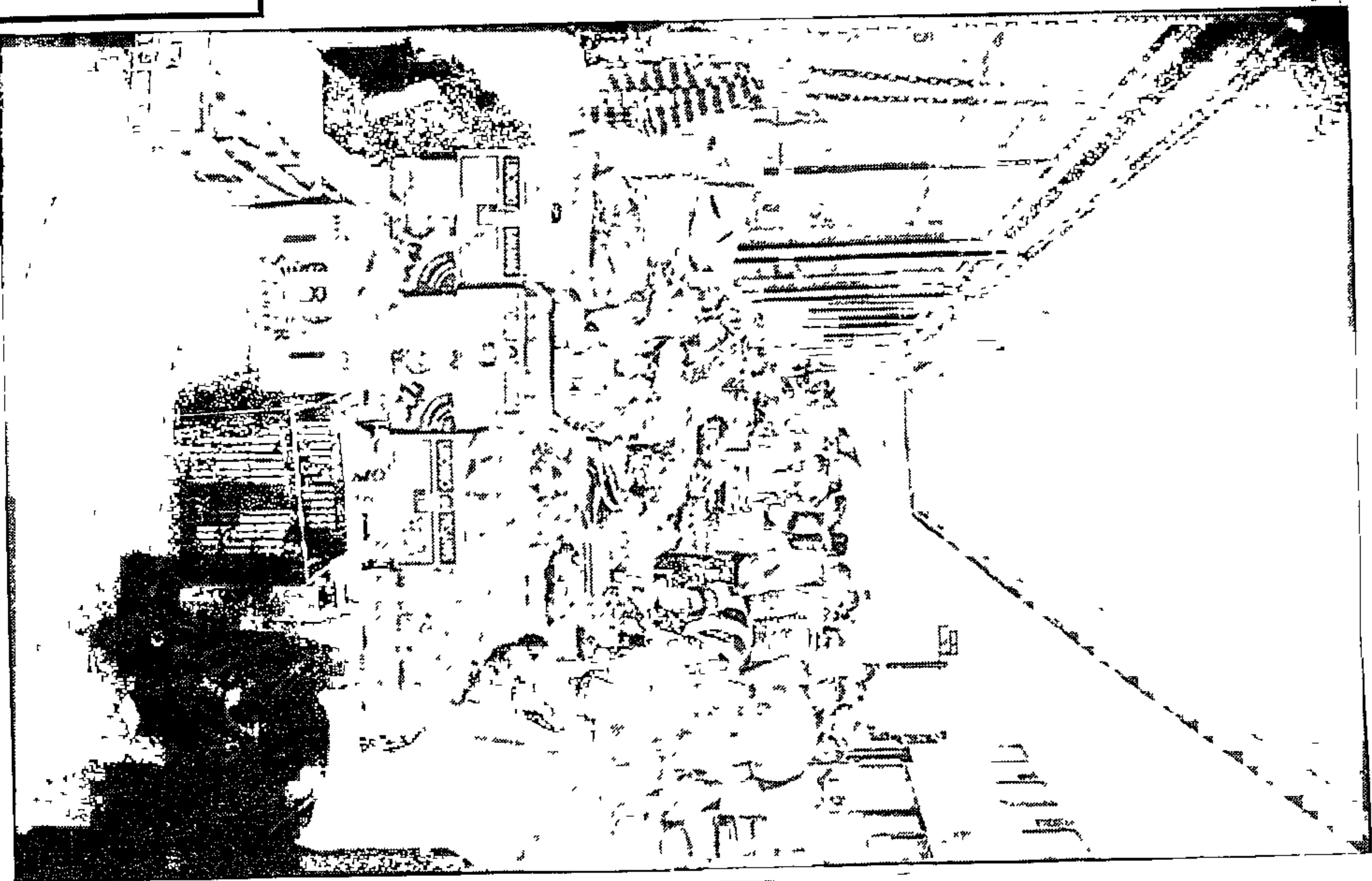
With the exception of those in St George's Mall, the city council does

not have a formal agreement with traders in the metropole.

Van Rensburg said that for years traders' associations had opposed the idea of formal hawking regulations, but the flood of traders from elsewhere had sparked an urgent call for controls.

"Outsiders, especially foreigners, are rapidly establishing themselves and taking up hawking space in the city centre," he said.

Local traders had realised that they needed council regulations to protect their businesses.



BEARING FRUIT Fruit and vegetable hawkers are to benefit soon from a new management system. Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

Food sold on city streets under filthy conditions (153A)

Many Jo'burg vendors say they do not need permits because health inspectors did not come around

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS

Hundreds of vendors selling food prepared on the city's sidewalks under the worst possible conditions are operating without permits.

Many vendors this week said they did not need permits because health inspectors from the municipality did not come around to do inspections.

Store owners and pedestrians are eager to see the food vendors removed from the sidewalks because of the conditions under which they operate.

One vendor operating without a permit is Francina Ramohae, who sells chicken offal on a sidewalk in Breese Street. When The Star visited her stall, she was cleaning a huge mound of chicken intestines piled on a plastic packet on the sidewalk. In front of her was a heap of chicken heads, feet and gullets.

Star 14/10/91

An unpleasant odour wafted up from the contents, but most of the passersby seemed to be oblivious of it — although some turned their heads away in disgust. Customers who came to buy Ramohae's goods seemed not to mind the unhygienic conditions in which the offal had been prepared. There were no clean containers to store the offal and no clean water to wash the utensils used.

Barely two metres away was another stall whose owner prepares porridge, rice, meat and curries for his customers. Mabenki Ndlovu, who has a permit, complained loudly that Ramohae should move her stall as her business was affecting his. Ndlovu said the sight of Ramohae cleaning the intestines put customers off, while the smell from the offal would become worse in summer. He also complained that her stall was unhygienic.

Silver Langa, another vendor who sells sausage said it was not necessary to have a permit as health inspectors did not come around to inspect stalls.

Langa said the situation was different two years ago, as inspections were regularly undertaken.

Department of Health spokesman Popo Maja agreed that these vendors are a serious health hazard to the city and a cause for concern, but said the responsibility of ensuring that vendors operate under strict health control lay in the hands of the local authority.

The Star was unable to obtain official reaction from the Southern Metropolitan substructure, but spokesmen from various departments said regular inspections on stalls in the CBD were done.

Various sources also said the relevant by-laws had not been promulgated at provincial level yet.



THEMBA HADEBE

Who will buy? ... a group of unlicensed vendors sit with open boxes of chicken pieces waiting for a sale.

Street trading by-laws proposed

(153A)

Council law officers would have the framework to deal with complaints

but the aim is to regulate street trade, not to get rid of hawkers *Star 14/10/96*

By **KARIN SCHINKA**
City Editor

Street trading by-laws which "will enable the city to bring some kind of order back to the streets of Greater Johannesburg" could be promulgated soon enough for residents to see improvements by February.

This is according to informal trade liaison manager Roger Hand, who hopes the proposed street trading by-laws will be adopted by the Greater Johannesburg Metro council and its four substructures by the end of this month, and promulgated by the province in December.

If the by-laws are adopted in principle by the metro council by the end of this month, people will have the whole of November to comment or make objections to them. Copies of the proposed by-

laws are already available. Hand said he hoped people would read them before November so that, if changes were necessary, they could be made quickly so that the process was not held up.

"Normally, this timetable would be impossible to achieve, but there is enormous pressure to establish street trading by-laws and I doubt anyone wants to hold them back," he said.

It was because of this pressure for action that a first phase - dealing mainly with conduct, cleanliness and traffic obstruction - had been identified.

A second phase dealing with the creation of restricted or prohibited trading areas would take between six and 18 months because it involved a major public participation and consultation effort, Hand said.

In terms of the new by-laws,

council law officers will have the framework within which to deal with complaints about hawkers.

"Until the by-laws are promulgated, council is powerless to respond to complaints. We need to establish a major media campaign as to the content, intent and scope of the by-laws so that there are no misunderstandings when it comes to enforcing them," he said.

Phase one outlines strict sanitary and conduct conditions for street trading.

Hawkers will have to run their business areas in clean, sanitary and well-maintained conditions and may be fined for putting litter anywhere but in dustbins.

They will have to make sure no grease or other effluent runs into the street, and prevent smoke, fumes or other substances, odours and noise from causing a nuisance or pollution.

The first part of the by-laws also forbids anyone to trade next to residential buildings without consent from the owner or tenants.

"A lot of people are hoping that these by-laws will get rid of hawkers, but that is not our aim. We will merely attempt to regulate street trading in such a way that it will not be a nuisance to other people."

Hand added that the policy driving the process had the growth and development of informal traders "up the economic ladder" as its main emphasis.

The aim was to allow them to establish themselves more formally in other sectors, thereby leaving space for new hawkers to use the streets as their point of entry into business.

► Food on city streets

Page 8

Hawkers installed for better times

Fold-away solution for trade ARLT 19/10/96
(53A)

ESANN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

Ten Cape fruit and vegetable hawkers have new wooden stalls thanks to an initiative by seven post-graduate students from the University of Cape Town and the Western Cape Informal Business Forum.

Five fruit and vegetable hawkers in Mitchell's Plain and five at Cape Town station are now displaying their products on convenient and practical fold-away stalls that carry advertising for Koo – the official sponsor of the stalls.

The idea for fold-away wooden stalls was the result of a business project which the students had to come up with for completing their

post-graduate diploma in organisation and management.

They found that fruit and vegetable hawkers used milk crates, which was illegal – exposing them to regular raids by the police and a

dairy manufacturer – as well as impractical, cluttering up the pavements.

Student Pumeza Mlam-bisa explained that her group of seven, told to find ways of linking the for-

'Our group had to find ways of linking the formal and informal sectors'

mal and informal business sectors via their project, came up with the idea of the wooden stall on which traders could exhibit and sell their products. The stall also had advertising space which Koo took up

The Western Cape Informal Business Forum, which represents more than 15 000 hawkers in the region, helped to allocate the new stalls.

"We identified the Mitchell's Plain town centre and Cape Town station as venues where the new user-friendly stalls would be welcome and discussed this with hawker organisations in these areas," said co-ordinator Shereen Rowland.

The five distribution points in Mitchell's Plain are in Harmony Square, Allegro Lane, Symphony Lane and Rondo Square. At Cape Town station the new stalls are used by hawkers in the central section, on the Grand Parade, on the top deck station and the lower deck.

The students and the Forum hope that the project will take off and that other sponsors will come forward to take advantage of advertising on the stalls.

Street traders agree on policing policy

ANDREA WEISS

METRO CORRESPONDENT

ARG 25/10/96

Informal traders in Cape Town have agreed to police themselves during the festive season in line with the proposed hawking by-law.

The municipality believes this will curb conflict during the summer.

A draft agreement that will involve delegating portions of the city to trader organisations to police themselves was accepted at a meeting this week.

The municipality will give the authority to specific trading associations that present a map indicating their area of activity to co-ordinate, manage and control it.

In terms of the agreement, a trader organisation in charge of a specific area will be required to control all individual traders on the land irrespective of whether they are members of their organisation.

The trader organisations, in turn, agree that they will refer any conflicts to the Cape Town municipality for resolution. The municipality intends assigning a conflict resolution expert to deal with problems that may arise.

Ben van Rensburg, assistant city administrator, said the draft agreement was endorsed at a meeting of informal traders, but it was being left to the individual trader organisations on the ground to decide who should control specific areas, because this could not be determined by the council.

He was optimistic that this plan would ease the situation during the festive season.

The agreement would operate in the run-up to the introduction of the hawking by-law, which was likely to be approved by the city council at its monthly meeting next week and promulgated by December. Mr Van Rensburg said.

Rewrite fears as exam chaos grows

Now W Cape paper delayed

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT AND STAFF REPORTER

ARG 25/10/96

Pretoria - Gauteng matriculants may have to rewrite their English and geography examinations amid widespread allegations of chaos within the Gauteng Department of Education.

Pupils who arrived at Gauteng schools to write accountancy exams yesterday were turned away after a last-minute decision to postpone the exam, when it was found by the department that the paper had been leaked. Department spokesman James Maseko said a well-organised syndicate was behind the leaks and arrests of department staff were expected soon.

In another tale of disarray, Western Cape pupils yesterday started writing their matric Latin exam an hour late, after invigilators found they had incomplete question papers from the Western Cape Department of Education.

The school principals telephoned the department, which in turn faxed the missing portion. Copies were then run off for each pupil.

In Gauteng, several matriculation papers have already been leaked to pupils

at a cost of around R2 000 each. "The geography and English papers were written at the beginning of the week and afterwards it came to the department's attention that the papers had been leaked in certain areas before the time," Mr Maseko said.

The syndicate had profited from the selling of exam papers for a number of years. Police had visited several houses this week to obtain evidence.

"I think a rewrite is a last resort," said department spokesman Subethri Naidoo. "Other possibilities are being looked into. We could possibly use the June exam marks or last year's mark instead."

The department said it would make every effort to ensure that no other exam would be postponed.

Meanwhile the National Party has accused the department of inefficiency. "The present crisis has had a long run-up," said NP spokesman Donald Lee.

"Shortened time schedules, notifications which were late in arriving, incompetence of authorities, inexperienced officials and inefficient handling of the process have all contributed to the problems experienced in many provinces."

Cooking oil fire races through luxury home

Damage estimated at nearly R1-million was caused when burning cooking oil started a fire which raced through a luxury double-storey house in Bloubergstrand.

The Milnerton fire brigade put out the blaze at the home belonging to J C Kriek in Gull Street yesterday afternoon, but not

before major damage had been caused.

Police said the fire was believed to have started when a domestic worker dropped a hot cooking utensil with burning oil while taking it off the stove. The domestic worker fled to safety after the burning oil set fire to the floor covering. - Staff Reporter

THE STORY

Clipping the hawkers' wings

Council by-law will regulate informal traders' turf

ARG 30/10/96

(53A)

THE IMMINENT PROMULGATION OF A HAWKING BY-LAW FOR THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN WHAT HAS BECOME AN AREA OF INCREASING CONFLICT OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. **ANDREA WEISS** REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS

A long-awaited hawking by-law will have come a tad too late for the festive season, when conflict between street traders and formal business is at its height, but its imminent promulgation is widely welcomed as a major advance towards alleviating one of the city's biggest headaches.

The new by-law is likely to get the final seal of approval from the Cape Town council at its monthly meeting this week, while provincial government has given an undertaking that it will be promulgated by early December. The thrust of the new by-law is not so much to restrict street trading as to "co-ordinate, manage and control" it.

Importantly, it will give the city the authority to enforce restricted areas and to demarcate trading bays. This provision will require negotiation with hawkers already working specific territories, and so full implementation of the by-law is likely to take several months.

The by-law also prohibits trading in public parks (unless specifically allowed by the council), outside state and council buildings, places of worship and national monuments, as well as in areas which obstruct pedestrians, commuters, vehicles and shop windows. It says trading may not take place on land contiguous to residential buildings or where the owner or occupant has objections.

While the by-law's implementation will require negotiation, it has been widely welcomed as a tool to reintroduce order into street trading, an objective for which the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has long been lobbying.

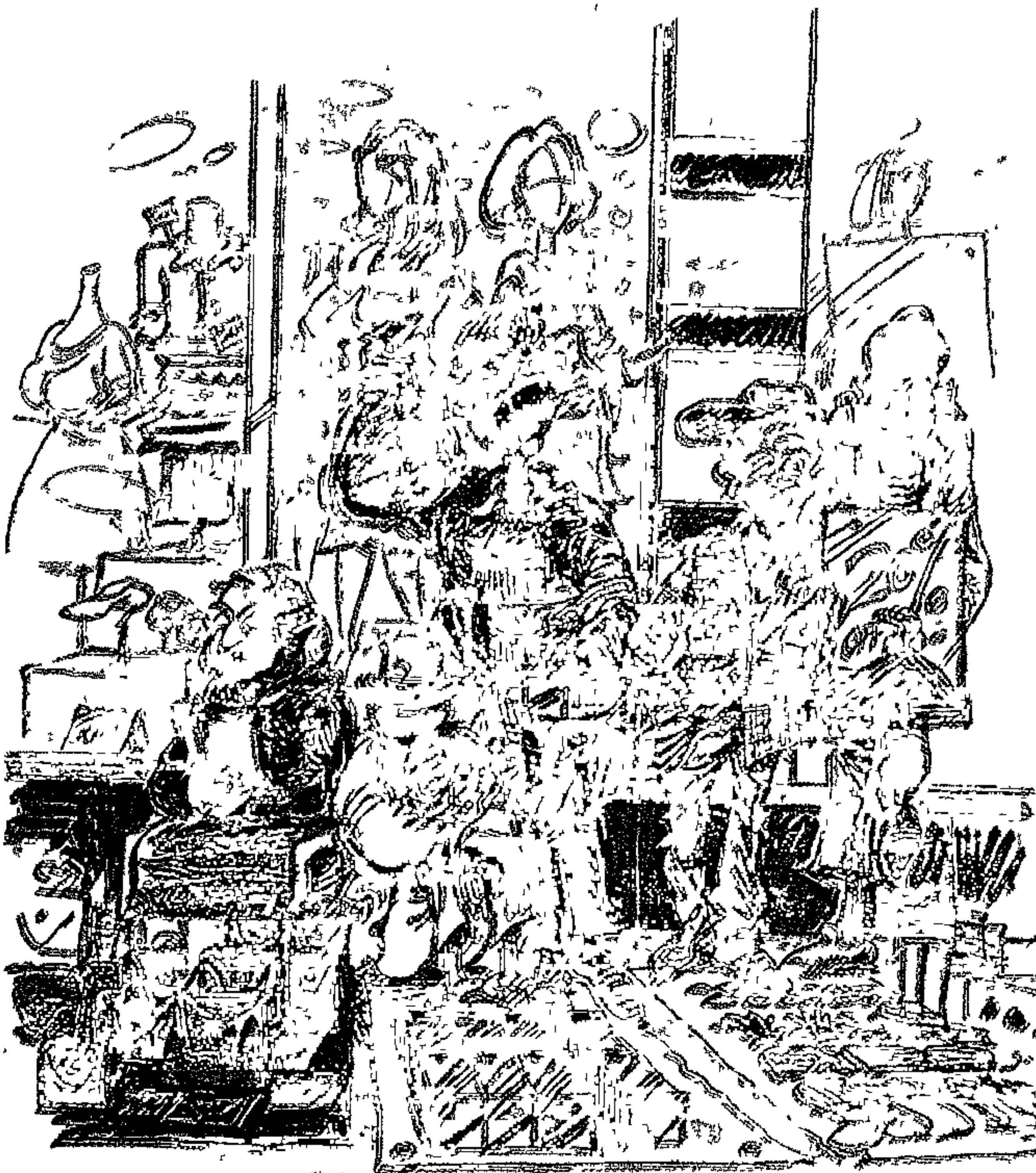
Chamber spokesman Charl Adams comments: "After many years of 'sukkeling' to get this thing through, we are on the verge of a breakthrough with all parties agreeing to the basic tenets."

He emphasises: "The by-law is not averse to informal trading. It promotes informal trading on a controlled basis."

Ever since the promulgation of the Businesses Act in 1991, the city has been powerless to control an explosion in street trading, much to the ire of formal businesses. Formal businesses have argued that they pay high rentals and rates only to see their business undercut on the sidewalk outside their shops, or their display windows obstructed by street traders during the height of the season. The thrust of their argument is that although they contribute significantly to city coffers, they get little in return.

Last Christmas, the council attempted to control the problem by demarcating bays in Adderley Street which put the traders flush against shop windows, leading to further outcry from both sides.

The mushrooming trade has seen increasing conflict between contending groups of traders competing for space



Hawking heaven: the streets of Cape Town are crowded with informal traders, but this will change

Aside from conflict between traders and formal business, the delay in the promulgation of the by-law also saw former African National Congress member and veteran councillor Clive Keegan lock horns with Chris Nissen, provincial economic affairs minister, whose department was accused of dragging its heels over the promulgation of the by-law.

Two reasons are cited for the sudden resolution to what has been a protracted process. Firstly, observers point to the political will now reflected in the newly elected Cape Town municipality which has more direct contacts with the informal trading constituency than before. The second reason cited is an influx of traders from outside of Cape Town, particularly from other African countries.

Assistant city administrator Ben van Rensburg explains that prior to 1991, informal trading was controlled through a system of licensing in terms of the Business Licensing Ordinance which saw the city issue 68 different types of licenses. But that ordinance was invalidated by the Businesses Act 71 of 1991 which lays down

the guidelines to local authorities on what they can and cannot permit.

In terms of the Businesses Act, local authorities do not have the authority to control street trading in the absence of a by-law. Only once such a by-law is in place does the city have the authority to proceed with negotiations around where street trading can take place.

'The by-law is not averse to informal trading. It promotes informal trading on a controlled basis'

In addition, the Businesses Act stipulates that the council is not entitled to impose a blanket ban on street trading, nor are they entitled to issue licences except in situations where there are specific health requirements such as the prepara-

tion of food. This has seen the city's licensing system dwindle from 68 licenses to nine, all of which are related to food, health and entertainment.

Implementing the by-law will be a protracted process. The council already has made progress in getting hawkers to agree to control their activities during the imminent festive season. This agreement requires trading organisations to map out areas which they are prepared to take control of on behalf of the council.

In terms of the agreement, the trading

associations will issue identity cards to all individuals trading in a demarcated area, whether or not that person is a member of their association. The rules which will apply to where people are entitled to trade will be similar to those prescribed in the pending by-law, namely restrictions on public gardens or areas contiguous to buildings used for residential purposes or where owners have objections.

Hawkers will also not be allowed to obstruct pedestrian traffic and sleep overnight. They also will be expected to remove their waste on a daily basis and put it in tips provided by the city council.

About 10 organisations are expected to approach the council with maps this week applying for areas which they are willing to police. In addition, the council has undertaken to appoint a conflict resolution expert to step in where problems arise. The most likely area of conflict is between contending parties claiming control of the same area, but the council's position is that this must be sorted out on the ground before agreements are signed.

Mr Van Rensburg, who has been instrumental in negotiating the terms of the agreement is "very positive" about the prospects of controlled trading.

"Of course, we're not naive to think there won't be conflict. But with the co-operation of all parties and having a conflict resolution official in place, I am confident we will be able to sort out problems."

The agreement will be the first step towards implementing the by-law which will require the council to demarcate areas it believes should be restricted for trade. One such area which already has restricted trading is St George's Mall, and the council is expected to reimpose this restriction as soon as possible.

Elsewhere in the city it is envisaged that the council will look at demarcating bays similar to those provided in the mall.

All this will require greater input on the council's part, and part of the city's internal restructuring process is likely to include the provision of a new informal trading unit which will deal exclusively with the issue of street trading.

This unit's staff complement is likely to be between five and 10 dedicated officials, although this particular proposal still has to be formally presented to the executive committee for endorsement.

Hassan Kahn, Cape Peninsula Informal Traders' Association, who has been at the forefront of a coalition of traders working in structured markets and so-called "free traders" who have endorsed an agreement to control trading over the festive season, is both optimistic and realistic about the prospects of enforcing the new by-law.

"To be open about this. The masses at ground level have not had the opportunity to look at the by-law. They have had to rely on people like us to negotiate for them."

"I sincerely hope and pray that what we have done we have done with the best intentions of everybody."

"There are going to be some who are not happy, mostly because some traders don't want discipline. Informal traders need to understand that the city is for everybody - formal business, traders and commuters."

By-law to control hawking approved

PETER DENNEHY

CT 1/11/96 (163A)

CAPE TOWN City Council yesterday approved a by-law to control street hawking

But negotiations have to take place in each area where hawking is seen as a problem before the new controls can be applied there

Mr Hanief Tisker, who chairs the new council's economic development committee, said it would take at least a year to define the restricted areas

St George's Mall has been covered by an agreement since 1993, and the council resolved yesterday that the mall should immediately be declared a restricted area, under the conditions already negotiated there

Had this not been done the new by-law would have wiped out the existing agreement

Tisker said an interim agreement had been negotiated in other areas before the by-law went through.

The by-law is likely to be promulgated by the end of this month. It gives the council the power to prohibit street trading on defined areas of pavement — after negotiation

Alex chamber of commerce thrives

The main threat to established business was from the mushrooming informal sector

By Anna Cox
Sandton Bureau

Against all odds, determined entrepreneurs in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, have spent the past two decades slowly building their businesses.

During the past five years the Alexandra Chamber of Commerce (Alexcoc) has emerged as a central force representing business at all levels. Led by pharmacist Makhensa Khuvutlu, the chamber has grown and, in the face of changing retailing in the area, established a sound footing for future business. However, the main threat to the established business sector has come from the mushrooming informal sector, says Khuvutlu.

There is a spaza shop on almost every street corner in the township.

"This has resulted in the formal sector remaining static in Alex. It presented us with a great challenge. But we realised that because of unemployment, this was a survival strategy and we had to find a way to co-exist."

"We pulled them in for talks and

tried to work out a solution whereby they would not operate in direct competition in an area where there was a formal business supplying the same goods or services. We explained that in many circumstances, the spazas could be complementary to formal sector and both would benefit," he said.

Khuvutlu said the 24-member chamber realised years ago that in the light of economic transformation it had to accelerate its pace if it did not want to become a spectator in the business game.

About four years ago, the chamber formulated 12 basic principles and has slowly been working through them.

"Our main aim was to unite Alex business so the chamber could serve as a vehicle or facilitator for them. We wanted to access capital for black business and we invited banks which favoured black business to talk to us. This created an environment in which

members could seize opportunities to start or expand their own businesses.

"We also invited the suppliers around us in the traditionally white areas to give us collective chamber discounts. The chamber also proved to be a forum through which members could avail themselves of the opportunity of interacting and going into joint ventures in the development of small, medium and macro enterprises. We have acted as matchmakers for sub-contractors and have linked up with other chambers to exchange ideas," he said.

The chamber was also used as a coalition for collective bargaining. It was involved in a stokvel and other financial schemes to assist members with liquidity, to consult with local authorities, to find harmony between taxi associations, different industries, hawkers and spazas, said Khuvutlu.

The chamber has organised various

We have acted as matchmakers

Star 10/12/96

competitions for its members to improve their businesses. It has run a shop of the month competition to encourage better appearances, staff service, a business person of the year competition and a most promising business of the year competition.

"This has been done to instil a competitive spirit. We want to change the face of retail in Alex," he said.

He said the chamber wanted shops to have good appearances, polite and trained staff, and to provide a good service.

Other areas Alexcoc looked at were privatisation and tendering, franchising and international exchanges linking up with overseas chambers and trade fairs.

A ladies' chamber was started two years ago which runs its own programmes and stokvel. "This was started to empower women in business. It consists mainly of women who run small businesses."

"They work together, source materials and fabrics, and generally strive to improve their business. This has been one of our success stories," he said.

OFFICIAL 'DOWNSIZING'

Fm 20/12/96

The October 1995 household survey, published recently by Central Statistical Service (CSS), has generated fresh debate about the size of the informal sector. The survey shows it's much smaller than was assumed in the early Nineties.

It reveals that 17,1% (1,7m people) of the total number of economically active workers are in the informal sector. This confirms the finding of the 1994 survey — 16,3% (1,6m people). The latter represented a huge downward revision of the previous year's findings — 46,2% (4m) informal sector workers.

CSS has accepted the 1993 figure was wrong. The raw data, it seems, was adjusted to bring it into line with findings of a statistical series, Current Population Survey. This was used to estimate unemploy-



Lawrence Schlemmer

ment but was discontinued in 1990 due to its inaccuracy. CSS simply extrapolated from the 1990 figures.

Surprisingly, though the number of people in the informal sector has been drastically revised, the contribution to gross domestic product remains in the same range — 7,5% compared with 6,7% in 1994 and 6,2% in 1993. But the figures are not directly comparable, since different methodologies were used for drawing the samples.

Researcher Lawrence Schlemmer says the latest figures are not helpful. "The drop in the number of informal workers between 1993-1994 is inexplicable. It leaves great uncertainty about the size of the informal sector and the unemployment rate." CSS's Ros Hirschowitz says it is impossible for management to explain the earlier figures. "We are, however, sure of the current estimates."

□ Mark Orkin recently replaced Treurnicht du Toit as head of the service. ■

INFORMAL SECTOR

1997

Hawking ban considered

METRO WRITER

A HAWKER control by-law passed only last month is to be used for the first time to impose a ban on pavement vendors in a three-block-long part of the central city.

The Cape Town council will decide tomorrow if it wants to ban hawking on pavements on either side of Longmarket Street between Adderley and Corporation streets.

Only three hawkers are operating there now, two of whom have been there for less than two months. The other one, in front of the Wellington Fruit Growers store entrance, has been there for a long time, but the council wants to at least move him to what it considers a more suitable spot.

The council intends to embark this month on a new phase of the central business district pedestrian network system, namely Longmarket Walk.

The three blocks here will not be turned into a pedestrians-only mall, but the council wants to widen the pavements and improve the walk from District Six to the central city.

Experience has shown that hawkers tend to move in whenever pedestrian walkways are widened and improved, so the council is now taking avoiding action.

ET 29/1/99 (153A)

By-laws to help control business on the streets

By KARIN SCHIMKE

Street trading by-laws for Johannesburg are just the first step in managing small business in the city, the city's informal trade liaison manager, Roger Hand, said.

"Local economic development is a new sphere of city management. By-laws are part of the process and we are developing various mechanisms to address problems on the streets," Hand said.

He said the council did not intend to rid the streets of informal traders, but wanted to manage the situation for the convenience of all city dwellers.

The Johannesburg council has identified four areas for pilot projects around Johannesburg to test approaches for effective management of street trading.

In the north it will be at the Hilltop taxi rank, in the west it will be in the Roodepoort central business district, in the east the concept will be tested in the Watt Avenue, Wynberg, area and in the south at the Joubert Park West precinct.

Hawkers will have to regulate own members

Nov 28/2/97 (153A)

Policy to drive new process will be development of traders

By KARIN SCHIMKE

City Editor

Johannesburg's street trading by-laws have finally been promulgated, but it could be months before the disorder on the streets is reined in.

Councillor Pieter de Wet, who heads up the economic development committee, said there was not going to be a sudden "blitz of criminal prosecutions" because traders needed to be familiarised with the legislation which addresses cleanliness, behaviour and obstruction of traffic.

"We're not about to climb in with the big stick," he said, "but it must be remembered that we do have a responsibility not only to the informal sector, but also to other street users and to formal business."

The council estimates the

number of street traders in Johannesburg at between 20 000 and 25 000, with most of those trading in the inner city.

The recently promulgated street trading by-laws outline strict sanitary and conduct conditions. Hawkers will have to run their business in clean and "well-maintained" conditions and may be fined for putting litter anywhere but in dustbins. They will also have to ensure that no effluent runs into the street and prevent smoke, fumes or other substances, odours and noise from causing a nuisance or pollution.

But the real teeth of street trading legislation will only come once a second set of laws have been promulgated and that could be only towards the end of the year. This legislation will deal with the creation of restricted or prohibited trading areas and a set

of street signs regulating those areas.

Because of Johannesburg council's lack of manpower and resources, De Wet said the council was setting its sights on "co-operative management of informal trading". This would mean that trader organisations - elected by traders themselves - would have to regulate members.

While traders were being taught the ins and outs of the legislation, council health officials and traffic officers were going through a similar course.

Informal trade liaison manager Roger Hand said the by-laws gave council officials a framework within which to deal with complaints about hawkers, but the policy driving the process had the growth and development of informal traders "up the economic ladder" as its main emphasis.

Sametan 14/3/97

Marches to protest illegals immigrants

By Themba Sepotokele

THE Micro Business Against Crime and Illegal Foreigners Action Group yesterday called on all South Africans to boycott buying from illegal immigrants and businesses that employ foreigners

At a meeting in Johannesburg, the MBAC & FAC, comprising organisations such as the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business and the Music Associations of South Africa, vowed not to bow until the Government addressed the influx of illegal immigrants into the country.

Chief executive officer of Micro Business Chamber and Achib deputy

Mr Frans Moleko said the Government was too lenient in dealing with the issue and that is why the situation was out of hand

Boycott

The organisations have called on all people to boycott businesses that employ illegal immigrants and to cease trading with illegals

They resolved to stage sit-ins and hold marches across the country on March 26 and 27 to register their disapproval of what they say is Government reluctance to deal with the issue. Moleko said hawkers' organisations were dissatisfied with foreigners trading without permits.

Hairdressers and hawkers to protest

(153A)
Bonile Ngqiyaza

BD 14/3/97

A COMBINED group of hawkers and hairdressers is to launch a two-day national protest towards the end of the month in a bid to spur government to act against foreign street vendors trading illegally on SA streets.

The loose alliance, the Micro Businesses Against Crime and Illegal Foreigners Action Group, which is expected to spearhead the March 26-27 action, met yesterday in Johannesburg.

African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business president Lawrence Mavundla said that demonstrations would include marches and picketing the justice, safety and security and home affairs ministries.

He warned hawkers not to rely on the "corrupt SA Police Service" to do the job for them and the group agreed to approach unions and "SA's working population" to ask them to boycott merchandise sold by non-SA citizens.

New site for William Nicol traders

Star 1/4/97

(153A)

By ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

The informal traders who colour the verges of William Nicol Drive may soon be a thing of the past.

The Eastern Metro Council has approved an amount of R500 000 for the second phase of an alternative site for the traders in William Nicol Drive, near Main Road, Bryanston.

The council has tried unsuccessfully for years to move the traders off the verges, fearing they caused traffic hazards. The traders also had no ablution facilities and many neighbouring residents complained that their walls were being used as urinals.

They also complained about the noise and nuisance from the

informal market, which has grown steadily over the years.

The former Sandton council constructed toilets, and supplied water and a refuse-skip area in the new site in the first phase of the

Market will have 85

stands and basic facilities

relocation of the traders

But there have been delays because of the absence of by-laws and effective mechanisms to control further trading along the verges of William Nicol Drive once the existing traders move to

the new market. New street trading by laws have subsequently been drawn up.

The second phase of the market construction will consist of fencing, surfacing, the construction of an internal road, tree planting, and demarcation of sites and parking. This should be complete by the end of June.

The site will consist of 53 stands of 9sq m each for permanent traders and 32 stands for traders who do not require permanent stands.

Seventy-five parking bays, including two for buses, have been planned. The traders will be charged rental.

The planning has been done with wide consultation with residents, traders and council officials.

Experts called in to stop rot in Randburg's CBD

(153A)

R1,1-million study commissioned in effort to revitalise area, restore confidence and bring back investment

By Anna Cox

The Northern Council has appointed a team of consultants, at a cost of R1,1-million, to undertake a study on how to revitalise the Randburg central business district, which has been falling into decay over recent years.

The council's strategic transformation chief, Slumko Sowazi, said the CBD was in need of drastic attention after the influx of informal traders and taxis, as well as littering and general neglect, which had caused many businesses to leave the area.

"This has resulted in a degeneration which is impacting on business confidence and investment in the area," said Sowazi.

"The appointment of consultants to revitalise and regenerate the CBD in partnership with exist-

ing business in the area will assist with this project

"We view this study as one of great importance because it will do a lot for the area and win busi-

66
Informal sector plays vital role in the economy

ness and investor confidence back," added Sowazi.

He said the council had agreed to spend R3,1-million on setting up kiosks for informal

traders in Diepkloof, Diepsloot and the Randburg CBD

Sowazi said the council recognised the need to throw its support behind the informal sector and make an effort to bring informal traders into the economic fold.

"We need to formalise the informal sector into the mainstream, as it forms a vital part of our economy.

"Micro businesses are an economic reality and are here to stay. This sector, as part of the small business sector, provides jobs for many people across the metro," Sowazi added.

"Within the official CBD of the metro area there are about 10 000 informal traders

"This figure does not include those who trade in taxi ranks and suburban shopping areas," Sowazi added.

Hawking by-laws: no easy sell

(153A) M+G 4-10/4/97

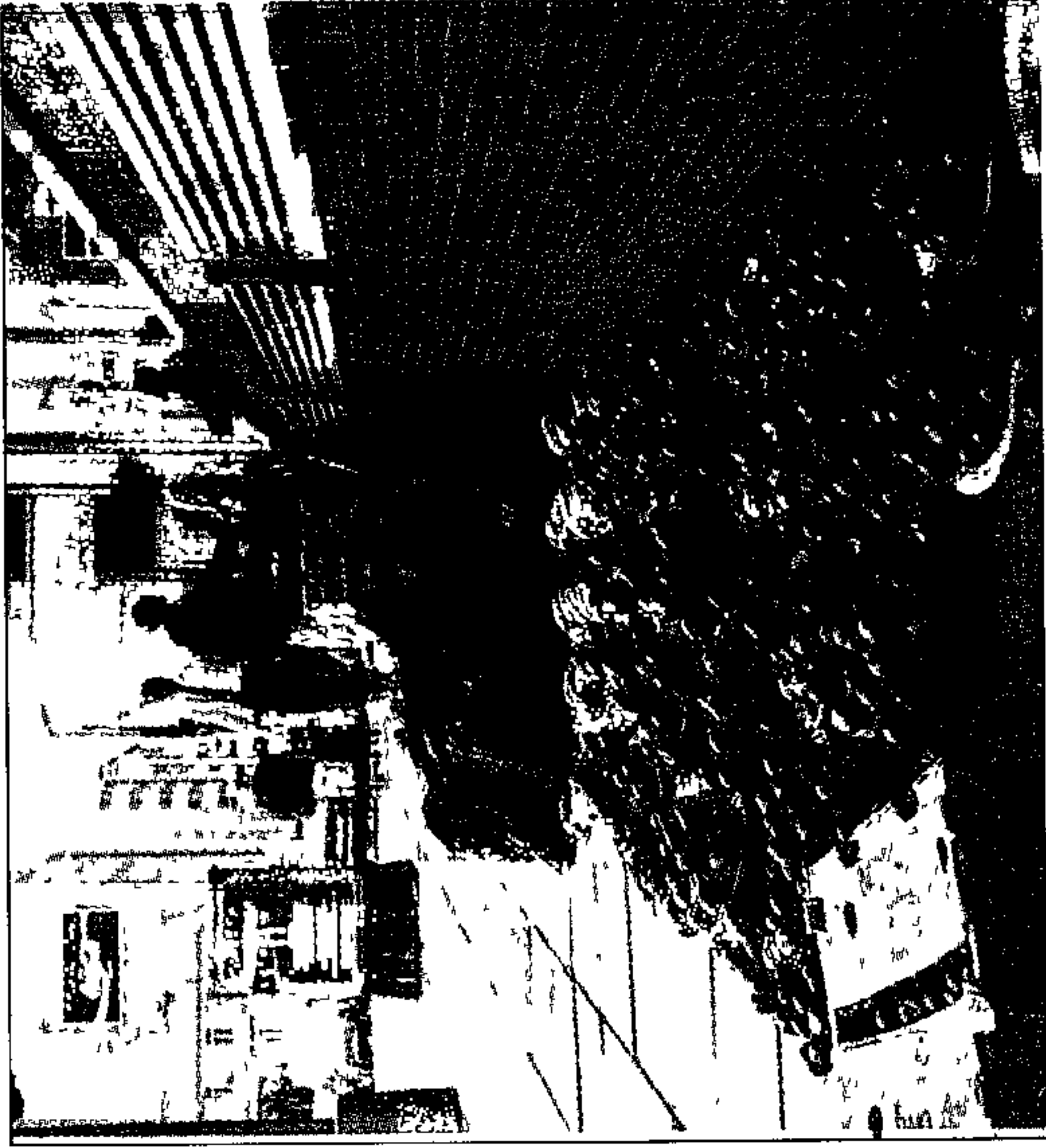
Organising Jo'burg's streets is crucial to new investment, but street traders are taking issue with the new laws, reports **Ferial Haffajee**

THE implementation of state-of-the-art by-laws to streamline hawking on Johannesburg's streets has been indefinitely delayed as the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council hurries to start a hawker education programme, meant to have been completed by the middle of April.

Now organised hawkers say they will not give the by-laws their stamp of approval until the council issues permits only to "bonafide South African unemployed hawkers".

The laws were passed in the first week of this year but the council set itself no official implementation date even though the city's senior business leaders see them as key to getting existing businesses to stay in the city and to drawing in new investment.

"You must remember this is a completely new arena of city management for us," says Roger Hand, the council official in charge of implementing the by-laws. New staff must be trained to educate hawkers, legal officials in seven magisterial districts have yet to establish a system to prosecute offenders, while the council has not yet decided which authority will police the streets where about 20 000 hawkers earn a living.



Street life: New laws restrict hawkers' activities

PHOTO KENNETH MULLER

Council threw open the pavements with its new Businesses Act. Rapid urbanisation plus retrenchments across a range of industries has seen many entrepreneurs take to the streets in the past four years, selling everything from vegetables to cosmetics.

Last year, the provincial and metropolitan governments and several hawkers' organisations met to begin negotiating new laws to govern hawking. They looked at stall sizes, access

for pedestrians and fair deals for shop-owners who often complained that hawkers were obstructing their businesses. Marathon negotiating sessions yielded a set of simple laws that seemed to walk the tight-rope between encouraging innovative small traders while keeping the city orderly. "We even submitted the by-laws to parliament's small business portfolio committee so that other provinces could use them," says the

New rules for street traders

HAWKERS have added life and colour to the concrete jungle but they've also turned the streets into an obstacle course, showing pedestrians and shopkeepers who rules the roost. The by-laws entrench free trade, but they will change hawking in the following ways:

- Stalls must be no bigger than six square metres and pedestrians must have adequate walking space of at least one square metre;
- No goods can be attached to public structures like buildings, fire hydrants, parking metres and lamps;
- Food stalls will operate within strict guidelines;
- Hawkers must not obstruct pedestrian crossings, shop display windows or bus stops;
- No hawking will be allowed near residential blocks if owners object.

Reverend Sibusiso Mendlula of Johannesburg's Micro-business Chamber, which yokes together five different hawker groupings.

But things went wrong as soon as implementation plans began. Hawkers charge that they were left out of these as city bureaucrats hired expensive consultants to do the work. "Hawkers should be trained to train other hawkers," says Livingstone Mantanga, who heads the Fed-

erated Association of Informal Traders and Hawkers (Faith)

Hand says hawkers have been involved with the four pilot training projects he's run for hawkers.

Now the traders have tagged their biggest gripe to the successful implementation of the by-laws. "We want permits and [by-law] training only for unemployed South Africans as a first priority," says Mantanga. "This place is over-flowing with Pakistanis, Chinese, Zimbabweans, Zaireans, you name it. They sell cheaply and they disadvantage our brothers." Mantanga and other hawker organisers say that permit-holders should have to provide South African identity documents, but they also want hawkers who are employed by other business people to be cleared off the streets. They charge that many foreign hawkers work for wholesalers.

Most vegetable hawkers are no longer of the rand-a-pack stock who used to populate the street. Instead, many are dropped off with plates full of vegetables early in the morning by wholesalers and paid at night. Many wholesalers also pay bread-sellers like Alberto Magea to sell their loaves. "I get paid R90 a week," says the young Mozambican.

Hand says the council will educate all hawkers, regardless of where they're from. "Dealing with foreigners is not a local government issue," he says. The council is also not able to stop employed hawkers from peddling their wares because the Businesses Act does not define who is and who is not a street trader.

William Nicol Drive traders refuse to move

BY ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

The traders along William Nicol Drive are threatening strong action against Eastern council authorities if they try to move them on to a designated trading area in Bryanston.

The council was offering 85 stands of 9sq m - a proposition that was ridiculous, said Frank Squire, a trader who has been selling steel furniture there for five years.

"There are over 250 traders here on weekends - where are we all going to fit? The size of 9sq m is ridiculous.

"My present site here on the road is about 110sq m. I wouldn't even be able to fit a table and chairs on a 9sq m stand. We have

not been consulted about the move and will definitely not be moving.

"The council will need the army and police to get us out of here. We have been here for many years, we don't disturb anyone and we do good business here

Stands are rejected as too small

"We are a big tourist attraction and attract many people to the area."

He said that since he started trading there five years ago, there had not been a single traffic accident because of people stopping to buy.

Wendy Filmalter, who sells

paintings, agrees "We get a lot of impulsive buying here. Cars go by and see something they want and stop

"If we were in a designated area, it would be like a flea market and cars would not stop. The sites they are proposing are much too small. My site here is huge," she said, showing off a large array of paintings.

Marilyn Shiers said her family was the first to start trading in the area seven years ago, selling bil-tong.

"We are happy here and will not move. We are here to stay. Neighbouring residents don't object to us being here. In fact they like us here because we give them security. We have three toilets in the vicinity and keep the place clean.

"In fact we bring lawnmowers and cut the grass ourselves," she said.

The council wants to move the traders, saying they are causing traffic hazards and creating a noise and nuisance to neighbouring residents.

The councillor for the area, Gail Daus, said consultation with traders was started by the former Sandton town council.

"However, with the transition, there have been many delays and it is possible that the traders have changed in the interim.

"We believe that consultation is the only answer to avoid confrontation."

She said a workshop on local economic development would be held next week and the matter would be raised.

(153A) Star 8/4/97



ANDREW INGRAM

harris' Association with station traders' representative Rasheda Petersen

It's the end of the line for station businesses *Traders vow to fight gate closure*

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

Small businesses in and around the third-class concourse at Cape Town station say the impending closure of gates serving some platforms will cost them thousands of customers.

They say they stand to lose business generated by about 15 000 commuters who pass by their stalls every day, and have teamed up to fight the closure.

They include shopkeepers in the concourse, which was improved at a cost of R4-million a few years ago, and about 270 small traders on the station deck

Taxi operators on the station deck may also be affected, because passengers will be diverted along a route which will make it more convenient to catch buses than taxis.

The Parade Concourse Merchants Association and the Cape Town Station Informal Traders Association have teamed up to fight the proposed closure of the barrier gates. Their campaign is called Save Our Businesses, or SOB for short.

Hassan Khan, who owns a small electronic shop in the concourse, has written a letter accusing Metro Rail of riding "roughshod" over people without consulting them.

He said traders had already lost business through the temporary closure of the barrier gates last year.

Vegetable hawker Lugmaan Sauls said that when the gates were last closed he had had to dispose of much of his stock as he had been unable to sell it.

He said he might have to move if the barrier closure went through.

Metro Rail regional manager André Harrison, who will discuss the issue with traders on Monday, said the gates in question were superfluous to Metro Rail's requirements.

Passengers getting off trains at platforms 18 and 19 could still get to the concourse, but others using platforms 20 to 24 would be diverted to another concourse closer to the Good Hope Centre.

Trains from Monte Vista and some from Khayelitsha are affected.

Mr Harrison said Metro Rail had been criticised for inefficiency. For this reason, it made sense to close the gates, because they were a "luxury we can no longer afford".

He said it might be possible to come up with a solution which would satisfy all parties involved.

Council is out to 'formalise' traders

Consultants have been appointed to steer the 14 projects at a cost of R1,9-million

Star 10/4/97 (153A)

By ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

Informal trading areas that have become an eyesore and health hazard in the Eastern Metropolitan Sub-Structure will be "formalised" by June, say councillors.

The council has already appointed a team of consultants at a cost of R1,9-million to help develop 14 informal trading projects in the area.

The local economic development department was forced to call in consultants to assist with the projects because of a shortage of capacity, said department head Mxolisi Lindie.

In a report to the council, Lindie said the consultants had been instructed to involve the public in the plans, to support and monitor the development areas and to ensure that all as-

pects of the projects ran smoothly, including post-construction management.

The 10 projects which will be started or completed by June 1997 are:

- Bruma. Ampros will provide ongoing management of informal traders and complete capital work in a joint venture with the council.

- Norwood. 10 traders hawking on a privately-owned sidewalk outside a supermarket in Grant Avenue will be moved to formal structures.

- Yeoville. hawking in Rocky and Raleigh streets has increased dramatically. The intention is to develop Market Square in conjunction with the private sector and to relocate traders there, relieving congestion on sidewalks. In the interim, a number of temporary trading structures will be set up on the

- Rosebank. The number of informal traders and congestion on sidewalks has increased, especially around the Rosebank Mall. A property developer has proposed buying Cradock Avenue from the council and building retail facilities for both informal and formal traders. As an interim solution, high-quality stalls will be erected and a management scheme begun. The council is also investigating the possibility of a partnership with property owners to assume the operating costs of managing the street traders.

- Hillbrow. At least 1 200 traders have set up shop. A two-pronged approach has been suggested - firstly, deal with the problems created by the traders' activities by June and, secondly, institute a five-year programme of individual projects.

- Highlands North near Balfour Park Shopping Centre. 20 permanent traders operate here and the number rises to 130 over weekends. The council is investigating the possibility of linking the trading area to a proposed taxi rank in the parking lot to solve the abutment and storage problems.

- Bryanston Drive. An alternative site has been found for the traders and work on fencing and paving will start soon.

- Watt Avenue, Alexandra. Taxis, pedestrians and traders compete with each other for space. The council is investigating buying a Putco-owned property nearby for development.

- The construction programme will have to take into account the fact that the traders need to make a living in the interim.

- Number 1 Square, Alexandra. Traders sell meat in unhygienic

conditions. There is a possibility of a joint venture between the council and the Meat Board to improve the traders' conditions. ■ The Orchards Employment Point is a traditional pick-up point for job seekers. A formalised management system, including the Norwood Orchards Employment Group and members of business and church communities, is being investigated. The shelter built by the former Johannesburg council has been vandalised and must be rebuilt.

Projects starting next year include the construction of new facilities for traders at Ellis Park; the design and construction of a formalised area for traders along William Nicol Drive; the upgrade of the Zoo Lake informal arts market; and the reorganisation of traders on Selbourne and Fifteenth Avenue in Alexandra.

Council to budget R1,5-m for traders

'Informal sector lacks facilities'

CHARLENE CLAYTON
PROPERTY EDITOR

The Cape Town City Council has responded to pressure from hawkers by setting up a special unit and putting money aside to support the mushrooming informal sector in the city.

Assistant city administrator Ben van Rensburg told Saturday Argus that the council would allocate R1,5 million in the 1997-98 budget to tackle the lack of infrastructure for street traders.

He was responding to criticism from Reshaad Hameed, chairman of the Western Cape Fruit and Vegetable Hawkers' Association, who said the city was lagging behind other large towns in supporting the informal sector in spite of efforts on the part of his association to regulate trading.

The association was formed three years ago and represents about 1 500 hawkers.

Mr Hameed estimated that there were up to 220 000 informal traders in the Western Cape and that their contribution to the province's economy was R38 billion a year.

If each trader employed a minimum of two people and if each supported a family of five, there were "3,3 million people eating off the streets", he said.

'If street traders are prevented from trading, they will get into crime and drugs'

An investment in the informal sector by the city would pay dividends at the end of the day, Mr Hameed said.

"Never has there been any provision for that sector of the market," he said.

Mr Van Rensburg said the council was also planning to set up a special six-person informal trading unit.

The posts, which include a manager of informal trading and six area managers, would be advertised in the next two weeks, he said.

The area managers would liaise with the informal traders in the different areas which include the Cape Town central business district, Gatesville/Athlone, Mitchells Plain, Ikapa (Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga), Claremont and the Epping/Maitland area.

The council was also considering print-

ing pamphlets and educational material aimed at hawkers.

Mr Van Rensburg said the council had agreed not to implement last year's by-law regulating street trading until specific areas had been allocated to trading.

Until then action would only be taken against traders where their activities obstructed a fire hydrant, access to a building, pedestrians on the sidewalks or vehicles on the road.

He expected the areas to be finalised by the end of the year.

"The fact that we have a by-law today is because of the co-operation which now exists between the formal sector, the informal sector and the city council," said Mr Van Rensburg.

"We want proper control," Mr Hameed said.

"We want regulation, but we say don't just remove the informal sector, without making proper provision for us."

"Our major concern is that as residents of the country, we would like to have the opportunity of living off the streets if that is required," he said.

"If I get people off the streets, where do I put them?"

"They will simply get into drugs and crime," he said.

ARG 19/4/97 (153A)

Power struggle splits Chamber

By Shadrack Mashalaba

EXECUTIVE members of the Micro Business Chamber (MBC) – an organisation formed in 1995 to participate in the formulation and implementation of Government policies affecting the informal sector – are embroiled in a "power struggle" that has split the organisation into two factions.

At the centre of the split is more than R2,43 million which is said to have been donated to the organisation by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), as well as funds donated by local companies including the Gauteng government.

The funds, which up to now have allegedly not been accounted for, were supposed to have been used to launch the MBC and to assist the organisation in its capacity-building and pilot programme to help the informal sector.

Sowetan Business is in possession of an MBC development report dated between October 1995 and February 1997, which alleges that Sida's R598 000, which was projected for

Allegations that millions of rands have not been accounted for

MBC's capacity building, and R1,4 million for its micro lending pilot programmes, have allegedly not been properly accounted for by the organisation's first president, Lawrence Mavundla.

Other funds that were projected for MBC's launch – R950 000 from the Gauteng government and about R43 000 from local companies – were received by Mavundla and subsequently deposited at "a certain" bank account which Mavundla allegedly opened without an MBC mandate.

Made a victim

These allegations have been confirmed by MBC vice president Livingstone Mantanga, who said his "MBC faction" was led by a B Dlamini.

Mavundla, however, refused to comment on the allegations, saying "I have nothing to say because it is

clear that I am going to be made a victim."

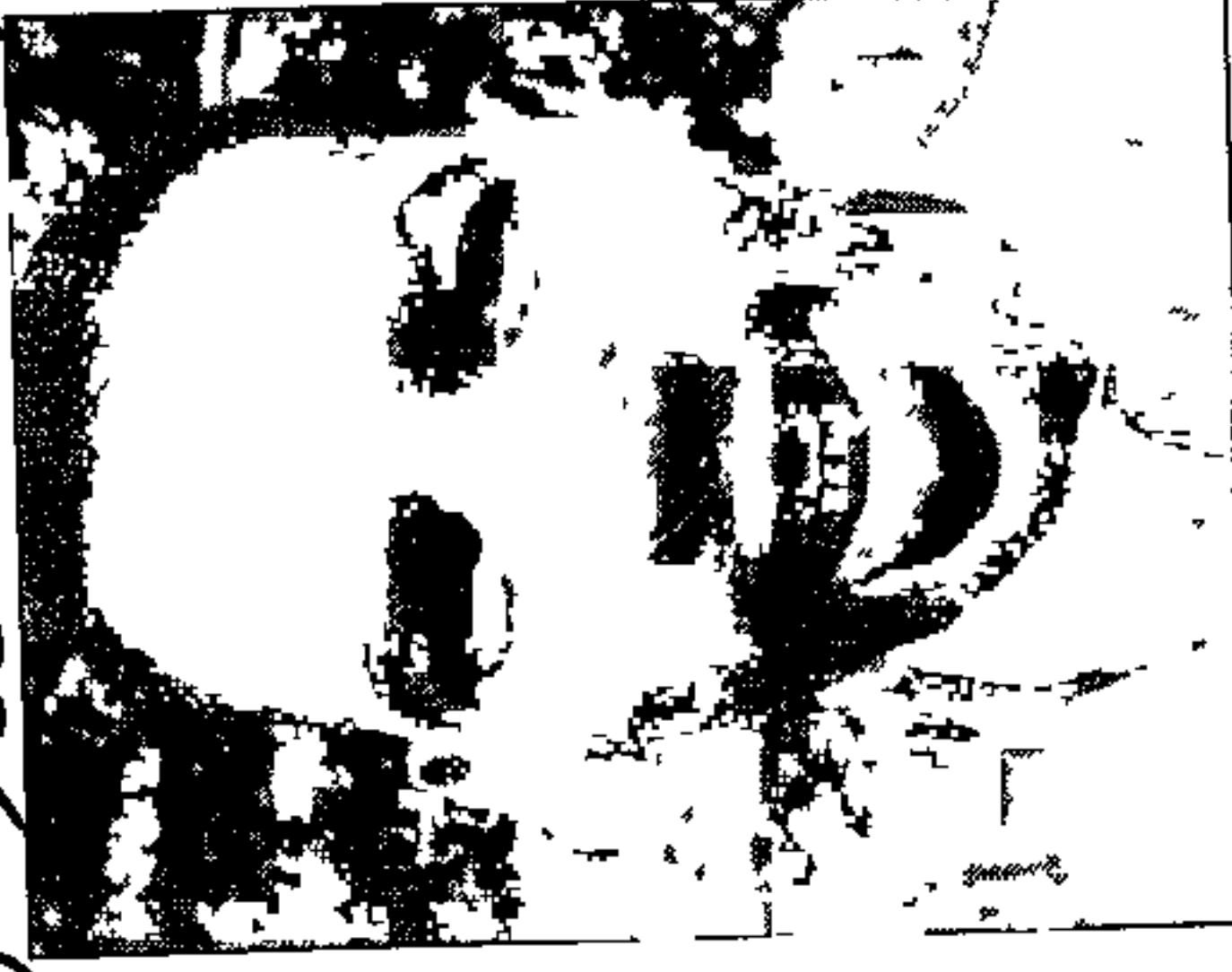
He denied knowing Mantanga, adding also that there was nobody in MBC who knew who he (Mantanga) was.

But according to Mantanga – who became the first vice president of MBC's interim national leadership when it was launched last year – trouble started after the launch of MBC at its first meeting.

"When we asked our inaugural president, Lawrence Mavundla, to submit a detailed financial statement of the organisation's activities, he promised to present a detailed report three days after the meeting.

"Since then we have not seen him. Instead, we started seeing him distributing pamphlets to hawkers in the streets, informing them about the formation of his new 'MBC'." Mantanga claimed.

Sowetan 5/5/97



MBC president Lawrence Mavundla, who is said to be involved in a "power struggle" with other MBC members over Sida funds that are allegedly "unaccounted" for.

In the pamphlets Mavundla allegedly said he had instructed his organisation's lawyers to issue sum-

mons against the use of his organisation's (MBC) name by dissidents from what he terms "another MBC".

Apparently the dissidents are Mantanga and members of another MBC faction.

Sowetan Business is also in possession of this pamphlet.

According to the development report, Sida funds were apparently released after a meeting motivated reasons for their release. The meeting was attended by the development agency Economic Empowerment representatives and all the presidents of organisations that are members of the MBC.

Sida, according to the report, was excited about the formation of the MBC and agreed to transfer funds to South Africa for the benefit of the informal sector and all MBC members.

When the funds arrived last November, Mantanga alleged, Mavundla alone signed for them and received them into African Council for Hawkers and Informal Businesses coffers, sidelining MBC participation.

Swedes clear up misunderstanding

Sowetan 7/5/97
(22) (153A)
THE Swedish International Development Agency stepped in yesterday to resolve the misunderstanding that they have granted R2 million to the Micro Business Chamber

Sida, economic counsellor Carlsson Bengt said although his development agency had granted the African Council of Hawkers Informal Business "a certain amount of money", he was not aware of a relationship between Sida and the MBC

"It might have happened that members of the MBC, who also share a membership of Achib, have misunderstood the funds we have granted to Achib as those of MBC," said Bengt "We did not give any funding to the MBC"

Sida's response follows allegations by MBC vice pres-

ident Livingstone Mantanga that about R2 million, earmarked for MBC, had not been accounted for by the MBC president Lawrence Mavundla

Mavundla has denied the allegations that his organisation received funds from Sida

However, he admitted that the MBC had in fact received R43 000 from companies such as Unilever, Pick 'n Pay, Absa and the Anglo American Chairman's Fund

The allegations are also contained in a report handed to *Sowetan* by Mantanga

"We have agreements with Achib and not with the MBC," said Bengt The MBC was launched last year to lobby the Government on policies affecting the informal sector

Giving city's hawkers a hand

Informal traders are not a source of urban decay, says head of urban planning

By ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

Informal traders are vital members of the emerging business community and not a source of urban decay, says Mxolisi Lindie, head of urban planning at Johannesburg's Eastern council.

He says the council has put its money where its mouth is, funding an Informal Trading Institution with R500 000.

The institution, run by a consultant, will establish a database of informal traders, and educate traders about council by-laws.

The council will eventually hand the institution over to the traders to run, says Lindie.

In addition, a business service centre will open in Hill-

brow by the end of next month. The centre will supply skills training, offer finance referrals and promote business links between the formal and informal sectors, the council and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Similar centres will be established in new housing developments in Lombardy East and, later, in Alexandra, says Lindie.

Sites for markets will also be considered in areas under pressure from hawkers, such as Yeoville, Rosebank, Alexandra, Bryanston, Orchards and Zoo Lake. Consultants have been appointed to oversee projects in the areas.

