

LESOTHO — GENERAL —

1990

# Hundreds stranded in Lesotho floods

**TWENTY** four people died and 254 others were left homeless when heavy rains and floods destroyed farms, huts and livestock in the mountain villages of Lesotho at the weekend.

Seventeen people drowned in Quting and another seven in Qacha's Nek. Two of them were children. No names have been released yet.

A spokeswoman for the Lesotho Red Cross Society said 92 homes were destroyed when they were engulfed by flood waters from the Tele River

## 24 killed as Tele River bursts

By **MZIKAYISE**  
**EDOM**

She said: "The death toll could be higher but helicopters provided by the Royal Lesotho Defence Force cannot reach the remote areas. It is still raining heavily there."

The Red Cross has donated 400 blankets and

100 tents while the Lesotho government has provided the destitute families with food parcels.

About R1 000 has been collected by local residents to help the families rebuild their huts.

The spokeswoman said they still needed more tents and food parcels for the homeless families.

Operation teams from the Red Cross and Lesotho government were still searching for more bodies and clearing debris from the devastated areas at the time of going to press.

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## Four killed, arms found in Lesotho

MASERU — Three insurgents and a soldier were killed in Lesotho and a large store of automatic rifles and other weapons was seized, a senior military official said yesterday.

Brigadier-General Benedict Lerothli said security forces surprised four armed members of the Basuto Congress Party on Monday at Ongelus Nek in the south. The fourth member escaped.

Security forces found a large cache of AK-47 rifles and other weapons.

All political parties have been prohibited from activity under the military government which seized power in 1986 after ousting Chief Leabua Jonathan.

The Basuto-Congress Party had waged a limited guerilla insurgency against Chief Jonathan, but had returned from exile two years ago. The clash was the first reported incident since then in the mountain kingdom.

— Sapa-AP —

# Killing of Lesotho leaders: 'Docket removed'

By Joao Santa Rita,  
The Star's Africa  
News Service

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MASERU — The docket on the killing of two former Lesotho Cabinet Ministers and their wives was removed from the police officer who first investigated the case while he was busy searching for a man kidnapped by the killers, an inquest court was told yesterday

Captain Lawrence Moremi told the court that more than three years after the killings he still did not know who was investigating the case

He said he had learnt that the

docket had been taken to the CID offices in Maseru

Captain Moremi was being cross-examined on the deaths of Mr Desmond Sixishe, Mr Vicent Makhele and their wives on November 16 1986 Both men were Ministers in the Cabinet of Chief Leabua Jonathan, ousted in a military coup in January of that same year

They were abducted from the home of Mrs Sixishe's sister, Mrs Mantsane Lelala, who with her husband escaped from the killers at the scene of the murders

The inquest is attracting

great attention from the public

Captain Moremi said he had found two empty shells and a rifle magazine at the scene of the killings but had only kept the two shells He had "forgotten" to take the magazine to his office He had not sent the shells for ballistic or finger print tests

When questioned By Mr Jeff Kraut, appearing for the families of the deceased, Captain Moremi said he knew nothing about an ID document said to have been found at the scene of the killings

Captain Moremi said he had spoken to Mrs Lelala at a hos-

pital She had been shot several times Mrs Lelala had told him the men had told her they were soldiers, although they were wearing civilian clothes

He had not taken a statement from her because she was being taken to the operating theatre — and had not included the information she had given him in his original statement

He had also spoken to Mr Lelala but had not made notes of what Mr Lelala had told him, although he understood "others" had taken statements from Mr Lelala

The inquest continues

Star 16/11/90





# Bury differences - Minister

By Jovial Rantao

Many of the problems experienced in South Africa's education system would disappear if everyone in the community contributed to the furtherance of discipline and knowledge, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said yesterday when opening the new Vista University campus in Soweto

Addressing academics, community leaders and mayors from various cities, Dr van der Merwe said discipline and knowledge formed the corner stones of any ordered community.

"Discipline is the integral part of the educational process. In the house, nursery, school, university, between colleagues, everything depends on discipline. Discipline is a corner stone for progress and orderly community life," he said

Dr van der Merwe called on members of the community to bury their differences and to unite to solve the education crisis

"I'm aware that we have ideological differences but let us not allow the differences to prevent us from giving the people the kind of education they so dearly need

"We want to bring the best education possible to the black people which will be to the advantage of South Africa," the Minister said "Without self-discipline, there would be chaos"

Before moving to the new campus last year, the university was accommodated in prefabricated structures in Senoane township, Soweto

Since its opening in 1982, Vista has awarded 1 193 bachelor, three honours, 20 masters and 16 doctoral degrees and over 12 000 education certificates and diplomas

## Ministers' wounds described

The Star's Africa News Service

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MASERU — A Lesotho police officer yesterday described at an inquest hearing the wounds he found on the bodies of the two former Lesotho Cabinet Ministers and their wives who were shot dead in the Maluti mountains more than three years ago

### EXAMINED

Mr Desmond Sixishe, former Minister of Information and Mr Vincent Makhele, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, were killed with their wives on Bushman's Pass on November 16 1986

They had been members of the Cab-

net of former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, who was overthrown by the military earlier that year

Detective Lance Sergeant Nolutshungu told the inquest he took the bodies of the Ministers and their wives to the Maseru mortuary, where he examined them

He found a bullet wound in Mr Makhele's stomach and another on his upper arm, seven bullet wounds at various places on the body of Mrs Makhele, Mrs Sixishe had a broken leg and a broken hand, and she and Mr Sixishe each had a bullet wound on the left side of the chest

The hearing continues



# Lesotho calm <sup>167</sup> but confused after arrests

Argus Africa News Service  
MASERU. — A spokesman for Lesotho's ruling military council has denied that King Moshoesoe II has been placed under house arrest after the detention of four members of the government.

The surprise arrest of the four colonels yesterday, generally believed to be supporters of the king, has stunned the tiny kingdom.

Taken into custody were Colonel Thaabe Letsie, his brother Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Colonel Aloysius Mosoeunyane, all members of the military council, and Colonel Philip Mokhantso, Minister of Transport and Communications in the largely civilian cabinet.

No official reason has been given for their arrest, although there is wide speculation here that Lesotho's strongman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, may be clearing the decks for a return to civilian rule.

There has been a long-simmering dispute between General Lekhanya and the king, who is believed to be opposed to the reimposition of a democratic system because such a move would reduce him once more to a rubber-stamp monarch.

But the Minister of Information, Mr Vincent Malebo, refuted rumours today that King Moshoesoe was under house arrest at his palace in Maseru.

The Letsie brothers, who are close relatives of the king, and the other two colonels were taken under armed guard from government headquarters yesterday after the complex had been surrounded by heavily armed soldiers and armoured vehicles.

Mr Malebo said changes in the administration would be announced shortly but did not elaborate.

Observers in Maseru presumed he was referring to the appointment of new members of the military council and the council of ministers to bring them back to full strength.

# Army crushes 'king's' coup bid in Lesotho

CAPL TINTS  
20/2/90

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MASERU. — Army troops under Lesotho strongman Major General Justin Lekhanya yesterday arrested four key members of the country's military council in the wake of an aborted coup attempt, diplomats said.

Heavily armed soldiers and armoured vehicles surrounded the government complex in the capital before the mid-morning arrests.

SAP at the Maseru border post said last night that according to unconfirmed reports, a purge of the "king's men" was to take place tonight.

It is understood that the four men arrested were supporters of King Moshoeshoe. It is believed the king has disappeared and is being sought by the defence ministry to be put under house arrest.

Those arrested in the internal power struggle were Colonel Thethang Mosoeunyene, Minister of Justice and Works, Colonel Mokhantso, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Minister of Defence, Interior, Education and Police, and his brother, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Diplomatic sources said the government officials arrested had been in office since the coup, but there had been tension between General Lekhanya and two detained ministers with close ties to the royal family, the Letsie brothers.

At a press conference, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mr Vincent Malebo declined to confirm the arrests.

Following the incident, the head of the military council, General Lekhanya, said "some changes" would be announced soon. He did not elaborate — Own Correspondent and Sapa



# Lesotho govt headquarters under siege

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MASERU - Heavily armed soldiers and armoured vehicles surrounded the headquarters of Lesotho's military government in Maseru yesterday.

All roads leading to the government military complex, which accommodates Lesotho's six-man military council, were blocked by armed troops.

The entire force of civil servants who work at the military complex were ordered by their seniors to go home at 11am.

Rumour spread in the

**Sowetan African News Service**

centre of Maseru as soon as the civil servants ran out of the military complex that three members of the military council had been arrested and were apparently seen being marched in the direction of the Maseru central prison.

It is understood that the three included Colonel Sekhobe Letsie and Colonel Thaabe Letsie, close relatives of King Moshoeshoe II.

It is not clear what the

position of the pro-South Africa chairman of the Military Council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya was at the time of the army swoop on the military complex.

Yesterday's events, however, brought into sharp focus the confrontation between Lekhanya and the Letsie brothers which has been simmering in recent months.



GENERAL LEKHANYA

## Enjoy pure, full

# Lesotho coup bid fails 167 reports

MANDY JEAN WOODS

MASERU — Unconfirmed reports say four people were arrested in Lesotho yesterday — three of them from the ruling military council and one a government minister — in the wake of an abortive coup attempt against the country's leader Gen Metsing Lekhanya.

The four are said to be Justice and Works Minister Col Aloysius Mosoeunyene, Transport and Telecommunications Minister Col Mokhantso, Defence, Interior, Education and Police Minister Col Sekhobe Letsie, and Foreign Affairs Minister Col Thabe Letsie.

SA Police at the Maseru border post said early last night that unconfirmed reports had it that a purge of the "Kingsmen" had taken place yesterday.

It is understood that the four men arrest-

ed were supporters of King Moshoeshoe II. It is believed that the king has disappeared and is being sought by the defence ministry in order to be put under house arrest.

Sapa-AP reports that diplomats said witnesses had seen troops detain three members of the six-man military council.

Following the incident, Lekhanya said "some changes" would be announced.

At Moshoeshoe's palace soldiers prevented workers and visitors from entering or leaving the building, witnesses said.

After the swoop, all civil servants at the military complex were ordered to go home and all the offices were locked.

BIDEN 20/2/90

## Speculation of conflict with king

# Lesotho stunned by arrest of 4 leaders

The Star's Africa  
News Service

MASERU — Four members of Lesotho's military government have been arrested in a move that has stunned the kingdom.

No clear reason has yet emerged for the arrests yesterday of three of the six members of the ruling Military Council and a military member of the largely civilian Cabinet.

Those arrested were Military Council members Colonel Phaabe Letsie, his brother Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Colonel Aloysius Mosoeunyane and the Minister of Transport and Communications, Colonel Philip Mokhantso.

They were taken under armed guard from the government's headquarters which were surrounded yesterday morning by troops and armoured vehicles.

There was widespread speculation in Maseru that the arrests reflected the dispute between

the head of the military government, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya and King Moshoeshoe.

The two Letsie brothers are close relatives of the king whom they support.

The Minister of Information, Mr Vincent Malebo, said last night changes in administration would be announced shortly.

The arrested officers are understood to be in police rather than military custody. This has led to speculation that the Military Council might press treason or other criminal charges against them.

### Hold meeting

Mr Malebo said the members of the Military Council would hold an urgent meeting on the matter.

Mr Malebo is a member of the largely civilian Cabinet formed by the king, which acts on the authority of the Military Council. It was created when the military toppled Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan in 1984.

Ultimate political power remains in the hands of the Military Council.

General Lekhanya interrupted regular programmes to make a statement over Radio Lesotho. He appealed for calm, describing the situation as "normal".

Differences between King Moshoeshoe, the Letsie brothers and the military leader threatened to come to a head during a controversy last year after The Star and other Argus news papers revealed that General Lekhanya had killed a student at the Maseru agricultural college in December 1988.

The newspaper reports forced the Lesotho authorities to hold an inquest into his death.

General Lekhanya admitted killing Mr George Ramone but claimed he had shot him to prevent him raping a woman.

The inquest cleared General Lekhanya.

The situation in Maseru appeared to be calm last night.



# Lesotho's history beset with coups

15 (129) 20/2/90 (167)  
THE mountain kingdom of Lesotho has a rocky history of coups d'etat and instability.

Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya, who arrested three members of his six-man military council yesterday, toppled Chief Leabua Jonathan on January 20 1986 and set up the military council, with King Moshoeshoe II as head of state and himself as chairman.

This followed 20 years of rule by Jonathan.

In Jonathan's first few years of power after Lesotho became independent, he allied himself with SA even accepting reputed SA support in the elections of 1965 and 1970. The 1970 election was aborted when it seemed the Basutho Congress Party (BCP), led by

ANDREW GILL

Jonathan's enemy Ntsu Mokhehle, would win.

Jonathan began distancing himself from SA in the mid '70s by vehemently opposing apartheid.

On January 1 1986 SA imposed stringent border controls on Lesotho and virtually blockaded the landlocked country 20 days later, Jonathan was ousted

## Restriction

After taking over, Lekhanya, along with Moshoeshoe, cracked down on internal ANC structures and implemented military rule.

Jonathan was placed under house arrest and later restriction of his movements.

Lekhanya said early in his rule that he was a transitional leader. He promised to return the country to civilian rule as soon as peace was restored.

A loosely formed opposition alliance (the Big Five) comprising five political parties repeatedly called on Lekhanya to restore the constitution.

On the February 5 1988 the military council declared a state of emergency, saying the armed forces would deal ruthlessly with "the new wave of political crime".

The "Big Five" became increasingly critical of Lekhanya's rule. They were warned not to engage in party political activity — an offence under the emergency.

Exiles began returning in mid-1988, among them Basotho Congress Party leader Ntsu Mokhehle, but

were also warned to stay out of politics.

The Pope visited Lesotho in September and the state of emergency was extended.

At the beginning of last year municipal elections were held by the military council but were rejected out of hand by the "Big Five".

In June 1989 Lekhanya was involved in a power struggle between himself and Moshoeshoe after his alleged involvement in the shooting of a 20-year-old student. There has since been a corruption scandal which led to rumours of a split in the military council leadership.



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# Lekhanya takes over portfolio



● LEKHANYA

MASERU — Lesotho's Military Council Chairman Maj Gen Metsing Lekhanya is to assume the position of Foreign Affairs Minister following the detention of the current minister Col Thaabe Letsie and three other people on Monday.

In a statement issued yesterday Lekhanya said he found it imperative to detain the four men — Military Council members Letsie, Col Sekhobe Letsie, Col Khethang Mosoeunyane and Council of Ministers member Col Monyane Mokhants'o — on Monday.

- Because of their insubordination and divisive behaviour;
- To prevent their possible interference with judicial investigations and inquiries apparently going on in Lesotho; and,
- Because of a permanent state of impasse on foreign policy which had diminished Lesotho's image.

A diplomatic source said the Military Council had briefed diplomats yesterday morning on the situation.

MANDY JEAN WOODS

The source said further changes in the government were expected.

"Lekhanya is house cleaning now. There are reportedly conflicts between Lekhanya and several members of the council of ministers," he said.

A Military Council spokesman told diplomats the four detainees, held in terms of the Internal Security Act, would be released as soon as possible.

## Appointed

"Their wives apparently visited them on Tuesday afternoon. We were told there would be a disciplinary hearing against the men by the military," the source said.

A new foreign minister would be appointed as soon as possible, and until then Lekhanya would assume the role.

Diplomats were told there had been a lot of problems with foreign policy. "Lekhanya apparently felt Letsie

did not adequately project his political philosophy in foreign dealings," the source said.

The four detainees are understood to be strong supporters of the King Moshoeshoe II. There is a long standing dispute based on political differences between the king and Lekhanya.

"They (the detainees) apparently did not always do what he wanted them to do," the source said.

He said Lekhanya's reference in his statement to judicial proceedings and inquiries appeared to relate to the current inquest into the November 1988 murders of former Foreign Minister Vincent Makhele and former Information Minister Desmond Sixishe and their wives.

A Military Council spokesman told diplomats the detention of the four men would clear the way for the normal course of law to take place.

Attempts to reach Lekhanya and other Military Council members yesterday were fruitless.

## Lekhanya in row with king

Star 21/2/90 (167)

# Lesotho ruler defends arrests

The Star's Africa  
News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya says three members of the Military Council and a member of the Council of Ministers were arrested on Monday because of their "insubordination" to army discipline and their divisive behaviour against army unity.

And the Minister of Information, Mr Vincent Malebo, denied rumours that King Moshoeshoe II, whom the four detained men are known to support, was under house arrest at his palace in Maseru.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho late yesterday, General Lekhanya said the officers were also arrested to prevent "their possible interference with judicial investigations and inquiries currently going on in Lesotho".

General Lekhanya said a further reason for the arrests was "a permanent state of impasse on foreign policy" which had completely diminished Lesotho's image abroad and in Africa.

The detention of Colonel Thaabe Letsie, his brother Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Colonel Aloysius Mosoeunyane (all members of the Military Council) and Colonel Philip Mokhantso, the Minister of Transport and Communications, has sparked widespread speculation that General Lekhanya may be clearing the decks for a return to civilian rule.

### Dispute

There has been a long-simmering dispute between the general and King Moshoeshoe, who is believed to be opposed to the reimposition of a democratic system because such a move would probably reduce him once more to a "rubber-stamp" monarch.

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and see us!

Cape Times 21/2/80

# General tells why Lesotho colonels held

MASERU — The Lesotho Military Council underwent a major shake-up on Monday with four ministers, three of them Military Council members, being fired and arrested, the chairman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, said in a statement released here yesterday.

Those dismissed and arrested are two brothers, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, minister of foreign affairs, and Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, minister of defence, and Colonel Khethang Mosoeunyane, minister of justice — all Military Council members — and the transport minister, Colonel Monyane Mokhantso.

General Lekhanya said their "insubordination to army discipline as well as their divisive behaviour against army unity" was one reason which "compelled" him and the army to take steps to dismiss them.

Another reason given was to prevent their possible interference with judicial investigations and inquiries now under way in Lesotho.

It is believed the inquiries are into the murders in late 1986 of two cabinet ministers and their wives.

The bodies of Mr Desmond Sixeshe and Mr Moutsi Makhele and their wives were found in the mountains north of Maseru.

Diplomatic sources said they believed General Lekhanya orchestrated this week's military move as part of an internal power struggle — Sapa, UPI



SOWETAN Wednesday February 21 1990

# Lesotho top brass axed

THE Lesotho Military Council underwent a major shake-up on Monday with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Transport and Communications being fired and arrested along with two members of the six-man ruling council.

This was announced by the chairman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, in a statement released in Maseru yesterday.

Those dismissed and arrested are Colonel Thabbe, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Colonel Khehang Mosocunyane - all Military Council members - and the Transport Minister, Colonel Monyane Mkhantso.

Lekhanya said their insubordination to army discipline as well as their divisive behaviour against

SAPA-REUTER

army unity", was one reason which compelled him and the army to take steps to dismiss them.

## Prevent

Another reason given was to prevent their possible interference with judicial investigations and inquiries currently underway in Lesotho.

It is believed the probes are into the murders in late 1986 of two

Cabinet Ministers and their wives.

The bodies of Mr Desmond Sixeshe and Mir Moutsi Makhole and their wives were found in the mountains north of Maseru.

Lekhanya also blamed those dismissed for "a permanent state of in-passe on foreign policy which had completely diminished Lesotho's image abroad - especially before the rest of Africa."

## De klerk meets with Slabbert

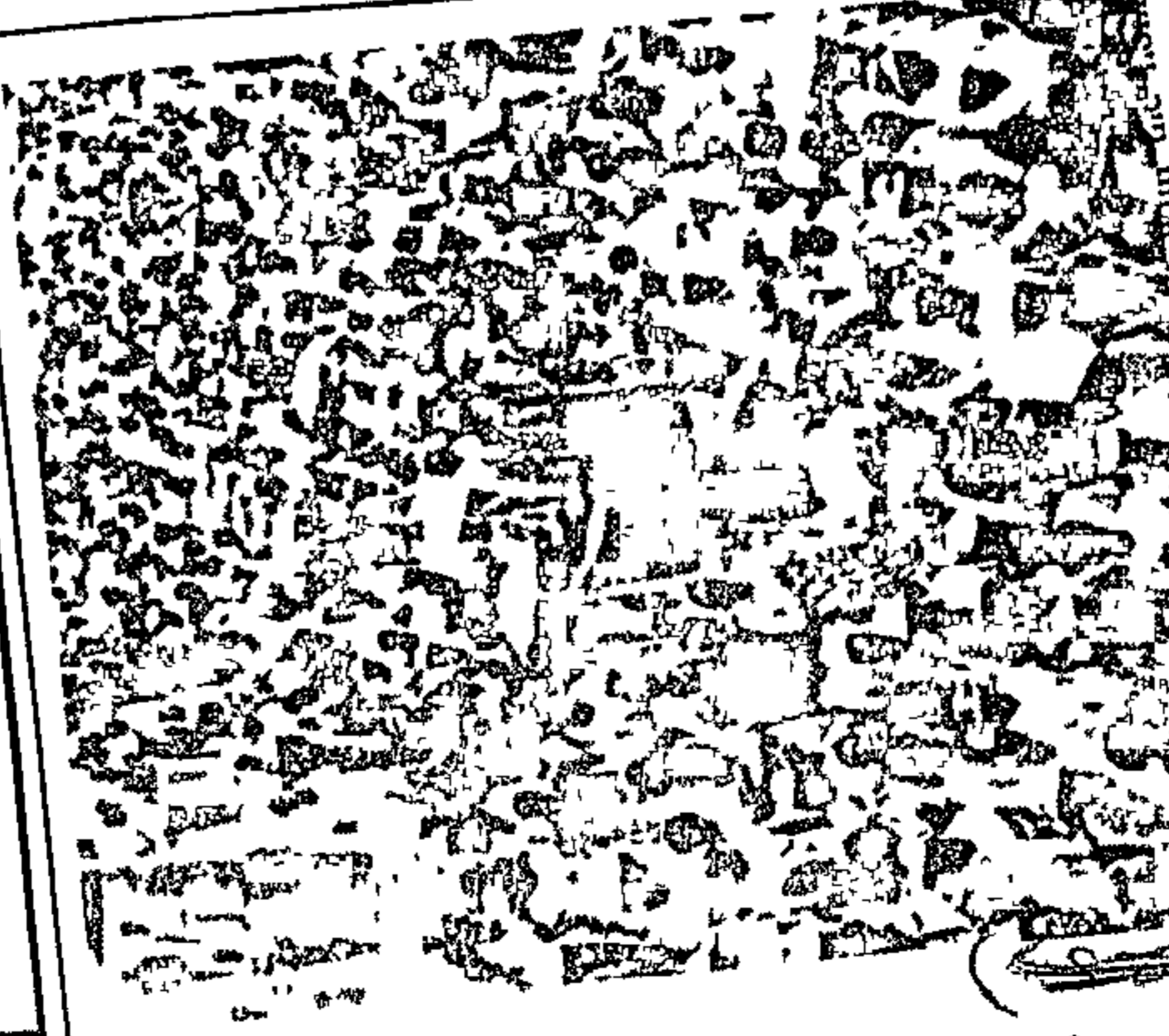
ALL parties and groupings would now have to place increasing emphasis on the development of a democratic culture in South Africa, former leader of the Opposition Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert said yesterday.

Talking to a group of journalists after an hour-long meeting with President FW de Klerk in Tuynhuys, he said he had asked for the meeting to congratulate De Klerk on his reform moves, and to discuss the enormity of events since the President's opening-of-Parliament address.

He had wanted to see De Klerk as an old friend and Parliamentary colleague.

South Africa had now been "pulled into a new political orbit and the whole style of our politics is going to change".

Slabbert said De Klerk created the image of a man acting with confidence and conviction.



House of Bondage, and gave a clear picture to the Americas of various facets of apartheid.

Star 22/2/90 (167)

The Star Thurs

Lesotho leader strips the king of his administrative and legislative powers

# Lekhanya appoints new councillors

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — In his first act after taking powers away from King Moshoeshoe yesterday, the chairman of the ruling Military Council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, today announced the appointment of successors to the three military councillors he ordered arrested and sacked on Monday.

The appointments were announced over radio Lesotho early today.

The three new military councillors are Brigadier Benedict Lerotholi, former commander of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, Colonel Jacob Jane and Lieutenant-Colonel Molise Mokete.

The other of the members of the Military Council are Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, chairman, Colonel Phisoane Ramaema and Colonel Michael Tsotetsi.

The new members are expected to be sworn in today by General Lekhanya, a function which would normally have been performed by the king.

The conflict between the military government and King Moshoeshoe came to a head yesterday when the Military Council stripped the king of his administrative and legislative powers.

## Figurehead

The move effectively removes the king from the political scene and leaves him as a figurehead at the head of the state.

General Lekhanya also announced that a cache of illegal weapons had been found at the house of one of the arrested men, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie. This has led to speculation that a coup had been planned.

General Lekhanya also disclosed new moves towards returning Lesotho to democratic government.

He said a national council would be established by April with powers to draw up a new constitution for the country. He set June 1992 as the target date for achieving the "process of democratisation", by which he apparently means a return to civilian rule.

The powers stripped from King Moshoeshoe gave him responsibility for appointing and directing the Council of Ministers or Cabinet.

According to General Lekhanya's statement, the clash between himself and the king came to a head when King Moshoeshoe refused to accept appointments proposed by the Military Council in place of the three members of the council and the Minister who were arrested this week.

Those detained were Colonel Thaabe Letsie, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, both relatives of the king, Colonel Aloysius Mosoeunyane and Colonel Philip Mokhantso, the Minister of Agriculture. All four colonels are believed to be supporters of the king.

General Lekhanya said yesterday he had taken over "for the time being" the powers vested in the king. The Council of Ministers would continue to function as usual.



# General strips king of powers

CAP TOWN 22/2/90  
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MASERU. — The chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, yesterday stripped King Moshoeshoe II of his powers and said that for the time being the king's powers would be vested in him, assisted by the Military Council.

The general said "his majesty remains the head of state and we shall execute the duties of state on his behalf".

He added that the move followed the refusal by the king to approve the changes made in the Lesotho government administration proposed by himself.

The changes included the arrest and dismissal of three former members of the Military Council and a fourth minister.

General Lekhanya said the military had tried to take measures towards democratising the administration of the country but the king and his relations in the ruling bodies had insisted the king should govern without advice or hindrance from anyone.

He said he and his colleagues felt the programme of democratisation should go on.

A large cache of arms and ammunition has been discovered at the home of Colonel Sekhobo Letsie, one of the four men arrested on Monday, according to a spokesman for the Military Council. — Sapa



● MOSHOESHOE II

# Lekhanya strips king of power

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MASERU — Lesotho Military Council chairman Maj-Gen Justin Metsing Lekhanya stripped King Moshoeshe II of his powers yesterday, saying the king's powers would be vested in him for the time being

3109 22/2/90

Lekhanya said the Military Council would assist him in exercising the king's powers, while the Council of Ministers would function as usual

He said this move followed the refusal by the king to approve the changes he had made to the Lesotho government administration

Changes made by Lekhanya included the arrest and dismissal of three former members of the Military Council, Col Thaabe Letsie, his brother, Sekhobe Letsie, Col K Mosoeunyane and the former Transport and Communications Minister

Monyane Mokhantso

He said the military had tried to democratise the administration but the king, his relations in the Military Council and other Council of Ministers members had insisted the king should govern without advice from anyone

"I and my colleagues in the Military Council are of the view that the programme of democratisation must go ahead and we wish to ask the nation to work towards fulfilling this promise by June 1992"

The National Council, which would discuss a new constitution, would be formed by April 1990  
□ A large cache of arms and thousands of rounds of ammunition had been discovered at the home of former Military Council member Sekhobo Letsie, who was arrested in Maseru on Monday, a Military Council spokesman said yesterday



Star 23/490 (167)

## Ten Lesotho Cabinet Ministers dismissed

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, yesterday announced a major Cabinet reshuffle — with 10 Ministers being dismissed and six new Ministers being appointed.

The changes took place a day after General Lekhanya took over some of the powers of King Moshoeshe II.

The king this week precipitated a constitutional crisis when he refused to approve the changes proposed by General Lekhanya and his Military Council.

General Lekhanya said that as a result of the king's refusal all the king's powers would be vested in himself, with the assistance of the Military Council, for the time being.

Among the 10 Ministers axed is the king's younger brother, Chief Mathealira Seeiso. It is believed that the other Ministers dismissed were supporters of King Moshoeshe II. Only three Ministers from the Cabinet have been retained.

The new Cabinet was sworn in before the chairman of the Military Council by the Chief Justice of Lesotho, Mr Justice Brendan Cullinan, at State House in Maseru yesterday.

Four colonels were also arrested during the crisis this week. One of the reasons given by General Lekhanya for this was that they had interfered with judicial investigations currently in progress in Lesotho.

# Bodyguards held over murders

MANDY JEAN WOODS

TWO bodyguards of former Lesotho Military Council member Col Sekhobe Letsie and former Planning, Economic and Manpower Development Minister Michael Sefali were arrested yesterday in connection with the murders of two former ministers and their wives in November 1986, a Military Council spokesman said from Maseru yesterday.

State-controlled Radio Lesotho reported that Commissioner of Police Maj-Gen J L Dingiswayo said further arrests could be expected.

This follows the detention on Monday of Letsie, his brother Col Thaabe Letsie and Council of Ministers member Col Monyane Mokhantso for insubordination and to prevent possible interference with investigations and in-

quiries into the four murders.

It is being speculated the arrests pre-empted a coup attempt planned for Monday or Tuesday this week.

The Letsie brothers are relatives of King Moshoeshoe II, who was stripped yesterday of his powers by Military Council leader Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya after he refused to approve changes to the Military Council and Council of Ministers.

It is believed the Military Council is divided between supporters of the king and of Lekhanya.

The Military Council said in a statement "We are not sure whether the refusal by the king to comply with the advice of the Military Council

with regard to the expulsion of some of its former members is not connected with this idea of an eye for an eye justice."

Lekhanya yesterday announced sweeping changes to the Council of Ministers in which nine ministers, supporters of the king, were ousted, including Sefali.

Military Council secretary Tom Thabane has been made Foreign and Information and Broadcasting Minister. Attorney-general A K Maope has assumed the portfolio of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Affairs.

Lekhanya, who briefly assumed the role of foreign minister, following Col Thaabe Letsie's detention on Monday, has taken over the post of Agriculture Minister.

## More bananas

Lesotho suffered another banana republic-style spectacle on Monday with the arrest of four of the six-man ruling Military Council by its chairman, Major General Metsing Lekhanya

Those detained are Security, Health and Education Minister Col Sekhobe Letsie; his brother, Foreign Minister Col Thaabe Letsie, Works Minister Col Khethang Moseunyane, and Transport and Communications Minister Philip Mokhantso

They're part of a faction closely associated with the king, Moshoeshe II, whose home is said to be "heavily guarded" In other words, the king is under house arrest

No reason for the arrests was given by the time the FM went to press Information Minister Vincent Malebo has not confirmed the arrests, though there were eyewitnesses Local journalists saw the men being marched out of the military HQ in Maseru, each with hands on head It seems they are being held in the capital's maximum security prison

Lekhanya, who seized power in the SA-backed 1982 coup which toppled the increasingly unpopular Leabua Jonathan, was due to issue a statement on Tuesday "announcing changes in the administration." He appealed for calm. It's not known whether a Letsie-led coup attempt was scotched

There's no love lost between Moshoeshe and Lekhanya Aside from long-standing tension over who the real authority is in the kingdom, it seems the reason for the arrests goes back to Lekhanya's trial on a murder charge last year (*Current Affairs*, September 22)

It was the king who appointed a judicial inquest into the strange case of the death of a student, George Ramone, one night last July, on the campus of the Agricultural College Lekhanya admitted firing the fatal shot in the dark, but claimed he had responded to the screams of a woman who was apparently being raped Though Lekhanya was cleared of murder, Ramone's father is now understood to be pressing for a High Court review of the case The prosecution alleged various

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kinds of obstruction, including perjury

Sources in Maseru suggest the latest events are a case of Lekhanya getting his own back against the Letsies and the king, who are family

It is further speculated that the case of the unsolved murders of two Jonathan government ministers in 1983 — Desmond Sixishe (Information) and Vincent Makhele (Foreign Affairs) — might now be revived, to the embarrassment of the Letsies ■

# Lesotho king is stripped of his power

MASERU - Lesotho's military ruler Major-General Justin Lekhanya has stripped King Moshoeshe II of all but ceremonial power after the monarch refused to endorse the sacking of four members of the ruling junta.

Prior to the decree on Wednesday, Lekhanya, as head of the six-man ruling Military Council, had been obliged to confer with Moshoeshe on major executive and legislative decisions.

Now the monarch of this southern Af-

rican kingdom, entirely surrounded by South Africa, retains only ceremonial powers.

On Monday, Lekhanya dismissed and arrested the four members of the Military Council on suspicion of plotting against the government. They include Colonels Sekhobe Letsie and Thaabe Letsie, both cousins of the king, who had demanded unfettered powers for the monarchy.

Lekhanya is seen as a close ally of South Africa after Pretoria backed his 1986 coup with an economic blockade

which brought Lesotho to its knees. He and the Oxford-educated monarch, who strongly opposes apartheid, have had uneasy relations ever since.

Opposition groups see Lekhanya's action as a calculated step to usurp royal authority and concentrate more power in his hands so he can thwart any real moves towards a civilian government.

Yesterday Lekhanya appointed army commander Brigadier Benedict Makalang Lerotholi, Colonel Jacob Mahlabe and Jane and Lieutenant-Colonel Molise Mokete to fill three vacancies on the Council. Moshoeshe has rejected these appointments as well.

Political analysts said the arrest of the Letsie brothers on Monday sparked the constitutional crisis which has left Lekhanya with absolute power. Sapa-Reuter.

## Don't merge with ANC yet - Molefe

Front would not unbanning of the UDF general Molefe said yester-

indications that the affiliates would ANC, the exiled internal structures,

Government has negotiate should freedom.

may mean well, able to carry the with him. The NP fundamental policy that they are not non-racial demo-

h it was unlikely could in future de-

side to again ban the ANC, this option could not be ruled out. Laws to ban organisations were still on the statute books.

"We're not taking chances. The UDF and Mass Democratic Movement have no tradition of being involved in the "armed struggle" and it would thus be difficult to ban us. We could dismantle out structures, but what will happen if the Government again bans the ANC?"

Molefe stressed that he was speaking in his personal capacity since UDF affiliates were currently debating the issue at grassroots level. A final decision would be taken at the UDF's national general congress starting on April 6.

He added that the UDF and MDM - the latter of which was a broader coalition of anti-apartheid forces including organisations which did not necessarily subscribe to the Freedom Charter - acknowledged the leadership of the ANC.



# Lesotho's top soldier takes over in the name of civilian democracy

W/ Mail 23/2 - 1/3/90  
By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

LESOTHO'S military ruler Major General Metsing Lekhanya has defended his renewed grip on political power in the country as a move towards democracy.

Lekhanya, who this week stripped King Moshoeshoe II of his remaining state powers, said he had tightened his grip on the ruling military council because of attempts to install an absolute monarchy in Lesotho.

Yesterday Lekhanya filled the vacancies created by his expulsion of three military councillors apparently sympathetic to the king with senior officers considered loyal to himself.

The deposed officers are Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, Colonel Thaabe Letsie — both relatives of King Moshoeshoe — and Colonel Kheathang Moseunyane. The three were detained early this week with the minister of transport and communication, Colonel Monyane Mokhantso.

The councillors' vacancies were filled by army commander Brigadier Benedict Lerotholi and Colonel Lesole Jane and Lieutenant-Colonel Molise Mokere.

"I and my colleagues in the military council are of the view that the programme of democratisation must go ahead and we wish to ask the nation to work towards fulfilling this promise by June, 1992," said Lekhanya in a statement repeatedly broadcast on *Radio Lesotho* in Sesotho and English.

Lekhanya said the king's powers were removed after the monarch refused to accept the four sackings later imposed by the general or the three replacements proposed by him.

Some cabinet ministers were said to be in hiding to avoid possible arrest in the wake of Lekhanya's lightning attack on his political rivals.

The military's new grip on power follows expectations that Lesotho was returning to civilian rule, with the lifting of a four-year ban on political activities expected soon.

Lekhanya himself had indicated that the first step towards a return to normality would be the establishment of the national council in April this year.

But the progress towards democracy and civilian rule came to an abrupt end this week when heavily armed soldiers besieged the government complex and the royal palace in Maseru.

Among several people thought to be in detention is a Captain Tumo, who allegedly assassinated an African National Congress cadre, Mazizi Maqekza, in a Maseru hospital in March 1988.

The Royal Lesotho Defence Force also found huge arms caches, including Israeli-made weapons, at the home of one of the detained men, Sekhobe Letsie.

The Letsies were known to support a return to the rule of chieftainship and envisaged a permanent ban on political parties.

The brothers were also alleged to have said they would not be ruled by a "commoner" — meaning Lekhanya — and were believed to have Moshoeshoe's backing.

Lekhanya also said the military councillors had been detained to prevent their interference in judicial inquiries. He did not specify which inquiries he meant but it is widely believed he was referring mainly to the inquest into the deaths of two former ministers who served under the late Chief Leabua Jona, deposed by Lekhanya in January 1986.

CPM 7/12/90  
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## 9 ministers sacked in Lesotho govt shake-up

MASERU. — Lesotho military ruler Major-General Justin Lekhanya has sacked nine ministers and scrapped four cabinet posts in the biggest government shake-up since he seized power four years ago. He also announced an ambitious political and economic reform programme.

The purge, announced on Thursday, followed the arrest of four senior army officials suspected of anti-government activities and the seizure by General Lekhanya of the powers of the monarchy of Lesotho.

General Lekhanya shuffled portfolios and appointed five new ministers to complete his reduced cabinet.

At a news conference yesterday General Lekhanya denied the nine had been fired for opposing him — Sapa-Reuter



# Lekehanya

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# pledges reform

**LESOTHO** — Lesotho strongman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya yesterday announced the creation of a task force to return Lesotho to civilian rule and to carry out wide-ranging social and economic reforms.

He committed himself to privatisation and to stamping out widespread corruption, which he said was particularly rife in the judiciary.

In a far-reaching statement, General Lekhanya announced:

- The establishment of a task force to recommend a timetable for democratisation by 1992 at the latest.
- Plans to streamline expenditure and increase productivity and efficiency
- The elimination of four ministerial posts
- Plans to create a small, professional army which would also be involved in agriculture and road maintenance
- Speeding up of judicial procedure and eliminating a large backlog of court cases
- An anti corruption campaign in which the attorney-general would be free to investigate and prosecute anyone involved in bribery or "self-enrichment"
- Immediate privatisation of Lesotho airways and Lesotho Freight and the sale of a Boeing. The task force is also to advise the general on further steps towards privatisation
- The review of all land allocations and granting of citizenship rights over the past four years
- The rehabilitation and preservation of the environment.
- Lesotho would work towards an apartheid-free society in South Africa, and encourage an African common market

His statement followed a week of dramatic upheavals within the government in which three members of the six-man ruling military council and the Minister of Transport and Telecommunications were sacked and detained and King Moshoeshoe II was stripped of executive power.

Five members of the army were arrested in connection with political murders and nine ministers were fired in a major government reshuffle.

In a press conference yesterday, Major General Lekhanya said the situ-

## 'Civilian rule for Lesotho by 1992'

**DAWN BARKHUIZEN**

ation in the country was "completely under control".

He said there had been no plans for a coup, despite the fact that a large arms cache had been discovered at the home of Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, one of the military council members.

It appears that General Lekhanya has acted to break a deadlock between him and the king. It is understood that the arrested military council members and those sacked from the council of ministers were the king's relatives and supporters.

General Lekhanya said the men now under arrest had been guilty of obstructing justice.

He said there had been unnecessary delays in the administration of justice and even cases where evidence had disappeared.

It has been suggested that one of the cases referred to by the general is the murder in 1986 of two former cabinet ministers, Mr Desmond Sibushe and Mr Vincent Makhele, and their wives.

General Lekhanya disclosed that five people had been arrested in connection with this murder. He did not rule out further arrests.

He said the king was not under house arrest but that it was not opportune for the press to speak to him at the moment.

Sources close to the king say political rivals who fear the extent of his support are seeking to blacken his name.

A senior diplomat pointed out that there had been considerable friction between the Major-General and the King as well as a rift in the military council between rival supporters of the two men, for some time.



**PARKTOWN HIGH JINKS** DJ Rick Emdin and the Radio 702 boomer will provide a melodious backdrop for day of fun, prizes and excitement at Parktown Boys' High beginning at 11 am today. Among the attractions will be drum majorettes, the daredevil bike squad of the SA Defence Force and a soccer clash between celebrity teams led by John Robbie and Richard Loring.

## Marathon picket at SA embassy ends

**LONDON** — The non-stop picket by anti-apartheid campaigners outside the South African embassy in Trafalgar Square in London ends this afternoon after 1 408 days.

Arguably one of the longest ever political demonstrations, it started on April 19 1986 to bring public awareness to the campaign for the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela who was freed on February 11.

A spokesman for the organisers said the picket would end with a planned mass rally and march down Whitehall to Margaret Thatcher's Downing Street office to demand sanctions against SA.

The Free Nelson Mandela banners will be rolled up to become collector's items among anti-apartheid campaigners, but the

Differences of opinion among leading activists in both groups as to how the protest movement should conduct itself were the real reason for the dispute.

Scotland Yard, which has had to mount extra police guards round the clock outside the embassy over the last four years at a cost recently estimated at R6 million, will be welcoming the picket's ending.

The traditional Bobbies on the beat from Cannon Row police station might however feel the change in their wallets as standing guard at the embassy was a handy source of overtime income.

Mr Justice de Goede, Minister at the SA Embassy said the protests political effect has been absolute zero. — Sapa



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# King's men are purged in Lesotho

LONG-RUNNING tensions between the Lesotho royal household and the ruling Military Council chairman Major-General Metsing Lekhanya burst into the open this week.

Gen Lekhanya purged the king's supporters in the executive council and in drastic moves:

- Stripped King Moshoe-shoe II of his powers and assumed them himself because the king refused to confirm the changes in the Military Council and Council of Ministers;
- Detained three members of the military council — all royal supporters;
- Announced a major Cabinet reshuffle in which six new ministers were appointed and 10 ministers — all supporters of the king — fired;
- Appointed three of his supporters to the military council;
- Set a date (June 1992) for a return to civilian rule.

A report this week quoted a source who said: "The quarrel is really between the general and the king, who is

By MANDY JEAN WOODS

believed to be fighting his battle through two of his relatives on the executive — brothers Colonels Thaaba Letsie and Sekhobe Letsie."

During the Ramone inquest — of which Gen Lekhanya was cleared of criminal involvement — director of public prosecutions Spho Mdululi announced inquiries into other "mysterious killings" in Lesotho.

## Murders

In November 1986 former Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Makhele and former Information and Broadcasting Minister Desmond Sixshe and their wives were brutally murdered at Bushman's Pass, near Maseru.

Gen Lekhanya said in Maseru on Friday that five men had been arrested in connection with the murders of the former Ministers.

Newly appointed Foreign Minister Tom Thabane said yesterday most of the five men were connected with Col Sekhobe Letsie in some way.

## Lesotho Highlands water project

# Way paved for the big push

**THE Highlands water project is taking shape in a rugged and remote area**

These two factors combine to make construction dependent on the infrastructure available before the project starts

Upgrading roads, bridges and border facilities both in Lesotho and SA and the construction of advanced camp facilities began in 1988, paving the way for the main effort

The infrastructure development for Phase 1A alone includes

- Upgrading the road to form the southern access from Thaba Tseka and the Katse Dam
- Construction of a bridge across the Malibamatso River downstream from the future Katse Dam to allow

access to the dam site The bridge was opened in 1988

● An all-weather northern main access road across the Maluti Mountains to Pelaneng and on to the Katse Dam via the Matsoku Valley The roadworks include a major bridge across the Katse Dam basin in the Pelaneng area

● Construction of camp facilities near the Katse Dam, Butha-Buthe, Clarens and Fouriesburg

● Railway sidings at Ficksburg

● Upgrading the road from Fouriesburg station to the Caledon border post

● A new road from Ficksburg station to the border post, bypassing the town itself

● Reconstruction of the bridges at Caledonspoor and Ficksburg

● Relocation and extension

of the border post facilities in SA and Lesotho

● Upgrading roads in Lesotho and SA to cope with traffic volumes generated by the project

● Provision of electric power lines and substations as well as telecommunications and water services

### Delay

SA Department of Water Affairs deputy director-general Theo van Robbroeck says the project is going ahead satisfactorily. Contracts for Katse Dam and the tunnels in Lesotho went out to tender last October and are due for award in October, construction to start early next year

It was originally intended that the contracts for these works should go out in April

1989, but this was delayed by financing provisions

The delivery tunnel in SA goes out to tender this month with the award in October

Mr Van Robbroeck says "There was a delay of several months in the signing of the treaty between SA and Lesotho. Attempts to catch up have been made, but have been only partially successful"

"The project schedule has been changed accordingly and the first delivery of water to SA is expected in October 1996. However, it will be possible to store water for delivery in Katse Dam and to step up the rate of delivery to meet the original programme"

Construction of the access roads continues. The southern access road from Thaba Tseka to Katse Dam site is complete and the northern access road with its associated bridges is under way, but is seven weeks behind schedule. Delays have been mainly caused by adverse weather. However, it is hoped that much of the lost time will be made up

Work on the infrastructure is taking place on both sides of the border. Bridges have been built at Caledonspoor and Ficksburg and at the same places border post facilities are being modified to cope with the demands of 24-hour operations

# Many will lose land when the waters rise

WHEN governments undertake projects the size of the Highlands project (LHWP) there are adverse effects. The LHWP is no exception.

People will have to make way and farm lands will be flooded

Department of Water Affairs deputy director-general Theo van Robbroeck says "About 3 300ha of arable land and 15 800ha of grazing land

will be lost. A total of 273 households will be displaced

"The environmental division of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is responsible for rehousing and compensation. Care is being taken to ensure that the people who move will still be in a position to make a living. This will be done by initiating development projects and training for alternative employment."

## Serious

The LHDA says the number of people displaced and the amount of land which will be flooded will be remarkably small for a project of this size

However, the authority is concerned. It points out that in a country the size of Lesotho even the loss of a small piece of land is serious. Lesotho is densely settled even in its mountains

About 20 000 people live in the immediate area of the Katse Dam site. All agricultural land is farmed and grazing is heavy.

The pressure on land resources is as heavy throughout the country. There is no land available to replace what will be lost at Katse.

The LHDA is determined that none of the country's people will suffer a drop in income as a result of the project. It has held meetings with the people in affected villages to determine their wishes

There appears to be a belief that cash compensation will be of limited assistance. The LHDA says the community wants assistance in obtaining alternative sources of continuous income

## Training

A social study of all the people in the area has been completed and the ownership of every parcel of land which will be lost has been recorded

The LHDA says a continuous check will be kept until such time as the income from the lost land for each household is replaced.

Emphasis for income replacement will be given to training, particularly for job opportunities which arise from the project itself. Efforts will also be made to improve agriculture, affores-

tation and livestock production. Small business development will be encouraged

The LHDA says the negative effects of the project are almost entirely confined to land loss

The Katse Dam will cover a gorge which is exposed to dangerous floods. Therefore, few homes will be lost by flooding of the area

More homes will be lost because of road construction. Compensation is available and each house lost will be replaced with one of good quality and at least as large

The water delivered to SA will not adversely affect irrigation, commercial or industrial supplies

The LHDA says that even the most conservative estimates establish there is more than sufficient for present and future needs in the area. Most of Lesotho's people and agricultural land are supplied from water resources which are unaffected by the LHWP

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**Herroeping van artikel 46 van Wet No. 74 van 1977**

2. (1) Artikel 46 van die Wet word hierby herroep.

(2) Die bepalings van hierdie Proklamasie word nie so uitgelê dat die bepalings daarvan enige reg, voorreg, verpligting of aanspreeklikheid raak wat te eniger tyd voor die inwerkingtreding van hierdie Proklamasie verkry is of ontstaan of opgeloop het as gevolg van 'n bevoegdheid of plig wat die Nasionale Vervoerkommissie in artikel 3 van die Wet op die Koordinering van Vervoer, 1948 (Wet No 44 van 1948), vermeld kragtens die een of ander bepaling van die Wet met betrekking tot die gebied Suidwes-Afrika uitgeoefen of verrig het nie.

(3) Enige aansoek om 'n permit kragtens die een of ander bepaling van die Wet wat by genoemde Nasionale Vervoerkommissie ingedien is en enige appèl wat kragtens so 'n bepaling by hom aangeteken is wat op die gebied Suidwes-Afrika betrekking het en waarvoor daar op die datum onmiddellik voor die inwerkingtreding van hierdie Proklamasie nog nie beslis is nie, word, in die geval 'n aansoek om 'n permit, voor die Padvervoerraad van Suidwes-Afrika en, in die geval van 'n appèl, voor die Padvervoerkommissie van Suidwes-Afrika voortgesit asof so 'n aansoek of appèl by bedoelde Padvervoerraad of Padvervoerkommissie, na gelang van die geval, ingedien of aangeteken is.

(4) By die toepassing van die bepalings van subartikels (2) en (3) word hierdie Proklamasie geag op 29 November 1989 in werking te getree het.

(5) Die bepalings van subartikels (2), (3) en (4) is ook in die gebied Suidwes-Afrika van toepassing.

**Toepassing van hierdie Proklamasie**

3 Behoudens die bepalings van artikel 3 (5) is hierdie Proklamasie slegs in die Republiek van toepassing.

**Kort titel**

4. Hierdie Proklamasie heet die Wysigingsproklamasie op Padvervoer, 1990.

No. 25, 1990

**AFKONDIGING VAN 'N OOREENKOMS AANGEGAAN TUSSEN DIE REGERING VAN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA EN DIE REGERING VAN DIE KONINKRYK VAN LESOTHO MET BETREKKING TOT DIE VESTIGING VAN HANDELSMISSIES**

Kragtens artikel 5 van die Wet op Diplomatieke Immunitete en Voorregte, 1989 (Wet No. 74 van 1989), kondig ek hierby die bepalings van 'n Afrikaanse vertaling van die Ooreenkoms in die Bylae, gesluit op 13 April 1988 tussen die Regering van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika en die Regering van die Koninkryk van Lesotho, waarin voorsiening gemaak word vir die vestiging van Handelsmissies en vir die verlening van immunitete en voorregte aan personeel verbonde aan sodanige Handelsmissies, en aan sekere familieledes van sodanige personeel, af.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seel van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Scottburgh, op hede die Twintigste dag van Desember Eenduisend Negehonderd Nege-en-tagtig.

F. W. DE KLERK,  
Staatspresident.

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

R. F. BOTHA,  
Minister van die Kabinet.

**Repeal of section 46 of Act No. 74 of 1977**

2. (1) Section 46 of the Act is hereby repealed.

(2) The provisions of this Proclamation shall not be construed that its provisions affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred at any time before the commencement of this Proclamation in consequence of any power or duty exercised or performed under any provision of the Act in relation to the territory of South West Africa by the National Transport Commission mentioned in section 3 of the Transport (Co-ordination) Act, 1948 (Act No. 44 of 1948).

(3) Any application for a permit under any provision of the Act submitted to the said National Transport Commission and any appeal lodged with it under any such provision which relate to the territory of South West Africa in connection with which there has not yet been decided on the date immediately before the commencement of this Proclamation, shall be continued, in the case of an application for a permit, before the Local Transportation Board of South West Africa and, in the case of an appeal, before the Road Transportation Commission of South West Africa as if any such application or appeal were submitted or lodged to the said Road Transportation Board or Road Transportation Commission, as the case may be, on the date of such commencement.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3) this Proclamation shall be deemed to have come into operation on 29 November 1990.

(5) The provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) shall also apply in the territory of South West Africa.

**Application of this Proclamation**

3. Subject to the provisions of section 3 (5), this Proclamation shall apply only in the Republic.

**Short title**

4. This Proclamation shall be called the Road Transportation Amendment Proclamation, 1990.

No. 25, 1990

**PUBLICATION OF AN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO WITH REGARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE MISSIONS**

Under section 5 of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 1989 (Act No. 74 of 1989), I hereby publish the provisions of the Agreement in the Schedule, concluded on 13 April 1988 between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, wherein provision is made for the establishment of Trade Missions and for the granting of immunities and privileges to personnel attached to such Trade Missions, and to certain family members of such personnel.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Scottburgh this Twentieth day of December, One thousand Nine hundred and Eighty-nine.

F. W. DE KLERK,  
State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet.

R. F. BOTHA,  
Minister of the Cabinet.

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A Bus

# International money helps two nations

**MOST of the cash needed to construct the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will be raised from international sources**

However, money has already come from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

The DBSA says international borrowing for the project will mean a large injection of cash into the Common Monetary Area, benefiting both SA and Lesotho

Anticipating that the task of raising funds from international sources would take time, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) approached the DBSA to finance the preliminary infrastructure

The bank believes that the project fits with its mission and objectives and has provided the money

"The advanced infrastructure, critical to the success of the of the overall scheme, will also contribute significantly to the basic development of the region," says DBSA

So far this advance finance amounts to loans of about R250-million for infrastructure

Also under consideration by the bank are additional loans of R90-million. The funds would be used for building roads to the northern construction sites, the

camp at Butha-Buthe and electrical and telecommunications services

However, the bank says its involvement has not been restricted to supplying finance. After discussions with other interested parties and potential sources of finance, the LHDA requested the World Bank's assistance in financing for and advice about its institutional and financial planning

The DBSA has granted R20-million for institutional support and is working closely with the LHDA to define its future requirements

Discussions have also taken place about partially financing border crossing facilities, the improvement

of other internal roads, urban development in Thetsane (Maseru) as well as support for industrial development

The LHDA is concerned about the likely impact of the project on Lesotho, particularly those areas associated with the actual construction and the reservoir areas

The LHDA has identified the need for development planning studies and the bank expects to help with this project. Several development opportunities have been found

The DBSA says the scheme can be tackled only as part of a co-ordinated programme and notes that the World Bank has played a major part in achieving this



# Lesotho Highlands water project

A Business Times Survey February 25, 1990

## Power and water for all seasons

Reports by Andrew Gillingham and Ireen Spicer  
Pictures by Hugo van Niekerk

Mr Moleleki says: "The second third and fourth phases will be implemented only as water demand from South Africa increases".

Phase 1A started in 1987 with updating of hydrological data, geotechnical site investigations, detailed design, refined cost studies and the preparation of tender documents.

In 1988 and 1989 hydraulic model investigations were carried out by the Council for Industrial and Scientific Research, the University of the Witwatersrand and Bogreah in France.

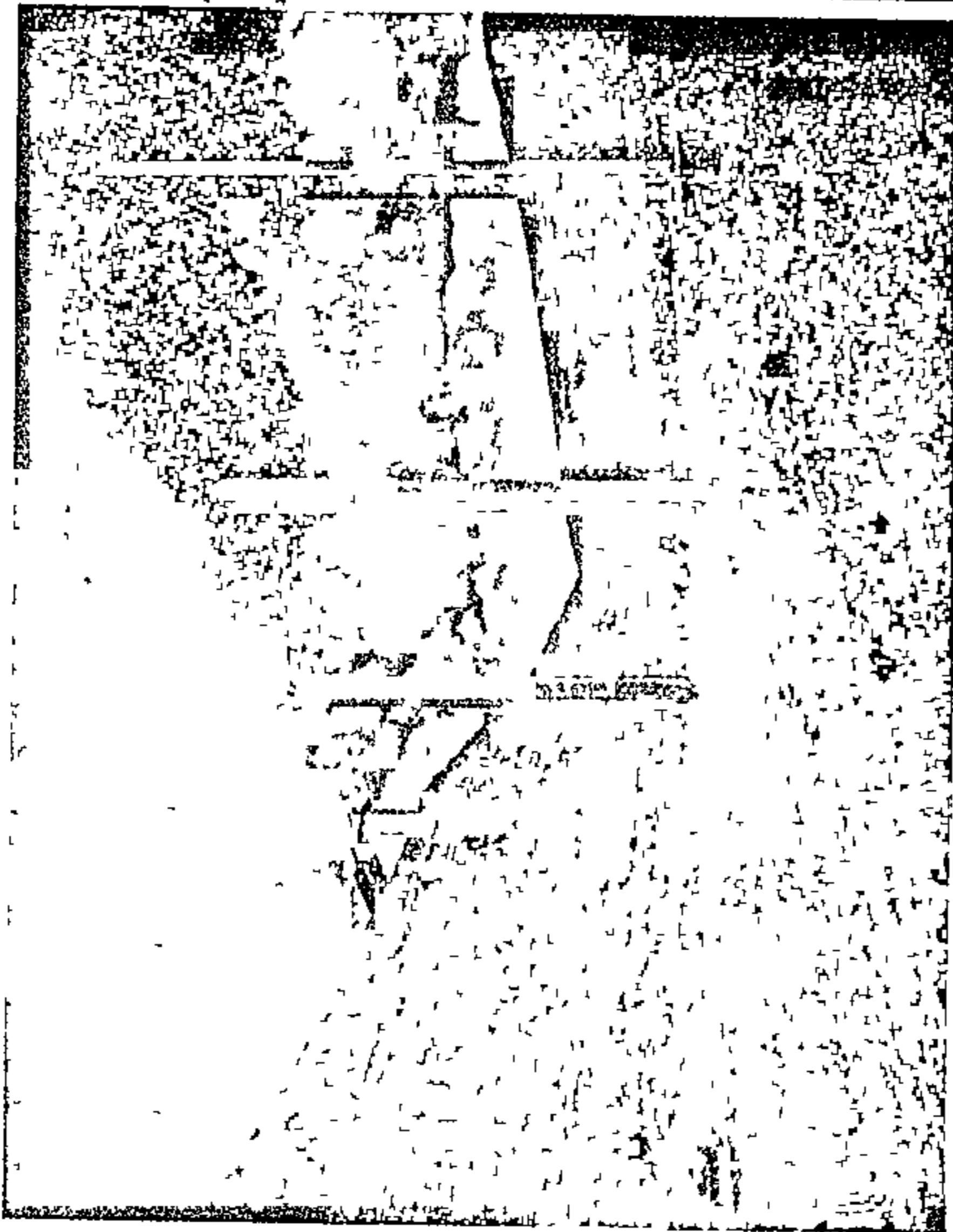
**Changes**

The result was a hydro-power concept, different from that identified by the feasibility study. The changes to the delivery tunnel alignment, power station location and tailpond dam eliminated the need for the planned Sentinel headpond dam.

The estimated cost of Phase 1A includes construction, escalation, financing, administration and environmental studies.

This initial phase includes building the Katse Dam on the Malibamatso River below its confluence with the Bokong. It will have a storage capacity of 1,86 cubic kilometres.

Terminal structures for the Phase 1B Moleleki-Katse tunnel and the Phase 2 Malibamatso pumping station



The 20 storey-high support pillars of the Malibamatso road bridge built by LTA. The R12-million, 465m bridge spans the Katse Dam basin in the Pelaneng area.

## First fruits as giant scheme takes shape

LESOTHO is already reaping the fruits of the Highlands water project and stands to gain a great deal more.

So says Monyane Moleleki, public relations manager for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA).

"The access roads built in the infrastructure phase reach some of the roughest remotest areas in Africa and are already being used by the general public."

"Employment is another benefit. About 1,600 locals have been employed so far on project works by head-contrators, consultants and contractors."

"Lesotho is also making financial gains through the taxes charged on equipment and materials brought into the country."

### Training

"Of longer-term importance, however, is the construction of two project related training centres where labourers will be trained in construction and other skills," says Mr Moleleki.

"The benefits of the project are far from one-sided. The project will double the water resources available to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area."

Imports from Lesotho will also improve the quality of water available to the PWV. Experts say the quality of project progress.

### Double

Mr Moleleki says the kingdom stands to gain even greater benefits as the project progresses.

There will be the direct benefits from the royalties South Africa will pay for the water - R12-million a year at 1987 prices. This will effectively double Lesotho's income.

There is the projected saving to be made on electricity - R12.5-million a year at 1985 prices. Power is currently imported from South Africa.

There are the expected spinoffs of the development of fisheries, tourism and irri-

### Double

each country as well as a joint commission with monitoring, advisory and approval powers.

They are the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in Lesotho and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority in SA. Each is responsible for the implementation of the part of the project which falls in its own territory.

The organisations are responsible for arranging the finance as well as the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the project. The LHDA has the additional task of developing ancillary projects in Lesotho, such as water supply, irrigation, tourism and fisheries.

## Royalties will boost Lesotho's coffers for over half a century

THE basic contractual agreement between Lesotho and SA governing the implementation and operation of the project and the export of water is embodied in the treaty signed in October 1986.

The treaty covers the rights and obligations of the parties and lays down the quantities of water to be delivered, the basis for sharing the costs of the project, as well as formulae for calculating the royalty payments to be made by SA for water.

Under the treaty SA will be responsible for costs of the project relating to

### Double

There will be the direct benefits from the royalties South Africa will pay for the water - R12-million a year at 1987 prices. This will effectively double Lesotho's income.

There is the projected saving to be made on electricity - R12.5-million a year at 1985 prices. Power is currently imported from South Africa.

There are the expected spinoffs of the development of fisheries, tourism and irri-

gated agriculture as well as the development of rural areas and their electrification.

Lesotho will also inherit the communications network set up by the project contractors. Direct employment of local people should reach 7 000 at the height of the Katse Dam construction.

### Training

"Of longer-term importance, however, is the construction of two project related training centres where labourers will be trained in construction and other skills," says Mr Moleleki.

"The benefits of the project are far from one-sided. The project will double the water resources available to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area."

Imports from Lesotho will also improve the quality of water available to the PWV. Experts say the quality of project progress.

### Double

Mr Moleleki says the kingdom stands to gain even greater benefits as the project progresses.

There will be the direct benefits from the royalties South Africa will pay for the water - R12-million a year at 1987 prices. This will effectively double Lesotho's income.

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# Big ones still up for grabs

A TOTAL of 33 consortiums made up of 89 engineering companies from 22 countries showed initial interest in competing for the contract to build the R2-billion Katse Dam, the largest in the Highlands project

It is believed that several have had difficulties in structuring their financing, a condition of tender, and have fallen away. They are the consortiums headed by Yugoslav, Chinese, Austrian, Spanish, Rus-

(167)  
sian and Scandinavian companies

Many companies still interested have regrouped and consortiums headed by British, French, German, South African and Taiwanese contractors are still in the running

Tender documents are due to be returned to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority by April 20 and awarded on October 17. Construction of the Katse Dam should begin in February next year

South African companies that have tied up with foreign concerns

5/7/90 25/2/90  
to form consortiums are Basil Read, Stocks & Stocks, GFC Mining, Ruc Mining, Shaft Sinkers, Grinaker Construction, Murray & Roberts, Group Five, LTA and Goldstein SM & Co

The project has brought a considerable amount of work for SA's construction industry

For example, LTA has completed the R2,5-million Katse bridge linking the access roads to the side of the dam. Upstream the company is at work on the R12-million Malibatso bridge, which will

have a span of 465 metres, and the R1,8-million 92m Bolahla bridge near Pitseng

CI Parkhomes, a Murray & Roberts subsidiary, has been a major player in the provision of accommodation for the project. It has filled two contracts worth more than R2-million

Contracts which have already been won are for roads and bridges. The big contracts are still up for grabs and the real impact of the Highlands project on SA's construction industry is still to be felt



167 25/2/90

# Tiny mountain kingdom plunges into political crisis

167 25/2/90

## Lekhanya promises to rid govt of corruption

By DESMOND BLOW

LESOTHO'S alleged hit squad - said to have killed ANC members, two former pro-ANC cabinet ministers and their wives - could be unmasked as Lesotho military ruler Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya strengthens his position

Lekhanya alleged that the three members of the six-man military junta arrested this week were preventing proper investigation of the murder of former Cabinet ministers Desmond Sixishe and Vincent Makhele in November 1986.

Sixishe and Makhele were taken from a dinner party by six men and executed in the mountains

Those arrested were Justice Minister Col Sekhobe Letsie, and his brother, Col Thaabe Letsie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance and the King's Palace, and Col Aloysius Mosoeuyane Transport and Communications Minister Col Philip Mokhantso was also held

Earlier, Lekhanya dismissed 10 other Cabinet ministers, implying that they were removed for bribery and corruption. After the arrests, two of Sekhobe Letsie's bodyguards were arrested in

connection with the murders

Other killings under investigation included those of wounded ANC member Mazizi Mapekeza in a Maseru hospital in March 1988

At a Press conference on Friday Lekhanya pledged to clean up all government corruption

Because interference had made it difficult for the Attorney General to prosecute people in the past, he would be empowered to prosecute anyone for corruption or bribery, Lekhanya said

The Letsies, close relatives of King Moshoeshoe II, were behind the coup that deposed Leabua Jonathan's regime in January 1986

It was through them that Lekhanya became Lesotho's military ruler

The Letsie brothers, known to be royalists who believe the monarchy should have absolute authority, are thought to have leaked Lekhanya's killing of student George Ramone, 20

An inquest accepted Lekhanya's evidence that he shot the student to prevent him from raping a woman

"After that it was war between the two factions," said observers - Lekhanya denied that

the ministers had been arrested to prevent a coup, but said an arms and ammunition cache had been seized from the home of one of the Letsie brothers

Lekhanya stripped the king of all but his ceremonial powers and said the country would be under democratic civilian government by June 1992

Lekhanya said he had streamlined the council of ministers by combining certain services, including justice and law

Other changes he promised were:

- In the army;
- Efficient administration of justice; and
- Privatisation of State enterprises Lesotho Airways and Lesotho Freight would be privatised immediately

He said that Foreign Affairs, for which he would assume responsibility, would foster understanding among nations, particularly those in southern Africa

Through it he hoped to encourage speedy democratisation in South Africa and the formation of a southern African common market

The Ministry of the Interior would review land allocation and citizenship awarded to aliens during the past four years to see whether corruption was involved



Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya ... stronger.



King Moshoeshoe ... stripped of power.

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## 20 years of bloodshed

By REVELATION NTOULA

THE current political crisis in Lesotho could plunge the tiny impoverished kingdom into its worst civil strife since independence in 1969

The country, with a population of about 1.5 million, has been troubled with turbulence and bloodshed since independence when, in 1970, Chief Leabua Jonathan, supported by South Africa's Prime Minister Dr HF Verwoerd, acceded to power

Lesotho has since been governed under a state of emergency (qomatsi)

Viewed against other crises since the kingdom's independence, the present one appears to have more explosive characteristics than its predecessors. Significantly, an important aspect of all the crises has always been the position of King Moshoeshoe II who, in Basotho tradition, bears final national authority and responsibility

There was hue and cry in 1970 when Jonathan put the king under house arrest at his Maseru capital. The king subsequently was forced to stay in Europe for about three years.

Jonathan, apart from being a politician, was of royal blood - which also brought him certain privileges. He also had the added advantage of being King Moshoeshoe's uncle

He could therefore gamble safely on such acts as muzzling his nephew and using his position as a member of royalty with the support of other chiefs, to restrict the king's movements.

The position with military ruler Justin Lekhanya, who led the 1986 coup against Jonathan, is, however, completely different

He is a commoner, does not enjoy widespread support among the kingdom's chiefs and was little known before the military takeover

There have, however, been definite signs of serious friction within the ranks of the military council. Sources from

within the junta indicated that Lekhanya, who had often been criticised for being a Pretoria puppet, had constantly been advised to resign by his colleagues but had scoffed at the suggestion.

Rumour was rife in the Maseru capital in 1988 that a mini-coup within the military council had ousted Lekhanya who, it said, had later been reinstated with Pretoria's influence

Lekhanya's public image was further damaged during a judicial inquest during which he admitted shooting and killing a 20-year-old Maseru student

Lekhanya was cleared by the Maseru Chief magistrate, who ruled he had acted correctly under the circumstances

Lekhanya defied King Moshoeshoe and several senior councillors, who called for his resignation following the shooting incident

Matters came to a head when Lekhanya refused to attend a meeting with the king, who is the Head of State. This, in Basotho tradition, amounted to an almost unpardonable act of open defiance.

What could be the last straw, however, has been Lekhanya's stripping of King Moshoeshoe II of all power

This followed the king's refusal to confirm the appointment of three new members - named by Lekhanya - to fill three of the vacancies on the military council left by the detention of four senior officers this week

The questions now are Can Lekhanya take the matter a step further by either detaining the monarch or expelling him from the council? Will the king accept being rendered powerless by a commoner? What will be the population's reaction to the whole episode? And how long can Lekhanya cling to power?

The situation is that he has the guns while Moshoeshoe (and others) have the support of the people

Survey February 25, 1990

# Quid pro quo for foreign contractors

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SI Tues  
25/2/90

THE financing strategy developed for the Highlands scheme is as complex as the project itself.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is responsible for raising the cash for the project works in that country and Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority must raise money for the delivery tunnel north of the Caledon River

The financing of the Lesotho part is guided by the principle that offshore money raised should be at least equivalent to that required to cover the cost of the imports of materials, goods and equipment

## Confidence

To meet this requirement, the provision of contractor-driven finance in the form of export credits and commercial loans, and possibly including concessionary finance elements, is a condition of tender. It forms an integral part in the evaluation and adjudication of the tenders.

The remaining finance will be raised on the money market.

The strong identification of the World Bank with the project, which is shown by the bank's participation as a direct lender, has been instrumental in generating the necessary confidence in international financing circles, says the Department of Water Affairs.

All the loans raised for the implementation of the water transfer part of Phase 1A

will be guaranteed by the SA Government

Department of Water Affairs deputy director-general Theo van Robbroeck says "Progress with raising the cash for Phase 1A is continuing satisfactorily. A total of R300-million has been secured for more than 40 contracts for studies, design and construction of infrastructure.

"Another R200-million is scheduled to be raised in the next six months to complete the advanced infrastructure programme.

"Positive indications of available finance for the main construction phase have been received from export credit agencies and commercial banks in a wide range of countries. The World Bank has also indicated its support.

"Rand finance will be raised by the project authorities on the local money and capital markets. South African contractors will come into consideration for export credits."

## Levy

The cost of the water transfer component of the project will amount to about 90% of the total project costs.

SA has imposed a levy on each cubic metre of water supplied from the Vaal River system to partially meet the costs which will be borne by SA in terms of the treaty.

In the long term it is hoped that the water tariff will be cut.



Star 26/2/90



Major-General Metsing Lekhanya . . . fired and detained four members of military council.

# Lesotho's king has a yearning <sup>(167)</sup> for power

Although the initial losers in recent events in Lesotho are undoubtedly the detained members of the ruling Military Council, the ultimate loser may be the Lesotho head of state, King Moshoeshoe II

However, observers of the often Byzantine world of Lesotho politics have refused to count out the King who would be a man — preferably president.

When strong-man Major General Metsing Lekhanya fired and detained the four members of the military council this week, he alleged it was for interfering with government investigations into the deaths of two former cabinet ministers and their wives murdered in January 1986

But he also spoke of the close family ties between the men and the King — and there were suggestions that the arrests were designed to forestall a coup plot against him designed to install King Moshoeshoe as an old style ruling monarch. As a result major General Lekhanya stripped the

King Moshoeshoe II may be the ultimate loser in the Lesotho power play, reports **KEN VER-NON** of The Star's Africa News Service.

King of his remaining (ceremonial) powers and effectively banished him to the political wilderness

The first such incident occurred in 1966, shortly after independence, when the first prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, reacted to demands by the King that fundamental legislation be referred to the country in referendum, by deporting four of the King's closest advisers

He also forced King Moshoeshoe to sign an undertaking to refrain from interfering in politics

When Chief Jonathan staged his own coup in 1970 after losing an election, he enforced the King's abdication, sending him into exile in the Netherlands for ten months

Upon his return he was forced to accept a procla-

mation that once again prohibited him from taking part in politics

Once again confined to the prison that his palace has once again become, the man remains an enigma. Born Prince Bereng Seeiso, it is believed he received his initial education at the Roman Catholic mission at Roma before going on to study at Oxford University

Popular wisdom has it that he is generally inclined to the left of the political spectrum and is a sympathiser, if not supporter, of the South African African National Congress

It is also said that he lost much popular respect in Lesotho when he was found cowering in a hut on Thaba Bosu by soldiers sent to fetch him by Chief Jonathan during the 1970 coup

In the lack of facts, perhaps fiction rules. But what is certain is that in spite of a distinct yearning, and many attempts, King Moshoeshoe does not yet rule

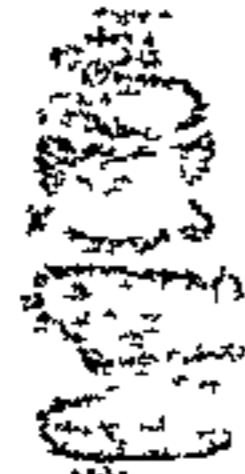


King Moshoeshoe II . . . so little is known about him that he remains an enigma.



# Moshoeshoe

## accused of



## nepotism

Sowetan 26/2/90

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**MASERU** - Lesotho's military rulers have stepped up a campaign against the monarch they stripped of power in a struggle for control of this southern African kingdom.

King Moshoeshoe II was pushed aside by Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya for opposing last Monday's arrest and sacking of four members of the ruling military council accused of insubordination and obstructing justice.

Two of the officers, Colonel Thaabe Letsie (50) and Colonel Sekhobe Letsie (42), are members of the royal family who championed a more powerful role for the king.

The king's legislative and executive powers are now vested in a six-man military council which Lekhanya has chaired since he took power in a 1986 coup.

Ignoring the king's protests, Lekhanya appointed new members to the military council, fired nine government ministers and trimmed his Cabinet by abolishing four posts.

Political analysts say Lekhanya now effectively rules and reigns over the kingdom.



**MOSHOESHOE**

The military authorities have since launched veiled attacks accusing the king of business monopoly and nepotism.

Lekhanya himself has vowed to break a monopoly enjoyed by the monarch's vast chicken farm empire.

According to residents of the capital Maseru, no egg producer could sell until all egg supplies from the king's farms had been marketed.

### Influenced

'Public utilities such as egg circles should be open to all producers without discrimination,' Lekhanya declared on Friday.

In another officially sanctioned attack the police commissioner suggested the monarch was influenced by family con-

siderations in his confrontation with Lekhanya.

He referred to the arrest of suspected killers of two former Cabinet ministers found dead in 1986.

One of those arrested was a one-time bodyguard of Sekhobe Letsie, accused along with the other dismissed members of the military council of obstructing police investigations into the killings.

The military authorities have also warned the king against jeopardising the future of the monarchy.

### Power

Hours before he lost power, Moshoeshoe issued a 'message to the nation', which has not been published by the local media.

A spokesman complained that the message, appealing for calm, had been issued without government knowledge.

Political analysts say the king had never enjoyed real power.

'Lekhanya needed him to legitimise his government after the coup and the king was quite happy to co-operate as long as his cousins were in government.'

'Now that is no more,' one said - Sapa-  
Reuter

# Lekhanya presents plans for economic upsurge

Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG** — The military leader of Lesotho, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has announced wide-ranging strategies for improving the country's economic performance.

In a statement, General Lekhanya promised to:

- Stamp out corruption and monopolistic practices.

- Investigate privatisation of public enterprises which have previously been a financial burden to the state.

- Continue streamlining the civil service and improving productivity.

He also reaffirmed the right to speedy trials and instructed a task force to set a timetable for democratisation.

The task force, whose members will be announced this week, is headed by newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tom Thabane and will meet for the first time today. It has to report back to General Lekhanya by March 12.

The National Council, which is to meet in April, will then use the timetable as a basis for drawing up a new constitution.

## Privatise

General Lekhanya said he planned to privatise Lesotho Airways and Lesotho Freight, but decisions on whether other public enterprises would be privatised would be made only after the task force had handed in its report.

In keeping with a plan to cut government spending and increase productivity, mapped out in conjunction with the IMF more than a year ago, General Lekhanya announced that he had eliminated four ministerial positions following his cabinet reshuffle last week.

"I need not over-emphasise the importance of such measures," he said. He also promised to aid the judiciary.

# Lekhanya announces wide-ranging changes

LESOTHO Military Council leader Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya on Friday announced wide-ranging strategies for improving Lesotho's economic performance.

**MANDY JEAN WOODS**

In a statement, Lekhanya promised to

- Stamp out corruption and monopolistic practices,
- Investigate privatisation of costly public enterprises,
- Continue streamlining

the civil service and improving productivity. He also reaffirmed the right to speedy trials for individuals and instructed a task force to set a timetable for democratisation.

The task force, whose members will be announced this week, is headed by newly appointed Foreign Minister Tom Thabane and will meet for the

first time today. It has to report back to Lekhanya by March 12.

A senior political source said the National Council, to meet in April, would then use the timetable as a basis for drawing up a new constitution.

Lekhanya said he planned to privatise Lesotho Airways and Lesotho Freight "both of which have drained the coffers of this country". But decisions on whether and how other public enterprises would be privatised would be made after the task force's recommendations were made.

Lekhanya also announced he had eliminated four ministerial positions in his cabinet reshuffle last week.

Lekhanya also promised help to the judiciary, which is overloaded with work and subject to interference by other government officials.

Land allocations and citizenship given to aliens in the past four years would be immediately reviewed. He said he would also get the army into productive services while continuing to professionalise it into an elite, civil defence corps.



# Lekhanya now has complete control



THE military ruler of Lesotho, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has formalised the military's complete usurpation of power by effectively taking control over both the executive and legislative functions of government.

The orders have been published in an extraordinary Government Gazette, dated February 23 1990, in an order by the military government which effectively gives the general absolute power

in the mountain kingdom.

This follows the detention and dismissal from the then existing Military Council two weeks ago by Lekhanya of three members on the council said to support King Moshoeshe.

When the King refused to sign an order legalising this move, along with other arrests, Lekhanya moved against him, stripping him of power.

In the gazette the order, termed Or-

der Number Two of 1990, gives to the Military Council, under the chairmanship of General Lekhanya as head of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, the executive and legislative authority formerly held by King Moshoeshe II.

The Council of Ministers formerly headed by the King is brought under the general's chairmanship with specific responsibility for implement-

ing the orders of the Military Council.

The order rescinds Order Number Two of 1986, which was promulgated immediately after the coup in that year which ousted prime minister Leabua Jonathan and which vested executive powers in King Moshoeshe II.

In the absence of a constitution (the constitution having been suspended by Jonathan when he first seized power in 1970) the 1986 order in effect became Lesotho's constitution.

CAP  
TMS  
9/3/90  
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### Letsie charged

MASERU — A former member of the Military Council of Lesotho, Colonel Sekhobo Letsie, 42, and a former army sergeant Ngoana-Ntloana Lerotholi have been charged with the murder of two former cabinet ministers, Mr Desmond Sixishe and Mr Vincent Makhele, and their wives, and the attempted murder of a university lecturer, Mr Tsolo Lelala, and his wife three years ago — Sapa

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# King's relatives face murder charges

TWO relatives of Lesotho's King Moshoechoe have been charged with the murder in November 1986 of two cabinet ministers and their wives

The two suspects were arrested a fortnight ago when Lesotho's military ruler General Metsing Lekhanya clamped down on his opponents within the government and put the king under house arrest

The two arrested men are a former member of the military council, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, 42, and a former member of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, Ngoana-Niloana Lerotholi, 39. Both are cousins of the king

Letsie and Lerotholi appeared in the Maseru Magistrate's Court and were

**By MZIMKULU MALUNGA**

accused of murdering Desmond Sixishe, Vincent Makhele and their wives.

The two are also accused of the attempted murder of university lecturer Tsolo Lelala and his wife Mantsane

Sixishe and Makhele were ministers in the Leabua Jonathane's government which was deposed in a military coup in January 1986.

In another trial, Mokete Tumo, a former captain in the RLDF, is being charged with the attempted murder of a Maseru businessman, Moeketsi Mqedlane, in March 1988. Tumo was also arrested in Lekhanya's crackdown.

Tumo is also alleged to have assassinated a South African refugee, Mazizi Mapekeza, who was killed in his hospital bed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Maseru, in March 1988

Both murder cases have been adjourned until March 21

As a result of the trials, an inquest into the deaths of the Makheles and the Sixishes, due to resume this month, will no longer go ahead.

The charges follow a surprise public statement by Lekhanya's government warning people not to attend a rally in support of King Moshoechoe in Thaba Bosiu

The statement said a similar rally organised by the king after independence in 1966 had led to bloodshed.



## Remand for 3 in <sup>167</sup> Lesotho

MASERU - Former Lesotho strongman and member of the Lesotho's six man military council, Sekhobe Letsie (42), and two former members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force (RLDF) appeared briefly in the Maseru Magistrate's Court this week for remand on charges of murder and attempted murder.

Letsie and a former sergeant in the RLDF, Ngona - Ntloana Lerotholi (39) are charged with the alleged murder of the two former Ministers in the government of the late Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan and their wives and the attempted murder of a university lecturer, Mr Tsolo Lelala, and his wife more than three years ago. *Sowetan 7/3/90*

The Ministers killed were Mr Desmond Sixishe and Mr Vincent Makhele.

A taxi burns in Katlehong following bloody clas

# Lesotho king on <sup>c/Press</sup> UK visit <sup>11/3/90</sup> after clashes <sup>167</sup>

KING Moshoeshe II of Lesotho has left the country on his way to Jan Smuts Airport on the first leg of a three-week official visit to the United Kingdom.

Earlier reports said the king was going into exile after head of the ruling Military Council Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya stripped the monarch of all executive and legislative powers.

The clash began when former colonel of the Military Council of Lesotho, Sekhobo Letsie, 42, was charged with the alleged murder of former cabinet ministers Desmond Sixishe and Vincent Makhele, and their wives.



**King Moshoeshe II**

Letsie and his brother Thaabe, both former members of the Military Council, were arrested and dismissed from the council on February 19 this year after Lekhanya charged them with sowing dissension in the Lesotho army.

King Moshoeshe II refused to accept their dismissal and this led to a constitutional crisis in which the king was stripped of his powers. — Sapa.

# Lesotho king sent into exile

By MANDY JEAN WOODS

LESOTHO'S King Moshoe-shoe II was sent into exile in Britain by Military Council leader Major-General Metsing Lekhanya yesterday afternoon

This followed the appearance in Maseru of leaflets, purportedly written by "a chief of the nation I lead", calling for action to be taken

to stop Lekhanya from usurping the king's powers.

In February, Lekhanya stripped the king of his remaining powers and assumed them himself

A British Foreign Office spokesman confirmed the king was expected to arrive at London's Heathrow Airport early today on a private visit of several weeks

No request for asylum had

been received, he said.

Gen Lekhanya said in a statement the leaflets were "aimed at provoking anarchy and bloodshed" and claimed an association with the king.

"Lest our nation finds itself embroiled in mindless conflict we have today requested His Majesty to proceed on a brief sabbatical in the UK. This should allow him ample opportunity for reflection"

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S/Times 11/3/70



# King on 'sabbatical' 167

*Source for 12/13/90*  
MASERU - Chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, said the council had requested King Moshoeshoe II to take "a brief sabbatical" in the United Kingdom.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho a few hours after the king left the country on Satur-

day, Lekhanya said the "sabbatical" should allow the king "ample opportunity for reflection".

"Leaflets scattered in the streets claiming my colleagues and I have usurped the powers of the king are an irresponsible distortion of the truth." - Sapa.

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Cape Times, Monday, March 12, 1990 5

# <sup>Lesotho</sup> Swazi king exiled 'for reflection'

MASERU — King Moshoeshoe II, stripped of authority over his tiny mountain kingdom, left for temporary exile in Britain on Saturday after refusing to endorse the actions of Lesotho's military ruler in a recent power struggle

Major-General Justin Lekhanya, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1986, said in a statement that he had asked the king to take "a brief sabbatical" to give him "ample opportunity for reflection"

Moshoeshoe, 51, formally the head of state, left Maseru on Friday and apparently spent the night in Bloemfontein

Moshoeshoe, king since 1960, was stripped of his powers of assent after he refused to endorse General Lekhanya's February 19 arrest of three key members of the ruling military council closely linked to the king.

In announcing the arrests and the detention of the civilian Minister of Transport, General Lekhanya declared an all-out war on crime, corruption and theft in the nation of 1,6 million and announced the creation of a task force to set a timetable for democratic reforms by 1992.

In 1970, Moshoeshoe was exiled to Holland for nine months during a dispute with the then prime minister Mr Leabua Jonathan, who ruled the country from independence in 1966 until General Lekhanya ousted him in 1986 — UPI

disincentives to labour and production the taxation of married women is an example. At a wider remove are the substantial budget allocations to education and to the provision of physical and social infrastructure, while small business promotion, deregulation and the scrapping of outmoded legislation are opening up opportunity on an increasing scale. Various steps have also been taken to improve efficiency in the public sector, eg the introduction of value-for-money auditing.

As far as the actual process of price formation is concerned, the government is committed to the free play of competitive market forces—hence the Competition Board, reinforced by the Consumer Council and the Harmful Business Practices Committee. Moreover, the Committee on Economic Affairs of the President's Council recently initiated an investigation into what it termed "price exploitation".

Inflation in South Africa over the past few years can however not be regarded as a problem in isolation and with a solution of its own. It was and is an integral part of the whole adjustment problem with which the South African economy has grappled since 1984. In this sense inflation will not be successfully combated unless structural adjustments are made that will improve the economic growth potential. The various elements of economic restructuring announced by the State President in his parliamentary opening address on 2 February 1990 which will be referred to during tomorrow's Budget Speech, are therefore very important in combating inflation.