After Gauteng promulgated new trading laws controlling hawkers in January, the coun-

cil launched a massive education and publicity campaign targeting the informal traders.

The campaign was extended to include formal traders who were affected by informal trading next to their premises.

Lindie says the new laws will not be enforced until the education campaign is over and magistrates have established a common set of fines for the councils. He says between 4 000 and 6 000 informal traders operate in the Eastern council area alone.

"Any negative perceptions about crime decline in the urban space grime and flight of business from the CBD is indirectly associated with sprawling street trading or hawking. But the Eastern council does not see these traders as a

source of urban decay but a vital component of emerging business that must be integrated into the mainstream economy," he says.

"The removal of the perception of urban decline, through the maintenance of a clean and tidy environment, is a means towards an end - the end being future business growth in the medium to long term. In the short term we will have implementation of the by-laws," he says.

The 1991 Business Act, which effectively removed business regulations in all but the food industry, stimulated enormous growth in the informal trading arena, he says. That growth has resulted in congestion and a "negative environment".

Star 21/5/97

(153A)

Attempt to control traders flounders

(153A)
By JACQUI REEVES

Star 24/5/97
An attempt by the Greater Johannesburg council to control street trading in the inner city has failed after a rudderless bureaucracy allowed the process to stagnate.

A crisis committee, being led by Linday Bremner, chairman of the planning, urbanisation and environmental management committee, has been formed to tackle the issue.

Confusion over street trading by laws and the policing of stalls has paralysed well-intentioned efforts to regulate and educate traders, frustrating city officials, businesses and shoppers. By-laws to control traders were passed by the council on January 15 this year.

Despite opposition from senior city business leaders, no official implementation date was set for the laws - only an agreement to place a three-month moratorium on all prosecutions of illegal traders until an education programme had been completed.

But councillors are having to work without any political direction, no instruction and very little capacity to deliver.

Neil Fraser, of the privately funded Central Johannesburg Partnership, said the CJP was disappointed by the delays. "We have to clean up the visual image of the city before it will ever start to improve."

"The idea is not to take the traders off the streets, but to regulate and manage a system that will suit everyone's needs."

The CJP has had some successes with street traders in their business improvement district area. Hawkers were furnished with solid metal stands on which they display their goods, keeping the products off the pavement and away from passing feet.

Titus Malaza, executive officer of the Greater Johannesburg traffic management service, said a specialised team of 12 or 15 traffic officials was being considered to police hawkers in the inner city, where an estimated 20 000 traders earn their living.

Bremner said the crisis committee was planning a "concerted and very serious attempt" to solve the problem.

◆ Traders

(153A)
Star 24/5/97
Many clothing stores said they too have felt the pinch because cheaper goods are being sold on the streets, but admit that the traders do attract consumers, who occasionally shop in their stores.

"You can hardly get in through the door at times. Especially when it rains and they come for cover under the shop's awnings, the space they leave for people to walk is terribly narrow. We really need someone to come in here and control it," a manager of a major chain store said.

Hawkers, taxi drivers and public blamed for filthy CBD

(153H) Star 3/6/97

Education programmes have failed and people use the streets as toilets

By **MELANIE-ANN FERIS**
Environment Reporter

Inner-city residents are creating more dirt than the Johannesburg municipality can cope with

Sixty tons of litter is removed from the CBD each day, said Tony Michler, executive officer of the Greater Johannesburg Southern Council's cleansing department

He has laid the blame for the mess squarely on the shoulders of the hundreds of hawkers, taxi operators and commuters, as well as vagrants and the thousands of pedestrians who

are converging on the CBD each day

"People say the city is dirty and point a finger at the municipality," Michler said

"But our cleaning teams sweep the CBD seven days a week from 7am until after nine at night, up to four times a day

"Littering is so bad that if a sweeper looks over her shoulder at a street she has just swept, it seems as if she has never been there," he said.

The Noord Street taxi rank next to the Jack Mincer Park has been singled out as one of the dirtiest areas in the CBD

Hundreds of commuters

and hawkers pass through the area each day. They leave trails of rubbish in their wake.

"People use the streets as a toilet, urinating and defecating on the sidewalks, littering and dumping all kinds of things in the streets

"They even vomit into the rubbish bins," said Henry Andrews, cleansing supervisor for the Southern Council's solid waste department

He said education projects aimed specifically at hawkers have failed dismally.

One such project in November last year saw the municipality making available rub-

bish bins free of charge to the hawkers.

No one fetched the bins and three days later they were delivered to the hawkers.

Today none of the bins can be found on the streets.

Hawkers approached by The Star said they had neither the time nor the inclination to leave their stalls to attend talks on littering

They believed it was the municipality's responsibility to keep the streets clean.

"We will never be 100% litter-free, unless there is a cultural change within the entire population," Michler said



Mounds of refuse . tons of litter are piling up in the backyards of the



Losing out ... Urmila Kashav feels her business is no longer profitable because street hawkers are selling at cheaper prices.

Street trading the bane of declining Indian businesses

Star 19/6/97 (153A)

Hawkers do not pay rent and they are able to sell their goods at 'ridiculous' prices

By BONGIWE MLANGENI

Street hawkers are becoming a nightmare for the Indian traders in Diagonal Street who claim business is no longer booming as the number of informal traders grows.

"The Indian traders face fierce competition from hawkers who manage to sell their items much cheaper and do not pay rent for their space.

"Too many people are doing business on the streets, and they are selling the same thing at ridiculous prices," said Urmila Kashav who is continuing her family's business at the Gardees Arcade, which started in the 1920s

Then known as Banana Lane, the arcade was a much frequented vegetable and fruit market, and it gave this part of the city a unique oriental feel

Kashav said traders were facing a losing battle as they could not afford to compete with hawkers and still pay the high monthly rentals

"The money we are making today is nothing compared to what our parents did. But what can we do, we are

holding on because we grew up in this business"

To keep up with trading trends, Kashav has added groceries in a shop that used to sell only fresh fruits and vegetables

Street trading grew in the 1980s because many people lost their jobs while the country was going through a recession

According to Ramdas Dayaljee, the hawkers are destroying a market which has been his life. His father started trading in 1927 in the old Victorian building which was demolished in 1987 in an attempt to upgrade the area

He said the renovations around the market had put customers off and had failed to attract the upmarket crowd originally envisaged.

Before the late 1980s the market was in a profitable spot because township residents passed by it on their way to the taxi and bus rank on West Street behind the Johannesburg Stock Exchange

"Now the flow is towards Bree Street and there are many people they (former customers) meet who are selling the same things as us"

66
Our parents made more than we do
99

Survey highlights public support for hawkers on streets

(153A) 60 20/6/97
Business Day Reporter

ALTHOUGH only five out of 10 urban South Africans buy goods from street hawkers, eight in 10 feel there is a place for them on the streets of the towns and cities.

This finding comes from a Business Day survey on attitudes to hawkers, conducted by Market Research Africa as part of its monthly Multibus survey.

The area-stratified probability sample of 2 507 people represented views of about 92% of the urban adult population, or 13.7-million people.

"There was absolutely no support for a suggestion that hawkers be removed from the streets, or coralled into specific market areas," said MRA MD Hanna Fourie. "This is significant, considering that 46% of the respondents never or seldom buy from street traders.

"Local governments should heed the public's opinion. Much as they might wish to resolve the many civic issues resulting from hawker activity, it is clear that confining street sellers to special trading areas, as proposed by various CBD authorities, would put them out of business."

However, although many respondents expressed support for hawkers, they also felt there should be controls. Eight in 10 people were against hawkers being allowed to set up shop where they pleased.

A third (36%) favoured restriction to designated parts of a pavement, 33% favoured off-street spaces and a further 15% believed that though hawkers should be able to set up anywhere in a street, they should keep at least 50m from a "normal" shop selling the same goods.

Interestingly, whites (both buyers and nonbuyers) were far less concerned than respondents of other races about the effect of hawkers on formal trading. Only one in 14 whites thought hawkers should not be allowed to set up within 50m of a conventional shop selling the same goods, compared with one in five blacks, one in six coloureds and one in 10 Indians.

Nationwide, 54% of people buy from informal traders at least once a month, with the biggest group buying at least once or twice a week. Buyers are predominantly in the low income group — the R500 to R1 999 a month bracket — although there is also a significant percentage of middle class buyers. Nearly half (47%) of people with a monthly household income of up to R5 999 regularly buy from hawkers.

Only 24% of whites use street traders more than once a month, com-

Attitudes towards hawkers

	Whites	Blacks	Coloureds	Indians
Number of informants	2507	1162	816	367
Never or buy less often than once a month	10	54	54	54
Buy once a month or more often	48	71	45	76
Prices cheaper than other outlets	28	30	60	28
Would buy soft drinks	28	30	60	28
Would buy snacks	28	30	60	28
Would buy hot food (boerewors rolls/hot dogs)	8	11	7	7
Would buy cold food	3	4	3	3
Would buy any kind of food	7	9	8	10
Would not buy food at all	20	2	2	2
Hawkers should be allowed to sell wherever they like	16	18	14	15
Designated parts of the street	38	40	32	37
Anywhere in the street, but 50m from similar shop	15	18	18	22
Not on road or pavement, only where there is an off street area	33	25	37	31
Not on street at all, have their own market space	0	0	0	0

Graphic: SARAH EVANS. SOURCE: MARKET RESEARCH AFRICA

pared with 66% of blacks, 63% of coloureds and 41% of Indians. Only 3% of white buyers said they would not buy food from a hawker, compared with 41% of whites overall.

Gauteng, despite its size, has the second smallest buyer population: 82% of whites and 39% of blacks seldom or never buy from street traders. Nearly eight in 10 of those who do buy feel prices are lower than those at formal outlets. Buyers favoured pavement operations more than the general public.

Unlike people in the rest of the country, 37% of Gauteng respondents were against pavement trading, opting instead for off-street areas.

"Considering there are an estimated 25 000 street traders in greater Johannesburg alone, it is not surprising that Gauteng residents attach greater importance to uncongested pavements than to any convenience or savings they may make in buying from hawkers," said Fourie.

Price may be a main reason people use hawkers. In a region to region comparison, the Western Cape had the most buyers (63%), of whom three-quarters believed hawkers' prices were lower than those of other outlets.

On the other hand, most respondents in the North West province and Northern Cape thought hawkers' goods were not cheaper, and seldom or never bought from them.

Fruit and vegetables are the nationwide top seller, purchased by 87% of buyers. However, we don't know if this is an actual preference or whether it is because these items are what most hawkers stock," said Fourie.

The survey showed some other interesting buying habits. Only one in 20 people in KwaZulu-Natal buys a boerewors roll or hot dog from a street trader, compared with one in four in the Western Cape. Sandwiches or filled rolls are not popular anywhere.

Fourie said hawking was inevitable when people were unable to gain access to the formal job market.

Nyanga traders picket outside Southern Life headquarters

(163A)
GRAHAM HARRIS

PROPERTY REPORTER

21/6/97

A small group of informal traders from the Nyanga Junction shopping centre picketed outside Southern Life's Rondebosch headquarters after a dispute over trading conditions.

Vincent Baatjies, chairperson of the Nyanga Junction Informal Traders Association, said the dispute revolved around the administration of the trading lease and the lack of adequate security at the centre.

Mr Baatjies said the association wanted to control the lease because the traders were capable of handling their market.

Southern Life took over the informal trading lease late last year after it had been held by the United Informal Sector Coalition since the opening of the R30-million shopping centre in 1991.

Maxi Mahloane, manager of the centre, said some of the informal traders at the centre had set up stalls outside the demarcated areas and the city council had complained about health and fire hazards.

Ms Mahloane said the traders in question had been given letters earlier this month spelling out the problems and that the shopping centre authorities would be happy to accommodate them in alternative sites. She said there was no question of traders being evicted.

John Eager, divisional head of Southern Life Properties, said the traders had handed over a memorandum and that Southern Life had since responded to all points raised in the document.

Mr Eager said he could not provide further details because the matter was still receiving attention.

Informal sector loses stature

ST(BT)6/7/97

(153A)

SMALL BUSINESS

By CAROL PATON

SURPRISING figures compiled by the Department of Trade and Industry show that the informal sector is far smaller than estimates projected.

In a baseline study of 1995 by the department's Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency, the number of people involved in "survivalist enterprises" were found to be as few as 194 950.

These enterprises include hawkers, vendors and subsistence farmers who generate income below the poverty line.

A further 259 250 people were the sole members of viable micro-enterprises such as spaza shops, the taxi business and household industries. An additional 447 400 people worked in micro-enterprises with fewer than five employees.

Ntsika defines micro-enterprises as enterprises with a turnover of less than the value added tax registration limit of R150 000, and which employ no more than five people.

The surprise finding that fewer than half a million people work in one-man enterprises and that only about 900 000 are employed in unregistered enterprises in the popularly dubbed "informal sector" contradicts earlier estimates compiled by the Central Statistical Service, which put informal sector employment at 1,7-million.

Christo Abrahams, manager of policy and research at Ntsika,

said CSS data had been "cleaned" in order to arrive at the estimates, for instance, by excluding 700 000 domestic workers from the total.

Ntsika has published the figures in a booklet, *The state of small business in South Africa Annual Review 1997*.

The publication reveals, however, that the small business sector is growing.

Between 1995 and last year the number of closed corpora-

tions increased by 64 000 and the number of private companies grew by 16 000.

During 1995 small businesses — employing fewer than 50 people — contributed 29,5% to total private sector employment and 20,8% to the gross domestic product, medium enterprises — employing fewer than 100 — contributed 15,3% to employment and 11,9% to GDP, and large enterprises contributed 55,2% to private sector employ-

ment and 67,3% to GDP.

However, blacks remained on the periphery of the small business sector with less than 2% of blacks estimated to be entrepreneurs against more than 7% of whites.

While blacks dominated the survivalist class of enterprises, made up of low value added activities with very low returns, black participation decreased markedly in bigger enterprises.

For instance, only 18% of enterprises employing fewer than 10 people were black owned and only 40% of enterprises that employed fewer than five.

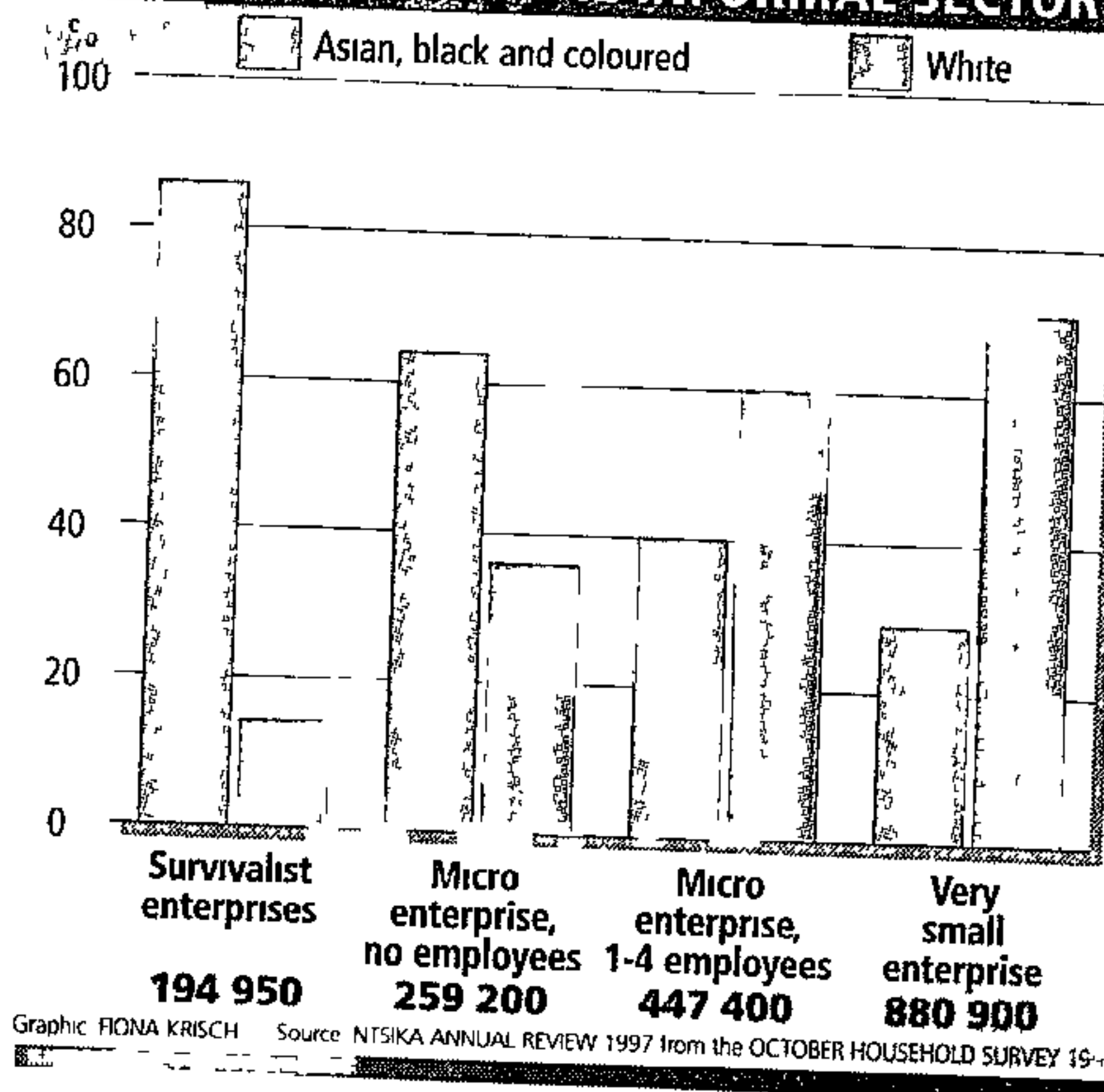
The findings have important implications for government policy which views small, medium and micro enterprises as an important vehicle for job creation and equitable growth.

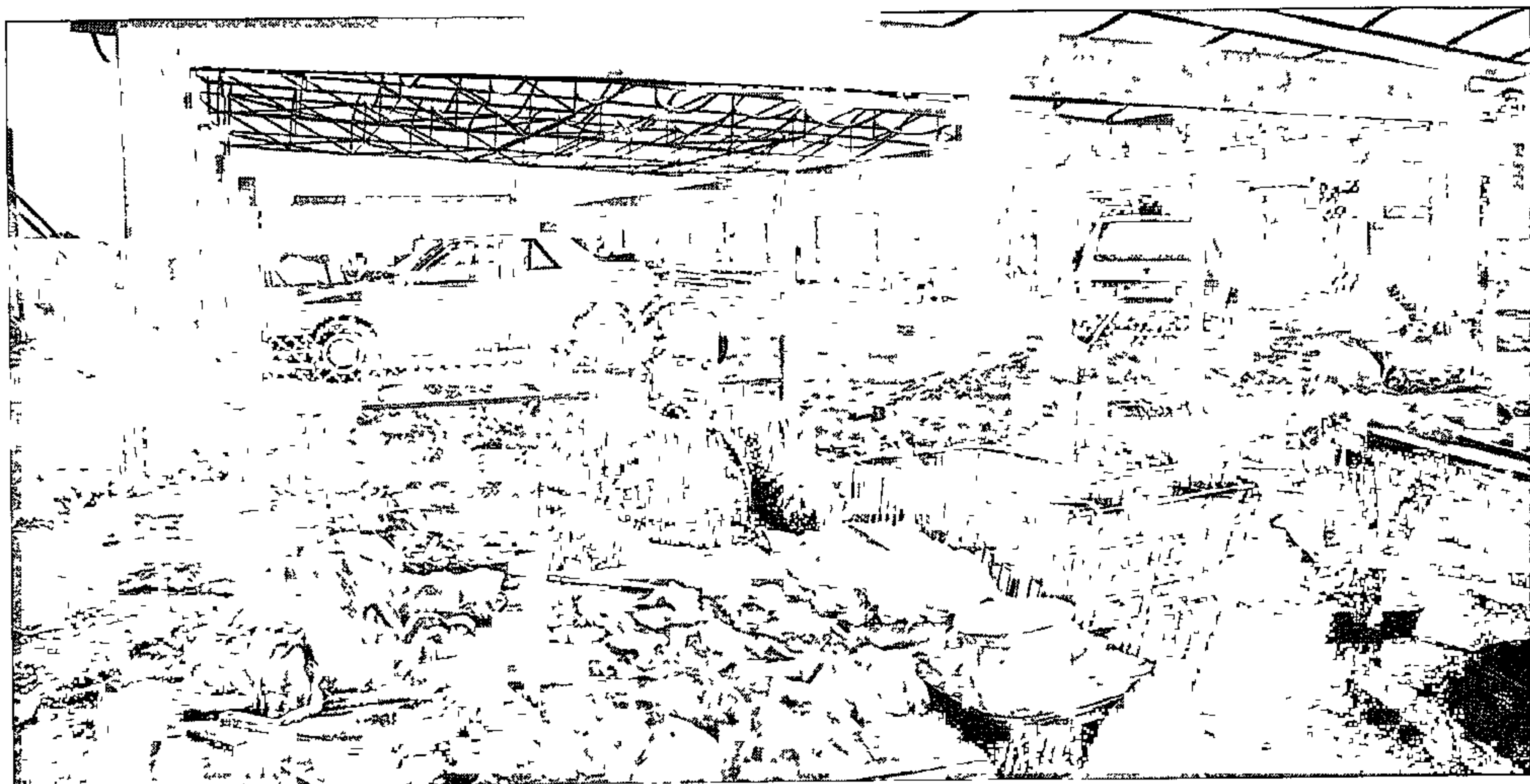
But given the importance of SMMEs for the government economic growth strategies the review warns that "SA has a long way to go before it can achieve the required role of the small business sector".

For instance, in the productivity stakes, SA small and medium enterprises lag behind big enterprises and cannot compare with the same-sized businesses in the European Union.

In SA, small and medium enterprises' labour productivity is R48 000 (output per employee) compared with R80 000 in large enterprises. In the EU, small and medium enterprises' labour productivity is R212 000, while large firms average R253 000.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR





Meat for the nation: Mavis Solani can't wait to move the new Guguletu market place which opens in November

Guguletu traders come in from cold

PHILLIP KAKAZA

Guguletu hawkers trading from a dusty open space will be housed in a R1,3-million business complex in November.

The Central Market Place, sandwiched between former single-men's hostels, will consist of nine spaza shops, a shebeen, a bakery and eighty stalls

The project began in March and is community-driven, initiated by hawkers who for more than twenty years have been operating out in the open.

They formed the Central Market Places

Company, registered three years ago

"We realised that nobody would help," said Mankenke Yonana, who said he had been selling fruit and vegetables for ten years, added "It took a couple of years to get it off the ground"

He said a business plan had to be drawn up and that a "big thanks" was due to Coopers Lybrand for not only helping with the plan, but also with auditing and a management course for the stall holders

The Central Market Places Company also took out a R500 000 loan from the Development Bank of Southern Africa

Mr Eustace Sidi of CS Studio Archi-

itects - which is committed to community development - said the venture had become a joint responsibility and that the firm helped to arrange additional funding

The land for the premises was bought from Ikapa Town Council, which has also committed itself to building public toilets

The other funders of the project are the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape, Eskom and the British High Commission

Rents charged will range from R40 to R70 a month, depending on the business and the likely turnover, and will be used to pay for the management of the complex.

ARG 21/7/97

(153A)

Many 'officially unemployed' work in informal sector — study

BD 25/9/97

Business Day Reporter

A SIGNIFICANT proportion of people claiming to be unemployed were in fact productively employed in the informal sector of the economy with a monthly personal expenditure matching that of unskilled people in full employment, according to the SA Institute of Race Relations' 1996/97 SA survey released yesterday.

The annual survey — formerly known as the Race Relations survey — said a study by the institute last year found that less than one-fifth of the unemployed lived in dire poverty.

The study said a number of the "officially unemployed" were not in the market for low wage, labour-intensive public works job

creation schemes because of earnings outside the formal sector.

The lowest wage — after deductions — that unemployed black respondents were prepared to accept for formal employment was the median amount of R756 a month, while white respondents indicated they would not accept a wage or salary below R1434 a month.

The survey noted that the Central Statistical Service (CSS) found that about 29,3% — or 4,2m — of SA's economically active population were unemployed in 1995. If only those people actively seeking work were counted, however, the figure was closer to 16,5%.

It quoted the CSS as saying "some 17% of the 10,2-million people working in SA in 1995 were in-

involved in the informal sector — 76% of whom were self-employed. Their monthly contribution to the gross domestic product was approximately R2,7bn in 1995."

About 58% of all self-employed people in the informal sector in 1995 were African women, it said.

The survey said the All Media and Products Survey, published by the SA Advertising Research Foundation, showed that more than 22% of households earned below R500 a month last year. About 31% of black households earned less than R500 a month, compared with 3% of coloured, Indian and white households. A fifth of the coloured, Indian and white households earned more than R9 000, compared with fewer than 1% of black households.

URBAN BLIGHT

(153A)

Managing street traders

1m 25/7/97

City street clean-up effort needs organised markets and regional management

Metropolitan and local councils are to introduce bylaws obliging street traders to register

Standard Bank chairman Conrad Strauss, whose company continues to invest heavily in Johannesburg's CBD, says "the message to the city is finally getting through. Any business efforts will be undermined if crime and grime are not eradicated. That needs competent administration and nondeviance from established guidelines and practice."

The legislation, to be enforced by traffic departments, has several aims. They include

□ Restricting street trading to designated areas while helping traders "up the economic ladder" by providing new city mar-

Pernegger says registering traders will also help stamp out sales of illegal goods

A recent police swoop on the city's street traders resulted in the seizure of drugs, illegal liquor and counterfeit goods

Traders who deal in illicit goods will not be allowed to operate in the city

There are estimated to be up to 25 000

street traders in the Johannesburg metropolitan area. Tighter control of them could hit the City Deep fresh produce market as a quarter of its R900m/year turnover comes from street traders.

Baltimore in the US is thought to offer a good model for running produce markets. It has 11, supplied by farmers and small business and run by the city for the past century. Their country fair atmosphere has made them world famous.

Cape Town's V&A Red Shed/Blue Shed concept, which provides people with crafts training and space in which to sell what they have produced, is another model thought to have value elsewhere in SA.

Johannesburg council informal-sector operations manager Roger Hand says his council is statutorily unable to conduct business, so any market moves will have to be done in partnership with the private sector. One company already offers the council training for street traders in literacy, marketing and merchandising.

Still, if Johannesburg is to succeed in cleaning up its streets, a regional and not merely municipal policy on street trading is

needed. As Pernegger says, "traders are travelling long distances to sell goods in Johannesburg. We need to reduce that influx by examining the creation of periodic markets in outlying townships."

The Inner City Street Trading Interim Crisis Committee was created recently to deal with this. It called for regional policy proposals from consultants "with relevant socio-economic experience" and is expected to appoint a consortium soon.

Moves to establish city markets are a big step for SA cities and towns. "It's a new concept," says Pernegger. "To make it work, traders will have to agree to pay for facilities and live by the rules." Alison Goldberg



Jo'burg's CBD urban renewal faces problem of 25 000 hawkers



Baltimore market could it work in SA?

kets,

□ Getting hawkers to contribute to municipal costs

Cape Town water and waste director Kendall Kaveney says they "don't pay rent, tax, water, sewerage or refuse removal."

Johannesburg will charge R30-R80 a month for 2 m² stalls in defined areas. In this way, says an official, hawkers will "pay the cost of redeeming loans used to construct markets for them."

Johannesburg TMC economic empowerment and business support manager Li



Standard Bank's Strauss the bureaucrats are finally starting to listen

NEWS

RETAIL Gauteng's Fleamarket Enterprises joins consortiums to develop an indoor market for Durban

Empowerment groups in fleamarket coup

ET(RA) 19/8/97 (153A)

RAVIN MAHARAJ

Durban — Fleamarket Enterprises, backed by a consortium of black empowerment bodies based in KwaZulu Natal, has won the bid to open Durban's first permanent indoor fleamarket, the consortium said yesterday.

The market will be in the Maize Shed at the Point Waterfront.

Fleamarket Enterprises is based in Johannesburg and is the owner, developer and operator of retail markets. The most popular are the Hatfield Plaza Upmarket Fleamarket in Pretoria and Fleamarket World at Bruma Lake in Johannesburg.

Marc Israelsohn, the managing director of Fleamarket Enterprises, said winning the

bid was a coup for black economic empowerment and consolidated its position as the "niche specialists in free-market style enterprises".

The black empowerment bodies behind the bid are King Zwelithini's King's Trust, Akhona, the women's investment consortium, a Million Opportunities, the community-based self-help network; and the Development Resource Centre.

Israelsohn said the market would be the anchor to the proposed R260 million Point Waterfront Development, a joint venture between Renong, the Malaysian-based infrastructure company, and Rocpoint, the developers.

It would pave the way for formalising fleamarket trading,

which had traditionally been conducted on a "makeshift basis".

He said the idea was to operate in a formal retail environment and compete with such outlets. This was rapidly becoming an international trend.

Fleamarket development was part of Rocpoint's five-year early action plan to kickstart the Point Waterfront development.

Rocpoint recently became the owner of 9,9ha of council land, on which development would take place, in a deal worth R35 million. Only 8ha of state-owned land remains to be handed over to Rocpoint.

Turnover at the Bruma Lake market averages R5 000 a square metre a month — more than double the R2 200 average at Sandton City.



SHOPPERS' MECCA The Point Waterfront fleamarket, now outdoors, is to move indoors and become Durban's first permanent indoor fleamarket and the anchor of the area's development.

2

Rioting city hawkers target foreign traders

(153A) ~~(S)~~ Star 14/8/97
Protest against aliens turns nasty as
marchers smash windows, loot shops

By PATRICK PHOSA

Hawkers protesting against foreign vendors in Johannesburg's city centre went on the rampage yesterday, smashing windows, looting shops and other hawkers' goods, and assaulting foreigners.

About 300 hawkers left their stalls on the street pavements empty to attend a meeting at the Library Gardens, where the "invasion" of the hawking trade by foreigners was discussed.

The foreigners had also abandoned their stalls because they feared attacks from the South Africans.

The locals vented their anger at the foreigners for "infesting the city streets and killing our business" and expressed their frustration at the Government for "doing nothing to rid the streets of foreigners".

Police said hawkers later marched towards Hillbrow, smashing windows and looting shops on the way.

They assaulted foreigners and local hawkers who had not heeded the "no-selling" call. Several hawkers were arrested.

Moffat Sebulelo, a spokesman for the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee, said the locals would forcibly remove the foreigners from Johannesburg city streets from today.

He said they would do this

because business had become unprofitable since foreigners started flocking into South Africa.

"They sell their goods cheaply and we cannot compete with them. This way our business is destroyed. And they also sell counterfeit goods," he claimed.

But Sebulelo (37), who became a hawker in 1970, distanced his organisation from the unruly behaviour of the looters yesterday.

He said the hawkers' meeting was "hijacked" by a group of jobless people who then marched without permission.

On July 9 the hawkers marched to the Metropolitan Centre in Braamfontein, where they delivered a memorandum demanding the suspension of the construction of stalls until their problems were addressed.

The hawkers plan to march to the Department of Home Affairs offices on September 7 to demand the expulsion of foreign hawkers from the city centre.

Chris Rabaji, a Southern council economic development committee executive member, said there was no room for the foreigners in the city because the council was accountable only to South Africans.

He said the council had to put up stalls to ensure local hawkers traded in a proper environment.



A group of South African hawkers removing the stalls of foreign born vendors in a Johannesburg street yesterday. Earlier in the day hundreds of hawkers had marched to the Library Gardens to protest against foreign vendors. They later marched towards Hillbrow, the core area of foreign vendors, overturning stalls along the way. The hundreds of hawkers who normally vend from stalls along the streets of central Johannesburg were absent yesterday afternoon.

PIC MBUZENI ZULU

Hawkers rampage (ISA)

By Dan Fuphe and Sapa

AT LEAST six hawkers were arrested, shop windows smashed and trading stalls overturned in central Johannesburg yesterday after hawkers went on the rampage through the city after a protest meeting.

Angry members of the Inner Johannesburg Hawkers Committee (IJHC) ran riot in the streets, chasing what they said were "leeches" from other countries who had set up hawking stalls in the city.

Dozens of heavily armed policemen assisted by members of the Johannesburg Traffic Department had their hands full trying to quell what nearly turned out to be a full-scale battle between South African street hawkers and those from African countries such as Mozambique, Zaire, Somalia and Rwanda. Hawkers from Asian countries were also targeted.

Johannesburg police spokesman Superintendent Chris Wilken said about 300 hawkers gathered at the Library Gardens in Market Street at about 9am to voice their dismay against foreign vendors trading in the city.

"Everything was peaceful up to then. People made their speeches and the gathering started to break up around 11.35am," he said.

The hawkers broke up into about eight groups of between 30 to 60 people and started moving in the direction of Hillbrow. Chaos broke out in Hillbrow's Clarendon Street where one group plundered stalls belonging to foreign traders. The same thing happened in central Johannesburg where by the afternoon there was not a hawker in sight on the streets.

Chairman of the IJHC Mr. Mannekie Solomon told *Sowetan* that since the new dispensation which allowed foreigners equal trading rights their businesses which they had fought for during the apartheid era were on the verge of collapse. "We fought the Nationalist government very hard to be where we are today, only to be hit by a deluge of foreign traders who do not even show any sense of cleanliness," he said.

He said his association comprised 630 registered members but were eclipsed by about 10 000 foreign hawkers.

"We are prepared to push them out of the city, come what may," he said. "My group is not prepared to let our government inherit a garbage city all because of these leeches."

Mayhem in Jo'burg as 'foreign' hawkers given the boot by locals

(153A) (236) ARG 14/8/97
ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg – Stick and sjambok-wielding hawkers swept through the streets here for the second day today, attacking "foreign" traders and overturning their stalls.

Watched by fearful shopkeepers, local vendors hastily pulled their wares off Kerk Street mall as at least two waves of angry hawkers raced through the city, spreading mayhem soon after 10am. Some local vendors were attacked too.

The vigilante groups, initially just young men, were soon joined by women – some with babies strapped to their backs.

As they moved along President and Sauer streets, they wrecked hawkers' stands, leaving the road strewn with tomatoes, bananas and nuts.

One hawker said: "It's not that I am a foreigner, they just came to steal."

At least six hawkers were arrested, many shop windows smashed and trading stalls overturned in central Johannesburg and Hillbrow yesterday after hawker vigilantes rampaged through the city after a protest meeting at Library Gardens.

About 300 local hawkers vented their anger at foreigners for "infesting the city streets and killing our business". They expressed frustration at the Government for "doing nothing to rid the streets of foreigners".

Hawkers vow to continue CBD protests

Star 15/8/97 (238)(153A)

Locals warned to stop selling goods
for foreigners, and people assaulted
during trashing of Jo'burg city centre

By PATRICK PHOSA

Hawkers in the Johannesburg CBD have vowed to intensify their campaign to remove foreign vendors from Johannesburg's city centre following two days of mayhem and looting and the arrest of at least 100 hawkers.

A rampant mob of locals wielding sticks, knobkerries and sjamboks assaulted foreign traders for "invading our trade", overturned their stalls, and mugged people and trashed streets yesterday.

They marched to John Vorster Square police station where they demanded the release of their chairman.

A spokesman for the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' planning committee, Moffat Sebulelo, said hawkers would apply for a

three-month permit to stage mass protests in the city to oust foreigners. "The Government should deport them," he said.

Sebulelo said locals selling for foreigners had been encouraged to start their own businesses or face the wrath of the committee if "they continued selling for the Pakistanis, Chinese and Indians".

Sebulelo said the committee had urged the locals "to put aside the little money they get to start their own businesses".

There are between 10 000 and 12 000 hawkers in the inner city and about 25 000 throughout Greater Johannesburg.

For a Mozambican national, Thomas Muteko (16), who says he fears for his life, life is difficult on the streets, especially with the recent spate of the attacks. Thomas sells fruits in President Street for a Pakistani man, and says he is doing so for survival. "I have no choice, but to do what I am doing because I have to live. It is not that I want to take away business from the South Africans, I have no other source of income," he said.

Next to him is Julia Mmine, a South African, who says foreigners should be thrown out of the country. She used to make R400 a day before the 1994 elections, but now she takes home R40 a week. "This is because foreigners flocked here after the elections and took our business. We will not rest until they are gone," she said.

Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte urged vendors not to be influenced by people who thrived on lawlessness and said she would meet the leaders today.

Lee-Ann Alfreds reports that Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council spokesman Roger Hand said the council had been taken by surprise by demonstrations yesterday and on Wednesday by the hawkers' planning committee.

He added that by-laws regarding hawkers, promulgated on January 8, would be implemented as soon as the question of enforcement had been finalised.

“
I have
no other
source
of income
”

Business Times APPOL

Smallest entrepreneurs deserve a fair chance

ST (BT) 17/8/97
Finding finance is tough for poorer people who want to start businesses, writes THABO KOBOKOANE

THROUGHOUT the world micro-finance is recognised as one of the most effective means of providing poor people with access to finance.

Yet in SA it is an area that has largely remained unexplored, save for a few non-governmental organisations and community initiatives like the stokvels. But even these are estimated to satisfy only 1% of the demand for finance from the lower end of the market.

The concerns, by commercial banks in particular, are the high administrative costs and risks associated with lending to the poor. But there is increasing evidence from around the world that institutions lending to this end of the market do so profitably, using innovative systems with the participation of the population.

Roy Naguran, a lecturer at the University of Durban-Westville, told a workshop on micro-finance convened by the Reserve Bank that the "most important innovation in this respect has been to replace traditional collateral requirements with group liability", a type of lending known as group solidarity. Examples are the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and the Banco Sol in Bolivia, which have recovery rates of more than 95%.

These institutions provide working capital of the equivalent of around R500 for the poor to start their own micro-enterprises. These, as defined in the National Small Business Act, are enterprises with less than five employees, total annual turnover of below R150 000 and total gross assets of no more than R100 000.

The Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency estimates that micro-enterprises contribute approximately 14% to total employment in SA against unemployment levels of between 40% and 50%. Central Statistical Services estimate that 71% of all private businesses in SA fall within the category of micro-enterprises.

It is only recently that private sector initiatives have emerged to service the sector. Despite these developments there is a visible absence of a bank like Grameen Bank to providing specific products to low-income earners.

Existing initiatives have largely been overshadowed by controversy surrounding high interest rates and questionable debt collection methods.

To this effect, government has served notice that it intends scrapping exemptions which allow interest rates above those stipulated by the Usury Act to be charged for



MEALIES! hawkers like Maria Mahlangu need finance to get off the ground

loans under R6 000 with a maturity of less than 36 months.

As a result, government is faced with a dilemma on how to strike a balance between consumer protection, development needs and enhanced access to finance for micro-entrepreneurs.

Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said at the Reserve Bank workshop that while the exemption from the Usury Act

was crucial for increasing access to finance, "government is also tasked with ensuring that consumers, including borrowers, are protected from unfair business practices".

The fledgling industry, represented by the Association of Micro-Lenders (AML), is not in favour of regulation by government, preferring self-regulation by the industry.

Johan Jonck, chief executive of the AML, said "Regulation of

micro-lending to 'protect' the consumer generally does the opposite for those it is designed to protect — the people at the bottom of the economic ladder. The most reliable way to protect high-risk borrowers is to ensure that they have alternative sources of finance from which to choose. This is best accomplished by facilitating the unrestricted entry of competitors into the market without artificial constraints."

Hawkers' trading forum proposed to stop clashes

DD 18/8/97

(103A)

Nomavenda Mathiane

THE only way to put an end to clashes between SA hawkers and foreign traders in Johannesburg's city centre was for the metropolitan council to speed up the establishment of a hawkers' trading forum, African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses president Lawrence Mavundla said at the weekend.

Reacting to last week's events when hawkers attacked street traders in and around downtown Johannesburg, claiming that they had no right to sell in the city streets, Mavundla said the answer to the problem would be to have a register of street traders which would enable law enforcement to be able to monitor the industry.

Although all major streets in town were affected by the violence, Jeppe, Bree and Eloff streets were the ones that suffered most from the attacks.

In Bree Street, staff of Lords Outfitters — one of the oldest shops in the city that has been operating for the past 50 years — said they were not affected by the outbreak of violence "as the whole thing was happening on the streets and pavements". However they had a full-time security man at the door of the shop. They said they would be moving out of town soon.

Opposite Lords, the manager at Davison's Designer Wear — Hitesh

Oka — said although his shop was not vandalised, last week's incident did have a negative effect on his business.

This argument was also advanced by his neighbour, who runs a radio shop and has a staff of eight people. He said although he did not condone violence, he could understand why hawkers had taken the law into their hands to solve a problem.

He said he did not feel safe trading in the city centre — however, he did not have any alternative but to remain in Johannesburg.

Hawker Phillip Nkosi said he was attacked by a mob on Wednesday who took 18 hats from his stand and robbed him of R50.

His neighbour, Cynthia Shezi from Transkei, said she had been trading on the pavements since 1991 and doing good business until foreigners came in. She said attempts to rid Johannesburg of illegal traders would continue.

Sapa reports that Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte and the hawkers' provincial leadership last Friday condemned looting and destruction of property committed during the protest action in Johannesburg on Wednesday and Thursday.

Hawkers' organisations said they distanced themselves from those actions, and said they committed themselves to working closely with government in trying to develop the sector.

SA 'sick' for 'scandalising' AIDS research

Louise Cook

HEALTH Minister Nkosazana Zuma described SA as "a sick country" for portraying efforts to discover a drug to control AIDS, as a scandal.

Zuma told the presidential review commission on Friday that despite the outcry, she still supported Virodene research even if it did not produce a cure.

In the fourth round of commission hearings on transformation in the public service, Zuma admitted that her department was not coping with the problem of AIDS and said government needed to have a co-ordinated strategy to deal with the problem.

"In the year 2006, an estimated 3-million people in the country will suffer from the disease — creative ways are necessary to change people's behaviour", Zuma reaffirmed her support of the Sarafina AIDS play, saying it was a useful way of getting the message through to the youth.

In answer to a question on incentives for doctors to serve in rural areas, she said it cost R600 000 a year for a medical student's training, saying this should be seen as an incentive.

The other option was to expect doctors who are not prepared to do service in rural areas, to pay the cost of their studies without a state subsidy.

"People should heed President Mandela's call to be patriotic and to serve their country without expecting additional rewards," Zuma said.

'Corrective action' needed — Asmal

Louise Cook

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kadar Asmal told a commission probing restructuring in the public service that he was personally responsible for his department avoiding the phrase "affirmative action".

Asmal said he would continue with his approach unless he was overruled by the commission.

He told the presidential review commission in Pretoria on Friday he supported the autonomy of government departments only as far as such autonomy did not become "tyrannical".

There was still a need for central government intervention in provincial and local government affairs in SA until genuine empowerment had been established, he said.

In answer to a question from commissioner Lot Ndlovu, Asmal said "affirmative action" referred only to jobs in the US and was not sufficiently comprehensive to properly address imbalances of the past in the country.

"We need to create our own solutions, the term corrective action has a larger dimension than affirmative action and does more to bring about peace in SA," Asmal said.

Street gang attacks foreign hawkers

A GROUP of about 30 men sent the foreign hawkers of Johannesburg's Kerk Street Mall packing yesterday by launching an vicious attack on the hapless informal traders.

The attackers moved down the mall — a trading place for hawkers — shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks and sticks. Hawker Papa Demba (25) of Senegal was beaten, and bricks were

hurled at him, at least one of the missiles hitting him on the head.

Within minutes of the start of the attack police arrived on the scene and rescued the blood-spattered Demba. He was advised by police to leave.

Another foreign hawker, who was also assaulted, said he would pack up for the day, but he would be back. However, he did not say when this

would happen.

"We cannot go back to Senegal since we are refugees here. We are more afraid of getting killed at home than here," the hawker said.

Police arrested one of the group of 30 attackers. He was taken to Johannesburg Central Police Station while a crowd — obviously South Africans — shouted: "Phansi makw-

erekwere, phansi". (Down foreigners, down.)

Last week local hawkers, of whom more than 100 were arrested, rampaged through the city's streets and also attacked foreign traders. Locals accuse the foreigners of taking away their business.

Meanwhile, the South African Human Rights Commission said yes-

terday the xenophobia being displayed would certainly "dent" South Africa's image abroad, especially in Africa.

"The commission maintains that the actions of the local hawkers must be discouraged," it said. "The problem of aliens in the country must be left to the Department of Home Affairs to settle. It is not for ordinary citizens to enforce street law," — Sapa

Trading against odds

Sowetan 19/8/97 (2nd) (ISA)

ANGRY investors invade Johannesburg Stock Exchange and beat up foreign investors, read the headlines of all South Africa's daily newspapers on the morning of August 14

Of course, no such headlines were to be seen that morning. There was, however, another kind of investor beaten up in the middle of Johannesburg the previous day: immigrant hawkers.

What drives them to Johannesburg? Cheap black labour from the entire Southern African region needs South African capitalism.

To defend itself in the old apartheid days, South African capitalism had to ensure that there was no viable economy in the region.

The result was that thousands of former peasants and workers from Southern Africa were forced to migrate to South Africa to survive.

But there is another and much more powerful force driving these poor peasants and workers to walk to Johannesburg. This force is called globalisation.

Furious integration

Over the past two decades a furious integration of the world economy, called globalisation, has been under way. A number of changes have taken place which now make it possible for capital to move from one country to the next in a very short time.

The competition for capital among different countries has made the owners of capital very powerful as different countries try to offer better terms to investors. The owners of capital have used this new-found power to ensure a transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Two institutions supportive of this process, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, have forced many countries to adopt policies that promote globalisation.

Many countries have been forced by the IMF to privatise state-owned enterprises, cut social expenditure, drop tariffs and open their economies to international capital.

The drop in tariffs, for example, has meant that factories that used to produce goods and employ people have had to close because they can no longer compete with the capital-rich factories of Europe and America.

This has led to an increase in unemployment and poverty, and also to the migration of workers in those countries to South Africa in search of a livelihood.

The globalisation process has not only affected countries in Southern Africa, but has also affected the policies of the South African Government.

The dropping of the Reconstruction and

The xenophobia displayed by South Africans towards immigrant hawkers last week does not augur well for this country. **Oupa Lehulere** explains why ...



Growing unemployment in South Africa is making workers and informal sector traders hostile to people from neighbouring countries.

Development Programme (RDP) and the adoption of the Growth Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) is also a result of the pressure of the IMF, World Bank and the owners of capital.

The result is that in South Africa as well, unemployment is growing and fears of sinking further into poverty are making South African workers and informal sector traders hostile to their brothers and sisters from neighbouring countries.

Globalisation causes competition for jobs through the threat of moving capital and factories to those countries in which workers are prepared to accept low wages and bad working conditions.

Establish businesses

In the last budget, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel announced that owners of capital can now take R50 million into Southern Africa to establish businesses.

What this will mean is that if the hawkers of Johannesburg and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi manage to keep the illegals out of South Africa, the owners of capital will follow the illegals into Mozambique, Malawi and so on by establishing factories there.

The beating up of foreign traders, however, applies only to those who are black and poor. If you come into South Africa and buy shares on

the JSE, South Africa will embrace you. You become a foreign trader who brings jobs.

If, however, you set up shop in the street outside the JSE, you become a leech and you take away jobs. It does not matter at all that the goods you sell may be carvings of rare Central African wood that no one in South Africa produces or sells.

What matters is that you are poor, black and accessible to the angry hawkers who are also black and poor.

And maybe it was because it was the investor outside the JSE, and not the one inside, who was beaten up that the nation's dailies, politicians and even its trade union leaders went about their daily business.

They refused to take note of what is likely to become a dangerous political development in South Africa.

Where will it all end? Without being alarmist, it is useful to remember that fascism in Germany started with the beating of Jews for being leeches, as one of the traders called his brothers and sisters from Africa.

Doesn't take much

It is also useful to remember that it does not take much these days to be a *kwerekwere*. Besides the various shades of skin colour, the real thing that distinguishes an illegal in the trading line in a Johannesburg street is language.

Am I therefore an illegal when I speak Xitsonga or isiNdebele? After all, these are languages spoken in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. And these are also some of South Africa's official languages. What this reveals is that the present wave of xenophobic feeling not only threatens to cut black South Africans off from the rest of Africa, but it also threatens to set South Africans against South Africans.

Pogroms against other Africans are a dead-end. Solidarity with Africa's poor is the best way out for South Africa's poor.

The alternative is internecine conflict among South Africa's poor.

(The writer is a labour educationist at Khanva College, Johannesburg.)

Foreign hawkers sent packing by attackers

ED 19/8/97 (153A) (25A)
FOREIGN hawkers packed up for the day in Johannesburg's Kerk Street Mall yesterday afternoon after they were attacked by a group of about 30 men.

The attackers moved down the mall shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks and sticks. Hawker Papa Demba,

from Senegal, had several bricks thrown at him which hit his head. Police intervened and Demba was rescued and advised to leave the area.

Another hawker said they would pack up for the day, but would be back to trade. "We cannot go back to Senegal as we are refugees here."

Police arrested one of the attackers who was taken to Johannesburg Central Police Station.

The SA Human Resources Council said the xenophobia displayed against foreign hawkers must be denting the image of human rights-based SA society internationally. —Sapa.

Xenophobic hawkers could ruin Johannesburg's future

Star 20/8/97

(153A)

Attacks on aliens condemned from all angles: no need for callous ill-treatment of economic refugees, says bishop

By TEO MOTHEBELI

The recent attacks on foreigners who are hawking on Johannesburg's city centre pavements received a stream of condemnations yesterday.

The actions of local hawkers have raised serious concerns in some quarters that the Gauteng government's efforts to revamp the image of the city could be ruined in the process.

Neil Fraser, executive direc-

tor of the Central Johannesburg Partnership, says: "Violence is not the answer to these problems. No doubt pictures of the latest mayhem will appear in media around the world, underlying yet again the violent nature of the city and its society."

He said people considering leaving the city would have their decisions made easier by yet another example of anarchy.

"The vision of a clean, safe and friendly city will be that

much harder to achieve and take that much longer to accomplish," he said.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) described the local hawkers' rampage through the city as xenophobic, and said the hawkers had dented the image of human rights-based South African society internationally, especially in the rest of Africa.

"Like all persons, aliens also have certain fundamental rights. Our courts of law have

indicated that the word 'person' in our Bill of Rights must be construed to include even non-South Africans," the organisation said.

Southern Africa Methodist Church Bishop Mvume Dandale said: "While unemployment is a crisis for South Africa, that is no reason for the callous ill-treatment of the economic refugees who come to South Africa."

The Rev Paul Verryn, Methodist Bishop of the Cen-

tral District in Gauteng, added: "We need to remember that many African states protected, housed and employed some of those who hold leadership positions in South Africa today."

Despite these condemnations, Sapa reported that 30 local hawkers attacked their foreign counterparts yesterday around Kerk Street Mall.

The group moved down the mall, a trading place for local and foreign hawkers, shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks

and sticks. One of the hawkers, Papa Demba (25) from Senegal, was assaulted with bricks.

Police intervened within minutes and a blood-splattered Demba was rescued and advised to leave the area. One of his alleged attackers was arrested.

Last week local hawkers rampaged through the city's streets attacking foreign hawkers, whom they accused of taking away local business opportunities. More than 100 lo- cals were arrested.

Minister defends SA hawkers

Pretoria - Home Affairs Deputy Minister Lindiwe Sisulu says the Government has to protect the jobs of South African hawkers.

She yesterday commended the leaders of Johannesburg hawkers for distancing themselves from the violence that erupted in the city centre last week, when hawkers went on the rampage.

They smashed shop windows during a march to protest against the presence of foreign hawkers - some of whom they assaulted. **ARG 20/8/97**

Ms Sisulu on Monday met Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte to discuss the issue of foreign hawkers.

Ms Sisulu said Ms Duarte had wanted to know why there were large numbers of foreigners in the hawking sector, bearing in

(153A) mind that South Africa's immigration policy was based on the notion that "no immigrant should be employed to the detriment of a South African citizen".

Ms Sisulu said foreign workers in the hawking sector were usually asylum-seekers awaiting determination of their status by the Department of Home Affairs.

They were issued with permits in terms of Section 41 of the Aliens Control Act of 1991, which legalised their stay in the country and allowed them to work.

Ms Sisulu said her department did not issue immigration or work permits to foreigners that would allow them to become informal traders. Foreigners issued with immigration or work permits for employment other than hawking had entered the hawking sector illegally - Sapa

Saturday Star
August 23 1997

Big self-help cleanup at informal settlements

(153A)
By TOMMY MAKOE

Star 23/8/97
Gauteng is leading the way in a new multimillion-rand campaign to clean up sprawling and unserved informal settlements, using unemployed residents who live in these camps to collect waste, plant trees and create green areas.

The clean-and-green campaign is a venture shared by the national Public Works Department, the Gauteng government's environmental directorate and South African Breweries, which have jointly contributed R11-million to create parks, plant trees and introduce waste management in the areas.

Gauteng, which has started its environmental project in Tshepiso, an informal settlement in Sharpeville near Vanderbijlpark, was allocated R3,8-million to improve conditions in four of the areas.

"We are servicing about 8 000 households every week in Tshepiso. We have also permanently employed 35 local people who collect waste, distribute refuse bags, plant trees and create parks," said Gauteng's deputy director of environmental education Snowy Makhudu.

Initiate

She said that while the campaign targeted informal settlements, not all of them were going to benefit from the project. Only legally occupied informal settlements would benefit.

"One way is to initiate programmes for local authorities which they will take over after we have introduced them, because they have not yet initiated their own environmental projects. We only use their transport to collect rubbish."

Andile Mbalo, a Tshepiso resident and an employee of the campaign, said people were starting to realise the importance of a clean area.

"They are throwing the rubbish in the refuse bags we provide. We distribute the bags and collect them after three days. What keeps us busiest is cleaning the streets and collecting the rubbish bags from the households," Mbalo said.

Shaka Radebe, spokesman for the Western Vaal Metropolitan Substructure's community service's department, said iron producer Iscor would donate trees to plant at the squatter camp on Arbor Day.

"But here we will have an Arbor week, not day," said Makhudu. She said the Tshepiso project had cost her department R570 000, which was spent on salaries, equipment, uniforms and training.

Among informal settlements to benefit from the programme are Mandelaville in Soweto, Tamboville on the East Rand and Stanza Bopape in Pretoria.

Team of seven get to grips with traders

Grassroots management group a first for municipality (153A)

AKG 25/8/97

ANDREA WEISS
City Editor

A special grassroots management team has been appointed to regulate informal trading in central business districts throughout Cape Town's municipal area, from Mitchell's Plain to Guguletu to Sea Point.

The job of the task team, which has been appointed on a one-year contract, will be to ensure that trading takes place in an orderly way and to reduce conflict between traders and other interest groups.

The task team, a first for the Cape Town municipality, has been welcomed by the business community.

The team of seven is being convened by Hassan Khan, a trader who serves on several associations, boards and forums, and who enjoys the support of the business community and traders alike.

Mr Khan is to be assisted by six area managers whose job will be to educate and assist informal traders in maintaining standards of order, cleanliness and hygiene in their specific areas.

They will also handle minor complaints, ensure that permits are in order, liaise with municipal branches, conduct



Trading places: a special task team has been set up to regulate informal trading throughout the city. They are, from left, John Sipamla, Sedick Soeker, Hashiem da Costa, Hassan Khan, Oscar Solomons, Ebrahim Hendricks and Percy Siwisa

research in their areas and keep Mr Khan informed of developments.

The area managers are ■ Hashiem da Costa, an internal auditor, who takes responsibility for Athlone, Rylands and Gatesville. Mr Da Costa says that his objective is to ensure that there is harmony between all parties and to assist informal traders so that they can become formal traders in the long term.

■ Ebrahim Hendricks, who will look after the area from Woodstock to Claremont. He worked in business for 31 years as well as the informal sector and has a long history as a community worker. He says he is looking forward to the challenge in his area, particularly in Claremont which has been a site of conflict between formal and informal business.

■ John Mthunywya Sipamla, whose area

covers Guguletu, Nyanga, Langa, Crossroads and Philippi. Mr Sipamla, who has worked in administration as well as the informal sector, says one of the primary problems in his area is the need for upgrading informal trading areas, particularly meat markets.

■ Percy Luthando Siwisa, who has the responsibility for central Cape Town through to Sea Point. Mr Siwisa, a marketing and sales management student who worked for a leading clothing chain for several years, says his "aim and vision is to establish a working relationship with the individual informal traders" to ensure that trading takes place in an orderly way.

■ Sedick Soeker, who will handle Epping and Maitland. Mr Soeker, a former councillor, says the only way to resolve problems is to get all parties to the table.

■ Oscar Solomons, who has Mitchell's Plain and Strandfontein to look after. Mr Solomons, who has a background in community organisations, will have the difficult task of bringing order to the Mitchell's Plain town centre which has become a site of conflict due to informal trading. Mr Solomons said that he was "committed to seeing that the informal sector's needs were addressed".

SA traders up in arms

REACTIONS to Bafana Bafana's victory last weekend let loose a joyous celebration of national pride. However, the ugly side of nationalism was also demonstrated in Johannesburg recently.

Non-South African street traders were assaulted and their goods stolen and destroyed by South African hawkers.

They have been intimidated off the streets of central Johannesburg, Hillbrow and Yeoville.

For the past week non-South African traders in Yeoville have been unable to return to their stands as intimidation continued.

The assaults on African non-South Africans highlight a number of misconceptions about Africans who are living and trading in South Africa.

Two recent studies of immigrant small and medium enterprises and street traders conducted for the Southern African Migration Project give a different picture.

Although African traders are called "illegals", most of the people who sell on the streets are here legally. The studies show that immigrants are more likely to be providing jobs than taking jobs.

The studies found that all those people interviewed with small and medium enterprises were providing employment for South Africans.

The 70 people interviewed provided 277 people with jobs.

The study of 100 street traders found over 20 percent were providing employment for one or more South Africans.

Many of those hawkers who were not employers were selling goods which are unavailable in South Africa.

Traders from the region are mainly migrants, not immigrants. They are involved in a cycle of cross-border trade, where they invest their profits from sales in SA, buying goods which they take to sell in their countries.

They bring the profits from those sales back to South Africa (as goods or cash) to invest in trade here and again buy (mainly South African-made) goods to take home.

It is also forgotten that when immigrants are here, they contribute to the South African economy by paying rent and buying goods and services.

More than 50 percent of the income of regional street traders is spent on living in South Africa. For refugees and asylum seekers, the figure is much higher.

African immigrants are portrayed as poor peasants seeking gold in South Africa and some are refugees fleeing war and persecution in their countries.

But the studies found that non-South African small entrepreneurs and street traders tended to be better educated than South African

(153A) ~~228~~ Sowetan 25/8/97
Most of the foreign traders contribute to the South African economy, as well as provide employment. **Sally Peberdy** and **Toure Talibe** explain the situation...



Flashback . . . local hawkers have attacked traders from other countries several times in Johannesburg in the last two weeks

PIC MBUZENI ZULU

traders. Of those interviewed, many held university degrees, over 90 percent had some secondary education and two-thirds had some form of tertiary training.

Given the attitudes of South Africans to other Africans, it is perhaps not surprising that the study of street traders found that less than five percent wanted to stay here permanently – most of those were refugees or were married to South Africans.

Similarly, most wanted their families to remain in their home countries and their children to be educated in their home countries.

It seems that people think that there is a one-way street leading to South Africa. But it is just one stop in complex networks of regional and continental trade that runs between Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Botswana, Namibia and Angola, and further north between West African countries.

Trade on the streets of South Africa's cities should be seen as part of the opening up of South Africa and its reintegration into the region and the continent.

Trade links

Most of the traders we see on the streets come from countries with long-standing trade links with South Africa, including West Africa and Zaire where links stretch back to the 1980s.

Non-South African traders are investors in South Africa's future. South Africans do not go and destroy the property of other foreign investors like IBM and Coca-Cola.

South African traders and entrepreneurs were disadvantaged by apartheid which restrict-

ed opportunities for black South Africans to develop trading skills and disrupted and destroyed marketing networks.

But, instead of persecuting non-South African traders, South African traders could learn from them and seek to exploit their advantages as locals with knowledge of local markets and languages.

Perhaps traders in Johannesburg could follow their compatriots in Mpumalanga and look north for trade and other opportunities that exist for business in the region and the rest of Africa.