**Walvis Bay representations**

\*6 Mr J H HOON asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs + *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether the Government has received any representations for Walvis Bay to be handed over to the new government of an independent Namibia, if so, from whom,
- (2) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what decision,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B404E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) During informal talks with designated members of the independence government of Namibia, they indicated that the people of Namibia would welcome it as a deed of great goodwill if Walvis Bay could be handed over to Namibia. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (2) The South African Government's position is that Walvis Bay forms part of South African territory. However, it is also realised that Walvis Bay is presently the only deep sea harbour available to Namibia. It is expected that discussions will be conducted between the South African Government and the future Government of Namibia about the use of Walvis Bay.
- (3) Falls away

**Komatipoort/Maputo road: assistance**

\*7 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs + *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether the Government (a) has decided to make available or (b) is considering making available financial and/or other assistance to Mozambique for the building of a road from Komatipoort to Maputo, if so, what amount has the Government contributed or does it envisage contributing,
- (2) whether the Government intends contributing financially on an annual or any other basis, towards the maintenance of this road, if so, (a) on what basis and (b) what amount is involved,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B410E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) Yes, but for the present only an amount of R300 000 has been made available for a feasibility study. Afterwards attention will be given to the financing of the road. It may be that only part of the road needs to be rebuilt and that the remaining parts of the road will have to be renovated. The possibility of trying to procure overseas funding is also being considered.
- (2) It will depend on the terms of any loan agreement which may be concluded be-

tween the two countries for the financing of the road. This does, however, not mean that a loan agreement will be concluded. *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (3) Yes, when greater clarity with regard to all the facets of this matter has been obtained.

**Zaire road building programme**

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

B411E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) (a) No  
(b) No
- (2) Falls away

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\*9 Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Law and Order + *Hansard 13/3/90*

Whether any instructions to refrain from political activities were issued to members of the Reserve Police Force during the latest specified period of three years for which information is available, if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) for what reasons and (c) who issued these instructions?

B413E

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER**

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or to be erected between Wepener and Zastron, if so, (a) what are the points in dispute (b) when is it expected that the dispute will be settled and (c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard, if not.

- (2) whether there is any delay in erecting the border fence concerned, if so, what is the reason for the delay?

*Hansard 13/3/90* B415E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) Yes
  - (a) There is a difference of opinion between the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho in connection with the location of the international boundary between Wepener and Zastron.

Two portions of the border are being questioned by the Kingdom of Lesotho namely the Cornetspruit/Liphiring area and the Langeberg area.

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*Handwritten:* 167  
13/3/90

would geographically speaking be part of Lesotho should the normal contour of the mountain border as proposed by Lesotho In terms of the above-mentioned agreement the triangle has always been RSA territory

- (b) The difference of opinion will again receive attention as soon as talks can be held with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lesotho to discuss the matter
- (c) The following steps have already been taken or are now envisaged

(i) On 30 June 1989 a Joint Commission of Enquiry visited the area After completion of the enquiry the officials involved in the Commission came to the conclusion that the matter would have to be resolved at Government level Lesotho consequently requested that the matter be referred to me and Colonel Thabae Letsie of the Military Council of Lesotho for consideration

(ii) The Department of Foreign Affairs has on various occasions since then tried to further the discussions

(iii) At the beginning of 1990 it was once again suggested that a meeting be arranged in Lesotho as soon as possible after the opening of the RSA parliament In February it was proposed to Lesotho that the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs visit Lesotho for this purpose on 26 or 28 March 1990 Because of the changes in the Military and Ministers' Councils of Lesotho soon afterwards and specifically the retirement of Colonel Thabae Letsie as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lesotho's reaction is at present being awaited as to when a meeting with the

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\*11 Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development *Handwritten:* 13/3/90

Whether any consideration has been given to the establishment of a compulsory transferable pension scheme, if so, (a) what consideration, (b) when and (c) with what result, if not, why not?

**THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) the matter was investigated by various committees over a number of years,
- (b) over the period as from December 1964 to February 1987,
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  - (2) whether there are any (a) surcharges and/or (b) duties on imported condoms, if so, what surcharges and/or duties,
  - (3) whether, in view of the increasing number of cases of Aids, she will take steps to have such surcharges and/or duties withdrawn, if so, (a) what steps and (b) when, if not, why not?
- Handwritten:* 13/3/90 B423E
- THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT**
- (1) Yes, for the purchase of 21 000 000 condoms
  - (2) (a) and (b) yes, — surcharge 20% — import duties 25%

*Handwritten:* general sales tax 13% — provincial handling fee 8%

(3) (a) and (b) yes, the matter has already been discussed with the State Tender Board and with Customs and Excise of the Department of Finance, but is to be placed on the agenda for discussion again

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**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

- (a) The numbers varied from 303 to 344
- (b) (i) 26 February 1990 (ii) 8 March 1990
- (c) The prisoners offered a large number of complaints and demands as reasons for the hunger strike These varied from complaints about privileges and classification to demands for release
- (d) The authorities acted consistently in terms of internationally accepted practices These varied from the application of the Declaration of Tokyo to discussions and my request to the acting Judge-President of the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope, The Honourable Judge M R de Kock, to deal with the complaints of the concerned prisoners Judge De Kock's report has now been received and is presently being studied I also refer the honourable member to a press statement issued by my office last night

**Black pupils: technical education**

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Whether his Department provides technical education for Black pupils at secondary school level, if not, why not, if so, (a) what technical education, (b) where, (c) how many pupils can be catered for and (d) how many pupils are enrolled for technical education at secondary school level? *Handwritten:* 13/3/90 B425E

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

- (a) Education for the technical field of study Pupils who follow the technical field of study have to take Technical Drawing as well as at least one technical subject (Woodworking, Welding and Metalwork, Electrician work, Electronics, Fitting and Turning, Motor Mechanics, Motor Body Repairing, Plumbing and Sheet Metal working, Bricklaying and Plastering)
- (b) At comprehensive schools countrywide located in the different regions as follows
 

Diamond Fields	2
Highveld	15
Johannesburg	12
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- (c) Workshops are designed to accommodate 100 pupils per field of study With the existing facilities technical education can be provided to approximately 22 500 pupils at 49 schools
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- (2) whether the Registrar of Reporting Organizations and Persons has submitted a report in terms of section 7(1) of the said Act, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that the report will be completed?



disincentives to labour and production the taxation of married women is an example. At a wider remove are the substantial budget allocations to education and to the provision of physical and social infrastructure, while small business promotion, deregulation and the scrapping of outmoded legislation are opening up opportunity on an increasing scale. Various steps have also been taken to improve efficiency in the public sector, eg the introduction of value-for-money auditing.

As far as the actual process of price formation is concerned the government is committed to the free play of competitive market forces—hence the Competition Board reinforced by the Consumer Council and the Harmful Business Practices Committee. Moreover, the Committee on Economic Affairs of the President's Council recently initiated an investigation into what it termed "price exploitation".

Inflation in South Africa over the past few years can however not be regarded as a problem in isolation and with a solution of its own. It was and is an integral part of the whole adjustment problem with which the South African economy has grappled since 1984. In this sense inflation will not be successfully combated unless structural adjustments are made that will improve the economic growth potential. The various elements of economic restructuring announced by the State President in his parliamentary opening address on 2 February 1990 which will be referred to during tomorrow's Budget Speech are therefore very important in combating inflation.

**Walvis Bay representations**

\*6 Mr J H HOON asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs + *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether the Government has received any representations for Walvis Bay to be handed over to the new government of an independent Namibia, if so from whom,
- (2) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what decision,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B404E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) During informal talks with designated members of the independence government of Namibia, they indicated that the people of Namibia would welcome it as a deed of great goodwill if Walvis Bay could be handed over to Namibia. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (2) The South African Government's position is that Walvis Bay forms part of South African territory. However, it is also realised that Walvis Bay is presently the only deep sea harbour available to Namibia. It is expected that discussions will be conducted between the South African Government and the future Government of Namibia about the use of Walvis Bay.
- (3) Falls away.

**Komatipoort/Maputo road, assistance**

\*7 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs + *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether the Government (a) has decided to make available or (b) is considering making available financial and/or other assistance to Mozambique for the building of a road from Komatipoort to Maputo, if so, what amount has the Government contributed or does it envisage contributing,
- (2) whether the Government intends contributing financially on an annual or any other basis, towards the maintenance of this road, if so, (a) on what basis and (b) what amount is involved,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B410E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- (1) Yes, but for the present only an amount of R300 000 has been made available for a feasibility study. Afterwards attention will be given to the financing of the road. It may be that only part of the road needs to be rebuilt and that the remaining parts of the road will have to be renovated. The possibility of trying to procure overseas funding is also being considered.
- (2) It will depend on the terms of any loan agreement which may be concluded between the two countries for the financing of the road. This does, however, not mean that a loan agreement will be concluded. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (3) Yes when greater clarity with regard to all the facets of this matter has been obtained.

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at present, whites make all the decisions".

## Lesotho releases colonels

MASERU — Two former members of the Lesotho Military Council, Colonel Thabe Letsie and Colonel Khethang Mosoeunyane, have been released from detention in Maseru and taken to their villages.

The men were released at the weekend and have been restricted to their homes from 6 pm to 6 am. They have also been barred from communicating with anyone other than close family members. — Sapa

Star 157

# Lesotho's king <sup>167</sup> ordered into exile

w/ Mail 18/3 - 22/3/90

LESOTHO'S King Moshoeshoe II went into exile last weekend in what appears to be the end of a reign in which he never exercised real political power.

In a statement broadcast on Radio Lesotho, military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, said the king had been asked to go on a "brief sabbatical" to Britain.

But King Moshoeshoe's return date is far from certain, and observers believe the monarch has entered a second period of indefinite exile, following his expulsion to the Netherlands after Chief Leabua Jonothane imposed a state of emergency in 1970.

General Lekhanya has defended his crackdown on the royal family as a move towards civilian rule, which he said was opposed by the king and two of his cousins who served under Lekhanya on the ruling Military Council.

However, in a series of letters to the general, copies of which were sent to the *Weekly Mail*, the king has denied he was opposed to returning Lesotho to democratic, civilian government.

Moshoeshoe said that the national council which Lekhanya has proposed establishing next month as a first step towards restoring democracy was an idea that could have been implemented long ago.

"You (Lekhanya) should recall that since March 1989 after the Pitso

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

(rally) at Thaba Bosiu, the prevailing idea was always that the national council should be installed before the end of the year," Moshoeshoe said, adding that the reason given by the Military Council for the delay was that "the armed forces were still being consulted".

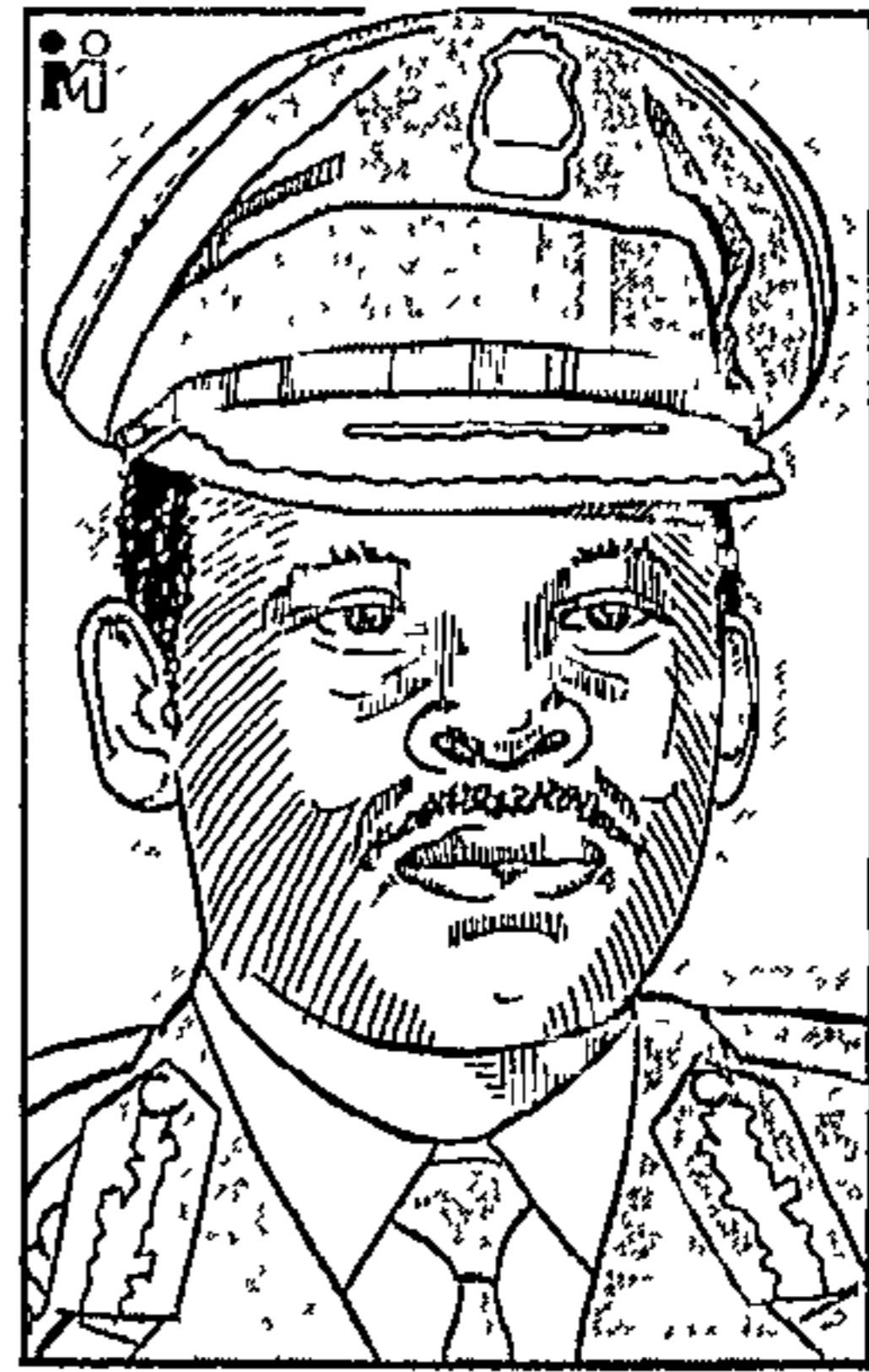
The king disputed Lekhanya's claim that he and his cousins, the Letsie brothers Sekhobe and Thaabe, delayed moves towards civilian rule because of their strong beliefs in feudalism and an absolute monarchy.

The unwillingness to see the Suspension of Political Activities Order (commonly known as Order No. 4) repealed has also cost the royal family popular support.

Sekhobe Letsie presently faces a murder charge and Thaabe Letsie has been placed under house arrest following his brief detention.

"It is not fair to give this nation and the international community the impression that I acted in any way to impede or protract moves towards 'civilian government'," the king wrote in one of the letters headlined *Truth Is My Shield*.

He said the issue of "family relationships" did not play any role in his refusal to endorse Lekhanya's sack-



Lekhanya ... 'compelled to act'

ing of the Letsie brothers from the Military Council last month.

Moshoeshoe said he only requested an explanation from Lekhanya about the removal of four senior government officials.

Lekhanya has said he was compelled to make the changes by "a group of captains" and could not provide a "satisfactory explanation".

The king once won wide popular support for his strong anti-apartheid line, a stance which made him fall out of favour with the Jonothane government. That support, however, has largely disappeared through his endorsement of Order No. 4, and has led to calls from political parties for the issue of a monarchy in Lesotho to be put to a referendum.

news agency ~~hangup~~ reported yesterday

*CMT Tmp 16/12/80*

# Lesotho detains minister *167*

MASERU. — Lesotho police have detained Dr Michael Sefali, a former cabinet minister dismissed in a major cabinet reshuffle which followed the arrest of three members of the military council for alleged insubordination.



# Is this the end of the monarchy?

C/Press 18/3/90

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## Anti-royalty Mokhehle might come to power in Lesotho

By REVELATION NTOLA

**M**AJOR-General Metsing Lekhanya's sacking and detention of four pro-monarchy members of the Military Council could herald the end of the chieftainship system in Lesotho

When Lekhanya assumed power in a military coup about two years ago, he inherited a host of problems dating back more than 20 years when his predecessor Chief Leabua Jonathan usurped power after suspending the kingdom's constitution

This was after Ntsu Mokhehle's Basutoland Congress Party had apparently won the general election

Apart from the BCP, one of Chief Jonathan's targets was King Moshoeshoe II, whom he murdered and banished. He subsequently ruled the kingdom with an iron hand

King Moshoeshoe, who once

enjoyed widespread popularity, was severely criticised for having acquiesced to Chief Jonathan's dictatorship

Although the king was politically impotent, he is believed to have enriched himself materially during his period of silence

Among other things, he owns the biggest poultry farm in the mountain kingdom. He has often been accused of monopolising the poultry industry and of owning vast tracts of land and cattle. Other chiefs were also criticised for amassing wealth in the midst of poverty.

Earlier Mokhehle's BCP had said it would abolish the chieftainship system because of the privilege it offered the chiefs

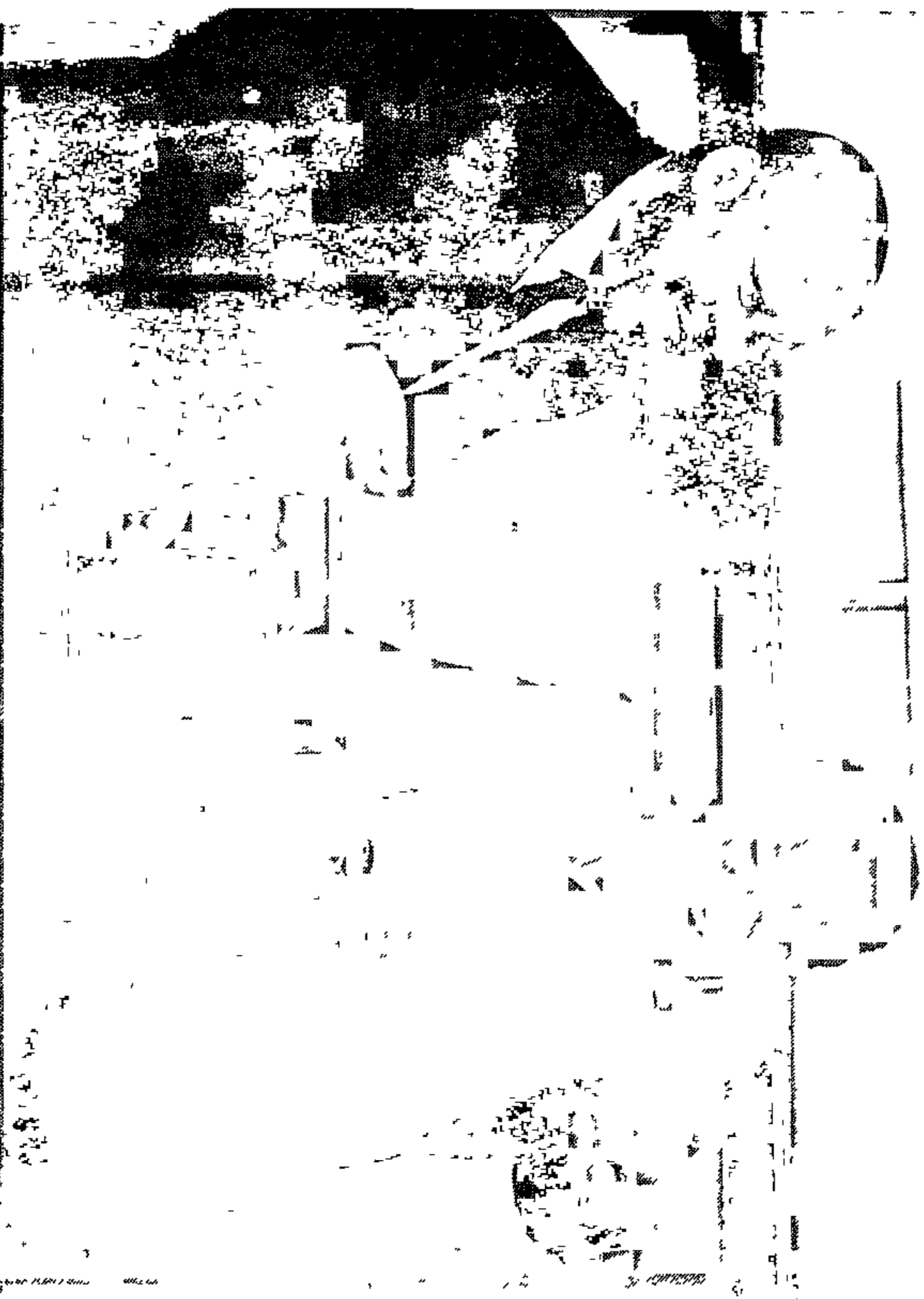
The system, among other things, gives the chiefs the sole right to distribute and confiscate land. It also makes them automatic heirs to livestock accruing from fines imposed on subjects

It was perhaps Mokhehle's threat to abolish the chieftainship system which prompted Chief Jonathan - King Moshoeshoe's uncle - to usurp power when it became apparent that Mokhehle's party had won the election

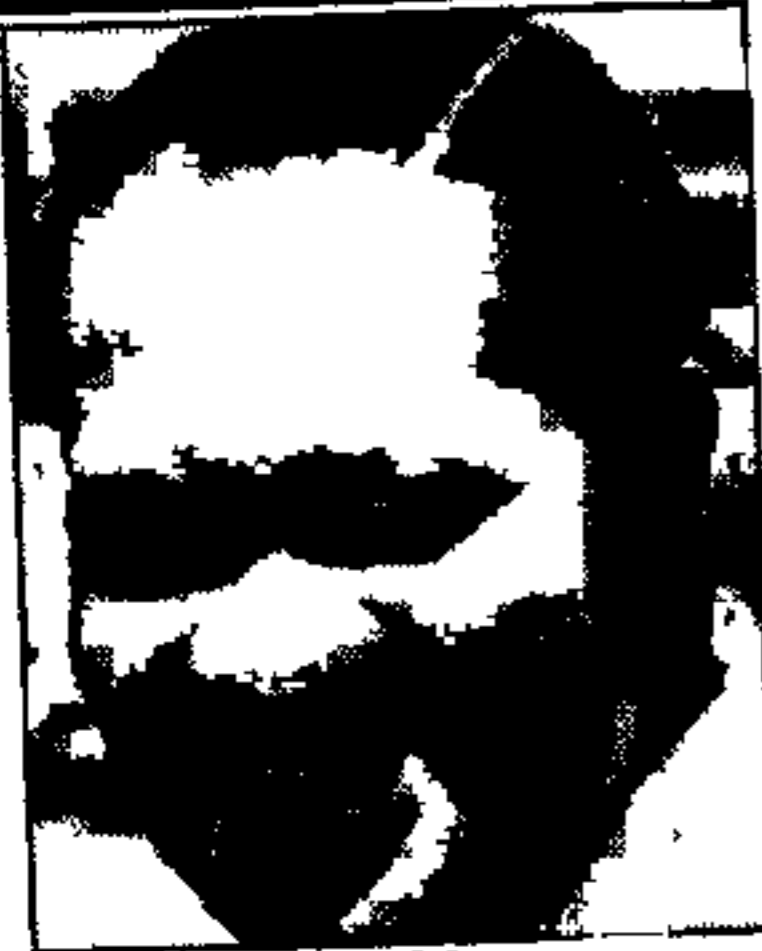
The monarchy has been under constant criticism for its inability to improve the standard of living of the ordinary Mosotho. Rumour is rife in Lesotho that the axing and detention of the alleged pro-chieftainship members of the Military Council could be the beginning of the end for the chieftainship

With anti-monarchy Mokhehle back in Lesotho, the apparent demise of Jonathan's National Party, and the prospect of the kingdom returning to civilian rule in about two years, chances are the BCP could win the elections

And if this happens, it could end the once-popular chieftainship system



Basotho Congress Party's Ntsu Mokhehle (right) shares a joke with one-time adversary, the late Chief Leabua Jonathan.



Mr ER Sekhonyane

# Lesotho cuts taxation on manufacturers to 15pc

Lesotho's Finance Minister, Mr ER Sekhonyane, has tabled a budget which effectively reduces tax for manufacturing companies from 37,5 to 15 percent and reduces most personal taxes

It is Mr Sekhonyane's third budget since the introduction of a financial restructuring programme developed in association with the IMF, which recently praised the Mountain Kingdom for greatly improved fiscal management.

The budget will effectively reduce the 1988-89 budgetary deficit from Maluti 180 million to M59 million, of which a further M20 million will be offset early in the next fiscal year by income from donor projects.

The target for real GDP growth is set at an annual average of 8,3 percent for this and the next fiscal year, while gross investment as a share of GNP is targeted at an average of 56,3 percent over the same period

Similarly, national savings are targeted at an average of 54,3 percent of GNP

This reflects the substantial transfers to Lesotho associated with the financing of the water component of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

A special development fund is to be established for Water Project related revenues.

The six-year tax holiday for foreign manufacturing companies will be abolished. However foreign companies will have the option of immediately switching to the 15 percent tax rate or maintaining their tax holiday and then paying 37,5 percent, as in their original agreement.

Mr Sekhonyane has warned however that the government is committed to stronger enforcement of individual income tax by self-employed persons, including traders.

The present system of assessing and collecting corporate taxes on the preceding year's profits will be replaced by a current basis of assessment, under which companies will be required to pay tax for each quarter on estimated profits, with final adjustment based on actual profits

To ease the liquidity impact of paying tax on two year's profits the actual payment of 1989-90 tax will be spread over three years.

A series of policy reforms is intended to improve incentives for private sector industrial and agro-industrial investment

These include a streamlining of the work permit process and guaranteed approval for key management staff of foreign owned enterprises

More land has been made available for industrial development and it is no longer required for the Lesotho National Development Corporation to retain a majority ownership in joint ventures in natural resource-based industries

Mr Sekhonyane has also given the assurance that public utility charges and minimum wage structures will be regularly re-assessed to ensure Lesotho's competitive position in the region

All parastatal organisations will be taxed

The number of personal tax bands has been reduced from 15 to five, with the greatest benefit accruing to Lesotho's most typical PAYE contributors — single people with three dependents and married couples with only one working spouse, three children and three dependents

The Government will continue to pursue the possibility of extending personal income tax to migrant mineworkers in South Africa — Sapa.

Star 22/3/90

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## Lesotho leader on murder count

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Armoured vehicles and heavily armed troops surrounded the Maseru Magistrate's Court yesterday when a former member of Lesotho's six-man Military Council, Mr Sekhobe Letsie, appeared for remand on charges of murder and attempted murder

Mr Letsie (42) and his former bodyguard, Mr Ngoana-Ntloana Lerotholi (39), appeared before the Chief Magistrate of Lesotho, Mr Letsela Mapetla, for formal remand on four counts of murder in connection the killing of two former Cabinet Ministers, Mr Demond Sixishe and Mr Vicent Makhele and their wives, at Bushman's Pass in November 1986

They are also charged with attempted murder in connection with the alleged attempted killing of a lecturer at the University of Lesotho, Mr Tsolo Lelala and his wife, Mantsane, who were kidnapped with the Ministers and their wives before the killings took place

The men were not asked to plead and were remanded in custody until April 4.

The tiny court was packed and a large number of people stood outside to catch a glimpse of Lesotho's former strongman, who was handcuffed as he stepped down from a prison vehicle

Mr Mapetla said they would appear at a summary trial in the Lesotho High Court during its next session, which starts on May 25th

In another case involving a former senior officer of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, a former captain, Mr Mokete Tumo (40), was remanded in custody until April 4 on a charge of attempted murder

The case arose out of the alleged attempted killing of a Maseru taxi driver, Mr Moeketsi Mgedlane, on March 11 1988.



## Armoured vehicles at Lesotho court

Maseru - Armoured vehicles and heavily armed troops surrounded the Magistrates' Court here yesterday when the former member of Lesotho's six-man military council, Mr Sekhobe Letsie, appeared for remand on charges of murder and attempted murder.

Letsie (42) and his former

bodyguard, Mr Ngoana-Ntloana Lerotholi (39), appeared before the chief magistrate of Lesotho, Mr Letsela Mapetla, for formal remand on four counts of murder in connection with the killing of two former cabinet ministers, Mr Demond Sixishe and Mr Vicent Makhele and their wives in 1986.

Star 28/3/90 (167)

# Dismissal invalid – Lesotho Minister

The Star's  
Africa News Service

MASERU — One of the nine former Lesotho Cabinet Ministers who were dismissed last month during the constitutional crisis in the country yesterday challenged the validity of the dismissal

This is the first time a Minister has challenged the legality of dismissal from the Cabinet

Former Health Minister Dr Strong Makenete asked the Chief Justice of Lesotho, Mr Justice Cullinan, for an order calling upon the chairman of the Military Council and the Council of Ministers, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, to show cause why his dismissal as Minister on February 22, as well as the appointment of a new Minister in his place, should not be set aside as being invalid and of no force or effect.

## NO POWER

In an affidavit before the court, Dr Makenete said he was sworn in on January 22 1986 as a member of the Council of Ministers. He understood and had always regarded himself as having been appointed by the king.

He submitted that General Lekhanya had no power in law to dismiss him and appoint a new minister of health, and such acts were consequently null and void.

In his replying affidavit, General Lekhanya said that since the establishment of the Lesotho Military Council, some of its members had, over the years, failed to observe the unity of purpose expected of them.

"The situation had deteriorated to such an extent that effective and harmonious government of the country was becoming an impossibility"

General Lekhanya said the February 19 coup which brought him to power enjoyed widespread support in Lesotho and internationally.

More evidence will be heard in May.

## Lesotho firm keeps growing

ACHMED KARIEM

LESOTHO Clothing Industries (LCI), the mountain kingdom's single largest exporter and earner of foreign exchange, showed a growth of 50% in turnover last year, says production director Andy Salm.

LCI, which specialises in men's beachwear and casual garments under the Instinct label, notched up R14m in export earnings in 1989 — R5m up on the previous year.

The company was launched in 1981 with a loan from the Lesotho National Development Corporation.

LCI has since increased its work force from 30 to 600. *By Day 25/4/90*

Salm said a further 1 000m<sup>2</sup> in factory space would be added to its current 5 000m<sup>2</sup> in June, and the work force would increase to 750. At least R500 000 would be spent on new capital investment.

"Excellent sales in the European market and stronger penetration of the company's products into the US and SA have necessitated the extensions, which will increase the factory's daily output by 2 000 units," he said.



# Concor and Group Five in the running

26/1/90

By Frank Jeans

The first tenders for the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project were submitted on April 20 and indications are that two major South African construction groups are "well placed" to obtain a lion's share of work.

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Two multi-nationals with the Concor and Group Five companies as local partners, are in the running for major contracts.

Mr Jurgen Schultz, group managing director of Concor, says: "The giant Katse Dam in the scheme will give a strong boost to Concor, not to mention the effect on morale through opportunities for young engineers and managers."

Mr Schultz welcomes the chance to be involved with leading international construction groups. In Concor's case, the link is with Impregilo of Italy, which will be remembered for its involvement in the Kariba project.

Other participants are reported to be the German group, Hochtief, which with the local company created the Huguenot Tunnel, and British and French groups.

The first phase contracts are worth a total of more than R2 billion and will continue over six years.

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"Studies undertaken in various par

## Water project sparks global competition

GERALD REILLY

167

PRETORIA — Tenders from international contractors reflect a world-wide interest in the development of the Lesotho Highlands water project.

Seven consortiums have submitted tenders for the construction of the Katse dam, Transfer tunnel south, Transfer tunnel north and the Deliver tunnel south.

The consortiums consist of 45 tenderers from 12 countries. Most are interested in all four projects, according to the Department of Water Affairs.

Tender prices, according to an announcement, varied widely. Bid Price 415790

A spokesman said no direct deductions could be made yet from the base tenders that were called out as financing conditions play an important role.

The consortiums are J V Tigerscom, Lesotho Highlands Builders, Highlands Venture, Alfred Kunz (Germany), Phillip Holzman (Germany), Spie Batignolles (France) and Highland Project Contractors.

Stocks and Stocks are in the Holzman consortium, Murray and Roberts in Highland Project, Grinaker in Spie Batignolles and Concor in Highlands Venture.

# Lesotho will get R25m from Britain

167

*Sowetan 10/5/90*  
Maseru - British aid to Lesotho is expected to increase to R25 million over the next financial year - R3 million more than in the present year. This was announced yesterday by the British

High Commission in Maseru after annual aid review talks between British and Lesotho government officials.

The aid will be spent on high priority development projects such as road construction, forestry, village water supply schemes, sanitation, health and education. Some will go to boost financial management for the Highlands water project.

Britain will also assign more than 50 experts to assist Lesotho in a wide variety of areas. This year, too, about 80 Basotho students will study in Britain.



# Lesotho's military head attacks king

Star

12/5/90

JOE MOLESI  
Africa News Service

167

MASERU — Lesotho's military leader Major General Metsing Lekhanya last night accused King Moshoeshoe II of organising what was tantamount to a coup d'etat against him when the king refused to approve major changes in the Lesotho government administration in February.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho to announce to the Basutho nation "the disappearance" of King Moshoeshoe from the United Kingdom, General Lekhanya said the king had left the UK without the consent of his government.

King Moshoeshoe went into exile in the UK in March after he had refused to co-operate with General Lekhanya's military council in approving changes involving the dismissal of two members of the military council who are close relatives of the king.

General Lekhanya said after the major changes in the government last February King Moshoeshoe "went on to publish above the heads of his government material intended to incite the chiefs into turning against the government, thus committing an unconstitutional act. In fact what he was organising was tantamount to a coup d'etat."

The chairman of the military council said his analysis of the situation was that King Moshoeshoe was not only involved but was personally creating a situation of armed anti-government action.

# Lesotho <sup>CHL</sup> strongman <sup>12/5/90</sup> says king <sup>167</sup> plans coup

JOHANNESBURG —  
The Lesotho Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) reports that King Moshoeshoe II has disappeared amid accusations by the Lesotho military ruler that the deposed monarch is planning a coup against him.

King Moshoeshoe recently left for Britain, where he lives in self-imposed exile.

The LBC said in a short statement that King Moshoeshoe had disappeared from his house in London.

Yesterday the leader of the the Lesotho Military Council, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, accused King Moshoeshoe of organising a coup d'etat against his government.

He said the government had distanced itself from all actions by the king.

Gen Lekhanya claimed he had proof of the king's involvement in armed anti-government action.

He said a former member of the military council, Mr Thaabe Letsie, had confessed that the king had asked him to destabilise Gen Lekhanya's position as chairman of the military council by influencing council members who were loyal to him.

Failing this, Gen Lekhanya was to be killed. Mr Letsie had allegedly confessed — Sapa



MISSING . . King Moshoeshoe II

TALKING TOUGH . . . Justin Lekhanya

By MARION DUNCAN

A KING without a crown and without a penny to his name — that seems to be the fate of Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II after his country's military council threatened to cut his purse strings

Major-General Justin Lekhanya, head of Lesotho's ruling council, told the country in a radio broadcast that "the government has no choice but to completely dissociate itself from all the king's activities"

### Threatened

"This government cannot take responsibility for a king who seems bent on a course of self-destruction in complete defiance of his government, his army and his nation," said Gen Lekhanya.

His hard-hitting statement came after King Moshoeshoe's sudden disappearance from his residence in London, where he has been living in voluntary exile — and luxury — since his refusal in February to help Gen Lekhanya introduce a democratic constitution

Sources close to the mil-

# Cash <sup>167</sup> ban on king!

8 Times 13/5/90

tary council said the monarch believed utterly in the divine right of kings and that he actively obstructed attempts by the military council to alter the country's feudal system of government

Gen Lekhanya reinforced this interpretation during his broadcast when he used the words "coup d'etat" to describe the king's actions in February

"The king, after refusing to comply with our advice — which was legally binding on him — went on to publish material intended to incite the chiefs into turning against the government, thus

committing an unconstitutional act," he said

"In fact, what he was organising was tantamount to a coup d'etat

"I repeat, our analysis of the situation is that His Majesty was not only involved, but was personally creating, a situation of armed anti-government action"

He said he had proof that King Moshoeshoe had threatened his life

"Thaabe Letsie, a former member of the military council, is on record as having been asked by the king himself to arrange that I be completely destabilised in my office as chairman (of the council), together with those members of the military council who were loyal to my command, or to arrange for me to be killed as the final option"

Gen Lekhanya stressed that the council had gone out of its way to accommodate the king

"In London, the High Commissioner vacated his official residence for His Majesty to occupy. He has, to date, cost the Lesotho taxpayers an amount of R300 000

"Transport for the king and his entourage is fully paid for by the state, as is food. All these have been done with the humility of servitude to our king and in no way affect the privy purse, which continues to be paid locally in the king's absence"

Despite this, Gen Lekhanya reaffirmed Lesotho's "allegiance to the crown" and the country's loyalty to the Queen Regent. He even ended the broadcast with the words "God save the king!"



## King is not missing

LESOTHO'S King Moshoeshoe II has not disappeared but is in Uganda attending a conference on Africa in the next century, reports from Kampala and Lesotho confirm *Sowetan 14/5/90*

Maseru sources close to the king said the exiled ruler was in Kampala as a guest of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and would return to Britain after the conference. *(167)*

Sources at the conference confirmed the king's presence in Kampala where politicians, political scientists and leaders from 12 African nations met to draw up proposals to give Africa a new political outlook for the 21st century.

# MPs watch the SADF in action

Staff 14/5/90  
167

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — A wide variety of SADF weaponry at work was shown to Members of Parliament at a West Coast bombing range at the weekend

With the defence vote to be debated in Parliament this week, Defence Minister General Magnus Malan invited members of parties' defence study groups to learn more about the SADF

Demonstrations for the 75 MPs and senior military officers were put on by the army, air force and navy, with a variety of weapons on show

MPs pointed out that this was the first time they had visited the Defence Force as a group since hostilities ended in Namibia and Angola

General Malan said it was customary to show the defence study groups how the SADF worked, and to inform them about its developments and activities.

# 'Missing' king turns up

Staff 14/5/90  
167

Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II has not disappeared — despite a statement to this effect by the country's military ruler

He is in Uganda attending a conference

It was reported this weekend that the king's whereabouts were "shrouded in mystery" after he had "disappeared" from his house in London

The king was apparently forced into exile in March

Lesotho's Military Council leader, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, claimed this weekend that the king disappeared from his home on Thursday evening.

General Lekhanya expressed alarm that his administration had not been informed of the king's whereabouts, despite the fact that he was living in London at the expense of the Lesotho government

Reports from Kampala and Lesotho confirmed yesterday that the king was in Uganda, attending a conference on Africa in the next century

Sources close to the king, speaking from Maseru, said Moshoeshoe was in Kampala as a guest of the Dag Hammarsjold

Foundation

He left London on Friday to attend the conference and would return to Britain once it ended

Sources at the conference confirmed the king's presence in Kampala where politicians, political scientists and leaders from 12 African nations met to draw up proposals to give Africa a new political outlook for the 21st century

The six-day conference is taking place in Mweya, western Uganda

In his statement on Friday, General Lekhanya accused the king of organising "what was tantamount to a coup d'etat" in March

He said the government had no choice but to dissociate itself from the activities of the king and any consequences of his action

"At the same time, we continue to swear our allegiance to the Crown, and hope that Her Majesty the Queen Regent will continue to uphold this high and esteemed office in accordance with the laws and traditions of this nation," said General Lekhanya — Sapa.

Recovered

cm  
text  
14/5/90  
167

## Lesotho's king 'in Uganda'

JOHANNESBURG — Lesotho's King Moshoe-shoe II has not disappeared but is in Uganda attending a conference on Africa in the next century, reports from Kampala and Lesotho have said

Sources close to the king and speaking from Maseru said the exiled ruler was in Kampala as a guest of the Dag Hammarsjold Foundation, and would return to Britain after the event — Sapa-Reuter





The old ways give way to progress ... a bridge spans a remote river Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

8 Times 20/5/90

167

# Engineering in the raw in the midst of nowhere

A TRIP into the Lesotho Highlands is like a journey into another century

The air is unspoiled by pollution and until now the hand of industrial civilisation has left this country untouched

Bringing the late 20th century — in the form of the multi-billion-rand Lesotho Highlands water project — to the mountain kingdom requires a pioneering spirit and the solution of huge logistical problems

A flight over the snow-capped mountains in a Lesotho Government helicopter — piloted by a young Basutho trained in West Germany — makes the First World seem far away

## Competition

Pony-riding tribesmen come into view. They are wrapped in colourful blankets and sport conical grass hats

Moving like toys on the ground are signs of progress — giant earthmovers, crushers, trucks and other construction paraphernalia

LTA is the construction company largely responsible for preparing the infrastructure for Phase One of the project that will provide water

By Charmain Naidoo

to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area

This week members of the the LTA team who have been on site for the past two years talked about their R100-million slice of the project

Their brief is

● To build a bridge spanning two hills on the Malibamatso River. From the bridge to the river is a vertical 89 metres — 30 storeys high

● To carve out a 57km access road that connects the little town Leribe to the Malibamatso bridge

Another 42km road — the tender won by a French company — is being built from the bridge to the dam site at Katse. Three-quarters of the contract has been completed

LTA Earthworks managing director Frank Crowley says the job is on schedule and profitable

The big-hearted Irishman — as at home on site as he is behind his office desk — believes the success of any project depends on a happy team

"We place emphasis on our staff. The labour turnover has been almost nil. If you have a happy workforce, things get done efficiently and quickly"

Arthur Smith is the project director. He oversees the building of the access road and makes sure things go smoothly.

Mr Smith describes the task of building a road in the middle of nowhere as "engineering in the raw".

"There are few pioneer engineering jobs in the world today. Building from Leribe to the bridge is different from constructing a freeway in Johannesburg

"We had to ship all the equipment over the mountain before we could start work

"Work began in mid-winter 1988 — the same year the army was flying in food to snowbound herdboys up in the mountains"

## Triangle

The weather in the mountains is unpredictable — conditions change rapidly with little warning

"That made it difficult for us. But six weeks after we started, the first families moved in. It gets so cold in the winter, the men work in freezer suits to protect them"

LTA has been careful not to disturb the ecology

Employees from the construction company have even committed themselves to

restock the crystal-clear trout-filled streams at their own cost

At one place, the road cuts across one of the highest points in Southern Africa

Mr Smith says "In about 12km, the road ascends the altitude difference between Durban and Johannesburg"

## Concrete

Mike Parker, site agent on the Malibamatso bridge gives an example of how difficult it was in the beginning

"It took nearly six hours to get from Ficksburg to the site before the road was built. Today, it takes just over an hour. Our record was an 18-hour trip when the area was deep under snow"

The mountain area, preserved from modernisation because it was so inaccessible by road, is set for major changes

The first signs of an awakening economy are evident in the country the United Nations branded the 12th poorest in the world

LTA alone has employed 800 locals. It is estimated that a total of 1 600 are working on the preliminary construction phase.

Many of the tribesmen have never worked for cash wages. They subsisted by keeping sheep or tending crops. The money one man earns in a month is more than a whole village previously made in a year.

Mr Parker says, "When we arrived, there was one tiny shop in the village selling washing powder and cool drinks

"See these fur-lined leather gloves? I bought them at that same store last week"

## Camps

LTA has set up several camps in the area. The main one at Leribe provides accommodation for 20 families.

At Ha Lejone, pronounced by the Scots, English and Irish on the team as Hello Johnnie — LTA has its "singles" camp, complete with a clubhouse

Tenders for Phase One, the building of the dam at Katse, are in

Although the results will only be known by late October this year, rumour in the industry is that Group Five and Concor are most likely to win the contract

Southern  
23/5/90



### Lesotho plan

MASERU - The Lesotho government will launch a country-wide campaign today to tell citizens about the country's forthcoming national constituent assembly, aimed at paving the way for a return to democracy

This was announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Mr Tom Tabane, in Maseru yesterday

# Lesotho paves way for democratic election of assembly

11/6/45 (157)  
23/5/40

Argus Africa News Service  
MASERU. — The Lesotho government is to launch a country-wide campaign today to explain details of the national constituent assembly, aimed at paving the way for a return to democracy.

This was announced by Lesotho's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Mr Tom Tabane, here yesterday.

He also announced the appointment of an electoral commissioner for the election of development councillors to the 109-member assembly to represent the country's rural population. He is Mr Moletsane Lenono, Crown attorney since last year.

Mr Tabane said the assembly would consist of principal chiefs, recognised politicians, development councillors, members of the Council of Ministers

and representatives of the churches, the business community, women's and farmers' organisations, urban councils and the armed forces.

Members of the Military Council would not sit in the assembly, he said. However, the chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, would be a member of the assembly by virtue of his position as Minister of Defence and Internal Security.

Mr Tabane stressed that the assembly would not function as a parliament because it would not have legislative powers, but would consider major national issues such as the budget.

He said the election of development councillors from electoral colleges would take place on June 7 in readiness for the opening of the assembly on June 15.



# Possible cement gift for Lesotho could cost SA industry R100m

SA's cement cartel could be left high and dry after the disclosure that an outside government is considering donating the full amount of cement for the Katse Dam — the largest single component of the R6bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The industry will lose a deal worth at least R100m if the foreign donation materialises

An industry spokesman said there was strong speculation that the full requirement of cement — about 650 000 tons — would be supplied by a Scandinavian country as a measure of foreign aid to Lesotho

"Assuming some producer, rumoured to be Sweden, wants to export that amount of cement and donate it to an international consortium, then it would be quite a knock to the industry, which is already suffering from depressed market conditions"

Although PPC MD Ted Hodgkiss said the tonnage did not represent overly much of its yearly production, the cartel had largely been counting on the order. Pegging the lowest base cost of cement at about R110/ton, the order represents about R100m

The cement was originally expected to be supplied by Blue Circle's Lichtenburg plant. A Blue Circle

B 10<sup>04</sup> 25/5790

**BRENT MELVILLE**

spokesman discounted the suggestion of the cement being shipped from overseas. "The logistics of importing the cement and transporting it to Lesotho would prove too big a hurdle," he said

## Demand

Hodgkiss agreed "As there is no rail line into Lesotho the largest cost factor would be transport. The cartel is able to find a closer source for the cement, keeping rail costs (to Ficksburg) to a minimum"

He admitted, however, the industry was suffering. "We are being kept afloat mainly by work in office

construction and demand from the informal sector," he said

However, based on forecast demand, the three-member cartel of PPC, Anglo Alpha and Blue Circle, representing 45%, 35% and 20% of the market respectively, are planning capex in the region of R1,5bn over the next four years

They are producing about eight million tons a year, with the potential to produce 12-million tons. Hodgkiss said even taking the LHWP into account, it was likely cement demand would fall next year

However, he said, demand was expected to increase over the next several years and the cartel was budgeting capital

expenditure of about R1,5bn on expansions and the building of new plant by 1994. Based on cartel agreement, the three producers have to increase plant production levels after reaching 85% capacity

In addition, based on forecast demand and as part of its agreement with the cartel, PPC would be bringing its mothballed Dwaal Boom plant — built in 1986 at a cost of R230m — back on line

PPC financial director Chris Wrogemann said the plant was built on an expected upsurge in demand which never materialised.

Hodgkiss believed there were several export opportunities in Africa, notably Botswana

D. William Melle

## Celebrations at completion of Lesotho highlands bridge

Blom 11/6/90

BRENT MELVILLE

167

MASERU.— There was cause for celebration on Wednesday as the last section of southern Africa's longest and highest incrementally built bridge was edged out the final few metres over the Malibamatso River, marking the end of a two-year battle against harsh terrain and inclement weather.

The bridge was one of the biggest hurdles to the start of work on the Katse Dam — the largest single component of the R6bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project. It forms an integral part of the R120m, 57km northern access road for phase 1A of the project, being built by LTA.

The bridge, which is 0,5km long and supported by piers up to 85m high (roughly equivalent to the height of a 30-storey building), was built by LTA Civil Engineering and the nine piers were subcontracted to Karrena Africa.

The second section of the road — about 40km long from the bridge to Katse — was awarded to French contractor Dumez Afrique. But Lesotho Highlands Development Authority technical director Rob Witherell said Dumez was "way behind schedule", which might hold up construction of the Katse Dam.

Witherell said there had been a surprising number of tenders put through for the three tunnels and the dam.

"In total there are still nine consortiums vying for the contracts — six have tendered for the dam and seven for the tunnels," he said, adding that all tenderers had SA connections and that the lowest tenders had come from the Group 5 consortium, which includes Concor and German company Hochtief.

Sources put the Group 5 tender for the dam in the region of R715m, but said the consortium had hit some financial "snags" for the tunnelling contracts, enabling it to do only one of the tunnels.

LTA Construction MD Brian Hackney said LTA had tendered for all contracts and had the third lowest for the dam and second lowest for all three tunnels.

# Katse Dam tender countdown begins

8/Dec 4/6/90 (167)

THE countdown to the award of southern Africa's biggest contract yet — the first phase of the R6bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) — has begun.

Nine consortiums comprising South African and international contractors are vying for contracts for the construction of the massive Katse Dam and three access tunnels, worth about R1,7bn

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) technical director Bob Witherell says with only two months of adjudication left it is virtually anybody's guess as to who will cart off the spoils. Six consortiums have tendered for the dam and seven for the tunnels.

Contractors will also be tendering to the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority in August for two tunnels on the SA side worth R600m. The two tunnels will supply Lesotho water to the Vaal River.

Industry sources, however, are already touting the Group 5 consortium — which includes Concor and German company Hochtief — as the likely winner. Its tender for the dam is reputed to be in the region of R715m — a massive R200m less than its nearest rival bid. Its bids for the tunnel contracts have been pegged at about

BRENT MELVILLE

R370m each

Witherell confirmed that Group 5 and its partners had put through the lowest tenders on all four projects, but said there were some problems with the consortium's foreign financing and it was "by no means" the favourite at this stage.

In addition, industry sources said because of its financing difficulties, the Group 5 consortium would only be capable of fulfilling the criterion for one of the three tunnels.

There is also strong speculation that construction on the Katse Dam may be delayed because of behind-schedule work on Dumez Afrique's 40km section of the northern access road. LTA has virtually completed its 60km stretch of road, said LTA construction MD Brian Hackney.

Hackney said Dumez's problems stemmed from the fact that it was using old and outdated equipment imported from Nigeria. "Dumez's section was supposed to be finished by September."

Witherell confirmed that Dumez was about six months behind schedule. Work on the dam was due to begin in March.



# King Moshoeshoe wants an end to military rule in Lesotho

ARGUS  
4/6/90

**T**HE exiled King Moshoeshoe of Lesotho has called for an end to military rule and the holding of elections to re-establish democracy in his country

In an exclusive interview — the first since he was forced to leave Lesotho for Britain in March — King Moshoeshoe criticised the intervention of South Africa at the time, especially the SA Defence Force, in the internal affairs of Lesotho

## LESOTHO

He identified three areas of difference with the ruling military council, which formed the backdrop to his expulsion from the mountain kingdom, the military council's close relationship with Pretoria, the restoration of democracy to Lesotho and corruption among sections of those in power

The King, who was first driven into exile by the government of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan in 1970, said the military's top brass, led by General Metsing Lekhanya, had disappointed many Basotho by its failure to re-establish the rule of law after deposing Chief Jonathan in the 1986 coup

"Most of us welcomed the coup. We felt that it would end the many years of factionalism and political bigotry by the previous regime which had divided the country into those who belonged to the ruling party and those who did not

### Frustrated

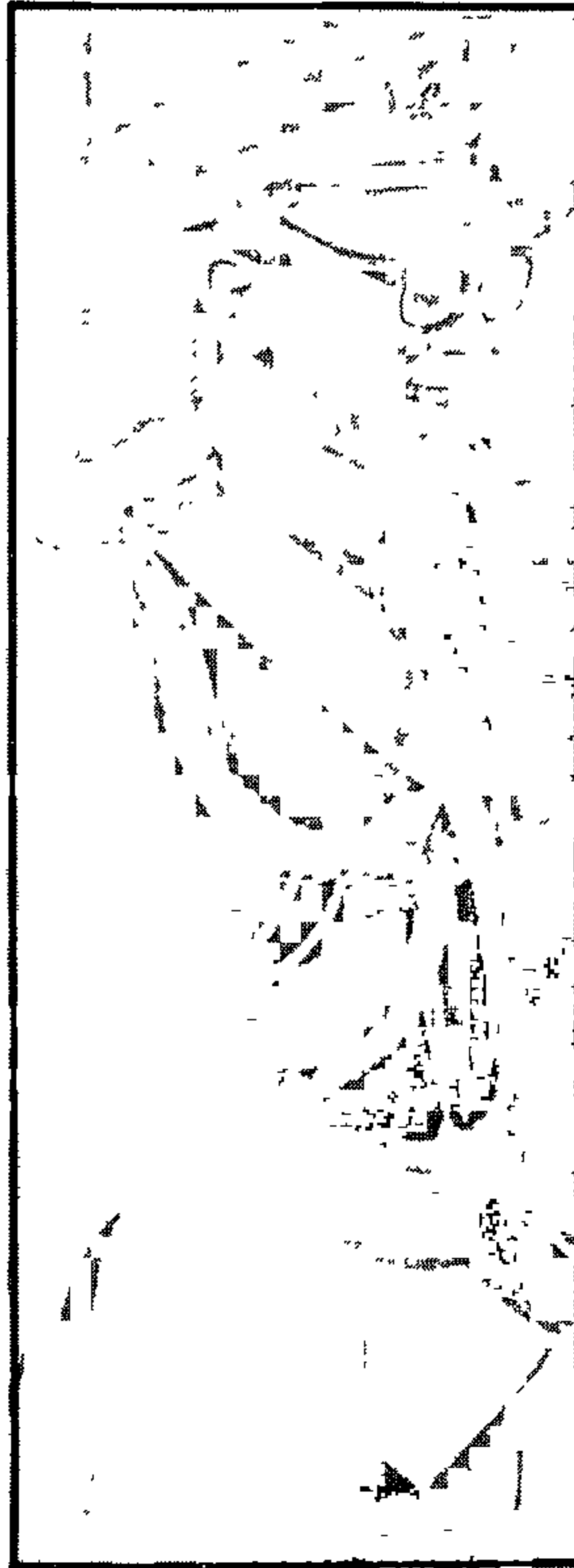
"I for one was pleased that the nation was going to be given an opportunity to restructure a new society in a spirit of reconciliation. But what all of us were not fully aware of and underestimated was the power and influence of the SADF on our military

"There was a lot of frustration when we discovered that none of us could say anything against the evil apartheid system of the then government of South Africa without incurring the hostility of the Lesotho military," said the King

He cited the SADF's support for the 1970 coup by Chief Jonathan after he had lost elections to the Basotho Congress Party, and Pretoria's subsequent involvement in General Lekhanya's overthrow of Chief Jonathan as examples of South Africa's interference in Lesotho's affairs

The King also revealed that neither he nor other senior ministers were consulted when General Lekhanya

In March, King Moshoeshoe was exiled by Lesotho's military government, headed by General Metsing Lekhanya. Here he speaks to **MIKE SILUMA** of the Argus Foreign Service in London in his first press interview since going into exile for the second time in as many decades



King Moshoeshoe

called in the SADF to end a bus hijack during the Pope's visit to Lesotho in 1988

The close ties between Pretoria and the military regime in Maseru, said the King, led to attempts by the Lek-

hanya government to muzzle him, especially in the light of his support for the South African liberation movements and anti-apartheid sanctions

His expulsion, he believed, was prompted by, in particular, his insistence that the general step down during investigations into the general's shooting of a student in 1988 and the establishment of a commission of inquiry into corruption in government circles

Explaining his backing for the anti-apartheid struggle the Freedom Charter, King Moshoeshoe said: "I don't see how any Mosotho can divorce himself from the liberation struggle in South Africa. Our own people have worked in the Republic under the indignities of apartheid while itself Lesotho has been dominated by South Africa

"I'm convinced that as long as apartheid exists Southern African countries such as Lesotho will never achieve political stability"

On the question of democracy in Lesotho, the King said he believed in the political and economic empowerment of the Basotho people. He accused the military of constantly frustrating his efforts to encourage the establishment of democratic structures which would make Lesotho's rulers accountable to the electorate

### Proposals

Pointing out that Lesotho's constitution has been suspended since the 1970 coup, King Moshoeshoe proposed the following measures to re-establish democracy in Lesotho: the adoption of a Bill of Rights, the formation of a predominantly civilian government of national unity, and the holding of elections for a constituent assembly

Emphasising the need for the King to take an active interest in the welfare of his fellow citizens, King Moshoeshoe suggested that his future role be decided by the Basotho people through the proposed constituent assembly

"The sort of structures the people choose to exercise democracy through would obviously be informed by Lesotho's own culture and history. The emphasis should be that whoever is in power is accountable to the people," he said

The 52-year-old King, a descendant of King Moshoeshoe I, the founder of the Basotho nation, said his return would be meaningful only if the present rulers agreed to the restoration of democratic government

# Countdown begins for Lesotho water project

CALL TIPS 4/6/90

167

**Own Correspondent**  
**JOHANNESBURG** —  
The countdown to the  
award of Southern Africa's  
biggest contract yet —  
the first phase of the

R6bn Lesotho Highlands  
Water Project (LHWP) —  
has begun

Nine consortiums  
comprising SA and in-  
ternational contractors

are vying for contracts  
for the construction of  
the massive Katse Dam  
and three access tun-  
nels, worth about  
R1,7bn

Lesotho Highlands De-  
velopment Authority  
(LHDA) technical direc-  
tor Bob Witherell says  
with only two months of  
adjudication left it is vir-  
tually anybody's guess as  
to who will cart off the  
spoils.

Six consortiums have  
tendered for the dam  
and seven for the tun-  
nels.

Contractors will also  
be tendering to the  
Trans-Caledon Tunnel  
Authority in August for  
two tunnels on the SA  
side worth R600m. The  
two tunnels will supply  
Lesotho water to the  
Vaal River.

Industry sources, how-  
ever, are already touting  
the Group 5 consortium  
— which includes Con-  
cor and German com-  
pany Hochtief — as the  
likely winner.

Its tender for the dam  
is reputed to be in the  
region of R715m — a  
massive R200m less than  
its nearest rival bid. Its  
bids for the tunnel con-  
tracts have been pegged  
at about R370m each.

Witherell confirmed  
that Group 5 and its part-  
ners had put through the  
lowest tenders on all  
four projects, but said  
there were some prob-  
lems with the consor-  
tium's foreign financing  
and it was "by no means"  
the favourite at this  
stage.

**Chief detained**

CM 714 6/6/70 (167)

MASERU. — The principal chief of Thaba Bosiu in Lesotho, Chief Khoabane Theko, has been detained for questioning in connection with a document critical to the government.



### SA pays R1,6bn to T'kei

CPM T'kei 6/6/90

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY — South Africa had paid over an estimated R1,6bn to the Transkei in the 1989/90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two states, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterday in a written reply to a question from Mr Colin Eglin (DP Sea Point).

### Venda lifts emergency

CPM T'kei 6/6/90

THOHOYANDOU — The state of emergency in Venda has been lifted and all political prisoners are to be freed. Announcing this, the chairman of the Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, said law and order, discipline and stability had returned to Venda since the council seized power two months ago.

### Joan Collins in R15m suit

LONDON — Joan Collins is suing ION Pictures for more than R15 million after bosses branded her "jealous and greedy". Joan, 57, has filed a complaint for defamation of character. The lawsuit follows a slanging match about the collapse of a TV film based on her novel, "Prime Time".

### Namibia needs R1bn

CPM 6/6/90

GENEVA. — Namibia is seeking about R1 billion from industrialised countries to help it cope with development and debt problems, Prime Minister Mr Hage Geingob said yesterday.

### Doctor in court

A DURBAN doctor made a brief appearance in the Maritzburg Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the murder of his gynaecologist wife last month.

### Swapo agrees to probe

CPM T'kei 6/6/90

WINDHOEK. — Namibia agreed yesterday to establish a committee with the Red Cross to probe charges that Swapo is still holding scores of dissidents.

### Chief detained

CPM T'kei 6/6/90 (167)

MASERU. — The principal chief of Thaba Bosiu in Lesotho, Chief Khoabane Theko, has been detained for questioning in connection with a document, critical to the government.

### Stud farm for sale

THE R25-million Highdown Stud at Nottingham Road in the Natal Midlands, one of the biggest thoroughbred breeding establishments in South Africa, is for sale.

### Mayor's trial starts

WASHINGTON. — A prosecutor yesterday denied Washington mayor Mr Marion Barry's claim that the government had leaked crucial videotape evidence to a TV station and said Mr Barry's statement may have been a ploy to influence jurors in his drug trial.

Reports by Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuters-AP and UPI

12/6/90 (167)

## Exiled king calls for a democracy

In March, King Moshoeshoe was exiled by Lesotho's military government. Here he speaks to **MIKE SILUMA** of **The Star Bureau in London** in his first press interview since going into exile for the second time.

**LONDON** — The exiled King Moshoeshoe of Lesotho has called for an end to military rule and for the holding of elections to re-establish democracy in his country.

In an exclusive interview — the first since he was forced to leave Lesotho for Britain in March — King Moshoeshoe criticised the intervention of South Africa, especially the SA Defence Force, in the internal affairs of Lesotho.

He identified three areas of difference with the ruling Military Council, which formed the backdrop to his expulsion from the mountain kingdom.

- The Military Council's close relationship with Pretoria
- The restoration of democracy to Lesotho.

- Corruption among sections of those in power.

The king, who was first driven into exile by the government of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan in 1970, said the military's top brass, led by General Metsing Lekhanya, had disappointed many Basotho by its failure to re-establish the rule of law after deposing Chief Jonathan in the 1986 coup.

"Most of us welcomed the coup. We felt that it would end the many years of factionalism and political bigotry by the previous regime which had divided the country in half.

"I for one was pleased that the nation was going to be given an opportunity to restructure a new society in a spirit of reconciliation. But what all of us were not fully aware of and underestimated was



King Moshoeshoe.

the power and influence of the SADF on our military."

He cited the SADF's support for the 1970 coup by Chief Jonathan after he had lost elections to the Basotholand Congress Party, and Pretoria's subsequent involvement in General Lekhanya's overthrow of Chief Jonathan as examples of South Africa's interference in Lesotho's affairs.

"I'm convinced that as long as apartheid exists, southern African countries such as Lesotho will never achieve political stability."

On the question of democracy in Lesotho, the king said he believed in the political and economic empowerment of the Basotho people. He accused the military of constantly frustrating his efforts to encourage the establishment of democratic structures which would make Lesotho's rulers accountable to the electorate.

Pointing out that Lesotho's constitution had been suspended since the 1970 coup, King Moshoeshoe proposed the following measures to re-establish democracy in Lesotho.

- The adoption of a Bill of Rights.
- The formation of a predominantly civilian "government of national unity".
- The holding of elections for a constituent assembly.

Emphasising the need for the king to take an active interest in the welfare of his fellow-citizens, King Moshoeshoe suggested that his future role be decided by the Basotho people through the proposed constituent assembly.

The 52-year-old king, a descendant of King Moshoeshoe I, founder of the Basotho nation, said his return would be meaningful only if the present rulers agreed to the restoration of a democratic government.

## Water workers want to block <sup>167</sup> the work-flow

MASERU More than 300 Basutho workers have threatened strike action at the Lesotho Highlands Water Project area in the Maluti mountains. <sup>WNA 15/6-21/6/90</sup>

The project is a joint venture between Lesotho and South Africa, and will be an important source of water and hydro-electricity for both countries.

Radio Lesotho announced yesterday that the workers were employed by the firm Spie Battinogles on a major contract to build houses for staff working on the project.

The radio announcement said the workers were demanding higher wages, better accommodation and transport to their work site.

A spokesman for Spie Battinogles said the company was prepared to provide transport demanded by the workers. However, the company believed that the allowance for accommodation and wage increases should be referred to arbitration.

The Construction and Allied Workers' Union of Lesotho, to which the workers belong, had refused arbitration. — Sapa <sup>19/6/90</sup>



# King Moshoeshoe in power struggle

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ARGUS 21/6/90

Argus Africa News Service  
in Maseru

**T**HE power struggle between exiled King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho and the military government appears to be coming to a head after a desperate appeal this week by the monarch to his nation.

## LESOTHO

Days before the first meeting of a National Constituent Assembly organised by military strongman Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya to draw up a new constitution for Lesotho, King Moshoeshoe released a statement calling for the formation of an interim government and internationally supervised elections within six months.

It was obviously a last-ditch attempt to stop a procedure which will confirm the withdrawal of the king's own powers and reduce him to a rubber-stamp leader in Basuto politics.

### Figurehead

The 109-member constituent assembly — consisting of members of the Council of Ministers, Military Council nominees, principal and ward chiefs, selected politicians, Development Council members and representatives of the urban councils and police — is due to meet here tomorrow.

Although in terms of the order establishing the assembly King Moshoeshoe remains head of state, the new consti-



tution devised at the meeting is certain to ensure that his role will be no more than that of a figurehead, as it was under the authoritarian rule of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan.

In his message from London, released earlier this week by the Royal Palace in Maseru, the king called for the abolition of the Military Council and the Council of Ministers and the formation of a new civilian government made up of people of all shades of political opinion, leaders of all political parties as well as representatives of institutions "that are both basic to the life of the nation and valued by the people".

These, he said, should in-

clude the chiefs, the churches, the security forces, local councils, chamber of commerce, the university, trade unions, teachers' and women's organisations.

King Moshoeshoe, who was sent into exile by General Lekhanya in February and has since threatened to institute a R500 000 defamation suit against the military leader, said before a national assembly was elected a referendum could be held to determine what kind of government the people wanted.

He added that such a referendum, and the national elections, would need to be monitored by United Nations and other observers.

### Desperation

This apparent show of concern for public opinion will be viewed with some scepticism by the Basuto nation. The king showed no such regard in the four years after the 1986 coup that ousted the Jonathan government, when he ruled with alacrity in concert with the military government.

His appeal, generally, will be seen to be what it clearly is — an act of desperation in an attempt to save his own political skin.

A further sign of this desperation is the king's suggestion that there could be a general election within six months. General Lekhanya has promised a return to democratic rule by 1992 — which is a much more realistic timespan.

# Lesotho project has now secured R700m

B/Day 22/6/90

SECURED loans for the R6,5bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project now amount to R700m, says Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) CE Matsupha Sole

The LHDA recently raised R300m for the implementation off the first phase of the development. As part of the first commercial loan for the project, a consortium of SA commercial banks, comprising Volkskas Bank, Volkskas Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank, is to chip in R135m of this amount.

The loan, guaranteed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa represents the largest single loan facility yet acquired by a borrower in Lesotho, says Volkskas corporate banking services assistant GM Gerrit van den Berg

Van den Berg said the loan made a large number of financial instruments available and marked the first time that LHDA short-term paper would come into circulation in the SA financial markets

In terms of recently signed agreements the consortium would provide a total of R210m of the financing of two projects, R135m for the first phase of the water project and R75m for the upgrading of the Richards

BRENT MELVILLE

Bay Coal Terminal.

Sole said the LHDA was particularly pleased with the flexibility of the facilities, the scope of the financial instruments and the competitive interest rates the LHDA had received from commercial banks. "This lays a firm foundation for the larger amounts we will need from lenders later this year," he added.

## 167 Upgrading

He said the LHDA had already approached commercial banks in Lesotho and SA about the second phase of commercial loans to be acquired in the Common Monetary Area. He said agreements for an amount of R750m would be entered into by September — and negotiations would take place during the second half of the year concerning the third, and largest, local facility

Van den Berg said the consortium's R75m involvement in the upgrading of Richards Bay Coal Terminal, worth R316m, would be used to upgrade the terminal from a design capacity of 44-million tons to 53-million tons of coal a year

# Saccola welcomes labour talks, but urges swift action

W/Ment 22/6/90

(166)

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(166)

By Drew Forrest

IN a bid to defuse high emotions around the Labour Relations Act, the employer body Saccola has urged a "programme of action" to ensure that amending legislation is agreed by no later than September.

Welcoming the proposed talks between President FW De Klerk, Saccola, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions, a spokesman said the meeting could be the start of a process enabling the manpower and education joint committee of parliament to agree on a Bill by September.

Yesterday Cosatu said it was weighing its response to a letter from De Klerk rejecting union demands for the enactment of the Saccola accord before parliament rises and offering to meet the parties to the agreement next week.

And in another development, Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen told a press briefing at the close of parliament that the African National Congress would be "moving the goalposts" if it heeded Cosatu's call to review its participation in negotiations with the government.

"I cannot see that the ANC can with any credibility or convincing motivation support an additional pre-condition (for talks) with regard to labour relations raised by a labour organisation," he said.

In its first detailed reaction to this week's crisis over the LRA, Saccola said

it was "frustrated" it had not been possible to start converting National Manpower Commission (NMC) proposals on the accord into law.

After weighing comments to a draft Bill based on the accord, the NMC had recommended that one clause be rewritten, one omitted and one held over for further consideration. The balance, it said, should be enacted.

Saccola said that at a meeting on June 12, two weeks before parliament recesses, the parties had urged Manpower Minister Eli Louw to proceed with parts of the accord endorsed by the commission.

"The legislation of these proposals will serve the interests of industrial peace, and thereby the national interest," it said.

And in a clear reference to Cosatu's threatened defiance campaign, which includes stayaways and product boycotts, it urged "all parties to carefully consider whether their words and actions" would contribute to labour peace.

●Attorneys Deneys Reitz, explicitly targeted for union action, has strongly denied objecting to the Saccola proposals.

Its representations on the draft Bill were of a technical nature and not designed to delay legislation, the firm said, adding it supported the Saccola process.

Eskom denied union claims that it had withdrawn representations. However, the corporation was making every effort to ensure that these did not delay the legislative process, it said.



# Moshoeshoe fights for his kingdom

*Sowetan*  
22/6/90  
167

MASERU - The power struggle between exiled King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho and the military government appears to be coming to a head after a

desperate appeal this week by the monarch to his nation.

The appeal comes days before the first meeting of a National Constituent Assembly organised by military strongman Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya to draw up a new constitution for Lesotho.

King Moshoeshoe released a statement calling for the formation of an interim government and internationally supervised elections within six



MOSHOSHOOE

months.

It was obviously a last-ditch attempt to stop a procedure which will confirm the withdrawal of the king's own powers and reduce him to a rubber-stamp leader in Basuto politics.

The 109-member constituent assembly - consisting of members of the Council of Ministers, Military Council nominees, principal and ward chiefs, selected politicians, Development Council members and representatives of the urban councils and

police - is due to meet here today. The new constitution devised at the meeting is certain to ensure that his role will be no more than that of a figurehead.

The king called for the abolition of the Military Council and the Council of Ministers and the formation of a new civilian government made up of people of all shades of political opinion, leaders of all political parties as well as representatives of institutions "that are both basic to the life of the nation and valued by the people".

King Moshoeshoe was sent into exile by General Lekhanya in February and has since threatened to institute a R500 000 defamation suit against the military leader.

He said before a national assembly was elected a referendum could be held to



LEKHANYA

determine what kind of government the people wanted.

He added that such a referendum, and the national elections, would need to be monitored by United Nations and other observers

This apparent show of concern for public opinion will be viewed with some scepticism by the Basuto nation. The king showed no such regard in the four years when he ruled with alacrity in concert with the military government.

**I**N 1986 when Lesotho's Military Council took power, the coup — as one is constantly assured — was almost polite, and relatively bloodless. And if the Maseru house of the council's chairman, General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, is anything to go by, it would be difficult to imagine it any other way.

The soldiers on the general's front porch look menacing enough. But they're watching television. The guards in the living room sport large boots and big faces. But they're plugging in a heater.

Outside, between shacks and the Lesotho Sun Hotel — home to visiting entrepreneurs, convention hucksters and porn movie fans — clouds of coal smoke fill the African night.

Inside the general's home, however, one may as well be in some kind of Victorian fantasy, surrounded by velvet *chaises longues*, satin scatter cushions and fluted-glass reading lamps.

Apparently, Lesotho's history of English missionary schools and the general's military training in Scotland have made themselves felt. The man's manners are so impeccable, his smile so beguiling, his confidence so easy that it comes as a shock to see a handgun on his hip.

The truth, of course, is that skirmishes, power struggles — and guns — aren't entirely unknown in the tiny mountain kingdom (Lesotho is inevitably referred to as the tiny mountain kingdom).

Before Lekhanya and the Military Council took over, Lesotho looked decidedly dicey with former leader, Leabua Jonathan becoming increasingly unpopular and the country's economy taking a dive. Things were so bad, according to Lekhanya, that "youngsters brandishing AK-47s ran around the streets and Maseru nights were filled with gunshots."

"The 1985 election was known as the miraculous election because all the candidates were miraculously unopposed. We were turning into a one-party state."

One-party states aren't unusual in Africa. But Justin Lekhanya may typify a new breed of southern African leaders. Lesotho is some kind of one-party state — but the stress is apparently on promoting practical education at home, financial investment from abroad and a nicely functional hierarchy supported by the tacit approval of the South African government.

**L**IKE the Transkei's Hlo-misa, Lekhanya is adamant he won't retain his post indefinitely. He claims to have arrived in his present position by a quirk of fate rather than personal ambition. He talks nostalgically of returning to fishing and farming, dairy cows and crops. And he's most voluble and apparently equally sincere on the subject of introducing a fully fledged democracy by 1992.

"We intervened to restore peace and reconciliation," he says. "On the day of the coup, we simply told Jonathan to stay at home and surrounded his Maseru headquarters. There was some shooting, a few court martials and two deaths. But basically, the Basuto are a peaceful nation. It was far from a violent takeover."

Now, he says, the priority is democracy.

"Unfortunately, some council members have tried to entrench themselves. And in certain villages, chiefs not villagers nominated candidates. But I

# FENSTER ON THE WORLD



**GENERAL JUSTIN LEKHANYA: A new breed of southern African dictator**

## Benign Basuto

*SI Times 24/6/90* 167

honestly believe that the people want a democracy."

The most glaring problem in this respect, as a local businesswoman explained over Wiener Schnitzel and South African cabernet is that a whole generation of Basuto have grown up with no understanding of a democratic process. "How can we want something we've never seen properly," she asked reasonably.

If Lekhanya has anything to do with it, however, the Basuto will be taught about democracy in just the same way as an army is divided into ranks. His aim, he declares is "a situation where everyone knows what he's doing and things run like clockwork."

**B**UT countries — even tiny mountain kingdoms — are not as easily run as armies.

In February this year, four Military Council members were detained. There were rumours of royalist factions and massive arms caches. "All of the cases will be examined," says Lekhanya benignly.

There's also been a murky undercurrent in the relationship between the council and Lesotho's nominal head of state, King Moshoeshoe II.

**A**FTER several trips to London Moshoeshoe recently issued a statement calling for an interim Lesotho government and internationally supervised elections within six months. This is clearly at odds with Lekhanya's date.

But the most problematic issue of all has been the general's involvement in the shooting of a 20-year-old student, George Ramone, last July. At an inquest called by the king, Lekhanya claimed to have been coincidentally at the scene of an alleged rape.

"I heard a woman crying and saw a man running away," he says. "I tried to chase him and my aim was to arrest him but after firing warning shots, I found that I'd shot him."

Admittedly, it takes a great leap of the imagination to picture the affable general — a

doting grandfather and "a farmer at heart" — shooting anyone.

But this is, after all, a man whose military studies have been extensive. Like the US general George Patton — one of his heroes — Lekhanya believes in action. And given a wartime situation, he'd see himself "in the front with my men, in the best possible position."

**G**IVEN all of this, as well as Lesotho's complex political history, the persistent presence of George Ramone's ghost hasn't helped Lekhanya. The invitation to "hotola soba la tslets" — pull emergency exit in case of disaster — may work fine on a Lesotho Air plane but it isn't as easily achieved in politics.

Despite the controversy, though, Lekhanya is nothing if not likeable. Here's a national leader who thinks nothing of gumboot dancing at his birthday party, a top military man who dissolves into tender malleability when his grandson comes into the room. A leader singularly lacking in pretentiousness.

The son of a primary school teacher and a one-time mine shaft clerk, he radiates the confident polish of his military training. He's addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He headed the Lesotho delegation to the July 1986 OAU summit. And he's fully aware of the great economic and social potential of Lesotho's Highlands Water Scheme.

"My duty is to the Basuto people," he's fond of saying.

"The literacy rate here is one of the highest in Africa — around 80 per cent. But education must be productive. It's not enough to quote Dickens. I want the Basuto to be self-sufficient — able to farm or create home industries."

**A**ND although he doesn't say so, such self-sufficiency would make the country less dependent on South African approval.

One of Lekhanya's most impressive qualities is his forthright pragmatism. After taking direct command of the barracks in 1985, he established a private night-school for his men — complete with a fully equipped science laboratory. His sights are fixed on agricultural credit schemes, improved medical facilities and an army which works in fields and on farms.

"We've used troops to build a rural clinic, work on roads and help in agriculture. I want to prepare them for a productive civilian life, too."

Will the 53-year-old Lekhanya, like some of his soldiers, be equally well prepared for something less prominent, less militaristic by 1992?

That remains to be seen. But short of someone outside pulling an emergency exit on him or someone inside staging another coup, it seems that he'll be around until then. At least.

**Don't miss Pnina Fenster's column EVERY week**



## Lesotho assembly opens

MASERU A Lesotho academic, Dr Teboho Kolane, was yesterday sworn in as president of the Lesotho constituent assembly.

Most other members of the assembly were also sworn in, reports SABC radio news

Dr Kolane was speaker of the constituent assembly before the coup by Major-General Metsing Lekhanya in January 1986 *W/Mand 29/6/90*.

The purpose of the constituent assembly is to formulate a constitution before the country becomes a democracy in June 1992. — Sapa (167)

## Dolphins face extinction



# Adopt constitution, <sup>(167)</sup> urges Lekhanya <sup>Sowetan</sup> <sup>4/7/90</sup>

MASERU - Lesotho strongman Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya yesterday urged the adoption of the country's 1966 constitution suspended by former Marxist ruler Chief Leabua Jonathan as a working document.

In his first speech to the Constituent Assembly since its opening last week, Lekhanya however said the constitution had weaknesses and needed to be examined.

He told the Assembly although the constitution had been accepted by the people as a suitable model it was to blame for the political turmoil that dogged the nation during Jonathan's reign.

"It (the constitution) was the main cause of this nation's political troubles of the last 24 years," the military leader said - Sapa

BACKGROUND

# Lesotho heads for democracy . . . once again

MASERU — It was a bitter-sweet moment for the man who was robbed of the premiership of Lesotho in 1970. Not a flicker of emotion passed over the face of Ntso Mokhehle, but he listened intently as he sat in the newly convened constituent assembly yesterday and heard the head of the military government propose that the assembly use the original 1966 constitution as a framework for the new constitution it is about to devise.

He must have been thinking of the day in 1970 when his Basutoland Congress Party won the general election, only to see Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan an seize power by suspending the constitution and annulling the election.

Chief Jonathan went on to rule by decree and Mr Mok-

hele to conduct a campaign of insurgency from exile, which ended only when the military ousted Chief Jonathan in 1986.

General Meksing Lekhanya, head of the ruling Military Council, got thunderous applause when he suggested in the assembly yesterday that the old constitution be used as a model for the new.

Among the 109 members of the assembly are representatives of the opposition parties which fought a running political battle against what amounted to one-party rule by Jonathan's Basuto National Party and which, like Mr Mokhehle's BCP, were banned by the military after 1986.

Defying the military government's prohibition on political activity, some of the opposition parties have called in recent

low key perhaps, but the convening of Lesotho's constituent assembly is one of the most momentous events in the country's history, probably marking the immediate end of royal power, the eventual end of military rule and the first real democracy since 1884,

reports THE STAR'S AFRICA NEWS SERVICE.

While he is still head of state he no longer has the executive powers given to him by the military after the 1986 coup; they were taken away in the dispute with the military council that sent him into exile.

The monarchy has much respect and wide support in Lesotho, and it is theoretically possible for the king to try to influence the constituent assembly to give him at least some political power. Knowledgeable observers doubt that he could get enough backing in the assembly, however.

The assembly is now set to draw up a constitution leading

to elections in 1992.

The military's preparations to return to barracks were in effect confirmed by General Lekhanya in his speech yesterday. This will be welcome news for those Basotho who were beginning to suspect that the soldiers had acquired such a liking for power and its privileges that they were intent on keeping it indefinitely.

But before confirming the army's strategic withdrawal from government, the general had some advice for the constituent assembly, in which the military is represented.

Apparently mindful of Chief Jonathan's seizure of power, he suggested that the new constitution provide for the army to swear allegiance to it and to the nation and not to an individual. This would ensure that the



General Meksing Lekhanya suggested the old constitution be used as a model.

army would defend the constitution.

And he proposed also that an independent body should be established which would be "the custodian of the constitution so that it is not at the mercy of the whims and vagaries of an individual."

Apparently seeking to prevent a repetition of the 1970 fiasco, General Lekhanya proposed the creation of "an institutional watchdog to monitor the formation of a new government after the announcement of election results."

He said the 1966 constitution was flawed in some respects. It had provided for the army to be controlled directly by the prime minister or one of his Ministers. This arrangement had led to abuses that undermined peace and stability.



# Lesotho's constituent assembly 'a victory' 167

MAG 5/7/90

IT was a bittersweet moment for the man who was robbed of the premiership of Lesotho in 1970

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Chief Jonathan went on to rule by decree and Mr Mokhehle to conduct a campaign of insurgency from exile, which ended only when the military ousted Chief Jonathan in 1986 and took power

## Applause

General Metsing Lekhanya, head of the ruling Military Council, got thunderous applause when he suggested in the assembly that the old constitution be used as a model for the new.

Among the 109 members of the assembly are representatives of the opposition parties which fought a running political battle against what amounted to one-party rule by Jonathan's Basuto National Party and which, like Mokhehle's BCP, were banned by the military after 1986

Defying the military government's prohibition on political activity, some of the opposition parties have called in recent years for the reinstatement of the old constitution, which was drawn up with British guidance when Basutoland became independent Lesotho.

## LESOTHO

Though low-keyed, the convening of Lesotho's constituent assembly is one of the most momentous events in the country's history, probably marking the immediate end of royal power, the eventual end of military rule and the first real democracy since 1884, ARGUS AFRICA NEWS SERVICE reports from Maseru.



Gen Metsing Lekhanya

When the constituent assembly was formally opened last week by the Regent, Queen Mamohoto, every Basotho who could get in found a seat in the old sandstone parliament building in Maseru For, low-keyed though it was, the event was one of the most momentous in Lesotho's history

Not only did it signal the end of military rule but it probably also marked the end of the monarchy as a political force in Lesotho and the beginning of real democracy for the first time since the country became a British protectorate in 1884.

From his exile in London King Moshoeshoe II tried late last month to halt the assembly's proceedings by making a public appeal for the formation of an interim government pending internationally supervised elections in six months time.

The appeal was widely seen as a bid by the king to protect his long-standing ambition for political power and got little or no support in Lesotho

This probably means the king will now have to reconcile himself to becoming a royal figurehead While he is still head of state he no longer has the executive powers given to him by the military after the 1986 coup; they were taken away in the dispute with the military council that sent him into exile early this

## Monarchy

This is Moshoeshoe's second spell in exile The first came when he lost a power struggle with Jonathan shortly after independence

The monarchy has much respect and wide support in Lesotho and it is theoretically possible for the king to try to influence the constituent assembly to give him at least some political power Knowledgeable observers doubt that he could get enough backing in the assembly, however

The assembly is now set to draw up a constitution leading to elections in 1992

That the military are prepared to return to the barracks then was in effect confirmed by General Lekhanya in his speech. This will be welcome news for those Basotho who were beginning to suspect that the soldiers had acquired such a liking for power and its privileges that they were intent on keeping it indefinitely

But before confirming the army's strategic withdrawal from government the general had some advice for the constituent assembly — in which the military is represented

Apparently mindful of Jonathan's seizure of power, he suggested that the new constitution provide for the army to swear allegiance to it and to the nation and not to an individual This would ensure that the army would defend the constitution.



# 300 Highlands Water workers stage protest

Argus Africa  
News Service

MASERU — More than 300 striking construction workers chanting African National Congress slogans marched through the centre of the Lesotho capital yesterday morning in protest against wages and working conditions.

## Leave country

The blanketed workers, from the main base camp of the massive Lesotho Highlands Water project in the Maluti mountains, shouted "Viva Mandela" as they proceeded to military headquarters to present a petition to the chairman of the Military Council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya.

The petition demanded that the French construction company Spie Batignolles, which employs

most of the workers, leave Lesotho

It urged General Lekhanya to intervene in their dispute over wage increases and to ensure their unconditional return to work.

It also urged him to reopen talks on conditions of service.

The Construction and Allied Workers' Union of Lesotho began strike action last month when negotiations with employers broke down

A union spokesman claimed yesterday morning that police had opened fire on several workers last Friday at the Katse base camp, injuring two seriously

The petition was received on behalf of General Lekhanya by the Minister of Employment, Social Welfare and Pensions, Lieutenant Colonel Blyth Molapo.

Police <sup>31/7/90</sup>  
break up  
student <sup>167</sup>  
protest <sup>167</sup>

MASERU - Police with batons chased several thousand students through Maseru yesterday to stop them from presenting a petition to the Ministry of Education asking for an end to a dispute between the government and teachers

Students repeatedly gathered, then broke and ran, in different parts of town and did not succeed in reaching the ministry

The government and teachers have been involved in a dispute for several weeks over pay and working conditions

The dispute has sometimes disrupted classes

### **Complaint**

Meanwhile, the Construction and Allied Workers Union of Lesotho have sent a complaint to the director of the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation saying the government is violating the organisation's policy, to which Lesotho is a signatory.

The complaint says the violations include police detention without cause of the union's general-secretary on July 20, thereby paralysing the union's activities

The union said other leaders had gone into hiding after police raided their offices in Maseru and that some members had been shot earlier in July during a protest about pay and working conditions at a dam construction site - Sapa-AP

# R5m Lesotho development accord sealed

A R5m loan accord between the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) and the Development Bank of SA (DBSA) will be signed today

*18/02/90*  
The loan, earmarked to finance the LNDC Advance Factory Shell Pro-

**MARIETTE DU PLESSIS**

gramme's construction of 8 000m<sup>2</sup> of factory space at the Thetsane Industrial Estate, followed August 1988 negotiations between the DBSA and LNDC, a LNDC statement said.