And when these immigrants – legal residents pursuing legal occupations – have been attacked, they have sought the protection and advice of the police.

Yet, according to those who have asked for help over the past week, the police have repeatedly failed to protect them or even respond, with the exception of last week's demonstrations.

Much is made of crime in South Africa. The police have a responsibility to protect South African citizens but surely all people who are living here as well.

If South Africa wants to "bring the Olympics home to Africa", and to be one of Africa's representatives in the World Cup in France, then it seems South Africans may have to make some significant steps to change the kind of home and welcome they give for Africans living in and visiting this country.

(The writers are researchers with the Southern African Migration Project, a research project based in South Africa with partners in Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.)

Claims of violence as SAB strike continues

RD 2618197
Reneé Grawitzky

THE SA Breweries (SAB) strike entered its second week with claims of intimidation and violence after workers were shot at the weekend, non-strikers' homes were petrol-bombed and bottle-store owners were threatened.

SAB said that despite a written undertaking, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) had failed to control its members, while the union believed the strike was beginning to affect production which was down by nearly 2 000 hectolitres last week.

An SAB spokesman said "The strike has degenerated into undisciplined action by some Fawu members."

A contractor driver and his crew were wounded in Tembisa at the weekend, while in Isipingo a bottle-store owner was threatened. The homes of four non-striking workers at Rosslyn brewery were petrol-bombed, SAB said.

The union said it was unaware of the incidents and that the strike was

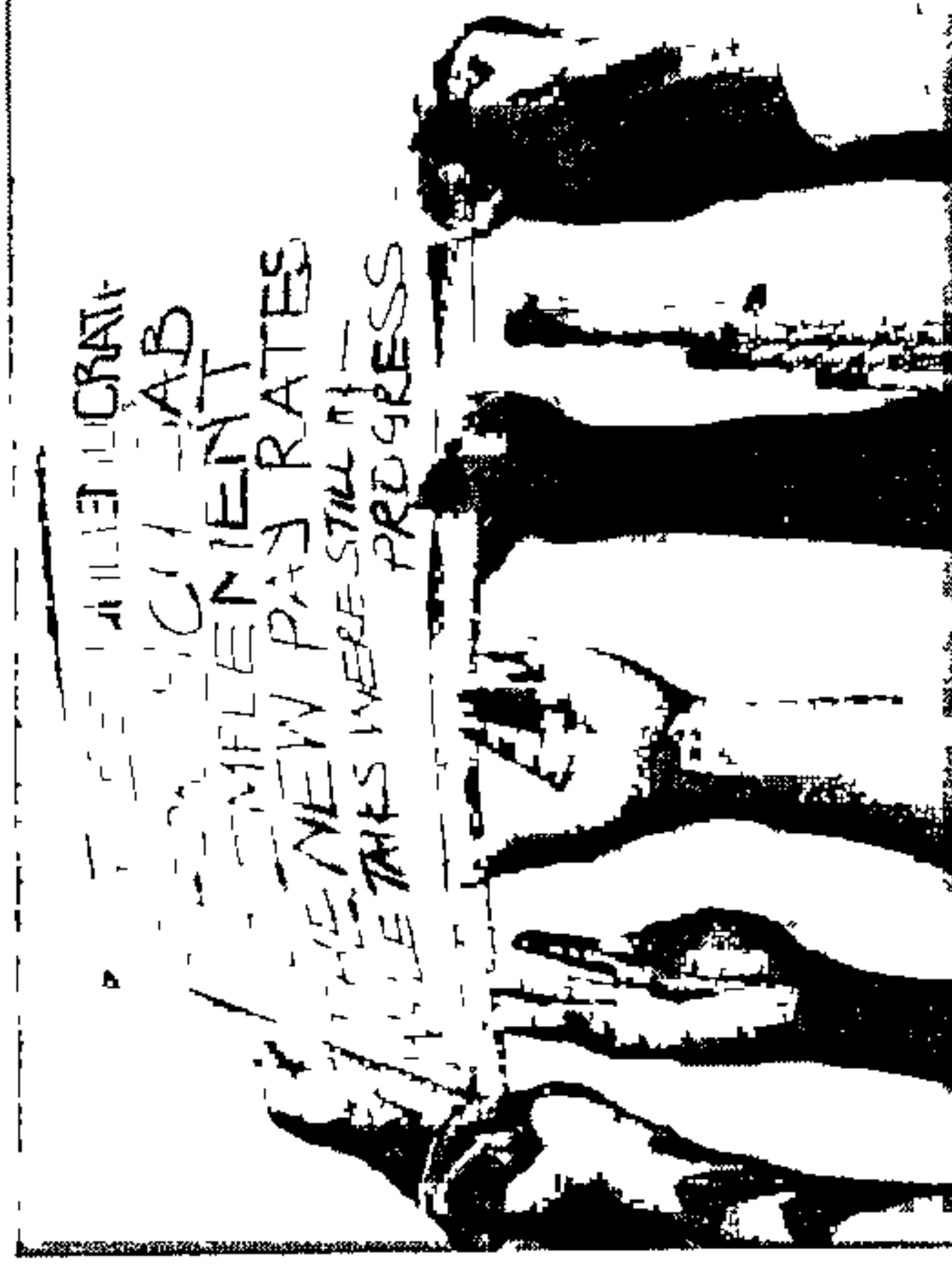
starting to show results, with the Alrode and Rosslyn plants having come to a standstill.

Workers marched on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Friday and today on Alrode brewery in Johannesburg, where the union handed a memorandum to management requesting the reopening of negotiations. Fawu said if SAB failed to respond by tomorrow the action would intensify.

SAB said it was willing to talk to the union to try to resolve the dispute.

Fawu said management had undermined the union by unilaterally implementing a 10% increase.

Meanwhile, the strike by National Union of Metalworkers of SA members at Hulett Aluminium's plants in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng continues. The union said yesterday the company had refused a meeting to discuss revised positions on both sides because it said it could not improve on its final offer of between 9,7% and 10,5%. The union is demanding a 13% across-the-board increase.



Hundreds of striking Food and Allied Workers' Union members marched on the SA Breweries' plant in Alrode, Johannesburg, yesterday to put pressure on the company to agree to their wage demands. The strike has entered its second week.

Picture CATHY PINNOCK



New restrictions on hawkers

ARCT 29/8/97
Adderley Street will be one of the first areas of the city to be controlled in terms of the new hawking by-law which will limit trading to 77 spots between Strand and Wale streets
Cape Town municipality yesterday agreed

(153A)
to declare the street a restricted area for vending, peddling and hawking. Each trading spot will be away from shop display windows. The plan is to be implemented by the council's new informal trading management team - Staff Reporter

(153A)

Attacks on aliens under the spotlight

~~SA~~
The South African Human Rights Commission met the Gauteng street hawkers' organisation on Tuesday to discuss last month's attacks on foreign hawkers in central Johannesburg.

Jody Kollapen, acting chairman of the commission, said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss tension between local and foreign hawkers, as well as last month's violence, which left several people injured.

Livingston Mathanga, chairman of the Micro Business Chamber of SA, which is said to represent more than 50 000 local hawkers, denied that his organisation was involved in the attacks.

Mathanga blamed the attacks on a criminal element.

Kollapen said the SAHRC had decided to talk to the hawkers first and then take up the matter with other stakeholders. — Sapa

Star 4/9/97

Street traders' plea brings B.O. some action

Nicola Jenvey

(S3A)

11/9/97
DURBAN The KwaZulu-Natal provincial housing board has approved 330 institutional subsidies valued at nearly R4m to construct a short-term rental facility for street traders and the general community in the Durban station area.

The project, to accommodate about 350 traders, was spearheaded by Self-Employed Women's Union chairman Pat Horn after a request by street traders for a solution to their accommodation and storage needs.

The housing service unit of the Durban metropolitan has formed a section 21 company to run the project. Metro housing unit executive director Dan Smit said the city hoped to provide the street traders with a safe and comfortable alternative to sleeping on the street.

The four-storey building would include 162 rooms with ablution facilities, storage space for traders, ground floor rooms for the disabled, a public eating area and informal trade outlets.

The facility would function on a rental system.

50% of West Cape firms don't pay tax

Businesses not registered – survey

Cape Town – Up to half of all businesses in the Western Cape are not registered for tax, says South African Revenue Services (SARS) head Trevor van Heerden.

The estimate was based on a door-to-door survey conducted by SARS personnel, who had been sent into the province's streets to find out which businesses were registered and for what type of tax.

"The results were astounding, up to 50% of businesses in the Western Cape were not registered for any tax at all," Mr Van Heerden told the National Assembly's standing committee on public

'In the past inland revenue concentrated on soft targets, the ordinary taxpayer'

accounts yesterday

The survey had resulted in positive spin-offs, with an increase of 4 009 Western Cape businesses having registered for tax.

In Gauteng, only 45 000 employers had registered for tax, "which

clearly is not the right number".

Mr Van Heerden acknowledged that in the past inland revenue had concentrated on "soft targets" – the ordinary income taxpayer – but said that action was now being taken to ensure that all businesses paid tax and revenue collection was improved.

Progress was being made under the revamped SARS in spite of staff shortages and budgetary constraints. For example, the income tax system had grown substantially. The total of 300 000 registered VAT vendors in 1991/92 had increased to more than 580 000 at the last count – Sapa

ARG 18/9/97

(153A)

Team tackles city's trading woes

Order returns to Mitchell's Plain after key talks

ANDREA WEISS

CITY EDITOR

Order is gradually being restored to the Mitchell's Plain town centre where chaotic trading conditions have long been a bone of contention between shop-owners and traders.

This is the view of the informal trading management team which has been appointed by the Cape Town municipality to bring order to trading throughout the city.

Residents, formal and informal

traders shared their views on the issue at a public meeting in Mitchell's Plain last week.

The purpose of the meeting was to explain the trading by-law, a copy of which has been simplified and distributed among traders.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting was what would happen to traders who occupied spaces near fire hydrants, something forbidden in terms of the by-law. The issue of obstructing shop windows and people sleeping overnight with goods was also debated.

The next step in the process will be the election of an umbrella body to unite four trading associations operating in the area. Only members of the associations will be allowed to vote.

This election will be held on October 16 with the assistance of the Independent Mediation Service of South Africa.

Area manager Oscar Solomons said the election would bring together all the associations under one umbrella. This would facilitate regulation because it was difficult deal-

ing with four different parties. Hassan Khan, manager of the informal trading team, said the Mitchell's Plain meeting had been positive because it had involved traders and the community.

Elsewhere in the city, the trading management team is working on a pilot scheme to regulate trading in Adderley Street and has also called in the mediation service to help it resolve conflict over an informal market in Epping. It is also working on a plan to manage an influx of traders during the festive season.

153A

AG 30/9/97

'Hawkers must expand trade'

Patrick Wadula

(153A)

BD 13/10/97

HAWKERS and other informal traders should form trading houses to market their products in African countries, Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said at the weekend.

She told the 11th national conference of the African Chamber for Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) that hawkers had to see beyond selling fruit and vegetables on pavements. She said they should look into agroprocessing, including canning products.

Achib members' retail experience would enable them to set up trading houses and import and export agencies. Many were involved in manufacturing and should be encouraged to offer their products for exhibitions and for sale in other parts of the world.

"Empowerment is not something that someone does for you, but what you are able to do to add value and change things for the benefit of everyone," she said.

Ngcuka said government's role was

to facilitate and uplift people from the informal to the formal sector.

However, she stressed that government would only become involved in schemes that could be sustained. "We want to get into something that will be there tomorrow."

Entrepreneurs had to focus on growth areas in the economy such as telecommunications.

Achib members would benefit from the establishment of the National Empowerment Fund by forming groups and bidding for some of the state-owned assets being privatised.

Government was aware the informal sector was regarded as a high-risk area by financial institutions, she said.

It was working with banking and insurance institutions so that products tailored for this particular sector could be introduced.

Mlambo-Ngcuka also said government would be reviewing the regulatory laws including by-laws that hampered the progress of informal businesses. Details would be announced in March next year.

'Formal' informal traders

Star 17/10/97

By ANNA COX

(153A)

The majority of jobs in the city are going to have to be created within informal trading, said Greater Johannesburg Eastern council head of urban planning, Phekane Ramarumo while opening the first formal hawker stalls in Norwood this week.

The R270 000 stalls, constructed by the council in consultation with informal traders, will house 10 hawkers who have been trading outside a supermarket in Grant Avenue for the past three years. The hawkers now have proper stands, toilets and washing up and storage facilities.

"The neglect of the contribution of this sector can only create hardship in terms of unemployment, crime and environmental damage," said Ramarumo.

Her department was committed to having an economic development strategy for the whole of the Eastern council

area, she said.

"In the whole area, starting from the north-eastern parts of the inner city to the northern suburbs and Greater Alexandra, there are about 6 000 informal traders. The council is looking into the registration of these traders to assist and work with them."

"Since the 1991 amend-

ment to the Business Act which removed regulation in all but the food industry, there has been an enormous surge in informal trading, resulting in congestion of our cities, lack of storage facilities and degeneration of the environment. We do not see this as a form of decay but as a vital component of emerging busi-

ness that must be integrated into the mainstream economy," she said.

In the next three years the council would like to see 4 000 traders having stall facilities, she added.

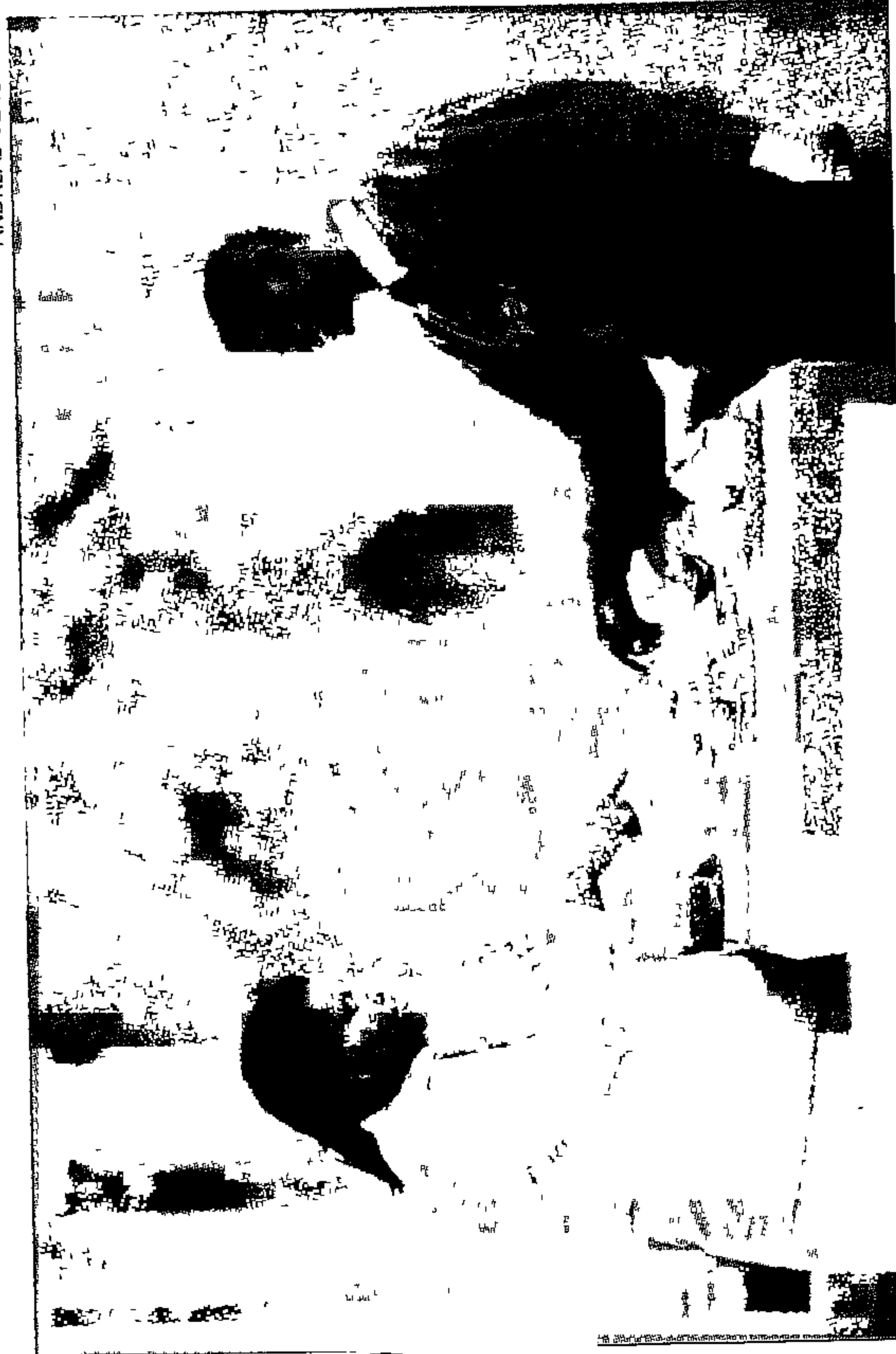
Pressure points where urgent intervention was required were in Hillbrow, Alexandra, Highlands North,

Bryanston, Rosebank, William Nicol and Norwood.

However, the traders themselves were a bit sceptical.

Said Walter Mokata. "We are happy to try. We have good facilities here but we don't know if we are going to get customers because we are not on the main road any more," he said.

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS



Proper facilities... Phekane Ramarumo, head of urban planning (left) with hawker Walter Mokata at new stalls in Norwood.



A LONG WAY FROM THE PAVEMENTS . . . Achib president Lawrence Mavundla, former street hawker, likes the good things in life, such as a Mercedes-Benz AMG **■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA**

What's empowerment without the trappings?

SNEAKING into a parking space, the Mercedes-Benz AMG cuts an imposing figure among battered jalopies

The figure inside, sporting dark sunglasses, releases the seat-belt to get out

All eyes are on him. He grins — as if relishing the attention

In the crowd of onlookers someone whispers "Bo darkie ba palama (black people are driving posh cars) these days"

Another retorts, "Maybe he (he is a) drug dealer or he is on the gravy train"

But lo! This is Lawrence Mavundla, president of the largest hawkers' association in South Africa, the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib).

The likeable Mavundla (33), in a pin-striped Levisons suit, seems unworried by the gazes. He does not hide his penchant for the good things in life

"After all," he says, "how can I help empower others when I am not empowered myself?"

He laughs heartily — even though most of Achib's members will probably never be able to buy a car like his in their lifetimes.

It's a long way from the early



Business Editor

Achib president

Lawrence Mavundla has come a long way since his hawking days. His lifestyle today is vastly different from the hawkers he represents, such as the man below.



longer sell on the pavements. They think we may have been bought by the government to ignore their problems

Estimates put the number of hawkers in South Africa at 900 000. Achib claims to have 85 000 paid-up members.

Many leading black businessmen did a spell in hawking as children or youths, usually to help the family cash flow.

One that comes to mind is Kehla Mthembu, former chairman of the defunct New Age Beverages, the local bottler of Pepsi-Cola, who used to sell apples and peanuts in the train

Soweto millionaire Richard Maponya started his business doing house to house selling.

Some cynics, however, describe hawking as merely a redistribution of poverty.

"To all intents and purposes, this form of business (hawking) can never be said to be black economic empowerment," one economist once said

Mavundla says such criticism is naive.

"Look at what hawking has produced over the years. For instance, I never dreamt of being at the level I am today."

Space, the Mercedes-Benz AMG cuts an imposing figure among battered jalopies

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It's a long way from the early 1980s when Mavundla – fired from the mines after taking part in a strike – thought the only way to escape the clutches of poverty was to become a hawker

Entry to this informal business proved to be a daunting task – what with licences being refused, fines imposed, and people jailed for nothing more than trying to eke out a living

Armed with vision and determination, Mavundla thought the only way out was to organise hawkers so that they could speak with one voice

At the time he was selling fruit and vegetables in Hoek Street, Johannesburg

A hawkers' association, Mavundla thought, would help to persuade government and other stakeholders such as city councils to stop hawker harassment

"Those were hard days," says Mavundla. "Hawkers were not only harassed on city pavements, they were also arrested while trying to buy stock at the market"

"It was a no-win situation. Real tough."

For most of this century hawkers have laboured under severe restrictions. Especially between 1965 and 1980 it was open season on pavement businessmen.

The tide turned in hawkers' favour only when former state president PW Botha accepted an invitation from the Fabcos to come and sample food from an illegal hawker

To the horror of his security men, Botha enjoyed a meal at a barrow in Marabastad, Pretoria, mingling with a crowd of some 2 000 people. Since then, hawking has become respectable, with some municipalities relaxing restrictions.

Hawkers proliferated, especial-



Business Editor

Achib president

Lawrence Mavundla has

come a long way since

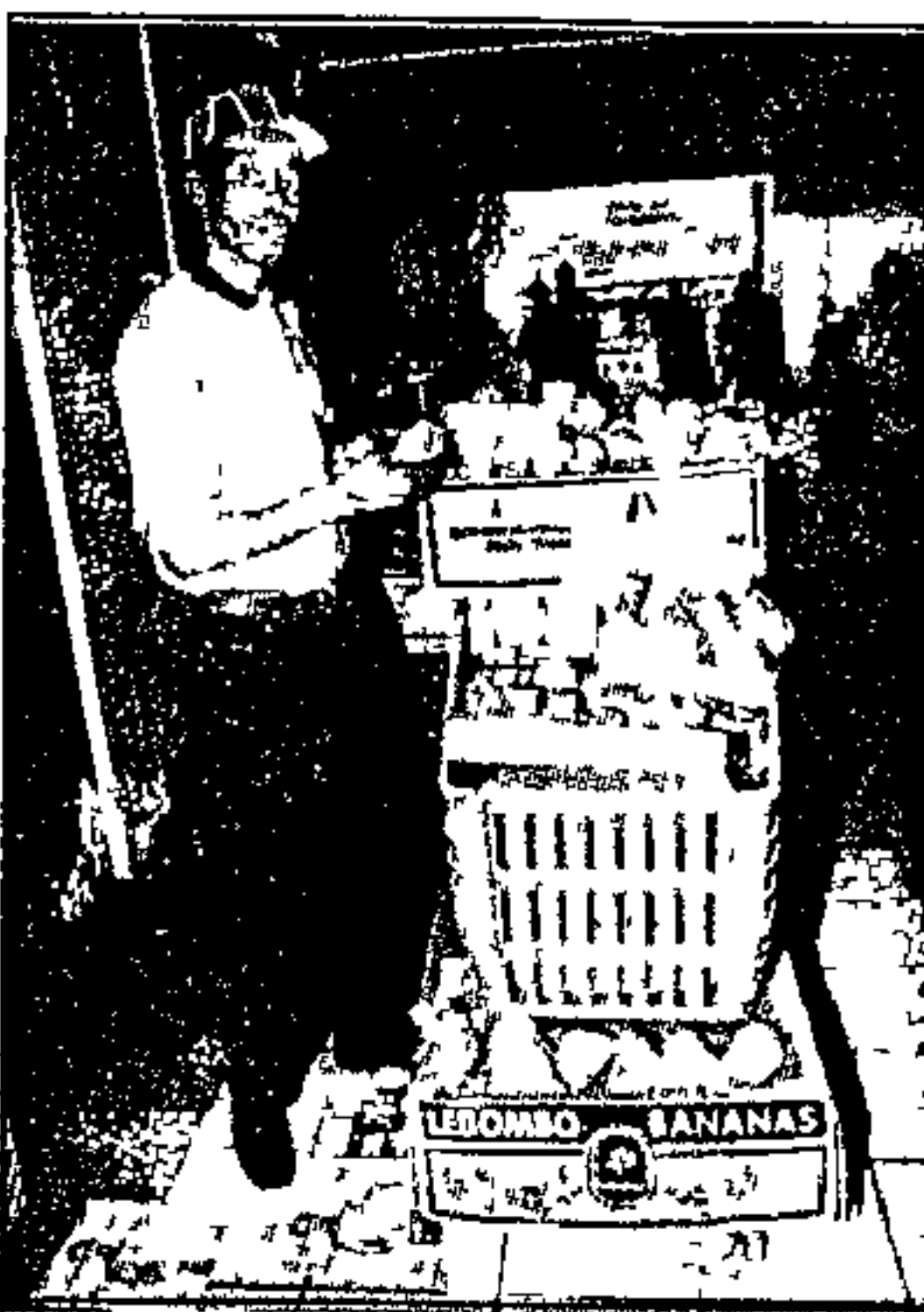
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ly in big cities. But profit margins dwindled and many hawkers can hardly make a decent living

The numbers of hawkers were further swollen by the Chinese hawkers and those from neighbouring states.

This year xenophobia reared its head in the streets of Johannesburg, with hawkers from neighbouring countries and Chinese hawkers bearing the brunt of the local hawkers' anger. Foreign hawkers were assaulted and their wares confiscated

Mavundla, while not advocating violence, says this was inevitable. "Our people can't go to China or even neighbouring countries to sell their wares on pavements. We feel let down by our government – which is turning a blind eye to these foreigners affecting the profit margins of our members."

"It is three years since we engaged government on this issue but our recommendations are not taken up. Our members think we are not doing enough as we in the executive of Achib no

They think we may have been bought by the government to ignore their problems

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"Look at what hawking has produced over the years. For instance I never dreamt of being at the level I am today"

He sees hawking as an entry-level to big business. "Unless we have a start, we can never have an end"

Mavundla says there are about 30 000 shopowners in South Africa who started as hawkers, some of whom now have a monthly turnover of more than R200 000

He adds that after government, the hawking business is the largest employer. And that so many people are taking the responsibility of employing themselves is praiseworthy.

Achib is doing all in its power to help hawkers increase their margins, he says. Last month Achib signed a deal with one of the largest agencies at the City Deep market in Johannesburg for its members to, for the first time, receive credit.

Through its investment arm, Africa Genesis Investment Holdings, Achib has bought a 50-per-cent stake in a R12 million four-star hotel in Braamfontein. Other multi-million rand projects are on the cards

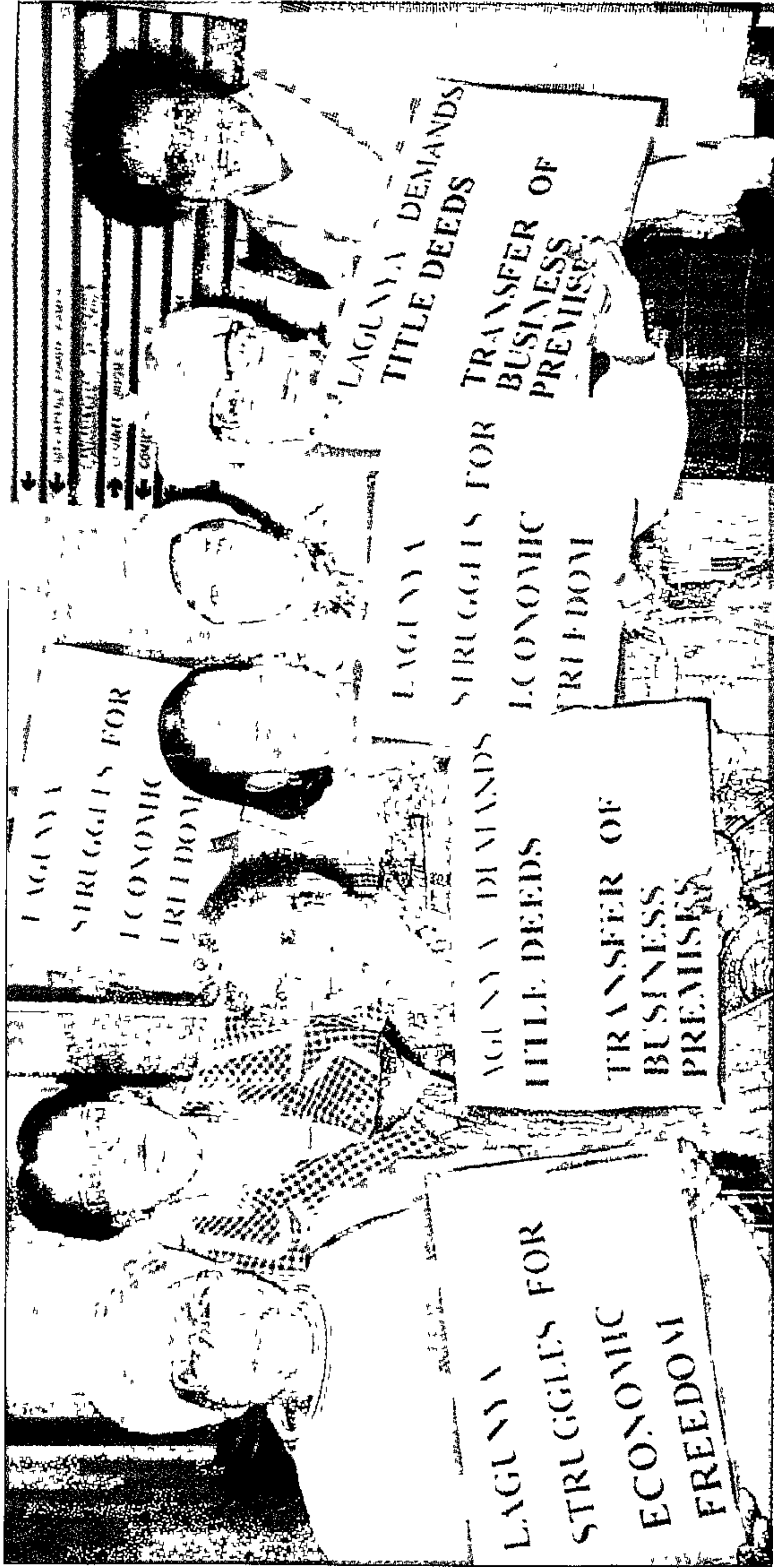
Mavundla says of all the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce affiliates, Achib was the only one to hold its AGM – which ended last Sunday – at a hotel owned by its members

Although the hotel has been a subject of controversy lately, Mavundla is confident Achib's investments are not threatened.

His last word on empowerment? "The struggle has moved from the streets to the boardrooms. Toyi-toyi has been overtaken by time – and mind you, it is hot out there. We need to fight the new war right in the boardrooms where there are air-conditioners."

Mavundla is married with three children

CP 19/10/97 (153A7)



Up in arms: some of the rate traders from Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu who are involved in a dispute with the Cape Town municipality. They are fighting for ownership of their shops

Council, traders clash on plan to sell shops

(153A)

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

A possible court battle is looming between township traders and the Cape Town municipality over shops the traders have rented for up to 40 years and which the council now wants to sell.

More than 100 traders from Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu under the banner of the Lagunya Business Association, are fighting for ownership of the shops. They rented the shops from the

Ikapa municipality before it was incorporated into the Cape Town municipality this year.

The traders argue that they have rented the shops, many of which are run down for so long that they should now be entitled to ownership.

The National Party administration decided as far back as 1992 to grant title deeds to home owners in the townships and the traders felt this should now be extended to businessmen.

They say the Ikapa council decid-

ed to give the property to the existing tenants free of charge.

However, the Cape Town municipality has rescinded this agreement, arguing that the Ikapa administration was plagued by maladministration.

The council has undertaken to sell the shops and traders fear they will be put out to tender and that they will be outbid by larger companies.

In a survey the council found there were 42 shops with registered tenants in the three areas but also that some

premises were being sub-let illegally by tenants.

The council's Economic Development and Property Committee has recommended that the shops be sold and that traders be given an amnesty of two months during which lessees can apply for permission to sub let the shops.

They would also be given two months to pay up all rental arrears or make arrangements to do so.

If tenants did not comply, their right to trade would be suspended.

JERMAINE CRAIG

ARL 24/10/97

SUBURBAN DECAY

Hillbrow is the beachhead

Reversing inner-city degradation would also benefit the suburbs

Don't hold your breath, but one day the streets outside your home could be clean and safe. The 10 departments currently cleaning up Hillbrow intend to spread their



Central Hillbrow revival strategy based on effective inter-departmental collaboration

efforts throughout Johannesburg

Safer Cities — a joint venture between the Johannesburg Public Safety Cluster, UN Habitat and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime — is behind the campaign. The co-ordinator of Safer Cities and operational head of the Hillbrow campaign, Rory Robertshaw, says the key is integrating departments' normal work. "About 90% of the action in Hillbrow is standard departmental procedure

"Initially we will do it area by area, as we develop the competence of the departments. Ultimately, it should become normal procedure everywhere. There have been difficulties, but the potential of co-ordinated departmental activity is phenomenal. Working together on the Hillbrow campaign has motivated the departments and given them a sense of purpose in their work."

The mix of departments would shift depending on the special quality-of-life problems in each area. For instance, Hillbrow has enormous overcrowding, so Home Affairs, environmental health and fire safety

become key departments. In contrast, the leafier suburbs of northern Johannesburg would be concerned about illegal use of houses for business — a planning issue.

Robertshaw says the aim of Safer Cities is to "develop local authority ability to deal with the social causation of crime." Hillbrow is the first practical test of that ability.

The structure and enforcement of by-laws are key issues. There is no comprehensive by-law to control overcrowding, the key problem in Hillbrow. It can only be dealt with when it affects environmental and fire-safety laws. But even these have limited effect when they are applied.

Most by-laws require a warning of between one day and a month, says Robertshaw. Then a spot fine is issued and eventually the case reaches court.

"But we often can't find the owner to issue a warning or fine," says deputy chief of fire safety Ronnie Koekemoer. Another official says that when a case eventually gets to court, and the perpetrator is found guilty, the fine is often a barely punitive R500.

Environmental Health chief Angela Mathee says her department prefers to educate rather than punish. "Many people need to be taught about the inner-city system, that you don't throw cans or chicken bones down the toilet, that you need to keep the windows open for ventilation and health, that as a resident you have responsibilities for clearing up waste."

"We believe that this education will be just as necessary in the suburbs." Ian Fife

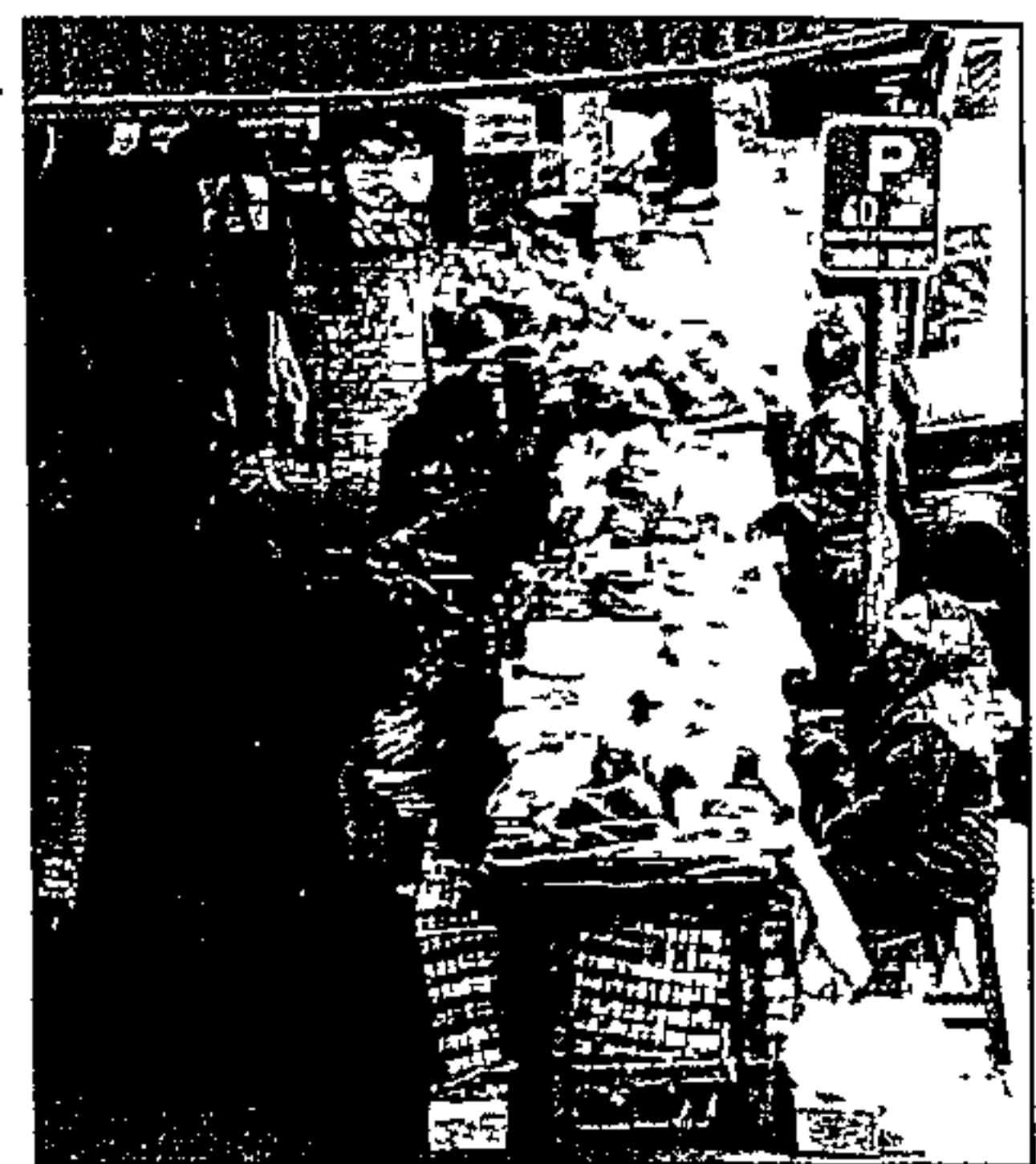
STREET TRADERS

City markets plan mooted

Hawker training and private-sector support are key to their success

There are an estimated 10 000-12 000 hawkers clogging the pavements of central Johannesburg. Now metro officials are investigating the suggestion by Baltimore-based urban renewal expert Roy Higgs that formal marketplaces should be created for them. Providing training for hawkers and getting private-sector financial support for the markets are seen as vital.

The project is being tackled in two stages. Roger Hands, operations manager for informal-sector development in Greater Johannesburg's economic development department, says "the first phase is to legislate



Robbie Tshabalala

The problem will formal city market places provide the solution?

hawking and trading in the inner city

The second, arising from an in-depth sociological study now under way, is to generate a general management plan and strategy relating to street trading in the inner city.

The study should identify sites for the markets. "The idea," says Hands, "is to plan for the next three, five or 10 years."

Neil Fraser, executive director of the private-sector urban renewal initiative Central Johannesburg Partnership, says he fears there may be insufficient political will to sustain the recently launched clean-up campaign in Hillbrow. "The situation has been allowed to fester for too long and has become difficult to correct."

Last week the council's consultative forum on street traders met for the first time. It includes hawkers' associations, big business, property owners, trade unions, the city traffic department, the police and representatives from the Gauteng legislature.

Central Johannesburg Partnership's Franco Andreone, an observer on the forum, says topics ranged from management of street trading to security, foreigners and how traders can become self-sufficient in business. The next step is to set up a steering committee to feed its recommendations to the main multiparty forum, the Central Johannesburg Forum.

Johannesburg metro council's manager for economic empowerment and business, Li Perneger, is working on 20 projects for the southern metro area. She says about half of these will be located in the CBD. "A range of markets will be introduced in stages and done in conjunction with the upgrading of the environment. Small business training is to run simultaneously."

"We are still at the overall management strategy phase. Street trading is complex and has many ramifications that cannot be planned in isolation."

Margot Cohen



Xenophobia: One of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee marshalls tries to keep in line marchers protesting against foreign hawkers. PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY HOFFMAN

Hawkers want foreigners out

Emeka Nwandiko

Street hawkers in Johannesburg are threatening to "cleanse the streets" of foreign traders whom they blame for disease and decay

Amid chants of "chase the *makwere-kwere* out" and "down with the foreigner, up with South Africans" a 500-strong crowd of informal traders toyi-toyed to the Department of Home Affairs in Johannesburg on Wednesday

They delivered a memorandum which demanded an immediate halt to the issuing of work permits to foreigners

It was the second time in as many months that hawkers have blamed foreign traders of robbing them of their livelihood. Violence flared in August when local traders meted out street justice to foreign traders, assaulting them and destroying their wares. This week's march was peaceful

Manikis Solomon, a representative of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee which organised the demonstration, stoked the crowd that had assembled at the Library Gardens into a xenophobic frenzy when said "These people are not welcome. No city in the world will allow the mess Johannesburg has come to. We must clean up the streets of Johannesburg of foreign hawkers."

"The pavements of Johannesburg are for South African citizens and not for foreigners."

Urshula Dhalimi, who sells footwear, vases and disposable nappies in Hillbrow, agreed. "We are the people who voted and suffered for this country and we can not even eat our sweat. Foreigners have taken our jobs." She said South Africans could not compete with foreign hawkers who she claimed had flooded the market with cheap Chinese goods.

Honey Mamshila, who sells confectionery and tobacco in Hillbrow, said foreign workers

had an unfair advantage as they sold less expensive goods which she claimed had been stolen. She demanded the immediate repatriation of Zimbabweans and Mozambicans who she accused of being the source of friction between locals and outsiders.

The protest ended with the handing over of a memorandum to Gavin Strachen, acting district representative of refugee affairs.

A senior immigration official predicted that further clashes would erupt between locals and foreigners as his department was unable to deal with the increasing weight of asylum applications which he said were as many as 100 a day.

"Anywhere else in the world an application for asylum is dealt in a short period of time. Here we have cases stretching back over three years. The hawkers are getting impatient. They want action and I can't say I blame them. We have a very high unemployment rate in this country and we have to deal with our own first," he said.

M+G 24-30/10/98 (153A)

Women go from poverty to profit

The award-winning Masithandane group is selling 'Ciskei daisies' at world trade fairs, writes Vukile Sonandzi

With an eye on the environmental catwalk, the women of Grahamstown's award-winning Masithandane Association are turning ubiquitous "Ciskei daisies" into fashion accessories that are going down well abroad. The women have taken it upon themselves to wage a personal war

against poverty and environmental degradation by collecting old plastic bags (known as "Ciskei daisies" for their adornment of shrubs and fences) and crocheting them into attractive hats, bags, flags and mats.

Started in 1991 by six women, Masithandane has grown into a self-help community project with a membership close on 100

Several members recently took their products to trade fairs as far afield as Europe and Asia. And the group won this year's Eastern Cape tourism award.

Masithandane co-ordinator, Erica McNulty, says the idea was first conceived when the Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association was giving out food parcels to pensioners and others waiting for government social grants.

"There was some unhappiness with the parcel system. It just wasn't enough on top of the pension that people got. The worst scenario was



Womanpower: Orders for products flood in. PHOTO: VUKILE SONANDZI

people selling these packets for liquor," McNulty said.

Kondiswa Ndwayana, who recently returned from a trade fair in

Singapore, explained "We felt the time was over for hand outs because people did not value things given to them for free."

Now the women are flooded with orders from national and overseas buyers who are demanding Masithandane's fashionably eco-friendly accessories. These include the United Kingdom Club of Soroptimists, the National Tuberculosis Association and various Aids awareness organisations. With unemployment running at more than 70%, many Grahamstown residents rely on Masithandane's soup kitchen for a square meal. But, soup-kitchen customers are required to "pay" for their meal by handing stray plastic bags to the Masithandane chefs.

Like many towns in the Eastern Cape, Grahamstown is littered with plastic bags and the scheme helps to clean up the township environment.

"A plastic bag a day makes a difference to people's health and to the environment," says a member of the Masithandane group.

But the impact of Masithandane's work is being felt far beyond the outskirts of Grahamstown. The Eastern Cape Tourism Board took 200 of the group's beaded South African flags to a marketing roadshow in Canada and the United States this week. And McNulty says they have received an order for 500 of these flags for the upcoming Investors' Conference in East London on November 7.

Masithandane women also promote cultural tourism by providing Xhosa lunches to foreign tourists as well as running bed-and-breakfast operations from houses in Rhini township outside Grahamstown. Recently a Dutch tourist, Professor Jan Dunkern, spent a night in Tanty location where he savoured a dinner, bed and breakfast — Xhosa style.

"He was very pleased with the standard of service he received," says McNulty.

McNulty — fondly known locally by the clan name of Mamcira — believes that bringing tourists to live with families in townships "helps to erase misconceptions about black communities. Township tourism is a way of bridging worlds previously separate."

Locals are left with money in their pockets, tourists leave with some cultural awareness, and both parties have the opportunity to strike up new friendships. McNulty's message to other women trapped in poverty is to "believe in yourselves."

But Masithandane is no longer strictly a female preserve. The group now has several male members, including an *umbongi* (praise poet), a herbalist, a pipe maker, and an artist — Vusumzi Dywili — who has also recently been to Singapore.

MAG 24-30/10/97

(153A)



OBED ZILWA

Battle of the pavements: shoppers compete with hawkers' wares for space on Adderley Street. Now 77 trading sites are to be demarcated in an attempt to end the anarchy in the city centre's main thoroughfare

CRISIS 2 Stores losing battle for streets to hawkers

BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

(153A)

Shops in the Cape Town city centre claim they are losing the battle of the streets to hawkers

Informal traders operating on narrow pavements are drawing shoppers away from stores and driving away passing trade. Now moves are under way to solve the problem before stores pack up and move to the suburbs. The Informal Traders Task Unit, set up by the municipality to find a solution, says

there is growing concern about businesses being driven away from the city. Hassan Khan, manager of the unit, which represents formal and informal traders and the municipality, says rich entrepreneurs are at the heart of the problem. They set up frontmen, many of them foreigners, with stock and pay them minimal wages to run street stalls. Mr Khan says the influx of foreign traders adds to the already large number of traders on city streets. "We've spoken to the Department of Home Affairs and the premier about the foreigners but we haven't had anything

from them yet. I think they're playing political games," Mr Khan said. The unit intends demarcating 77 informal trading sites in Adderley Street as part of a pilot project to control street vendors in the city and suburbs. This comes after a three-year tug-of-war between retailers who occupy prime shop space and vendors who set up stalls right outside. **ARG 13/11/97** Recently the owner of Victrix, a furniture store which had become an institution in Adderley Street, decided to move to Roeland Street, claiming the army of traders outside

and around his store had devastated his business. Many other businesses in the area are threatening to move or close. But Gladys Sefoloko, who has worked the strip for nearly a year, said she did not have any other place to sell her wares, as her monthly income of R400 did not allow her to trade on crowded Greenmarket Square. Among measures proposed are issuing a limited number of temporary trading licences and stipulating a minimum of 1.5m width left free on pavements for pedestrians to pass. Vendors will not be allowed to trade in front of shop windows.

Councils plan blitz on illegal hawkers and their structures

Unregistered traders will get four days to dismantle or risk materials being seized

By ANNA COX

The mushrooming of illegal hawkers' stands and their unsightly structures throughout the city has become a massive problem for all the Greater Johannesburg councils.

The Eastern council has taken the lead by budgeting R150 000 for removing these structures.

In 1995 the Greater Johannesburg council approved a policy for informal traders which created confusion amongst the street traders who thought it was legal to create any kind of structure on pavements without approval from the council.

As a result, numerous such structures mushroomed

throughout the city.

The four councils have adopted a uniform set of street trading by-laws as a common policy for the man-

Kiosks in northern suburbs an early target

agement of street trading throughout the entire metro area, but there has been no agreement on a law enforcement body.

The Eastern council will be removing illegal kiosks in Rosebank, Illovo, Parktown, Hillbrow, Berea, Johannes-

burg, Wendywood and Kew over the next few weeks.

Wynberg will only be tackled next year as it needs a special operation because of the congestion of illegal structures, especially in the Watt Street area.

Traders who have not registered their stalls are being given four days notice to remove them or the council will place the materials in storage.

The materials will be returned to the traders only after they have paid the costs incurred by the council for the removal.

The Southern council has been systematically demolishing illegal kiosks and is not embarking on a particular removal programme.

(153A)
Star 27/11/97
The Northern council is negotiating with traders.

Head of economic local development, Brian Hlongwa, said the council would do a proper survey on the number of illegal traders and assess the level of facilities available.

There was a need for an integrated plan and a development managerial system to be put in place before enforcement could take place, Hlongwa said.

The Western council is the only one which does not have major hawker problems, said head of local economic development, Dr Marius Venter.

The council was embarking on development rather than enforcement with the few hawkers in this area, he said.

Christmas (1997A) Crackdown AUG 28/11/97 on hawkers Bays for traders

JERMAINE CRANG
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town is to clamp down on informal traders on the eve of the Christmas shopping rush after claims they are driving customers away from central city stores.

The crackdown starts on Monday. Announcing new measures to combat excessive street trading yesterday, city manager Andrew Boraine said that after seeing Cape Argus reports highlighting the issue, the council felt it was dragging its feet at a political level in dealing with the problem.

Many retailers in the central business district, angry that hordes of informal traders operating on narrow pavements are driving shoppers away from their stores, have threatened to move out of town if something is not done.

The municipality started a multipronged strategy this week, beginning by demarcating 77 bays for traders in Adderley Street in an attempt to tidy up Cape Town's prime commercial trading area.

It intends dividing the CBD into areas where traders can and cannot trade.

Chief cleansing engineer Bruce Black has been seconded to deal solely with the hawking issue for three months. He has assembled a team from various departments including enforcement, cleansing, planning and the medical officer of health.

This team is working in conjunction with an existing council team which has been negotiating with informal traders for the past few months.

Mr Black said the 77 bays were demarcat-



SAVE OUR CITY CENTRE

Flashback, the Cape Argus of November 13

ed in conjunction with the Hawkers' Association and the council was working on lease agreements.

Mr Boraine said council was using the CBD as a pilot project because it was where most traders operated and an important tourist destination.

But he said the council would deal with informal trading throughout the city, identifying areas such as Claremont Main Road, Athlone, Mitchell's Plain, Town Centre and Nyanga Junction.

"Bruce Black's challenge is to devise a strategy to cover the whole city, not just the CBD. The starting point is the legislation in place. There are by-laws aimed at managing trading properly in our city. Our job is implementing those properly. It is a combination of negotiation and enforcement."

The municipality would have no hesitation in acting against people who did not comply with the by-laws, Mr Boraine said.

Three groups competing for space on the



Clampdown trader Said Juma sets up his stall on a demarcated trading site in Longmarket Street today

city's pavements had to be catered for - residents who used them, formal shopowners, banks and buildings whose customers need access, and informal traders who made their living on the pavements.

"We want informal traders to have access to the economy, we want shopowners and formal business to feel their needs are being looked after and we want shoppers, pedestrians and tourists to walk the streets freely," Mr Boraine said.

Mr Boraine said the council intended appointing a CBD manager to co-ordinate activities in the city's business areas.

The CBD manager would co-ordinate issues like parking, traffic control, tourism promotion, street children, homelessness and liaising with the police on safety and security issues.

The council has asked people with creative ideas how to solve its problems to contact its toll free number 080 122 7788.

FM 19/12/97

Tracking the informal sector

(157A)
It generated 7% of GDP in 1995

Almost one in every eight jobs originates in the informal sector. And in Northern Province it's closer to one in four, according to data from the 1995 household survey by the Central Statistical Service (CSS).

The CSS estimates the informal sector contributed R32,4bn to GDP in 1995. That's about 7% of total value added in the economy. More than a fifth of that was generated in Gauteng, which houses only about a tenth of SA's informal labour. Of the R32,4bn

□ Trade, catering and accommodation services accounted for 45%. About a third of "workers for own account" (as opposed to employees of informal sector entrepreneurs) in Gauteng, and a fifth in Northern Province, work in this sector.

□ Personal services, including domestic work, contributed 16%. Personal services represent more than 80% of "own account" informal employment in the Northern Cape and Free State.

□ Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 8%.

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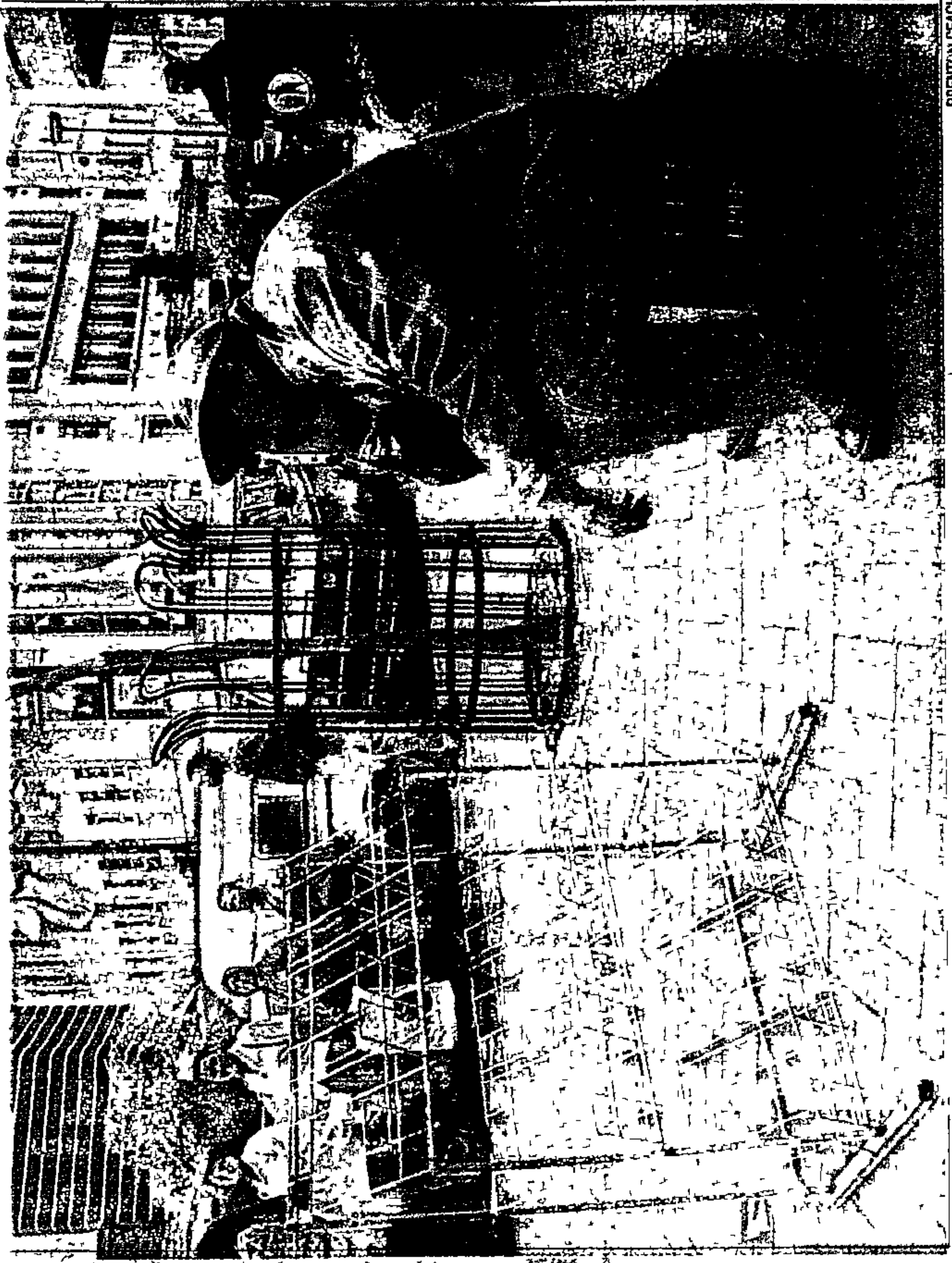
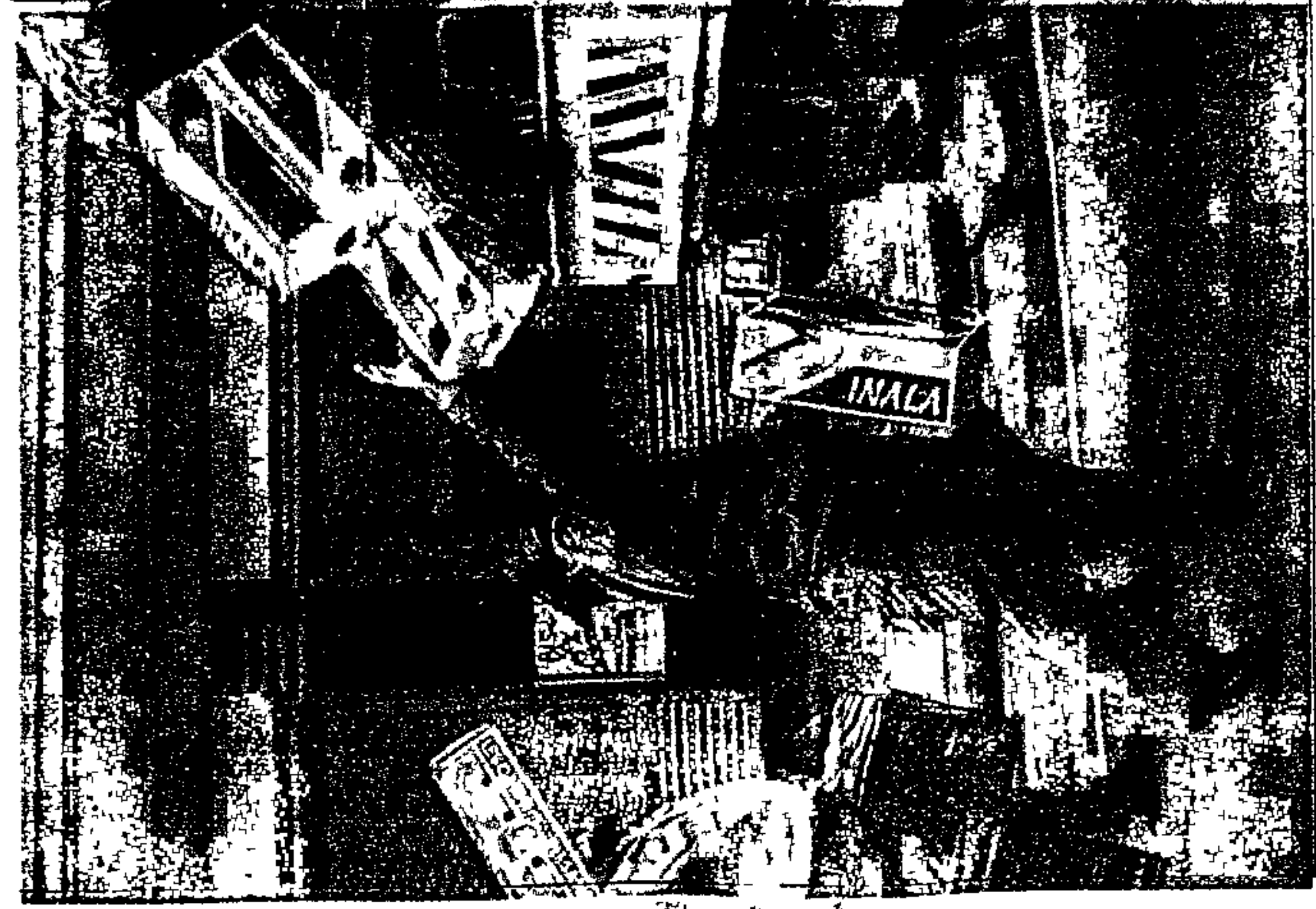
The demographics show the majority (78%) of informal labour is black and much of it (70%) is female. The most unequal distribution is in the Free State, where 90% of informal workers are women. The most equal (57% women) is Gauteng.

Far more women (82%) are engaged in what the CSS calls "elementary work" such as street vending, domestic work and scavenging.

By contrast, only 21% of men depend on elementary work. Almost 40% of men in the informal sector work as artisans or craftsmen — involved in activities like building, house painting and carpentry — compared with 6% of women.

In Gauteng, 20% of men are informal managers and 14% are in sales or service, compared with 4% and 8% respectively for women.

The CSS found 10% of informal "own account" workers to be white, 10% coloured and 2% Indian. But in Gauteng, 19% are white, compared with 3% for coloured and Indian entrepreneurs. ■



BRENTON BEACH

Out with the old: traffic officers remove traders' boxes from the pavement. Bad news: Muhaiddin Goolam, whose family have sold newspapers in Adderley Street for 53 years, after being prevented from trading today

Adderley Street swept clear of hawkers^(153A)

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

APR 3/12/97

Adderley Street, usually packed with informal traders, was almost deserted today when the Cape Town municipality started its campaign to limit the number of hawkers on the streets of the central business district.

Many city retailers believe that the informal traders who operate on the narrow pavements outside their shops drive their

customers away and have threatened to move out of town unless something is done.

The municipality has made it clear it wants to solve the problem of cluttered CBD pavements. It has demarcated 77 bays in Adderley Street where legal permit-holders will be allowed to trade, and negotiated with hawkers' associations to determine who they will be.