*(167)* LNDC MD Moletsane Monyake said new projects generated via LNDC's investment promotion efforts, coupled with the increased demand for factory buildings due to the rapid growth of existing industries, necessitated additional factory space



# Lesotho leader calls for republican rule

0620 SOWETAN Thursday August 30 1990

Page 15

MASERU - The leader of the opposition National Independence Party of Lesotho, Mr Anthony Manyeli has called on the Lesotho Government to urgently and seriously consider the introduction of a republican form of government in the kingdom.

Manyeli said some of the

would remaining monarchies had certainly been counter-productive and were not useful in today's fast-changing world in which the strong wind of democratisation continued to blow seriously.

He was introducing a motion in the National Constituent Assembly requesting the introduc-

tion of a republican form of government. ~~Sowetan~~ 30/8/90

The monarchy in Lesotho was too expensive to maintain with no benefits enjoyed by the nation, he said.

King Moshoeshoe II did not want to be a constitutional monarch, but wanted to be an ab-

solate monarch and it was now time for him to form his own political party said Manyeli

Among the terms of reference of the National Constituent Assembly was to review the position of the king in the proposed new constitution for the country. - Sapa

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## Moshoeshoe denies coup plot

*167* *Call Time 8/9/90*  
LONDON — Lesotho's exiled King Moshoeshoe II has denied on BBC radio that he plotted the overthrow of the kingdom's military ruler, Major-General Justin Lekhanya.

The king's interview on a BBC African Service broadcast breaks his six-month silence dating from March when he was abruptly sent to London on "sabbatical" by General Lekhanya. The king said in the broadcast that he had no personal quarrel with the military leader, but was not denying they held serious political differences. — Sapa.

# Lesotho denies Moshoeshoe's claims

CHV and

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(167)

MASERU - King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho, speaking on BBC radio, has accused the chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers of Lesotho of taking orders from the South African Government.

A Lesotho government statement yesterday said the king claimed on BBC

radio this was the main difference between him and the military council. It said he maintained the handling of the bus hijack during the papal visit in September 1988 was an example of Lesotho taking orders from SA.

The statement denied this, saying it was decided at the time that Lesotho did not have the necessary equipment or anti-terrorist expertise to deal with the situation. South Africa had answered the call for assistance "in a spirit of exemplary neighbourliness".

The statement continued by noting the instances of assistance by the SA Government including relief in times of drought and heavy snowfalls. It said it was not its intention to extol the virtues of the SA Government, but while "crying out loudly" against the injustices of apartheid, Lesotho had always unavoidably had to seek a peaceful co-existence with South Africa. - *Sapa*



# Reform having spin-off in Lesotho

You would have been prime minister of Lesotho had Leabua Jonathan not snatched power when your Basutoland Congress Party won the 1970 general election? Now that you've returned from exile, what are your intentions?

I have no aspirations to become a prime minister. I want to try and help solve the crisis and help Lesotho overcome its problems. The military council is talking the language of democracy — our job is to persuade them gently to hand over power and assure them of a position.

You agreed to take part in the constituent assembly created by the Military Council in February. Why?

I see it as a platform for negotiation. Initially I was reluctant to join and objected to its parliamentary appearance. I wanted a convocation, followed by elections for a parliament. The military has it the other way around.

The assembly has been established purely as an advisory body to the Military Council. Do you see it as an honest attempt to introduce democracy?

It is too early to say. Possibly the military is trying to create a smokescreen that will reinforce their position and secure foreign aid.

How effective has the assembly been so far?

It has been useful for rehabilitation and reconciliation. It has brought people together, many of whom would never have talked before.

Do you believe the assembly will succeed in achieving democracy?

I can't give fair judgment on that yet. There might be a chance, provided everyone keeps their heads.

How do you read the current political mood in Lesotho?

It's not steady. The teachers' strike, the problems with the king — these are indications

Veteran politician Ntsu Mokhehle (below) says that if his party came to power he would consider Lesotho's becoming part of a federation in a free South Africa. The man who won the election in 1970, only to be ousted by Chief Leabua Jonathan's coup, speaks to **DAWN BARKHUIZEN** of **The Star's Africa News Service** about Lesotho's current political situation.

Star 12/9/70

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of instability. The fact that the Military Council is even prepared to talk about democracy shows how sharp the crisis is.

Have events in South Africa over the past year had much impact on Lesotho?

Yes. Firstly the Military Council has taken the National Party's democratisation line. Secondly there has been a lot of ANC activity here. The youth, in particular, have been taken up with Nelson Mandela's public appearances.

What is your impression of the peace initiative in South Africa?

It lacks depth and does not

convince me. F.W. de Klerk has done well so far, but he is heading for trouble. I do not believe he or Mr. Mandela have popular support. Their agreements are elitist — the divisions are still very much in existence. I also cannot understand why Mr. de Klerk does not take control of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

How would a National Party-ANC coalition government in South Africa affect Lesotho?

Not much. I don't believe the ANC represents the views of the masses.

You are a Pan-Africanist. Do you believe the ANC has a role in your country?

At one stage they were vir-

tually running Lesotho. Right now they have been promoted by the media, but I think the ardour will cool down. By trying to be multiracial, the ANC has given itself a big problem. In an election the PAC would give everyone a big surprise.

Since King Moshoeshoe II went into exile earlier this year there has been some mud-slinging between him and the Military Council. Recently, however, a delegation with government representatives visited him in England. How important is the king to Lesotho?

He is increasingly irrelevant, and people are realising that he is not so important.

You are 72 years old. Is there a group of younger politicians on Lesotho's horizon?

Yes, but their direction is not yet clear. If one looks at the youth in South Africa it is quite clear what years of suppression have done. The lack of political training is taking its toll.

There are murmurs of incorporating Lesotho into South Africa. What is your position? There has always been talk of incorporation, firstly by Britain, then South Africa and now more recently, by other political groups. But small as we are, and closed-in as we are, we will continue our economic struggle and try to remain independent. We would perhaps be prepared to go into a federal relationship with a free South Africa.

What is your vision for Lesotho?

A true democracy. Leabua Jonathan caused much damage, spiritually and physically. People no longer trust one other. They fear, they don't care for truth, justice or peace. I'm not positive about the future. An effort in the direction of democracy causes uncertainty. We must guard against continuous conflict.



# LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

A BUSINESS TIMES FEATURE

# Tourism gets a fillip for the future

S/Times 23/9/90 (167)

**TOURISM** could become one of Lesotho's greatest income sources if the added potential arising from the Highlands project is fully realised, says Lebohang Ntsinyi, marketing manager of the Lesotho Tourist Board.

In 1989, 216 000 tourists — 90% from South Africa and 10% from abroad — earned the country R22-million from accommodation and food only.

A survey on behalf of the Tourist Board by LHA Management Consultants puts the potential annual number of tourists at 540 000 whites and 1.4-million blacks.

Mrs Ntsinyi says. "These numbers are based on existing tourist attractions and markets. If one takes into account the added attractions that will accrue from the water project, the figure will soar."

One of the side benefits of the water project that has a direct impact on tourism is that the building of roads as part of the infrastructure phase has given access to mountain areas that were formerly accessible only by four wheel-drive vehicles.

With these new roads in place, cars and buses will be able to travel into the mountains taking tourists to the dams where activities such as water skiing, fishing and pure scenic beauty will be developed.

An assessment of the tourism potential of the area was carried out by the Environment Section of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority in 1989 and this has been adopted by the Lesotho Tourist Board as its working document.

## Investors

The study has proposed a number of tourism developments in the Maluti Lake resort area and Moteng Valley.

The Tourist Board says the study has generated much interest among the public and several proposals have been received from investors interested in developing in the area.

Mrs Ntsinyi says "In the past, Lesotho had an image for providing gambling and X-rated movies. We need to change that image to one depicting a holiday destination where a variety of interesting outdoor activities can be enjoyed by the whole family."

"We plan to hold workshops for customs and immigration officials as well as

## New roads open the way to the interior

the police to improve their image with tourists.

"We must explain to them the importance of tourism to the country. The onus is on us to educate them."

Another negative pointed out in the survey is litter in the streets. Officials are taking steps to clean up the towns.

The Maseru City Council has employed a South African company to help it keep the place clean.

Accommodation also needs to be reviewed — and increased — because there are only 1 500 hotel rooms in the country.

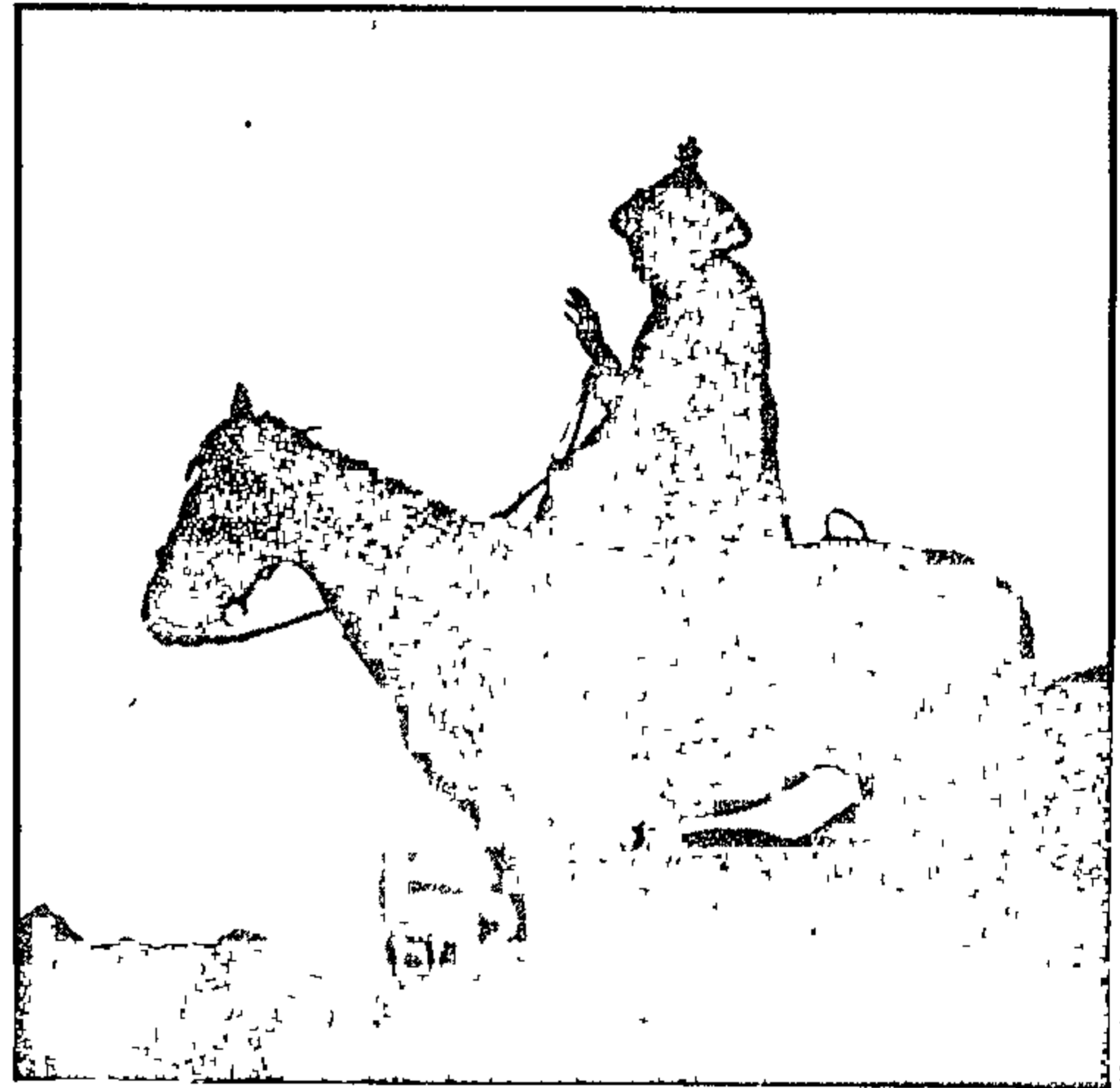
The Tourist Board is confi-

dent of overcoming the problems and looks to a bright future for Lesotho.

A big plus, says Mrs Ntsinyi, is the number of jobs — skilled and unskilled — that will be created through the new developments.

"Tourism is labour intensive and we hope to absorb some of the people retrenched by South African mines."

Lesotho's main tourist attractions include pony trekking, mountaineering, skimming rock paintings, petrified woods, history, culture and gambling.



TRADITION DIES HARD — a horseman is silhouetted against the setting sun

# Dying mines kill migrant labour

S/Times 23/9/90

THE WATER project could not have come at a better time for Lesotho because of the large number of migrant labourers returning after being laid off by South African mines.

So says Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Evaristus Sekhonyana.

SA mines started to retrench workers some time ago and many Lesotho nationals have been sent home.

Countering this through the provision of jobs in Lesotho would go a long way towards easing the eco-

nomie blow to both the workers and the nation's economy.

Mr Sekhonyana says "If I were to answer the question as to Lesotho's main economic occupation, I would have to say it is mining — only it is mining outside our borders."

**Devasating**

The importance of migrant labour to Lesotho is shown by the fact that they send home R500 million per year. That is exactly

the amount Lesotho spends on importing food.

If migrant labour were totally cut, the effect on Lesotho would be devastating, says Mr Sekhonyana.

"That that is something we must plan for in the long term. If there is equalisation of salaries in post-apartheid, South African blacks will be attracted to mining and we will not be able to count on our income from supplying migrant labour."

"We must start now to develop a strategy for our economy which

will supplement what we get today in the way of money from the mines.

"I think say we are looking at 10 years but we will start feeling the pinch within five years."

It is thus that the employment opportunities offered by the water project have come at the right time to replace the lost income and jobs of migrant workers.

The long-term economic benefits of the project to Lesotho will counter the detrimental effects of future large scale lay offs.

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# Orange-Fish skills for mountains

## ROAD TO RUIN FOR SOME

**SOUTH AFRICAN** transport operators have been warned not to regard the Lesotho Highlands Water Project as an easy road to riches.

Faans Wevers, joint managing director of J&G Transport (Lesotho) says. This operation is not for the conventional chrome bumper maximum payload truck operating in South Africa. Conditions are harsh and if you haven't the right equipment and skills you won't make it.

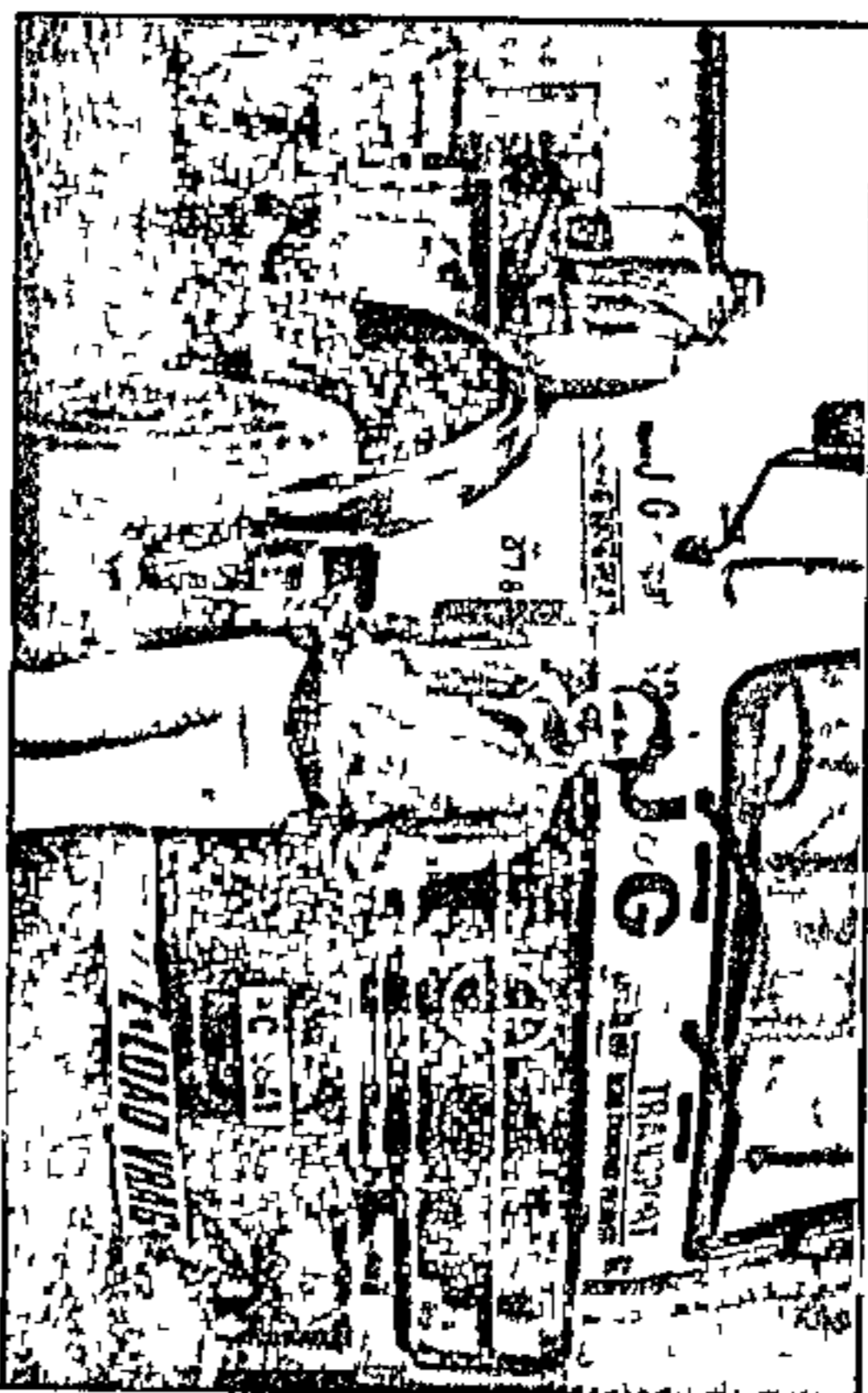
J&G Transport has operated in the remote areas of Lesotho since 1965 and has been busy on the LHWP since day one. It has carried 85% of the goods required for building the infrastructure. Its trucks have carried thousands of tons of equipment and supplies over some of the most demanding terrain in the fount of weather.

**Cliffs 2319/90**  
Mr Wevers's concern stems from his belief that SA truck operators will view this project as a way of plugging the gap caused by a depressed economy at home. We expect them to rush in an effort to use spare capacity. But it's not that easy. Some have tried but they have gone home with their trucks in Lesotho — at the bottom of cliffs.

Although improved roads in the mountains will take conventional trucks no route is easy.

We disagree with the LHDA and the Department of Water Affairs when they say any truck will be able to make the trip when the roads are built.

What they have not taken into account are the extreme weather conditions under which trucks operate — rain that falls in solid sheets black on the altitude and



**WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD** Faans Wevers warns the unwary truckers many other factors that make the operation a special one. In these conditions not only the truck counts. Skilled drivers are needed and few South Africans will handle this.

Alan Andre, joint managing director of Welcome Transport in Waterburg, says: "You have to know the conditions and even then accidents happen. Confirmation of this stands in the yard of his depot — a mangled wreck of a truck. That went over a cliff and it was driven by an experienced driver. There's at least one such accident a week," says Mr Andre.

**ROAD TO RUIN** Transport operators are warned not to regard the Lesotho Highlands Water Project as an easy road to riches.

**EXPERIENCE** gained in building the Orange-Fish scheme has made South African expertise in the design and construction of water tunnels in rock among the finest in the world.

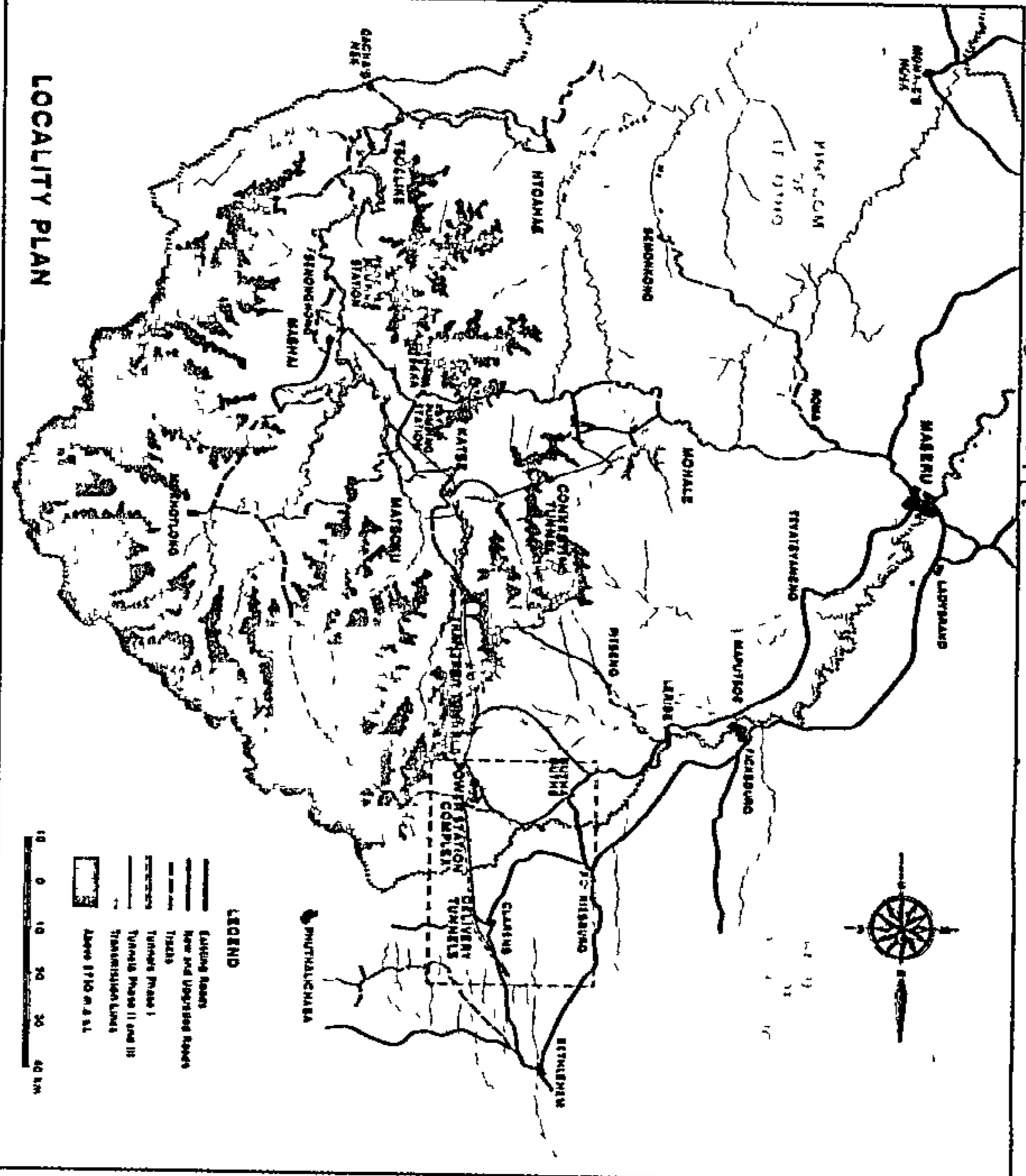
The Orange-Fish tunnel transfers water from the Orange to the Fish River. The 81km tunnel was built in the early 1970s. It is thought to be the longest water-carrying tunnel in the world.

The Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) was established to implement the SA side of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Since 1987 it has been involved in the design of the delivery tunnel and providing the infrastructure.

**Tailpond** (167)  
It was carried out by Highlands Delivery Tunnel Consultants led by project manager Mike de Wit. Chief engineer Frank Kubsch describes the TCTA brief as ensuring the transport of foreign water to SA. The delivery tunnel is 37km long and will take water from the tailpond at Muela power station to the Ash River outfall near Clarens.

The tunnel has been divided geographically into north and south. The south is the 15km Lesotho section between Muela power station and the Caledon River and the other is the SA section which is divided into two contracts — the 10km tunnel between the Caledon River and the Little Caledon and the 5km tunnel which runs from the Little Caledon.

The 43km long transfer tunnel through the Yalutu Mountains from the Kaise



Dam to Muela power station will be excavated through basaltic lava and will not need to be lined with concrete throughout.

The delivery tunnel south will be excavated through good sandstone in Lesotho. But the delivery tunnel north is expected to traverse through weaker sedimentary rocks such as siltstone and claystone. This section will have to be sealed by shotcrete and supported by a permanent concrete lining or a precast segmental one.

The TCTA's involvement in the Lesotho hydro project started three years ago with the design of phase 1A which will take six years to build. The tunnel can carry 30 cubic metres a second sufficient for both phase 1A and phase 1B.

However, to accommodate the planned increases in water flow for subsequent phases a duplicate tunnel will have to be built. Eight ventilation shafts are planned along the tunnel primarily to allow air to escape.

The land under which the tunnel runs belongs to farmers who will be temporarily inconvenienced. But once the tunnel is constructed they will not be affected.

The farmers will receive compensation for any inconvenience during construction.

**Minimal**  
No construction or drilling will be allowed over the tunnel once it has been completed but that will not prevent ploughing, sowing and harvesting from being carried out as before.

Inspection and maintenance of the tunnel should be minimal. Mr Kubsch expects an inspection after three years.

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"On a project I expect something far more important from my bank than simply big finance Big ideas"



# Lesotho banks bump ceiling

(167)

SITimes 23/9/90

LESOTHO'S three main banks — Barclays, Standard Chartered and Lesotho National Development — have been excluded from financing of the water project.

This is because the International Monetary Fund structural adjustment facility sets ceilings for each bank on the amount of money that can be made available to local ventures. The money required for the LHWP is far higher than the ceilings allow.

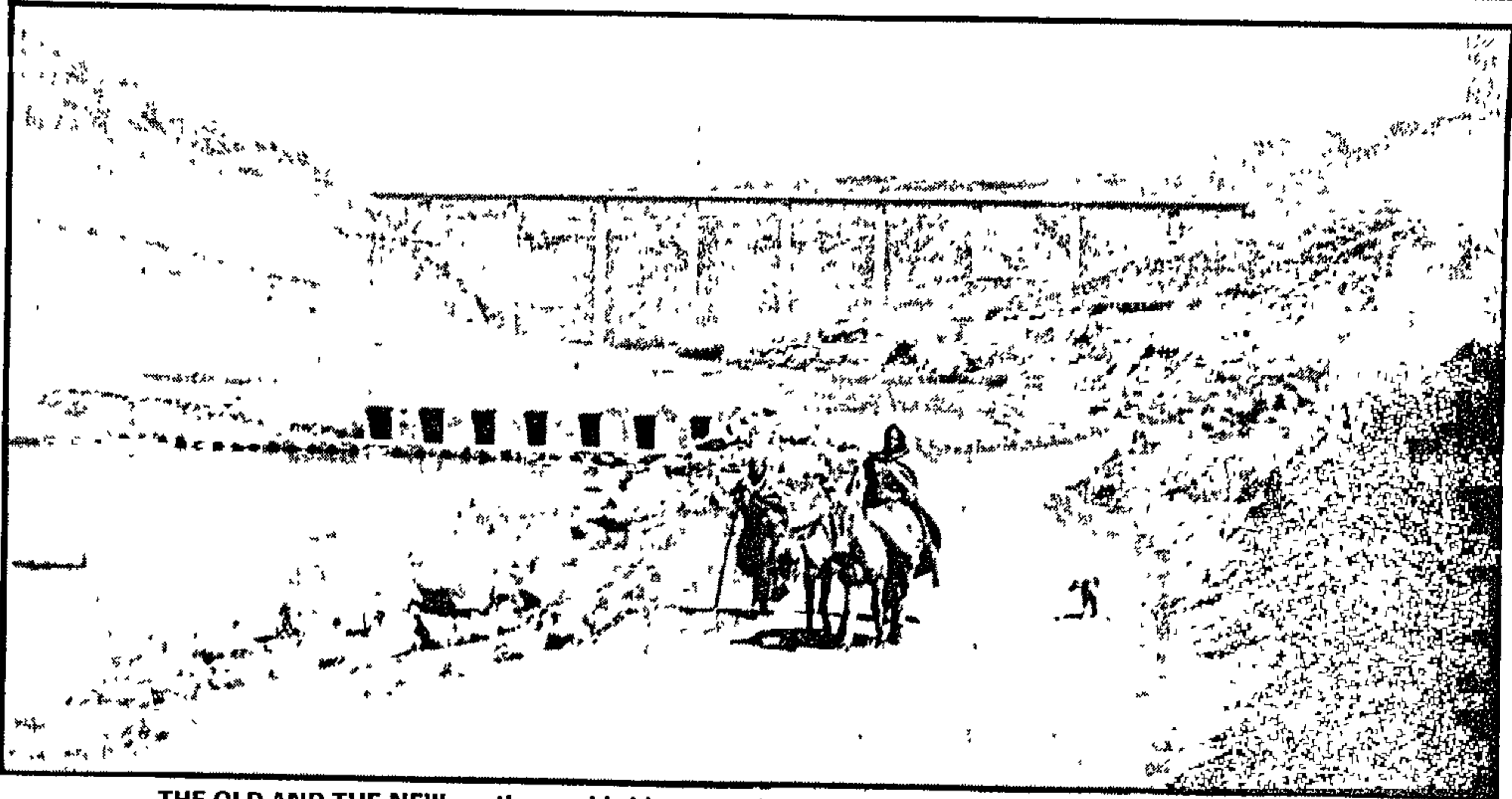
According to a Maseru businessman, the IMF controls were introduced not because of bad risk but in an attempt to control money supply. Although Lesotho's money supply was increasing at one stage, funds were not being channelled into productive investment. Ceilings on loans were thus agreed on between the Lesotho Central Bank and the IMF and these are strictly adhered to.

But Lesotho banks can help by financing the satellite industries expected to grow up around the project.

Depending on the viability of these ventures — and the space within the ceilings — Lesotho banks will no doubt support them.

Further spin-offs for the banks will come from companies working on the project. They could use Lesotho banks for the duration of the project.

**ACTOR**  
LTD



THE OLD AND THE NEW . . . the road bridge over the Mallbamatso River which will flood the valley

# World agencies provide hefty share of the huge costs

SITimes 23/9/90

167

FINANCING of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is perhaps the most complex facet of the scheme

The basic agreement between Lesotho and South Africa governing the implementation and operation of the project and the export of water to SA is in a treaty signed in October 1986

The treaty covers the rights and obligations of the parties, and lays down the quantities of water to be delivered, regulates sharing of costs and provides a formula for calculating the royalty payments by SA

SA is responsible for all the costs of those parts of the

project relating to the transfer of water, including implementing, operating and maintaining the scheme

Lesotho, through the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), is responsible for financing the hydro-power component of the project. The treaty also provides for ancillary costs, giving either government scope to implement other facets which will enhance the project's overall development impact

The plan is to raise a large amount of money from international sources, both commercial and, in the case of hydro-power, concessionary

This will bring a large amount of foreign currency into the Common Monetary Area, of which Lesotho and SA are members. Sources of funds to date include the World Bank, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the European Development Fund, the European Investment Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the French Government and the British Overseas Development Administration as well as direct contributions from the two governments involved

It was expected that it

would take time to mobilise international funds. To ensure that the programme agreed to in the treaty was implemented on time, the LHDA approached the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to fund certain advanced infrastructure elements

### Critical

The bank, in terms of its own mission and objectives, identified its role in the LHWP to promote closer economic cooperation in the Southern African region and to support the development by providing the initial, urgently required money

The advanced infrastructure elements, critical to the scheme's success, will also contribute to development of the region. They are appropriate for funding by a developing agency, such as the DBSA

So far, the DBSA has approved loans of R470-million for advanced infrastructure, including roads, construction villages and electricity. Loans of R45-million are under consideration

The DBSA's role is not restricted to financing advanced infrastructure

In accordance with its objectives and after discussion with other interested parties and potential financiers, including the World Bank, the DBSA was asked by the LHDA to assist with financing and advice for its institutional and financial planning. As international funding becomes available, so the DBSA's role as financier of major infrastructure will diminish. However, it is envisaged that the DBSA will have a long-term involvement in projects through helping the LHDA with the broader developmental impact

The DBSA is considering funding development studies relating to communities affected by the project and is discussing compensation and environmental plans with the LHDA

Tenders have been received for the major construction contracts related to the delivery of water to SA. They are for the Katse Dam and associated delivery and transfer tunnels. The contractors were asked to provide proposals for financing the contracts

The details of these financial proposals have not been published, but it is expected

that considerable sums will be made available from the successful contractors by way of export credit funding and commercial loans

The LHDA is negotiating with international agencies to secure funds for the hydro-power element of the project before calling for tenders.

In addition to the contractors' costs there are those for consultants and the LHDA's own. They cover administration, environmental and rural development programmes. They are expected to be partly financed by international donor agencies, including a World Bank loan

### Consortium

The strong identification of the World Bank with the LHWP, shown by its participation as a direct lender, will be instrumental in generating confidence among international financiers

Once the LHDA has assessed the international finance available, it will have to raise the rest of the money in SA. It is expected that the money will be raised in three phases. Phase 1A has been established with a consortium of Volkskas and Rand Merchant Bank

10 banks  
ceiling

banks — Barclays, Standard International Development — have been of the water project national Monetary Fund structural ceilings for each bank on the amount available to local ventures the LHWP is far higher than the

businessman, the IMF controls were at risk but in an attempt to control money supply. Although Lesotho's money supply was increasing at one stage, funds were not being channelled into productive investment.

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# LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

NEXT month huge tenders are to be awarded for the construction of the Katse Dam, the major part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, as well as for the delivery and transfer tunnels. This is Phase 1A of the projected 25-year project — but will the rest of it ever come to fruition? This is only one of the issues ANTHEA DUGAN and PATRICK O'LEARY investigate in this update on the project which, because of its magnitude, has gripped the mind of the South African public

## BILLIONS TO MAKE

AFTER nearly 40 years of feasibility studies, the Lesotho Highland Water Project is about to take off.

Theo van Robbroeck, deputy director-general of the Department of Water Affairs, is about to see 20 years' planning becoming a reality. The project is to be undertaken in four phases over 25 years to meet the demand for water by South Africa.

Johannesburg is one of the few major urban centres in the world not built on a river. The rainfall draining into dams that may be built in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area would be inadequate for the projected population growth, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation.

### Risk

Already water is pumped from the Tugela and other rivers in Natal to supplement the Vaal.

The estimated cost of Phase 1A is R3,23-billion in 1988 money. This includes contingencies, but not escalation and finance costs.

All civil engineering projects are subject to escalation and Lesotho Highlands is no exception. The tender documents provide for escalation of labour, plant and material costs.

The project authorities are prepared to share the risk of inflation with the contractors for Phase 1A.

In terms of the treaty signed by South Africa

and Lesotho, Phase 1B can be postponed. It can be cancelled only if money cannot be raised.

However, if the costs of subsequent phases should soar, consideration would be given to other plans.

One option would be the Orange-Vaal transfer scheme, consisting of a dam near Aliwal North and a series of aqueducts and pumping stations. It would also supply sufficient water for the PWV.

### Booster

Mr Van Robbroeck says that if money for the subsequent Lesotho phases is not available, it is unlikely there would be funds for the Orange-Vaal scheme.

Responsibility for funding of the project in Lesotho is with the LHDA. The Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) is

responsible for the delivery tunnel north, the section in SA between the Caledon River and the Ash River.

International financial confidence has been boosted by the involvement of the World Bank, which has become a direct lender.

To raise finance for that part of the project to be undertaken in SA a levy has been imposed on consumers of water supplied through the Vaal system.

This is to avoid large increases in tariffs when Lesotho water arrives.

On completion of Phase 1A, water costs to consumers will vary. Each municipality charges different rates.

### Purified

The project will have a major effect on the percentage increase of the cost of raw water — it could double. But the existing cost of water transfer from Vaal Dam will not be affected.

This includes pumping the water to the Rand Water Board where it is purified before being transferred to reservoirs, reticulated to municipalities and individual properties.

These final stages make up most of the cost of water in the PWV area.

One question nobody can answer is how long the Katse Dam will take to fill once the wall is

built, scheduled for the start of rainy season in October 1994.

The project authorities have provided for the possibility of a one-in-50-year drought. Water will start to flow by the end of 1995.

However, the dam could fill in a couple of months as occurred with the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam.


### Designed

Once the dam starts to fill, the LHDA intends carrying out a series of tests on the water at various levels.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project has been carefully designed so that both countries depend on its continued function. Although SA will rely on the water, Lesotho will need it to generate electricity.

This is apart from Lesotho's need for the water royalty payments of about R100-million annually.

SITimes 23/9/90 (167)



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## Lesotho bump

LESOTHO'S three main banks, Chartered and Lesotho National, are excluded from financing of the project. This is because the International Adjustment Facility sets a ceiling on the amount of money that can be made available. The money required for the project exceeds the ceilings allowed.

According to a Maseru business source, the project was not introduced because of bad



# order battle

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

# SA cement could lose

**SOUTH AFRICAN cement producers hope to win the order for Phase 1A of the water project.**

But there is speculation that the estimated 400 000 tons of cement needed for the Katse Dam will be donated by an overseas country

A spokesman for the Cement Producers Association says there is a chance that the South Africans will get nothing. Industry sources say much depends on the financial packages offered by the consortiums in the running for the contract.

It is possible that cement will be donated as a tactic to win the contract. But because cement is a high-volume, low-value commodity, it is highly unlikely that the play will swing a contract which runs into hundreds of millions of rands.

The lowest price will not necessarily win the contract because the financial arrangements are complex. Other factors, such as interest repayments and foreign-currency advantages, will more likely come into play as deciding factors.

## Frightening

SA sources point to the danger of importing cement. One says, "Cement does not travel well. It would have to be imported in either 50kg or one-ton bags and be transported to the site. The logistics of this are frightening. What looks like a gift could cost a fortune in transport."

Producers are biding their time and plans for setting up the infrastructure to supply cement have been put on hold.

Should cement be ordered from SA, the Cement Producers Association — Blue Circle, Anglo-Alpha and Pretoria Portland Cement —

167 Foreigners

likely to donate it

S Times 23/9/60

main cement extender for the tunnels and the Katse Dam wall.

Slagment is blended with cement to enhance the final product in terms of quality and price.

"We are looking at supplementing 70% of the cement with slagment," says Fama Ferreira, technical sales manager of Slagment.

The product has been accepted by the specifiers.

The main reason for using slagment in a mass concrete application is its ability to reduce the development of initial heat caused by the drying process while continuing to develop strength well into the structure's serviceable life span.

"All major water projects and dams constructed by the Department of Water Affairs

have used slagment. They include the P K le Roux and HF Verwoerd dams and the recently completed Inanda Dam in Natal," says Mr Ferreira.

Mr Ferreira is not overly concerned about imports.

## Remote

"There is the possibility that cement may be donated, but it is doubtful whether the relevant consortium will bring in a pre-blended cement and extender mixture. That is remote."

Should Slagment be awarded the contract, it will supply 500 000 tons for the dam alone.

"That is worth R50-million in four years. We could supply about 1 000 tons a day at peak demand."

will set up an R8-million depot at Ficksburg.

However, it is not yet known whether the contractor will want a blending facility at Ficksburg or on the site.

Also waiting is Slagment, which has tendered for its product — slagment — as the

# Border towns on the march

COMPETITION has come to the Free State town of Clarens

The Guinea-Feather Restaurant, run by former Rand Daily Mail photographer Eric Heinze and his wife Ann, no longer has the town to itself. An opposition restaurant has opened alongside it.

This may seem small beer to city dwellers, but not so to the 260 residents of Clarens.

The stimulus for competition, however, comes not so much from wanting to capture the town's trade, but from people moving into the new houses and single quarters being built by the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority

It is this battle between two small restaurants that perhaps captures the growing mood of optimism sweeping

through the border towns as the Lesotho project gains momentum

Industries will set up plant, transport companies will establish warehousing and staging areas, cement producers will build silos. The border towns of Clarens, Bethlehem, Fouriesburg, Ficksburg, Clocolan and Ladybrand are gearing up to welcome an influx of industry and people



## Property

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The impact of growth has already been felt in a steady rise in property prices and house rents

"Land prices have increased by 300% in five years," says Elaine Meijer, Town Clerk of Clarens

Ladybrand, about 12km from

Maseru, the administrative capital of the project, is also feeling the effects

Ladybrand Town Council is proclaiming 190 residential stands

Ficksburg, the main entry point into the LHWP, is preparing for a boom with 60ha of industrial ground proclaimed

Two new residential townships have also been proclaimed

Town Clerk Frans Viljoen says that because of Ficksburg's strategic position in relation to the project, it is expected that 90% of all truck traffic, cement, cement products, steel, explosives and other goods will pass through

The council is wooing industry. One such effort is the publication of a magazine introducing the town as the Gateway to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

# Insurance brokers in

INSURANCE forms a major aspect of the Lesotho Highland Water Project. Joint brokers have been appointed to identify potential risks and seek competitive rates of cover.

David Marks, director of Hoskens-PFV Consortium, says the Phase 1A cover differs from normal short-term insurance. Several contracts comprise the project and under normal circumstances each contractor would be insured for the life of his contract.

Alternatively, the employer would undertake to handle the insurances for the entire project, including all individual contractors.

In this instance there are two employers, the LHDA representing Lesotho's interests and the TCTA for South Africa.

## 167 search for S1 Times 23/1/90 top terms

There are four contracts in Lesotho — the dam, two transfer and a delivery tunnel. In SA the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority has two sections of tunnels under the "delivery tunnel north" contract.

Hoskens-PFV Consortium has been appointed insurance broker for both employers, although the appointments were awarded individually.

Principal controlled insurance (PCI) has been requested by both parties. This means the employer will arrange and control certain insurance covering the interests not only of the employer but all the contractors for the life of their contracts.

Because of a delay in the appointment of the brokers and to meet the timetable for the project infrastructure, construction work started before PCI could be implemented. So some of the early contractors were obliged to arrange their own contractors' all risks (CAR) insurance.

### Treaty

PCI covers the contract work insurance or CAR insurance and public liability.

Aspects not covered by PCI and to be arranged by individual contractors include marine or air carriage of imports, contractors' plant and equipment and site accommodation, workmen's compensation, employers' common law liability, motor and third-party risks and professional indemnity.

In terms of the treaty, there must be no quantitative restrictions on goods, materials, plant, equipment, services. Therefore insurance cover is being sought in SA, Lesotho and abroad.

### Collapse

Before the PCI appointment was awarded, the broking consortium bid for and received an LHDA appointment to carry out a risk management study.

Exposures to risk were identified and recommendations made. They included PCI. The subsequent appointment was based on the combined experience of the two broking houses and their ability to handle insurance. Consortium director Alan Wilkinson says SA insurance will be used to the fullest extent of its willingness to take part in the risk at the available terms.

Mr Wilkinson says of the tunnels "There are two essential risks one is collapse because of unforeseen ground conditions, and the other is collapse because the contractor's temporary support is inadequate."



# LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

A BUSINESS TIMES FEATURE

## NATION STANDS ON THE BRINK OF GOLDEN FUTURE

LESOTHO is on the threshold of an economic boom which could lead to the most prosperous times in its history.

Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Evaristus Sekhonyana describes the present as one of economic euphoria

He warns, however, that the good times ahead could turn sour if the country does not capitalise on the "multiple effects" of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Mr Sekhonyana says "It is imperative that Lesotho uses the euphoria to be creative in various initiatives so that everybody finally benefits from the project. If we fail in this, we will have failed in our purpose. We will have the lakes and the tunnels — but nothing else"

The most immediate benefit comes in job creation

"By the end of the current phase, 20 000 people will have been trained in one skill or another.

"This is important in terms of income, but it is even more important to the second phase of the project when contractors will arrive to find a skilled labour force as opposed to the untrained people of today"

He stresses the importance of the hydro-power plant at Muela in Phase IA

The decision to go ahead with the hydro-power component was made at a conference organised by the Lesotho Government in March 1988. It was attended by representatives of the World Bank, European Economic Community and the European Investment Bank

### Politics

Mr Sekhonyana says "At present we buy electricity from Eskom. The project will make us self sufficient in electricity"

Apart from giving a degree of independence in energy supply, it will save Lesotho more than R20-million (at 1987 values) yearly in energy imports

"If South African politics develop positively, the second stage of the hydro-power component may be developed for export, which means additional income for Lesotho."

A third aspect of vital importance in the long term is the development of a tourist industry

"For a poor country like Lesotho, one cannot over-emphasise the importance of tourism. With the right planning, it could be a golden opportunity to develop a great source of income"

## Opportunity in joint ventures

OPPORTUNITIES abound for South African and international companies to enter joint ventures with Lesotho entrepreneurs in developing satellite industries to supply goods and services to the project

This is the message from the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), which has identified 42 business opportunities associated with the project

The identification of these

projects falls in with the LNDC's aim to manufacture and provide construction material and other goods and services required for the LHWP

An equally important objective is to use the LHWP as a vehicle for sub-contracts to build up capabilities in the construction and related service industries

Moleboheng Ramoreboli, LNDC's project manager, engineering and construction materials, says "Successes in these critical areas would

considerably improve Lesotho's trade balance and enhance domestic retention of the enormous LHWP capital investment"

### Advanced

Mrs Ramoreboli says these joint ventures should be geared to serve not only the domestic market, but those of other Southern African Customs Union member states (SACU), the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC)

and the Preferential Trade Area (PTA)

The estimated investment required amounts to about R100-million with job potential of 14 000

Of the estimated investment, about 40% should be contributed by Lesotho sources, such as the LNDC and commercial banks

Ten industries are already under way — sandstone cutting, reinforcing steel and mesh, a bakery, protective clothing, roofing trusses, a construction consortium,

catering, window frames, concrete drainage pipes and blocks

The budgeted investment is R20-million, providing 2 000 jobs

Mrs Ramoreboli says "All of these LHWP spin-offs, with the exception of reinforcing steel and mesh and roofing trusses, have significant indigenous input"

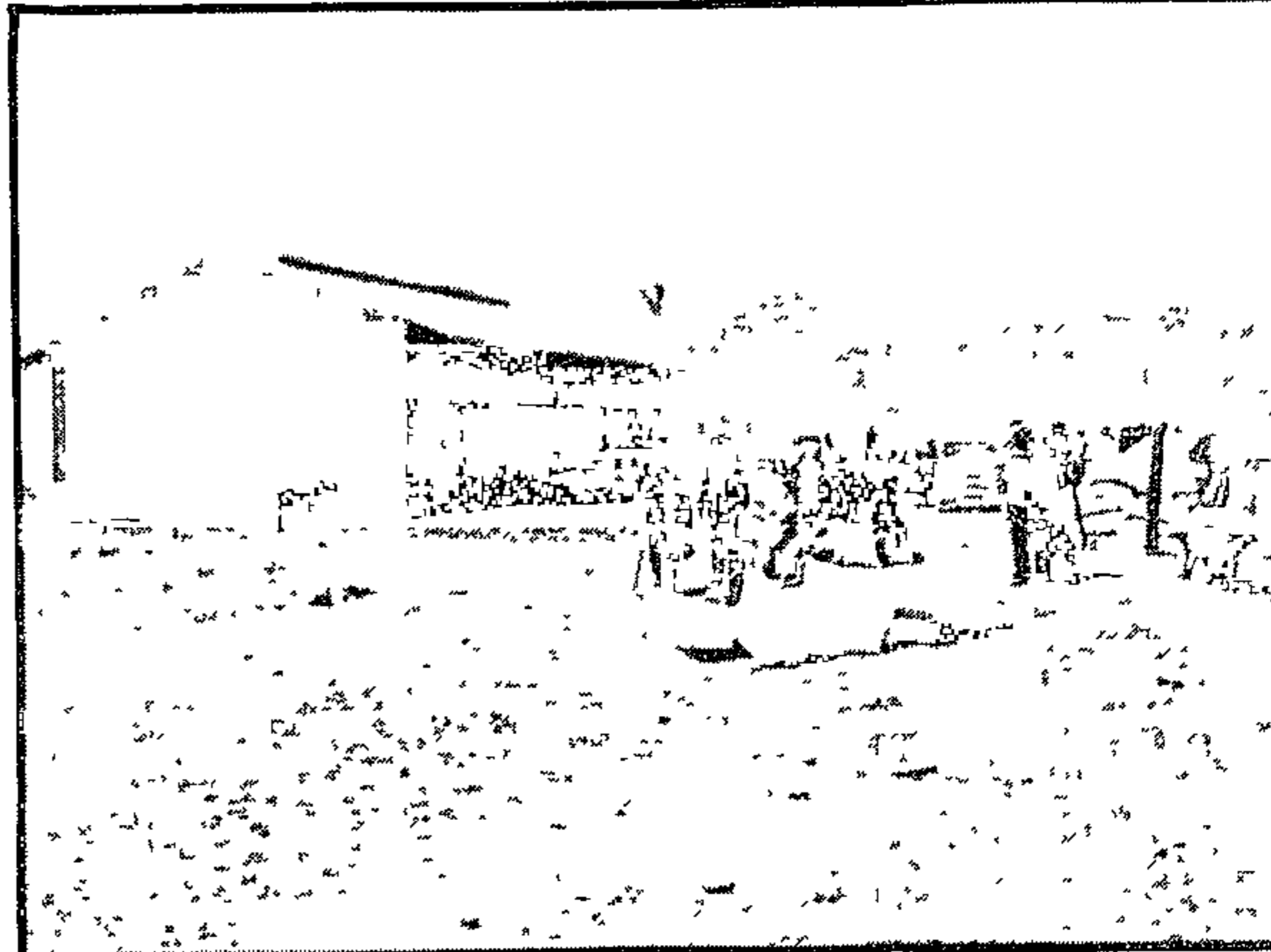
Industries at an advanced stage of negotiation include aggregate for roads and dams, corrugated-iron sheeting and drainage pipes, cement blending and bagging, ready-mixed concrete, rockwool from smelted basalt, hand tools, furniture, fisheries and a passenger transport company

### Managerial

Their estimated cost is R50-million, providing 6 500 jobs

Priority is given to this sector to reduce Lesotho's import bill for aggregates, estimated at R20-million

"Since the lack of managerial and technical skills among our people has caused a high failure rate in business, it is critical to formulate suitable training and monitoring programmes to reverse this trend," says Mrs Ramoreboli



COMMERCE COMES TO THE MOUNTAINS a trading post near Katse Dam

A long-term project, which will benefit everyone as well as save the country millions on imported food, is the plan to irrigate large areas of Lesotho

### Varied

Mr Sekhonyana says "In the next five years we will for the first time have a programme in place for irrigation. This is one of the most important side benefits of the project"

Lesotho's food imports cost R500-million a year at present

Lesotho will receive royalties in return for water delivered to SA. The royalties will vary with the quantity of water delivered and are estimated at R123-million a year in 1987 money

The royalty income will continue for 50 years. The amount is fully protected from cost overruns during construction and from inflation

The project is likely to have a positive impact on government finances through taxes and duties

The increase will come not only from direct project investment, but secondary receipts from increased economic activity

Mr Sekhonyana has pegged company tax at 12% and abolished the incentive package which gave new companies a six-year tax holiday

### Trigger

"It's an interesting concept and we are encouraged by the inquiries we have received from people who wish to invest. In the past two months we have received inquiries involving R200-million," he says

Lesotho relies to a large extent on foreign aid. Although Mr Sekhonyana welcomes aid as a means to build the infrastructure, he does not see it as a trigger for real development

"As you grow older, you realise that development comes from production. It is the key to everything"

Royalties will be placed in a dedicated fund for development

Mr Sekhonyana says "Investments will be made in food production, manpower training and the creation of employment in industry"

"The importance of the Highlands project goes beyond the sale of water, the hydro-power, the tourism opportunities. It creates a

fund for investment in productivity

"In the next 10 years we will see a turnaround in Lesotho's fortunes"



# Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Business Times  
Project 167

## R796m lowest tender

Business Times Reporter

Business Times Reporter

EXECUTIVES in SA's largest civil-engineering companies, together with foreign associates, await the imminent award of huge Lesotho Highlands contracts. Orders for the Katse Dam and three tunnels are the biggest

The amount at stake can be gauged from the size of the lowest tender for the dam - R796-million. It is R145-million less than that of the next lowest. Only two tenders are below R1-billion.

Group Five, part of the lowest bidding consortium, attributes its edge in part to

be read into the tender prices because discounts are offered in various ways and financing packages are important.

Group Five bid together with German companies, Alfred Kunz, consortium leader, and Held & Francke for the tunnel work.

This consortium is lowest bidder for the three tunnels, but is said to want the contract for only one. The consortium, including LTA Construction and French company Spie Batignolles, offered discounts if it gets more than one.

availability of equipment. "The consortium leader, Impregilo of Italy, is a dam-building specialist and has equipment which others might have to buy," says executive chairman Peter Clogg Concor is the other SA member of the consortium.

Murray & Roberts is part of the second-lowest tendering consortium. Both Mr Clogg and M&R Construction's Charl van der Merwe say that not too much should

be read into the tender prices because discounts are offered in various ways and financing packages are important.

Group Five bid together with German companies, Alfred Kunz, consortium leader, and Held & Francke for the tunnel work.

This consortium is lowest bidder for the three tunnels, but is said to want the contract for only one. The consortium, including LTA Construction and French company Spie Batignolles, offered discounts if it gets more than one.

NEXT month the huge tenders are to be awarded for the construction of the Katse Dam, the major component of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, as well as its delivery and transfer tunnels.

Business Times reviews this mighty project and all it entails in an in-depth survey starting on Page 4

# RAVAGED LAND REPAIRED

introduced, including hospitals and clinics, training centres and schools. Subsidised fishery facilities in the Katse Dam and commercial trout rearing are envisaged. Tourism has been recommended and will supply jobs.

Academics were asked to help with the environment and heritage plan. They included biologists, botanists, archaeologists and paleontologists.

reason or another, asked for water transport and roads around the dam.

One sensitive undertaking is the removal of a small cemetery to higher ground. Since land cannot be replaced, those farmers who ranch their cattle will have to be trained to earn a living in another occupation, such as fishing.

## Forestry

This is where the rural development plan takes over to provide economic opportunities and improve the infrastructure serving communities. A forestry programme is planned to replace the trees and to supply fuel and building materials for the inhabitants.

In the short term, the inhabitants of the dam area will reap enormous benefits from the contract, especially job opportunities. Entrepreneurs throughout Lesotho will benefit directly or indirectly.

Social services are being

Lesotho's rich cultural heritage, which includes archaeological sites containing rock art and many Stone Age artefacts, will be protected through an education programme.

Ironically, the tunnelling operations may contribute to man's knowledge of the past by unearthing fossils which otherwise would have remained hidden.

The Bokong Alpine Reserve will be particularly important for the conservation of afro-alpine ecosystems and as a habitat for the endangered bearded vulture.

affected should "not be inferior to that pertaining at the time the first sod was turned".

Land lost to the dam cannot be replaced because there is none available. Land in Lesotho is not traded. People were comparing Lesotho land values with those in SA and some claims were six to eight times the unit value of that in the Free State. However, many people will benefit from the project.

Mr Venn believes two to three times the equivalent land value is fair compensation. The demand for land in Lesotho far exceeds the supply.

Appropriate substitutes were identified by the LHDA and included interim annual payments for grain and fodder. Also provided are cash payments for arable land less than one hectare in size and vegetable gardens. Replacements are offered for houses, trees, livestock, commercial premises, kraals and stables.

The inhabitants who used to cross the valley for one

AN IMPORTANT aspect of any mega-project these days is to upset as few people, animals, birds, plants and artefacts as possible.

In the past, material objectives took precedence over environmental issues. Huge structures went up in lush, peaceful valleys, access roads slashed hillsides and quarries were opened to provide aggregate without a thought of damage to the area.

Nobody involved in the Lesotho hydro-electricity project, including the World Bank, wants to be accused of neglecting environmental issues. They wish to ensure that water for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area is not provided at the expense of the rural inhabitants of Lesotho.

## Volumes

An action plan was designed by the LHDA's environmental division. It was divided into three main parts: compensation, rural development and natural environment and heritage plans.

Volumes of reports and surveys resulted. They had to be evaluated and assessed on 31 different issues. Plan Associates (environmental planners) was appointed and in turn called in Loxton, Venn & Associates as main sub-consultants.

Eddie Goister of Plan Associates says "Our brief was to establish whether the recommendations were necessary, whether enough was being done, the recommended method correct, and the costs justified."

Tony Venn says the compensation plan was the most sensitive in terms of the treaty the standard of living of the estimated 3 000 people

of the estimated 3 000 people



ONE OF THE REMOTEST CORNERS OF AFRICA. machinery has to be tough to stand up to Lesotho's harsh weather and difficult terrain.

# Pioneers in running for contracts

MASERU-BASED Maluti Equipment has been involved in the project from day one. Backed by the service network of Barlows Equipment,

it supplied dump trucks, bulldozers, graders, excavators and front-end loaders to the southern access road task team which built the access road from Thaba-Tseka to the Katse Dam site.

The company has since been involved in construction of the northern access road, supplying Caterpillar equipment to contractor LTA Construction (Lesotho) — a joint venture between LTA Earthworks (North) and Moolman Bros.

Phase 2 of the northern access road was built by French company Dumez, which received equipment from Maluti.

Maluti general manager and director Wil Wolter says 36 Caterpillar machines val-

## Intensive

"We have also established relations with some of the front-runners in line for the contract. They have been using our equipment."

Mr Wolter says building the dam wall and tunnels will be far less plant intensive than the road construction.

of the estimated 3 000 people



# TRUCKERS TREK FOR A SHARE OF THE SPOILS

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## Lesotho and SA firms urged to co-operate

TOP-LEVEL meetings have been held between SA's Road Freight Association and the Lesotho Transport Association to defuse fears that SA truckers will grab the spoils of Phase 1A.

Bill Nieuwstad, project manager of Fouriesburg Transport Holdings, and Faans Weyers, joint managing director of J&G Transport (Lesotho), organised the meeting. They saw a potential confrontation between transport operators in the two countries.

### Strongly

Mr Nieuwstad says "The consensus was that there will be enough work for everyone. Co-operation on allocation of loads by operators in the two countries would be the ideal basis on which to work."

Mr Weyers says Lesotho operators feel strongly about South Africans coming in and taking all the transport work — and leaving once the job is finished.

"SA operators used the permit system for many years to protect themselves and in so doing became a strong industry. Lesotho truckers were excluded from SA. Nobody from SA bothered to get into Lesotho before the announcement of the project."

Because of this, Lesotho operators have been pressing for their permit system to be maintained to protect their industry and allow them to

become profitable.

"They cannot monopolise the business because they do not have the capacity. But they now have the opportunity to entrench a strong transport industry and want to do so by providing a good service at a competitive price."

### Protection

Mr Weyers says co-operation between operators could be brought about by SA operators hauling goods to the border for Lesotho truckers to carry on the job.

Mr Weyers says representations have been made to

the Minister of Transport asking that if the permit system is abolished, some form of protection should be provided for Lesotho truckers even if it relates only to the water project.

"The other alternative is to ask the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) to give preference to Lesotho operators, particularly for work inside the country."

Alain Andre, managing director of Maseru's Welcome Transport, says Lesotho operators should not insist on keeping South Africans out.

"First, if you used all the

trucks in Lesotho on the project there would not be enough vehicles to meet the needs of the project and serve the rest of the country.

"Second, a better service could be provided by working in tandem with SA operators who could haul good to the border. We would take them to the site."

"We have a lot more experience of working under the harsh conditions in the mountains and would have a better chance than outsiders of getting through."

### Span

Mr Andre warns Lesotho truckers not to be overambitious by expanding their fleets.

"This could be tempting for some, but they should realise that the job has a limited time span. What do you do with the excess trucks at the end of the project?"

He also warned against buying special trucks to serve specific needs of the project.

Endorsing this point from the South African side is Joe Rule, group marketing manager of Untrans.

"There is room for everyone, because there will be a vast array of commodities to be hauled. With such an influx of people and needs, everyone will get a slice of the cake."

Mr Rule foresees the big companies going for the large contracts, such as carrying cement, steel and bricks.

He gave as an example the haulage of cement and extender from Ficksburg to the Katse Dam site.

### Peak

"To haul cement and extender from Ficksburg to the dam site we would have to buy about 28 truck-tractors and 28 special bulk tankers. That is an investment of R14-million."

"Add to this the cost of staff housing, offices, workshops, on-site depot, back-up vehicles and you are looking at R16-million."

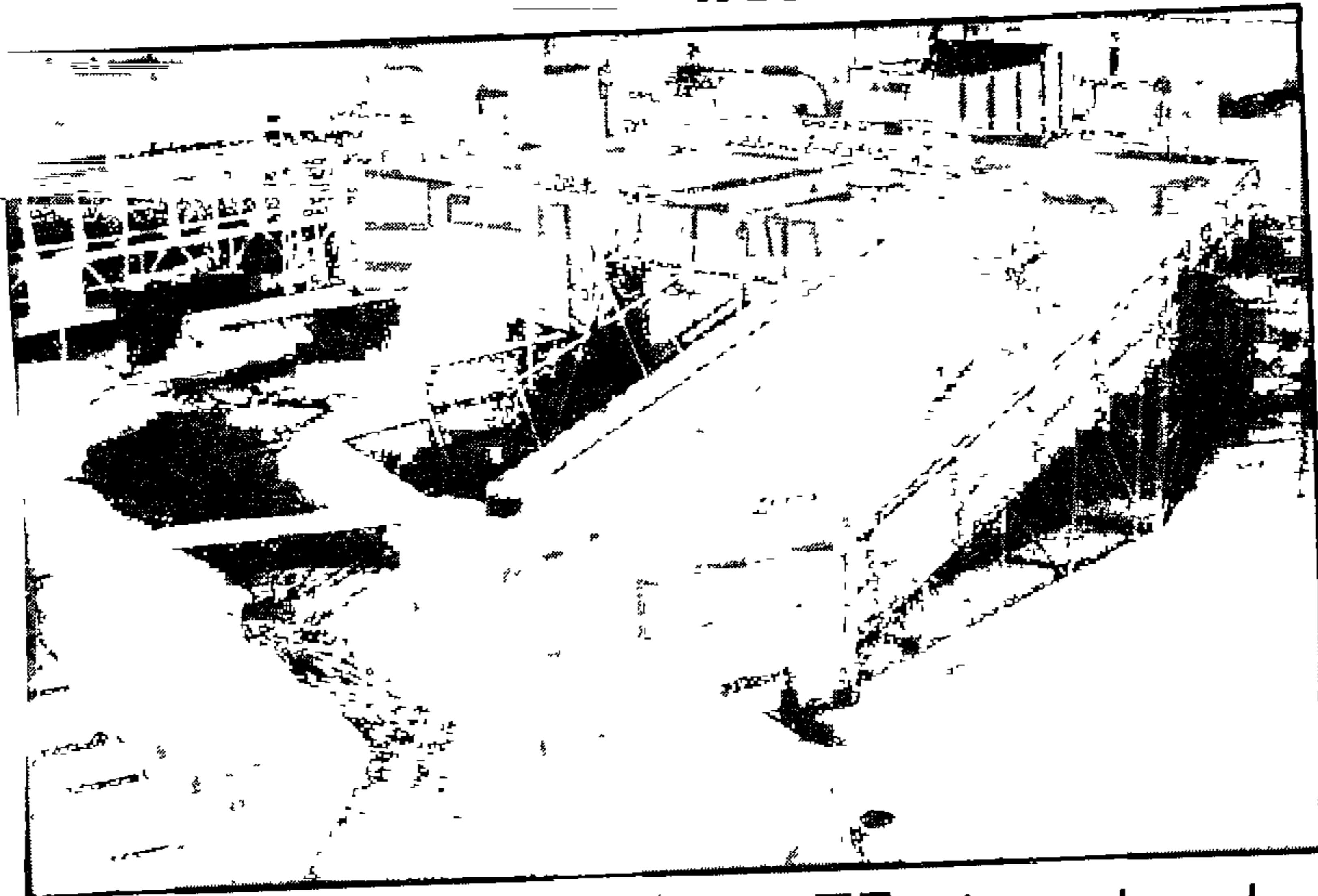
"Tonnages will start off at about 1 000 tons a month and will peak at 24 000."

"The investment is thus progressive. In seven months you go from two to three vehicles up to about 28. You

have to try to depreciate the equipment over the short time of the contract."

He suggests that Lesotho truckers get in on the jobbing work and leave the big companies to deal with the big contract jobs where reliability and service levels are high.

"Transport companies must be careful. On the surface it looks like a good profit, but it could bring ruin."



## Largest model in Katse tests

EMATEK, CSIR's division of earth, marine and atmospheric science and technology, conducted model tests on hydraulic components of the Katse Dam.

It also carried out geomechanical tests on rock formations in the area. Although the test programme has

been completed, the one-in-70 model (above) of the dam at Ematek's office in Stellenbosch is being kept in working order for possible further use.

The tests included optimisation of the spillway design, design of the plunge pool at the toe of the wall and the performance of low-level outlets. The

model includes an emergency side spillway, the gully leading to the Malibamatso River and the river itself from 400 metres upstream to about a kilometre below the dam.

The model is the largest built in SA and is 3m high, 30m long and 15m wide.

# Dam bids from R796m to over a billion

THE COUNTDOWN has begun for awarding the most sought-after construction contract in the world — to build the multi-million rand Katse Dam and tunnels of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

Eight international consortiums — among them 10 SA companies — submitted tenders earlier this year to the Lesotho Highlands Water Authority and are now mere days from success or failure.

The lowest tender — R796-million — for building the dam was submitted by the Highlands Water Venture consortium, led by the Italian company Impregilo.

### Link

Other members of this group are Hochtief (Germany), Bouygues (France), Stirling International Civil Engineering (UK), Kier (UK) and the two SA companies, Concor and Group Five.

The price is R145-million lower than the next highest bid — from Highlands Project Contractors consortium, led by France's Dumez International.

Murray & Roberts is linked with this group, joining forces with CFE (Belgium), Dyckerhoff and Widmann (Germany), GTM International (France), Italstrade (Italy), Mowlem International (UK) and Porr International (Austria).

The other four bids are all for more than R1-billion

However, the contract will not necessarily go to the lowest bidder.

A construction expert says "Each contractor has had to arrange his own finance. The financial package more than the price will probably determine the successful bid."

Other SA companies involved in the bidding are Stocks & Stocks, Hocon, Goldstein SM & Co, Ovcon, Basil Read Holdings, LTA and Grinaker Construction.

The consortium with the strongest SA presence is the German-led Phillip Holzmann group.

Stocks & Stocks, Basil Read and Hocon have thrown their weight in here along with Strabag Bau-Gesellschaft (Austria), Fougerolle (France), Grassetto Costruzioni (Italy) and Salini Costruttori (Italy). This group's tender price for the dam is R1 080-million.

LTA and Grinaker Construction are in with the French-led Spie Batignolles consortium, whose members include Campenon Bernard (France), Ed Zublin (Germany) and Balfour Beatty (UK).

This group is tipped to win at least one of the four contracts because Spie Batignolles and LTA have been working in the area on some of the main infrastructure

contracts. But so too has Dumez International.

Tenders for building the three tunnels were put in by all consortiums except the Impregilo-led group.

Concor is still in with a chance for the tunnels under the German-led Hochtief consortium. Group Five has joined the Alfred Kunz consortium in tendering for the tunnels.

### Third

Variations in bids on the delivery tunnel range from R285-million by the German-led Alfred Kunz consortium to R677-million by the Lesotho Highlands Buildings consortium, led by Morrison Knudsen of the US.

The German company, Held and Francke, is the

third member of the Alfred Kunz consortium.

Ovcon is in with American consortium along with Hazama-Gumi (Japan), Interbeton (Netherlands), Wayss & Freytag (Germany), SBBM & Six Construct (Belgium) and Ret-Ser Engineering Agency (Taiwan).

Tenders for the two transfer tunnels range from R321-million to R602-million.

Whoever is awarded the contracts, SA's construction and allied industries stand to benefit immensely as most of the supplies will be sourced here.

Monyane Moleleki, public relations manager for the Lesotho Highlands Water Authority, says the awards will be made in mid-October and construction will start early next year.

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# Export credits play 167 big role

THE FINANCIAL package which accompanies the tenders for the LHDA contracts is intended to take advantage of export credits offered by foreign contractors.

Generally, export credits require the money to be spent in the country of origin.

Mymie Vos, of Safto's international division, says: "If an Italian contractor brought with it Italian export credits as part of the financial package, they would be used to buy Italian plant and equipment."

However, there will be benefits for South Africa.

"Although most labourers will come from Lesotho, some may well be drawn from over the border. Once the contractors have exhausted the supply of skilled Basuto artisans, they may import expertise from SA."

Mrs Vos says the LHDA has identified quarries and crushers for the aggregate, but cannot say whether the cement will come from SA. Because of export credits, cement could come from abroad.

## Catering

It is likely that most of the plant and equipment will be imported.

"Spending in Lesotho will be more in transport, camp site services such as catering and laundry, repair and maintenance of equipment. It would be logical for the contractor to bring in equipment which can be serviced in Lesotho."

"It will hinge on how much finance is freely available and how much is tied."

Lesotho entrepreneurs have started making protective clothing.

Demand for food, beverages, clothing and even furniture is expected to rise. Those working on the contracts are likely to spend money in SA as well as Lesotho. These are unquantifiable benefits from the increase in money circulating.

Angela Self, of the international division of Safto, says: "Lesotho is not only part of the Customs Union, it belongs to the Rand Monetary Area. As a result, there are no export incentives to Lesotho."



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# Big dam contract in offering for SA group

The contracting group which will build the giant Kätse Dam in the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme — one of the biggest construction undertakings in southern Africa in recent years — is expected to be known before the end of the year.

Jurgen Schultz, group managing director of Concor, says the contract consortium under the code name Highland Water Venture, has been invited to final pre-award negotiations with Lesotho Highlands Development Authority next Monday.

## GOOD NEWS

"The contract is expected to be awarded before the end of this year," says Mr Schultz

"This is certainly good news for South African companies and engineering groups."

The giant dam contract is valued at about R1 billion.

Concor and Group Five are the South African partners in the HWV consortium

The overseas participants are: Impregilo (Italy); Hochtief (Germany); Bonygues (France) and Kier & Stillington (Britain).

# Lesotho tender favourites

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TWO consortiums, including three SA construction groups, have now been officially tagged as the favourites to secure contracts worth as much as R3bn for the first phase of the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

Department of Water Affairs spokesman Theo van Robbroeck confirmed yesterday that it had come down to two from the original nine that had vied for the two lucrative six-year contracts, involving the construction of the 180m-high Katse Dam and three access tunnels that make up the first phase of the R6bn LHWP.

The consortium involved in the tender for the dam consists of SA's Concor Construction and Group 5, and Impregilo (Italy), Hochtief (Germany), Stirling (UK), Bouygues (France), and Kier (UK). Van Robbroeck said the consortium had tendered R786m. It is understood the nearest

BRENT MELVILLE

tender was in the region of R915m. LTA, SA's second largest construction group, heads up the five-company consortium for the tunnel contract, involving 62km of tunnels to link up the Katse Dam and SA. The others are: Spie Batignoles (France), Campenon Bernard (France), Balfour Beatty (UK) and Ed Zublin (Germany). The tunnel contract is worth an unescalated R980m.

Van Robbroeck said that although the tendered values for the two contracts amounted to about R1,8bn, the escalated value (over the six-year period of the contracts) could be about 50% higher.

He said that discussions were under way between the LHDA and the two consortiums to iron out financing problems with

□ To Page 2

## Lesotho

8/10/90  
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the contracts. To that end, the LHDA intends to hold discussions with the consortiums' banks tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority has received tenders from five international consortiums, representing 16 companies, for the construction of the Caledon and Ash tunnels on the SA side of the

border. It is estimated tenders for the 22km of tunnels will be R400m and will be awarded before the year end.

The developments follow an announcement earlier this week by Environment and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze of a further 3c/kl increase in the water levy to fund the project.

□ From Page 1

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# Lesotho industry gets R125-m boost from foreign investment

By MONDLI MAKHANYA

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FOREIGN investors are taking a renewed interest in Lesotho.

An initiative by American and Taiwanese companies will draw in investment funds of R125-million for the impoverished mountain kingdom, creating more than 6 000 jobs. The companies plan to build factories, including one for the textile industry.

The moves come after a campaign by the Lesotho National Development Corporation, which included a tour of the Far East by Trade and Industry Minister Morena Mokorane, and LNDC MD Moletsane Monyake.

Monyake described the latest developments as a "significant" boost for Lesotho's ailing economy, which has one of the lowest per capita incomes and virtually no natural resources.

A company, described by the LNDC as the biggest telephone manufacturer in the world, is to set up shop early next year producing telephonic equipment.

Textile factories — knitting fabric, dyeing and labelling of clothes — are to be built, making it possible to create a 100 percent local product for the first time. This will also enable Lesotho to increase its volume of manufactured exports.

A R5-million loan has already been

obtained from the Southern African Development Bank for the construction of factory buildings.

Five thousand square metres of plant are to be constructed for the CY Garment's Company while Basotho Jeans will be expanded by 3000m sq.

Monyake said the Advance Factory Scheme, whereby the LNDC sold readily available factory space to entrepreneurs, had proved attractive to foreign investors.

"The provision of readily available factory buildings shortens the project investment cycle by eliminating long lead times between the investments and the beneficial occupation of a building," said Monyake.

Other American companies have also expressed interest in investing in the tiny enclave. A film company, the International Film Producers of Los Angeles, is to establish studios and begin shooting in Lesotho soon.

Negotiations are also under way between the International Beverages Corporation of Michigan and Lesotho's dairy and fruit producers for the canning of non-alcoholic drinks and foodstuffs.

A cosmetics company, California Natural Incorporated, also wants to establish a bottling and packaging plant.



## Lesotho in bridge construction accord

SA AND Lesotho have signed two agreements, one approving the construction of a new bridge over the Caledon River and the other updating the existing Bilateral Air Transport Agreement. *10am 5/11/90*

The accords between the two countries were signed on Friday

The new bridge replaces the existing single-lane steel structure built in 1907 with a 133m-long, modern, R5m concrete dual carriageway bridge

*167*  
MANDY JEAN WOODS

Costs for construction and maintaining the bridge would be shared by the two countries, said Transport, Public Works and Land Affairs Minister George Bartlett

The need to update the existing air agreement between SA and Lesotho, signed in 1967, had led to protracted negotiations during the past few years, Bartlett said

INDICATING...  
...found them

# King Moshoeshoe II is dethroned

Sowetan 7/11/90

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**KING** Bereng Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho has been dethroned

This was announced yesterday by the head of the government, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, in the national constituent assembly

He said the monarch was being dethroned because he did not want to return to the country as a constitutional monarch but as an absolute ruler

"This nation deserves a better deal," he said.

"It was after full consultations with the

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI



**MOSHOESHOE**

defence establishment and the two councils of state that we have reached a decision to promulgate a new 'Office of King Order 1990'.

"The new order removes any ambiguity over the status of the king and head of State

"It provides that he shall be a constitutional monarch and further provides that the person holding the office of king immediately before the order comes into operation shall cease to be king and head of state on the coming of operation of this order."

Moshoeshoe has been given total amnesty and can return to Lesotho if he wishes



OUSTED ...  
King Moshoeshoe  
*APR 7/11/70*  
**General** *167*

# dethrones the king

MASERU — Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe is to be axed, the country's military leader, Major-General Metsing Lekhanye, told his parliament yesterday.

General Lekhanye, chairman of the Military Council, told the National Constituent Assembly that King Moshoeshoe had violated his oath to office and had broken Lesotho's laws

He also said King Moshoeshoe, who was forced into exile by the military government earlier this year and has been living in London, had reneged on agreements concerning his return home by attaching "unacceptable conditions" — including one that the present government disband.

General Lekhanye said a new law would be promulgated effectively to end King Moshoeshoe's reign

He made it clear that King Moshoeshoe's state-provided maintenance allowance would be discontinued and that a new king would succeed the exiled monarch — Sapa

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# Lesotho's King is dethroned

Argus Africa News Service  
and Sopa  
in MASERU

**LESOTHO'S King Moshoeshe II was dethroned yesterday by chairman of the ruling six man council of Lesotho, Major General Meising Lekhanya.**

General Lekhanya told the National Constituent Assembly that the king had been relieved of his duties for refusing to return home to Lesotho.

King Moshoeshe has been on sabbatical in England since early this year.

General Lekhanya promulgated a new law, Section 21 of the new "Office of the King Order", which came into effect on November 6, according to the Lesotho Government Gazette Extraordinary, which also came out yesterday.

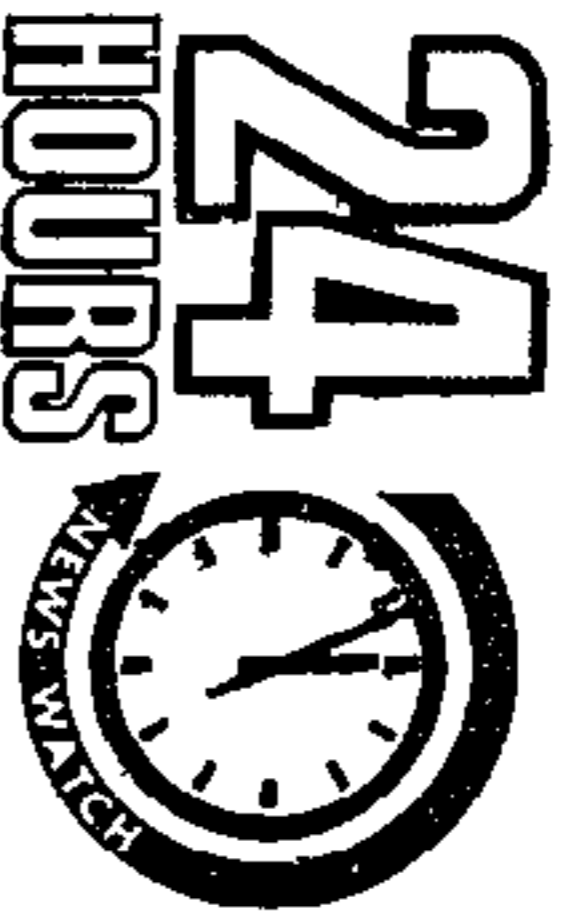
## A new king

It states: "The person holding the office of King immediately before the coming into operation of the Order shall cease to be King and Head of State on the coming into operation of this Order".

In his speech, the military leader made it clear that King Moshoeshe's state-provided maintenance allowance for living in exile would be discontinued and that a new king would succeed the exiled monarch.

Informed sources said a new king may be chosen today and that it was likely to be the eldest son of King Moshoeshe II who has had studied in Lesotho and Britain, Prince Mokatso.

General Lekhanya said he had met the king in London last month on his return from the United Nations General Assembly in New York and



the king had agreed to return home as the constitutional monarch and head of state of Lesotho.

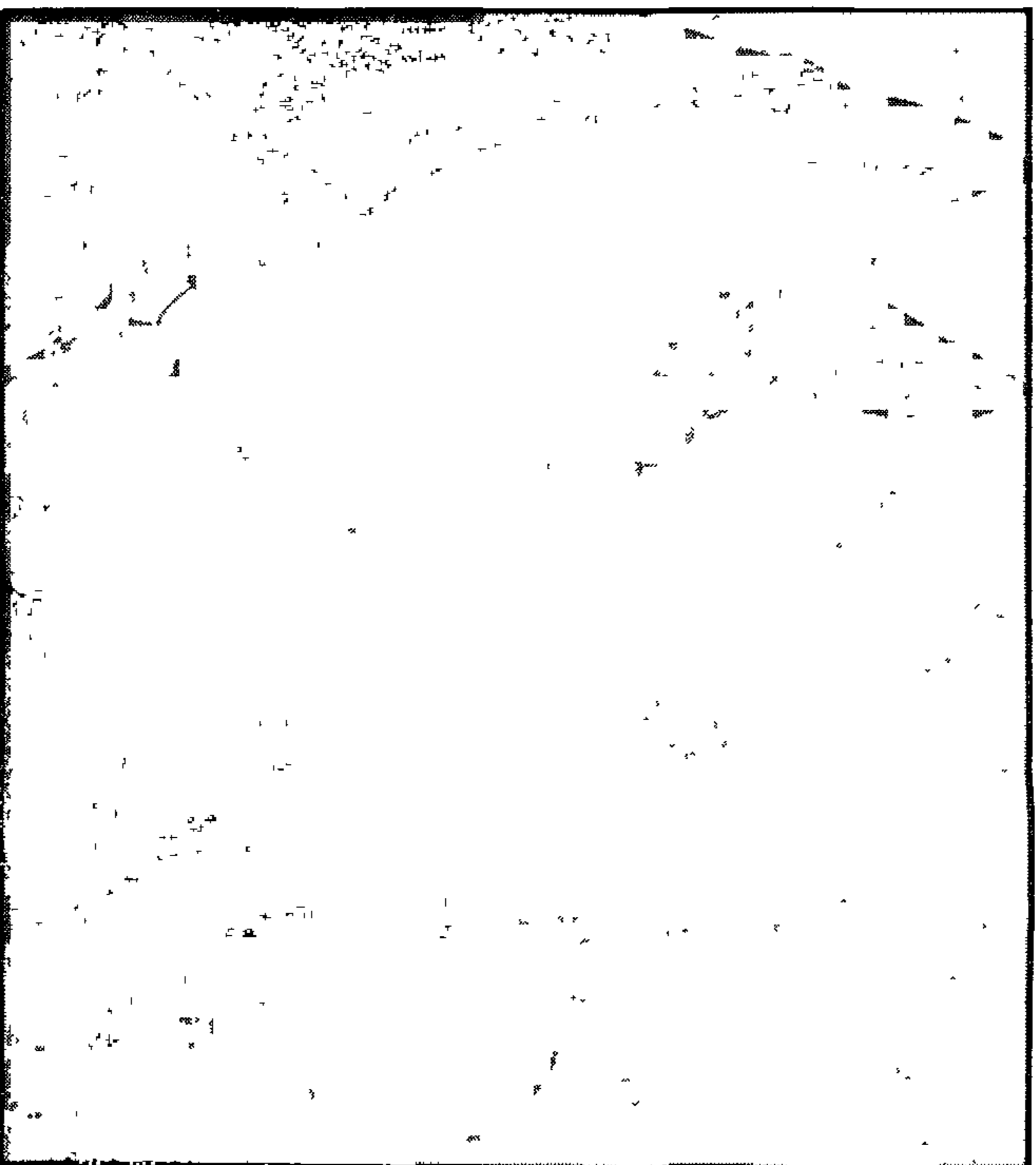
Yesterday he told the Constituent Assembly King Moshoeshe had violated his oath to office and had broken Lesotho's laws.

The king reneged on agreements concerning his return home, said the general, by attaching "unacceptable conditions", including one that the present government disband.

The clash between the king and General Lekhanya allegedly started on February 19 when the military government announced the removal of two military councillors from the ruling military council. They were two close relatives of the king, one of whom is being charged with the brutal killing of two former ministers and their wives after they were abducted from their homes in November 1986.

General Lekhanya told the Constituent Assembly King Moshoeshe had opposed the sacking of three Military Council members who were removed at the time to have been behind a plot to stage yet another coup with the king's backing.

Another area of disagreement had been when King Moshoeshe withheld his assent to changes in the then Council of Ministers and filed an affidavit to support a former minister who claimed he was unlawfully removed



King Moshoeshe II of Lesotho, who was dethroned yesterday by General Meising Lekhanya, pictured with one of his favourite racehorses.

from office "I leave it to your imagination to fathom out the legal status of a king who stands in a court of law against his own government as witness for the plaintiff," General Lekhanya said.

The military ruler accused King Moshoeshe of illegally publishing secret correspondence between him and the government and of violating

and the Military Council "to the Crown and the Royal Family in accordance with our laws and traditions" and said in accordance with the new law, Principal Chiefs would be expected to exercise their role with regard to electing a successor to the throne.

Possible candidates should "exercise their minds and take advantage of their formal education and the wise counsel of their elders so that they can forever remember that they derived their authority from the people and that over all important matters of State the people's will shall always prevail."

The crisis arose from King Moshoeshe's insistence that he would return to take up his position as reigning monarch and head of state only if the military government and National Constituent Assembly was disbanded, Gen Lekhanya said.

He said the decision to draw up and pass the new law to effectively oust King Moshoeshe had been taken "after full internal consultations with the entire defence establishment as well as the two councils of state."

General Lekhanya sits at the head of the six-member Military Council which has executive power over all other bodies. He came into power in a coup in 1986 which ousted then-prime minister Lebuja Jonathan.

Ironically, Gen Lekhanya claims responsibility for reinstating King Moshoeshe following 11 months in exile while Jonathan was in power, but the two powerful figures have clashed repeatedly on constitutional issues since the coup.

Another of King Moshoeshe's demands was for the immediate repeal of "Lesotho Order Number Four" which prohibits political activity.

General Lekhanya said in his speech that King Moshoeshe had been allowed four years since 1986 to rule and reign without hindrance. "Regrettably, during that time all he achieved, through his cousin, Sekhobe Letsie, who is now in custody, was to sow confusion not only within the armed forces, the Military Council, the Council of Ministers and the civil service, but also within the chieftainship."

## Allowance

In London, attempts to contact King Moshoeshe for comment at the residence of Lesotho High Commissioner, where he has been staying on an allowance of about R50 000 a month since his exile in March, were unsuccessful.

A person who answered the telephone at the residence said she did not know where the king was, then replaced the receiver.

A spokesman at the Lesotho High Commissioner's office said the Commissioner had already left the office and that it was closed for the day.

Any inquiries should be directed to the Commissioner on Wednesday, the spokesman said, adding it was not possible to make contact with the king.

In a BBC interview a number of weeks ago the king claimed Gen Lekhanya had ordered him out of the official residence and cut off his financial support, but that this had been rescinded after certain people had made the military leader "see sense".