Usually about 120 hawkers set up stalls in Adderley Street daily, but there was not a single trader to be seen when a team of 14

traffic officers and five policemen took to the pavements at 6am.

An hour later the Western Cape Fruit and Vegetable Association supplied names of five approved traders who were allowed to set up stalls. Until the municipality gets the names of the 77 designated traders they will prevent hawkers from operating.

Bruce Black, who will head the team handling the hawking issue for the next three months, said "The whole programme is designed to give the streets of Cape Town

back to the people, consistent with the needs of the hawkers to trade to make a living."

The crackdown was welcomed by people walking in Adderley Street this morning. They said there was usually a battle for space and action needed to be taken.

One woman said that while it was good for pedestrians it was bad for hawkers, who had nowhere else to trade.

Many hawkers were unhappy that they were not given more time to sort out their permits with hawkers' associations.

Hawkers arrested in trade ban row

ASHLEY SMITH AND JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

APR 4/12/97
Police today arrested about 10 hawkers as tension between the Cape Town municipality and informal traders boiled over in Adderley Street in the city centre.

A large police contingent stormed traders who had set up stalls illegally. Scuffles erupted as traders were bundled into police vehicles and their goods were confiscated. The traders' stalls and other equipment were thrown into a refuse removal truck. The

To page 3



Fracas: hawkers and policemen clash in Adderley Street this morning

BRENTON GEACH

Hawkers protest over lack of consultation

From page 1

APR 4/12/97
Traders had defied the Cape Town municipality's decision to ban all hawking in Adderley Street until rentals of R200 a month were paid.

Members of the Cape Town Hawkers' Association and the Fruit and Vegetable Hawkers' Association have vowed to continue trading. They shouted that they would not stand for the "draconian-style" of management being imposed on them.

Vincent Govendasamy said traders were not protesting against the payment of rent, but the R200 had not been negotiated.

(163A)
"We are going to trade, we are going to take to the streets - and if they want to throw us in jail, so be it," he said.

He said hawkers had received a letter signed by the "traffic manager" on Tuesday afternoon telling them no one would be allowed to trade from yesterday until rentals were paid.

Rashieda Muller from the National Small Business Council said she was horrified that people's livelihoods were being taken away from them after three years of negotiations with local authorities.

Payment of rent was still supposed to be under discussion, she said.

Traders defy council ban

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

More fireworks are expected in Adderley Street today as informal traders, at loggerheads with the Cape Town municipality, vow to defy the council which has moved to restrict them trading in the area

"We are prepared to go to jail for our right to trade. At least in jail we'll get a bowl of porridge," said Reshaad Hameed, chairman of the Western Cape Fruit and Vegetable Hawkers' Association.

Bruce Black, the municipal official dealing with the issue, said hawking in Adderley Street was out of control and the rights of formal retailers and pedestrians were being violated.

"The new regulations give people more space to walk and do not block the entrances to formal businesses," he said.

153A
Nine traders were arrested yesterday when they defied a ban on hawking in Adderley Street until rentals of R200 a month were paid. Hawkers say they were not consulted about the R200 "rent", a claim flatly denied by the municipality.

Tragedy struck when Mariam Marshall, the 82-year-old mother of fruit and vegetable hawker Naïem Marshall, died of a heart attack near the Cape Town post office while her son was involved in the fracas with police.

The council has demarcated 77 bays in Adderley Street but early today was still waiting for hawkers' associations to provide the names of the designated traders before allowing anyone to set up stalls. Vincent Govindasamy, of the traders' association, said hawkers could not pay rentals until they were allowed to trade to make the money.

"They are going back to their

draconian measures of harassing within the law. There is no democracy here. We need to take a stand. The council needs to realise that they must negotiate. We negotiated on the CBD task team to clean up the city. We want to assist but the council conned us," Mr Govindasamy said.

The council's executive committee chairperson, Nomaindia Mfeketo, supported yesterday's action saying the council stood by its decision until there was strong motivation that the decision was wrong.

"We want the problem to be sorted out."

"We know the vision of this council is also a council that cares, but that does not mean you are not going to be firm in implementing decisions that have been taken," Ms Mfeketo said.

Traders are to meet the council's executive committee on Monday to try to resolve the impasse.

ARC 6/12/99

Blitz could cost hawkker his job

Paper seller forced to move (153A) ARG 6/12/97

MARC VAN DER STERREN

For 53 years news vendor Muhaidin Goolam and his father before him have kept Capetomans up to date with the latest news and views. But this week he fell victim to the clampdown on hawkers.

Mr Goolam sold newspapers carrying the story of how officials forced him off his newsstand in Adderley Street near the flower sellers.

They said he was in the way, and moved him to an "official" trading site set further back - where his customers may not find him so easily.

And the municipality is charging him R200 a month rent for the new site. He paid nothing for the old one.

However, many nearby shopkeepers paying steep rentals and municipal rates believe it's about time the hawkers also paid something towards the city where they earn their living.

The municipal clampdown on hawkers came after shops complained the hawkers were jamming the pavements and driving away customers while shopkeepers who helped finance the city lost out.

Mr Goolam, 41, can't understand

why he has become a victim in the battle between shopkeepers and hawkers.

"I never stood in anybody's way," he said. "The people can't see me here."

His new site is in an obscure corner set back from the street.

At first he thought the R200 rent was for a year, but was horrified to learn it was for only a month.

"I can't afford it," he said. "It's too much. I also have to feed my kids."

His father started the business 53 years ago and passed it on to his son, who says he still enjoys it. "I like Cape Town and I like the people."

His customers all seem to have the same opinion about his treatment by the municipality.

"It's stupid!" shouts a woman who has just read a report on him in the Cape Argus.

"I have known him for years. This is totally nonsense!"

Carlo Cellini, buying the Cape Argus from Mr Goolam, said "I have known Muhaidin - and the flower sellers - for years. He gives us a service and I love his service."

Mr Goolam said he had been standing on the same spot in rain,

wind and shine since he was a child. During the 1980s unrest, police even sprayed his newspapers purple.

He has not had a holiday since his father died 14 years ago and has manned his stall six days a week from 7am until 6pm.

"Now I have to find something else, but I don't know where to go," he said, insisting he could not afford the R200 a month.

Mr Goolam complains that newspapers and magazines aren't selling as well as they used to because they are too expensive and have too much bad news.

"When someone got killed 10 years ago, it was hot news. Now it's just another statistic."

Still, he hopes to earn increased commission from newspaper sales to cover his new overheads.

While Mr Goolam agonises over his future, a man gives him a R10 note and buys the Cape Argus, but forgets to take his change as he saunters off reading the paper on his way to the station.

"Your change!" Mr Goolam shouts. "So you can buy a cool drink," he quips - dispensing much-needed Cape humour with the change.



Read all about it! for 53 years Muhaidin Goolam - and his father before him - have kept Capetown

(153A) ST (CM) 7/12/97

Council under fire after blitz on hawkers

BOBBY JORDAN

THE Cape Town City Council has run into a storm of criticism after removing hundreds of hawkers from Adderley Street in the city centre.

At the council's request, police launched a surprise crack-down this week, confiscating thousands of rands worth of goods.

The strong-arm action followed months of negotiation between the council and informal trader groups, aimed at cutting down on the number of traders, who stand accused of cluttering up the city centre.

Council officials said they were forced to call in police after negotiations failed to produce a compromise. However, they hoped the hawkers' representatives would reach agreement on a list of hawkers tomorrow.

The crackdown has led to a souring in relations between police and hawkers. Ten hawkers were arrested on Thursday when they defied the council ban and set up shop on pavements.

Now provincial MEC for Economic Affairs, Chris Nissen has joined the fray, appealing to the council to reverse their decision until a compromise can be reached next week.

Nissen is reportedly furious at the council's strong-arm tactics.

In a letter to the council on Friday, Nissen's private secretary, Norman Michaels, said Nissen believed the council

needed to "reinstat[e] a relationship of trust with street traders, who are after all our partners in local economic development and job creation".

Hawkers blamed the action on an impasse over rental of pavement space.

The council is demanding a fee of R200 a month per site — of which 77 have been identified.

The Cape Town Hawkers' Association has agreed to the significantly reduced number of traders, but has been unable to submit a list of which 77 hawkers should be permitted. They also believe a fee of R200 is too expensive.

"The council is asking us to pay more than Truworths or Stuttafords pay for trading space," said hawker Latiefa George.

"We've been told they only pay about R80 per metre per month. Why should we pay more than that for such a tiny little site? There's no way most of us can afford that," George said.

Bruce Black, the municipal official dealing with hawkers, said the council was obliged to restore the rights of shopkeepers and pedestrians, who complained of hawkers taking over the pavements.

"We need to get some order in the streets over Christmas, and we've taken everyone's rights into consideration," he said.

City manager Andrew Boraine said the council was not "anti-hawkers".

"Obviously we would prefer to negotiate everything, but we needed to show the hawkers that we are serious about this particular issue."

Boraine said it would be difficult to allow hawkers to trade until the completed list of 77 traders had been received.

PAC accuses council of racism over hawkers ban

ARC 9/12/97

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

(153A)

The Pan-Africanist Congress accused the Cape Town municipality of "extreme racism" after pleas to allow about 130 hawkers to ply their trade in Adderley Street today fell on deaf ears

The intervention of the PAC comes after five days of intense negotiation between the municipality and the hawkers

The municipality says no trading will take place until hawkers pay R200 a month for demarcated sites.

Hawkers say their plight has left scores of families without an income

while negotiations drag on

Another meeting between municipal officials and the traders started about 11am today in an effort to bridge the impasse

Last week 10 hawkers were arrested and stalls and goods flung on to a refuse truck by police

PAC secretary-general Mike

Muendane and MP Patricia De Lille joined scores of hawkers in Adderley Street today to negotiate with the municipality

After a brief consultation with a council official, Mr Muendane told the hawkers the confiscation of their goods last week was a return to the "old ways of the National Party"

"Can you imagine their treating a white person like that and throwing away their goods in a dirt bin without so much as giving them a receipt for the things they confiscated?"

Ms De Lille told hawkers to set up their stalls so that she and Mr Muendane could monitor police "strong-arm tactics".

Fresh move today to break deadlock on city hawkers

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

The Cape Town Municipality and informal traders are still at loggerheads over hawking in the city centre.

Negotiations to settle the dispute came to nothing yesterday and more talks will be held today.

The municipality clamped down on informal traders last week after retailers, claiming that hawkers operating on narrow pavements were driving shoppers away from their stores, threatened to move out of town.

The municipality has demarcated 77 trading bays in Adderley Street and has asked hawker associations to supply a list of names of traders who will use them. It also says hawkers must pay R200 a month to rent the bays.

This has resulted in hawking in

Adderley Street being banned for the past week. Nine traders who defied the ban were arrested last week.

The traders submitted a list of names on Monday and were to negotiate a new rental with the municipality yesterday. But only traders' first names were on the list and the municipality insisted on a new list with traders' full names and identity numbers.

The talks were then abandoned before the issue of the rentals could be discussed. They will sit down again today to try to resolve the dispute. If it is not settled the municipality will draw up its own list and start moving traders in to the bays tomorrow.

The Pan Africanist Congress has meanwhile joined the fray, accusing the municipality of "extreme racism" in dealing with the traders. PAC MP Patricia de Lille is negotiating to have a lawyer appointed for the traders.

It's back to business as informal street traders and

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Adderley Street will come back to life today after the street's informal traders and the Cape Town Municipality settled their bitter dispute.

The parties came to an amicable agreement yesterday after a week of high drama in which the municipality was accused of "extreme racism" by the PAC and hawkers were banned from trading.

The municipality moved to limit the number of informal traders in the

city centre after businesses complained that hawkers were driving their customers away.

The municipality marked out 77 trading bays in the street and asked hawkers' associations to supply a list of the traders who would use them.

The hawkers supplied the list yes-

terday, although it was only about 80% complete.

It has been agreed the hawkers will complete the list today.

The disputed issue of rent for the bays was also settled, with the municipality reducing the amount from R200 to R125 a month.

"We want to make it a win-win situation for the city and the informal traders," said municipal spokeswoman Leonora da Souza.

"We support economic development, of which the informal traders are an important sector."

The municipality would now start

regulating informal trading in other problem areas - such as Athlone, Guguletu, Claremont and Mitchell's Plain, she added.

This process is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

Vincent Govindasamy of the Cape Town Hawkers' Association said

traders were still unhappy about the rent.

"The R125 was the bottom line which we had to accept. I want to express in no uncertain terms our disappointment at the way the council imposed it on us. But traders are relieved that they can trade again."

council bury the hatchet

11/12/97

153A

ARC

We are treated like dogs, say hawkers evicted in blitz

ARC 18/12/98 (1537)

MANDLA MNYAKAMA AND JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTERS

Cape Town municipality again got tough with hawkers contravening informal trading bylaws yesterday by removing three from a road island near the Grand Parade.

The situation was tense as an angry crowd of hawkers gathered, shouting "Kubo, kubo" (forward, for-

ward). But traffic officers removed the hawkers and loaded their wares on the back of a truck.

Other hawkers prevented their goods being confiscated by grabbing them and running away.

The hawkers had set up stalls on an island between Strand Street and the bus terminus.

They accused traffic officers of being rude and manhandling them and mixing up their goods

Council spokeswoman Leonora da Souza said the hawkers had been warned for more than a month that they were contravening bylaws which took into account safety and the rights of pedestrians and motorists.

When they failed to respond to the warnings, the municipality removed them and their goods in a van to the traffic department.

Ms Da Souza said the hawkers had

agreed to go to the traffic department and had been given a receipt for their goods. The municipality moved to regulate informal trading at the beginning of the month.

Iphraim Oleleke, a hawker who managed to escape with his goods yesterday, said he had sold clothing at the Grand Parade for the past five years.

"They came and collected the wares without any warning. We

should have been given written information. When we asked them why they didn't warn us, they claimed to have given us an oral warning.

"What is an oral warning to a group of people like us?"

Another hawker, who gave his name only as Maine, said "They are treating us like dogs."

"Under the old regime we were not treated like this, it's only with this new government."

0 cents each ("ordinary shares").

Johannesburg Stock Exchange ("the JSE")
("the weighted average traded price")

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he underwriter"), was exercised by the
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be issued, 63 162 will be issued to the

shareholders concerned today

18 December 1997

Corporate advisor in Namibia

FLEMING MARTIN

SECURITIES

Fleming Martin Securities Ltd
(Registration Number 96/421)

Sponsoring broker in Botswana



Stockbrokers Botswana Limited
(Registration Number 88/1163)
(Member of the Botswana Stock Exchange)

Traders block border post in protest action

~~SA~~ (ISA)

PRETORIA — Between
300 and 500 informal
traders blockaded the
Lebombo border post be-
tween SA and Mozam-
bique this week to
protest against new cus-
toms regulations, SA
border police said yester-
day. Lebombo border po-
lice commander Capt
Hans Wessels said traf-
fic came to a standstill as
the post was closed for
about two hours on Mon-
day, and an hour on
Tuesday.

The traders, mostly
women from the town of
Ressano Garcia near the
border, travel to SA to
buy fresh produce which
they sell in Mozambique.

In terms of the new
regulations, they can no
longer pay their customs
duties at the border, but
instead have to travel
120km to Maputo to do it
— and back.

Wessels said the
protesters prevented
traffic from moving
through the post be-
tween 3pm and 5pm on
Monday. When they re-
fused to budge, Mozam-
bican police allegedly
fired several shots with
AK-47 assault rifles, he
said. He could not say if
anyone was injured.

The traders dis-
persed, but returned on
Tuesday to block the post
between 10am and
11am, before leaving.

Crown Agencies,
which manages the bor-
der post, said reports of
bribery at the border had
led to the change in pol-
icy. — Sapa

SD 18/12/97

OPA 3168/e

Hawkers to gain from scheme

Sowetan 18/12/97

(153A)

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

ABOUT 85 000 hawkers and street traders from the informal sector in Gauteng are poised to be the beneficiaries of a bold, new retirement, medical aid and insurance scheme

Managing director of the employee benefits division of First Bowring Mr Mike Hogan, said yesterday that his bank had designed a benefits package for members of the African Council of

Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib)

"The special package is being piloted in Johannesburg with only 5 000 members before being implemented throughout the country from January next year," Hogan said

For an average premium of R175 a month, Achib members – virtually all of whom are self-employed – will buy into a group benefit package that incorporates a funeral scheme, retirement

fund, medical aid, accidental death and disability cover, a savings facility and even a stokvel

"The group package is a concept that will have a wide appeal beyond the informal sector and particularly within the trade union movement," said Hogan

The pivot around which the benefits package deal has been structured is First Bowring's strategic alliance with Medwise

Tracking the informal sector

It generated 7% of GDP in 1995

PM 19/12/97
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Training given to traders

CP 21/12/97

Intersite committed to assisting in developing and uplifting locals.

(103A)

By LILLIAN NGAKANE

SEVENTY-five informal traders were recently awarded with Retail Business Skills Certificates after completing a six-week course organised by the Department of Labour, the Intersite Property Management Services, the Protea Training College and the Mabopane Traders Committee.

The training is a sequel to an agreement between Intersite Property Management - whose aim is to empower local communities - and the sponsors, the Department of Labour.

"Intersite sees these developments as all part of the larger process of training.

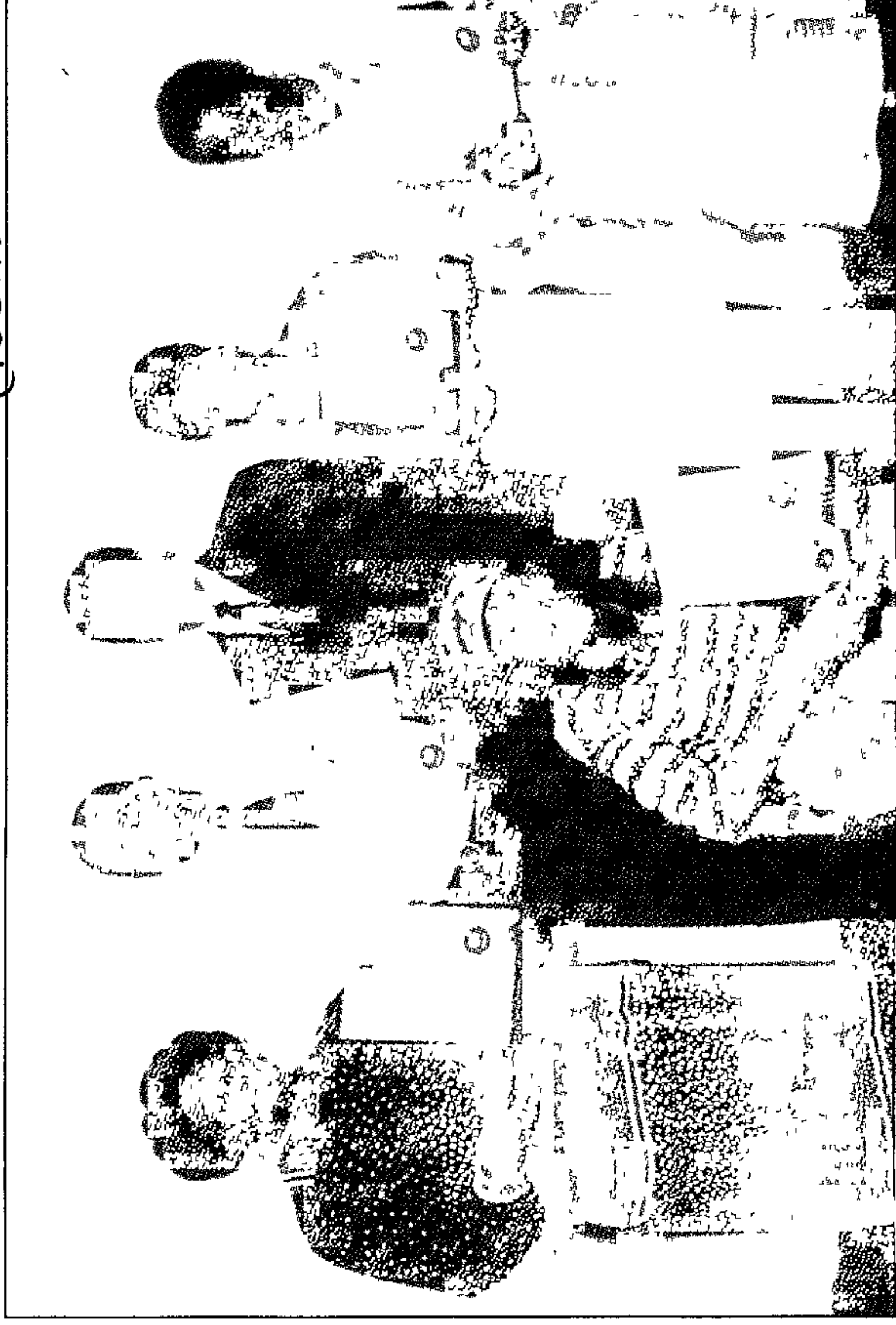
"We are committed to assisting with the development and uplifting of the local community," said Francois Botha of the Intersite's Gauteng region.

During the six-week course, the Department of Labour helped by providing the traders with a thorough background on all aspects of managing a small business.

Intersite, the property management of the South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC), has also initiated the development of 115 kiosks at the Mabopane railway station. These will be leased early in 1998 to qualified traders for a nominal fee.

In addition, the station also provides space for 30 table traders and will house a variety of shops.

Intersite was established out of the property department of the SARCC to develop and commercially use the land and structures in the



THE ACHIEVERS (Back row left) Selphy Makhubedi, John Rapoo, Francois Botha (Intersite) Christine Makwela and Mosina Khinana (Front) Oscar Lekalakala

corporation's R2,6 billion national property portfolio.

This includes 374 commuter train stations located mainly in the major metropolitan centres of Johannesburg,

Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town.

With its services including development planning and facilitation, project and property management,

marketing and promotional services, Intersite's clients include the government departments in both South Africa and other Southern African countries.

INFORMAL SECTOR

1998-1999

Blitz on hawkers to spread

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

(153A)

ARG 8/11/98

After reducing the number of informal traders in the central business district, Cape Town municipality is to turn its attention to hawkers in the problem areas of Mitchell's Plain and Claremont

The council campaign started in Adderley Street with the demarcation of 77 bays for informal trading

The initial clampdown was met with fierce resistance from hawkers, who did not want to pay the R200-a-month rental council was charging.

There were heated battles which resulted in hawkers being banned

from trading and several arrests. The hawkers and council eventually agreed on a R125-a-month rental

Bruce Black, who was seconded by the council to deal with the problem of informal trading, said the municipality now would move to other areas.

"We have reached a situation where we can carry out our promise to people in other areas," said Mr Black.

In Mitchell's Plain, people had asked the council to look at regularising illegal trading on municipal property in the town centre. In Claremont, the council would consider a system similar to that in Adderley Street, with demarcated areas for trading.

Curio sellers lose Table Mountain trading sites

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

AAJ 10/11/98

Hawkers selling curios from sites at the lower cable station have lost their trading spots following completion of the upgrade of the cableway.

The hawkers who have lost out in the re-shuffle are furious after they were not offered new sites.

One of those affected, Mavis Buys said she felt robbed of her spot.

"I'm sad, destroyed and financially embarrassed as I owe money to my suppliers," she said.

She said she was particularly angry as John Harrison, director of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, had assured traders there would be a place for them in the new development.

John Harrison said: "These traders were leasing land from the City Council and, as such, had nothing to do with us."

"We were not in a position to make any assurances to them."

David Dunn, principal estates officer for the Cape Town City Council, said it was made clear to the traders that sites in the new development would be let on a public tender basis.

He said prior to the upgrade, stallholders had been given leases on a monthly basis with no guarantees of these being renewed in the long term.

Mr Dunn said any further trading sites would be let by a public tender process.

Hawkers protest over council 'harassment'

ARG 10/11/98 (153A)

Pretoria – Dozens of Pretoria hawkers gathered on Church Square yesterday, accusing the city council of harassment and trying to rob them of their livelihood.

The group claimed South African vendors were being replaced by foreigners who bribed city council officials.

They said the council last year changed legislation, and that only 250 of an estimated 1500 hawkers were now allowed to trade in the city.

Also, those with permits had been moved to new trading areas, where they had to pay up to R200 rent a month for a site without shelter, and far from toilet facilities.

Jacob Maseka, chairman of Pretoria Concerned Hawkers, said traders were harassed by city council traffic officials on a daily basis.

"Our stock is often confiscated by the traffic cops, and we are fined. This leaves us without money to buy new stock," he said.

"It is clear the city council wants to return to apartheid by evicting blacks from city streets and arresting them."

Johanna Sithole, 55, from Mabopane, said she had been a hawker for eight years, and was the family breadwinner.

She also had to look after her deceased daughter's two deaf children, who attended a special school in Hammanskraal.

"It costs me R1500 a year to keep them in school," she said. "But now I don't make any money. They moved my stall to a spot where I get no business, and I have to pay R150 rent, money which I don't have."

At her old spot, Ms Sithole said, she made up to R200 a week selling cosmetics.

"Now all our stalls are crammed next to each other. If I charge R5 for my cutex, the foreigners make theirs R3."

The city council said legislation governing informal trade was necessary to avoid chaos in the city centre. In the past, hawkers were allowed to trade where they pleased, blocking sidewalks and entrances

to formal businesses.

Spokeswoman Elmarie Meyer said vendors would no longer be allowed to sit outside shop windows. Those who carried on their trade in Church Street would receive tables and umbrellas.

"Illegal informal traders are warned before they are fined or their goods confiscated," she said.

Ms Meyer said the city council had a good relationship with the hawkers. Problems were usually caused by illegal traders.

Mr Maseka said they had no other choice but to be hawkers. "We have seen that hawking is the only way for blacks to survive in South Africa. We want to revive the country's economy and reduce crime. We are also doing our bit to decrease the stampede of job seekers in the factories."

He said that if nothing was done hawkers would embark on a consumer boycott. "If this still doesn't work, we will embark on a struggle to make Pretoria's businesses close down" - Sapa

Pretoria hawkers speak of harassment

(153A)

Star 10/11/98

Dozens of Pretoria hawkers gathered on Church Square yesterday to accuse the city council of harassment and of trying to rob them of their livelihood.

The group claimed South African vendors were being replaced by foreigners who bribed council officials. They said the council last year changed legislation, allowing only 250 of an estimated 1 500 hawkers to trade in the city.

Also, those with permits were moved to new trading areas, where they have to pay up to R200 rent a month for a spot without shelter from the sun and rain, and far from toilet facilities.

Chairman of the Pretoria Concerned Hawkers, Jacob Maseka, said hawkers were harassed by council traffic officials on a daily basis. "Our stock is often confiscated by the traffic cops, and we are fined. This leaves us without money to buy new stock," he said.

"It is clear the city council wants to return to apartheid by evicting blacks from streets and arresting them."

Johanna Sithole (55), from Mabopane, said she had been a hawker for eight years - her only income as the family's breadwinner. She looks after her deceased daughter's two deaf children, who attend a special school.

"It costs me R1 500 a year to keep them in school," she said. "But now I don't make any money. They moved my stall to a spot where I get no business, and I have to pay R150 rent - money which I don't have."

At her old spot, Sithole said, she made up to R200 a week selling cosmetics. "Now all our stalls are crammed next to each other. If I charge R5 for my Cutex, the foreigners make theirs R3."

The council said legislation governing informal trade was necessary to avoid chaos in the city centre.

In the past, hawkers were allowed to trade their goods wherever they pleased, resulting in a blockade of sidewalks and of entrances to formal businesses.

Spokeswoman Elmarie Meyer said vendors would no longer be allowed to sit outside shop windows. Those who

carried on their trade in Church Street would receive tables and umbrellas.

"Illegal informal traders are warned before they are fined or their goods confiscated," she said, adding the council had a good relationship with hawkers. The problems were usually caused by illegal traders.

Maseka said they had no other choice but to be hawkers, since there were no job opportunities. "We have seen that hawking is the only way for blacks to survive in South Africa. We want to revive the country's economy and reduce crime. We are also doing our bit to decrease the stampede of job seekers in the factories."

He urged the Government to stop "this apartheid system" and to help hawkers become successful business people. "Should nothing be done about their plight, Maseka added, they would embark on a consumer boycott and if necessary a struggle to close down Pretoria businesses."

The group dispersed peacefully - Sapa

Protester's lone stand over home-shop ban

(153A)
NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 13/1/98
Brackenfell businessman Shakoer Adhikarie has launched a one-man placard demonstration in protest at the Oostenberg municipality's refusal to allow him to operate a shop from his home.

Mr Adhikarie, of Northpine, yesterday set up a table in Strand Street, Kuils River, and posted protest placards on several lamp posts to the bemusement of motorists and passers-by.

He has vowed to protest every day.

He has also claimed to have started a hunger strike which would last as long as the municipality refused to approve his application.

But municipal officials said neighbours had signed a petition objecting to Mr Adhikarie's plans and several complaints had been sent to Garden Cities, the company which sold a house to Mr Adhikarie.

Council chief executive officer David Cedras said the council had recommended to the Western Cape premier that an application to allow a house-shop not be supported. The house-shop would be a departure from zoning regulations.

This decision had been taken on the basis of complaints and objections to Mr Adhikarie's plan.

Mr Cedras said Mr Adhikarie's application was further complicated by a pending civil law suit between him and Garden Cities.

The case centres on an alleged contravention of the conditions in his title deeds.

Garden Cities assistant general manager Richard Wilson confirmed that there was a High Court case pending against Mr Adhikarie.

He would not comment further pending the outcome of the court case.

Mr Adhikarie claimed the petition against him had been obtained fraudulently from neighbours.

Health cover is (153A) set up for hawkers

By Saint Molakeng

HAWKERS will from tomorrow be in line for a scheme that will provide them with medical aid, death and disability cover, funeral and accident cover, stokvel savings and personal loans – all in one package for only R160 a month.

These benefits are the brainchild of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib), Medwise and First Bowring insurance company under First National Bank.

The scheme was piloted in Johannesburg late last year and is to take effect around South Africa this month.

Achib will host a meeting at St Mary's Cathedral at corner Pritchard and Small streets in Johannesburg, tomorrow, where hawkers will be briefed about the scheme. Application forms will be available for anyone who wants to sign up.

"Hawkers have been in dire need of such schemes as they have not been covered at all for their health, death or accidents," said group scheme marketer for Achib, Thomas Lehana.

In case members do not utilise the medical savings, they will be paid back.

For more information, interested people should contact Lehana at (011) 838-2983/4.

13/1/98
Seul van

Claremont

hawkers

(15317)

face ban

AKG 13/11/98

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Rushdien Brazer has been selling fruit and vegetables outside the OK Bazars in Main Road Claremont for 40 years

He is one of the informal traders affected by the Cape Town municipality's contentious campaign to regulate street trading

Claremont hawkers have threatened to obtain a High Court interdict against the city council to prevent its acting against them as part of its campaign to clean up the city

After complaints from shop owners that hawkers trading on narrow pavements are driving customers away from their stores and restricting the passage of pedestrians, the council decided to take action.

It started in Adderley Street by demarcating 77 bays where hawkers may trade

A heated battle ensued in which traders were arrested and banned from trading until agreement between the parties was reached

A similar situation has arisen in Claremont, where the municipality has marked trading spots and announced it will act against hawkers contravening the by-laws

Trading outside shop entrances and near bus stops, fire hydrants and electrical substations has been banned

Hawkers are up in arms, saying the municipality did not consult them and is imposing its plan on them

They say they drew up their own proposal three months ago which was rejected by the council.

Grant Miller, representing the 140-member Claremont Independent Informal Traders Association, said a task team made up of municipal representatives and informal and formal traders was formed a year ago to regulate trading in the area, but the team had been inactive over the past six months

He had been invited to a meeting last week where the council put forward proposals without consulting the traders

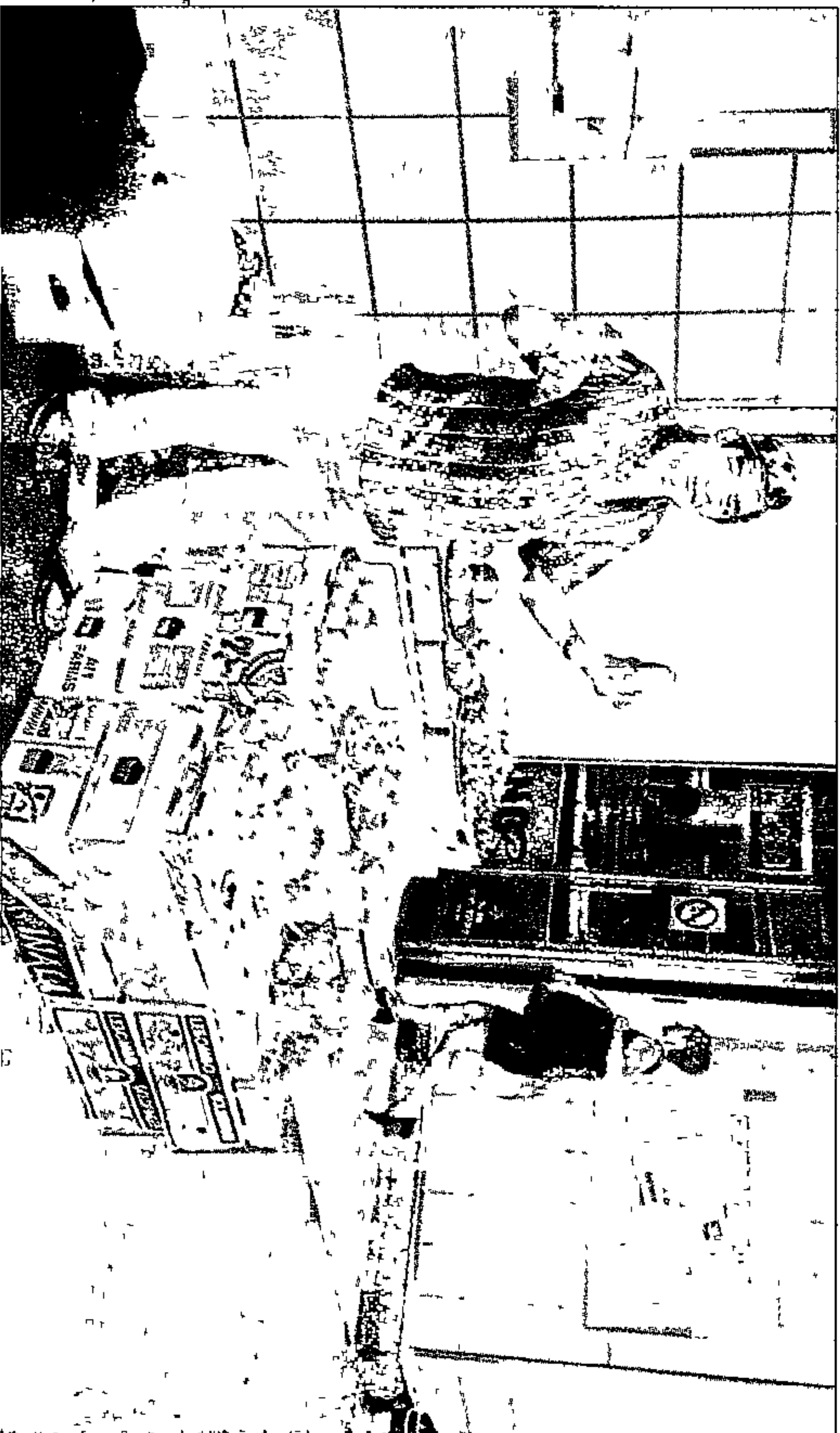
Mr. Miller said traders were concerned that the municipality would act against them and were keen to re-enter negotiations

Informal trading was under con-



Daily bread: Suleiman and Zakheya Hendricks at their beerwors stand which has supplemented their income for five years

JERMAINE CRAIG



Old hand: Rushdien Brazer has been selling fruit and vegetables in Claremont for 40 years

trol in Claremont and hawkers had divided all areas into zones, with people responsible for ensuring that no one contravened the by-laws

The hawkers' legal representative, Essa Moosa, said the traders would meet the council on Friday to discuss the situation and they wanted a written undertaking that the municipality

would not act against them until then

Failing that, they would obtain an urgent interdict against the council

"In Claremont there has not been adequate and proper consultation to create prohibited areas," Mr. Moosa said

The council's economic develop-

ment and property committee chairman, Hanef Triseker, said the council had been consulting traders for the past year but believed the matter could not be delayed any longer

The council had not yet finalised the demarcated areas and would ask traders for comment before doing so, he said

Pavements clear, but streets 'soulless'

ET 30/1/98 (153A)

BUSINESSES ARE pleased with the clearing of the pavements, but hawkers feel cheated, reports Metro Editor **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH**

"PEACHES, bananas, hitches, sultanas " A familiar cry floats through the traffic and lunch-time bustle as pedestrians move with unaccustomed ease along the newly-cleared pavements of Adderley Street.

"We've reclaimed the city streets for the people of Cape Town," says Mr. Bruce Black, who heads a special council task team charged with regulating hawkers in the city streets.

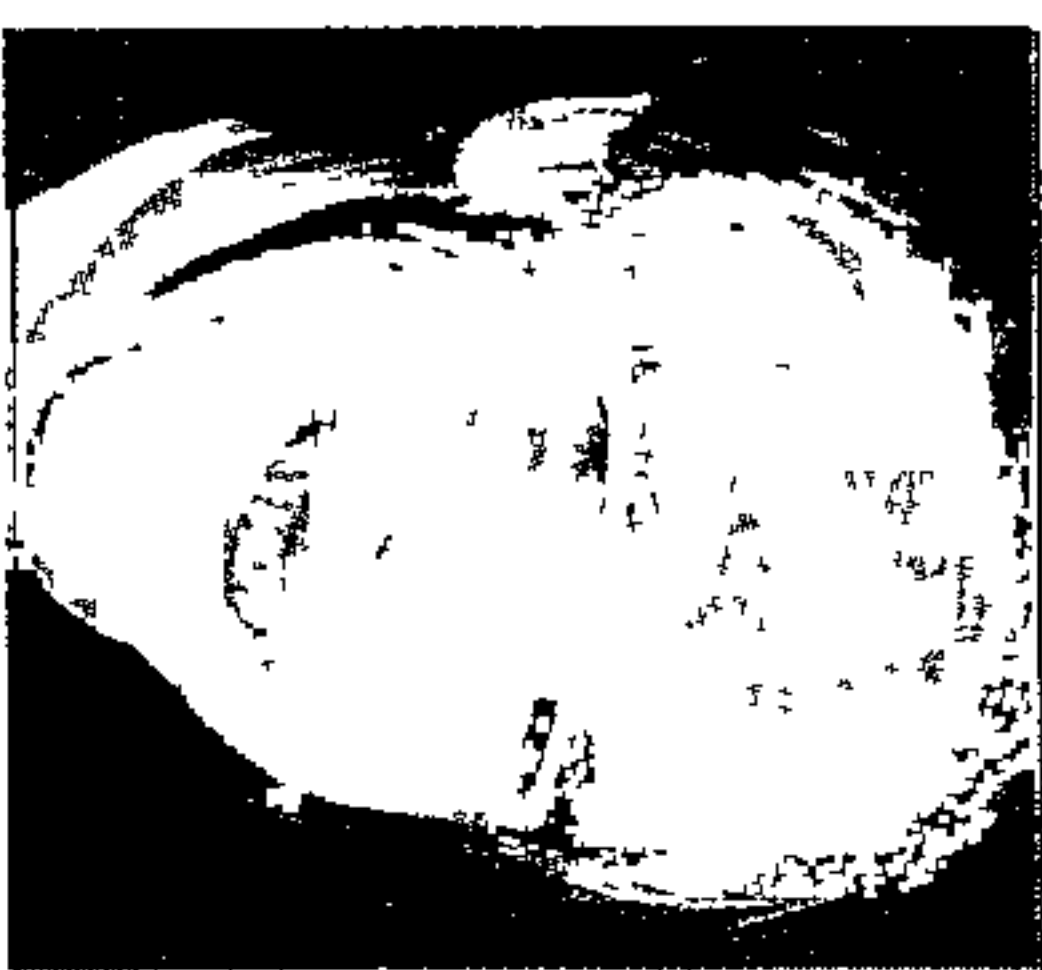
For the past two months, reacting to threats from major companies and financial institutions to leave the city centre, his team has performed an often controversial blitz which began in Adderley Street and moved out to Claremont and the Cape Flats.

And there's no mistaking the council's commitment to the issue. Last weekend's operation in Mitchell's Plain involved 30 defence force members, 60 policemen, 50 traffic officers and 30 workers to remove illegal structures. Roadblocks were set up to restrict the movements of potential troublemakers, while four structures were dismantled in the nine-hour operation.

When the campaign started in early December, fierce fighting and a number of arrests ensued before an uneasy order was restored.

"It's about restoring the rights of all Capetonians, the right of pedestrians to walk safely on the pavements that were created for them in the first place," said Black.

And while many pedestrians have welcomed the clear and orderly pavements, not all the people involved feel justice has been served — or their rights considered. "It's good and it's bad," says Ms. Pandiba Manuel, who sells *worsies* (sausages) in Adderley Street. "People can walk now, but we're really suffering, our day-to-day existence is threatened. The



PLEASED: Gordon Oliver

Christmas season is over and the fast is on. Yesterday, I sat here all day and took R10 home " She stares thoughtfully at the sausages and onions simmering in her pan.

"Sometimes I just share the *wors* out to the other stallholders — it's such a waste otherwise.

"Look at her," she nods toward her neighbour selling shoes off a small table.

"If she's very lucky, she'll sell one pair a day " The neighbour nods, and states miserably into the distance.

"And what about me," says another, positioned next to cardboard boxes of crisps.

"I make half a cent per packet, and sometimes sell six in a day. But I must pay the council R120 a month — that can't be right ".

Across the road, the mood among the usually raucous fruit-sellers is strangely quiet.

"We're depressed and the worry is making us sick," said Mr. Sale Mosaval, who has sold fruit all his life and supports a family of six with his takings.

"What we do now is just work — there's no enjoyment left ".

The hawkers have been limited to 77 180cm by 80cm demarcated bays on the edges of the pavement. The area abutting shopfronts is now wide open for pedestrians — and if hawkers infringe on this territory, vigilant and ever-present traffic officers issue an R80 fine.

'It's much easier to walk now. But it's also sad — the street seems to have lost its soul.'

Black was seconded to the untenable position when matters came to a head just before Christmas.

"We had major complaints from big business, who felt the situation was becoming untenable. The city is committed to promoting economic development at all levels — it became imperative for us to take action."

"On one level, we reacted to specific complaints. Then we also began recovering the roads for the people of Cape Town. In some areas, hawkers have built structures in the middle of the road. The city has given a solid commitment to its citizens — we will go into Gatesville and Athlone and remove the structures."

"A third level involves sorting out the pavements and finally, we have to maintain what we've achieved. We're not indulging in histrionics or flash-in-the-pan type action — what we've done must be permanent and maintainable."

But the issue is complex and affects everyone — including visitors.

"Tourists get a poor impression of the city when they see uncontrolled traders and chaos on the pavements," said

Cape Town Tourism chief Mr. Gordon Oliver.

"I'm really pleased with what the council's achieved. As a Capetonian I can walk unhindered down the pavement and the city's image, from a tourist's point of view, has been enhanced."

And while some shop owners are delighted, others say the council has still not done enough.

"We'll have to move," said the manager of a high-class jeweller's shop in Adderley Street.

"Tour guides warn tourists to avoid Adderley Street because the hawkers make it unsafe. They should all be moved," she said.

Others are kinder. "It's much easier to walk now," one elderly Adderley Street pedestrian said.

"But it's also sad — the street seems to have lost its soul."



ALL SHADES: Nancy Neck sells another pair of sunglasses, this time to Phillip Hendricks of Paarl, while her business partner Milwe Madag shares a joke with fellow hawker Agnes Change.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

Hawkers eye suburbs for business

By Jerry Reilly

HUNDREDS of street hawkers are moving away from Johannesburg's central business district (CBD) to peddle their wares in the northern suburbs, African Council of Hawkeis and Informal Business (Achib) president Lawrence Mavundla said.

He told *Sowetan Business* that their potential customer base had shrunk dramatically in the past two years as large companies and their staff moved to the less crime-ridden environment of the suburbs.

Mavundla estimates that of about 16 000 street traders in the city, 1 500 are now operating in Rosebank and other northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

And, he said, the drift north from the depressed city centre would continue during the year.

In addition to providing a service for suburban office workers there was a flourishing trade developing with householders.

Mavundla criticised the Government's attitude to street traders.

"There is very little material aid coming from the Government. We get sympathetic noises, but it ends there."

This year, too, there was a threat that aid from Khula Enterprise Agency, the private sector, and the Swedish International Development Agency would start to dry up.

Mavundla claims that cooperation between street traders and police in the past year contributed to a decrease in

petty crime in the CBD.

Although statistics were hard to come by, muggings had declined.

The number of illegal immigrants – mostly blacks from neighbouring countries – involved in street trading had risen sharply in the past 12 months.

He estimates that up to 40 percent of the estimated 16 000 street traders in the CBD and suburbs of Johannesburg were in the country illegally.

'And Home Affairs appears indifferent to the problem.'

"They claim it is difficult to identify them."

Not only were they depriving local black people of work, but they were responsible for much of the crime in the CBD, Mavundla added.

Sowetan 23/1/98 (153A)

Hawkers plead with taximen

By Saint Molakeng

THE Greater Johannesburg Hawkers Planning Committee (GJHPC) has appealed to the taxi industry to reconsider their campaign of confiscating liquor sold by hawkers at taxi ranks

The GJHPC was responding to threats earlier this week by Top Six Taxi Structure public relations officer Mr Sicelo Mabaso that his organisation would soon invade Johannesburg ranks to seize the

liquor, following similar actions at Soweto ranks last week

Mabaso said taximen had decided on that move after the hawkers had ignored pleas to stop selling liquor to taxi drivers

GJHPC secretary Mr Moffat Sebolelo said that in principle the committee was not against the campaign by the taximen

"But hawkers are not happy about how it has been conducted," he said

Sebolelo said hawkers became

afraid when a force of taximen arrived on the scene to confiscate liquor "We know nothing about fighting We only know business," he said

Both Sebolelo and GJHPC chairman Mr Mannetjies Solomon appealed to the taxi industry to sit down and thrash out the issue

"After all, the taxi industry and hawkers are one and the same as we belong to the informal sector which we want to build together," Sebolelo said

Sowetan 12/2/98



No guidance and control ... a hawker sits surrounded by her merchandise in central Johannesburg.

Hawkers still unregulated because of council staff shortages

By BUNTY WEST

Amended by-laws to control traders in both the informal and formal sector are still not in operation months after they were promulgated because there is no trained staff to enforce them.

The by-laws give metro officials and police wide-ranging powers in the city, including the authority to move hawkers from certain areas.

Because the laws are not yet in operation, there has been an increase in dirt in the streets and on the sidewalks, pavements are blocked by traders,

and rotting vegetables pile up in the gutters, according to Roger Hand, operations manager for informal sector development in the metro council.

Hand said that before council could go ahead and implement the by-laws, an enforcement arm had to be established which would need funding to employ and train staff.

The council is in the process of establishing a common schedule of fines for hawkers who break city by-laws. Initiated last year, it still needs to be finalised.

Neil Fraser, executive director of the Central Johannes-

burg Partnership, put the blame for the lack of accountability and control of hawkers on the council, which he said did not have the manpower to police its own bylaws.

"There are bylaws in place to stop hawkers trading under certain conditions.

"It is not a private sector function to take responsibility for the implementing of by-laws, it is council's," Fraser said.

Livingstone Mantonga, president of the Micro Business Chamber, which guards the interests of hawkers, believes pavements should be given to

bona fide South Africans to trade on.

"We will register all the traders - and together with a little education, because many of them are illiterate - we will be able to explain what the by-laws mean and how they affect them," Mantonga said.

Not everyone is happy about the goods that foreign and local traders sell.

Mike Snow, who handles piracy and counterfeiting operations for the Association of South Africa's Music Industry, said R150-million a year was lost through piracy and counterfeiting.

Crime syndicates involved included Chinese triads, Bulgarian syndicates and the Russian Mafia.

"Local hawkers make cheap copies on their double cassette players in the townships, selling them in mine hostels and at taxi ranks, while Mozambique is a platform for the cross-border illegal import of local artist CDs originating from Oman.

"Mozambique has no copyright laws, and hawkers, both local and Mozambican, are bringing CDs and cassettes into South Africa illegally and selling them," Snow said.

Metrorail throws out hawkers

By Gershwin Chuenyane

SCORES of hawkers are out of business after being evicted from 53 railway stations for contravening transport, and health and safety laws

Metrorail served hawkers with notices on January 27, ordering them to clear out of the stations by February 1 because they were illegal and put passengers' health at risk

Metrorail's risk manager Mr Lucas Qakaza said about 400 hawkers would be affected

Qakaza said hawkers threw rotten vegetables on to or beside the tracks and this resulted in a foul smell and health hazard to commuters. They also made fires on the stations

One of the affected hawkers, Mr Elias Cry Batsanane of Eersterus in Hammanskraal, who was once based at the Pretoria Station, disputed Qakaza's claims. Batsanane said they had agreed to clean up their stalls. He said fires were made by those who sold food. They made these fires only when they cooked in the morning outside the station

Batsanane said most of the affected hawkers were operating at Pretoria, Hercules and Wonderboom

He claimed that over 1 000 hawkers were affected by Metrorail's decision. He accused Metrorail of not keeping to agreements they had with the hawkers regarding their place at the stations

Qakaza denied that there were any agreements between Metrorail and the hawkers. "There is no official agreement with the hawkers. We only had deliberations at a higher level between the head offices of Metrorail and Intersite to see how we could accommodate them and we could not."

Qakaza said Metrorail's mandate was to operate trains and it had no commercial interests. It was under pressure to adhere to the South African Transport Act of 1989, which prohibits trading or selling or distributing without the owners' permission

Batsanane questioned the wisdom of implementing legislation which was passed nine years ago. Qakaza said the fact that the hawkers had been operating for this long did not make their trading legal

Sowetan 16/2/98

(153A)

Move to bar foreign traders

153A

By Saint Molakeng

EFFORTS are being made to bar foreign hawkers from the streets of Johannesburg while an international body has called for greater tolerance towards them.

The Greater Johannesburg Hawkers Planning Committee (GJHPC) is angry over alleged statements by local representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that foreign hawkers be allowed to do business on city streets because they struggle to make a living.

A meeting in Johannesburg last week between the two parties to thrash out the contentious issue of foreign hawkers ended in deadlock.

The UNHCR delegation was made up of Mr Bruno Geddo, Miss Victoria Stofile and Mrs Lois Williams, while the GJHPC was represented by chairman Mr Mannetjies Solomon and some members of the committee.

Disagreement arose when the UNHCR reiterated a statement made by Home Affairs director-general Mr AS Mokoena last year that "asylum seekers" be permitted to take up any employment, including hawking.

The official said this attitude was based on the fact that South Africa had "humanitarian obligations" to refugees.

Solomon countered yesterday: "Immigrants can be allowed into the country but they should stay off our pavements."

He complained that foreigners already outnumbered local hawkers.

Solomon said the hawkers' committee had initiated a campaign urging South Africans to boycott goods sold by foreigner traders.

The committee would put pressure on Government to stop the activities of foreign hawkers.

18/2/98
Saueran

City and hawkers clash at talks

ARG 20/2/98 (153A)

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Tensions between hawkers and the Cape Town city council boiled over again when hawkers disrupted a meeting between the parties and nearly came to blows with council officials.

The meeting at the Civic Centre came to an abrupt halt yesterday when a hawker grabbed a microphone from Hanief Tisseker, chairman of the council's economic development and property committee, and other hawkers hurled abuse at municipal officials.

Security personnel were called in to restore calm.

The stormy meeting followed

renewed action against informal traders in Claremont, where police cordoned off Main Road and loaded the goods of about 10 traders into vans.

Angry hawkers say about 40 police and municipal personnel armed with shotguns and other weapons stormed them yesterday and confiscated their goods without warning.

The council had called the meeting at the Civic Centre to outline its vision for the city and tell hawkers how they fitted in, but hawkers were more interested in discussing the events in Claremont.

Emotions are running high on the streets of Claremont and hawkers say they will be forced to retaliate

if the council continues to act against them.

Mr Tisseker said the situation had reached "emergency" proportions and immediate action was needed.

The council has embarked on a controversial campaign to regulate informal trading in the city.

However, there have been many problems and hawkers and officials have clashed on numerous occasions.

The council says it needs to cater for everyone, including hawkers, formal businesses, tourists and pedestrians.

But hawkers argue they need to trade freely in order to provide for their families.

INTIMIDATION OF OFFICIALS WIDESPREAD

City plans to promote fairness may be shelved

ET 23/2/98

(153A)

(~~153A~~)



CITY COUNCILLORS who approve policies should work with officials who apply those policies, says city manager Andrew Boraine. Metro Editor **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH** reports.

HARD-HITTING policies aimed at reversing inequities in the City of Cape Town are in danger of being shelved because of widespread intimidation of council officials charged with implementing them.

So serious is the situation that a top official in charge of a department vital to the functioning of the city, was forced to vacate his office and has armed guards protecting his home after he received death threats.

Another involved in the city's programme to control hawkers has received several death threats and has taken similar measures to protect himself and his family. "It's terrifying, but we have to keep going for the sake of the city," he said.

Central to the widespread problem, said city manager Mr Andrew Boraine, was the failure of politicians (councillors), who approved the policies, to support officials in executing these policies.

Some actually side with unlawful elements against officials simply carrying out duties in terms of the policies.

"Council staff have to implement difficult policies in communities quick to resort to violent confrontation," he said yesterday.

"If council officials and councillors don't work together closely, there is no way policies can be implemented. Not only do councillors undermine council policy by not supporting the officials' action, but they go against it."

"It gets even worse when they identify a particular official as being responsible for the action," said Boraine.

In the process, the lives of officials in the Civic Centre and in the areas involved are put in danger.

"It's crunch time. This is turning into a big issue and we're taking it very seriously," he said.

"If councillors are not prepared to back council officials, I'll have to cancel all credit control measures in the city until such time as they can back us personally," he warned.

Caucuses of all political parties would be tackled over the problem.

The matter reached boiling point this week after the council's executive committee postponed a decision on the expulsion of two Manenberg councillors who breached the code of conduct by interfering in a legal council eviction.

Council officials were "appalled" when the matter was postponed for a week after Tuesday's pleas for clemency from other councillors.

Boraine had called for the councillors, NP member Mr Osborne Adams and ANC councillor Mr Mogamat Sampson, to be expelled from the council.

"Staff are really angry. They put their lives on the line executing council policy. How can they take the council seriously if it's not prepared to back its decisions with strong action?" said Boraine.

Exco had heard how, during the eviction, both had phoned the head of housing and asked him to stop the process which was being carried out in terms of the council's new housing policy.

The councillors' behaviour and choice of language asserted that the eviction was happening as a result of actions the official had taken personally and not in terms of council policy. Aimed at bring-

ing order to council housing, the policy was unanimously accepted by all councillors, including Adams and Sampson, who served on the housing committee at the time.

The eviction drew a large crowd, who allegedly threatened to shoot the sheriff involved.

"The people's respect for governance and those in authority broke down over the past 20 years — quite understandably. While a legitimate government has been restored, we do not have governance. This shows — not only in extreme areas such as Manenberg — but generally in, for instance, people's complete disrespect for traffic rules," said Boraine.

In Guguletu, a small group complaining about issues of service delivery recently occupied a council building. For 10 days the council negotiated with them, met their demands and finally applied for an eviction order last week.

'It's terrifying, but we have to keep going for ... the city.' — Official who received death threats

them, met their demands and finally applied for an eviction order last week.

"The women were evicted and released on bail on condition that they didn't trespass on council property."

But they immediately came back with another 30 people and sat in again," said Boraine.

A ward councillor who intervened was taken hostage and freed by a council official who was beaten up by the women.

"Now they're threatening to burn down council houses occupied by other community members if the council evicts them again," said Boraine.

"For 10, 20, 30 years people have been doing what they like. They think they can get away with anything."

He said "For law and order to be restored, people must know that something will happen to them if they break the law. Someone must take a stand."

From posh to run-down suburbs, they flourish unchallenged

By Anna Cox

A visit to the city's suburbs reveals illegal businesses in almost every area.

In the eastern areas of Malvern, Jeppestown and Bertrams, many people are operating businesses from their garages or verandas.

Live chickens, hot food, auto electricians, car hire and auto-mechanical businesses are advertised everywhere

and no attempt is made to conceal them.

Many pose health and fire hazards, but business operators know there is virtually no law enforcement so they flagrantly continue operating.

In Hillbrow, restaurants, clubs, blue collar operations in building basements, hawkers selling food and goods are rife. All contravene town planning, fire and health by-laws placing residents at risk.

In upmarket Sandton, the bedrooms in a luxury Parkmore home have been partitioned with cardboard and it is home to some 60 squatters.

A residential home in Dunkeld has been converted illegally into a multimillion-rand estate agent's office. A canteen has been built at a luxury home in Houghton which is operating as a business illegally.

There is overcrowding in

many areas, too, with some landlords crowding people into old houses partitioned with cardboard. There are insufficient toilets, bathrooms and cooking facilities.

One home in Bertrams has about 40 people living in back rooms and a cellar. All share one toilet which has no door and is overflowing into the yard. Tenants each pay the owner R200 a month, a total of R8 000, probably tax free.

More join informal sector

Source: 4/3/98 (153A)
SOUTH Africans are increasingly turning to small firm entrepreneurship and the micro or informal sector for earning a living

This is the view of Professor Darma Mahadea, acting head of the University of Transkei's department of economics

"A situation of jobless growth, where the increase in the labour force is not matched by the increase in the number of new jobs in the formal sector, has led to South Africans increasingly turning to small firm entrepreneurship and the micro or informal sector for earning a living," Mahadea said

This was especially the case in the former Transkei, he said, because of its weak industrial base and the relocation of many government departments from Umtata to Bisho

Small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) tend, in rural areas, to share the following characteristics: ease of entry, reliance on indigenous

resources, family ownership of enterprises, labour intensive and adapted technology, skills acquired outside of the school system and markets that are unregulated and competitive

In a survey conducted by Mahadea in four urban areas of the Transkei (Umtata, Butterworth-Idutywa, Engcobo and Qumbu-Mount Frere), he found that SMMEs in the area had an average monthly turnover of R5 097 although this ranged from R500 to R25 000

He found that the growth of 77,5 percent of the surveyed ventures was hampered by a lack of access to finance, with the remainder seeing lack of access to raw materials, basic infrastructure and business skills being the main stumbling block

"Although 81 percent of the respondents had a savings or a current account, none of them had a loan from the bank

"However, 46 percent of the subjects had some financial assistance from the Transkei Small Industries Development Organisation (Transido) to buy raw materials or machinery"

The size of the Transido loans ranged from R300 to R30 000, the average being R2 223. Transido is now part of the Eastern Cape Development Authority (Ecda).

He said that 85 percent of those surveyed were keen to stay with their current line of manufacturing activity even if they were offered alternative paid employment and that 56 percent had plans to expand and therefore employ more labour

His study shows that the entrepreneurial spirit is very active among small and micro firms in South Africa and that high value-added micro manufacturing firms can contribute significantly toward job creation - *ECN business*

Raising the capacity of the self-employed

Sowetan 4/3/98 (153A)
RESEARCH by the publication *Findings* has found that the high level of poverty combined with slow economic growth in the formal sector has forced a large part of the population into alternative forms of employment in Africa

Findings found that many people in African countries are resorting to self-employment and informal activities. The publication says the challenge in Africa is the establishment of capacity in the financial sector, drawing lessons from international experience in the micro and small enterprise sector.

This, it adds, could be aided by a diversified financial sector capable of meeting the full range of demands for financial services.

In an underdeveloped region, raising the capacity of the self-employed and rural poor to sustain the economic activities essential to their survival, is equally important.

According to *Findings*, the deepening problem of access to finance and poverty alleviation, has prompted the World Bank Africa to adopt a strategy to increase access to financial services by small enterprises and low-income households by addressing areas such as

- Fundamental issues – these can be tackled by focusing on policy regulation, regulatory framework and legal aspects to allow the develop-

ment of innovative financial institutions and instruments,

- Innovative approaches – lending and other products that the World Bank can use to increase access to financial services, and

- Institution building – exposure to and training the best practices and standards of performance that banks and microfinance institutions need to expand their outreach and develop sustainable operations; support for capacity building

The *Findings* report, while acknowledging that common principles apply to developing financial systems that serve the majority of African populations and businesses that lack access to banking services, says the strategy differentiates between the financial and development needs of micro-enterprises, small and medium scale enterprises (SME's) and rural households.

Under microfinance development, the *Findings* report identifies the very small savings and credit transactions of generally low-income households, especially for micro-enterprises, which include self-employment and firms with less than five to 10 workers.

Findings found that these activities typically generate little growth of paid employment but do alleviate the severe unemployment that threatens the survival of the poor.

Under the SME finance development, the publication says the SME sector represent "firms" with 50 to 100 workers. These differ from micro-enterprises in that they require long-term investment capital as well as short-term working capital.

Findings says the World Bank potentially has an important role to play in facilitating dialogue with commercial banks to encourage them to expand their small business portfolios in exchange for project assistance to implement promising mechanisms such as credit scoring, leasing instruments and portfolio guarantees.

On the rural financial markets, it says, while numerous aspects of developing rural financial services correspond to microfinance, particularly problems in rural areas such as seasonality of savings and high delivery costs.

The report advocates a regulatory framework that will facilitate the emergence of a wide range of financial intermediaries, including village-based activities outside the legal framework.

It also highlights capacity building and the introduction of innovative pilot programmes to improve the sustainability of rural financial institutions by mobilising and intermediating savings within rural communities and to protect against risks associated with agriculture-based economy.

Greenmarket traders fight back at 'sellout' handover of market

BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 6/3/98 (153A)
Greenmarket Square traders have come out fighting over the awarding of the tender to run the market to a Johannesburg firm.

They say the Cape Town municipality has "sold the square out under us" without consultation by giving the tender to the Market Company which, they claim, is intent only on profit and will destroy the market's creativity and vibrancy.

About 40 stallholders met last night to discuss the issue.

The Market Company says it plans to rejuvenate the market with regular entertainment and by incorporating many of the surrounding cafés and coffee shops.

But many of the present traders say the company will exploit the area

and do away with many traders by instituting harsh rules.

Among these were restricting what was sold, charging to use the market toilet and clearing the square once a month for "speciality" markets such as antiques and crafts.

Also, because there was no stipulation in their contract with the municipality on rentals, the company would be able to charge traders exorbitant amounts.

The feeling at the meeting was that the type of organised trading planned by the company would destroy the carnival atmosphere which had made Greenmarket Square one of the most consistently popular tourist attractions in Cape Town.

Rashieda Muller of the Western Cape Small Business Community urged traders to oppose the municipality's acting without consultation.

Street trade may be on ^(153A) its way out

Premier says his government is not prepared to see cities degenerate

By Joe Mdhlela

GAUTENG Premier Mathole Motshekga's disclosures that legislation to control informal trade may come into force this year indicates that this form of business may be a thing of the past

In an interview Motshekga said it had come to the attention of his government that the chaotic way in which informal trade was conducted had become a cause for concern

Consistent with the concept of regeneration or *Vusani Amadolobha* (revive the cities) Motshekga said his government was committed to ensuring that the province's cities and towns became habitable and conducive to effective business activity

"It has come to our attention that unregulated trade in the cities was causing problems for the disabled and the elderly people. Unregulated trade also encouraged other criminal activities

"During the current year we hope

to pass legislation to control unregulated trade," Motshekga said

During the past few years most cities of Gauteng and other provinces have been affected by unregulated "street trade", often resulting in flight of business from congested towns to "more upmarket areas"

Informal trade also attracts foreigners from various parts of Africa, Europe and Asian countries, and has seen city streets becoming impassable

Motshekga said his government was no longer prepared to watch cities and towns degenerate, and was hoping that the legislation to regulate informal trade in Gauteng would improve the situation

He said the problems of unregulated trade were brought about by "decades of apartheid neglect" resulting in lack of development

Motshekga charged that attempts by the apartheid regime to "dehumanise the African personality and peoples" largely contributed to poverty among blacks

Sowetan 11/3/98

Chaos on streets set to end soon

By TUMO MOKONE

CP 15/3/98

(153A)

THE BLOATED bureaucracy governing Johannesburg is partly to blame for the messy affair street trade has grown to be.

This is the opinion of John Singh, executive officer for Metropolitan Economic Development at the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC).

"It's the case of one hand not knowing - or knowing too late - what the other hand is doing - the whole exercise is tedious," says Singh, alluding to the fact that the city is governed by four different administrative organs.

Despite their different strategies and priorities, it is imperative, says Singh, that the four bodies - the East, South, North and West Metropolitan Local Councils - work in close co-operation to tighten the laws that govern the city.

"The functions of each MLC have a bearing on the state affairs in Johannesburg, and that includes the promulgation of by-laws.

"For example, the street trading by-laws had to be introduced in two phases because the MLCs took time to reach agreement on the nature of fines for traders caught operating in or breaking the rules of restricted and demarcated zones.

"Because of their different opinions on fines and law enforcement, the Northern MLC did not endorse the phase one by-laws," said Singh.

Phase one of the street trade by-laws was introduced in January 1997 but no restricted or prohibited areas were identified or demarcated. In other words, hawkers were effectively allowed by law to trade in every city street.

Because no provision for fines

and confiscation of goods were made under phase one, it is at the moment difficult to prosecute those who disregard the by-laws.

Among others, the 35 by-laws state:

□ Your trading area must not cover an area greater than 6 square metres (3 x 2 m) on the sidewalk,

□ At all times a minimum width of 1,5 metres must be left on the sidewalk for pedestrian movement,

□ You must not trade on a verge outside any place of worship, national monument or public building, or in an area declared restricted by Council, and

□ You may not trade within 5 metres of an intersection (street corner).

But Singh says law-breaking by street traders will soon be a thing of the past when phase two of the by-laws is introduced later this year.

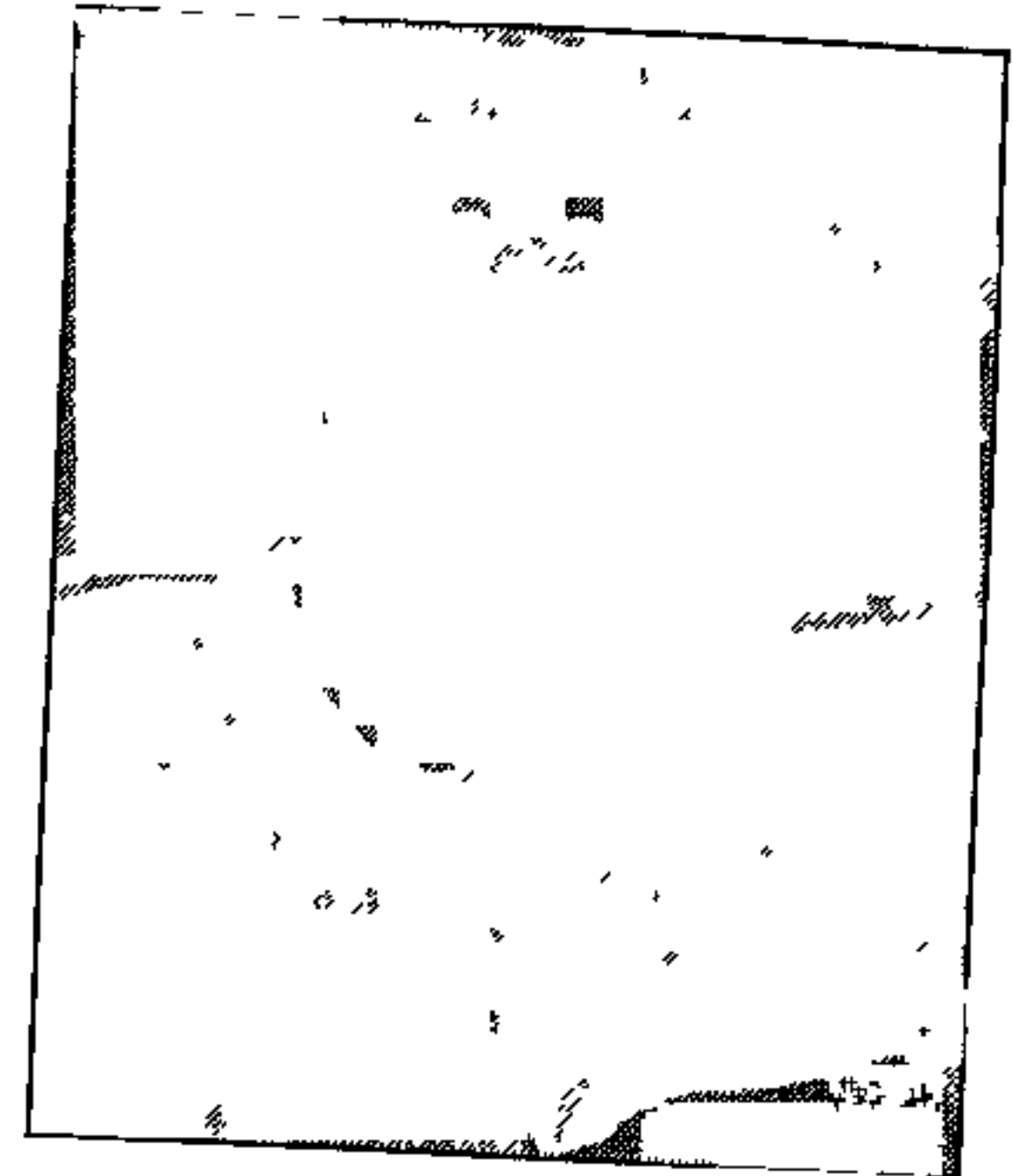
"The new by-laws have been promulgated but before they become law, a 60-day period of suggestions and objections must pass."

The new by-laws will not only demarcate trading zones, indicate prohibited areas and state trading hours in restricted areas, but will also introduce fines and prosecution procedures which are uniform in all parts of Greater Johannesburg.

Singh says this new development is an ongoing process geared towards making Johannesburg, especially the inner city, attractive to business.

It also complements the objectives of Vusani Amadholoba, the programme initiated by the Gauteng provincial government to make cities economically viable again.

Premier Mathole Motshekga this week threatened to take harsher steps to "clean up" the city.



BUSINESS WON'T BE THE SAME
... says Eric Sunny who trades for his living from his shack in the city

Hawkers mixed over strict by-laws

By TUMO MOKONE

NEWS that tougher street trading by-laws are about to be introduced was received with mixed emotion by Joburg traders this week.

Eric Sunny, who trades from a corrugated iron shack erected on the Wanderers St pavement said he had "heard from friends" that "strict laws" would soon be introduced and he "would move" if he had to.

"If they declare my site a prohibited area, or if I'm forced to trade in a demarcated zone, or told to dismantle the shack, I will not argue - the law is the law," he said.

Sunny, who is from Rustenburg, said he would really miss his prime spot if he had to move because "this is a great area because of the taxis".

COUNCILLOR OPPOSES SPAZA SHOP

Family denied right to fend for itself (153A)

THE GOVERNMENT wants to help those who help themselves, but a municipal councillor is blocking a Blaauwberg family from doing so. **ERIC NTABAZALILA** reports.

MS Dulce van der Vyfer and her husband André, of Rugby, are unemployed, but they don't want to go on social welfare — they want to earn their own living by continuing to run a spaza shop in their home.

But a ward councillor in the Blaauwberg municipality and four residents want to shut them down — even though 74 other residents in the area want the shop to stay open.

The dispute has also led to a row in the municipality.

Mr Miley Desai, an ANC councillor, said he had serious problems with the opposition of some council members to the spaza shop.

"This woman has two sick children to look after. We all know the problem with finding a job in this country and we should welcome initiatives like this which save the state millions. She does not want to be a burden to the Welfare Department."

"I'm very unhappy with some of my colleagues. I think they are not fit to be in the positions they

are in.

"They are supposed to find solutions to people's problems but instead they are part of the problem," Desai said.

The couple lost their jobs early last year. André

used to own a security company and his wife was the company's manager. They have two children — Frederick, 10, is receiving speech therapy and their four-year-old daughter Wilma is receiving psychological treatment.

After spending months looking for a job, she and her husband decided to open the spaza shop early this year.

The couple said they were approached by councillor Mr A Powell, who told them they could not run the shop as they were "intruding in a residential area."

He asked them to apply for a trading licence. They did

It is now nearly three months later and they are still caught up in a legal wrangle.

They have attended more than five municipal hearings, paid about R400 in application fees and accumulated more than R500 in telephone bills.

The future of the shop appeared to be in the balance after the council heard the couple's case.

It is unacceptable that people are refused chances to look after themselves by some authorities.

The Van der Vyfers alleged that Powell had told them to go to the Welfare Department if they could not look after themselves.

"That department is already up to its neck. It does not have money. We don't want to be a burden to a department we know is already having difficulties."

"We want to look after ourselves. We don't want handouts," said the worried mother.

Spokesperson Mr Brian Sokutu said the Welfare Department's policy was to encourage people to be self-sufficient.

"We want people to move away from handouts. Anyone involved in a project like this which would bring food and clothes to that par-



TRYING TO EARN HONEST LIVING: The Van der Vyfer family has been fighting for months to be allowed to run their spaza shop at their home. They are unemployed and do not want to go on welfare.

ticular household is welcomed by the department.

"If this family came to us with a complaint that they tried to open a project which was to help them

financially, but had been referred to our department, we would make some investigations into why they had been refused such opportunities.

"It is unacceptable that people are refused chances to look after themselves by some authorities. These authorities should be helping them to find other means of

survival."

"We would not undermine municipal authorities, but we would plead with them to see how families like this could be helped,"

PICTURE GARTH STEAD

CT 20/3/98

he said

The *Cape Times* left numerous messages for Powell to respond to the allegations against him. He has not returned any of the calls.

The fall of flea markets

Charlene Smith

Time was when the weekend sun burned freckles on the backs and faces of a myriad of flea market shoppers and sellers, when shoppers would endure being jostled by thousands of others, when Zulu dancers or ageing jazz buskers would compete for coins, and West African museums would be looted for African artefacts to clog South African markets.

The first, and for a long time the best, in Johannesburg was the flea market at Michael Mount Waldorf School in Bryanston which sold beautiful handmade and organically grown goods. Over the years it became too commercialised, the goods trite and repetitive. It lost what attracted all to every flea market in the beginning: the touch of something original.

The flea market at the Market Theatre was for a long time the place

for the trendiest clothes, most off-beat clientele, way-out jewellery, best CDs and fantastic African arts and artefacts. But it exercised no quality control and soon ordinary folk were selling their jumble alongside mounds of cheap Asian kitsch.

A recent visit to the Market flea market on a perfect summer's day saw desperate sellers pursuing clients who briefly paused to look at bad fakes of African artefacts and cheap Eastern plastics and porcelains.

Market officials were having a loud argument with stallholders who were refusing to pay for stalls in a trading area that has shrunk to less than a third of its heyday size.

Parking was no problem. There were no shoppers, the person attracting the most interest a magician who turned torn newspaper into crisps in the hat of an astonished schoolgirl.

At Bruma Lake flea market, which was so crowded in the old days

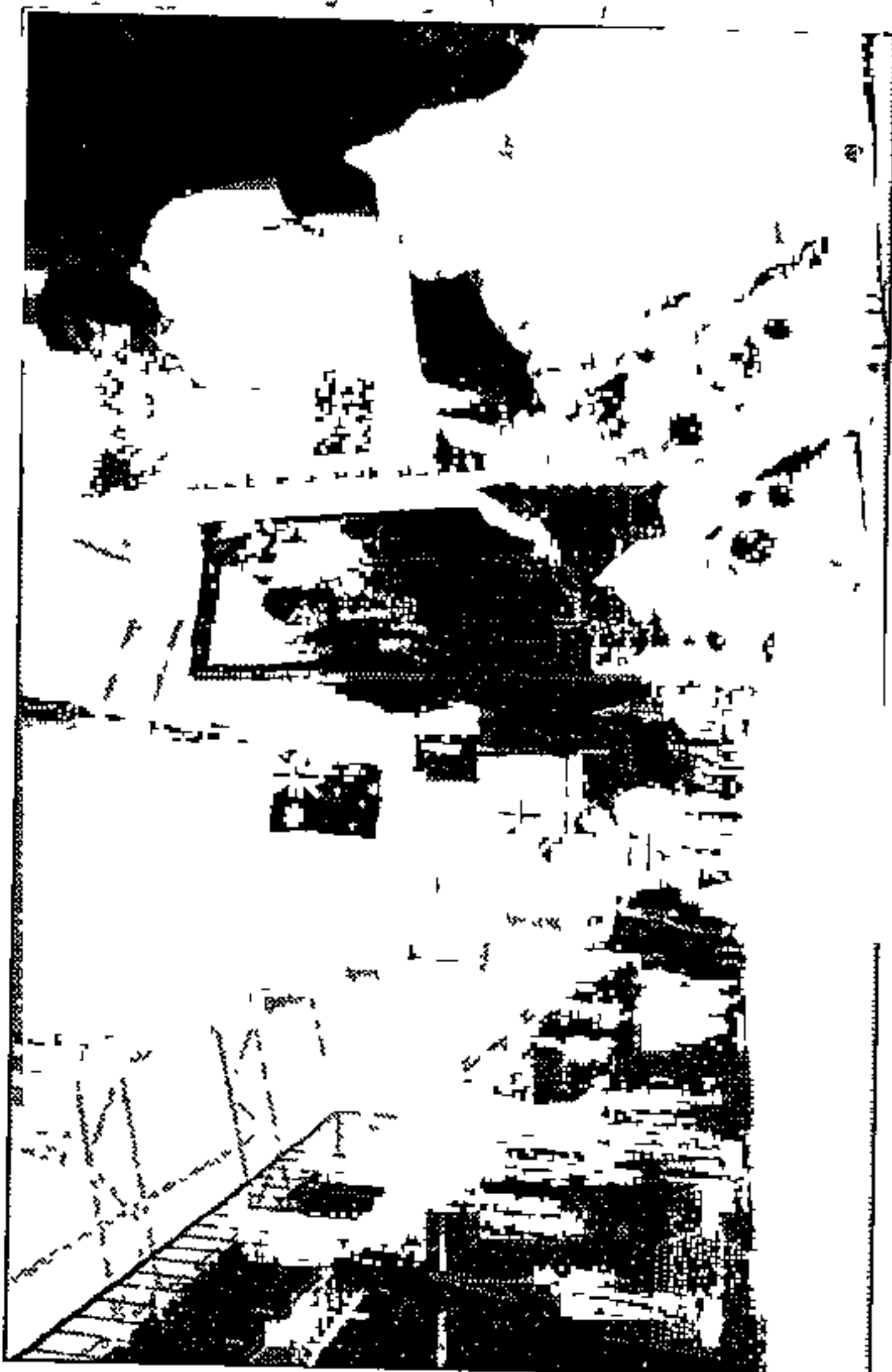
that the volume and pressure of crowds was enough to carry you along, the most trade was happening around fast-food outlets and even that was lacklustre. The smell of sick animals wafted from a pet stall.

"Artworks" of astonishing gaudiness, with jagged frames painted in layers of blues, pinks and purples, had half price stickers on them.

People dressed in cheap cottons and stretch fabrics shopped for more cheap cottons and stretch fabrics, most with slogans and bastardisations of designer brand names plastered across them.

The crowds of yesteryear have been replaced by bored afternoon strollers who had given up on television sport.

The Rosebank Mall flea market was the upmarket answer to the dross at other markets. Savvy shoppers would dash to the market early on a Sunday to avoid queues for Italian



Height of kitsch: South African flea markets have gone from trendy to tawdry. PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

MTG 20-26/3/98

(153A)

cheeses, French coffees, moulds of flowers, fresh pumpkin and tomato breads, elegant candles, antiques and cut-price foreign magazines.

Now Sundays see a more frugal shopper. Bradley Fisher of B&B Markets says attendance at the market is 10% higher than at shopping centres in the area, and that on a Sunday 13 000 people still visit the market.

He says that while flea markets catering for the lower end of the market are experiencing difficulties, Rosebank remains buoyant.

But in Cape Town, Greenmarket Square has the taintness of Johannesburg markets. The antiques market at Groot Constantia that held oodles of promise when it began, is a jaded shell shoehorned into a corner.

Durban's beachfront flea market nightmare is a bee-buzzing, coconut-oil-smelling, pickpocketing, kitsch paradise. However, Essenwood flea market in a beautiful Berea Park is one of the nicer ones left.

The day of the flea market has gone. Waste long ago replaced taste. Cheap quality imports overwhelm all flea markets cashed in on crowds, assumed that most shoppers lack discernment and set few standards. Peddlers now sell their wares on pavements and highway verges.

The best of Mozambican cashews, yams, and Portuguese salted cod can be bought from hawkers in the Delfers and Kerk street areas. Johannesburg's CBD has excellent, inexpensive fresh fruit and vegetables sold on brightly coloured plastic plates. For many, the best options lie with these small bargain islands.

However, Mark Israelson of Flea-market Enterprises, which runs Bruma, says that while flea market consumer traffic is up by about 10%, annualised turnover for the industry has dropped by around R200-million since the 1996 heydays to an overall annualised turnover of around R1,3-billion.

"People are spending down. Markets have been hit by competition. We are also a leisure event. We are visited, on average, once every four to six weeks whereas a shopping centre will be visited once a week," he says.

"[But] we at Fleamarket Enterprises have a blueprint for a flea market revolution. The markets have to change. When we started in 1990 the public could get second-hand clothing, arts and crafts. Then we allowed factory goods too.

"We want to more closely define the products available, and respect, to consumers. We will commence a R6-million renovation in May at Bruma, to make it more upmarket."

He says they are trying to discourage consumer perceptions that only junk is available at flea markets, with no consumer protection. He says they underwrite products sold at their flea markets, but admits they don't advertise this fact to consumers.

The flea market revolution was spawned in part by relaxations in public attitudes and border controls after the unbanning of political organisations in 1990. That led to a sex industry that boomed briefly before going limp and all-night raves which have raved to the grave.

Flea markets were a niche until they sprawled across the gamut of the retail industry, turning their eccentric charms into tawdriness. Can they survive into the next millennium?

Waterfront craft co-operative weaving a web of success

Red Shed initiative has created 120 jobs
ARG 20/3/98 (153A) ~~153B~~

ED WEST

DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

The Masizakhe Co-operative Association, which runs a number of stalls in the Red Shed at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront has reported a successful second year of trading, with more than 120 jobs being sustained.

The body corporate, which was launched in March 1996, comprises 29 members who provide hand crafted products for sale at stalls in the Red Shed.

Chairperson Roselle Frasca says in her annual report this week that trading at the V&A Waterfront is seasonal, but the co-operative has been able to predict in the second year,

with a reasonable degree of accuracy, when the high and low trading seasons will be.

The low sales season is from May to September with the high sales season running from October through to the end of January.

However sales for February this year were lower than for the same month in 1997.

Ms Frasca said. "This is of concern. February 1998 is the first month where sales are lower than for the same month in 1997. The Red Shed is being renovated until October or November, and we are con-

cerned about the effect this will have on sales. We are hoping to renegotiate some relief in our rental to offset, at least partially, the anticipated loss in revenue."

Sales for the 11 months through to February 28 were R762 743, which

compared favourably with the R689 920 for the previous 12 months.

"Of this amount, R492 460 has been paid out to members. This is job creation at its best," said Ms Frasca.

The co-operative has been a year late in registering VAT, and is negotiating with the Receiver of Revenue

to pay R20 135 in overdue VAT over 12 months.

While a co-operative structure had many advantages, a few members were carrying most of the responsibility in managing the project, she said.

On the positive side, members had learned to take decisions and learned how to work together.

She said a full-time shop co-ordinator would be employed to run Masizakhe from the beginning of May because the co-operative initiative had developed into a successful business venture, albeit a non-profit one.

She said product mixes and stock levels had improved over the past year, which had had a positive impact on sales.



Councils helpless while illegal businesses mushroom

Too few municipal officials means there is no policing of the by-laws on enterprises set up in homes

By ANITA COX

Illegal businesses in Greater Johannesburg are mushrooming at an alarming rate with some 7 300 reported cases - numbers which authorities suspect are just the tip of the iceberg.

And, because there is a total breakdown in law enforcement in most local councils, people are flouting town planning legislation and opening businesses wherever they choose, knowing there is a general inability and lack of capacity within the councils to deal with these issues.

Local councils are extremely concerned, and fear that the matter is getting out of hand. They claim that illegal businesses are proliferating everywhere, including on sidewalks and in private homes in residential neighbourhoods, and are causing health and fire risks as

well as devaluation of properties. There is evidence of this, they claim, in the declining numbers of town planning applications.

Because of severe financial constraints, the councils are unable to fill enforcement posts, and some councils, such as the Northern council, does not have one enforcement officer for a 343 000sq km area. The result of this is that greater

Enforcement posts cannot be filled

demands are being placed on existing service infrastructure and local authorities are being deprived of substantial finances in the way of engineering services.

The illegal uses attract other

problems, among them that surrounding land owners use the situation as justification to similarly break the law, which has a destabilising effect on planning frameworks and in the physical deterioration of properties. The only mechanism to stop this practice is a court interdict, which costs in the region of R25 000 per application.

This often gets dragged through the courts for months and even if the council wins, there is no staff to follow up the matter to ensure it does not happen again.

In the Northern council, where there are 150 reported illegal uses, there are only eight town planners, who, until recently, were using their own cars for council business.

During the past six months, a backlog of 100 applications has accumulated, resulting in people getting impatient and going ahead without permission, said head of

urban planning Tiaan Ehlers

The Western council has 1 700 reported cases with only one enforcement officer. Manager, outdoor advertising, Kobus Theunissen said it was difficult to bring the first world and the third world together.

"We are in a situation of limbo which is difficult, and we do not have enough manpower to bring the situation under control," he said.

Soweto area has only two officers

The Southern council has the worst problem, with 3 427 cases and only two law enforcement officers.

Communications manager Jameel Chand said Soweto has a big problem with illegal businesses.

There are only two enforcement officers, which was not sufficient, he said.

The Eastern council has 2 000 reported cases of illegal land use and has three enforcement officers.

Many of the problems come from the eastern area of Malvern, Troyeville and Jeppe areas where hundreds of illegal car repair and panel beating businesses have opened on sidewalks and in homes.

The Greater Johannesburg Metro traffic department, which is supposed to police illegal businesses in public areas, said it was not in "enforcement mode".

Chief superintendent Conel Mackay said traffic officers had blitzed Hillbrow earlier this year but were now doing education work with street traders.

He said the situation was being monitored and would be re-evaluated later.

Star 20/1/98 (153A)

Pavement to gutter

Emeka Nwandiko

They sell from beneath tarpaulin tents, on top of planks of wood, at street corners and on pavements, at half the price in stores, but street hawkers find that even selling at rock-bottom prices does not attract buyers

"There has been no business this year," says Hibrhime Theophile from Togo, who sells fresh fruit and vegetables from a pavement in Yeoville, Johannesburg. He says that each week he makes about R250 and he is not optimistic that the market will improve

Few hawkers say that they are making money at present in an industry estimated to be worth at least R560-million a year for the sale of fresh produce alone. There have been no studies to assess the value of ancillary goods such as clothing and CDs

And research by the retail industry and consultants show Theophile's experience is not unique

Anthony van der Schyff of the NPL Group of consultants says "Everybody talks about the informal sector. It has grown dramatically but it is becoming increasingly over-traded [and] more sophisticated"

Which raises the question of the much-touted job-creation potential of the informal sector — it is certainly there, but does it create stability if people cannot move beyond a place on a sidewalk with an upturned cardboard box as their store?

Theophile is one of a growing number of street traders who line the streets of Johannesburg's CBD and its surrounding suburbs selling products that range from perishable goods to medium-quality merchandise like shoes and clothing

Informal traders sell their goods at about half the price of their formal competitors, but they, like with the formal retail sector, are finding that even low prices are not an inducement to cash-strapped consumers

Tembi Ntuli, a street trader from Soweto, sells a pack of 12 small potatoes for R2 and makes a meagre profit of R35 a day in Jeppe Street. She says it is difficult to make more

A few blocks away, Rhoda Sibinda, who sells facecloths and slippers, believes trade is poor because there are too many people competing for the same business

The influx of refugees from all parts of the continent, and further afield, like Taiwan and Pakistan, together with South Africa's unemployed, have seen street trading become an option to the unemployed.

Adam Goldsmith, acting operations manager on informal traders at the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, says there are about 20 000 informal traders in the country's economic capital

Lawrence Mavundla, executive president of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses, estimates the figure to be one million nationally. The increase in the concentration of goods within CBDs and inner city areas has led to a glut of decent quality goods on the streets, and has driven down prices

In recent months, the presence of foreign hawkers has been a sore point for indigenous traders, who have called for their immediate expulsion

Mavundla says the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses wants street trading protected from foreign competitors

But Steve Roberts, a street trader from Liberia, argues that South African traders do not understand the subtleties of trading. "It is important

to take care of your stall and to treat customers well," he says

Rogers Govender, who sells vegetables on the corner of Von Brandis and Kerk streets in the CBD of Johannesburg, says the trick is to buy bulk stock which can be sold at low margins, but have a high turnover

On average, he says, he makes a profit of R1 000 a day from Monday to Thursday, and R1 600 a day on Fridays and Saturdays when trading is at its highest. He says expenses, which include plastic bags, transport and paying his team of four helpers, amounts to about R800 a week

But Abdul Gafoor, who sells handbags and holdalls in the CBD, believes there is a different reason why trade is sluggish. Says the Pakistani refugee "People have a perception that if they buy goods from a shop it is better than buying from the street, which is perceived as being too common"

M+G 7-8/4/98

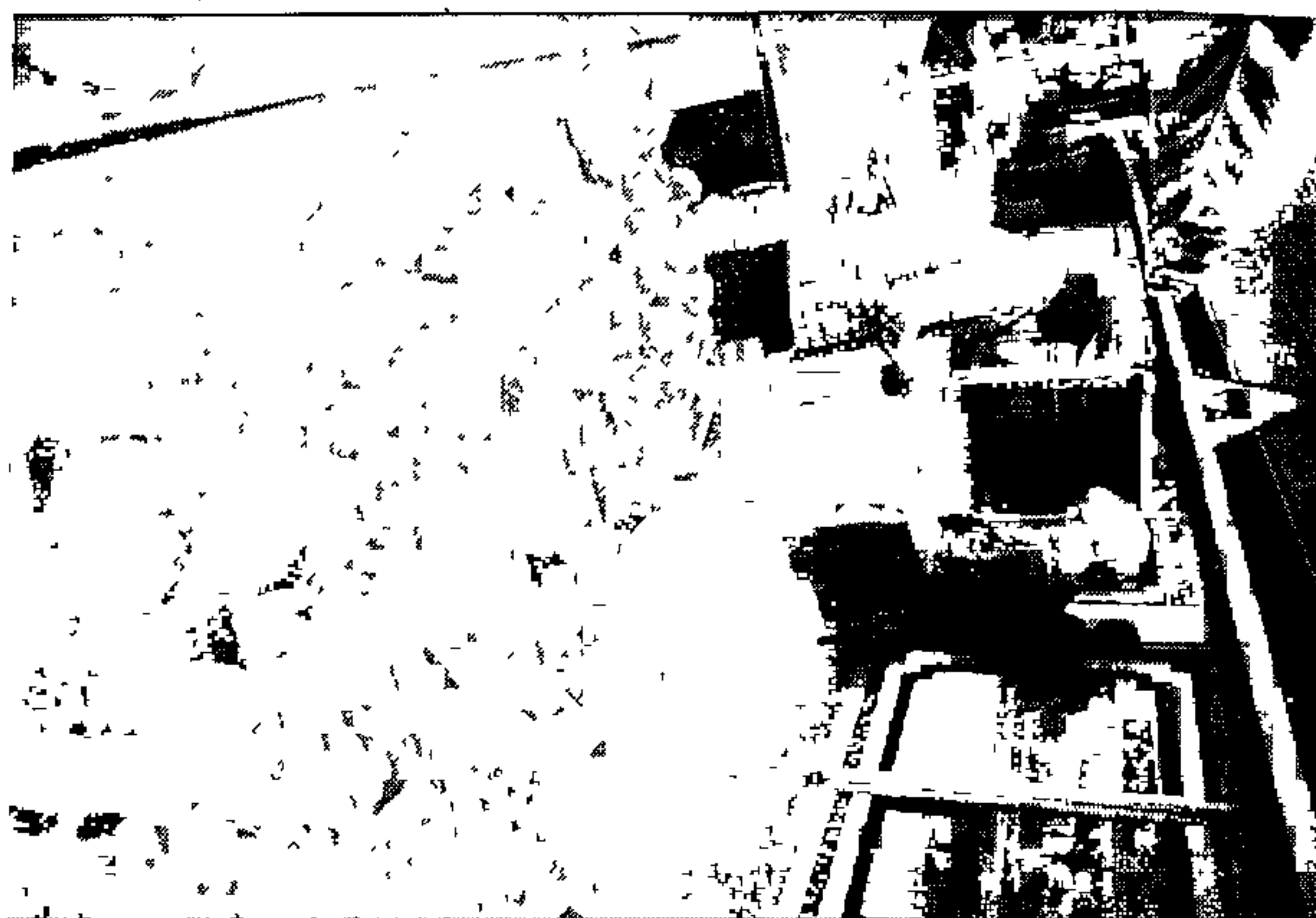
But there appears little evidence that shoppers looking for a bargain are too proud to shop from the streets. Susan Smuts, an office worker, says she often buys from street traders because their products are "very cheap and are of good quality"

Nomsa Zuba, at a stall selling trendy ladies platform shoes, says "I buy my shoes and most products from the street because it is cheaper"

It appears that another reason why trade is sluggish is because most customers targeted are lower-income earners scratching around for bargains

According to Livingstone Mantanga, president of the Federal Association for Informal Traders and Hawkers, negotiations are under way with the government to amend legislation which restricts street trading to CBDs and townships. He says traders want access to more markets presently closed to them

(157A)



Risky business: Cut-throat prices don't necessarily mean booming business for street traders. PHOTOGRAPH: NASHON ZALK

THEMBA HADEBE



Just a dream ... Christine Mkhize stands next to the remains of what used to be her cafe on the pavement of Illovo in northern Johannesburg.

Council demolishes street eatery

Star 6/4/98

21 (153A)

By THEMBA SEPOTKELE

The Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council has demolished Miranda's Restaurant, one of the eateries flourishing along the pavements of the northern suburbs.

Christine Mkhize, who operates the restaurant in Illovo, has been serving customers for four years in a makeshift structure in Rudd Road. In 1995, the council issued her with a licence to sell food in the area.

Mkhize was shattered: "When the council allocated me this site to operate, it never crossed my mind that they would kick me out like this. Why did they come at night to evict me? I don't know whether municipal

workers now work at night. All I have is gone."

Mkhize has lost the R3 000 she saved to buy a caravan, cutlery, dishes, pots and a gas stove.

Dr Patrick Desplace, an Australian businessman, said his family had traditional African meals at the restaurant. "Miranda cooked three different meals. The place was always clean and she did gardening. It's a blow to her and her customers because she charged reasonable prices for her meals."

Pim Broere said tenants of Gravenhagen flats opposite the restaurant protested when council workers and security guards demolished the place. But their efforts were futile.

Mkhize's customers ex-

pressed disgust about her plight. They vowed to support her in rebuilding the structure.

Eastern council project facilitator on informal trading Moses Moshoeshoe said the makeshift structure had been removed because it did not conform with the business and health regulations.

"We received complaints about the shack from the owners of Illovo postal agency and requested Mkhize to dismantle but she refused. We warned her to remove the structure and told her we would come at night and demolish it," Moshoeshoe said.

He said council employees had worked at night in order not to obstruct traffic during the day.

~~Man~~ **sues council for 'devaluing' property**

Claims R8-m, saying that Eastern council failed to prosecute people using property illegally for industry

Star 6/4/98

(153A) (100)

By ANNA COX

A Sandton man is suing Greater Johannesburg's Eastern council for R8-million, accusing it of negligence for failing to prosecute people running industrial and semi-industrial operations in the rural area of Limbro Park.

Nic Nel, who has been engaged in a battle with neighbours and with the council for years, claims his property has been devalued by this amount because the council failed, in terms of the town planning scheme, to prosecute people who are using their properties illegally.

He finally took the matter to the Public Protector, advocate Selby Baqwa, who, in a damning report, stated that the council had failed to properly implement and enforce provisions of the Sandton Town Planning Scheme.

"Furthermore, it has so failed without adequate or sufficient reason or justification. On the contrary, it appeared to actively seek to avoid its responsibilities in this regard and has apparently sought to create a *fait accompli* by making every effort to advance the interests of the operators of illegal businesses at the expense of those residents who abide by the law," said Baqwa in his report.

Nel's own property, on which he spent R1,6-million and which should be worth R4-million, is now only worth R800 000 because the illegal businesses were bringing down the value of the area.

Nel said the council has



lost R9-million itself in revenue from unissued fines since 1995.

The Eastern council last week noted Baqwa's report and took a decision to address this matter urgently and to prepare interdicts for those operating illegally.

Said head of urban planning Pekane Ramarumo, "In terms of the latest draft of the Gauteng Planning Bill, a new land-use management mechanism is proposed which will ultimately supersede town planning schemes of the past. Until the bill becomes an act, the old township schemes will still be enforced where applicable," she said.

Many of the current town planning schemes were drawn up years ago when there had been no consultation with residents or neighbouring communities. Some were divisive and perpetuated conflict unnecessarily, but by law, the council had to enforce them, she said.

"In the old days there were reasons to develop certain areas for certain population groups and town plan-

ning schemes were drawn up along these lines. We have now gone through a full consultation process and came up with land development objectives which will bring communities together. Limbro Park is identified as a potential area for development which means there is a potential of high density and mixed-use development which will strengthen the economic base and provide job opportunities," she said.

Ramarumo said Baqwa did not have all the information on land uses available when he put out his report.

Unlawful trading - no more carrot

Lawetan 7/4/98
(LAF) (153A)

By Dan Fuphe

THE Springs City Council has declared war on unlawful street trading in the area. This will be done through enforcing the East Rand city's informal trading by-laws which regulate conducting business and trading in restricted areas.

The decision was taken at a council meeting on April 1.

The meeting was attended by the council's security department, traffic and licensing sections, the police, the public order policing forum, Business Watch and the local branch of the Department of Home Affairs.

The council's head of public relations and marketing, Mr Daniel Potgieter, said hawkers and others currently trading from prohibited areas or areas not identified by the council for street trading, as well as shop owners exhibiting wares outside their shops, had all been issued with 21-day notices.

Potgieter said spot fines would be

issued or stock impounded.

A fine of R2 000 or a sentence of six months in prison could also be imposed on those convicted of trading illegally.

"In an effort to clear congested pavements and thoroughfares by regulating street trading, the Springs City Council has been negotiating with hawkers for more than three years.

"Some 102 alternative stands have been identified in the Top Centre and Old Woolworths parking areas, for which 107 applications were received within the application period," Potgieter said.

He added that the new provisions for street trading had already been incorporated into the council's informal trading by-laws which were promulgated under the Local Authority Notice 1338 in the Government Gazette of June 18 1997.

Recently a group of hawkers in Springs went on the rampage to rid the area of foreign traders.

Angry hawkers smash foreigners' stalls

ep 26/4/98

(153A) (20/4)

By VUKILE POKWANA

HIS face was a mirror of fear and disillusionment as he attempted in broken English to stop local hawkers from ransacking his fruit and vegetable stall.

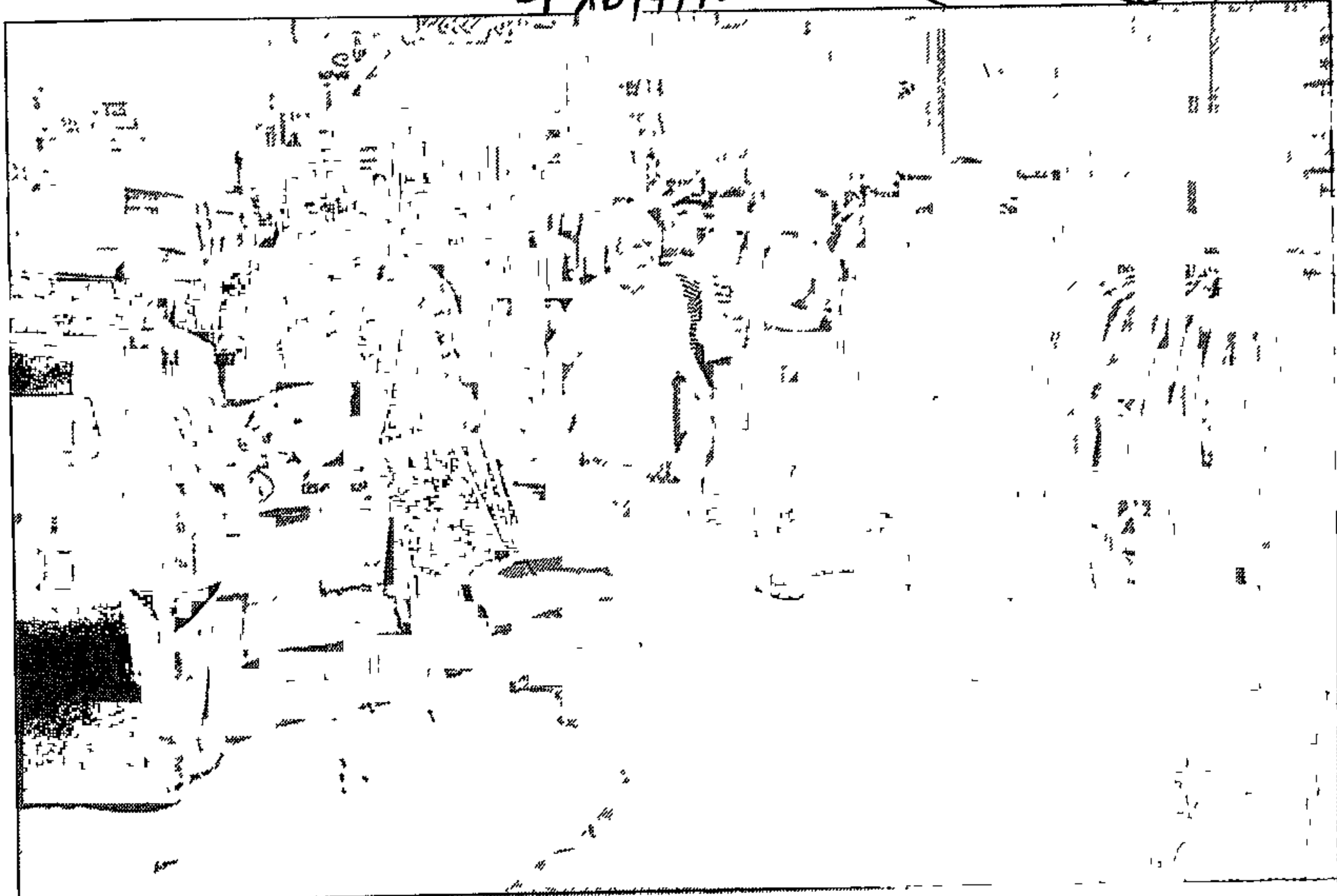
"Make me Make me," he shouted, apparently trying to say "leave me alone," when some of his wares scattered on the pavement as the mob pounced.

This was the scene in a Jozi street this week as local hawkers attempted to "clean up" pavements where illegal immigrants ply their trade.

The local hawkers say no one would travel 10 000km just to sell on the pavements.

"We need doctors, engineers, scientists and other professionals to help rebuild our country, not small-time business operators.

"The pavements should be reserved for South Africans, considering the fact that 80 percent of the hawkers are women," said Mannelles Solomon, the chairman of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers Planning Committee.



"We were harrassed by the previous government and now that we think all is well, the government is bringing these people in.

"We are not against foreigners, but they must not encroach on our territory.

"We are trying to make ends meet.

"There is a huge unemployment rate in the country and South Afri-

FREE MARKET . . . It is business as usual as hawkers display their goods at peak-hour. But the serene atmosphere was disturbed this week when stalls belonging to foreigners were attacked. **Pic: MIKE MZILENI**

cans must be the first to benefit in a small or micro-business," said Solomon.

A sense of helplessness was on the faces of the people from the north of the Limpopo as they watched the locals removing immigrants from the pavements.

Some of these hawkers, from as far afield as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Asia, have been trading on the pavements of Johannesburg for the past three years.

One who calls himself Theophilous says he braved the voracious lions of the Kruger National Park to gain entry into South Africa, and now this.

"I came here because my country has nothing to offer. All the resources have been saturated and I think there is hope for me here in South Africa. Now black people are

turning against us. This is sad but we will resist them.

"Shortly there will be more black on black violence if the government does not intervene," he said.

A hawker called Thabiso Ndlovu, a Pedi operating an open-air barber shop, told City Press: "These people are removing us so as to allow their friends to use the spaces we have booked on the pavements.

"What about our families? How am I going to pay rent? These things lead people to commit crime."

The immigrants argue that South Africa is an integral part of Africa. "Where have you seen Africans illegal on their own soil? South Africans are xenophobic. We understand the damage that apartheid has caused to their brains. We hope that they will one day realise the dream of sharing equally with the whole of Africa."

Asked to comment, a spokesman at the Department of Home Affairs said some of the immigrants who are hawkers were asylum-seekers who were issued with permits in terms of Section 41 of the Aliens Control Act, 1991, which legalises their stay in the country.

"The immigrants may seek employment, and can be allowed to study in South Africa, pending the outcome of their asylum applications," said a statement from the Department of Home Affairs.

The statement continued: "The Department of Home Affairs does not issue immigration or work permits to foreigners permitting them to become informal traders. As such, foreigners who enter the hawking trade with immigration or work permits issued to them for employment other than hawking, do so illegally."



LEAPING TO LIST Marc Israelsohn is one of South Africa's first rock 'n roll businessmen, whose career path includes student radio stations, swimming pool businesses and his flagship Bruma fleamarket

**Global Village^(153A) to
take fleamarket
concept to JSE**

Households

CT (Bl)
1/6/98

Monial from his headmaster landed up in the dustbin. It said that while he was academically sound, he was too individualistic, non-group orientated and needed to be carefully watched.

Not much has changed, it would seem. With his long hair, earrings and bangles, Israelsohn, 36, is not exactly the kind of guy you would expect to find standing in front of the investment community.

Yet, that is exactly what he has been doing lately as he brings his company, Global Village Holdings, to the JSE.

True to form, his type of business is one that most stockbroking analysts have never seen before. It controls four fleamarkets, a food company, a lifestyle store, a festival and exhibition division, and is fast expanding into other novel areas of the leisure-retail and "shopper-tainment" industry.

Global Village has grown out of a small fleamarket started by Israelsohn and his brother Gary in a parking lot at Bruma, Johannesburg, in 1990 to become the largest participant in the South African market industry.

It is probably the first fleamarket group ever to list on a stock exchange anywhere in the world, and is fast being recognised as a world leader in its field. Indeed, Global Village has been approached to run markets in places as diverse as Cairo, Tel Aviv, Jakarta, Miami and Disney World in Paris.

"I think people see me as a rock 'n roll businessman and respect me as being a new-age entrepreneur, unafraid to walk the edge of a new generation of business style," says Israelsohn.

Global Village is very much a family business, with brother Gary, father Preston and father-in-law Eric Goodman heavily involved in its day-to-day running. And Israelsohn's other brother, his mother, mother-in-law, both sisters-in-law and wife, Marianne, have all traded at fleamarkets.

Israelsohn's headmaster's testimonial killed any chances he may have had of getting a bursary, but is probably the best thing that could ever have happened to him.

To help fund his BCom studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, he began selling clothes made out of mut-ton cloth at the Bree Street and Balfour markets in Johannesburg in partnership with Gary.

Later, he also started a diving and pool repair business out of a flat in Braamfontein, with an initial investment of R150.

The major turning point in his life, however, came when he joined the Voice of Wits radio station as a DJ. Before long he was chairperson of the station, arranging hundreds of concerts, including Mango Groove, Juluka and the massive annual Free People's event.

"I learnt more from my time spent at the radio station than from anything my university course ever taught me," he says. "The experience gave me the confidence to be in charge of my destiny, rather than to just follow it."



JOHN SPIRA

(JOCURY.)

By the time he graduated in 1983, Israelsohn had been transformed from a shy and serious teenager, absorbed in the world of books, into "a completely outgoing, confident adult". He continued to grow his swimming pool business into the largest repair company in South Africa, thanks to its use of state-of-the-art underwater leak repair technology.

In 1986, together with his father, he started his second pool company, Executive Pool Group, which outgrew the first. "The company grew big and it was a good business, but it never satisfied my aspirations."

While still running the pool business, he and his brother Gary started a Sunday open-air market in the Game parking lot near Fisherman's Village at Bruma, with an investment of R10 000.

It has since grown into the largest by far in southern Africa. Its more than 600 stalls attracted over 1.3-million visitors last year and it is rated as Gauteng's top tourist attraction.

"We believed that to succeed we needed to add value to the market experience for both traders and the public. To do this, we introduced all the things we had found lacking as traders at other markets, including advertising, administrative controls and respect for the consumer," says Israelsohn.

Despite his success, business has never been plain sailing for Israelsohn, who has learnt several tough lessons along the way.

The first was how not to grow too quickly beyond one's infrastructure, capability and financial backing — a lesson which came at the expense of his first pool company, Sub Aqua, which closed in 1986.

In addition, several unsuccessful fleamarkets have had to be shut down.

Nevertheless, "Making mistakes is completely and utterly part of the programme. I believe it is better to try and fail than not to try at all and just keep bumbling along. Knowing when to bank one's profit or cut one's losses are the invaluable lessons that only such painful experiences can provide."

Global Village has shown rapid growth, remains highly profitable and certainly does not look set to run out of steam. Numerous acquisitions are currently being negotiated and several novel concepts are about to be launched.

These include an Internet-based virtual market, a food festival, a specialist concept store for upmarket shopping centres, a Kid's World entertainment facility and a Museum of Freedom and Liberation.

He believes in "living the dream", and one old dream may soon come true. From his earliest days, Israelsohn wanted to become a writer but had his first poetry collection rejected by publishers while still at university.

He is currently writing a book called "The Myths of Perspective" about the things we believe are true, but really aren't. Global Village's JSE listing is no doubt poised to dispel many myths in the business world.

CT(BL)
1/6/98
(153A)

Western Cape Informal sector scan
Education and training provision for the Informal sector in the
Western Cape

A. DRAFT FRAMEWORK

1 INTRODUCTION

Context

This section will attempt to sketch the economic and social context of the informal sector in the Western Cape

Issues

- ❖ Informal sector in the context of SMME Development
- ❖ Legislation governing the sector

2 KEY INDUSTRIAL SECTORS COMPRISING THE INFORMAL SECTOR

This section will attempt to provide an overview of the sector breakdown of the informal sector. Information provided by Wolfgang Thomas, will be used as a basis for accessing further information

3 LOCATION

This section will attempt to provide a geographic/industrial overview of the informal sector

4 JOBS AND COMPETENCIES

This section will begin to identify key jobs in the informal sector, key skills / competencies needed in this sector, and an overview of work trends

5 EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN THE WESTERN CAPE

This section will provide an overview, not an audit, of training provision for key sectors within the informal sector, and geographic location of the training

- ❖ Who are the providers? (e.g. NGO, Technical College, Private College)
- ❖ What are they providing? (focus e.g. Entrepreneurial skills, Metal Work, Sewing)
- ❖ Where are they providing it? (geographic location)

Key issues

- ❖ How does informal sector training relate to that of the formal sector?
 - ❖ SETA Development
-

- ❖ Relationship between training and jobs/competencies identified in the sector
- ❖ Does current E&T meet the needs of the sector?
- ❖ Capacity of existing E&T providers to meet the ever-changing needs of the informal sector

7 CONCLUSION

B. METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

The data collection for this study will comprise of

- ❖ Collecting existing, relevant documentation and research reports on the informal sector
- ❖ Consultations with key roleplayers

Organizations, conducting research, that will be targeted for the study include the following

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	USE OF RESEARCH
CAFDA	SMME development	To determine training needs of entrepreneurs
Clotex	Provide support to textile industry	Inform SMME service provision
Atlantis Business Centre	SMME development	Inform SMME service provision
Centre for Opportunity Develop	SMME training	Inform SMME service provision
Cape Town Job Creation Project		Inform SMME service provision
NICRO Business Service Centre		Inform SMME service provision
South Cape Business centre	SMME development	Inform SMME service provision
Triple Trust Organisation		To inform interventions into SMME development
Big News for Small Business		To keep abreast with market trends
BON	Facilitate linkages to SMMEs	To identify needs of SMMEs for development
NAC	Development of the FET sector	To understand the capacity building needs of technical colleges, for implementing Outcomes Based Education & Training (OBET)

Data analysis

The data will be processed and analyzed in a way that attempts to address the key issues identified for inclusion in this report

Paving the way for trading plan

(153A)

ARG 2/7/98

PETER GOOSEN AND LINDA DANIELS
STAFF REPORTER

Few people would disagree that Wynberg Main Road business centre has more street traders to the square metre than anywhere else in Cape Town. This also means, of course, that it has pavements which are nearly impossible to negotiate, a constant source of frustration to pedestrians and motorists.

Formal business owners are equally upset when their shopfronts disappear behind a wall of street traders' goods. It also causes a litter problem of awesome proportions.

But, all this is about to change dramatically.

The South Peninsula Municipality has tried every trick in the book to bring some order to the chaos, all to no avail.

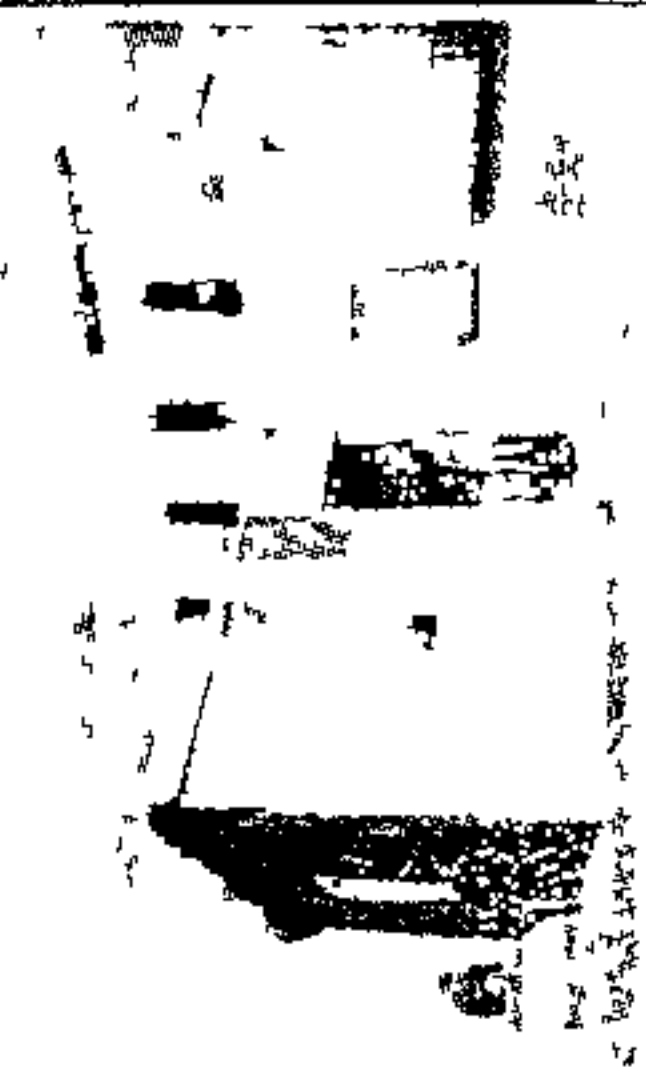
It has taken the drastic step of declaring a Wynberg restricted area for informal trading. So, in future, large sections of pavements, streets and open spaces will be banned to informal traders in an area from Wetton Road to Bexhill Square adjacent to Wynberg station.

In this same area will be 156 demarcated spaces for informal traders. This plan was arrived at with the traders co-operation in the form of the Western Cape Fruit and Vegetable Hawkers Association, the Wynberg Informal Traders Association, Wynberg Business Watch, the Wynberg Civic Association, the Old Wynberg Village Society and municipal officials.

Meetings of this task team were chaired by Kenilworth councillor John Mathee.

The layouts for the area are based on different types of commodities

Neighbours



Send your neighbourhood news and notices to Peter Goosen at 488 4311, fax 488 4075 or e-mail nhoo@ctn independent.co.za

sold taking into account pedestrian movement, access from loading and parking bays, bus stops and shops.

Where traders have been in front of display windows they will be moved to the kerb side of pavements away from windows. The average size of a trading bay will be about two metres by one metre.

The plan, says the council, will not drive traders out of business.

But there was a mixed response to the plan from hawkers 'on site'.

Suleigha Samuels, a street trader for six years in Wynberg said "If the pavement is narrow then it's understandable, but if it's not then they should compromise with hawkers".

She used to trade in Athlone, but due to "lots of fighting" she left and decided to trade in Wynberg. Selling dried fruit and nuts, Ms Samuels has been trading for 12 years now.

Trading is her only livelihood. She supports her 18-month-old baby and a teenager on her income. Ms Samuels said "As soon as I get married, I won't work on the streets".



Crowded: a fruit stall on a pavement in Wynberg where traders will soon have new sites and pedestrians more space

Debra de Bruyn said "This is a our bread and butter. We can't steal for a living. It's our living".

For Mrs De Bruyn, trading in Wynberg is more of a tradition than anything else. She and her husband have been trading there for 30 years.

Smiling, she said "We are happy here". The couple support their two children on their income from their fruit and vegetable stall. Mrs De Bruyn vehemently opposes any kind of formal set-up for informal trade.

She said "There will be no business if they do that. There will be too many stalls in one area". The couple, from Lansdowne, hope to continue trading in Wynberg for a long time.

next year and get a better job, she says. She also believes that moving hawkers in a formal set-up would mean "no business".

Buddy Isaacs, from Hanover Park, began selling magazines and books in Wynberg Main Road after the company for which he was a driver was liquidated six years ago.

He chose to trade there because "there's not so much violence". Mr Isaacs supports four children, all still at school. He will be trading in Wynberg for a long time "I got no choice".

HANNES THIAAT

City streets: Where SA's economy is thriving

(153A) M+G 3-9/7/98

Street trading is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy, yet authorities fail to acknowledge its vital role, writes **Ferial Haffajee**

In South African cities, the cardboard currency at least is doing a roaring trade. Cardboard boxes are integral to the market sector where pavement trade is supporting more and more families and creating more jobs than the formal sector.

The streets are catching the fall out of dwindling industries like mining and manufacturing as the wives of retrenched workers form a new layer of breadwinners who take to the pavements to support extended families.

And they all need cardboard. Cardboard boxes to bring goods to town in and to stack up as shelving for stalls. Boxes to sit on — and in.

A young Ethiopian woman, Genet Bogane, sits in an old apple box in downtown Johannesburg, watching over her goods.

Last year she made the motor trip down from Addis Ababa through Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Swaziland and finally to the Hillbrow flat she lives in and the piece of Johannesburg pavement she trades on. A made-in-Taiwan alarm rings to attract passers-by to her table of clocks, socks, sandals and beanies to ward off the winter cold.

"Sometimes I make R50, sometimes R20 a day. But it's OK." Better than Ethiopia, where poverty and war forced the young woman to make the long, long journey to South Africa.

The pavements are as much a part of the global economy as is corporate South Africa, except the trade is reversed. City streets are a cacophony of accents from Asia and all parts of Africa. Durban and Johannesburg look just like Lome, Maputo and Cairo.

There is nothing that is not on sale on the streets. Hawkers unpack box-loads of jeans still in their plastic covers next to a stall selling live chickens. In turn, the hawkers have inspired several downstream industries: a man selling flattened cardboard boxes from his bicycle is doing a roaring trade, Taiwanese wholesalers drop off truck-loads of boxes to street-side sellers, while Indian fruit wholesalers off-load trays of cut-price avocados.

"It is the major source of liveli-

hood for millions of women and their families," says Francie Lund of the Durban-based Centre for Social and Development Studies. Together with the Self-Employed Women's Union (Sewu), the centre is part of a five-nation African study of women traders which plans to take an accurate snap-shot of just how powerful the informal sector is in Africa and what percentage of gross domestic product it accounts for.