King Moshoeshe II appears finally to have lost his long struggle to win political power in Lesotho with the decision of the military government to remove him from the throne. Dawn Barkhuizen reports for *Sowetan Africa News Service*.

POLITICAL differences in Lesotho have long been as high and wide as the huge mountains that dominate the tiny landlocked kingdom.

But in one area the majority of people have always been relatively consistent - their unswerving loyalty to the monarchy.

While there has for some time been scepticism among intellectuals over the need for a monarch, the man in the street generally reveres the monarchy as an institution

Latterly, however, cracks have appeared in this support-base and these are widening

If the nation was not falling out of love with the idea of the monarchy, some of its members did indeed seem to be falling out of love with this particular monarch

### Exile

The question on many lips, both inside the country and out, was whether - after seven months of exile in London - King Moshoeshe II wanted to return at all

Or, whether he was driven by a burning ambition to return to his kingdom as supreme ruler and that his actions were those of a man determinedly opposed to any procedure that would reduce him to figurehead status.

The ruling Military Council in March pledged itself to establishing a democracy by 1992 and initiated a negotiation process within the country

The king - already in exile after a fall-out with the Military Council chairman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya - was stripped of his executive powers and reduced to constitutional monarch

His recent announce-

# Lesotho king loses battle for power

*Sowetan*  
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ment that he would not return to Lesotho unless certain - apparently impossible - conditions were met did not indicate a desire to return to the land of his birth as soon as possible

In a remarkable about-turn he reneged on a recent verbal agreement with Lekhanya, to "turn the page, forget about the past and come back" and laid down brand new conditions

\* The Military government steps down in favour of an interim government.

### Plea

\* He return not only as head of state but as head of government, a position held by the General himself

The king also pleaded for democracy and said no "unelected minority" could decide on important national affairs, including the role of the head of state

While this view might certainly solicit support, there was some scepticism about the man holding it

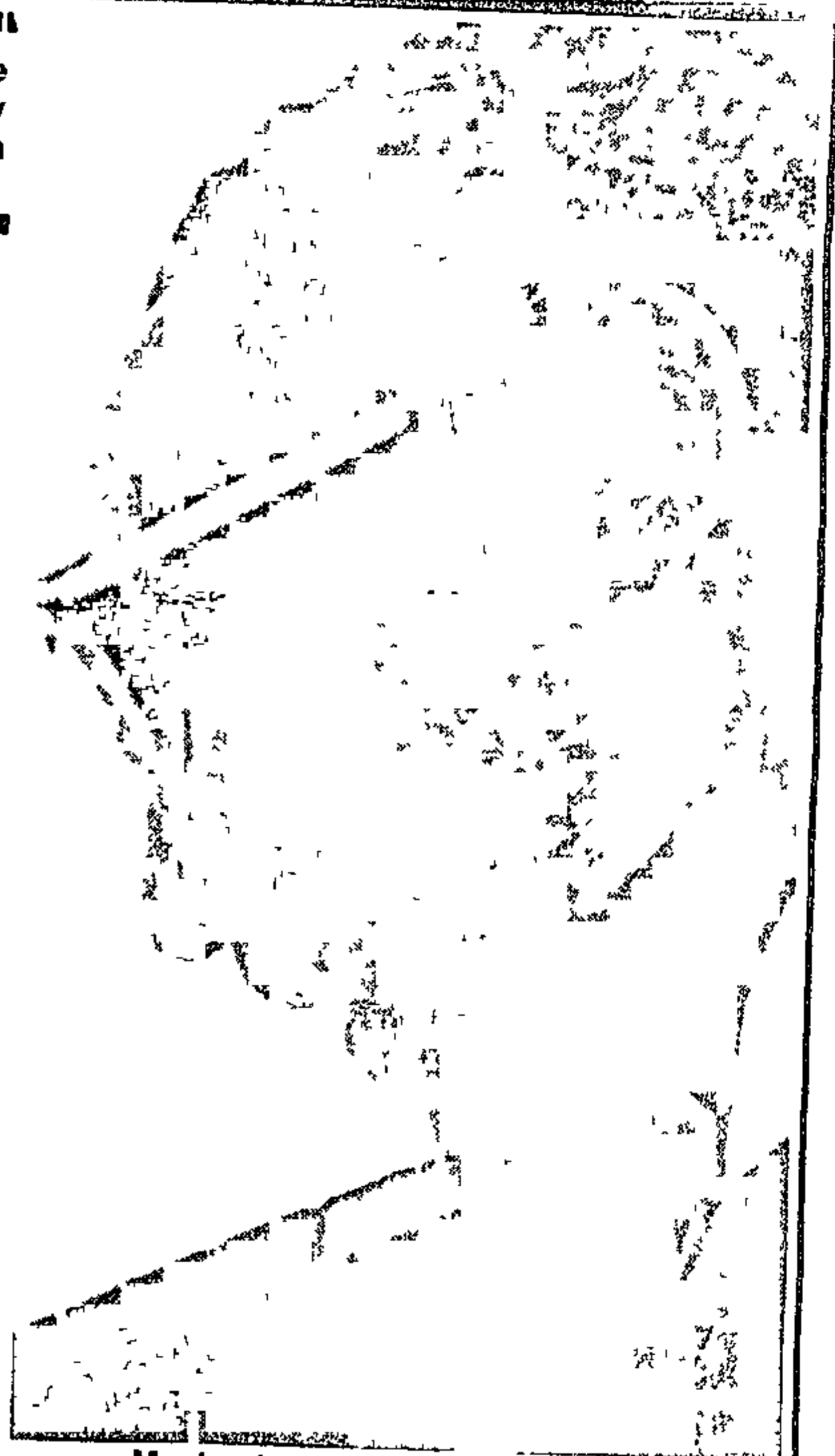
Basuto have pointed out that the King worked for four years in concert with the Military Council

Before the announcement yesterday that Moshoeshe II had been dethroned by the military government, a Maseru-based political commentator said "Quite frankly, we have had enough of this king Suddenly he comes up with new conditions that we all know the Military Council will never agree to

"We think he is power-hungry and we think Lekhanya is being too soft on him while he sits in London running up huge bills that this poor little country cannot afford He cost us R350 000 in his first six weeks in London"

While Lekhanya had asked the king to return soon, he had refused to budge on his own conditions, which were that Moshoeshe return as head of state but not head of government

The Military Govern-



Moshoeshe . farewell to a king.

ment was an interim government committed to democracy, he said, and he would not inflict yet another interim government on the nation

A question repeatedly asked of Lekhanya in Lesotho's National Constituent Assembly recently has been why he was even bothering to try and bring the king back

His response, according to sources, was that Lesotho should not lose its monarchy, that the position should be preserved but the king should not be involved in politics

### Concept

Sources close to Lekhanya said he was genuinely committed to the concept of the monarchy, that he was keen to avoid a public haranguing match, but would not give in to the king's demands

The military govern-

ment has now indicated that it believes it was left with no choice but to remove Moshoeshe from the throne when he set conditions for his return that the government could not meet without dissolving itself

One Maseru-based diplomat said recently "The king does have some support and is in a position to hold out This argument can go on indefinitely"

This could be put to the test now that the government has axed Moshoeshe It seems, however, that this is the end of the royal road for him

That it means the end of the monarchy seems unlikely, Moshoeshe's son, Prince Mohato, is being tipped to take over the throne

It seems to be a case of "The king is deposed, long live the king"



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# Lesotho's got 'water for Africa'

FROM the vantage of a Lesotho Air Force helicopter hovering above precipitous mountains and deeply incised valleys in a remote corner of Lesotho, building a vast dam to supply water to South Africa appears to be a technical impossibility.

Down on the ground, however, 2,000 engineers and construction workers believe otherwise. And they are setting out to prove that the dream of the late Mr Nihham Shand, a Cape Town consulting engineer who had a vision in the 1950s, will come true.

It was the brainchild of Mr Shand who was then a member of the Water Plan Commission, which gave rise to the Oxbow Scheme — a plan to divert water from the Makhama's River in Lesotho westwards to the Caledon River and from there to the Free State goldfields.

South Africa cast longing eyes at Lesotho because of its high rainfall in the highlands — 1,000 mm of rain a year, and melting snow, provides 150 cubic metres of water a second to the Senqu/Orange River.

Even in the early 50s, the governments of the then Basutoland Protectorate and South Africa began pondering the problem of diverting the headwaters of the Orange River in Lesotho, under gravity to the upper reaches of the Vaal River.

This scheme, which seemed prohibitively expensive even in those days, would have delivered only five cubic metres of water a second to the highveld.

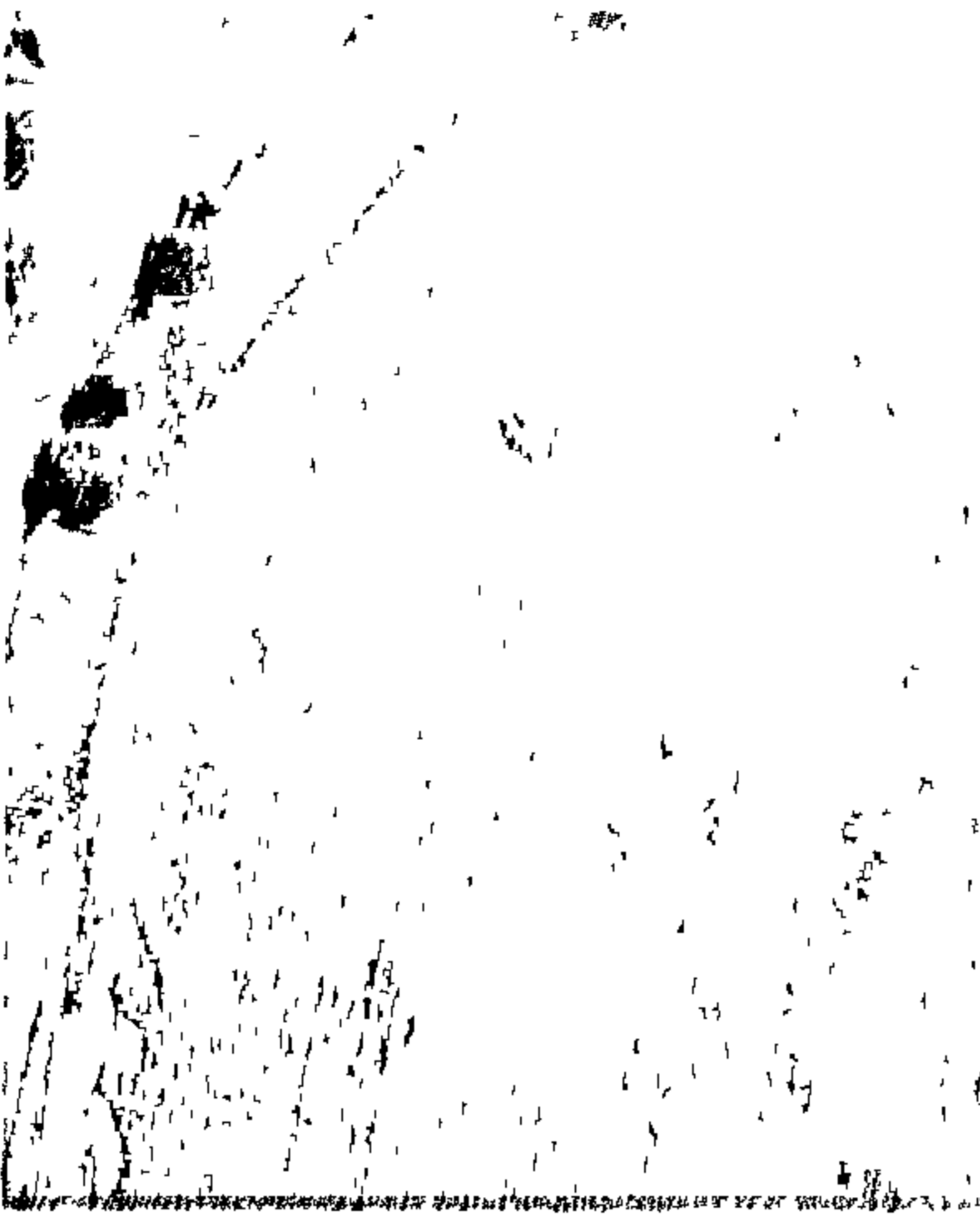
## Plans dropped

But the plans, even after a thorough investigation in co-operation with the World Bank, were undermined by the strong political undercurrent and dogma of the Verwoerd era and they came to nothing.

It was only in 1978 that the two countries agreed to launch a joint preliminary study into rejuvenated plans. New consultants were appointed by both countries and the plan began to take shape.

By then it was no longer called the Oxbow Scheme and a name more acceptable to the then Chet, Jonathan was agreed. It was to be called the Lesotho Highlands Water

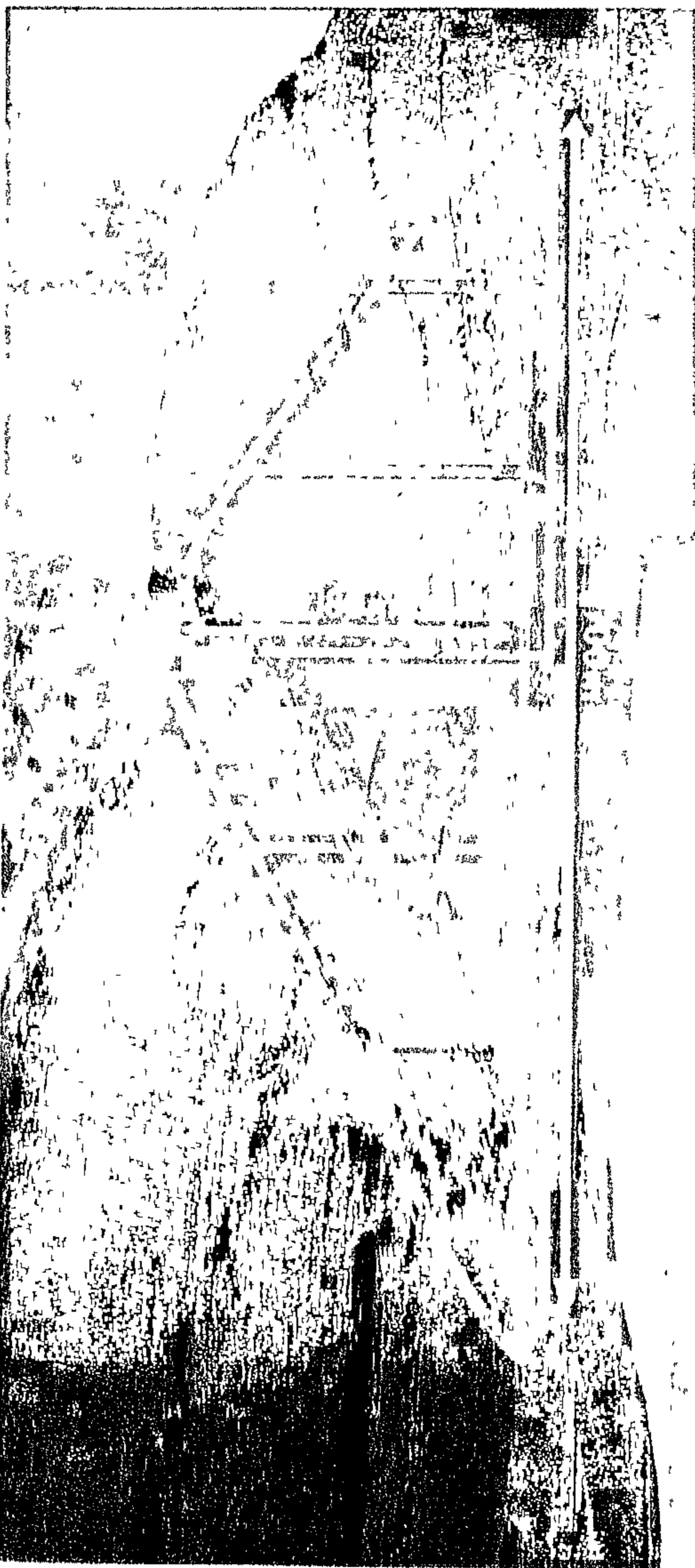
One of the most ambitious engineering projects in the world — the construction of the R5,5-billion Katsie Dam in the highlands of Lesotho — is set to transform the poverty stricken 'Mountain Kingdom' into a vital and viable country, and provide South Africa's burgeoning population, and its industry, with a massive supply of life-giving water well into the next century. TIM PATTEN, Assistant Editor of The Argus, who went on a tour of inspection by road and helicopter arranged by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, reports



Pictures by Tim Patten, Hugo van Niekerk and the Department of Water Affairs

houses will be converted into holiday accommodation and new luxury hotels are expected to be built to meet the requirements of tourists.

By flooding the fertile valleys many local farmers will lose their land. Some studies show that as many as 94,000 people will be affected, although Mr Tony Wadsworth, the Technical Director of the Lesotho Highland Development Authority, strongly denies that more than 200 people will be displaced.

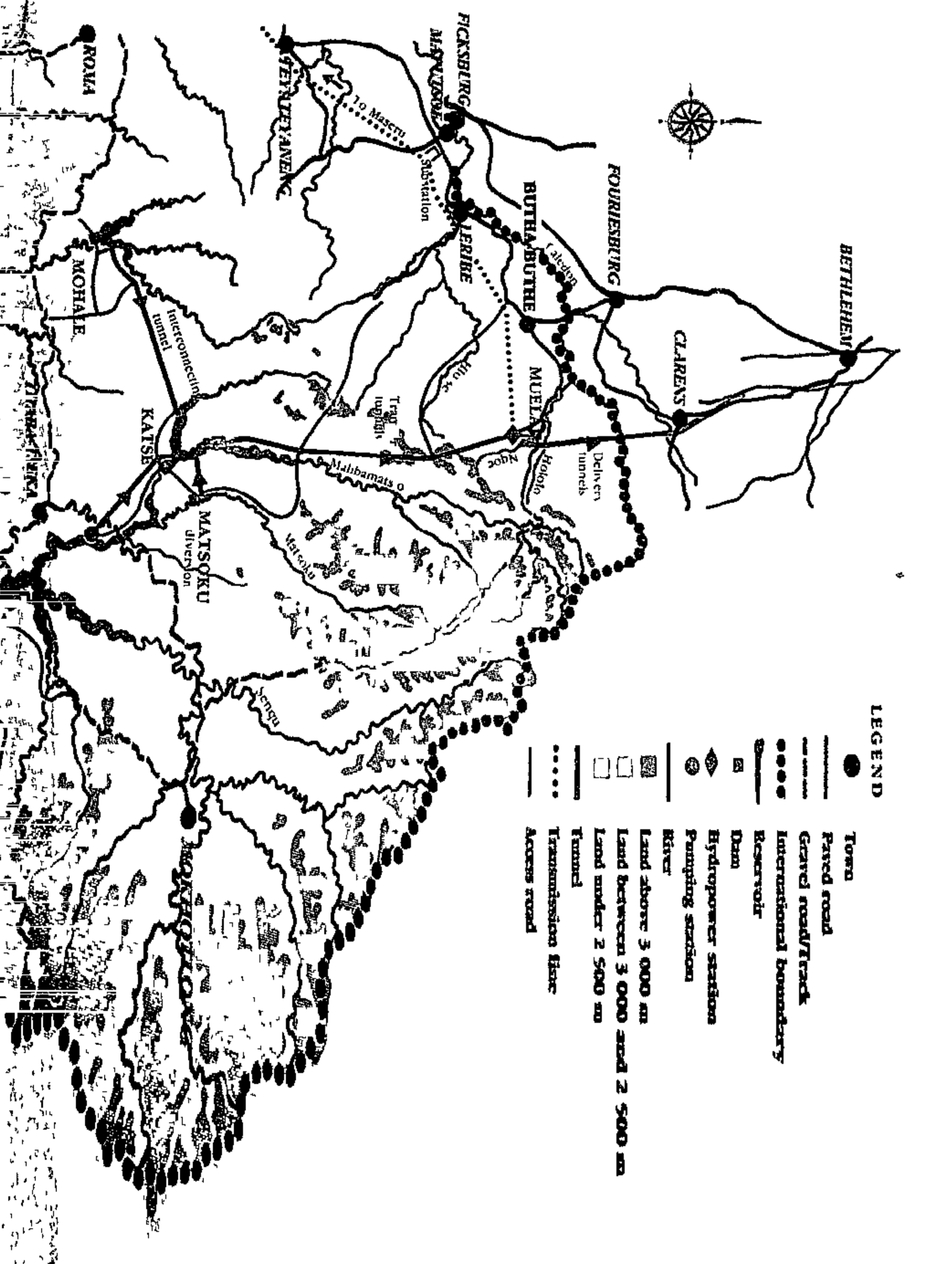


The site marked for the Katsie Dam in the highlands of Lesotho, above, shows the dimensions of the dam wall.

Left: The holes dug in the sides of the mountain where geologists have explored the rock structures for the dam wall.

Right: The map shows the situation of the Katsie Dam and the complicated system of getting water to South Africa.

Below: The bridge while being built over the Makhama's River.





Now, nearly 40 years later, inspired proposals, ingenious engineering feats and a greatly improved political climate will make it possible to satisfy the Transvaal highveld's water needs well into the next century with an injection of 70 cubic metres of water a second — a substantial improvement on the original five cubic metres.

Although construction of the Katsie Dam starts in January, and the first water to South Africa will start to flow in 1996, it will not be complete for the best part of 30 years.

**Tourist attraction**

When finished the dam will be a major tourist attraction for South Africans. Although difficult to get to at present, new tarred roads will open up this spectacular area to water sports enthusiasts and skiers as well as those who revel in the beauty of the mountains.

As one consultant said "If I was hotel owner in the Drakensberg right now, I'd be really worried". The dam wall, which will eventually be 180 metres high, will be built in stages. The first level will cause sufficient flooding to reach the tunnels which will take the water to South Africa.

Eventually, and only after Lesotho has raised sufficient money from the water royalties, will the second and third phases of the dam wall be built.

The Katsie Dam will be situated on the Malibamatso River, below its confluence with the Bokong River, and will have a total storage capacity of 1,95 cubic kilometres.

A 45 km long transfer tunnel, 4.35 m in diameter, will connect the Katsie Dam to the Meula Hydro-power station, where a tailpond dam which will act as the headpond for the delivery tunnel, will be built. The hydropower complex will be capable of generating 70 megawatts.

The delivery tunnel, this one 37 km long and 4.5 m in diameter, will take water from the Meula Dam into the Ash River, a tributary of the Vaal River, near Bethlehem. At present all that can be seen at the dam wall site is a series of holes drilled into the side of mountains where geologists have been testing the rock structures.

A modern village overlooking the dam site, which will house the engineers a construction workers, is now almost complete. Some of these

terms of the treaty, to pay compensation and rehousing costs for all who have to be resettled as a result of the flooding.

Only four small villages, consisting of 17 houses, will need to be resettled during the initial stages.

Some of the tribal farmers are certainly still unaware of the prime holiday resort land they will own on the banks of the vast expanse of water.

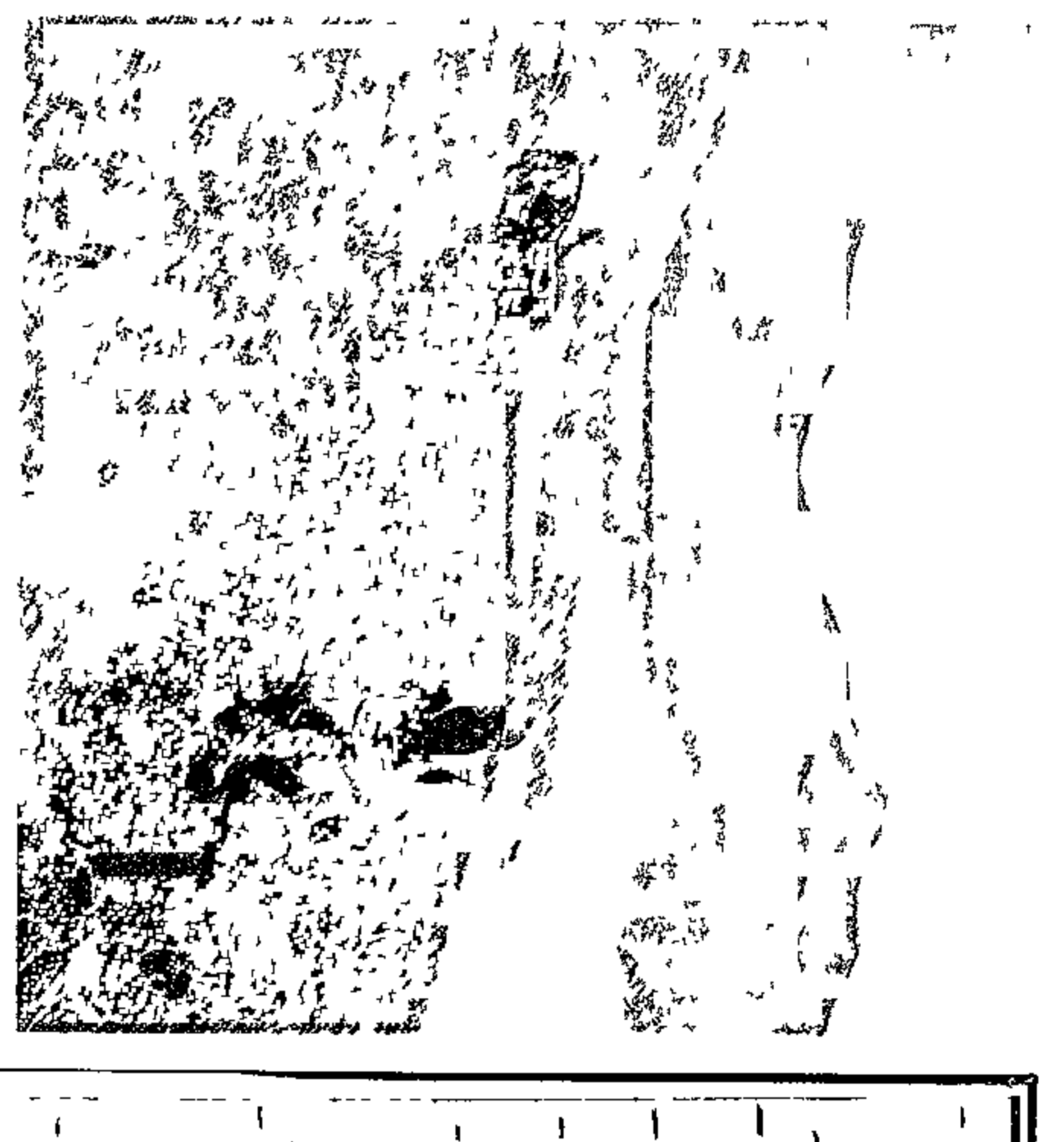
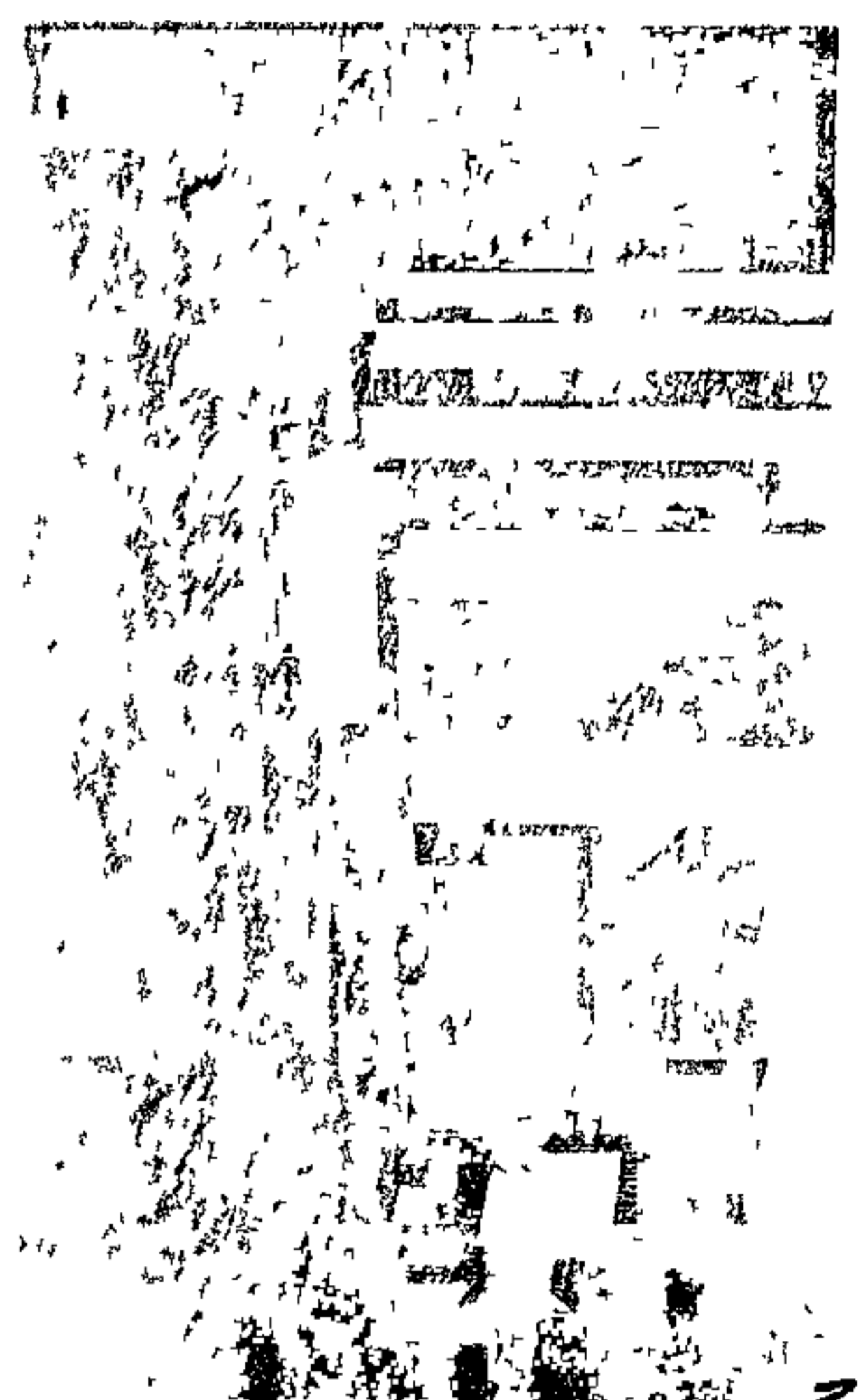
Even as construction is about to commence tribal farmers can be seen ploughing their fields on the banks of the river — on land which will all be submerged once the water level starts rising.

Subsistence farming operations continue under the lanky legs of the impressive 117-million bridge over the Malibamatso River, several kilometres and mountains away from where the dam wall will be built.

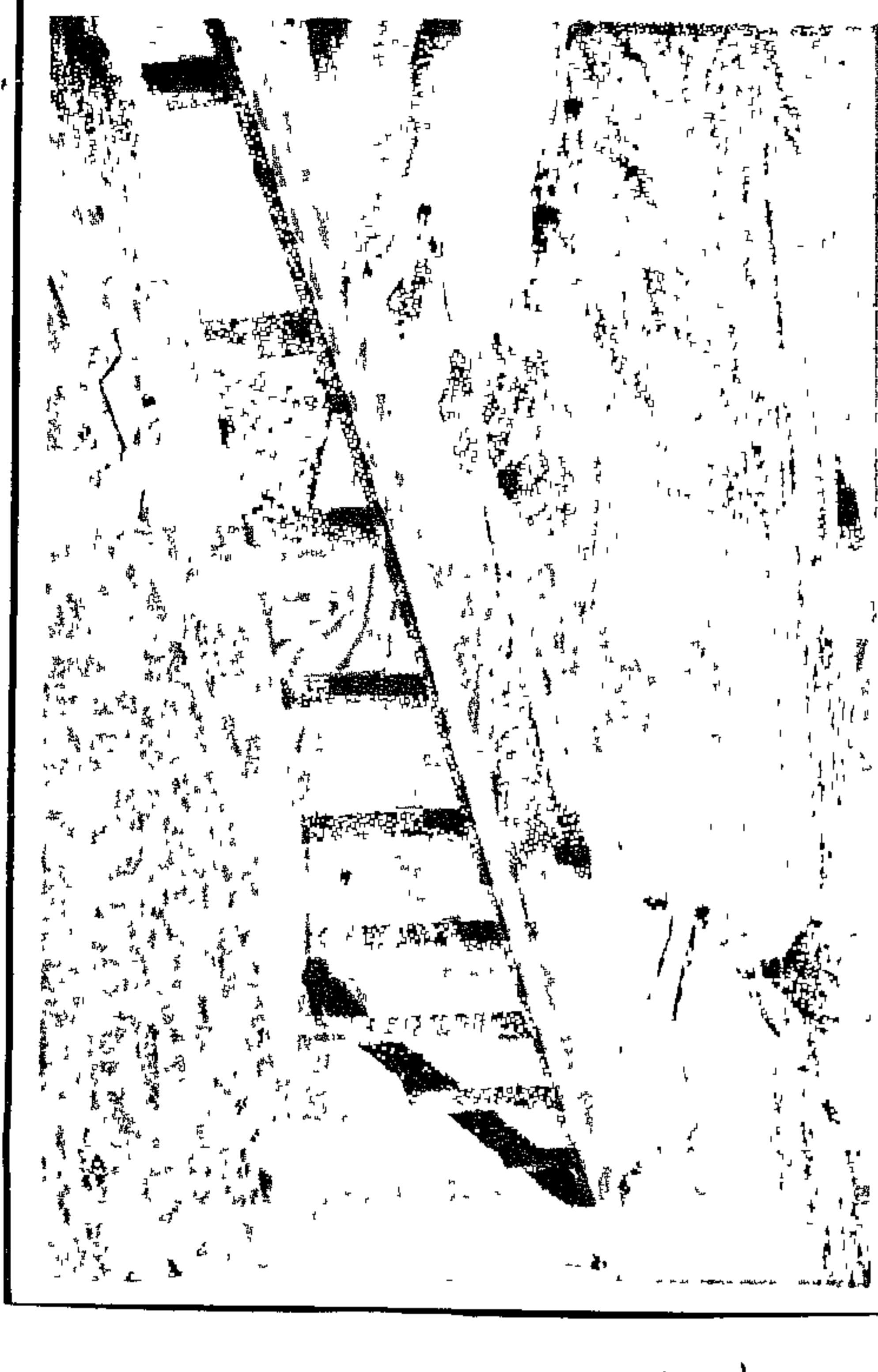
If the engineers have their measurements correct — something which they don't joke about — then water will rise to within eight metres of the road level.

The planners have spared no cost in commissioning studies into the social and environmental impact of the water project. Initial studies highlighted potential problems, and further studies have attempted to iron them out.

One study described the threat to endangered bird species — particularly vultures — being electrocuted on power transmission lines. In order to avoid this special design modifications were made to the pylons and power lines.



A tribal farmer ploughs his land on the banks of the river which will eventually be flooded. Below the water level in the dam will rise to within eight metres of the road level of the completed bridge.



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# Lesotho dam construction begins soon

Star 8/11/90 (167)

Own Correspondent

After nearly 40 years of planning, one of the most ambitious water projects in the world is set to be built early next year in the highlands of Lesotho

Construction of one of the most inaccessible dam walls ever built, the Katse Dam, will begin in January at a final cost of more than R5,5 billion

When the first phase is complete in 1996, the dam will feed South Africa with as much as 18 cubic metres of water every second through a system of tunnels to the PWV area

Eventually, when all phases are complete — which may only happen in 30 years — as much as 70 cu m a second will flow to SA.

Financing of the project has been complex. International cooperation with South Africa, much of it through the Development Bank of Southern Africa, is seen as a breakthrough

South Africa is responsible for all costs involving the transfer of water to the PWV area. Lesotho will earn an estimated R100 million annually from selling water to South Africa

# Billions of rands to put SA on tap

By TIM PATTEN, Staff Writer

SOUTHERN Africa's single most expensive project, construction of the R5,5-billion Katse Dam in the Lesotho Highlands, is set to begin early next year

After nearly 40 years of planning, and political stalling, as many as 108 contracts for the building of the most ambitious multi-purpose water project in the world will be awarded next month. Construction will start in January.

The cost of the entire water project is more than double the final R24-billion spent on the Koeberg nuclear power station in the Western Cape.

When the first phase is complete in 1986 the dam will feed South Africa with as much as 18 cubic metres of water a second — the contents of an average swimming pool every second — through an ingenious system of tunnels to the Pretoria Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) complex.

## Oxbow Scheme

When all phases of the dam are complete — which may only happen in 30 years — as much as 70 cubic metres a second will flow to South Africa.

Financing of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project — which was originally conceived as the Oxbow Scheme during the 1950s — has been the most complex facet of the scheme and international co-operation with South Africa in this venture, much of it through government's Development Bank of Southern Africa is seen as a significant breakthrough.

An agreement between the governments of Lesotho and South Africa, which set the basis of the implementation and operation of the project, was set out in a treaty signed in Maseru as long ago as October 1986.

South Africa is responsible for all the costs of those parts of the project involving the transfer of water to the PWV area — including implementing, operating and maintaining the scheme.

Besides the capital gain of an estimated R100-million annually for Lesotho from selling huge quantities of water to South Africa, and the opening up of a vast new tourist industry — another significant spin-off for the development of the "Mountain Kingdom" — currently rated as the third poorest country in the world — will be the hydro-electric element.

At present Lesotho buys 98 percent of its electricity from South Africa and the generation of hydropower will give the country's economy a powerful boost.

## World Bank

The vast amount of finance needed has been raised from international sources, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the French government and the British Overseas Development Administration.

The feasibility study for building the dam cost R20-million and took three years to complete. More than 2 000 variations and alternatives were considered before the final plans were approved.

The infrastructure needed to build the dam is now almost complete. Roads, mountain passes and spectacular bridges allowing access to the site, as well as a modern village for the 3 000 engineers and construction workers, have been under construction since 1988.

● Lesotho has water for Africa, page 21



DAM SITE: The site where the Katse Dam wall will be built in the mountainous highlands of Lesotho at a cost of R5,5-billion

## Jump for as two Million

The Argus Correspondent JOHANNESBURG: noni businessmen v lionex R1 million d the Standard Bank

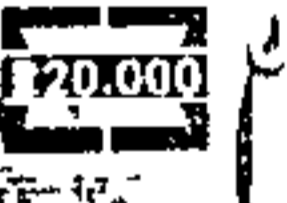
Mr John Steenkamp, managing director of a Johannesburg-based importers firm and publisher, Mr Les Grey, jumped for joy last night when he received the cheque was handed to him by the chairman of the board, Mr Abe and Mr Soffel.

Second prize of R100 000 was won by Robertson Durban while Mr Soffel of Pietersburg won a consolation prize of R10 000. Flat Uno was won by Crnjac of Sunningdale.

An amount of R20 000 was awarded to the beneficiaries of the Star's Seaside Fund. Snowball, Teach 1 Christmas Funds a

Other major beneficiaries are the 702 Crisis Argus Teach Fund, Comic Relief Fund, Toria News Charity, Diamond Fields Fact and the Soweto the Nation Trust.

R2 COMMUNITY



● Play The A Game Jigsaw R20 000 See day

## Embattled health club sold in R5m deal

By ESANN van RENSBURG Staff Reporter

THE Point Health and Leisure Club has been sold to Health and Racquet Club Holdings and Ovland Ltd for R5 million.

An offer of compromise between the two parties and The Point to buy the shares in the company in liquidation was signed yesterday.

"The Point is a joint purchase between Health and Racquet Club Holdings and Ovland Limited, but the Health and Racquet Club group will operate the club," said financial director of Health and Racquet

Club Holdings Mr Peter Gardner.

"We have decided to honour all debenture holders and members of the club," he said.

The Point was provisionally liquidated this year after the estate of its previous owner, Mr Harry Fuchs, was sequestered.

First National Bank called a meeting of all creditors of The Point last month to discuss the takeover offer from Health and Racquet Club Holdings.

The gym owed the bank more than R6,1 million.

This debt, as well as

R451 000 owed to Cape Town City Council, would now be settled by the new owners.

The area general manager (operations) of Health and Racquet Club Holdings, Mr Trevor Cheliew, said his company was satisfied with the purchase.

"We are going to do extensive upgrading of The Point and the club will be closed until mid-January 1991."

More than R1 million would be spent on upgrading.

Members would be able to make use of other Health and Racquet Club facilities until The Point reopened.

## Girl killed by minibus taxi

Staff Reporter

AN 8-year-old girl has been killed by a minibus taxi in Bonteheuwel.

Shafika Stemmet, of Amandel Road, Bonteheuwel, was hit by the minibus at the intersection of Jakkalsvlei and Date Farm roads about 4:30pm yesterday.

A man was killed when the car in which he was travelling hit a stationary lorry in Kullis River. Mr S.L. Thomas, 35, was trapped in the car and mechanical jaws were used to free his body.



## Vital cancer equipment arrives in city

Staff Reporter

YOU'VE made it happen — the new R1,3 million planning computer has arrived at the Grootte Schuur Cancer Unit.

The computer, paid for from funds raised by the Argus Woman "Women can make it happen" Grootte Schuur Cancer Unit Appeal, was installed this week.

Software programmes have been installed and the next step loading the systems with the required data, is about to begin. The machine should be operating in a fortnight.

Its function is to take the image from the CT scanner — an X-ray of the tumour site in patients — to delineate the tumour position, the optimal position of the radiation beam and the safe dose of therapy to be delivered to the tumour and surrounding tissues.