Anecdotal evidence suggests this sector is the life-blood of millions and that entire communities are supported by street takings. Last week Deputy President Thabo Mbeki chided critics: "Nothing is said of the emergence of the so-called 'grey economy', as a result of which growth in the economy is not recorded and new jobs are not counted."

This growing grey economy covers everything from crime and street trade to home-based work, small-scale agriculture and new forms of work like contracts, piece jobs and consultancy. The problem is that these new economic sectors change all the time, the numbers employed by the sector fluctuate and often authorities do not recognise them.

Street-traders have become an indelible part of the urban landscape, yet for the authorities they may as well be invisible. "The perception that street-trading is illegal persists in the minds of the middle classes," says Pat Horn, the founder of Sewu. That middle class is voluble and its view that "they are taking over our cities" influences the authorities. That's why, says Horn, many traders still harbour the view that "We shouldn't really be doing this, we shouldn't use people's streets."

Some estimate that in developing countries between 40% and 80% of the urban workforce either run their own stalls or work for hawkers. Gene Tiddick of the World Bank estimates that in Africa one in five economically active adults works on the streets. "I don't think this sector is a panacea for unemployment and poverty alleviation in South Africa, but it can make a difference," he says.



Life on the streets: Ethiopian trader Genet Bogane makes a sale at her stall in Johannesburg
PHOTOGRAPH RUTH MOTAU

In South Africa it appears that the street-trading sector is not yet as large as it is in the rest of the continent, but it is growing.

Ros Herschowitz, the chief director of research and development at the Central Statistical Services (CSS), says in 1995 there were 1.7-million people classified as self-employed. That figure includes domestic workers and the whole informal sector. It needs to be separated out and studied more accurately, but the CSS does not have sufficient research funds.

The contribution of the self-employed to gross domestic product is now calculated by the CSS, and Herschowitz says it is necessary "to have a national picture of this business and its contribution to the economy."

"We have to integrate their [women traders'] employment into mainstream economic theory, policies and markets," says Lund. Street-trade is increasingly no longer an adjunct to the economy as the informal or grey economy grows.

Take the example of Flora Ngobeni, who every day treks into Johannesburg from Brits, where she buys spinach from a small farmer. Setting up early on a prime corner near the station, she rinses off her shards of bottle-green spinach, stacking them neatly. Regulars stop to buy and Ngobeni gets them change from the plastic bag which serves as her till. At the end of the day, she makes about R40 a day in coins. Small change perhaps, but it supports her three children and mother who live in rural Giyani.

On the other hand, Beatrice Sithole's purple money-bag is bulging. Her *pap-en-vleis* stall has gone from strength to strength in the six years she's been trading in Johannesburg. Taxi drivers, Mozambican traders and construction workers all stop for a hearty meal of pap, juicy slabs of steak and tomato gravy. They hand over crumpled notes, helping to build up a turnover of between R200 and R300 a day.

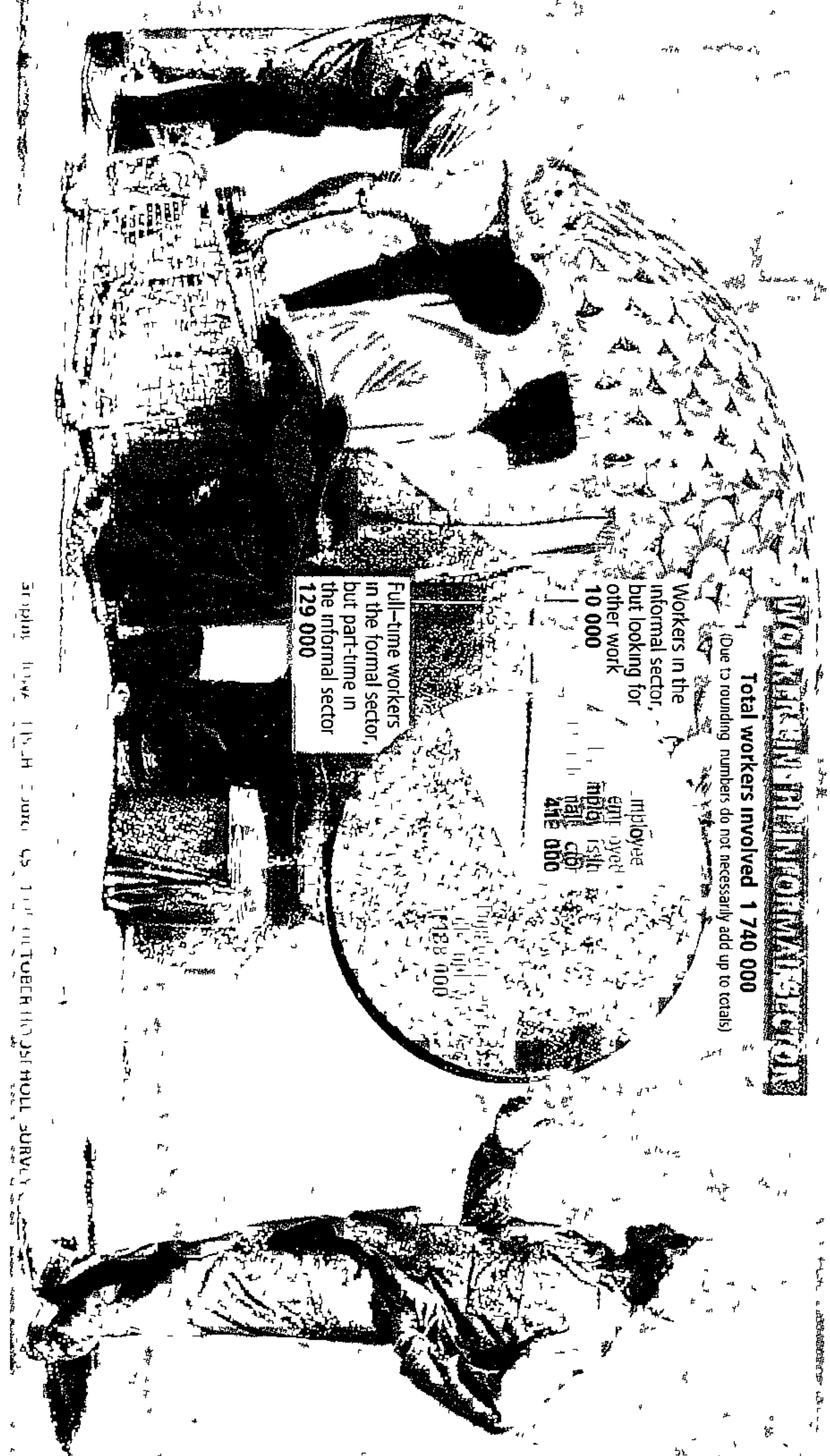
Sithole says she supports 11 peo-

ple, and she employs an assistant. "Street traders not only contribute to the economy by distributing a significant share of goods and services, but also serve the middle- and low-income consumer by offering goods and services at competitive prices," says Horn.

The study of women traders she will manage is an attempt to get authorities to plan policies with traders in mind — to see them as an integral part of urban life.

Firstly, vendors must be given legal status. Then South Africa could take a page from other African cities by starting markets which will regulate trade and serve as tourist attractions. As the street-trading sector mushrooms, it can become a source of city revenue — surveys have shown that traders do not mind renting their space and paying for cleaning and storage services.

Says Horn: "South African authorities must look at other African cities instead of wanting to make European capital lookalikes."



Sampling: 10 days, 15-24 hours, 1995. 10% of the total household survey.

Mbeki's grey economy a smokescreen

SA's informal sector is being touted as the economy's saving grace by Thabo Mbeki, who last week labelled pessimists about growth and job creation opponents of change.

He has instead urged SA to focus on the grey economy, which he says is growing and creating employment.

But analysts say his comments are little more than a smokescreen — an attempt to deflect attention from a stagnant economy.

And his use of the informal sector as a beacon for SA is not backed up by the figures.

The sector is sometimes romanticised as the entrepreneurial hub of SA, but data from the Central Statistical Service (CSS) and Development Bank of Southern Africa show many of the participants in the informal sector fail to surpass

(153A) ST(01) 5/7/98
The informal sector may be growing but 80% of it is merely survivalist, writes THABO KOBOKOANE

the poverty line, never mind build savings or buy a fridge.

Mbeki provided no figures on the growth in the informal sector and there is little recent data available.

But a cursory glance around street pavements reveals a growing trend as many South Africans, mostly black, enter the informal economy in search of alternative means of income because of declining job prospects.

The key factor behind the rise of the sector lies in the inability of the formal economy to absorb new labour-market entrants while at the same time shedding existing jobs.

The SA Reserve Bank Quarterly Bulletin said the economy

shed 130 000 jobs in 1997.

An earlier report by the DB-SA found that 365 000 people entered the job market annually while only 82 000 jobs were created between 1990 and 1995.

The last published CSS 1995 household survey estimated the informal sector contributed R32.4 billion to gross domestic product — about 7% of the total value added in the economy.

It further found that over 1.74-million people were participants in the informal economy out of an estimated 4.6-million economically active people. The figure is likely to be significantly higher given that the statistics are three

years old — so Mbeki is right that it is growing.

What the optimists fail to point out is that much of the activity remains survivalist, with some estimates suggesting as much as 80% of the sector is scraping through, and unlikely to grow beyond that.

The CSS study reported that average salaries in the sector were below R500 monthly — just about R16 a day — and others have it at even less.

Without clear-cut policy intervention to encourage the development of this sector, it will remain trapped in its survivalist mode.

A USAid study found the most important primary problems experienced by micro-

entrepreneurs were those involving finance and markets, and a World Bank study reached similar conclusions. But commercial banks have largely ignored the market, a vacuum which is being filled by micro-lenders.

There is also the issue of tax, and government is probably losing billions of rands in revenue from the sector.

But the state may be more than happy to offset this in favour of the jobs the sector creates and the burden it would create for state expenditure without them.

However important the sector is in providing a safety net to millions of South Africans unable to find employment elsewhere, glorifying the grey economy as a growing, vibrant sector only serves to reflect how badly the formal economic structures are performing.

Western Cape informal trade is big business

R1,5bn spent in year, survey finds

AYESHA ISMAIL

WESTERN Cape consumers spent close to R1,5-billion buying from informal businesses last year, a university study has found.

This confirmed that the government and businessmen underestimated the informal sector, said Professor Johan Martins, organiser of the study by the University of South Africa's Bureau for Market Research.

The survey of household expenditure in the Peninsula found that R783,8-million had been spent on hawkers' goods and at street and flea markets, R509,5-million at spaza shops and R156,8-million at shebeens.

Africans bought more than a third of their food (R476,7-million) from informal businesses, particularly spaza shops.

"This is an important business sector and it is time it was taken seriously," Martins said.

The sector was growing and creating jobs. "It must be taken into account when government is drawing up legislation and instituting new regulations."

(1591A)
ST(CM) 12/7/98

The survey found that Peninsula households spent about R39,2-billion in cash on goods and services last year.

Of this sum, whites spent 44,1 percent, coloureds 42,3 percent, Africans 12 percent and Indians 1,6 percent.

Whites' household spending was roughly half their combined expenditure on income tax, entertainment, sport and recreation, holidays, housing and electricity.

Of the R8,2-billion spent on food, coloureds and whites each spent R3,3-billion or 41 percent, while Africans spent R1,4-billion (17,3 percent).

Analysing the outlets used, the survey found that households spent R8,5-billion at supermarkets, hypermarkets and chain stores last year.

The groups differed in the outlets they favoured. Africans made 18,5 percent of their cash purchases from informal businesses, compared with 8,6 percent by coloureds and 2,5 percent by whites. The informal sector supplied Africans with about half of their fruit, vegetables and more than half of their fruit.

Liquor bought at shebeens took the biggest slice of Africans' expenditure — R64,5-million (63,9 percent).



STREETWISE: Peninsula consumers prefer to buy their fruit and vegetables from street vendors
Picture: JACK LESTRADE

BANKING Access to credit unequal in SA, US official says

Micro-enterprises voice their complaints to Rubin

CT (AR) 15/7/98

(153A)

ROSS HERBERT

Johannesburg — South Africa's government and banking sectors are not doing enough to provide credit to micro-enterprises and small businesses, say the small business owners, bankers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who met Robert Rubin, the US treasury secretary, in Soweto yesterday.

Rubin urged South Africa to expand credit to small business and to examine US-style reforms that encourage banks to lend into distressed areas.

"Your country has a world-class, sophisticated system of banking and finance," Rubin said. But "access to credit is very unequally distributed."

Ntombi Msimang, an accountant, said she battled for seven months to secure a bank loan for her Safrika restaurant in the Johannesburg suburb of Hazelwood.

"We black women have lots of ideas," she said. "But if you want to make our lives stressful, send us to a bank."

Msimang and NGOs criticised the formal banking sector for being too rigid and lacking interest in micro-enterprise.

"Our banks are not user-friendly to people in (the small and micro sector)," said Kate Moloto, the chief executive of the government's Ntsika



PETITION Ntombi Msimang waited seven months to secure a bank loan. PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

agency, which provides training and support to small business.

Rubin asked whether South Africa was applying much and energy to developing micro-enterprise.

"Sadly, in the private sector there is very little (effort)," said Don McRoberts, a trustee at the Get Ahead Foundation, a pioneer in South African microlending schemes.

"We would like to see government doing more."

Bob Tucker, the chief executive of the South African Banking Council, told the gathering that micro-business could not be the engine of the economy.

"One of the most dangerous things is to create the impression that the only problem is money, and if we only bash the

banks hard enough, everything will be okay," he said.

"The fact is we can't look to micro-enterprise to bail out an economy."

Zenele Mbeki, a trustee at the Women's Development Bank, said Khula, the government's small business wholesale lending initiative, was battling to give away money.

"The poor people in South Africa cannot absorb R5 000 (loans)," she said.

"When we went into rural areas with R500 loans, people could not take them and brought us down to R300."

But participants agreed that willingness to lend was not the only issue.

Micro-enterprise is the first step on the economic ladder for those without the education or skills to win formal sector jobs.

Small business participants said they also needed assistance with business basics such as navigating formal lending practices, negotiating realistic interest rates, planning cash flow and creating a business plan.

Bankers argued that such training should be done by the government or NGOs.

"The government has to be the prime facilitator in creating a nationwide support centre," Tucker said — Independent Foreign Service

SA SHOPPERS GO INFORMAL

Hawkers, street markets boom

PM 24/7/98
Last year in the Cape peninsula, consumers spent about R8bn in supermarkets, hypermarkets and chain stores. But, according to a report by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research, they also spent a far from trivial R0,8bn with hawkers, street markets and flea markets, R0,5bn at spaza shops and roughly R0,2bn at shebeens.

White and coloured consumers bought only about 3% and 9% of their purchases at informal enterprises respectively. But black consumers bought about 19% from informal retailers. They said they bought more than two thirds of their vegetables and more than half their fruit from the informal sector. And 64% of alcohol was bought at shebeens.

The bureau estimates there are about 90 licensed shebeens and 100 smaller informal outlets that "will simply close down if they are not helped to acquire licences". And if this happens, "a substantial number of households that are dependent on the income will become poorer while the larger formal shebeens or taverns will benefit from the additional clientele".

Coloured consumers said they bought a third of their reading matter and writing materials, about 18% of their tobacco and cigarettes and about 6% of their food from

Economic Trends

By Adrienne Roberts

hawkers and street markets. Whites bought roughly 10% of reading matter, writing materials, clothing, footwear and accessories from hawkers and markets.

Spaza shops sold more than a quarter of the white bread and cold drinks in the peninsula. It suggests statistics on a wide range of things, including prices, sales and consumer behaviour in SA, will not be entirely convincing until reliable ways are found of measuring informal sector activity on a countrywide scale. ■

Street traders a hazard, warns city fire chief

People fleeing burning building could find path to safety blocked

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter

Firemen's access to burning buildings in the Cape Town city centre is being increasingly hampered by street traders and illegally parked vehicles.

The central business district has long been regarded as a high-risk fire area because of its concentration of high-rise buildings, people and potentially inflammable equipment.

There had already been instances of people fleeing a building on fire, having to fight their way past street vendors, said acting divisional officer of the Cape Town Fire Department Stephen Henkin.

Although the city has yet to experience a high-rise building on fire, the fire department is braced for what will be one of its greatest challenges. And it will happen, Mr Henkin warns.

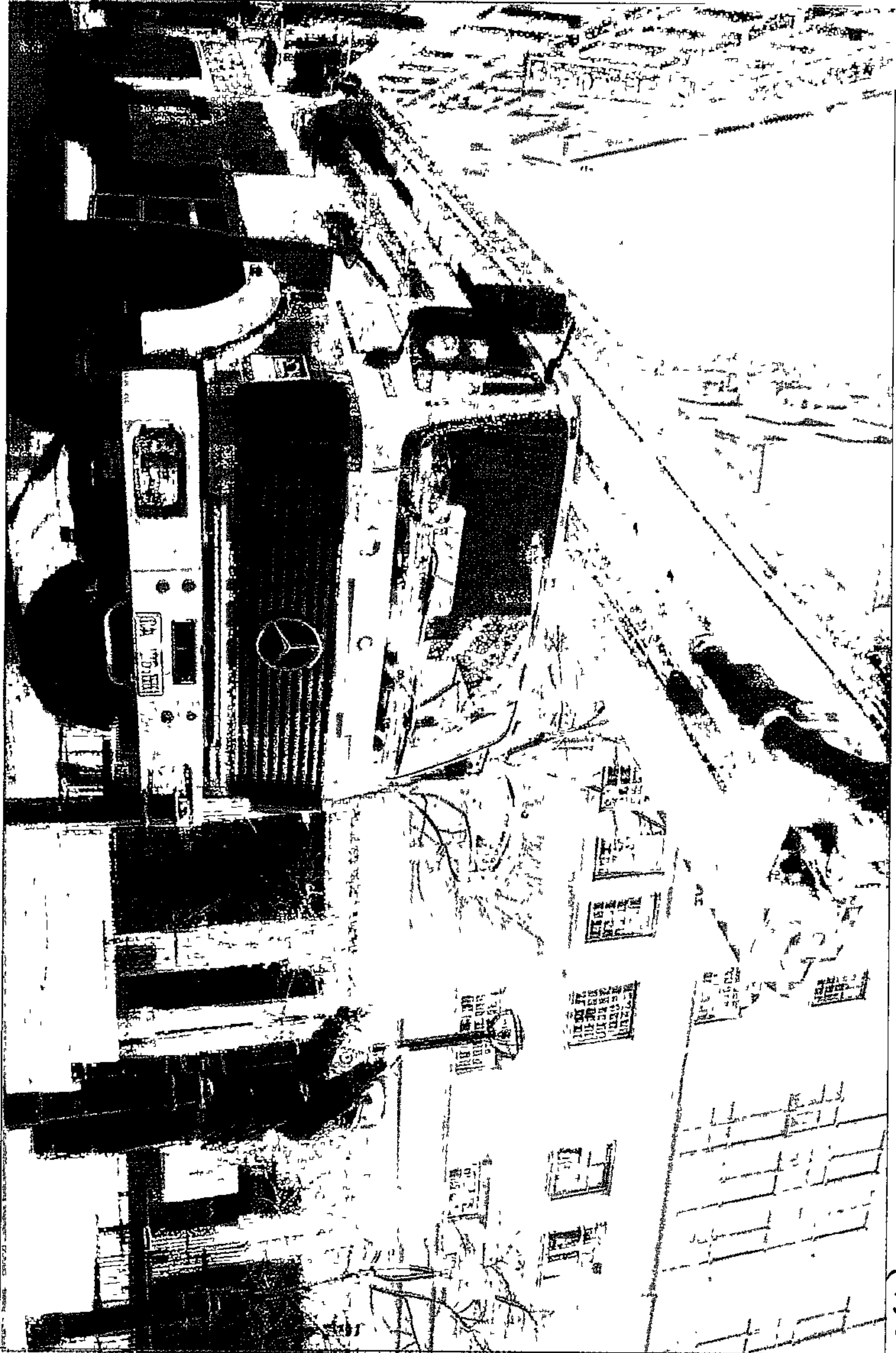
A building taller than 30 storeys is considered high-rise.

Also on the fire high-risk list are the commercial centres of Mitchell's Plain, Athlone, Claremont and Epping Industria, among others.

Mr Henkin expressed grave concern that the increasing number of street vendors, many of whom appeared to be operating illegally, might be placing lives at greater risk by obstructing fire-fighting vehicles. They were becoming a particular hazard in areas like St George's Mall in the city centre and Main Road in Claremont.

The positioning of some vendors near company fire escapes was a fire hazard, as they could impede people fleeing burning buildings, he said.

If a fire broke out in their vicinity, the fire department would order street traders to move their goods if they were in the way. But to move the more formal structures, such as the rigging of metal poles in St George's Mall, might cost firemen vital minutes in which lives, and a building,



LEON LBS/TRADE

Tight turn: station officer Bradley Quinn gives directions as fire-fighting vehicle 'Simon Snorkel' tries to turn into St George's Mall

could be saved, he said.

City Council spokeswoman Leonora de Sousa said street vendors had increased in the past two years, now numbering 500 in the city centre. In December the council began regulating the traders and appointed area

managers to work through the problem systematically in each area. Vendors blocking fire escapes would be moved, she said.

Mr Henkin said drivers who double-parked in the city centre – and thus was becoming frighteningly com-

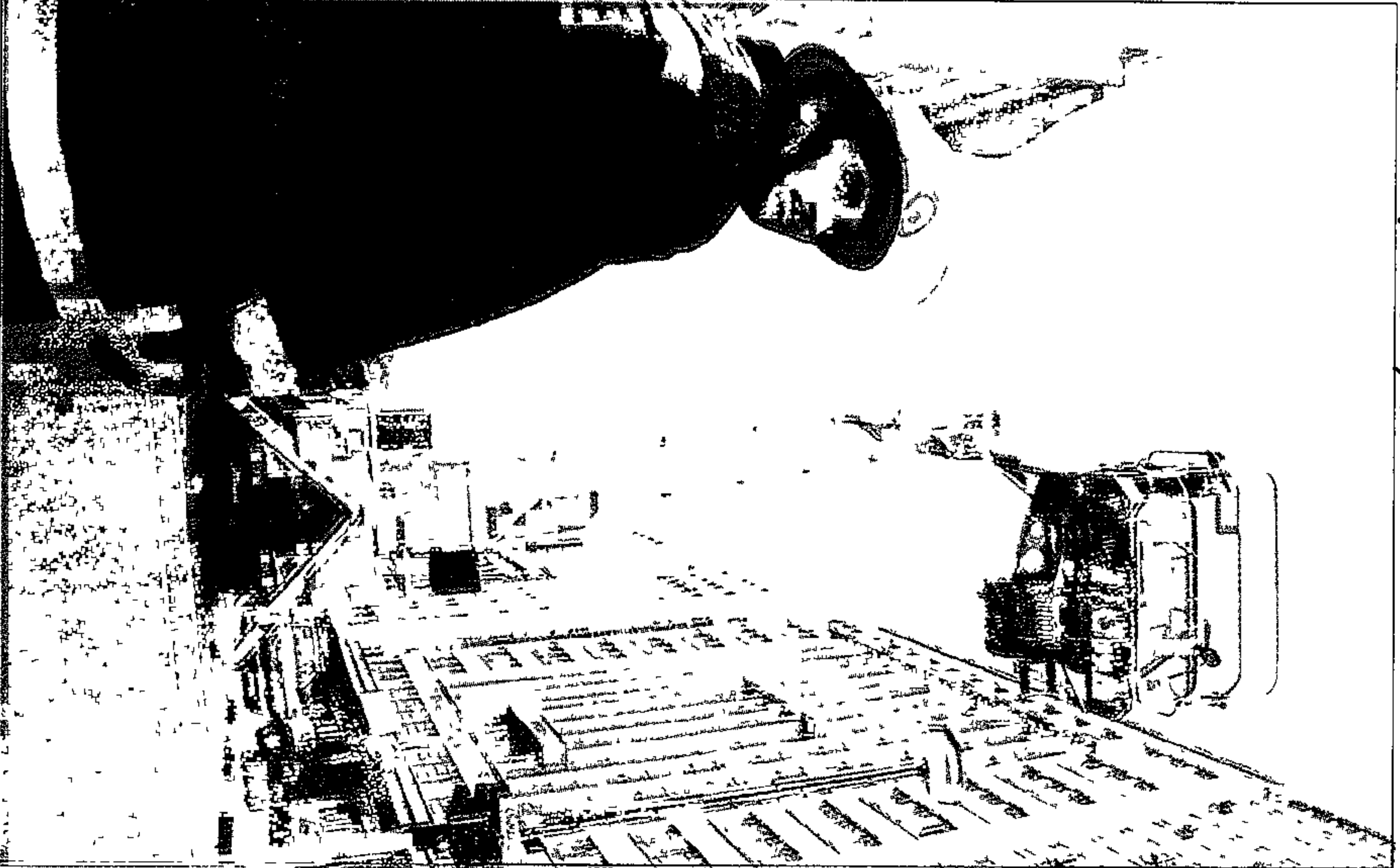
mon – were a serious obstacle to larger fire-fighting vehicles, the hydraulic platform firemen dubbed "Simon Snorkel" and the turntable ladder.

These elevate fire-fighters on tall ladders on the outside of buildings to

hose flames.

Mr Henkin said a fire in a St George's Mall building would be the most difficult to reach because it was an obstacle course of young trees, street traders, lamp-posts, monuments, fountains and bollards.

(1574)
ARG 3/8/98



High rise: station officer Bradley Quinn watches over 'Simon Snorkel' in Adderley Street

Council to better control illegal traders overflowing Cradock Ave, Rosebank

(153A) Star 11/9/98

Greater Johannesburg's Eastern council and the private sector have joined forces in an attempt to clean up Cradock Avenue, Rosebank and to manage the overflowing illegal pavement trading

Street trading stalls are to be erected on a pavement alongside Cradock Avenue and the street will be run as a formal linear flea market by B & B Markets

Trading in nearby streets and areas is also to be restricted in order to ensure proper management of pavement trading in the Rosebank business district and surrounding areas.

Judith Briggs, ward councillor, said all stakeholders had been consulted and the Rosebank Management Forum created to resolve the problems of the hawkers. These consisted of

residents, councillors, business community and officials from council department.

The process agreed to was the immediate registration of traders, the closure of Cradock Avenue, the construction of various trading stalls, the drafting of a lease agreement with the council for the construction

Trading stalls to be erected on pavement

and management of stalls and the prohibition and restriction of trading in other areas.

Briggs said this was a good example of public-private partnerships and how the two could work together. - City Reporter

Anti-tobacco mission wins support

By ANSO THOM
Health Reporter

Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma's anti-tobacco bill has been welcomed by the medical, nursing and health promotion community, who say it will go a long way towards reducing the burden of smoking-related diseases.

The South African Medical Association (Sama), the Democratic Nursing Organisation of SA, the Cancer Association of SA, the Heart Foundation and the Council Against Smoking yesterday said Zuma's bill would protect "the health and rights of our children".

"The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill would end the advertising and promotion of tobacco products, prohibit their free distribution, limit smoking in public places including the workplace, and allow for the regulation of tobacco products' nicotine and tar levels."

The bill is set to be tabled in Parliament before the end of the year, after receiving cabinet approval last month.



Backing for her bill ... Dr Nkosazana Zuma.

Dr Yusuf Saloojee, director of the National Council Against Smoking, said a ban on tobacco advertising and promotion had been recommended by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

He said similar bans were in place in countries such as Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.

The associations said at yesterday's press conference that children and developing coun-

tries had become the key markets for the tobacco industry, which had revealed in their internal marketing documents that high school children formed the basis of their business.

He said the annual reports of the Tobacco Board revealed that jobs in the industry had decreased from 74 000 in 1986/7 to 35 000 in 1996/7.

The number of tobacco farms had also declined from 1 540 to 606.

Saloojee said the income from tobacco tax had increased from R1,7-billion to R3,7-billion.

Dr Loyiso Mpumsha, Sama's healthcare executive, said the hospitalisation of people with smoking-related illnesses at state institutions had cost R1,5-billion in 1994.

Saloojee said: "It was established in 1994 that for every R1 received from tobacco tax, R2 was spent on treating diseases or making up for work time lost due to sick leave."

"We must keep in mind that the idea of this bill is not to ban smoking, but to limit it," he added.

Dissatisfied hawkers march on Civic Centre

By LUMKA OLBHART

Not only were the hawkers' leaders opposed to the new legislation, but the person Minister Zuma

The group of hawkers, who had been protesting against the new legislation, marched on the Civic Centre in Johannesburg, where they protested against the new legislation.

The hawkers' protest was a direct result of the new legislation, which would limit the number of hawkers in the city.

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Way clear to regulated street

PETER GOOSEN
STAFF REPORTER

The South Peninsula, way ahead of the pack in formalising informal trading with designated trading and prohibited areas, has come up with a vision which includes leases for trading spots and a fund for improvements. It also includes the establishment of informal markets to draw traders

away from the streets and public roadways. Within the next few months, the South's crowded pavements will become clearer as traders move to designated spots, the result of months of negotiations by the Integrated Group on Informal Trading, which include councillors, municipal representatives and traders.

Last Sunday in Wynberg, one of the areas most congested by hawking, the legitimate trading sites were demarcated with paint and are now in use. Trading sites in Simon's Town, Constantia and Fish Hoek will follow before the end of the year.

The vision includes some strict rules which include rental payable in advance - it's likely to be set at R75 a month or about R3 a day. No subletting will be allowed and if a bay is vacant for longer than a set period, the council will have the right to cancel the lease immediately. No hawker will be allowed to stay overnight at the place of business. All structures will have to have the written approval of council.

All bays will be numbered and traders issued with identity tags with their photographs and addresses. All income derived from the leasing of sites will, from next year's budget, be placed in a special fund to provide traders with services such as daily refuse removal, toilet facilities, street sweepers, newsletters and law enforcement officers.

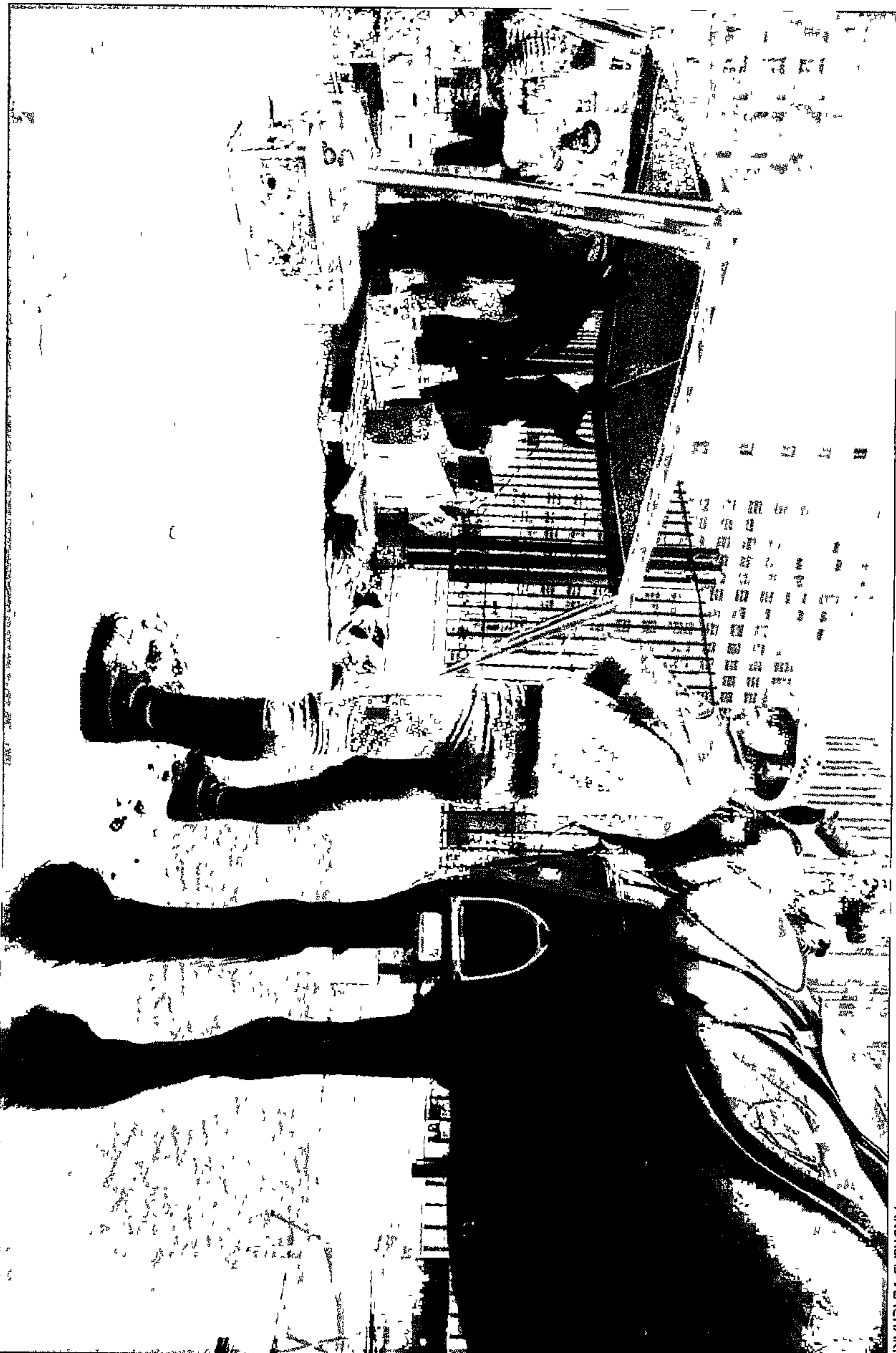
"Two sites have been initially identified for the establishment of such markets, a small portion of Maynardville open air theatre and a site at the Fish Hoek Transport Interchange," he said.

In Constantia, the whole suburb is a prohibited trading area with the exception of the Main Road site near the entrance to Groot Constantia.

Fish Hoek will have 27 designated trading sites.

trading

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS



Long legs of the law .. a mounted policeman keeps watch on a hawker being evicted from his stall in front of the Johannesburg High Court yesterday.

Megal CBD hawkers swept off pavements

By LUMKA OLIPHANT

16/10/98

Police and traffic officers flooded Johannesburg streets yesterday, confiscating illegal hawkers' goods and removing the traders from outside public buildings.

The blitz started at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court in West Street and ended at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in Joubert Park.

Inner-city acting manager Graeme Reid said the Johannesburg Metro Council had prioritised the enforcing of informal-trading by-laws at the beginning of the year.

The hawkers had been educated about the by-laws and were issued with booklets explaining what the laws meant and what would happen if they did not abide by them.

One of the hawkers said "They are removing us from the streets where we are trying to make a living. They want us to resort to crime."

Another hawker said they should be provided with places where they could trade freely and legally.

Reid said hawkers could reclaim their goods from Johannesburg Central police station.

Greenmarket Square gripped by power struggle

'Stalling' accusations fly as takeover date looms

CAEOL CAMPBELL
SPECIAL WRITER

Stories of a take-over, blackmail, bribery and intimidation are running rampant among the tightly packed stalls on Greenmarket Square where there is a vicious battle for control of the money spinning flea market.

On December 1 new management is due to take over the market from the three bodies who have run it for several years, but the old bosses refuse to relinquish control.

At stake is a market which promises to net its new operators about R50 000 a month profit.

Everybody wants a slice of the action but the Cape Town city council

says the new management they have appointed will run a market which will revitalise the ailing inner city.

The five businessmen who won the tender from the council to manage Greenmarket Square, the Cape Town based Markets Company, have been waiting to take over since January. Nic Prum, one of the team, said they were desperately frustrated that every "trick in the book" had been used to stall the handover.

With the busy Christmas season approaching, they are concerned more stalling tactics will slow the handover. But other players in Greenmarket Square say they too promised to "pretty the place up" but lost the chance because the winning proposal was decided long before they

submitted theirs.

At the centre of the storm is Cape Town businessman Buddy Chaaban who has run a large section of the lower part of the market since 1993.

He is threatening to stop the handover with a court interdict because, he says, he has evidence of irregularities in the proposal process.

In his proposal he promised to pay the municipality R200 000 a month to lease the market whereas the Markets Company committed themselves to only R100 000. It was only fair the best offer should win.

The proposal call from council does state that the rental offer will not be the sole factor determining the award of the lease.

Mr Chaaban said he came out tops

on just about every aspect except the cosmetic side.

"I haven't been given proper answers for losing." He also said he would spend money improving the look of the market, but not unless he was guaranteed security of tenure.

Also threatening legal action is the founder of Greenmarket Square Bob Hayward who, with his son Ivor and colleague Paul Davis, manage the upper section of the market.

"If we had lost this proposal call in a democratic tender I would accept defeat but the process was far from transparent."

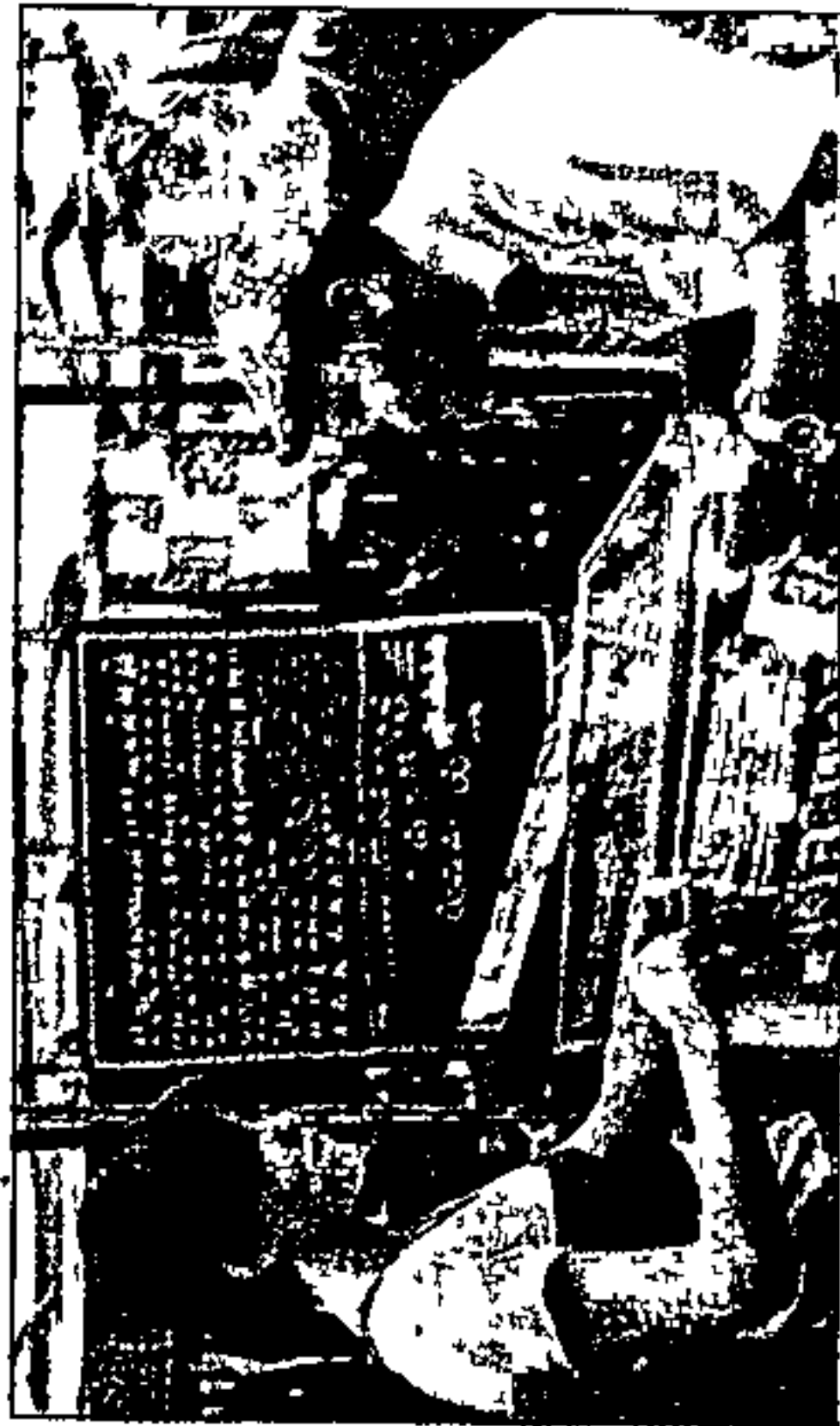
He alleged that the Markets Company spent two years negotiating with council to take the square over while the old management were

given six weeks, at the last minute, to come up with a proposal on why they should keep the market.

Mr Hayward is also sceptical that the promises the new company has made will ever materialise.

"They are going to need a lot of capital and I can't see how they can squeeze it out of the market unless they push up table rentals dramatically."

Then there is a group of local traders called the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association who, with Mr Chaaban, run a section of the lower square. They are threatening mass action, with support from traders at other markets in Cape Town, unless they are given a chance to "control their destiny".



Jewel of the city: a Greenmarket Square trader negotiates with a would-be buyer

Paul Williamson, the man responsible for informal trade for the Cape Town municipality, said the council had been meticulous in its handling

of the proposal call for Greenmarket Square because they knew not everyone would be satisfied with the outcome.

Grand Parade traders welcome upgrading

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

The Cape Town municipality is to give the Grand Parade's stalls a R200 000 facelift to brighten up the facades on Plein Street and to help protect stallholders against theft

The council's planning committee has identified 22 fruit and fast-food outlets that will be enclosed and roofed.

Committee deputy chairwoman Sumaya Taliep said the Grand Parade attracted tourists, and that stallholders had been hit by thieves this year

Parade Traders' Association acting chairman Mogamat Thabiet Booley, a stallholder for 10 years, said criminals even climbed over barbed wire to steal from stalls

Ms Taliep said the upgrading would coincide with the development of a new

shopping centre in the old post office building in Plein Street.

She said the upgrading would help to secure stallholders' merchandise and alleviate unhygienic conditions

Mr Booley and other stallholders welcomed the upgrading to protect their goods from criminals'

Mr Booley also said the new toilet block was a vast improvement on the old underground facility

(153A) ARCT 19/10/98

City hawkers lose all in late-night council raid

Star 20/10/98 (197A)

By MATTHEW BURBIDGE

A group of CBD hawkers lost all their wares to council officials last night in an after-hours raid on their stalls in Pritchard Street, central Johannesburg.

An enforcement team from the Southern Metro council swiftly moved into position opposite The Star offices after 10pm last night and began tossing pockets of potatoes, cabbages and boxes of tomatoes onto trucks.

Makeshift shelves and supermarket trolleys were also removed, and everything was taken to the dump.

Li Pernegger, manager of economic empowerment and business support at the Southern Metro Local Council, said hawkers had been warned to comply with regulations or risk having their produce confiscated.

She explained that there could be no development for hawkers if it was not underpinned by law enforcement.

Pernegger said 7 000 to 10 000

hawkers traded in the inner city, and many used the pavements to store their display shelves and produce at night.

The storage of goods on the pavements turned the walkways into obstacle courses and, in the case of the Pritchard Street raid, complaints had been received from companies whose premises were in the vicinity.

Pernegger said she was working with hawkers who stored their goods in the Ernest Oppenheimer park, and a permanent storage facility was to be built.

If the hawkers' goods had been confiscated during the day, they would have been able to request a receipt for the perishable and non-perishable goods, and been able to claim them back the next day.

In last night's raid, all the goods were treated as abandoned, leaving the hawkers with no recourse to reclaim them.

Hawkers Dade Hlatshwayo and her daughter Elizabeth said they had lost thousands of rands worth of fresh produce from their Joubert



JOHN ROBINSON

Out of site ... Pritchard Street was a hive of activity last night as teams of workers from the Southern Metro council removed hawkers' property from the pavement, where it is usually stored overnight.

Street stall and that the enforcement team had grabbed vegetables out of their hands.

A member of the enforcement team said no-one had been in Joubert

Street when the goods were confiscated and that the produce would be dumped.

Perishable goods are usually stored and, if they are not claimed,

are donated to feeding schemes and non-governmental organisations.

Among the pockets of potatoes, cabbages and tomatoes, a full box of medical drips was also found.

Hawkers' committee vows to sue over night-time council raids

BY ANANIAS NDLOVU
AND CHRISWELL NQWELO

The Hawkers Association Committee has vowed to take Johannesburg's Southern council to court following late-night raids by council security personnel in the city centre last week.

Hawkers lost goods worth thousands of rands when council officials confiscated their stock, loaded it onto lorries and dumped it. Most of the affected hawkers had to borrow money to restock their businesses.

Committee chairperson Mannetjes Solomon said that if the court bid failed, violence

would ensue. "How can the council organise such raids at night without prior notice?"

Solomon said he expected the council to compensate hawkers who had suffered as a result of the raid. There were more than 80 000 hawkers in the city centre and the council could not expect those people to disappear overnight, he said.

The council recently passed amended bylaws which bar hawkers from trading within 5m of an intersection and in front of entrances to buildings. Pamphlets and written warnings were given to traders outlining the bylaws, including the

possibility of confiscating their goods and the levying of fines.

A security officer said he found council security staff loading cans of cold drinks, sweets and cigarettes into their bakkies on Thursday night.

Li Pernegger, manager for economic empowerment and informal trading, said hawkers were welcome to trade in the city as long they abided by the bylaws. If they did not, the council would continue to confiscate goods if they were left unattended on pavements.

She denied allegations that some stock was shared by council officials.

Shaw 4/11/98

(153A)

Merger benefits informal sector

By Eamonn Ryan

THE African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) has entered into a joint venture with formal market group Global Village with a view to bringing hawkers and informal micro-businesses some of the benefits of the formal sector. Global Village runs several open air flea markets, such as Bruma Market.

With the shedding of jobs in the formal sector, it is becoming increasingly obvious that South Africa must look to the informal sector to bridge the gap until the employment bloodletting has stopped. In a country threatened with economic recession, often the informal sector is the only alternative to streets full of the unemployed.

Hawkers are the fastest-growing sector of the South African retail market, employing between four and five million people. The CSIR estimates that the turnover of the informal sector is R53 billion a year, of which there are more than one million hawkers who earn more than R1 000 a month.

At Achib's annual conference held in October, president Lawrence Mavundla said many companies were faced with the challenge of retrenching workers.

He said attention had to be paid to

informal micro-retailers, and the issues of distribution of goods to hawkers, how to manage informal traders, the protection of traders against city bylaws, and sustainable environments for hawkers.

It is to solve these exact issues that Achib has signed up with Global Village. Managing director Marc Israelsohn says Global Village has world class experience in managing the informal sector, having taken the concept of "flea markets" out of its commercial backwater and up to the dizzy heights of a Johannesburg Stock Exchange listing. It has also spread its wings internationally, and is about to open its first operation in Dallas, United States.

The same, says Israelsohn, can be done for hawkers. "This is the first time informal traders as a group have entered into a constructive agreement to organise themselves. This opens the door to do some real good for this massive market. We will bring them real benefits, will properly register informal traders to get into regular contact, and provide them with distribution channels," he says.

Achib has membership of about 100 000, but to date few material benefits have been made available to them, having previously been involved with issues of plain survival. The latest deal offers to bring them, for the

first time, benefits such as micro-lending and medical aid. Achib has already established a micro-lending business called Achib Pavement Banks.

The "banks" dispense interest-free loans of between R100 to R500 to hawkers. Global Village is also negotiating with large financial institutions to create a broader-based micro-lending facility for its open air markets. This facility could be extended to hawkers, says Israelsohn.

Achib and Richards Bay Minerals last year won the annual Worldaware Business Awards – targeting individuals and companies whose efforts have made significant contributions to progress in a developing country. Achib and Richards Bay Minerals have worked together since 1994 in developing Achib Pavement Banks.

Other advantages that Israelsohn lists as potential empowerment opportunities include providing hawkers with transport, teaching applied business skills, and creating trading facilities that act as a bridge between pavement hawkers and markets as currently run by Global Village.

"Formal businesses such as Liberty Life and Simba are keen to distribute to hawkers, and Achib is the only organisation which has access to this group."

Hawkers ruining city centre, says official

(153A)

Infrastructure crumbling from effects of often illegal street trading

Mar 26/11/98

CHRISTINE NESBITT

By BUNTY WEST

Johannesburg's hawkers are destroying the city's infrastructure by blocking drains with litter, damaging valve boxes and causing the streets to be overrun with rats, mice and cockroaches.

Uriel Abrahamse, the head of the Metropolitan hawking squad, said Johannesburg's infrastructure was gradually being eroded and destroyed by hawkers, many of whom were trading illegally.

He said billions of rand had been spent over the past 100 years to keep the city running properly, yet when council workmen went out to jobs in the city, they were often chased away by traders who refused to move so that repairs could be carried out.

When holes appeared in the road in Wanderers and King George roads, taxi drivers and hawkers refused to let the repairs be done because it would affect their businesses, Abrahamse said.

Water and electricity meter boxes outside flats were filled with litter and storm water drains were blocked by the growing mass of rubbish piling up on the streets.

In addition, when council workers demolished structures built by hawkers outside the Smit Street Synagogue, rats, mice and



New kids on the block... street traders are not allowing repairs to be carried out, and their rubbish is attracting rats, mice and cockroaches.

cockroaches living in the filth were so used to humans they did not even run away. Instead, according to Abrahamse, they hung around waiting for the rubbish to pile up again.

Abrahamse's 35-strong squad has handed out more than 4 000 written warnings and 1 500 summonses to the traders in the past three months, and confiscated the goods of 100 hawkers over a six-day period last month.

"In removing the rubbish of those 100 hawkers, we used 49 five-ton trucks."

Abrahamse, whose squad works in conjunction with police to identify illegal immigrants, said he needed more people to police the city adequately.

"We have an ongoing programme of visible policing of the hawkers where we hand out summonses, and remove those who trade illegally. It may look like nothing is being done but my staff are working hard throughout the city trying to clean up the sidewalks so that people can go about their daily business in safety," Abrahamse said.

Inflation figures 'wrong' (153A)

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

Monthly inflation figures could be wrong, according to the auditor-general's report on management performance in Government departments.

The yearly performance check by auditor-general Henri Kluever included an inspection at Central Statistical Services which focused on the planning, collection and dissemination of selected economic and financial indicators.

These indicators enable the CSS to calculate the Consumer Price Index, a vital monthly economic indicator.

Government and the business sector rely on the inflation figure to plan economic strategies which have an effect on interest

rates and people's spending power.

The auditor-general's report slated the methods used for calculating the inflation figure. It said data was collected using poorly designed questionnaires and dated census information.

The report questioned the accuracy of the monthly CPI after inspectors found that previous months' figures were re-used when respondents did not report the prices for selected goods in time.

The lack of sound business principles in Government departments appeared to be one of the main reasons for poor service delivery and an unacceptable wastage of public funds.

Auditors found that at Waterkloof air-

To page 7

Auditor-general finds massive waste of cash

From page 1

force base, a Hercules C130 aircraft was being leased out at R3 035 an hour when it actually cost the taxpayer R13 900 to operate the aeroplane - effectively wasting R10 000 every hour it was in the air.

Poor planning at that base during the upgrading of 39 Dakotas resulted in 62 turboprop engines being ordered and not used - siphoning another R50-million from the taxpayers' purse.

In the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, the Auditor-General found that ineffective organisation resulted in damage and theft costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of rands.

Mr Kluever highlighted irregularities at the Government Printing Works in Umtata where 66 employees have been promoted without having the required qualifications. Sick leave recorded by factory staff at the Printing Works between January 1997 and

November that year amounted to 3 663 days, an average of 24 days per employee. Printing machines which cost R1,3-million have not been used since September 1997.

The South African Revenue Service lost a potential income of R680-million because more than 67 000 inspections of rebates in terms of the Diesel Refund System were not completed by the end of 1998. The service also slipped up with voluntary severance packages, according to the audit, which showed that R226-million in unrecovered taxes had to be written off. This was an increase of 49% on the previous year.

The auditor-general's corporate executive manager, Louis van Wyk, softened the blow a bit and explained that it was not the intention to paint a picture of total doom and gloom.

"The audits facilitate public accountability by evaluating management ability to ensure efficiency and economy protecting the taxpayer," said Mr Van Wyk.

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Poor planning at that base during the upgrading of 39 Dakotas resulted in 62 turboprop engines being ordered and not used - siphoning another R50-million from the taxpayers' purse.

In the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, the Auditor-General found that ineffective organisation resulted in damage and theft costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of rands.

Mr Kluever highlighted irregularities at the Government Printing Works in Umtata where 66 employees have been promoted without having the required qualifications. Sick leave recorded by factory staff at the Printing Works between January 1997 and

November that year amounted to 3 663 days, an average of 24 days per employee. Printing machines which cost R1,3-million have not been used since September 1997.

The South African Revenue Service lost a potential income of R680-million because more than 67 000 inspections of rebates in terms of the Diesel Refund System were not completed by the end of 1998. The service also slipped up with voluntary severance packages, according to the audit, which showed that R226-million in unrecovered taxes had to be written off. This was an increase of 49% on the previous year.

The auditor-general's corporate executive manager, Louis van Wyk, softened the blow a bit and explained that it was not the intention to paint a picture of total doom and gloom.

"The audits facilitate public accountability by evaluating management ability to ensure efficiency and economy protecting the taxpayer," said Mr Van Wyk.

Protesting hawkers stop traffic after raid

NORMAN JOSEPH

METRO REPORTER

(153A)
AEG 20/1/99
More than 50 hawkers today disrupted traffic in Athlone, blocking off roads with pallets and boxes in a protest against the confiscation of their goods.

Gatesville's informal traders were protesting in Klipfontein Road. They allege that City of Cape Town's traffic officers removed their merchandise and fresh fruit valued at more than R50 000 early today.

The informal traders and the traffic department are in dispute over demarcated areas.

Hawker Faeza Moses said traffic officers did not inform them prior to this morning's operation that they had to move to another area.

Rylands Hawkers' Committee leader Reshaad Hameed, Mrs Moses and others consulted attorneys early today and are considering legal action against the traffic department.

Mr Hameed ordered all the informal traders along Klipfontein Road to stop doing business.

He said they would mobilise others throughout Athlone.

Cape Town traffic manager Mark Sangster said the traders had reneged on agreements that they would not do business outside demarcated areas.

They divide into traders and beggars; both rake in the coins

By KAREN LE ROUX

While blacks are utilising free enterprise to its fullest potential at robots in and around Johannesburg, whites tend to go the begging route. And as serious as the traders are about their business, just as serious are the beggars about their domains.

These days, robot trade has become big business, where coat hangers, refuse bags, fruit, sweets, sunscreen, umbrellas, interior vehicle covers, car polish, handmade toys and variety of leather articles can be bought. Not to mention tennis and soccer balls.

The *Saturday Star* interviewed traders and beggars at 20 robots. In one case, a man with a placard told us in four-letter words that he would not allow anyone else there - that the robot belonged to him.

Others used softer tones. Like 59-year-old Terry Barr, who does his begging on Oxford Road, Rosebank.

"I will never get violent, but I will take a firm stand. My mate and I work here,"

said Irishman Barr, a fitter electrician who came to South Africa 30 years ago. Barr, who was made redundant seven years ago, and his wife Alida have been homeless for the past two years. Begging has been their sole income for the past eight months.

The Barr couple squat in a Hillbrow cinema - with the option of watching movies throughout the night from their chairs, which serve as beds - for a fee of R7 a night.

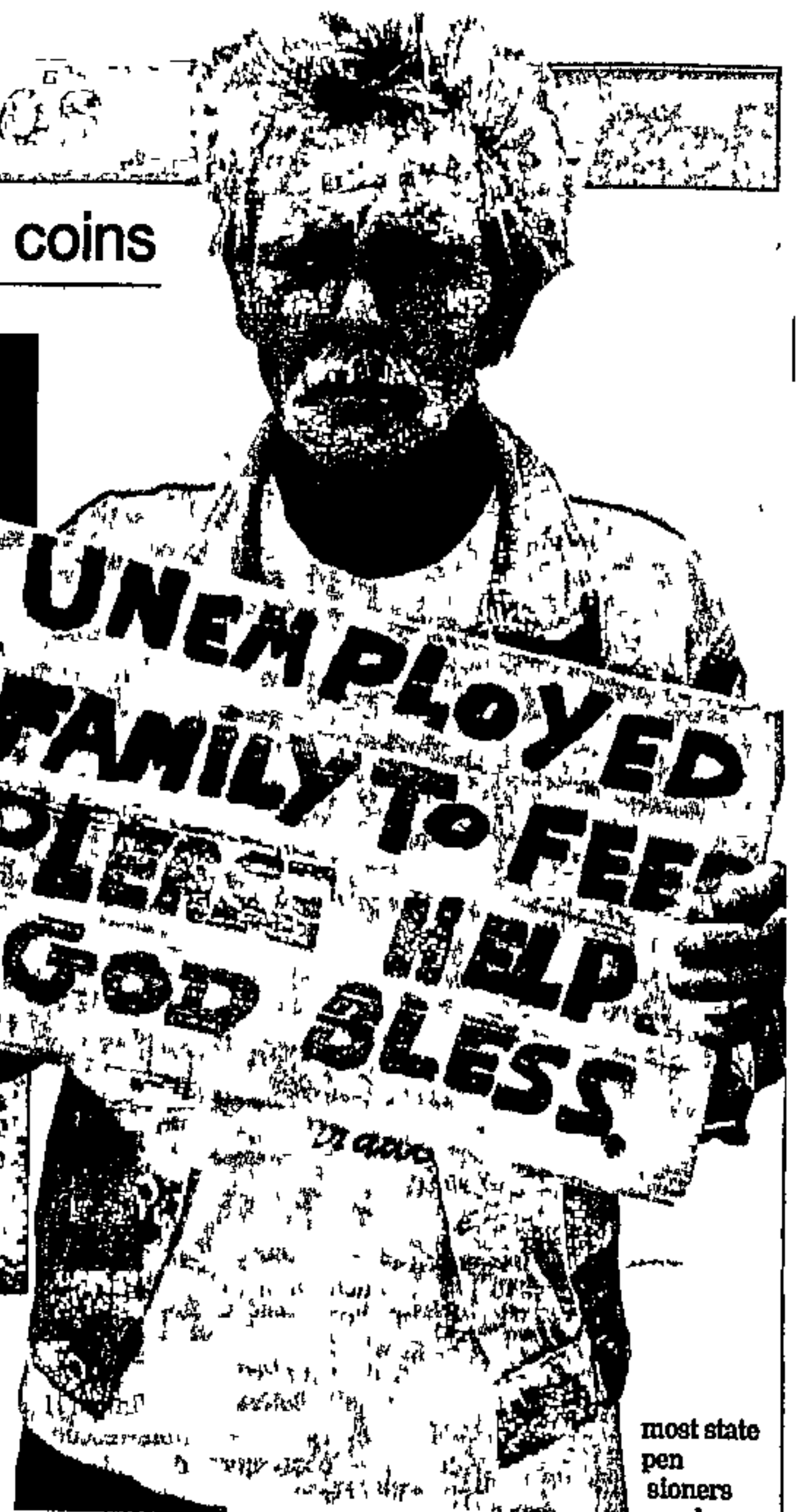
They have keys to the washrooms, where they are allowed to wash and shave. According to Terry his income ranges between R20 and R120 a day.

"But," said Barr, "even if my monthly income can be around R2 100, it is hard work standing on my feet all day - sometimes in the cold wind or rain."

At the same robot, a young black man with a wide smile and a set of perfectly white teeth has a big selection of goods on offer. "Call me Johnny," he said. "I don't want my mates to know I'm doing roaring business."



ON THE JOB. Handyman Sikhululwe Gqomiyana (above) advertises his services at a robot and gets regular work, while beggar Terry Barr (right) makes enough to survive



most state pensioners can hope

With the spirit of a true tradesman, Johnny drops his merchandise, approaches Ben Madike, the Mango Man, and a bag of mangoes is promptly sold to us at a reduced price. Mango dealers generate an average turnover of R180 a day.

Sikhululwe Gqomiyana travels from Randfontein, where he lives, to Florida every day to sell his services as a handyman, gardener or painter.

"In Randfontein there are too many dirty people looking for work. You must be clean when you seek employment," he advised.

Since Gqomiyana decided to invest R3,70 on train fare every day, he has been fairly successful. He manages to get a job at least twice a week.

How does he feel about begging?

"Never," was the answer.

On a road leading to Brits, a youngish white woman said, without taking her eyes off the traffic: "I do my job, you do yours."

Both Terry Barr, who has three married

children living in Johannesburg, and his mate, Trevor Labuschagne, argue they will never be able to afford to buy stock to trade instead of begging.

Labuschagne, a chain smoker, who says he left his job as a switchboard operator due to the implementation of affirmative action, is fortunate to have a home to go to. He lives with his mother, who is a housekeeper at a hospital.

Do they indulge in the occasional drink, we are curious to know.

"Yes," answers Barr. "When I've made enough to pay for the movie house and food, I buy a beer or two."

Then Barr warns about the "dangers" of the job. He has been arrested three times and had to pay a R30 admission of guilt fine.

Trader or beggar, robot business seems to be lucrative and here to stay. It's better than

for - and tax free.

Not a single motorist we spoke to had any complaints.

"One gets used to them," is the average response.

Chief Superintendent Conel MacKay confirmed this. "We do not receive any complaints from the public."

"Although we regard both traders and beggars as vagrants and do our best to encourage them to keep to the pavements, there is no point in arresting them without complaints."

It is believed that some people are taking advantage of motorists. Rumour in Oxford Road is rife that a middle-aged white man with spectacles arrives early in the morning, parks his swanky car nearby and heads for a robot - to beg.

Future of the CBD depends

Attracting residents back to Johannesburg, making sure buildings are renovated, and that tenants are given the option of ownership and management training, is vital, write **Cathy Powers and Prince Hamnca**

"Johannesburg CBD poised for dramatic rebirth", "Jo'burg City Centre on comeback trail", "City of gold losing its sparkle"

These are some of the headlines Gautengers have read over the past two years. Five years ago the headlines were pretty much the same. In the midst of all these mixed signals, where exactly is Johannesburg? Is it at the point of no return, squatting in its own mire, or is it making a comeback and turning into a vibrant African city?

The city of Johannesburg was planned as a residential city more than 100 years ago. In the past two decades the city's face has been changing fast.

Gone are the days when a Saturday in the city with the family at the end of the month was a big treat and the end of the month shopping expedition entailed a trip to the city. The birth of the big shopping malls in the suburbs attracted many people away from the city, residents moved out and residential blocks were converted to office blocks at great expense.

As crime – or the perception of crime – spiralled, more and more people turned their backs on the city and in the late 80s there were the beginnings of a mass exodus of prominent companies from the city.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange is the latest to take the decision to flee the city. Its decision takes effect from August 2000, with crime and grime cited as the main reasons. The JSE follows De Beers' move to Crown Mines and Gold Fields' move to Parktown earlier this year.

The sad closure of South Africa's premier Carlton Hotel was a particularly low point in the exodus from the city.

The JSE's decision to leave the CBD was strongly criticised by the ANC and attempts were made to persuade them not to move.

This prompted strong reaction from the Gauteng government, which has threatened to stop developments in the northern suburbs. The restriction by government could severely affect investments. The Gauteng government and big business in this province should meet and begin a consultative process that would involve all stakeholders.

Ashley Ally, executive officer metropolitan urban planning, believes the inner city hit the bottom of a 25 year cycle of decay a year or two ago. The councils have been reacting to the downturn for the past 10 years, he says.

Efforts at renewing the city were focused on partnerships with business and a host of projects such as business improvement districts – specially demarcated areas characterised by more visible security and

harsher enforcement of by-laws such as curtailing the activities of hawkers to defined areas and additional rubbish collection – are under way.

Some of them, like the retail improvement district (west from Joubert Street to Bank City) have started only in the past year or so and may be too late to halt the inevitable slide.

Critical to the success of the CBD is diversifying the inner-city economy, Ally says. In other words, the flight of the JSE should not be seen as the death knell of the city. Attracting residents back into the city is a crucial aspect.

Projects like the Seven Buildings project are under way in Hillbrow and a similar one in Jeppestown, where the buildings are renovated, the tenants given the option of ownership and undergoing management training of the buildings.

Acting inner-city manager Graeme Reid agrees that the council can only do so much. "These are programmes to stimulate social housing but we are not saying local government is best placed to do it. Last year (1998) the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council and local councils ploughed roughly R10-million into overhauling taxi ranks and refurbishing apartment blocks," Reid said. "We can create the correct environment for social housing."

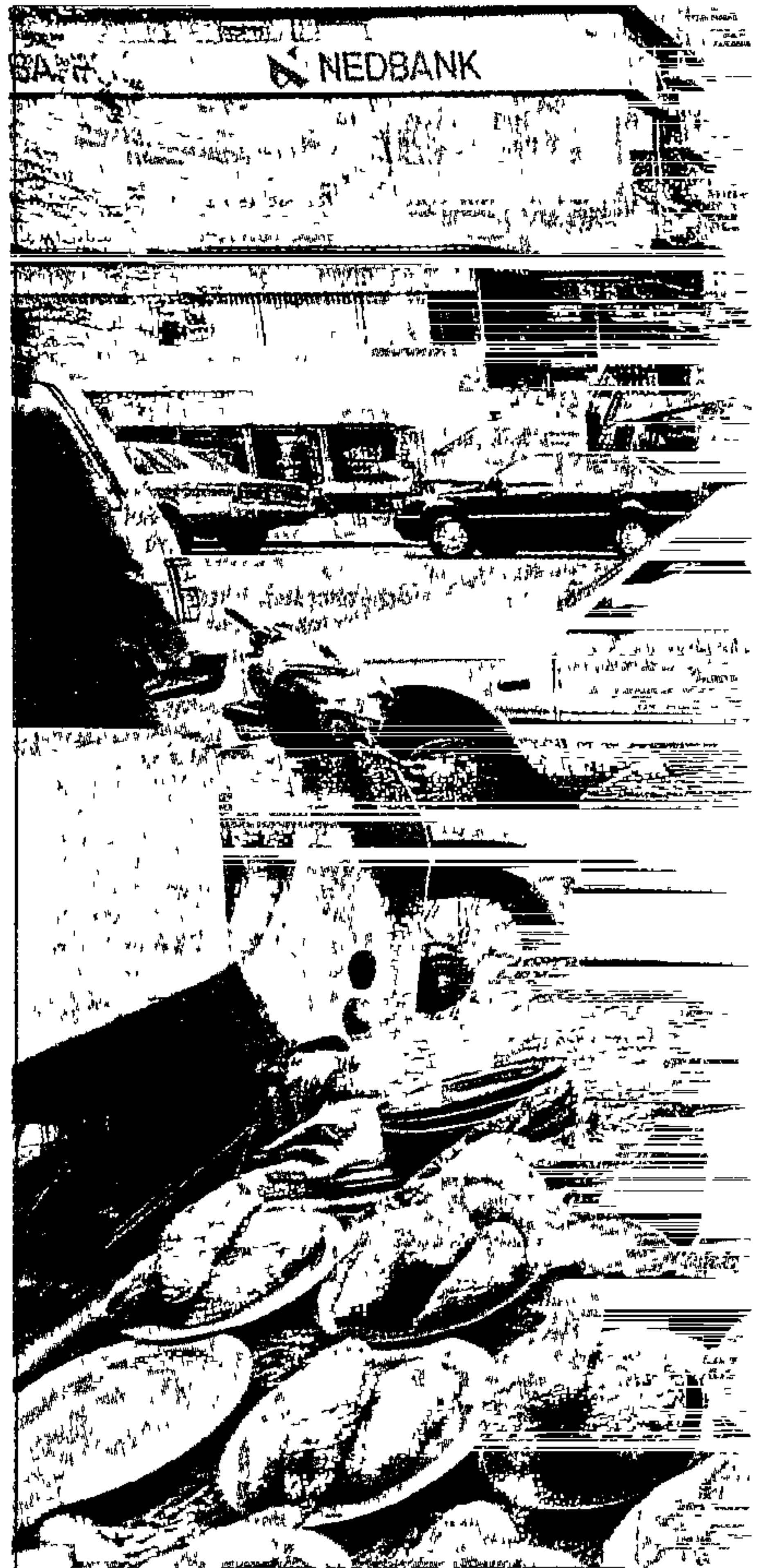
Reid says residents are moving back to the city. He said that for the past two years there has been a big demand for non-subsidised housing in the city – for those earning above R3 000 a month.

The growth in the residential population of the city has been 25% over the past six years, he claims. Research conducted among city residents revealed that they were relatively well-off, had dual incomes and lived in areas like Berea, Yeoville, Fordsburg and Newtown to be closer to work.

The city improvement districts were contributing to this by making a difference, says Franco Andreone, the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council's improvement districts manager. The four districts have beefed up security and cleaning facilities and there is more severe enforcement of by-laws.

In the central improvement district, which covers 12 blocks around the Carlton Centre from 1996 to 1997, armed robberies dropped by 63%, muggings by 73%, pick-pocketing by 80% – bearing in mind that these are statistics and should be treated with caution. The council also collected 135 tons of rubbish over and above its normal collection, Andreone said.

These apparent successes are all very well, says CBD property owner Gerald Olitzki, but the districts are not "sufficiently visible". Anyone who walks



Street trade... the success and growth of a revitalised Johannesburg is evident in the fresh vegetables which are laid out on the pavement on the streets of

through the city streets can testify to the still filthy streets of the city.

But he adds, "Johannesburg is seen as monolithic and it's not. There are good and bad parts. The districts to be improved have to be distinguished from the rest."

Any real turnaround of the CBD will take serious commitment from the major players, says property economist Erwin Rode. And serious money. Success stories in the United States have only been successes because of the billions of dollars pumped into them, Rode said.

Sanlam Properties is one of the major

property owners in the city. "In the past, one feels, 'I am and Ampros, a player, are seeing their ties devalue by the minute'."

Ampros has seen the value of its property in the CBD crumble to dust in years. Sanlam Properties, a corporate marketing firm, says their properties had lost value in the last five years.

Many urban consultants believe that

depends on diversity

CHRISTINE NESBITT



and growth of a revitalised Johannesburg is dependent on the effective management of small businesses like street vending. Here a vendor is selling laid out on the pavement on the streets of downtown Johannesburg.

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property owners in the CBD and is optimistic, one feels, because it has to be. Sanlam and Ampros, another major property player, are seeing their inner-city properties devalue by the month. Ampros has reportedly seen 75% of the value of its property investments in the CBD crumble to dust over the past three years. Sanlam Properties' senior manager-corporate marketing, Cilliers Smith, said their properties had been depreciating over the last five years. Many urban economic development consultants believe that the exodus of big

business to the northern suburbs is not leaving a ghost town of empty dilapidated buildings. The success and growth of this revitalised African city, driven by small business and entertainment, depends on effective management, they say. Greater Johannesburg's deputy chairperson Kenny Fihla believes the appointment of Ketso Gordhan as Jo'burg's new city manager would boost the transformation process. The new "super CEO" will prepare and drive Johannesburg towards a megacity model.

The slow wheels were beginning to grind in terms of the organisation review which will overhaul the administration of structures that manage the city. The net result will be a single management structure for the city with a productive and efficient work-ethic and a change in the allocation of resources from support functions to service delivery. More rhetoric? That remains to be seen. Fihla says the deadline is the year 2000. A long time to wait to see if the city has turned around and visible improvements have been made.

8/10/99 27/1/99 (153A)

Informal trading restricted

ET 28/1/99 (153A)

INFORMAL traders are, finally, to be stringently policed by the city council. Ironically, it was the traders who asked to be monitored more strictly — but now not all of them are happy with the new policy **DAN SIMON** reports.

HAPHAZARD informal trading in the Cape Town CBD, for years a source of annoyance and concern for authorities and the formal business community, is to be restricted from Monday. Informal traders will be required by law to produce permits to trade in demarcated areas in the CBD.

On Monday morning, a squad of 10 traffic officers will police the entire CBD to see that traders are trading within new demarcated areas and that they are in possession of a valid R125 permit.

If not, they will be told to pack up their goods and leave, said Cape Town City Council informal trading co-ordinator Paul Williamson.

As a back-up measure, the city council will also employ area managers to keep a watch over informal traders in various parts of the CBD.

Williamson said the new measures stemmed from a long, drawn-

out process to regulate informal trading in the CBD. The council, together with representatives of a wide range of informal trading organisations, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the SA Property Owners' Association, reached agreement that the number of informal traders on the city's sidewalks had to be limited.

As a result, detailed maps have been compiled showing where informal trading can and cannot take place.

The maps, he said, also showed the areas in the CBD where informal trading was already subject to control through "existing or proposed leases" such as the Grand Parade, upper Adderley Street, St George's Mall, Greenmarket and Thibault squares.

"The idea of placing strict limits on the number of street traders in

the Cape Town CBD has come very strongly from the local informal sector itself, which feels threatened by the increasing number of newcomers," said Williamson.

An August survey showed that approximately 658 informal traders operate in the CBD outside of the formal markets.

With the introduction of the permit system about 298 traders will be without trading bays.

Williamson said applications for permits had been distributed over a month ago and all informal traders had been told they could apply for a permit if they produced a South African ID book or, in the case of foreigners, a work permit or proof that they had refugee status in South Africa.

"The informal sector acknowledges that some 298 traders will be without trading bays and have undertaken as far as possible to accommodate them within the existing established markets.

"The council has in turn stated that it will ensure that when leases for existing markets are considered,

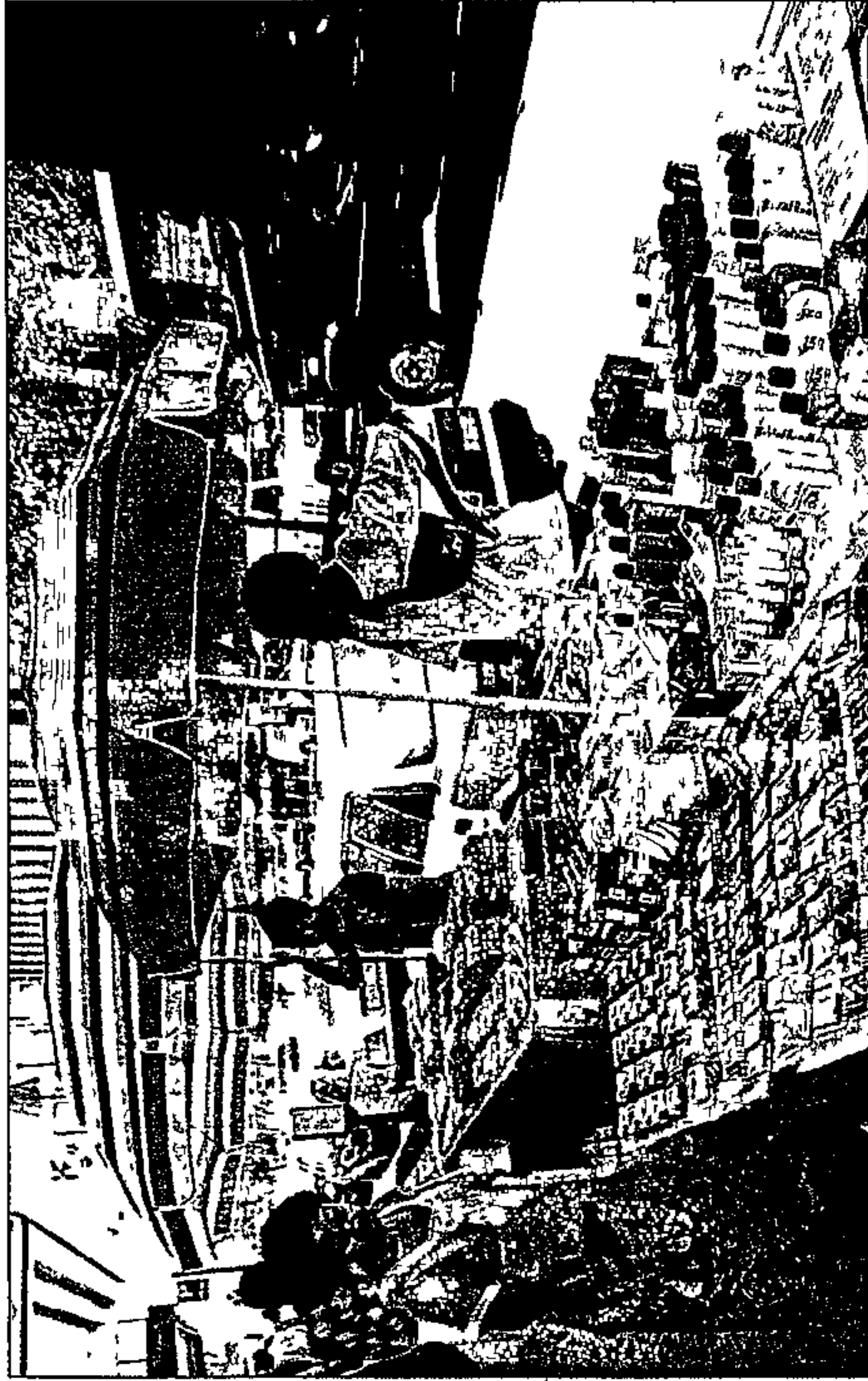
it will be a criterion that local traders from the CBD will be accommodated.

"The bays in the CBD have now all been physically demarcated (painted and numbered). The area manager has spoken to all the traders in the CBD and they are all aware that with effect from February 1, they must carry their permits and can only trade in the designated areas."

One informal trader, Raven Mapongwana, said he was aware of the imminent clampdown but claimed that his bay, which would have been the only legal one in Wale Street when the new measures come into force on Monday, was given to another trader.

"I moved to the site early last year. Last week I was told that they were only going to issue one permit for Wale Street and that it would be my bay. Now they have given my bay away and their reasons for doing so are vague."

"I have no alternative but to come back and wait and see what happens on Monday," said Mapongwana.



PLACE IN THE SUN Just about anything and everything is available these days from city street traders, whose numbers have burgeoned. But now the traders themselves have asked the city council to take action to restrict the number of traders and the space they take up. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

'Mafia-like' war over Jo'burg flea markets

By PETA KROST

Attempts by a flea-market boss, allegedly "using Mafia-like tactics" to prevent his traders from selling at other markets, have been thwarted by a Johannesburg High Court order

B&B Markets' joint managing director, Brent Herbert, threatened Rosebank Rooftop Market traders that, if they take stalls at the new Killarney Kraft Market, which opens tomorrow, they would immediately lose their stalls at the Rooftop

They would also not be welcome to trade at any of the B&B markets in the future - which for many traders would have meant financial hardship

B&B's threat was said to extend to include traders' family members and employees, who were also indirectly forbidden to trade at Kil-

larney.

These "tactics" were spelt out in an "important policy notice" issued to the Rosebank traders by B&B Markets on January 17, shortly after about 60 of them had signed up for short-term stall leases at the Killarney Kraft Market.

This threatening "notice" precipitated the Rosebank traders' to retract their new leases.

One trader, who asked not to be named "for fear of repercussions", said "Brent was about to destroy our livelihood. This is what I do for a living and all but one of our stalls are at B&B markets. While we are always looking to expand with new stalls, we cannot afford to lose our B&B business. This is serious, Mafia-like tactics - he is playing with our lives."

Killarney Mall owner Louis Milner, who said he had already invested R2,5-million in the Killar-

ney Kraft Market, explained that he would not take this lying down.

Initially, he said, he had tried to deal with the matter amicably but finally he decided to launch an application against B&B in the High Court. "I believe we've reached a stage in business where dignity and honesty must prevail," Milner said. "The markets are the livelihood of many of these traders, so to threaten their bread and butter is morally wrong."

Milner explained that once B&B realised he "meant business", they withdrew their letter to him - but by then the Killarney market boss had "already taken his gloves off" and the court order was instituted.

Thereafter, B&B agreed to pay Milner's R8 000 legal costs and distributed a letter retracting what was written in the "important policy notice" and offering encouraging words, he said.

Star 6/2/99

(153A)

City to launch company to manage street trading

Hawkers organisation criticises council for taking unilateral action and says it will not support plan (153A)

BY PRINCE HANNCA

Greater Johannesburg is to launch a major informal street trading company, which is aimed at managing the informal sector in the inner city.

Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council inner city committee chairperson Sbusiso Buthelezi said the company would place "informal trading on the right footing" in the business sector. He said the company would be established in the next four weeks. "This will create a base for growth."

The company will address the management of informal trading and provide a mechanism for the establishment of a public-private partnership. It will

also accommodate a range of investors, especially small traders.

The council will be the initial promoters of the company, but ownership is expected to be handed over to hawkers.

Greater Johannesburg has been working closely with about seven hawker organisations. Buthelezi said there was broad consensus among all parties about street trading.

However, the Gauteng Hawkers Association chairperson Manikis Solomon criticised the council for unilaterally deciding on forming a hawkers' company. He said his association would not support this.

"Council knows nothing about street trading. What they know is how to confiscate our goods and share

them among themselves," he said.

Solomon said his 10 000-strong association would apply for an urgent interdict against the council to stop the confiscation of hawkers' stock.

"We want to work together with the council to clean up the inner city, but they don't consult us," he said.

Democratic Party councillor Judith Briggs welcomed the council's plan, saying hawkers had to be managed, because it had become almost impossible to move around Johannesburg.

Briggs said this initiative would benefit all hawkers in the city. She said council should provide decent facilities for the informal traders.

Hawkers arrested at railway stations

Sowetan 12/2/99 (153A)

By Gershwin Chuenyane

MORE than 60 hawkers were arrested at various train stations by Metrorail security in Pretoria this week and charged with trading in public places without valid trader's licences.

The arrests occurred at various stations including Akasia, north of Pretoria, Eerstefabriek in Mamelodi East and Pretoria station in Bosman Street on Wednesday.

The hawkers had their stocks confiscated and spent the night in the cells of the Pretoria Central police station.

They were released yesterday and fined R50 each.

One of the hawkers, Mr Simon

Lebese, said "Metrorail must return our stock and we also demand that we be granted valid trader's licences to enable us to trade freely in trains and at stations."

"They keep saying we should stop crime but they are committing a crime against us. We are making a living without stealing or hurting anyone."

Metrorail spokesman Mr Lucas Qakaza said the corporation had decided last year to ban hawkers, whom it claimed posed a security, safety and health risk on trains and at stations.

The Pretoria High Court granted a court order to the corporation forbidding hawkers from trading on trains and at stations.

Qakaza said Metrorail would not bow to hawkers' demands.

"Hawkers have been trying all sorts of tricks and we will never allow them into our system again," he said.

"It was a policy decision aimed at ensuring the safety of commuters as hawking was associated with dirty stations and health hazards emanating from rotten perishables such as tomatoes. Commuters could trip on boxes or slip on banana and mango peels."

"If we allowed hawking, we would need more human resources to monitor them, but unfortunately we cannot afford it."

"We only have resources to man access to the premises."

'Mafia' of informal traders rule street

Claremont shopkeepers want area cleaned up

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Intimidation, filth and crime are among complaints levelled at the controversial street market in Dreyer Street, Claremont, by residents and shopkeepers who want the area cleaned up.

They say the street, between Cavendish Square and The Link shopping malls, is under the control of a "mafia" of informal traders who make access almost impossible and threaten people at will.

A Claremont resident, Jurgen Schurmacher, who has spearheaded a campaign to clear the area of crime and grime, says he was threatened in Dreyer Street when he went there with security firm representatives to assess the best place to put security cameras.

"While we were assessing possible positions for monitoring cameras, a man in a white coat approached us and said 'Schurmacher, you're a troublemaker', and told us to go away," he said.

The Cape Town municipality allowed the traders to move to Dreyer Street, which was closed to traffic during the refurbishment of Cavendish Square, from nearby Herer's Lane when it was closed some time ago.

Dreyer Street traders are controlled by the Claremont Traders Association which does not lease the land from the municipality, yet the stallholders pay it a daily fee. Association spokeswoman Nariman Davids said the fee was voluntary and went towards paying the salaries of a security monitor and boom operator.

Earlier this month people who evacuated The Link during a bomb scare were accosted by the security monitor.

Clients and stylists from a hair-dressing salon in The Link were asked to pay to stand in the road, or move away.

Margaret Hamauer, who runs the salon, said she was working on a client's highlights and had to

AACT 20/2/99 (153A)

continue outside during the bomb scare. She said a man walked up to her and told her she would have to pay if she wanted to continue working in the street.

She thought he was joking but he returned to tell her again to move or pay. The incident was confirmed by a client.

Mrs Davids said the security monitor had asked people to move because he felt they were obscuring a stall from passing trade.

"Security guards are not always very diplomatic," she said. Mrs Davids said the guard had been employed to control crime in the area and "prevent it from becoming a squatter camp".

She said the association controlled Dreyer Street and screened stallholders to ensure they offered commodities of a high standard. But shopowners say Dreyer Street and surroundings have become seedy and crime, including muggings, has increased. Police confirmed that drug dealing took place in the vicin-

ty of Dreyer Street.

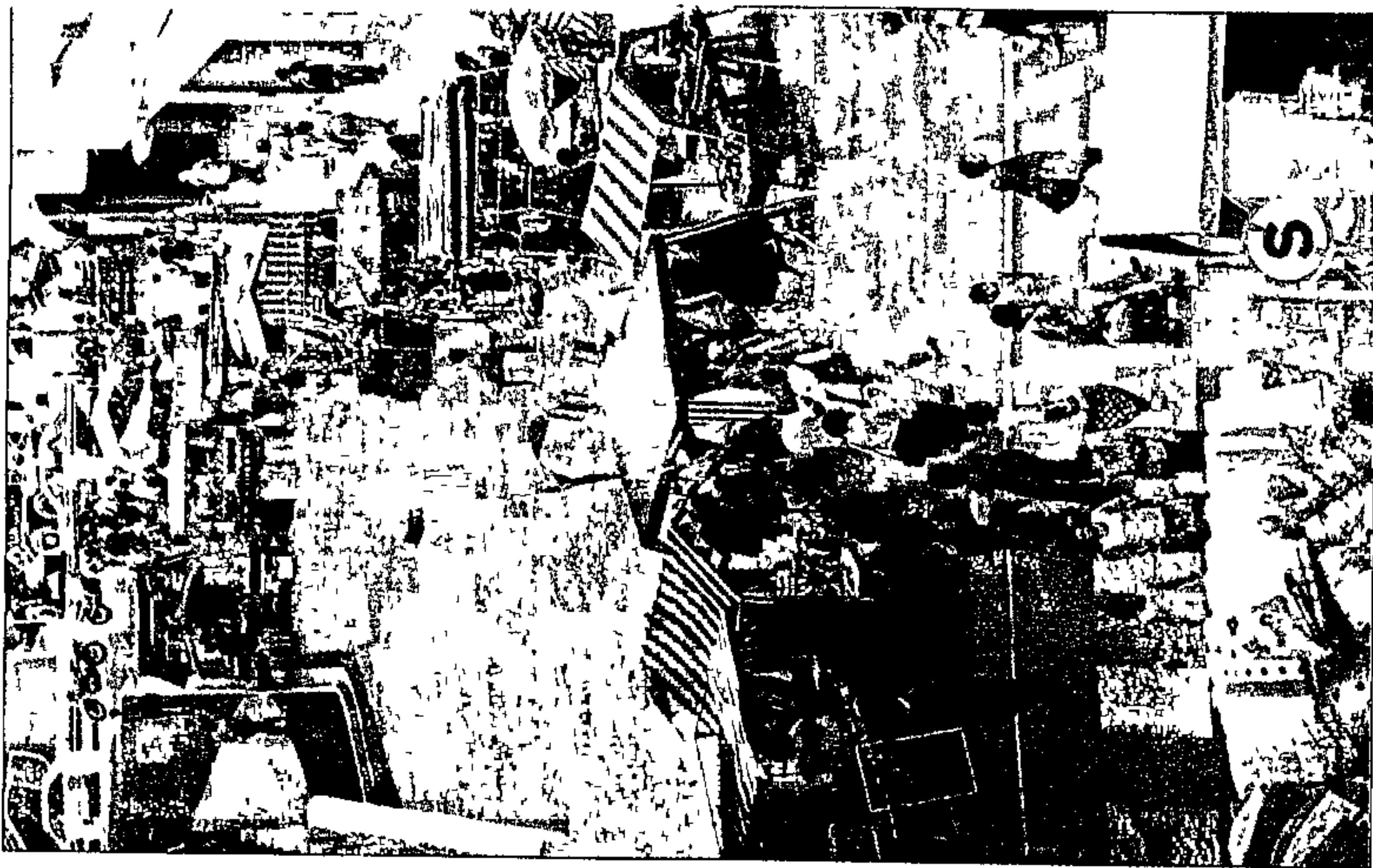
A spokeswoman for a major property owner in Dreyer Street said the filth had become intolerable.

Property owners paid rates for their street frontages but there were several who battled to get access to the road for deliveries.

Shopkeepers in Dreyer Street and Corwen and Vineyard roads have handed a petition to the municipality calling for the area to be cleaned up and for better regulation of the traders who, they say, have made access along Dreyer Street almost impossible.

Leon Bester, director of roads for the municipality, said street traders and major property owners had negotiated for Dreyer Street to stay closed after the refurbishment of Cavendish Square.

Paul Williamson, who deals with informal traders for the municipality, said Dreyer Street could become a pedestrian mall and negotiations with informal traders and other property owners were under way.



STREETWISE the market in Dreyer Street

Picture OBED ZILWA

Even multi can't help hawkers

By Saint P Molakeng

SOUTH AFRICA'S depressed economy has not only affected the retail sector but even the informal sector has experienced poor business during this festive season.

Traditionally the Christmas period has spelt booming trade as holiday makers spent their bonuses in a big way.

But this year people have much less to spend because interest rates have

increased and consequently employers have been unable to increase wages to match.

Several Johannesburg hawkers interviewed by *Sowetan* confirmed that business was not as good as it used to be.

"It's worse than other years. Rain-fall has also worsened things," said Mr Peter Segokodi, who sells sunglasses at Hoek Street outside the Johannesburg railway station.

One hopes that it will be a bit better when all people knocked off

work for Christmas."

However, he was still disturbed by nearby hawkers who were selling wares for "Indian" businessmen.

Complained

Other African hawkers complained about foreign hawkers.

"Things will never improve because of these *makverekere*," Vusi Radebe charged.

His sentiments echoed the running battles that local traders have had with their foreign counterparts during the

year as locals claimed the latter "took money from their fingers".

Not that business was any better for foreigners. "Business is bad because people have no money," said Congolese refugee hawker, Mr Christien Dimi, who sells bags and belts.

"It all depends on how lucky one is to occupy a spot in a busy street. It's very worrying because I will not get money to buy food for Christmas."

A despondent Mr Meshack Sithole, who sells meat and pap near the Home Affairs offices, was resigned to the fact

that people could not eat meat every day.

At the busy Noord Street taxi rank, Mr Vusi Mahlangu, who sells cooked mealie cobs, was upbeat as taxi commuters stopped to buy.

"It all depends on what *mun* you have applied in the morning before coming to the city," said Miss Veronica Nkosi, from whom no one was buying children's toys.

But hard-nosed economists put it down to the interest rates that have squeezed traders.

New bylaws worry local hawkers

(153A)

Sowetan Reporters

HAWKERS operating in Johannesburg are worried about their future after Gauteng Premier Mathole Motshekga announced that the city streets would be regulated by municipal courts.

The hawkers fear that the proposed city police force will disrupt trade resulting in lower profits for them. They claim that no council official has discussed the new laws with them.

Motshekga said the municipality would be granted powers to enforce the city's bylaws to clean the pavements of Johannesburg. This is in response to big business' exodus from the central business district.

Most hawkers' associations have disbanded and they have found difficulty in forming a body to represent them.

Mr Moffat Sebulelo, the co-founder of the Foundation for Hawkers and Informal Business of South Africa, said the hawkers were prepared to work with the council to keep the city clean.

"The council promised to identify a market for hawkers as early as 1994.

"But there has been no progress in that direction. The council recently tried to lease hawkers the use of city pavements but we did not understand the legalese and the duties involved," Sebulelo said.

86/12/1992
Sowetan

Fleamarket traders set for battle in High Court

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

(153A)
ART 2/2/99
A civil case is looming in the Cape High Court between the City of Cape Town and two businesses over a disputed lease agreement to run the Greenmarket Square fleamarket.

According to papers filed in the High Court, the Cape Fleamarkets Association and Cape Town businessman Buddy Chabaan are taking the council and city-based Markets Company to court.

The Markets Company was due to take over the Greenmarket Square lease on December 1 last year from Mr Chabaan and the Fleamarkets Association.

However, the two parties are opposing the take-over, alleging irregularities in the proposal process.

They said Mr Chabaan promised to pay the council R200 000 a month to lease the market whereas the Markets Company committed themselves to R100 000.

Markets Company won the tender from the council to manage the square for five years.

But the present managers have refused to relinquish control. Nic Pruim, one of the Markets Company directors, said they were frustrated that "every trick in the book" had been used to stall the hand-over.

David Dunn, the council's legal adviser, said "we have been taken on review in the High Court".

No court date had been set yet.

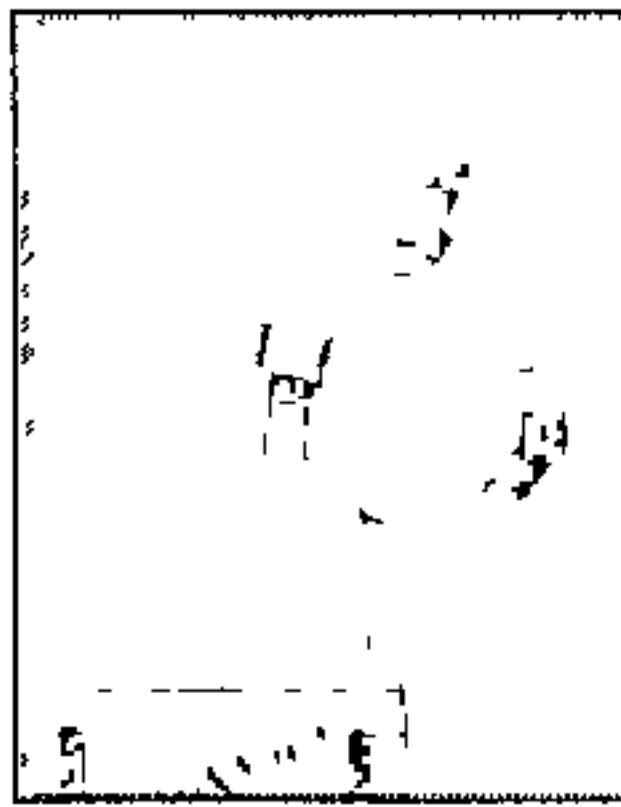
Mr Dunn said a third party, the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association, had consulted attorneys over the issue.

Members of the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association plan to hold a placard demonstration on the square tomorrow.

The association's leadership declined to comment.

Association member Maria Kalunga said she and others were supporting the Markets Company.

"We need a change of management," she said. "I have been here for five years and nothing has changed. There is no control here."



The City of Gold - Egoli. A once vibrant metropolis, now being destroyed by crime and grime. That is the description commonly given to our inner city in most media reports. It must be emphasised that problems facing the inner city are numerous, with crime-grime being only part of them.

The debate on how best to revive the inner city is incomplete without input from those who represent the thousands of street traders who occupy sidewalk space. The voice of informed, representative hawker leadership can no longer be ignored.

To speak of crime and grime in the same breath, as is commonly done, is unrealistic. They are two separate problems requiring different solutions.

Effective law enforcement is the only way to fight crime. The elimination of grime can best be achieved through efficient city management.

The corporate sector exodus to more lucrative pastures such as Sandton and Midrand began long before hawkers, crime and grime became factors. The sole motive for that early exodus was to provide property holding companies with maximum returns on their investments. Today the JSE is merely moving closer to its client base.

In more recent times, corporate sector property portfolio managers have opted for an inner city "scorched earth" policy - demolishing buildings and converting the land into parking lots. Some buildings have been "closed".

The banking sector, which is not dependant on property portfolio returns to satisfy shareholders, is running several massive operations successfully in the very same inner city described by some as having been destroyed by crime and grime.

Whilst corporate sector property portfolio managers hedged their "inner city bets" and adopted a "wait and see" attitude, a new player began to fill the vacuum created by the formal sector - namely the informal trader.

Today we learn the corporate sector is "ready to move" and sees the inner city as an area for growth and re-development. There is nothing wrong with that thinking, as long as it is not at the expense of informal traders who kept the area ticking during the corporate sector's period of non-activity.

Informal traders are an economic entity to be reckoned with. They provide a vital buffer in these times of limited economic growth - both against starvation and crime. Nationwide, it is fair to assume that this form of activity is providing millions

Star 2/3/99 Hawkers have role in rebuilding CBD (153A)

They kept city going as companies fled, and are a key part of its renewal, writes Edmund Elias

of people with a means of survival.

Informal traders are also "soft targets" and easy game for over-zealous law enforcement officials. "Hawker bashing" has never been a difficult pre-occupation for those in a position of authority.

It must be made crystal clear to Johannesburg's city fathers that a new era has dawned - an era of negotiation leading to consensus.

In its present form, for example, the much publicised Central Johannesburg Partnership cannot continue to play an effective role as both "player" and "referee" in dealing with informal traders. The bias must be in favour of its sponsors, the corporate sector, at the expense of the informal sector.

New management structures are urgently needed. A hawker management company has now been mooted. The idea sounds good. The proposed details of this plan must now be placed on the negotiating table by our city fathers. Informed representative hawker leadership needs the opportunity to study the plan, submit it to advisers for scrutiny to ensure that hawker interests are not jeopardised.

The plans, composition and funding of the proposed hawker management company also need to be debated. Hawker management is needed to ensure that hawker activities are not a health hazard, that trading does not cause obstructions of any sort, and that trading areas are kept clean.

Hawkers need to understand and accept that the apartheid era of non-payment and non-participation belongs to our past. It is time for informal traders to accept new responsibilities. With these responsibilities will come increased benefits. Hawk-ers must accept partial responsibility for making the "new look" city of Johannesburg a reality, sooner rather than later.

Our city fathers need to change their arrogant authoritarian mindset without delay. The era of negotiation leading to consensus is here to stay. Let us move forward together. The city will benefit.

■ Edmund Elias is the liaison officer for the Gauteng Hawkers' Association.

Greenmarket traders stage angry protest

ARL 3/3/99

Call for new management of tourist attraction

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

More than 200 traders at Greenmarket Square held a placard demonstration today, calling on the City of Cape Town to allow new management to take over the site.

The traders are opposing the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association, which is to take the city council to court over alleged irregularities in the awarding of a lease to the Markets Company.

The council also faces court action from the Cape Fleamarkets Association, which controls the

western side of the square. The Traders' Association represents stallholders in the eastern half of the square.

The Markets Company has signed a five-year lease with the city council, enabling it to take over the whole square from December 1 last year. Because of the court action, the Markets Company has not yet been able to do so.

Placard-waving protesters today called for the disbanding of the Traders' Association which they said had not held an annual general meeting for two years.

Cecelia Assad, spokeswoman for the Save Greenmarket Square cam-

paign, said financial statements were requested several times from the association, but its leadership had failed to provide any.

Today's protest walk around the perimeter of the site was led by Desré Buurski, fiery leader of the Save the Mountain Campaign, who called for support from landlords over a loudhailer.

Approached for comment, the city council's legal advisor, David Dunn, said "We are frustrated by the court action. We can't allow the Markets Company to take over because of the pending review in the Cape High Court. The council is doing its best to expedite the issue."



Market protest: a protester vent her feelings on Greenmarket Square during today's placard demonstration

BREATHON GELCH

Hawkers mobilise to take on councils

By Nthabi Moreosele

(153A)

SEVERAL hawkers' associations formed an interim coordinating forum this week in a bid to use one voice when dealing with councils in Gauteng

Ten street traders' associations attended a meeting called by Peter Mbuli of the Workers Education Project and the National Independent Business Development Association in Johannesburg. The associations' function will be to form an umbrella body to counteract the city councils' "divide and rule" tactics.

The city councillors who had promised to attend the meeting failed to appear.

The hawkers said although central Government was friendly towards them, local councils sabotaged them.

The street traders listed their problems as

- The authoritarian mindset of the Johannesburg council, which did not consult them or seek consensus when dealing with hawkers,
- Outdated agreements,
- By-laws that were open to abuse and misuse, providing insufficient protection for hawkers' rights,
- The negative attitude of the private sector,
- The threat by the Johannesburg council to register only 250 hawkers.

They co-opted a South African Police Services Adopt-a-Cop on to the committee.

Sowetan 5/3/99

Fleamarket traders claim intimidation

ARG 5/3/99 (153A)

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

The dust has not yet settled on the traders' power struggle at Cape Town's popular Greenmarket Square.

The Markets Company, a management company that was due to take over a five-year lease of the square on December 1, is seeking an urgent interdict to stop the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association from intimidating and threatening traders

Stallholders allege that the traders' association leadership is threatening members with eviction if they do not pay their daily rent to the association

More than 90% of association members are paying their fees into an interim trust account administered by attorneys on behalf of the Markets Company, which also manages the popular Rosebank rooftop market in Johannesburg

The account will continue to function pending the outcome of a Cape High Court case launched by the traders associ-

ation and Cape Fleamarkets against the City of Cape Town

The case involves alleged irregularities in the awarding of a lease to the Markets Company in January last year

Cape Fleamarkets runs the part of Greenmarket Square between Burg Street and the Holiday Inn Garden Court

The lease agreement with the Markets Company allows for upgrading of the site to enhance business and safety

Attorneys for the Markets Company are drafting an application for an interdict pertain-

ing to alleged intimidation by the traders' association

Earlier this week, the Trader's Representative Council – which represents traders in disputes – tried unsuccessfully to hold a meeting with the traders' association

Representative council secretary Hans Kamhooft said a venue and time had been set, but the association's leadership had not arrived

Markets Company director Nic Pruijm said stallholders were scared and had asked for help

Proposals to regulate hawkers and traders

(153A)

Restrictions planned in areas for informal trading will benefit this growing sector, says Jo'burg's Eastern council

By ANNA COX

Greater Johannesburg's Eastern metro council has embarked on a massive programme aimed at restricting hawking and regulating the estimated 20 000 hawkers in the inner city and suburbs.

The council recently decided on the restriction of 138 areas in which hawkers will be prohibited from trading or will be allowed limited trading only. Specific trading areas are to be demarcated.

In a report to the council, the local economic development facilitator, Moses Moshoeshe, said illegal hawkers were causing numerous problems especially in the areas of the central business district, Hillbrow, Yeoville, Berea, Doornfontein and Wynberg.

"The challenge facing the council is to effectively manage, promote and control this growing sector," he said.

The public believed hawkers were creating unsightly scenes and obstruction, messing up pavements, degenerating the environment from hygienic and aesthetic points of view, he explained.

They also believe that there was bias towards the informal traders by authorities as opposed to formal businesses.

On a more positive note Moshoeshe said employment opportunities were provided by the fostering of the entrepreneurial spirit which added to the dynamic character of the city.

"But the potential spinoffs from this sector need to be managed and controlled in a holistic manner," he said.

The council approved an informal trading policy in 1996 and the new demarcations formed part of that policy, he said.

The informal trading policy would attempt to create a balance of space on the pavement between the needs of pedestrians, formal businesses and informal traders.

The council has restricted trading at council markets, market areas leased by the private sector in terms of sidewalk leases, areas adjacent to the council, flea markets, private sector markets, public buildings, development projects, residential areas and areas adjacent to banks and teller machines.

The council would have full powers of legally removing any hawkers found in these areas, said Moshoeshe.

MANAGEMENT

Flea markets big business

SA's new breed of upmarket 'alternative retail formats' aim to be lean profit machines

Deborah Fine

FLEA MARKETS are traditionally associated with makeshift stalls in disused parking lots where bargain-hunters can leisurely sift through second-hand junk and home-made goods on the odd chance of finding rare collectibles or items unusual and quirky.

The new breed of upmarket flea markets, such as Johannesburg's Flea Market World at Bruma Lake and the Rosebank Rooftop Market, have firmly put paid to these notions. They would prefer to distance themselves from anything remotely associated with junk.

The markets are the result of in-depth demographic research, product studies, costly infrastructure investment, intensive marketing campaigns and dedicated management teams that ensure that each venue — despite their carnival atmosphere — runs like a well-oiled, profit-making machine.

The New York-based International Council of Shopping Centres has proclaimed these new markets as some of the most sophisticated "alternative retail formats in the world", says Marc Israelsohn, CE of the JSE-listed flea-market group, Global Villages.

Global Villages operates the Bruma Market, the Hatfield Plaza Festival Market in Pretoria and the South Plaza and Point markets in Durban. The company plans to open a new market at Fourways Crossing, in Johannesburg's affluent Sandton suburbs, later this

year, as well as at Tygerberg Valley in the Western Cape.

Brent Herbert, joint MD of B&B Markets, says the most difficult aspect of managing a market — apart from the initial task of attracting shoppers to the opening of a venue — is maintaining momentum by bringing people back week after week.

B&B runs the Rosebank Market, the Hillfox Market outside Johannesburg, the Menlyn Market in Pretoria and the Green Market Square and Blue Shed markets in Cape Town.

Several key ingredients are necessary to keep pulling in the crowds, he says, stressing that a market will fail if one of these elements is missing.

The ingredients include good location, well-maintained infrastructure and a wide variety of quality, reasonably priced goods matched to the demands of the area in which the market is located.

Israelsohn says that positioning markets in "relatively good areas" is important because the new markets are "clearly A-income animals", although they also serve lower-income groups.

"We've made mistakes by placing markets in central business districts and parks in degraded areas. It is a great fallacious



B&B Markets joint MD Brent Herbert believes flea markets should not be junk malls if they are to survive

thought that you can reverse urban decay with a market — people just won't go there," he says.

It is also apparent that the SA public demands sophisticated market experiences, meaning that market managers must ensure eye-catching, clean and well-run stalls and facilities and high-quality

merchandise.

Anything less will be regarded "fairly badly", Israelsohn says.

Herbert says it is crucial to offer a number of different product categories — as well as diversity within each category — to attract the widest range of potential shoppers.

It is also vital to constantly monitor and adjust product mix to ensure sustained customer interest.

One of the more tricky aspects of balancing the product mix is ensuring a certain similarity among products to promote competition between traders — thus maintaining reasonable prices — but at the same time avoiding too much duplication which leads to monotony and shopper boredom.

Israelsohn and Herbert emphasise that markets "do not get second chances". A continuous downward spiral would ensue if venues did not consistently appeal to shoppers because they would not come back.

Dwindling numbers would cause traders to desert the market, which would in turn result in less stalls and further drops in public attendance.

"You have to get it right from the very beginning and keep it that way," says Herbert.

Park Station graduation for successful traders

Business course teaches participants some essential skills writes Justin Palmer

THREE months ago Mlungisi Ngwenya was just another informal trader at Johannesburg's Park Station. Yesterday he became the proud recipient of a management certificate after completing a business management course that will equip him with the skills to run his business better.

"I have been waiting a long time to do something like this," he said.

The course taught me the importance of keeping records on what money is spent on rent and other expenses."

Ngwenya was one of 130 informal traders who attended a graduation ceremony at the station. They were presented with their certificates by the department of labour and property management company Interste.

The course for the traders who work at the station, helped them understand basic management principles and the significance of keeping proper records.

The subjects included recording money and sales, market research, planning and control and how to draw up a business plan.

The course was sponsored by the department of labour and run by Protea Training Centre, a business training centre that specialises in sustainable training programmes.

Aaron Machipa from Protea said his company had identified the need for the traders to further their skills and had approached the labour department on their behalf.

"We do not train people for the sake of training alone. We approached the department with a particular need in hand and screened potential students to assess their suitability to undergo the training," he said.

"We will also be conducting an after-care programme for the traders who have just qualified to see how their businesses are doing."

Muzi Shongwe, who sells cassette tapes from his kiosk at the station, said he would like to expand his business.

"We loved the course. I felt like a kid again and would like to study further."

Interste regional manager Kieran Vallabh said the project had many strengths.

"It encourages a team effort between gov-

ernment and big business. It is through such efforts that we hope to assist in stimulating SA's economy," he said. Vallabh said Interste was not only interested in providing traders with a platform to trade, but was keen to ensure their development.

"Happy traders who operate in a professional and efficient manner are surely a positive feature of our stations and that is what we want to achieve."

Interste area manager for Pretoria Francis Botha said the Pretoria railway station was involved in a similar project for traders in 1997.

He said the service provided by traders to commuters had shown a marked improvement after they had completed the course.

"Our big aim was for traders to get to grips with a better business understanding."

Botha said that, after completion of the course, all the traders signed a lease agreement with Interste and that more than 90% of traders pay their rentals on time.

The project cost the department of labour R150 000.



Rampota Chauke from the labour department, second from left, presents informal traders Nomathamba Mbokodi, Mlungisi Ngwenya, Mmam Lithabe and Muzi Shongwe with business management certificates from Protea Training Centre. Far right is Protea head Ayisi Machipa.

Picture: ROBERT BOGOT

Imminent Metrorail ban may affect more than 400 000 hawkers

BD 5/5/99
(153A)
**Simphiwe Xako
and Robyn Chalmers**

MORE than 400 000 hawkers will be hard hit when Metrorail implements its decision to ban them from selling their wares on trains and subways this month, a representative said yesterday.

Metrorail will outlaw all hawkers from its operating areas on May 17, due mainly to complaints from rail commuters about dirt and rubbish in these areas. Metrorail has indicated that the ban will be in its Wits region, but hawkers believe it will be a national ban.

Mdumiseni Ncwane, an organiser of the Africa Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib), said the organisation had tried in vain to persuade Metrorail not to ban hawkers but to provide tender contracts for cleaning trains and subways instead.

"To Achib this would certainly be the best solution as it would also have an element of job creation. But unfortunately the suggestion was not acceptable to Metrorail," Ncwane said.

He said although hawkers had agreed at a weekend meeting with Metrorail that a steering committee be appointed to identify sites which could be used by hawkers, there was still much dissatisfaction among Achib ranks.

Ncwane said the ban was national, but Johannesburg and Pretoria would be the most affected areas. Ncwane said Achib had tried in vain to persuade Metrorail to get a court interdict on hawkers

withdrawn as it had caused sourness between the two parties.

"Metrorail has started a problem by getting an interdict on hawkers. Now they want to use Achib to rubber stamp their unfair handling of hawkers. Hawkers are not selling for the sake of selling. Families will starve should Metrorail proceed with its decision."

He said hawkers would resist any unfair treatment by Metrorail. "I am convinced that we are heading for a deadlock with Metrorail."

It was decided at the weekend that both parties should second members to a newly established steering committee.

Bmtu Petsana, Wits Metrorail manager, said the commuter rail operator was still negotiating with hawking groups about removing sellers from operational areas. These include trains, subways and certain areas in stations.

Petsana said many commuters were unhappy with the dirt and rubbish on Metrorail's trains, tracks and at stations.

This posed health and aesthetic problems, while commuters were often blocked by hawkers in subways, making it difficult for them to pass through.

"We do, however, recognise that hawkers have to make a living. We are negotiating with them to find alternative hawking areas outside of Metrorail's direct operational areas," she said.

Petsana said that if alternative trading sites could not be found, Metrorail and the hawkers would reassess their options.

Station hawkers kicked out

By CP CORRESPONDENT

(157A)

HAWKERS trading in and around the Wits Metrorail premises have been given an ultimatum to quit the area by May 17

The directive was issued by Metrorail marketing and communications department

"Although Wits Metrorail acknowledges the role that the informal sector plays in the economy of the country, hawking inside operational areas has resulted in a num-

ber of problems for the company. "These include the safety of commuters, unhygienic conditions and the hindering of the smooth flow of commuters," says their release.

The directive follows a successful court interdict restraining trading on its premises.

"Negotiations with the hawkers to find alternative areas started as far back as last year. These are still ongoing and the organisation is positive that solutions can be found to ensure that the matter is resolved amicably."



A hawker selling sweets walks through a crowded Johannesburg-bound train. Metrorail intends evicting hawkers from selling on trains and stations within 10 days
PIC PAT SEBOKO

Metrorail, traders head for collision

By Saint Molakeng

HAWKERS are upset that Wits Metrorail will start evicting them in 10 days because their presence creates "unhygienic" conditions inside trains and on stations

"What will our children eat if Metrorail takes away our means of survival?" asked a stunned elderly woman when *Sowetan* broke the news to her at her "trading area" inside the Booyens Station, south of Johannesburg

For more than a decade the woman has been selling *anagwinya* (fat cakes) and cold meat to workers on their way to work every morning

"These *Boers* (Metrorail) are strange. We are actually helping workers who have no *shaffins* (lunch boxes) for the day," said another hawker

She dismissed Metrorail's claim that hawkers' litter created "unhygienic conditions" because they kept their "trading areas" tidy by always cleaning up each day

Metrorail announced in a statement on April 17 that it would evict illegal hawkers from June 17 inside its operational areas such as trains, platforms, queuing areas and

bridges

"Although Metrorail acknowledges the economic role of hawkers, our operational areas were not designed to accommodate them," the statement said

"Hawking has resulted in damage to trains and tracks, and putting commuters' lives at risk when garbage is thrown on to the rails."

Court interdict

Metrorail has obtained a court interdict to evict hawkers "We hope hawkers will cooperate and move out as we don't want war," said Metrorail marketing and communications manager Ms Bmtu Petsana

She said if the hawkers stayed put the law would take its course.

"We won't get out of stations," Mr Khotso Sekese, chairman of the South African Railway Hawkers Association, said yesterday

"Metrorail cannot evict us without providing us with jobs," Sekese said, echoing a view shared by other hawkers

He hoped politicians would support them, especially since the evictions would occur a day after the inauguration of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki as South Africa's new president

Sowetan 8/6/99

They're playing cat and smouse

By Saint Molakeng

WHEN Wits Metrorail kicks out hawkers from its trains and stations on June 17, the soul of travelling will be snuffed out, according to former hawker and veteran journalist Doc Bikitsha

He reminisced that *smousing* – engaging in itinerant trading – was part and parcel of the modern electric train that started in 1935

"They should not get rid of *smousing* because it makes South African trains unique. It is a tradition that must be preserved," Bikitsha said

He said *smouse* helped provide commuters with accessories

"*Smouse* are moving supermarkets – selling snacks, drinks, combs, muti, cosmetics, the works"

Another erstwhile *smous* is former Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who did it to augment his school fees, as many destitute youngsters still do

The hawkers have made travelling hilarious. Many years ago a *smous* entered a coach in a Johannesburg train headed for Springs

As he entered, he vocally advertised his wares "Stop nonsense! Stop nonsense in the house!"

Commuters, who knew "stop nonsense" as township patois for a slab that is a wall between neighbouring yards, wondered what the chap was selling

Wielding sjamboks

When they realised that the *smous* was wielding sjamboks, the passengers laughed uncontrollably as it struck them that sjamboks could indeed stop 'nonsensical' spousal mischief!

With Metrorail having spent a fortune upgrading its service, the marvellous *smouse* have become casualties

Bikitsha credited Metrorail for the structural sophistication but lamented that by evicting hawkers "hypocrisy" had set in

"Now that (black) guys running Metrorail,

some of whom survived on income from *smousing*, are living well, they've forgotten us hawkers," said Mr Khotso Sekese, chairman of the South African Railway Hawkers Association

Sekese added that unless employment was found for them hawkers would not leave the trains and stations, despite Metrorail's court interdict to that effect

The eviction, to be enforced by police if hawkers resist, will mean that some breadwinners will have nothing to put on the family table

Many parents, after being retrenched or finding no jobs, were forced to turn to *smousing*

One woman, a hawker for the past 23 years, was heartbroken about the pending end to her trading that has enabled her to take her son right through to university from where he will be graduating next year

A younger *smous* at Booysens Station told *Sowetan* that for their livelihood they would fight Metrorail to the bitter end

Sowetan 9/6/99 (153A)

Metro Rail to stop vendor livelihood

By DOMINIC MAHLANGU
and MPHO MPHOTO

PEANUT vendors at many of Gauteng's railway stations will from this week find themselves out on the streets after Wits Metro Rail announced that it will bar all hawkers from operating inside stations and on trains.

The prohibition, which will affect more than 200 hawkers, some in business for over 20 years, has been slammed by hawkers who said they were being targeted to make way for white businesses.

Train vendors, whose history dates back from 1960, will cease to operate on Thursday.

Smangalisso Hlatshwayo, trading at Park Station since 1978, said his family would be affected.

Hlatshwayo said such a move would worsen crime. "If we are moved out, crime will arise everywhere."

Hlatshwayo and other traders - who make a living by selling fruit and other goods on the trains - questioned the move by Metro Rail and why they were evicted just after a new president was inaugurated.

They questioned why Metro was saying they were the cause of unhygienic conditions when they were the ones cleaning the stations.

Gabriel Mngomezulu said every day before he started unpacking his stock he cleaned the area to make sure that his customers were in a hygienic environment.

Mngomezulu said in most stations around Johannesburg there were no litter bins.

He said through their efforts, the vendors had come out with an easy way to solve the litter problem at the stations.

Bintu Petsana, Wits Metro Rail marketing and communications manager, said the move to evict all hawkers was taken after they found out that train platforms were not designed to accommodate micro businesses.

She said hawking had resulted in a



SIYAHLELA LAPHA... Smangalisso Hlatshwayo of Emndenl says he has survived by trading at the station since 1978. Pictures. Mpho Mphotho

number of problems for Wits Metro.

"Through hawking our trains and tracks are damaged and commuter flow is obstructed," said Petsana.

Lucky Mathope, also a trader at Park Station, said on Thursday he would join his colleagues in a defiance campaign against Wits Metro Rail.

"I will be working as normal on Thursday - let them arrest me with my stock."

"My work is my survival and I will not be removed," he said.



END OF THE ROAD... Vincent Yende from Orlando In Soweto says he will continue trading, despite the ban.

Ruckus over decision to move street traders

Fish Hoek shopowners accused of racism

JENNY VALL
STAFF REPORTER

Charles Muzavazi has been trading on the streets of Fish Hoek for four years, barely making a living selling his wire creations to pedestrians on the busy west side of Main Road.

Now he's heard that he, along with the other traders, are to be moved to a site near the station behind Jimmy's Sports.

"There are no people there," he said. "I won't be able to survive."

That's the common cry from the street traders who rely on passing pedestrians to earn their living.

Syd Weller, chairman of the Informal Traders Association in Fish Hoek, believes the move will cripple trading.

"There will probably be a modicum of trading on Saturdays, but during the week the fulltime traders' capacity to earn will be dramatically reduced. The new market may work from November to mid-January, but then it will basically die."

Street traders have repeatedly told the council there is no trade in the area now allocated to them, but nobody wants to or cares to listen, says Mr Weller. The new market is opposite Fish Hoek station, and on the winter day when we visited the new area, a gazebo was being built. It was cold and windy and there were very few people around, while Main Street was busy.

A council spokesman said the gazebo would cost R31 000.



ARKT 10/6/99 (1677A)

Shiftwork, traders will be moved to the new market near the station at the end of June.

Most traders believe the area will be an economic desert. They say one of the reasons they're being moved is that the shop owners in Fish Hoek see them as a threat.

Others claim they're being moved because most traders are black and the shopowners are white. "I must now go and trade behind Jimmy's Sports," says the quietly-spoken Mr Muzavazi. "Is this because I am black? The government allows me to trade. Why do the whites want me to move?"

Traders have lodged objections with the South Peninsula Municipality, which last month advertised its intention to prohibit trading on the west side of the Main Road.

Today the council's urban and environment committee will consider the objections and the matter will go to a full council meeting on June 29. If the council gives the go-ahead the traders will be moved.

The area being cleared is on the west side of Fish Hoek's Main Road, where there's a wide pavement, part of which is owned by the shops, part by the council. People, including shopowners, complain that traders block sidewalks and infringe on the privately owned land.

Traders have said they want the area regulated to prevent these problems and are willing to pay for their stands. Ismael Albertus, who has sold vegetables in Fish Hoek since



JACK LESTRADE

Passing trade, Saturday morning street traders on Fish Hoek's Main Road. If they space out the days then it could work here.

he was a child helping his father, said "I wouldn't mind paying to be here, but there's no control."

Mr Weller believes it suits formal business to keep traders disorganised and so there are no by-laws for this section.

The traders' association is part of the task team formed to find a solution to the problem of street traders but when the decision was made to move the traders to the new site Mr Weller was not present because he did not get notice of the meeting.

The traders' association has been fighting for the rights of traders in Fish Hoek for many years. An application to move the traders in 1994 was thrown out of court because the

Business Act of 1991 makes provision for street trading. Since then various sites have been put forward, all unsuitable, says Mr Weller.

A council spokesman said the council was satisfied it could now offer an alternative site, and the gazebo would offer shade and wind protection. Those who did not move could be fined R200 or removed physically.

Mr Weller is angry. "Exclusion has become a habit in the deep South of the haves excluding the have-nots."

The traders would appeal, he said, but by the time the provincial minister heard it the traders could already be out of business.



Send your neighbourhood news and notices to Jenny Vall at 488 4218, fax 488 4075 or e-mail njhood@cn independent.co.za

'No deal' say train hawkers

By Saint Molakeng

THERE was no agreement yesterday over the fate of Metrorail hawkers who face eviction from trains and stations from tomorrow.

Hundreds of hawkers, meeting on a disused tract of land in Braamfontein yesterday afternoon were adamant that they would not stop trading on trains.

The South African Railway Hawkers Association dismissed claims made by Metrorail to *Sowetan* that the corporation had over the past two days met with hawkers and shown them sites where they would be relocated for trading.

"Metrorail wanted us to go there yesterday and today but we refused," association chairman Mr Khotso Sekese said yesterday.

His utterances contradicted Metrorail spokeswoman Ms Nolundi Rawana's claim yesterday that the corporation had a deal with hawkers.

When *Sowetan* contacted her after Sekese's comments, Rawana was unavailable to respond.

Media reports on Monday said that a compromise was pending after the hawkers agreed to being relocated.

But Sekese differed "We can't agree to being relocated to those sites because

not all of us will be accommodated."

Earlier in the day Rawana had said there was "confusion" over the issue, as Metrorail chief executive officer Mr Zandile Jakavula had said on radio that *smouse* would not be evicted from Metrorail trains.

Jakavula's alleged statement would have contradicted Metrorail's intention to evict hawkers according to a court interdict that was obtained in March.

Sekese said that in the light of meetings held with Metrorail regional executive Mr Fufu Shoba there had been no express intention to kick out the hawkers.

Sowetan 16/6/99

(153A)

Metrorail hawkers still in business

By Saint Molakeng

IT was business as usual for Gauteng hawkers yesterday as Wits Metrorail failed to carry out its threat to evict the sellers from trains and stations.

Wits Metrorail was granted a court interdict three months ago to carry out the evictions.

Metrorail spokeswoman Mrs Bantu Petsana had earlier said hawkers would be evicted from trains, stations, subways and bridges.

"We hope the hawkers will co-operate because we do not want war," Petsana had said.

Many hawkers had vowed they would not vacate trains and stations unless Metrorail found them jobs.

Yesterday, Metrorail met representatives of the South African Railway Hawkers Association (Sahra) at the Johannesburg Station.

"The association subsequently agreed in principle to join a committee established to look at the relocation of hawkers within our operational areas," Petsana said.

The committee comprises Metrorail, African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses, and Intersite, Metrorail's property management service.

"The committee has already met with hawkers at the Germiston Station and jointly identified hawking sites. The hawkers agreed to start moving out from today (yesterday)," Petsana said.

Sahra chairman Mr Khotso Sekese said "We decided to join the committee so that we are always up to date as to what is happening. We are still going to question Metrorail about everything as we are not yet clear about the proposed arrangements."

Sekese said hawkers still "know where we stand which is working inside trains and on stations."

153A

Hawkers to quit stations

(153A)

RAILWAY hawkers, who are facing expulsion from all railway premises, yesterday agreed to join a committee looking into their relocation.

Witwatersrand Metrorail spokesman Bintu Petsana said the SA Railway's Hawkers Association (Sarha), which represents mainly hawkers trading inside trains, had agreed in principle.

Hawkers affected include those who ply their trade inside trains and on station platforms, subways and bridges.

Petsana said the agreement meant Sarha would join Metrorail, Intersite and the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business to seek trading areas outside railway premises.

"It is expected that, by the end of this month, all hawkers trading inside Witwatersrand Metrorail operational areas will be relocated to sites jointly identified by all parties," she said — Sapa

BS 18/6/99

CP 27/6/99

Council auctions hawkers' wares (153A)

By MOIPONE KOMANE

HUNDREDS of hawkers have lost thousands of rands after their wares were confiscated by the Johannesburg City Council officers who later auctioned their wares.

The officers confiscated the wares of the hawkers without giving them a receipt to enable them to reclaim their goods on payment of a fine.

Sarah Rakgothu, (24) of Yeoville, who sells clothes, told City Press that council officers confiscated her wares in April and told her to bring a R500 fine to get her goods back. "The officers took all my goods and told me that I was not supposed to be doing business on the spot on which I always used," Rakgothu sobbed.

She went to the council and on arrival the security guards told her that her wares had been auctioned.

Rakgothu said she then spoke to the council's project manager, Uriel Abrahamse who said "don't you know about the by-laws. I suggest you get that book because you were not supposed to be in the spot in which you ran your business."

"I'm disheartened and have lost more than R1,500 which I had used to buy these clothes," she said.

Abrahamse said he was not aware that Rakgothu's wares had been auctioned. "If that is the case, then it is theft and action will be taken against those responsible."

THE INFORMAL SECTOR (153A)

GETTING THE COLOUR CODING RIGHT

No-one is sure what the informal sector is. But the Reserve Bank *Quarterly Bulletin* explains what it isn't: the hidden or underground economy. In other words it doesn't refer to the activities of drug dealers, money launderers, tax dodgers and others operating in the grey market outside the law.

There was a time when this distinction was obscured because the National Party, during its 45 years in power, had a battery of laws and regulations designed to keep the economy white — pure white.

So in those days when baton-wielding policemen attacked helpless women selling oranges on the kerbside, hawkers and

FM 2/7/99
other aspirant entrepreneurs were forced into an apartheid style black economy.

With the abolition of influx control in 1986 and repeal of restrictive regulations, the informal sector grew to embrace a broad range of activities, contributing an estimated 7% of GDP. A fitting tribute to our rainbow economy.

In the new SA, the official definition of informal sector has been honed to describe "units of production which are non-incorporated enterprises owned by households". And the *Bulletin* (see page 38) says the sector has its own development dynamics and is likely to grow further.

What's important about all this is that recognition of the informal sector's role means its statistics are being integrated into the national statistical system. This is one of the reasons for the upward revisions of GDP figures, first in 1994 and now in Statistics SA's latest national accounts revisions. Ethel Hazelhurst

Hawkers 'lose R750 000'

(153A) Sowetan 14/7/99

By Saint Molakeng

WITS Metrorail has cost hawkers more than half a million rands in losses since they were barred from selling on trains and at stations.

The clampdown has cost the 500 hawkers about R750 000 in losses, South African Railway Hawkers Association chairman Mr Khotso Sekese told *Sowetan* yesterday.

Sekese said when Metrorail security personnel spotted hawkers, they confronted them "as if they had committed heinous crimes".

There was an ugly confrontation between hawkers and security personnel at the Vereeniging Station last

Friday, Sekese claimed.

Metrorail started evicting hawkers early last week from its operational areas in Johannesburg, Soweto, Germiston and Verdeniging. The clampdown had been sanctioned by a court interdict that was effective from June 17.

Metrorail applied for the interdict after it declared that its operational areas were not suitable for hawkers whose activities, it said, posed health hazards to commuters.

Hours before the interdict could come into force on June 17, Metrorail effectively put the eviction on hold, declaring that hawkers had agreed to be relocated to trading sites near the

Metrorail operational areas.

However, this was denied by Sekese, who said the evictions were still going on with the help of members of the South African Police Service.

It has now become a cat-and-mouse battle between Metrorail security personnel and hawkers, who continue to sell their goods stealthily.

"People are going hungry because hawking is their only means of survival. Even commuters are suffering because they enjoy our service," three hawkers complained.

Metrorail spokeswoman Ms Bantu Petsana was not available for comment yesterday. A person at her office said she would only be available next week.

(153A) FM16/7/99

WHAT TRADERS ARE EARNING

On Smal Street; not Diagonal

Telling someone how much you earn is never easy, least of all telling a stranger. But when traders in Johannesburg's Smal street agree to talk, it is clear that though SA's large informal sector puts food on the table for many South Africans, profit margins are slim.

Leonard Shisano is twenty-something and has a grade 10 education. Together with his brother's contribution, his R600 a month salary provides for their family of 11. For two years he has been working for a man who owns several stalls, selling sweets and chocolates on the streets. He is looking for other work but says it is impossible to do so while he is working.

Daring the early morning chill offers modest reward for Nozuko Ngamba, who takes home about R3 100 in a good month. She spends about R1 000 of it on new stock and uses the rest to look after her two children and an unemployed husband.

Ngamba's current site is the best she has found in her five years of trading on the streets. "Selling next to the foreigners is advantageous because they sell more expensive stuff like clothes and shoes. A buyer who gets change is more likely to spend it on my products," she says.

She says her face cloths, toothbrushes and socks sell faster after the 25th and before the 10th of each month.

An elderly trader who sells a variety of muti says business is not good. The muti that cleanses the blood system, acts as a laxative and protects against evil spirits brings this man about R820 a month. He looks after himself and his youngest child who is still at school. On a good day he earns R100, on a bad day R30.

In Rosebank, one of the few foreigners who does not sell curios says he sells bags because he came to SA to do business with South Africans, not tourists.

He comes from Senegal, and owns a clothing store in Abidjan. He does not have an identity document and says this makes it impossible for him to open a small shop. His major problems are the thieves who seem to target foreign traders. He makes about R2 500 a month and uses some of it to pay for rent and new stock. If he manages to clear more than R1 000 he sends some of it home.

Siyabulela Qoqo

CP 18/7/99
(153A)

Police arrest nine hawkers, deport three



ILLEGAL

at the Dunsfont railway station on the East Rand

By DOMINIC MAHLANGU

UNREST broke out yesterday at the Dunsfont railway station on the East Rand after police moved in to arrest hawkers who were trading illegally at the station. Police arrested nine hawkers who were trading inside the station.

They were all charged with contravening a court interdict issued by Wits Metrorail which does not allow trading inside rail stations.

Police said three of the hawkers would be deported as

they were without valid South African documents.

"We were following court orders when we arrested the hawkers," said Boksburg police station Captain Willem Coetsee.

The action taken by police comes after Wits Metrorail applied for a court interdict in the high court for trading to be banned in all of its rail stations. Wits Metrorail said they took the decision to remove the hawkers from their platforms and trains because this was having a negative effect on

their business. The rail company said in a statement that the hawkers' trading made many of their platforms inaccessible to passengers.

"Hawkers who trade on rail platforms and in trains put their lives in danger by trading close to the rail track," the statement said.

Wits Metrorail communications officer Bintu Pitsana said the move to remove hawkers from stations was taken after considering both the hawkers and Metrorail passengers.

Metrorail moves to evict hawkers

TARZAN MBITA
STAFF REPORTER

The battle lines are drawn between Metrorail and train station platform hawkers — and neither party, it seems, is willing to back down.

Metrorail is seeking a court order against the informal hawkers who ply their trade on platforms and trains.

A total of 59 hawkers have been served with notices telling them they have until August 10 to show why Metrorail should not evict them.

Steve Ngobeni, chief of security services for Metrorail, said: "We have nothing against the hawkers, but they pose a safety hazard. These hawkers are reckless."

less in that they leave the trains and platforms dirty, and Metrorail has to get people to clean up after them.

"Furthermore, the Occupational Safety Act stipulates that should any of our commuters be injured or maimed through negligence on our part, we will be held liable."

"What if any of our passengers slips on the orange peels and other stuff in the trains, who will pay for that?"

Metrorail spokeswoman Riana Jacobs said complaints from commuters had influenced the decision to take action.

"These people should ply their trade elsewhere, and not on our trains and platforms," she said. "They are a menace to passen-

gers, in that they block train doors which puts the lives of travellers at risk."

But Thandani Pama, a father of four teenagers who recently lost his job with a construction company and now helps his hawker wife, Njongile, has a different view.

"We don't obstruct passengers, instead we offer an essential service to our people," he said. "Do we have to resort to crime in order to earn a living?"

Veteran hawker Mcebisi Dosini said: "In the Western Cape alone there are about 700 hawkers, and what Metrorail aims to achieve with the court order is to deprive us of an honest income."

"My children are on holiday from the Eastern Cape, and they

help me with the business. Must I tell them not to come back again because there won't be money to pay for their fare, food and clothing? We will fight them in court."

Elliot Kakabantu, a hawker for four years, said: "We proposed to Metrorail (that) it lets us pay a levy to stay on the platforms."

Regular passengers are divided on the issue.

One wanted the hawkers to go, but a Khayelitsha man, who works in the city, said Metrorail would be doing commuters a disservice if hawkers were banned.

"Those sweets are helpful, especially on a Monday morning, when you have had a bad breakfast after a heavy weekend drinking," he said.

Vendors told to 'make tracks'

EP 25/7/99

(153A)

Train vendors, a common feature on metropolitan trains, are fighting a battle for their survival against Metrorail authorities. Andile Noganta ventures into the lives of these ordinary people trying to rise above their ordinariness

IT'S OPEN season on 'amasnoksara', the men thought to number a couple of thousand who peddle anything from peanuts to combs to toilet rolls on metropolitan trains.

Wits Metrorail is busy kicking them off its station platforms. In fact, it does not want them anywhere near its trains.

Wits Metrorail says the vendors are hindering free movement and thereby endangering its commuters.

The amasnoksara say: "All of a sudden we are a threat to commuters when we are in fact trying to earn a living for our families."

Wits Metrorail says the move is part an attempt to eradicate crime on the platforms.

The amasnoksara say "Rubbish we are the ones who deal with the criminal element on the trains."

It is a turf war of sorts, a tug-of-war between the operators of the railway lines and the men who have built up a mini industry on the periphery of the commuter services.

Metrorail seems to be saying "we have the right to operate these trains and the tracks they run on". The train stock and infrastructure are actually owned by the South African Rail Commuter Corporation operated by Metrorail under what is called a concessioning agreement - a system whereby state assets are managed by another party for purposes of greater efficiency and profitability.

For their part the vendors are struggling to retain their livelihood, which for some amount to family businesses and have enabled fathers to send their kids to school.

Others still reminisce about doing business in the days of the old South African Railways, when train vendors were still so few that some faces were familiar to commuters, if not famous.

It looks like a bizarre battle for survival - bizarre when you think that it is one man demanding to take out an existence on somebody else's terrain.

It becomes a totally different issue when one thinks that for 100 years the train



BACK IN BUSINESS Petrus Zwane says he spent last weekend in police cells for selling at the New Canada station. Picture Mpho Mphahle

They must leave us alone."

Right along the Soweto route on Tuesday all the talk was about the arrests. The cameraderie among the vendors was very palpable. And so was the vado.

A lot of them said they were not scared of being arrested and chided some young children selling on the platforms at Langlaagte station with words like "Tell whoever sent you here if we get caught we don't want to go to cells with kids."

Train vending is a subculture closely linked to township life. The beer vending side of the business is a little more territorial.

"Amasnoksara" have their standing customers. They know who operates between West Gate and New Canada.

The patrons inside the trains are also so well known that the vendors just drop the cold pints with the customers' move on to another carriage and

take over from them. And the envisaged contractor is said to be one of those "comrades in business".

Metrorail spokesperson Buntu Patsana refused to comment on this.

But if it is true it is a serious indictment on the black professional middle class who run Metrorail and the black bourgeoisie who embrace money-making at whatever cost - even if it means depriving less privileged people of the opportunity to earn a living.

Serathi, who has been a train vendor for six years, says he supports a family that includes two children with his trade.

He is puzzled as to why what he does is now being criminalised.

common criminals," says Serathi.

Buyeye, also of Orange Farm and a newcomer to train vending, says he took over his brother Mongezi's stall after Mongezi was robbed and shot dead three months ago at a spot not far from where he now trades at the Langlaagte station.

"We can put food on the table with the little we get from the trains. It's better than robbing someone of his money," Buyeye says.

A lot of them spoke of escaping a life of crime, eking out a living on the trains and holding their heads high as family

providers. Now, all that is being threatened by what seems to be an ill-considered and

cold business decision. One still wonders how the vendors affect Metrorail's bottom line, if at all.

and came away wishing he was a more accomplished actor

Pictures: George Mashini



A DIFFERENT WORLD City Press man Andile Noganta got an experience of a day in the life of a smoksara



sand who peddle anything from peanuts to combs to toilet rolls on metropolitan trains.

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It's a turf war of sorts, a tug-of-war between the operators of the railway lines and the men who have built up a multi-million industry on the periphery of the commuter services.

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Others still reminisce about doing business in the days of the old South African Railways, when train vendors were still so few that some faces were familiar to commuters, if not famous.

It looks like a bizarre battle for survival, - bizarre when you think that it is one man demanding to eke out an existence on somebody else's terrain.

It becomes a totally different issue when one thinks that some of these traders have families who survive on what they make selling on the trains.

But the line between business and moral considerations is sometimes very thin.

This battle has already given rise to some minor skirmishes over the last two weeks a few vendors having run ins with the Metrorail security the eyes and ears of the company on the trains.

Petrus Serathi of Orange Farm says he spent the weekend at the Orlando police station last week, after being arrested at New Canada station in Soweto on Friday.

Luke Serathi, Petrus Zwane and Mzwane Buye, I too could have been arrested because I was out selling on the train on Tuesday.

It was my lucky day I guess I managed to sell a few bags of my fruit and made the whole trip to Pretoria undetected and with my wares intact.

The Metrorail security was invisible on the day.

But they were in the Germiston area the following morning.

And the vendors were not.

Business around the Germiston route seems quite brisk, but the "amasomksara" were not there that day.

But maybe not so strange. Maybe they had been tipped off about the monitoring of the route by Metrorail's security.

The vast network of vendors does not preclude the possibility of their having plants in the rail security network.

Or perhaps they had gone to the planned gathering at the New Canada station.

They had decided to start their own mass action at the station on Wednesday, where they were going to assemble with their wares and invite arrest.

On Tuesday one of them said, "If they



BACK IN BUSINESS... Petrus Zwane says he spent last weekend in police cells for selling at the New Canada station

Picture Mpho Mphofho

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Right along the Soweto route on Tuesday all the talk was about the arrests.

The cameraderie among the vendors was very palpable. And so was the bravado.

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Train vending is a subculture closely linked to township life.

The bear vending side of the business is a little more territorial.

"Amasomksara" have their standing customers.

They know who operates between West Gate and New Canada.

The patrons inside the trains are also so well-known that the vendors just drop the cold prints with the customers, move on to another carriage and come back to collect.

And they know where each customer gets off.

You can't "chance" the language of the trade, a medley of charming birdcalls and some one-liners laced with township lingo.

Unless you are a very good actor, you can't easily mimic seasoned train vendors.

I discovered that on Tuesday the lingo is what defines the characters that the subculture has spawned.

It's a good thing I wasn't trading on anyone's territory on Tuesday.

The oranges and apples I was selling were "safe" merchandise to push on the trains, I gathered.

There are recognised territories, like the beer one. Apparently, it's just not on to muscle in on someone else's territory.

There's some kind of organisation that is going on here.

One suspects a semblance of a social strata even exists with the subterranean life of the army of rats that chase food across the tracks of a cold Jeppe station.

That's life on the tracks.

A common concern along the tracks this week was "Why now?"

There is a bitter irony in this. The economy is shedding jobs.

Spoornet was talking retrenchment recently while those who are trying to make a living by vending their goods on trains and stations are being told it is illegal.

"Talk is tin the hawl!"



Picture Mpho Mphofho

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A DIFFERENT WORLD... City Press man Andile Nogatia got an experience of a day in the life of a smokkara

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Pictures George Mashini

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Traders vs Metrorail

JASPER MULDER (153A)
ET 11/18/99

ABOUT 600 hawkers marched to the High Court yesterday to seek a decisive answer on their future

This follows a court case brought by Metrorail against 58 hawkers, represented by two associations, who had allegedly been causing problems around Cape Town central station

According to the railway company, the hawkers have been harassing commuters

The hawkers believe their future is in danger if they are barred from trading in and around stations "All of us are working hard every day to just get by to pay our bills and to feed our families. If they send us away, Metrorail is sending people back to crime," said one trader, Sebastian Zooste

According to Zahir Williams, the lawyer representing the hawkers, Metrorail can't send the traders away from its station, because of a 1996 agreement. Metrorail denies any agreement

Traders face strict laws

ET 12/8/99

BUNTY WEST
METRO REPORTER

(153A)

ILLEGAL street vendors from City Bowl to Camps Bay will soon be running for cover as stricter law enforcement becomes a reality. But there will still be room for informal traders alongside the normal retail businesses.

South Africa's northern neighbour, Zambia, recently banished its 5 000 street vendors from Lusaka's streets, but it is not likely to happen in central Cape Town where 600 informal traders jostle for pavement space.

Zambia took the initiative recently in a bid to stop the smell of rotten garbage, clear the sidewalks of litter and stalls, prevent the spread of diseases like cholera and provide people with a clean pavement on which to walk.

Lusaka council staff moved in and destroyed the stalls and relocated vendors to a central market. Others moved out to the townships on the outskirts of the city.

While retail shop owners in the centre of Cape Town complain that the street traders are destroying their business and making the pavements unsafe, Cape Town officials are slow in enforcing existing by-laws. They say a shortage of manpower is the main reason for them not being able to rid the inner city of traders, who often flout health and other laws in an effort to make a living.

"We would like to limit the number of street traders and there are by-laws which should be adhered to. But we do not have the personnel to police them

properly," said Cape Town council's manager for informal businesses, Hanief Tiseker.

Percy Siwisa, the council's informal trading area manager between the City Bowl and Llandudno, said the traders were now better regulated and this was phase one of a continuing process. He said phase two would reduce street traders further and move them into proper markets.

"We need an integrated approach to the flouting of health laws, but need the fire and cleansing departments as well as the Medical Officer of Health to work together if we are to clear the streets.

"All food traders should have licences, but this isn't happening. Next week we will have 10 extra enforcement officers on the streets to start fining people who are flouting the by-laws," Siwisa said.

Street traders in Fish Hoek's main street were recently moved to an alternative site by South Peninsula officials, after complaints from the retailers, and next month Siwisa will table a report on the reduction of informal vendors in Camps Bay, where only 25 will be allowed to trade during the holiday season. "The next step is to limit informal trading in Green Point and Sea Point," Siwisa said.

But Jeremy Pinn, who has a business in the city centre, believes that unless the street vendors move out of Cape Town, the retailers, who pay rates and taxes, will leave.

"Can we co-exist with the street traders? I don't think so," he said.

Jobs pour out of Coke's retail system

(153A) ET (R) 20/8/99

SHIRLEY JONES

The soft drinks industry plays a pivotal part in job creation while helping thousands of entrepreneurs transform small operations into viable businesses according to an independent economic study which is one of the most complete informal sector surveys ever.

Coca-Cola said this week the study into linkages between large multinationals and local businesses had been kick started by research into the effects of soft drink networks on transitional economies in central and eastern Europe.

The study was conducted by Wefa Southern Africa, the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research and the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business in the US.

Donald Knauss, the president of the southern African division of Coca-Cola, said the study was unique. It stretched traditional economic thinking to include downstream distribution.

The research showed how trade, and not just production, created jobs and underlined market development.

"For the first time a study investigated how retail and wholesale ventures, including the informal sector, fitted within the larger framework of business systems that make up modern markets in Africa," Knauss said.

The study depicted Coca-Cola as a system or alliance of companies spanning the official regional head office, with local bottlers and canners making products under the trademark.

A larger constellation of businesses which revolved around this core included suppliers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers with an employment base ranging from plant managers to street vendors. This network extended from large cities to urban townships and even into some of the most remote rural areas.

According to the study, the informal sector was flourishing. It played an important role in local development as formal sector employment declined.

During the first half of 1998, while this research was under way, unemployment in the formal sector dropped by 211 000. The unemployment rate, already over 30 percent, was expected to climb.

No global brand was more prevalent in informal trade in South Africa than Coca-Cola, the study said. A survey of



815 informal retail outlets, selected to reflect a mix of retail channels and a wide geographical spread, suggested that, through downstream linkages, Coca-Cola provided South Africa's varied small vendors with a high margin, high turnover product.

Coca-Cola products served as a real source of cash flow for approximately 215 000 informal enterprises, Knauss said. "Most of these micro-enterprises not only serve as a safety net when the formal sector of the economy is struggling, but also as a sustainable means of economic support."

"On average many of those micro enterprises earn enough from their Coca-Cola business to cover two thirds of the operating expenses of their overall business, effectively funding investments in other revenue-generating activities."

During 1998 Coca-Cola provided 2,3 percent of South Africa's total

employment. The Coca-Cola network supported 1,9 percent of the country's economically active population and would contribute an estimated 1,4 percent of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1999, the study showed. Coca-Cola directly employed about 16 500 South Africans during 1998, up from 15 000 in 1997. Overall, it was estimated that 178 205 jobs were supported directly and indirectly.

Thus the total employment multiplier was approximately 11, in other words, for every job created in the bottling system, an additional 10 jobs emerged through upstream and downstream linkages.

Further analysis showed that informal trade accounted for 42 percent, or 74 846 of the total 178 205 jobs created by Coca-Cola, followed by the bottling system's production and distribution with 41 percent or 73 064 jobs and capital expansion with 6 percent, or 10 692

The majority of jobs, or 63 percent, were going to blacks, followed by 16 percent to whites. Of the total direct and indirect jobs supported by Coca-Cola's system, 24 percent were highly skilled, 43 percent medium skilled and 33 percent low skilled, roughly reflecting the demographic and occupational mix of the overall economy.

The study revealed that Coca-Cola's total production was valued at R5,1 billion in 1997, rising to about R5,6 billion in 1998 and R6,9 billion in 2000. The total contribution from both this production and the value chain to the GDP in 1998 was R9,8 billion.

Based on the Coca-Cola system's direct expenditures, the value added multiplier was 1,75 percent. The company's share of GDP was expected to rise to 1,6 percent by 2000 if volume outstripped GDP growth as projected.

The government pocketed R3,7 billion comprising R1,9 billion in direct taxes and R1,8 billion in indirect taxes. It should collect at least R300 million from informal trade alone this year, up from R244 million in 1998.

The international Coca-Cola company viewed southern Africa as sacred ground within a global context, Knauss said. Three years ago, it launched a R1,25 billion investment programme to create marketplace infrastructure mainly for South Africans selling their products in emerging communities.

This long term investment would continue to extend the business into less developed segments of the market.

"As part of our push to become a better business partner in southern Africa we've learnt a lot," Knauss said. "First our business can work very well in this region. Second our business can work very well for the people of southern Africa."

The company was operating at 65 percent of capacity and could significantly boost its bottom line and that of informal traders by upping volumes and pushing down prices, he said.

Our biggest obstacle to creating local economic value is maintaining the affordability of our products. Adversely affecting affordability is about R500 million worth of annual costs driven by high sugar costs and excise tax.

If these costs were eliminated we would improve affordability (and) drive more volume through our existing customers, improving their profits and create more micro-enterprises.

(1977)

Jhb hawkers to go

JOHANNESBURG: The familiar pyramids of peanuts, tomatoes and takkies will start disappearing from pavements here from today when the Greater Metropolitan Council starts evicting hawkers from Braamfontein.

City Manager Ketso Gordhan said yesterday they could not handle the hawkers' litter, restricted pavements, or the impact on rentals and occupancy. Demarcated no-go zones for hawkers would be cleared shortly, except for flower and newspaper sellers and authorised food vendors.

Meanwhile, in Yeoville the first of 12 hawker markets is being built to open on December 7 with facilities for cooking, storage and transport, at rentals from R5 to R40 a day — Sapa

CT 28/9/99

Johannesburg starts to evict hawkers

(153A)

Sowetan 28/9/99

THE familiar pyramids of peanuts, tomatoes and takkies will start disappearing from Johannesburg's city pavements from today when the Greater Metropolitan Council starts evicting hawkers from Braamfontein.

City manager Mr Ketso Gordhan said yesterday the city could no longer cope with the litter generated by the hawkers.

He said the dangers associated with restricted pavement space have had an impact on the Johannesburg's rentals and office occupancy rates.

"About 60 percent of the rubbish picked up is caused by hawkers,"

Gordhan said.

He said this was also placing a huge strain on the sewerage system.

After a long period of assessment, certain parts of the city had been demarcated "no-go zones" for hawkers.

The council planned to have them cleared within weeks.

Meanwhile, construction has already started in Yeoville on the first of 12 hawker markets planned to serve the city.

The Yeoville market would open on December 7 and would have cooking facilities, storage space and a transport link.

Rentals were expected to range

from R5 to R40 a day.

Council spokeswoman Ms Jenny Moodley said the by-law that governs the removal of the hawkers was gazetted in 1991, but the team to enforce the law was only recently established.

Certain types of traders would be allowed to remain - flower and newspaper sellers and food vendors who traded from authorised stalls.

In certain areas, intersection traders would also be banned.

Reacting to the news, a Braamfontein hawker, who did not want to be named, exclaimed "This business is my food - it is my life. What can I eat? What can I do?" - Sapa

Hawkers resist removal

South African 29/9/99 (153A)

By Charity Bhengu

A NUMBER of hawkers were arrested for allegedly hindering law-enforcers in executing their duties during the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council's crackdown on street vendors in Braamfontein yesterday.

This follows the council's decision to remove hawkers from the pavements of Braamfontein business centre to designated trading areas one of which will be opened in Yeoville on December 1.

Council officials were confronted by about 300 angry hawkers, some of whom tried to prevent them from confiscating their goods.

One of them was Mr Patrick Dlamini, who had failed to heed the council's 48-hour notice to vacate the area.

"I am making an honest living. I am not a criminal. Where am I supposed to go? The council has not provided us with another area to use," said Dlamini before he was dragged off to a waiting van.

His goods - pots, trolleys and stoves - were seized in terms of section 18 of the street trading by-laws of the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council.

Council spokeswoman Ms Jenny Moodley said the hawkers were given enough time to vacate Braamfontein's streets.

"We will release a report on how the eviction went today," she said.

By 11am, pots with food, braai stands, fruit, vegetables, sweets, clothes and radios worth thousands of rands had been confiscated.

Two trucks were packed with goods before they headed for the council's storage depot at the corner of Main and Goch streets.

According to the council, the goods will be released after proof of ownership is provided and all costs incurred by the council in the seizure paid and penalties imposed in terms of the street trading by-laws have been settled.

Johannesburg police spokeswoman Inspector Mary Martins-Engelbrecht said, "The council had their own officials carrying out the raid.

"Our members were just monitoring the situation. We do not know how



Patrick Dlamini, a hawker who was found selling food in Jorissen Street in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, yesterday, is restrained by a policeman during an arrest. His trolleys, pots and gas stoves were confiscated.

many people were arrested, where the council took them or if they will be charged."

The hawkers said their children would starve because the council had not given them an alternative place to set up their stalls.

In addition they also feared they would not be able to raise R500 for the fine before their goods were returned.

Morris Monise, who had hidden his goods from the officials, went back to sell fruit about 30 minutes later.

"Street trading is a permanent component of our city economy. It needs to be managed and not eliminated," he said.

PHOTO: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

Defiant hawkers return to streets of Braamfontein (153A)

By Charity Bhengu

DESTITUTE hawkers who were removed by council officials earlier this week were back on the pavements with new stock yesterday

This follows the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council's decision to remove hawkers from the Braamfontein business centre on Tuesday

The aim was to accommodate them in designated trading areas, one of which will be opened in Yeoville only on December 1

However, with "nowhere to go" in the meantime, about 30 hawkers returned yesterday, putting up their stalls in Jorissen and De Korte Streets

Relatives were standing on street corners to tip hawkers off so that they could pack pack their goods before authorities arrived to confiscate them

Vincent Sithole who was selling fruit on the corner of Jorissen and De Beer Streets said he came back to make up for the loss he had incurred the previous day when the authorities confiscated R400 worth of goods

"What am I supposed to do in the meantime while the Yeoville trading centre is being constructed I have to raise money to

pay rent or the landlord will throw me and my children out in the street"

Ms Nomthandazo Ndzunga of Soweto said she had five mouths to feed and her children would starve if she obeyed the Council's order

"I am not refusing to move out of Braamfontein I will do so in December when the Council opens the Yeoville trading centre In the meantime, I have to survive," she said

Ms Virginia Conco who has two children said "There are no offices in Yeoville and I will never be able to make my daily intake of R150 profit So, I am going nowhere"

One of the street traders said that the Yeoville hawkers had refused them space, saying they would take their customers away

Widow Mrs Ellen Mohlawule said "Come what may, I have to feed my children I lost goods during the raid and had to buy new stock I will continue hiding from the police but am going nowhere"

In a press conference yesterday, councillor Mr Kenny Fihla said he expected the destitute hawkers to move into areas which had not been declared restricted trading areas

Sowetan 30/9/99

12 000 hawkers to protest evictions

Sowetan 11/10/99 (153A)

By Ndivhuwo Khangale

ABOUT 12 000 hawkers will march to the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC) on Tuesday next week to protest against the council's evictions of street vendors in Braamfontein and the Johannesburg city centre.

President of the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) Mr Lawrence Mavundla said it would be a peaceful march to the council's office in Braamfontein.

He said he believed that the people who were behind the idea of evictions were agents of some sinister forces who wanted to break down the Government.

"They want people to lose jobs and start to revolt against the Government for not creating jobs as is happening in most African states," Mavundla said.

Achib spokesman Mr Cheche

Selepe said they would also present a memorandum demanding, among other things, the resignation of the GJMC's chief executive Mr Ketso Gordhan whom they accused of being racist and fuelling the idea of evicting black micro-businesses from the city.

Selepe said micro-businesses in South Africa were growing fast, from 250 000 people in 1995 to a approximately 1,2 million in 1999, despite racist municipalities' attempts to stop this development. He said hawkers were ready to clean up their trading areas for hygienic reasons and were also prepared to work with the police in combating crime in the city.

"Rather than committing crime, hawkers are helping the Government reduce the unemployment rate."

"Some of the hawkers are educating their children and are running stable families through this kind of trade," Selepe said.

Greenmarket Sq lease scrapped

Markets Company deal cancelled as council calls in investigators

ARG 5/10/99

NORMAN JOSEPH AND HELEN BAMFORD
STAFF REPORTERS

The City of Cape Town has cancelled a Johannesburg company's lease on the Greenmarket Square market amid allegations of irregularities, among them that shares were being held in the company on behalf of a city official.

Executive committee chairman Saleem Mowzer said today that the council had put a series of questions to the Markets Company, which had failed to respond by the deadline.

Consequently, the lease had been cancelled behind closed doors at a council meeting last Thursday.

Mr Mowzer said the matter had also been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the council was investigating allegations of irregularity and impropriety.

The company was to have taken over the market last December, but had not been able to do so when other leaseholders, the Greenmarket Square Traders' Association and the Cape Fleamarkets Association, took the mat-



Unhappy: Badh 'Buddy' Chaaban, who runs part of Greenmarket Square, is behind a court action alleging irregularity in the awarding of a lease to a Johannesburg company

ter to court. The two associations are to be given short-term leases at the market until the matter is resolved.

The Markets Company is behind the successful Rosebank rooftop market in Johannesburg. Director Nic Prumm

said the council's decision came as a shock. "They have not informed us of their decision yet," he said.

Greenmarket Square Traders' Association spokesman Quenton Fredericks said "We are delighted by the decision. At last some of our concerns were taken seriously by local government."

Council spokeswoman Leonora de Souza-Zilwa said the council would be working on a fleamarkets policy for the entire Cape Town area.

Businessman Badh "Buddy" Chaaban, who has run a large part of the market since 1993, took the City of Cape Town to court earlier this year over alleged irregularities in the tender process.

Among the issues he raised was that he had pledged R200 000 a month rental for the market whereas the Markets Company committed only R100 000.

Mr Chaaban runs most of Greenmarket Square after buying out founder Bob Hayward's section. The Greenmarket Square Traders' Association runs the rest.

Mr Chaaban said "It was an irresponsible act on the part of council to forego the extra R100 000 a month they

would have made and now we are sitting with this debacle."

The market's 250 stallholders, who pay on average R35 a day, were oblivious to the cancellation of the lease. Many say they do not care who runs the market or has the lease, as long as they can trade in peace.

"We're always kept in the dark as to what is happening, they don't tell us anything," said Noerjehan Mohamed, one of the stallholders. "All I know is that it's never been so quiet."

Tougieda Carder, who has been working on the market for five years, said business used to be good but lately had quietened down. "Even during the school holidays last week it wasn't busy. We're not making any money."

Traders said crime in the city centre and competition from the Waterfront had hit business.

A stallholder called Monibah said she had been trading on Greenmarket Square for 15 years and had heard nothing about the lease being cancelled. She said she was happy with the way things were run, though the traditional "vibe" that had always been a part of the market was gone.

One million jobs in 'soft sector'

(153A) (30) ~~153~~ MHA 1-7/10/99

More than one million people work in craft-related industries, but the government has yet to come up with financial support for this important sector, writes Barry Streek

Even without government support or recognition the craft industry has emerged as a key element in the South African economy

The latest employment figures reveals that there are more people working in the craft sector than in any other occupational group. The craft sector is also estimated to be worth approximately R1.8 billion.

But apart from some meagre assistance from the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, the government gives the craft sector little support, and no financial assistance, although it consists largely of small enterprises.

The department does, however, have a lead project called the Cultural Industries Growth Strategy, which has included the South African craft industry as one of four cultural industries which should be seriously promoted.

The other three are the film industry, worth about R7.4 billion and employing 20 525 people; the music industry with a turnover of R900-million at a growth rate of 70.7% between 1992 and 1996, and the publishing industry, worth approximately R6-billion and providing employment to 60 000 to 80 000 people.

This adds up to the fact that South Africa's cultural industries are worth more than R16-billion a year.

But it is the unheralded craft sector which provides the most jobs. The latest *Bulletin of Statistics*, which is published quarterly by Statistics South Africa, says there were 1 277 888 "craft and related trades workers" at the end of 1998. Of this number, 879 555 were "Africans/blacks", 152 922 coloureds, 42 102 Indians and 192 920 whites.

The statistics show South Africa to have more crafters than clerks, service workers, agricultural and fishery workers, service and shop workers.

The Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology says the arts and culture sector is often regarded as "soft", a drain on the economy, but "the cultural industries all over the world, from India to the United States, have proved this conventional wisdom wrong. Products of the cultural industries, from the Holly-



With her own hands: The craft industry provides employment for many South Africans, especially women

wood movie to the craft object from the Philippines, are consumed by millions of people all over the globe.

The craft industry in Morocco constitutes 15% of the country's gross domestic product, while the Canadian cultural industries generate \$22-billion and provide 670 000 jobs, and arts and culture in Australia generates \$36-million a year.

The global turnover of the craft industry is estimated at more than \$35 billion (R210 billion) and in the US alone the craft industry generated \$10.65-billion (R65.1 billion) in 1995.

The department says more than a thousand formal craft retail outlets in South Africa sell curios, arts and crafts. Numerous craft markets and several festivals also exist and the informal selling of craft is becoming a familiar feature of our landscape, with craft being sold by the side of roads and busy public spaces.

There are more than 66 formalised markets retailing craft and an unknown number of roadside or sidewalk markets, 707 retail out-

lets identified nationally, 12 websites advertising South African crafts, 21 domestic trade fairs and exhibitions, 28 training facilities for sewing, three national associations and 109 home industry co-operatives.

The craft industry includes a range of utilitarian and decorative items, media, materials and functions ranging from glass, textiles, ceramics and jewellery to curios, industrial appliances and everyday utility objects.

It says there are five broad categories within the craft industry: traditional art, designer goods, craft art, functional wares and souvenirs.

South Africa is not a large player in the global craft industry and unfortunately has a poor reputation in the formal international business sector due to the lack of quality and unreliable supply.

The sector provides important employment for women. Low barriers to entry into the industry have allowed women entrepreneurs to become involved, often adapting traditional

skills such as sewing and beading to generate a source of income. "Craft production is often home-based meaning that women can integrate it with household or agricultural work."

The craft sector is also closely linked with a number of industries, such as tourism and the formal manufacturing and retail sectors.

The department says key obstacles to successful development are linked to a lack of access to credit facilities and micro-finance services, inadequate access to appropriate communication, transport and utilities infrastructure, problems relating to production processes, volumes and deadlines, product quality and product development, irregular and inappropriate market strategies, and difficulty in obtaining materials for production.

Those problems are certainly formidable, but the craft industry is emerging from the shadows.

At least the arts and culture department has recognised its potential. But when will the rest of the government start taking craft seriously?

Hawkers on a 2-day protest

*Sowetan 18/10/99
(1530)*

By Charity Bhengu

THE Gauteng Hawkers Association is to stage a two-day boycott of Johannesburg's fresh produce market in solidarity with about 100 hawkers who were forcibly removed from Braamfontein last month.

Hundreds of hawkers are expected to gather at Rissik Street Park tomorrow and on Wednesday in protest against the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council's (GJMC) decision to end street trading in the central business district.

Spokesman for Gauteng Hawkers

Association Mr Mannetjes Solomon said yesterday "Our protest is against the violent and brutal enforcement of oppressive apartheid legislation – the Business Act of 1991 – which has been manipulated by the council to end street trading."

He said the hawkers' position as major participants in the inner city retail activity was beyond dispute. So, street trading needed to be managed and not eliminated.

"We are not the problem and remain willing to negotiate a fair deal that will provide for co-existence between street traders and the formal

sector in the business centres," said Solomon.

The GJMC forcibly removed 100 hawkers from the Braamfontein CBD and confiscated their property about three weeks ago.

The council said the hawkers would be accommodated at designated trade markets, one of which would be opened in Yeoville in December. Depending on the size of the stalls, hawkers would pay a daily rental of between R5 to R40.

However, only about 360 hawkers would be accommodated at the Yeoville market.

Mogase

Angry hawkers in Jo'burg demo

PHOTO: ANTONIO MUCHAVE

ANGRY hawkers marched through Johannesburg in the rain yesterday, handing petitions of grievance to government officials and demanding that they be left alone and that their goods be not confiscated.

Tensions ran high when more than 1 000 hawkers handed a petition to Gauteng director-general Mr Lulamile Mbete and Gauteng MEC for local government Mr Trevor Fowler outside provincial government offices in Simmonds Street.

The hawkers had hoped to speak to Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa but he was out of town.

Surrounded by more than 100

policemen and traffic officials, hawkers demanded a guarantee that their goods would not be confiscated if they sold them today.

When Fowler and Mbete could not make this promise, the hawkers became angry and started shouting.

Hawker representatives battled to control the protesters.

They voiced their anger through placards bearing the slogans "If we don't sell, it must be crime" and "Return our goods".

Fowler assured hawkers their problems would be addressed and set next Tuesday for a meeting between the hawkers and provincial authorities.

The hawkers claimed that

when their goods were confiscated, council officials stole them or stored them in unhygienic facilities.

While the negotiations for a meeting were taking place, a hawker told Mbete privately how her goods had disappeared without a trace after being confiscated.

The protesters then moved to the Goch Street offices of the chief law enforcement officer of street trading, Mr Uriel Abrahamse.

Gauteng Hawkers Association chairman Mr Mannetjies Solomon said the majority of the confiscated goods were not in the storage area but an official said this was due to two break-ins -

Sapa

(153A)

Hawking bylaws cannot be scrapped, says MEC

Xolani Xundu (153A)

A DEMAND for the scrapping of municipal bylaws prohibiting street trading in the Johannesburg city centre was impossible to fulfil, Gauteng's MEC for development planning and local government, Trevor Fowler, said yesterday.

The Johannesburg metropolitan council is moving hawkers from the streets to formal trading areas. Addressing about 3 000 hawkers who protested against the council's decision to remove hawkers from Braamfontein and confiscate their goods, Fowler said the only thing that the provincial government could do was to ask the council to treat all sectors of the economy, including hawkers, fairly.

"Local government has the right to make bylaws. The bylaws then become part of the country's laws and must be respected by all," he said.

However, bylaws should be fair, and take into account all conditions in the city, "not only the hawkers, but businesses and all residents of the city".

The hawkers, under the umbrella of the Gauteng Hawkers' Association, had marched to the legislature to demand that premier Mbhazima Shilowa give an undertaking that their goods would not be confiscated by the council when they sold on the streets.

Shilowa was not available to accept the memorandum.

Fowler said the provincial government would only discuss how best to achieve the council's goals and that of the hawkers. A meeting between the three interest groups would be held next Tuesday.

Mannetjes Solomon, chairman of the hawkers' association, said "We are going back to where we are trading. And this time we are going to fight."

Earlier, the protesters had marched to the Metropolitan Centre to present a memorandum to Isaac Mogase, the mayor of greater Johannesburg, calling for an end to the banning of street trading in the inner city. Mogase promised he would take the memorandum to the council for discussion.

BD 21/10/99

No deal yet ^(153A) in hawker talks

HAWKERS and the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council met yesterday but remained in disagreement over key issues

The talks followed last week's protests against plans to clear the pavements of traders and move them to designated markets, and the confiscation of hawkers' goods

Yesterday's meeting was disrupted by a march to the Civic Centre in Braamfontein by striking municipal workers which sought the attention of council negotiator and chairman of the Transformation Lekgotla, Mr Kenny Fihla. "We shall follow it up next week Wednesday," Fihla said

Gauteng Hawkers Association chairman Mr Manetjies Solomon said the issue of confiscation would top the agenda at the next meeting. "People can no longer tolerate others taking their goods while we are still talking to council," he said

However, he praised the council for negotiating with the hawkers. "For the last four years we were never given the chance to talk at a meeting. All the time nobody has ever spoken to us"

Asked whether hawkers would be compensated for confiscated goods that they never got back, Fihla said any transgression of procedures would be investigated -
Sapa

27/10/99

Hawkers threaten to boycott inner city shops

By WELCOME SKOSANA

THE GAUTENG Hawkers' Association has threatened the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council with a permanent boycott of all Braamfontein shops if their grievances are not met by the council.

This follows several unsuccessful negotiations between the council and the association, in a meeting that was held on Tuesday this week.

GHA made it clear to the council that they remained opposed to the confiscation of hawkers' stock without recourse to a court of law, and to the use of oppressive and discriminatory legislation.

Edmund Elias, spokesperson for GHA, told City Press that mass prohibition of street trading in an entire suburb was an option they would never consider, but possibilities such as a licensing system and hygienic measures would be taken into consideration.

"Should our request for controlled trading in Braamfontein be refused, we will organise a permanent boycott of Braamfontein shops by office workers. The campaign will drastically reduce retail turn-

over in the area."

Edmunds has called upon the council to fight crime in the area rather than wasting their valuable resources on fighting hawkers, since they have realised that crime is the major cause of the inner city exodus.

"GHA discourages trading of illegal goods, and is not opposed to the new proposed trading market, but we find it strange to realise that the council has made plans for a limited number of hawkers. If the council decides to build a trading market that would accommodate only 300 hawkers, where are we going to place the rest of them?" he asked.

On Tuesday the association handed over a memorandum to Mayor Isaac Mogase calling for an end to the prohibition of informal trading in the inner city. The council responded by saying that they did not prohibit trading in the inner city, but restricted trading to designated areas. The proposed markets would not be a dumping zone for traders as it was in the inner city's interest to ensure the long-term sustainability of the informal trader.

Siti
MIS 71

Informal traders to air grievances

Patrick Wadula

(153A)

THE African Chamber of Hawkers and Informal Business (Achib) is to hold a march and mass meeting today in Pretoria, to make their complaint of constant harassment by the SA Police Service known to Provincial and Local Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

The organisation's president Lawrence Mavundla said yesterday in Johannesburg that following "a raw deal" given by government officials in Pretoria, street traders in and around greater Pretoria metropolitan substructure had taken the resolution to call a two-day stayaway from selling their wares on the street pavements on November 9 and 10.

He said a memorandum would be handed to Mufamadi, Gauteng local government MEC Trevor Fowler and greater Pretoria's mayor.

Mavundla said the mass meeting to be held at the Pretoria City Hall would be making several demands.

These include stopping alleged harassment and confiscation of Achib members' goods by police. The hawkers would also ask that the organisation be recognised as representing them nationally.

Meanwhile, Achib is to hold its annual general conference on November 20 and 21 at the Pretoria showgrounds. This year's conference would be addressing issues pertaining to bylaws, including those relating to legal and illegal immigrants.

Other areas to be discussed are provincial ordinances and national regulatory frameworks that affect microbusinesses.

Mavundla said hygiene, food handling and infrastructural support training would be looked into. Access to finance, procurement and blacklisting of hawkers with credit bureaus would also be looked at.

"The main objectives of the conference will be to involve hawkers and informal businesses in decision-making and for them to play a significant role in writing bylaws, issuing of permits and to be considered for tenders," he said.

Speakers at the conference would include Pretoria mayor Joyce Ngele, deputy trade and industry minister Lindiwe Hendricks and Congress of SA Trade Unions general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi.

BD 10/11/99

Hawkers host conference

Sowetan 11/11/99
By Sowetan Business Reporter

THE subject of by-laws – including legal and illegal immigrants, provincial ordinances and national regulatory frameworks that affect micro-businesses – will take centre stage when the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Achib) hosts its conference

The council will hold its two-day conference on November 20 – 21 at the Pretoria Showgrounds

Other topical issues to be considered include hygiene, food handling, infrastructural support training, access to finance, procurement, credit bureaus and problems of supply and distribution

Over 2000 delegates are expected to attend the conference

Achib's constituency includes spaza shops, hawkers, local authorities, property owners, micro-businesses, small business development agencies, business advice centres and members of the private sector

Achib president Lawrence Mavundla said the main objective of the conference will be to involve hawkers and informal businesses in decision making and in writing by-laws

It will also cover the issuing permits and the opening of tender opportunities for hawkers

Mavundla said it was also imperative that Achib establish a strong relationship with local authorities

He lamented the fact that there have been several cases of oppression of vendors, including harassing and ill-treatment

He said that in most cases they are not consulted about issues affecting them

Achib's conference is expected to be addressed by Pretoria mayor Joyce Ngele, National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Steve Skhosana, Trade and Industry deputy minister Lindiwe Ngwane as well as Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima

Vavi

(153A)

Hawkers end talks after raid

GAUTENG hawkers have threatened to take their battle to the streets after council workers confiscated goods from street vendors in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, yesterday

Gauteng Hawkers Association chairman Mr Manjetjes Solomon said his organisation deemed the negotiations between itself and the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council over "We'll fight our battle in the streets and in public," he said

The city's executive committee vice-chairman, Mr Kenny Fihla, said he found the GHA's attitude unfortunate, but the council would try to resuscitate talks

He denied the council had given an undertaking that bylaw enforcement would be suspended

Acting inner city manager Mr Graeme Reid said the raid was an enforcement of a bylaw that made certain types of street trading in Braamfontein illegal

He said that although the GHA had asked for a moratorium on confiscations during negotiations, this had never been granted

The GHA and the GJMC had continued negotiations on Wednesday and were to have met again next Thursday "We have been back-bitten and double-crossed by Councillor Kenny Fihla," Solomon said

GJMC spokeswoman Ms Jenny Moodley said there had been an escalation in problems reported surrounding hawking in Braamfontein since talks commenced between the council and the GHA on October 26, after a march by hawkers on October 20

"Yesterday, we held a meeting at the Metropolitan Centre as part of negotiations intended to lead us to bringing rapid order to informal trading. The council never indicated its intention to confiscate stock today. It is obvious that they are not serious about a negotiated settlement with street traders," Solomon said

"If this arrogant attitude continues Johannesburg can kiss its 2002 goodbye. People's participation on a negotiated basis remains vital for it to succeed," Solomon said - Sapa

Talks put smile on hawkers' faces

Nicola Jenvey.

(1999)

DURBAN — Informal traders, hotels and restaurants received a welcome boost during the Commonwealth heads of government meeting this weekend with a survey conducted by the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry indicating a significant increase in turnover.

Durban Chamber CE Jeya Wilson said informal traders along the beachfront, hawking traditional beadwork and baskets, witnessed an average 125% hike in sales, as Commonwealth delegates purchased African memorabilia.

Several traders were requested to market their work at the exhibition centre adjacent to the Inter-

national Convention Centre, where the conference was held.

Local restaurants counted an average 50% increase in weekly turnover during the conference, while every hotel and most of the bed and breakfast establishments in the city were filled to capacity.

One Durban Chamber member company housed its international visitors in bed and breakfasts on discovering the "full house" signs at hotels. "The Commonwealth meeting has given Durban an opportunity to showcase itself to the world, while making a significant contribution to the local economy," she said.

Wilson congratulated those people whose efforts, care and attention contributed to the suc-

cess of the four-day event.

The conference was held almost without incident and comments from delegates indicate they were "highly impressed with security arrangements."

A suspicious car packed near the convention centre, left unattended for longer than 10 minutes, was blown up by police after sniffer dogs reacted.

The centre received accolades for the efficiency and professionalism of its staff and the excellent facilities provided. "Durban is undoubtedly the top convention destination in Africa," Wilson said.

The next challenge is the World AIDS Conference in July, which will attract 12 000 delegates, making it the largest event held in Africa.

(153A)

Sumetan 7/12/99

By Justice Mohale

THE dispute between the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC) and the Yeoville Hawkers Association (YHA) ended yesterday when more than 400 hawkers signed a lease agreement to use the newly constructed Rocky Street Market from Monday

the council's Inner City projects Mr Graeme Reid said the move indicated the council's commitment to formalising street trading

"When the project is completed on Friday, the market will have 350 trading spaces. It will also have

offices, bathrooms and showers, a performance stage and a mini taxi rank," he said.

Reid said only hawkers who were already trading informally in the streets of Yeoville had been given first priority in the allocation of sites.

The market, which is still under-construction at the corner of Cavendish and Rocky streets, would cost more than R5 million when the project is completed

Reid said the signing of the agreement indicated the hawkers' commitment to selling their goods in a clean environment.

He said the council had conducted several workshops to teach the

Yeoville hawkers about the maintenance of the market, business management and good service provision and customer care.

Metro Trading Company would provide security guards and cleaners to ensure the environment was secured and clean

Rentals range from R3,75 to R60 a day depending on the size and location of the site

"Each trader will have to indicate whether they would like to pay per day, weekly or monthly

"They will pay the amount agreed to on the lease agreement until they are better established," Reid added.

'Regulation reduces (153A) expenses'

AD 13/12/99

Xolani Xundu

GOVERNMENT was committed to developing facilities for small-scale trading in the inner city, Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa said.

He was speaking at the opening of the R5m, Rockey Street Market in Yeoville on Friday. He said recent marches by hawkers had left many people wondering whether government cared about informal trading.

"This venture dispels this myth and instead displays our commitment in this regard," he said.

Through the Metropolitan Trading Company, established by the Johannesburg metropolitan council and the provincial government, six other trading markets will be built in and around the city.

"I must reiterate that the intention is not to prohibit trading in the inner city, but to restrict trading to designated and regulated areas," Shilowa said.

Regulation of the informal sector would reduce hidden costs and time incurred in travelling, storage and setting up, costs incurred through the involvement of third parties and incidents of drug abuse on the streets, he said.

Shilowa urged the private sector and other spheres of government to invest in the informal sector which provided income for the destitute.

"We know that it (the informal sector) makes a significant contribution to the economy of our province, which in turn constitutes 38% of our country's gross domestic product," said Shilowa.

Kenny Fihla, chairman of the Johannesburg council's transformation committee, said the council wanted to make the inner city a place where people could live and trade with relative ease and safety.

He said local government had to defend sectors of society which were afforded little significance by market forces.

Hawkers vow to boycott market

By Vusi Ndlovu

THE Gauteng Hawkers' Association (GHA) said yesterday it would not allow its members to use the new Yeoville market and accused the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC) of wanting to "enrich themselves at the expense of poor hawkers". Angry members of the GHA said they could not afford the money the council charged for rent. They accused the council of taking unilateral decisions regarding the operation of the market.

The chairman of the GHA, Mr. Manjetje Solomon, said: "We were not consulted about the operation of this market. The council used delaying tactics when we had to have meetings on how we were going to operate. Instead of adding on what we have, the council wants to take away."

"What's happening is reminiscent of apartheid laws. These people were applying

the Group Areas Act, then they forced us from the streets to make trading the preserve of the whites," he said.

Hawkers also complained that the stalls were small and that most of the people allocated space were foreigners.

GJMC's acting inner city manager, Mr. Graeme Reid, denied the allegations levelled against the council. He said there had been consultations and they had reached consensus with the GHA in all the conditions of trading in the new market.

Explaining the criteria in which the stalls were allocated, he said, "People applied for stalls and were placed on the waiting list. When the market opened, the 351 stalls were already booked. We charge R53 per month for small stalls."

He denied claims that he was a director of the market and said the market was under the management of the Metropolitan Trading Company.

Hawkers to trade after deal signed

(153A)

News Jan 16/12/99

By Justice Mohale
and Vusi Ndlovu

YEOVILLE hawkers who signed a lease agreement with the Greater Johannesburg's Metropolitan Trading Company last week to use the newly built Rocky Street Market will officially start using it on Monday.

The agreement was reached yesterday between the company and leaders of the Yeoville Hawkers Association (YHA).

Johannesburg's acting inner city project manager, Mr Graeme Reid, said the agreement was reached after a protracted meeting with the leaders of the YHA yesterday.

Agreement was reached on three of the issues that had prevented trading at the market to start on Monday this week.

"Initially the hawkers were protesting against the size of the stalls, the use of storage space in the market as well as rentals. Now that we have agreed on the formula and terms of selling in this market, business will commence as usual," Reid said.

He said the company had agreed in principle that the traders who would have moved in the market tomorrow would qualify for a discount of the stall rental until January 15 next year.

Reid said the company had also

acceded to the YHA's proposal that only traders who had already been selling on Yeoville streets should be given priority.

"The leaders of the association have to be at the forefront of the process of identifying those traders who have not been allocated stalls but were trading there," he said.

YHA chairman Mr Themba Nxusani said the association was grateful because the hawkers would start trading as usual and in a more clean and secured environment.

He also thanked the council for constructing a market that would also serve as shelter for the hawkers.

On Tuesday, the YHA had resolved at a meeting to go back to street trading and defy an order by the GJMC to use the new market.

The hawkers reiterated their complaints that the stalls at the market were too small and that the trading area was limited.

They also complained that the rent was exorbitant and that the council was trying to enrich itself at their expense.

However, they said they were prepared to continue negotiations with the council.

"Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will send a letter to Mr Kenny Fihla's (head of the GJMC's Transformation Lekgotla) office to demand negotiations with the council."

Informal sector not necessarily poor

Jonathan Katzenellenbogen

Survey for the World Bank contradicts some popular beliefs

THE informal sector in the Cape Town area is far from the popular image of being overwhelmingly black, poor and uneducated, an investigation for the World Bank says.

A recent study has found that 56% of those involved in the informal sector in Cape Town have finished high school and have some tertiary education.

Nearly half are unqualified, but work as car mechanics, welders and upholsterers. A further 30% work in semiskilled areas such as trading. And 20% were found to be certified professionals in areas like teaching, plumbing and electrical work.

The study, by economic con-

sultants Valerie Flanagan and Dena Lomofsky, is part of an investigation into the informal sector for the World Bank.

It was based on a survey of 1 094 informal sector operators in the Cape Town area.

The authors say the racial breakdown of the survey participants — 38% coloured, 34% white and 28% black — is representative of the informal sector in the area.

The study shows that earnings in the sector tend to be well above those required for survival. About 60% of those polled for the study earned between R3 000 and R5 000 a month.

The study — titled Informal Employment in SA: its changing dynamics and implications for social welfare — recommends that incentives be used to bring informal businesses into the tax and regulatory net.

One conclusion of the study is that informal businesses are not necessarily progressing into the formal sector. It says there is no real incentive to make the move to the formal sector, and once it is made there are few perceived benefits.

It finds that while businesses may be registered, many are in the position to reduce tax payments as a result of a high level

of cash transactions.

The study also says government should look at allowing informal businesses to make voluntary contributions to state pension, unemployment, and medical schemes.

In Spain and some South American countries state support for medical aid and the unemployed has enabled a greater number to enter the informal sector as it reduces concerns about the loss of social benefits.

Only 47% of those in the sample had made provisions for when they were unable to work.

One of the report's findings

was that most who entered the informal sector did so voluntarily and for reasons that were not strictly economic, such as the opportunity to work for oneself.

About 82% of the people surveyed said they chose to stay in the informal sector either because it provided better opportunities or greater satisfaction, or because they could earn more. Three-quarters of those surveyed had worked in the formal sector, and most found that their income was higher and believed there were more opportunities in the informal sector.

Only 6% in the survey sample said their informal sector job was temporary and there was little evidence of people moving to formal sector employment.