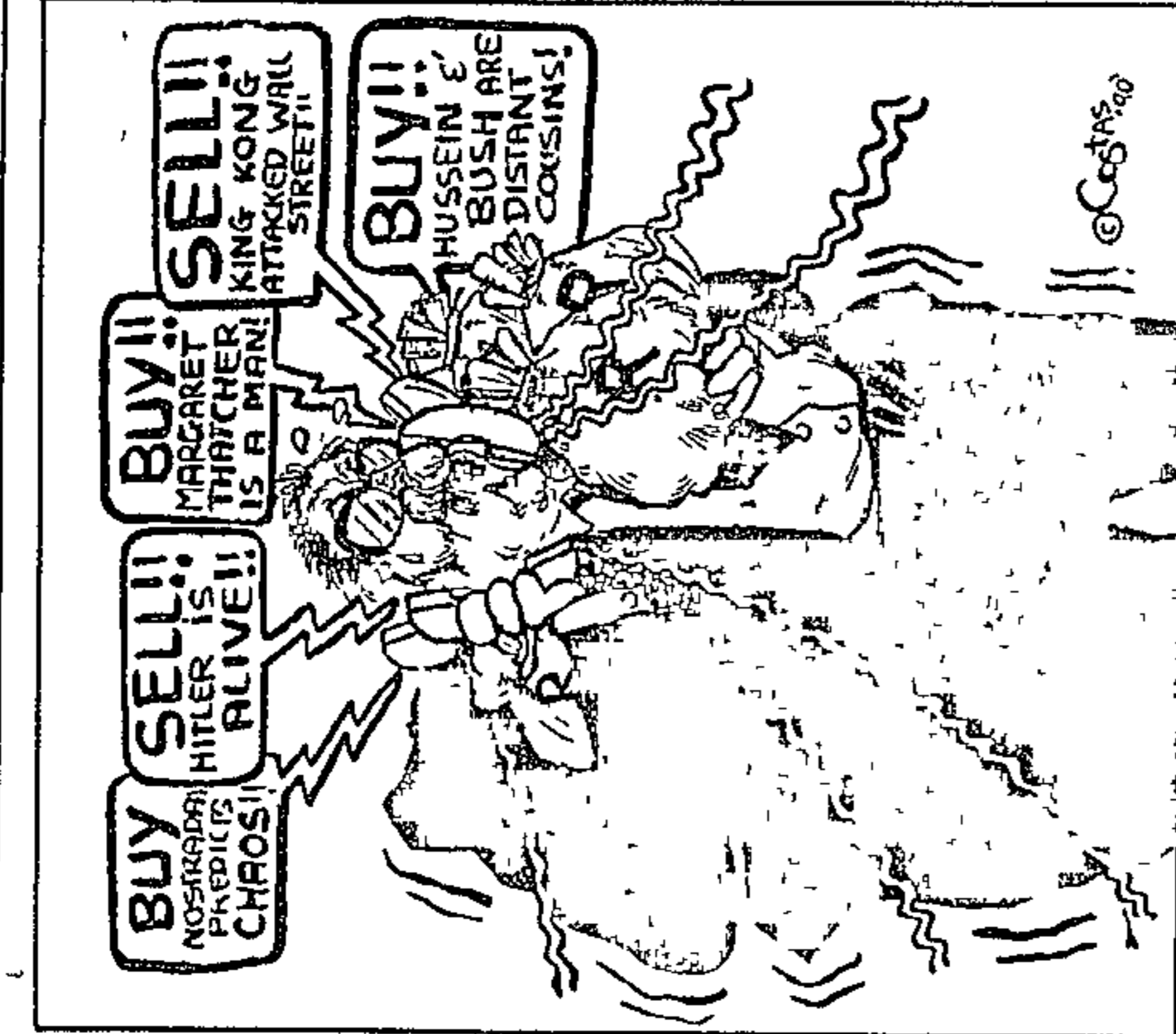


● GROOTE SCHUUR CANCER UNIT APPEAL ●





# Sugar industry



By PAUL RICHTER New York  
 OIL prices began ticking up in Singapore last month on a market rumour we've seen recently," says Robert Stovall, president of Stovall-Twenty First was going to spend a day celebrating his birthday, and that American bombers were poised to rain devastation on Baghdad when he did.

Some traders expected the rumour to give the market quite a kick but prices faded rapidly when somebody discovered Hussein's birthday had passed — six months earlier. The markets were also ruffled recently by talk that Hussein's astrologer had persuaded him that October 18 and 20 were auspicious dates to start a war. Then there was a rumour Hussein had been killed in a freak parking accident.

War rumours have rattled world markets, particularly the currency including

## Traders make a killing on rumours of Gulf war

the uncertainty that is always investors' worst fear

When 9/11 - 15/11/90

# turns to small farmers

**K**WAZULU'S land tenure system has been identified as the most crucial problem facing the increasingly important small sugar cane growers in the region.

Speaking at the labour consultation forming part of a "South Africa week" in Bad Boll, Germany, Deanne Collins of the Trade Union Research Project at the University of Natal, Durban, said research indicated this traditional tribal land ownership system was the major problem hindering the development of small farmers.

Interviewed after Collins' talk, Brian Bannerman of Tongaat-Hulett's personnel division agreed. He said as far as management was concerned "land ownership and tenure is the key issue".

Obstacles in the way of developing a healthy small cane grower sector are important because of the significant role sugar plays in Natal's economy. South Africa is 11th in terms of world sugar production, with an average 2.2 million tons produced annually on 400 000 hectares of land.

The South African Sugar Association (Sasa) estimates 152 000 people are employed in the industry, with their families thus means more than a million people are directly dependent on sugar.

Collins' paper outlined the problems faced by the small cane growers in establishing themselves as a viable and successful part of the sugar industry.

Describing the difficulties posed by the traditional land tenure system in kwaZulu she said development in the region had been superimposed on patterns of "tribal" land settlement which already existed.

"Plots for cultivation are given out by the chiefs. Land is not owned by the individual who farms it.

"This mode of land ownership is in itself a reason why small cane growers cannot get commercial credit and are therefore dependent on the services of the Financial Aid Fund (FAF)."

This has, in turn, curtailed the independence of small farmers.

The form of land ownership practised in kwaZulu has resulted in further problems — the division of land into small, uneconomic units, averaging a half to two hectares. "It is virtually impossible for a small cane grower to generate enough income from cane on a

Faced with a variety of problems, Natal's vital sugar industry is turning to small cane growers. However, these small farmers experience a number of difficulties.

**CARMEL RICKARD** reports

system was the most important problem facing small cane growers, there were other difficulties.

Among these were the virtual monopoly over the industry by two companies, Tongaat-Hulett and CG Smith which together control 80 percent of the market and had forced the small cane growers into "a cycle of dependence".

She was also critical of the wages and conditions of agricultural workers in the sugar industry.

On the other hand the sugar industry has been facing a number of problems over the last 10 years, which "posed grave threats" to its survival.

One of these is the continuing inroads being made by timber companies which are competing with sugar for land, offering cane farmers very high prices for their farms. Both giant sugar companies have been forced to finance farmers and acquire farms to keep at bay the "timber threat", caused by the surge in foreign demand for timber and in the local demand for wood to feed the Richards Bay paper industry.

Cane growing is also under threat from rising costs.

plot this size".

Collins said the stated aim of the FAF, set up by Sasa, was to attract people back to the land and undermine the system of labour migrancy which is so prevalent in rural kwaZulu.

"Research has established, however, that this has not been the case. Because plots are so small, farmers cannot make an adequate living from cane farming. Members of families — mostly men — are still forced to seek employment in the towns to supplement incomes.

"Remittances from migrants working in the industrial areas and pensions are still the basic sources of income.

"As a result, most of the farms are run by women, children and old people."

To maintain profits, millers need to expand operations, but at a time when threats are growing to their supply.

Collins argued that the millers have turned to small cane growers to protect and expand their operations, and that the future expansion and viability of the Zululand sugar mills will largely depend on the success of increasing the production of the small cane growers.

Deregulation in the industry and the creation of "free production areas" within a 30km radius of the mills has created the potential for an additional 30 000ha which could increase kwaZulu cane production by two thirds — and mean work for an extra 10 000-12 000 small cane growers.

Sasa says these extra jobs will "significantly help socio-economic stabilisation in the troubled region".

However, Collins said if the small cane growers were really to benefit, it would not be enough to curb the power of the conglomerates and reallocate land with freehold title.

"What will be needed is a total re-organisation of production and distribution involving a dismantling of the control which bodies like Sasa have obtained over the sugar industry."

Collins noted while the land tenure

According to other research quoted by Collins, the new Bill attempts to "modernise without undermining the status quo".

"The power to allocate land gives political legitimacy to the tribal authorities. Under the new Act these authorities are given the power to hand out freehold rights. They are not however obliged to do so and are expected in many cases to resist any changes to the present system.

"(kwaZulu chief minister Mangosuthu) Buthelezi recently stated that the tribal authorities would continue to be at the heart of the kwaZulu administrative system."

As long as this is the case, "the potential for far-reaching changes in the land allocation system are remote".

## Prince Seeisa named new king of Lesotho

*APR 11 1990* *ABD*  
MASERU. — The eldest son of the former King Moshoeshe of Lesotho, Prince Mohato Seeisa, has been named the new king of the mountain kingdom after his father was dethroned by the military government of Major-General Metsing Lekhanya on Tuesday, after the former king refused to return home from exile in England last week.

His election is subject to approval by the ruling military council in Lesotho. — Sapa

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## New king sworn in

MASERU. — Thousands of people jammed the streets of Maseru yesterday to watch swearing-in of the new king of Lesotho.

The 27-year-old monarch was sworn in by the Chief Justice of Lesotho, Mr Peter Culinan.

He replaces his father, King Moshoeshe II, who was dethroned last week by the chairman of the country's ruling military council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya.

The new king has yet to be named, but is expected to be called King Letsie III.

The date of a formal coronation is still to be set. Sapa



### Political Staff

THE awarding of a R5 200 m contract for the first phase of the huge Lesotho Highlands water project, due to be announced in the middle of next month, will transform much of this mountain kingdom and dramatically boost water supplies to the PWV area and beyond.

It will also pave the way for cross-border multi-national co-operation in Southern Africa development projects involving both South African and foreign funders, planners and constructors.

"Lesotho is the 15th poorest country in the world, but it does have an abundance of water," Tony Wadsworth, the infrastructure manager of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), told a press briefing in Maseru.

He explained "On average, Lesotho gets 800 mm of rain a year — 300 mm in the lowlands and 1 600 mm in the highlands. Almost half of this water, which has been referred to as Lesotho's 'white gold', flows into the Orange River."

### Employment

The plan — to store water in the mountains of Lesotho and then transfer it to the water-starved Witwatersrand — was first mooted in the early 1950s, but for political and technical reasons the treaty between Lesotho and South Africa

# 'White gold' upliftment of Lesotho, salvation of Reef

CAR TALKS 14/11/90 (167)

okaying the project was only signed in October 1986.

One of the major advantages of the project is that it is financially viable. PWV water-users, who are already paying 2,5 cents a litre towards the costs, will pay a minimum of R50 m a year once the water starts flowing in 1996.

It will also ensure that Lesotho will be able to generate its own hydro-electricity. Maseru currently pays R12 m a year for electrical power from South Africa.

### Compensation

Some 2 700 Basotho out of a total workforce of 3 581 have been employed on the infrastructure development and more than 4 000 Basotho will be employed in the first phase of dam and tunnel construction, providing a major source of employment inside the country.

But, as Wadsworth admitted, there were also "disbenefits" and a comprehensive compensation package has been designed for people in Lesotho who would be negatively af-

ected by the project.

About 70 to 80 houses and 20 to 30 kraals, involving about 200 people, will have to be moved. Many others will lose arable and grazing land, and communities will lose communal resources such as thatching grass, trees and roads when the dams begin to fill.

Indeed, according to the Development Bank's Peter Copley, some 94 000 people, about 20 000 households, will be affected one way or another.

However, the Lesotho and South African governments agreed from the outset of the project that full compensation would be paid to all affected parties and a comprehensive package, including a R104 million rural development programme over the next 15 years, has been worked out.

### Broad funding

Inside Lesotho, there has been some controversy about the compensation package but the provision of an appeal tribunal and the commitment in principle that everyone who is affected should be better off

once the project is completed should go a considerable way to ensuring that those affected will be fairly treated.

In the spectacular mountains of Lesotho, particularly in the Leriba/Butha Buthe/Muela/Katse area, the country is being transformed. 334 km of roads; six bridges, 54 prefabricated and 133 conventional houses; 16 other buildings, water reticulation, sewage treatment facilities and electrical facilities, including 144 kms of transmission lines and 14 sub-stations, are being built.

One of the bridges at Katse, which is 85 m high and half a kilometre long, has already been completed. When the Katse Dam is completed, the water will be only 5 m below the bridge.

By the time all phases are completed — scheduled for 2019 — 70 m<sup>3</sup>/sec will be pumped into the Ash River. By then, the 'white gold' will probably have saved Greater Johannesburg from chronic water shortages — and helped lift Lesotho out of its grinding poverty.

## Deposed king lashes out (167)

THE deposed King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho says the way in which he was dethroned by the country's military rulers only confirms how much they are abusing their powers and how opposed they are to democracy. *Sowetan 15/11/90*

Speaking in London, where he has been in exile for eight months after a dispute over his constitutional powers, Moshoeshoe would not say directly whether he accepted his dethronement. - *Sapa*.

# Moshoeshoe won't return from exile

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Sowe fan 2/11/90

**THE** war of words between Lesotho's military council and the tiny African kingdom's exiled King Moshoeshoe II continues unabated - most of it by fax.

The king, from a famous royal African bloodline, refuses to return from London as ruling monarch of his landlocked kingdom until a new representative interim government has been set up, yet the military rulers wanted him reinstated this week.

Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, reporting back to the military-ruled Constitutional Assembly on Tuesday about his recent talks with their king in London, explained the monarch would not accept any orders issued by the present military government nor those issued during the state of emergency in Lesotho.

The military ruler, who took control of the



**King Moshoeshoe**

country in a military coup, said however he had held "warm discussions" with the king.

He claimed they had "agreed to turn a new page, forget the past and finalise arrangements for his (the king's) return"

"I was thus amazed to receive immediately upon my arrival here on October 16 a telefax message from His Majesty which, among other things, stated the king would return on condition that a new representative interim government was set up, and that agreement was reached on his official status"

Since it was the wish

of Lesotho's Military Council that their king return to Lesotho by October 31, the council faxed him a message stating they wanted him to return as head of state and as a constitutional monarch, under orders issued in 1970 and 1990

The council moreover assured the king that the present military government would only be an interim one, and that they had already taken steps for a return to civilian rule by 1992, said Gen Lekhanya

The king in a return fax, however, stated no unelected minority could decide on important national affairs and that he would not accept any orders which had been issued during the state of emergency nor by the military government of Lesotho

No suggestions to end the present deadlock were forthcoming in the military ruler's speech on Tuesday.- Sapa



# Corruption worries deposed king

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA London  
EXILED King Moshoeshoe II this week expressed anxiety about corruption in the ruling Lesotho military regime and said he was committed to the return of democracy in the country.

In an interview with *The Weekly Mail* he called on the Basotho to remain "resolute and determined to have their political rights restored to them".

Moshoeshoe said he would not be drawn into conflict with his son Mohatowho is now king after Moshoeshoe was deposed on November 6.

He said two issues were at the core of the current conflict between the monarchy and the military council under the chairmanship of Major General Metsing Lekhanya:

- "The uncomfortably close ties between the Lesotho security forces and those of the apartheid regime in South Africa."

- Unwillingness of the military council to make "speedy and urgent moves towards greater people's participation in the decision-making processes of government in order to create a direct pathway to genuine

democratisation."

Asked if he would accept the abolition of the monarchy if the Basotho so wished Moshoeshoe said: "Why shouldn't I? Accountability of a public officer whether he be king, chief, military officer or civil servant is the cornerstone of democracy."

Tension between the monarchy and the Lekhanya regime is as old as the regime itself, but it was not until September 1988 when what had appeared to be a harmonious marriage began to crack. The monarch was forced into exile in March this year.

Moshoeshoe said many people including himself were hopeful that after the 1986 coup, "Lesotho would make a fresh start and return to a proper democratic system of government, but unfortunately, we underestimated the influence of the South African forces in the Lesotho security forces".

Both Lekhanya and Moshoeshoe have repeatedly stated their commitment to democracy. It remains to be seen whether the general will honour his promise of returning the country to full democratic rule by July 1992, now that he is in total control.

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Crown Prince MAHATO

# Lesotho's new monarch has not lost his roots Party-loving Letsie III is riding a tiger

MASERU - Before he was named Lesotho's new monarch, Crown Prince Mahato was better known as a disco king. Not in the same league as John Travolta, but definitely a man who liked to party.

A regular at Maseru's nightspots, he would arrive, unchauffeured and unguarded in a 4x4 pickup truck and slip inside with a traditional Lesotho blanket slung over jeans

and running shoes. A tall bounding young man, with the clumsy bearing of an eager puppy, he would sit joking with friends, unnoticed, unassuming,

happy to get the same service as everyone else. He would never ever draw attention to his status. His greatest vice, friends said, was a rogue

sweet tooth that directed the Oxford law graduate to the bakery each day to buy cake.

But Prince Mahato's freewheeling lifestyle came to an abrupt end recently when his exiled father, King Moshoeshoe II, was deposed by the ruling Military Council and the 27-year-old prince found himself catapulted onto the throne.

Unlike his father, the new king, likely to be named Letsie III, has no executive powers.

Well-placed sources say there are deep divisions within the royal family, Moshoeshoe favouring his younger son, Seiso (23), a career soldier who hopscoches across the countries of central Africa.

Should politics seduce Letsie III he is unlikely, even with his quick mind, to be any match for the military men and shrewd, experienced politicians who run the country.

He could also push to the limit a nation increasingly frustrated by the antics of his father.

The fact that there is still a monarchy in Lesotho is largely due to the fact that the Basotho love their royal family with the same passion that the British love the Windsors.

**Clever**

Lesotho's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Tom Thabane says: "If he messes it up he could well be Lesotho's last king. There is a lot of republican talk about But he is a very clever young man and I believe he will do the job well."

The upheavals of the past weeks have been regarded with bemusement, if not confusion, by a disenfranchised nation with little option but to stand on the sidelines and watch.

Among urban residents there is a strong feeling that Moshoeshoe II had grown too attached to his life of exile in London and did not want to return to his dusty, impoverished mountain kingdom.

The former king got what he deserved, say some. Others believe the Military Council had no right to tamper with the constitution.

**Secret**

Whether Letsie III is happy with the new state of affairs is a well-kept secret in Lesotho.

Commentators believe he would be ill-advised to follow his father's example of publicly crossing the Military Council.

Lekhanya said that, to his knowledge, the young king had not hesitated in accepting the position even though it put his father out of a job.



GEN LEKHANYA . . . leader of the Military Council.

## Hostile

The more elderly view the replacing of a father by a son as improper.

Many are still a little unclear on exactly what happened.

There is however, little sign of hostility towards Letsie III.

Even the young republicans look on him as "a man of the people" who has "never lost his roots, despite the English education."

At his swearing-in ceremony the young king was flanked by a ramrod-straight, leather-gloved Lekhanya.

It was a picture that brought to mind the saying he who rides the back of the tiger should take care not to land in its stomach.

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Sowetan  
28/11/90



**QUESTIONABLE** research methods cost consciousness, bureaucratic delays and political manipulation could worsen soil erosion in Lesotho — already one of the world's most eroded landscapes

The problem has been highlighted in a series of leaked consultants' reports from the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)

The reports suggest that if current trends continue, the LHDA will fail to live up to the environmental protection promises made by the project

Between 1990 and 2020 LHDA will oversee the construction of five dams, two hydro power stations and nearly 200km of underground tunnels at the headwaters of the Senqu (Orange) River which rises in the 3 000m high Maluti mountains of Lesotho and flows south and then west across the continent, forming the border between South Africa and Namibia, to empty into the Atlantic Ocean

### Capacity

The aim is to use commercial and concessional finance from the World Bank to provide the dry-land industrial areas of South Africa with clean fresh water. The hydro power is supposed to increase Lesotho's development capacity

# Development dilemma

People living in the dam area have had a few lectures from local dignitaries and little else. Few know the extent of what is happening and none understand the implications of losing their grazing lands or the need to change their land-use practices if the watershed around the dam is to maintain its topsoil cover

According to LHDA documents, the soils in the catchment of the Katsse dam are

"volcanic" so that erosion is relatively low. Yet as early as 1938, two British soil engineers wrote that the mountain topsoil simply eroded in a different way, but still eroded significantly

Worse still, the LHDA consultants believe LHWP engineers are working with sedimentation rates that possibly underestimate soil erosion by more than 50 percent

Despite this, the LHDA plans public relations campaign to

justify inevitable criticisms. But no one will take responsibility. The road was built by a private South African corporation. Pretoria signed a treaty with Lesotho on the LHWP and has also created its own agency to construct the South Africa component

However, officials say that, because the contractor is a private company, the government is off the hook.

Instead the South Africans

accuse the LHDA of "inadequate contractual terms and enforcement", adding that they will not be responsible for any future inadequacies

The consultants worry that if the private contractor is made to foot the bill for erosion, she or he will introduce cheap foreign plants in the hope of getting quick growth that fixes the soil

But the area along the road is recognised around the world

as a region of unique "slow growing" mountain flora that would be destroyed by the introduction of outside species.

Initial LHDA plans called for a nature reserve in the vicinity of the road. If finance were available, there might be a chance of saving local plants and maintaining rare birds. But original cost estimates have been rejected by officials from South Africa and Lesotho

—Martin Kearney (AIA)

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The main component of the system consists of the Katsse concrete arch dam, a series of tunnels for diverting water northward, and a hydropower facility. Minimum cost for these facilities is estimated at R2,5bn

The dam will sequester two rivers (the Bokong and the Malibamatso) which form part of the Senqu headwaters. The reservoir caused by the Katsse dam will cover 35 square kilometres of a steep-sided valley and flood 600 hectares of crop land as well as 2 600 hectares of grazing slopes

### Promises

On paper the plans to protect the environment and people in the project area conform with the World Bank requirements for large dams. However, the project has already completed preliminary infrastructure construction and is moving on to the major dam building period while many of the environmental promises are not being fulfilled

With so many outsiders coming to work in the isolated construction area, consultants are calling for the urgent creation of a long overdue public health unit and biological research. They say there are dangers that the project could leave a legacy of sexually transmitted diseases, Aids and even bubonic plague. A promised environmental awareness programme has yet to be designed and imple-



THE former ANC representative in Lesotho, Mr Japhe Ndlovo, has arrived in Lesotho to register the ANC members still resident in the country and to supply them with application forms for indemnity from Pretoria, reports SABC radio news.

The radio quoted Ndlovo as saying he had already met the South African trade representative in Lesotho, Mr Gemus Geldenhuys, to check on those already granted indemnity.

Ndlovo was among more than 400 ANC supporters deported to Lusaka in Zambia in 1986 after the military takeover led by Major-General Metsing Lek-

# ANC applies for indemnity

Sowetan 3/12/90

hanya  
On his return, he was met at the airport in Lesotho from Lusaka by senior government officials.

## Offices

He disclosed the ANC plans to open offices in all neighbouring countries of South Africa and representatives have already been appointed for Botswana and Swaziland.

The radio meanwhile reports that a heated debate is taking place in the Lesotho Constituent Assembly.

The Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Mr Kelebone Maope, proposed an amendment that the commander of the Lesotho Defence Force should also be a member of the cabinet after the country returns to civilian rule in 1992.

Several politicians opposed the amendment and a former Minister of Trade and Industry, chief Moaki Molapo, said the military in Lesotho should give the Basutu nation a true democracy and no military man should become a member of the civilian government.

The debate, according to the radio, has gone on since last week - Sapa

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# Contractors face D-day in Lesotho

THREE SA construction companies — Group Five, Concor and LTA — will be among the firms named when two major tenders are awarded for the first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

The projects — one involving the building of a dam and the other the construction of tunnels — are worth R2bn.

The tenders would be awarded at a ceremony in Lesotho on Friday, the expiry date of the tender offers, the Water Affairs Department said in a statement

"The ceremony will include the signing of the bridging loan agreement," it said

The department would not say who the successful tenderers were, but industry sources said the Katse Dam contract, estimated at about R790m, would go to the seven-party consortium headed by Italian company Impregilo and including Group

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

Five and Concor

They said the contract to build tunnels linking the dam with SA, estimated at about R1bn, would be awarded to the five-company consortium which includes LTA

The tenderers were asked to include financing proposals with their tenders. The details of the financing arrangements were not available yesterday, but sources said the majority of funding would come from European banks and export credit agencies. About 35% would come from SA sources

Last week it was announced that H M C Tunnelling Venture, which includes Concor, was the preferred tenderer for the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority's R400m Delivery Tunnel North

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**PROJECT FINANCE  
DEALING IN**

FIM 14/12/90  
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**Construction** contracts for R1,9bn are to be signed in Lesotho this week one for Katse Dam, the other for tunnels, all part of phase 1A of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

A R756m contract for bridging finance has been awarded to SA banks, though the final agreement is still to be signed. A consortium of Volkskas, Volkskas Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank, source of the first phase of finance (R135m for administrative set-up and other costs), will provide nearly half. The same will come from Ned-bank and a small sum from a small bank in the Common Monetary Area.

A third financing phase — export credit and commercial project financing — will come from a number of sources in SA and Europe. This will complete funding of construction of the Lesotho side of phase 1A.

Commercial funding is now being negotiated and financing proposals will soon be

FIM 14/12/90 (167)

called for Standard Chartered West LB of London, main financial adviser to the project, is negotiating an amount expected to be in the region of R3,5bn, about R2bn of which could come from SA banks. The rest will come from a variety of sources which may include the World Bank, other offshore sources and the SA capital market.

On the export credit leg, the five major SA banks and IDC are expected to provide about R1,3bn. Local and offshore funding, as budgeted in August, should total R4,8bn: R1,3bn for the Katse Dam, R1,6bn for tunnels, R500m for other construction, R700m for administration, R580m for engineering and R194m for environmental protection.

Additional financing charges will amount to about R2bn and refinancing of debt service during construction will reach R900m.

The project is being carried out by authorities each side of the border: the Trans Caledonian Tunnel Authority (TCTA) and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. Physical development cost of R400m in SA will be raised in the capital market. ■



# SA firms in R8bn project

By DON ROBERTSON

SOUTH AFRICAN companies have won a major share of contracts worth R8-billion for financing and building the main dam and transfer tunnels for the Lesotho Highlands water project (LHWP)

The awards for Phase 1 of the scheme, described as one of the largest and most complex of its type in the world, were announced by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)

SA's Concor, Group 5, LTA and Grinaker Construction will join consortium members from France, Britain, Germany and Italy, to build the 180m-high Katse dam, costing R1,363-billion, the north and south transfer tunnels and the delivery tunnel, costing R1,473-billion

The lowest tender for Katse dam was submitted by the Highlands Water Venture group of Impregilo of Italy as lead company, Bouygues of France, Concor,

Group 5, Hochtief of Germany and Kier & Sterling of the UK.

The 55km-long tunnel contract was awarded to Spie Batignolles of France as lead company, Balfour Beatty of the UK, Campenon Bernard of France, LTA, Ed Zublin of Germany and Grinaker

The tunnels will be drilled in SA and Lesotho to carry water from the Katse dam to industrial areas, particularly on the Reef. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by 1996. In 1992, contracts will be called for a hydroelectric plant at the dam.

Bridging finance of about R750-million has been raised to allow work to continue until loan agreements have been signed with world aid organisations, including the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the

European Investment Bank, the Overseas Development Association of the UK, and the CIM of West Germany

The bridging finance will come from Nedbank with R375-million, a consortium of Volkskas, Volkskas Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank will contribute R370-million and Barclays Bank Swaziland R10-million

The SA Government has contributed R26,7-million through the Trans Caledonian Tunnel Association. The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has contributed R370-million and other commercial loans of R139-million have been arranged. The DBSA is considering advancing another R153-million

The Katse dam wall will be the highest in Africa at 180m, but will have a relatively small capacity

ST News 16/10/90

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# Lesotho police raid TRC offices

By SANDILE MEMELA and AIA *C/Press* 16/12/90

THE OFFICES of the Transformation Resource Centre, a church-supported organisation in Lesotho, were raided by police during a prayer session this week and various documents and videos confiscated, sources alleged.

It is believed the raid may have been sparked by a report in last week's *City Press* in which the TRC criticised Lesotho's "lawless" police.

In a statement to *City Press*, TRC said a morning prayer service was disrupted for six hours by police who searched the premises and harassed worshippers and staffers.

It has also been alleged that a senior church leader, Anglican Bishop of Lesotho Phillip Mokutu, was insult-

ed by a senior police officer.

The raid is regarded as an example of the increasing acts of abuse perpetrated by a near-lawless police backed by the military regime of Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya.

The TRC said at least 56 pamphlets, documents, tapes and posters were confiscated.

The material consists of researched information dealing with labour rights, the South African struggle, police violence and church-related activities.

Condemning the action, TRC said the behaviour of the police was unwarranted.

"They did not seem to be looking for anything in particular but concentrated on information related to the recent spate of violence in Lesotho meted out by police," said the statement.

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# R6,5bn is needed for Lesotho water scheme

THE total funding requirements of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, including construction and financing and servicing costs, will be R6,5bn.

This amount will be raised from the Common Monetary Area, contractor driven finance and export credit.

Bridging finance of R750m provided by Nedbank, Rand Merchant Bank/Volkswagen/Volkswagen Merchant Bank and Barclays Bank of Swaziland, is intended to allow construction work to go ahead while international loan agreements are being drawn up.

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority capital finance manager Paul Birmingham said at the signing of the Katse Dam and tunnels contracts in Maseru on Friday that the major loan arrangements would be signed by the second quarter of 1991.

Firm underwritten offers had been received from the World Bank, European export credits and commercial banks and the Commonwealth Development Corporation for about R1,5bn.

Joint permanent technical commission delegate to the project in Maseru Hans Pettenburger said the present exposure of

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

the project was R2,2bn on costs of Phase 1A only.

Financing and servicing costs would put the requirements far beyond that.

"To cover this we will have to raise R3,5bn in the Common Monetary Area. Through contractor-driven finance on the offshore market we are raising another R1,5bn. There is another R1,5bn in export credit."

*B 12/17/12/90 (167)*

## Conditions

"The R750m in bridging finance covers the costs only until all the other financing is in place. It will be repaid from finance raised."

One of the conditions of the award of the tenders for the Katse Dam and tunnels was that the contractors had to submit the financing arrangements for their bids.

"The criteria for the successful tenders were the amount of forex and the terms and conditions of the loans, and what discounts were being given for more than one contract being awarded," said development authority CE Masupha Sole



## EC aid to kingdom to focus on hydro-power project

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

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EUROPEAN Community (EC) co-operation with the southern African region will intensify in future as the EC believes political developments taking place will make it one of the most important regions in Africa.

EC representative A Kratz said at the signing of the Katse Dam and tunnels contracts for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) in Maseru at the weekend that the EC's involvement in Lesotho in 1991 would focus on the hydro-power scheme.

The successful tenderer for the Katse Dam contract, worth R793m rising to R1,2bn with escalations and contingencies, was a seven-party consortium led by Impregilo of Italy and including Bouygues of France, Concor and Group 5 of SA, Hochtief of Germany, and Kier & Stirling of the UK.

The successful tenderer for the three tunnels, a contract worth R858m rising to R1,3bn with escalations and contingencies, was the five-party consortium led by Spie Batignolles of France and including Balfour Beatty of the UK, Campenon Bernard of France, LTA of SA and Zublin of Germany.

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) CE Masupha Sole said the second phase of the project, the hydro-power scheme, was now certain to go ahead.

"The benefits of the LHWP to Lesotho will be the revenue generated by the sale of water to SA, which will bring in \$60m a year in net profit, the generation of electricity for Lesotho, the massive infrastructure on roads and health and education and the creation of employment."

A statement said the World Bank in conjunction with Germany, France, Britain, Ireland and the US had helped to arrange the financing for the project.

# Little cheer for SA construction in water scheme

S/Times 30/12/90

By DON ROBERTSON

CONTRACTS won by four SA companies for the Lesotho Highlands water project will bring little cheer to the construction industry

It faces a bleak two years at least.

Industry sources say that although the total project is worth about R5-billion before escalations, it will be completed in five years and will not contribute much business to civil engineering

Tony Puccini, financial director of the civils division at Group Five, says that because of the long-term nature of the work "it will not help us out of the recession we face"

"I foresee difficulties for civil engineering for the next two years. Because infrastructure in SA is fairly well developed, large civils contracts are unlikely in the future and our work will probably switch to housing and shopping complexes"

## Negotiations

It has not yet been established exactly what aspect of the contracts will be carried out by the four companies — Group Five, Concor, LTA and Grinaker Construction. Negotiations with the international consortiums have not been completed

Group Five managing director Peter Clogg is in Italy negotiating with Impregilo, the lead company in the consortium which will build the Katse dam

Concor is also in this consortium

wall will take 2,1-million cubic metres of concrete and 387 000 of formwork

Permanent and temporary accommodation, shops, a hospital, a laboratory, sewage treatment works, schools and communication facilities will have to be provided

Work on the tunnels will

start in January and will take about six years to complete. Two of the 4,5m diameter tunnels will collect water from the Katse dam and carry it down the mountains, under the Caledon and Little Caledon rivers to the Ash, a tributary of the Vaal

The tunnels will be built by installing pre-cast concrete lining immediately behind the tunnel-boring machine. This is a first for SA

LTA and Grinaker Construction are in the consortium which has won the contract to build a 55km-long tunnel to carry water part of the way to the Reef

LTA managing director Colin Wood says his company has a 35% interest in the consortium which will build the tunnels at cost of about R900-million

But Mr Wood stresses that this will not necessarily mean the same percentage in the total project

LTA is upgrading the road to the dam site

## First

Katse dam will have the highest wall in Africa at 180m. It will, however, have a much lower capacity than other dams

For instance, HF Verwoerd dam has a capacity of 5,9-billion cubic metres, but Katse will hold only 1,9-billion cubic metres. Kariba has a 128m-high wall and Aswan in Egypt has one 111m high

Work will start in January on the arch dam which will be taller than Johannesburg's Carlton Hotel and will be wider at the top than six rugby fields. The intention is to change the flow of the Malibamatso and Bokong rivers northwards into the SA supply system

Power will eventually be generated from a hydro-electric plant and the dam will be used for irrigation

In constructing the dam, 1,9-million cubic metres of rock will be excavated. The

LESOTHO-GENERAL

1991



# Lesotho scheme's debt enters securities market

THE R8,5bn Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme has moved towards converting its debt into marketable securities with the placing in the financial markets of R135m worth of bridging finance

The bridging finance, provided by a consortium of SA banks comprising Rand Merchant Bank, Volkskas Bank and Volkskas Merchant Bank, has already started trading alongside debt from borrowers like Eskom and Transnet

The consortium is acting as an issuing and placing agent on behalf of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), the body entrusted with implementing the Lesotho side of the project

The conversion of the debt into marketable LHDA paper is being called securitisation "in the loose sense of the word" by the parties concerned

ROBERT GENTLE

Unlike classic securitisation as understood by the Reserve Bank, it does not involve the shifting of the debt off the banks' balance sheets or its channelling into a special-purpose vehicle

LHDA capital finance manager Paul Bermingham said that in addition to the securitisation of the R135m bridging loan, a portion of another R750m loan for bridging finance would also be securitised.

Bermingham said the rationale behind securitising the loans — which are guaranteed by the SA government — was to minimise the cost of funding the project and to establish the LHDA as a major player in the financial markets

He said the LHDA would be "making its first approach" to the capital market later

this year.

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Volkskas Merchant Bank GM Gerhard Smit was unable to disclose the yield investors were getting on the R135m paper, saying only that it was at "a small difference" to that of other major borrowers

He said that the R135m was relatively small and short-term, and that the real potential for securitisation would come with phase three of the project, which will see SA banks collectively lending the LHDA up to R3,5bn.

"LHDA can become a major player in the capital markets, possibly up to R10bn over the long term," Smit said.

Nedbank, which was recently awarded a R375m contract to provide LHDA with bridging finance, also expressed enthusiasm for the long-term securitisation potential of LHDA debt issues

# Loans for Lesotho project get go-ahead

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

OVERSEAS lenders had made acceptable financial offers to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) to meet the \$500m foreign exchange obligations for Phase 1a of the project, LHDA capital finance manager Paul Bermingham said last week.

Phase 1a involves building Katse Dam, the transfer tunnel to the Muela hydro-electric power station, the Muela Dam and delivery tunnel to the Ash River and associated infrastructural development.

Joint permanent technical commission delegate to the project in Maseru Hans Plettenberger said the financiers were banks in England, France, Germany and

Italy who had been brought in by the successful tenderers from those countries

One of the conditions of the tender was the provision of contractor-driven finance in the form of export credits and commercial loans.

"The repayments vary from loan to loan but basically interest payments will be capitalised during the construction period and debt servicing will occur from about 1996 onwards," Plettenberger said.

SA had guaranteed all loans arising from the implementation of the part of Phase 1a related to water transfer.

14/1/91  
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(167)

## R386m contract awarded for water delivery tunnel

*Bidam 18/11/91*  
HMC Tunnelling Venture has been awarded the R385,9m contract for the construction of the Lesotho Highlands delivery tunnel north, the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) said in a statement yesterday.

HMC, a joint venture between SA's Concor Holdings, Hochtief AG (Germany) and Marti Inter (Switzerland), was given the contract for the construction of both the Caledon and Ash tunnels.

The delivery tunnel would be the last in an 85km series of tunnels of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project's Phase 1A and which were scheduled for completion towards the end of 1996, TCTA said.

The tunnels would transfer water from the Katse Dam on the Senqu River in

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

Lesotho to the Vaal River catchment for storage in the Vaal Dam. *(167)*

This water would augment the present water resources of the PWV area.

Finance for the project would come from a TCTA levy imposed on water supplied to the Vaal River area, loans through the Public Investment Commissioner and finance from two German banks which was still to be approved.

TCTA also announced that construction of the delivery tunnel north would be supervised by the Highlands Delivery Tunnel Consultants (HDTCC) consortium at a present-day cost of R41,3m.

This was the largest consulting engineering contract to be awarded in SA.



# R385-m Lesotho contract awarded

By Norman Chandler  
Pretoria Bureau

One of the biggest contracts for the construction of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has gone to a joint South Africa-German-Swiss consortium.

HMC Tunneling Venture — a joint venture between Hochtief (Germany), Marti Inter (Switzerland) and Concor Holdings — has been awarded the R385.8 million Phase 1a contract by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) to build the Caledon and Ash tunnels over a distance of 21.6 km to bring water from the huge new Katse Dam, in central Lesotho, to serve the PWV area.

The construction project is known as Delivery Tunnel North and is the last leg of an 85 km series of tunnels which forms part of the massive R5 billion scheme of dams, roads, bridges, hydro-electric stations, and tunnels

TCTA also announced that it had appointed the Highlands Delivery Tunnel Consultants to supervise the construction of the latest contract, which is scheduled for completion in late 1996.

The organisation is a joint venture between the South African consulting engineering firms of Ninham Shand, van Niekerk, Kleyn and Edwards, Keeve Steyn, and Steffen Robertson and Kirsten (Consultants).

Last year, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority awarded contracts for the Katse dam and a series of tunnels to two international consortiums. So far 45 major design, supervision and construction contracts have been awarded.

The cost of the whole project is being paid for by South Africa, Lesotho, the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the European Investment Bank

and the United Nations Development Programme.

Financial help has also come from organisations in Britain, the United States, France and Germany, as well as through commercial loans.

The wall of the Katse dam will, at 182 m, be the highest in Africa. The highest at present is the Cahorra Bassa dam in Mozambique, which is 171 m high while the highest dam in the world is the 272 m-high Inguri dam in the Soviet Union.

TCTA says much of the infrastructure work for the latest phase of the development on the South African side of the border has been completed, with about 25 percent still to be constructed on the Lesotho side. It is expected that access roads will be completed by about March next year.

TCTA says it is aware of possible damage to the environment and is therefore playing an active role in ensuring that

environmental conditions are maintained. Consultants have been employed to check on land surveying, land use planning, health planning and agro-industrial development.

A key issue being looked at is how to control the flow of water along the Ash River once it begins to spill out of the 4.5 m diameter tunnels.

The organisation describes the Ash as very small and having a very erratic flow but warns that the river will flow all the time once the Lesotho Highlands scheme comes into full operation.

Land on the banks will therefore have to be canalised somewhat to enlarge the bed while bridge crossings will also have to be heightened.

Direct negotiations are taking place with Free State farmers and an extensive investigation is under way to see how the water will affect them.

# Civilian rule for Lesotho next year

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Sowetan 22/1/91

MASERU - Lesotho's ruling military council chairman General Metsing Lekhanya yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to the establishment of a democratic government by June next year.

Speaking at an "Army Day" anniversary celebration of the military coup of January 1986, he expressed hope that the National Constituent Assembly, which resumes

work this week, would arrive at an acceptable constitution for the nation

## Abuse

Lekhanya also said he hoped the new constitution would entail checks and balances which would "protect our revered institution of monarchy from any form of involvement in politics" and would provide safeguards against the abuse of political

power.

He said investments, which developed and protected the country's water resources, were needed to solve its food crises.

Recommendations for a salary increase for civil servants, teachers, the defence force, chiefs and University of Lesotho staff were being reviewed by the government and would be implemented on April 1, he added. - Sapa.

# Lesotho may join a future South Africa

THE man who stands a good chance of leading Lesotho if civilian rule returns to the mountain kingdom says the former British protectorate may join the Republic if a constitutional settlement is reached in South Africa.

Ntsu Mokhehle, president of the Basutholand Congress Party (BCP), says that once apartheid is completely eradicated and South Africa is totally free it will be "inconvenient" for the kingdom to remain independent. He envisages Lesotho becoming part of a new federal state.

Mokhehle is Lesotho's "prime minister that never was". He won the kingdom's 1970 general election, only to be cheated of power when his defeated opponent, Chief Leabua Jonathan, staged a post-election coup with South African backing.

Forced into exile, the BCP leader was allowed back into Lesotho two years ago by the country's present military leader, Major General Justin Lekhanya. He is now a member of the constituent assembly which is devising a new constitution in preparation for a return to civilian rule —

*W/mant 112-712191*  
The mountain kingdom of Lesotho may soon move to civilian rule and possibly become part of a new federal state in Southern Africa (167)

scheduled for next June. Although political campaigning is currently outlawed under military rule in Lesotho, local political observers believe the BCP is the most popular party in the country and, if there is an election, Mokhehle will finally take the premiership.

Interviewed at his home in Maseru Mokhehle said that — while he had some misgivings — he believed that Lesotho would now return to democratic rule and that his BCP would start organising again as soon as the ban on political activity was lifted.

Referring to the recent fall of King Moshoeshe II — deposed by Lekhanya in favour of his son, King Letsie III — Mokhehle said the monarchy would be maintained, but only as "a strictly constitutional monarchy, acting on the advice of the cabinet".

Although predicting eventual unifi-

cation, he said South Africa had to devise a new constitution and hold its first post-liberation elections before this could be considered. The BCP — which is closer to the PAC than the ANC — supports the idea of unification as part of the Pan Africanist vision of a new South Africa, or Azania.

Lekhanya, who seized power in 1986 — again with South African backing — last month urged the constituent assembly to hurry up with its constitution-making so that they could meet the June 1992 deadline.

There is some concern in political circles, however, that he plans to retain a decisive role for the military. Supporters in the constituent assembly have pushed through a clause in the proposed constitution which will give the commander of the armed forces, "ex officio", a seat in the cabinet no matter what government is in power. It is suspected that the intention is to give this military representative sweeping powers to ban political parties — including the government of the day. — The Guardian, London



# Wait almost over for SA firms tendering for Lesotho project

SA FINANCIAL institutions which have submitted tenders for raising R1,5bn on the local capital market, to finance the R3,5bn third phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, will know if they have beaten the stiff competition by the end of March.

A Lesotho Highlands Development Authority spokesman said at the weekend the authority would invite the winners to Maseru for further negotiations by the end of the month.

It asked SA merchant banks to submit suggestions for the authority's entry into the SA gilts market at the beginning of February.

Although the water project is a long-term one — and the development authority has said it wanted to make considerable use of the SA capital market — trying to raise the entire R3,5bn needed for the construction of the power station may be unwise, as it follows R135m in borrowing for Phase 1, and R750m facilities for Phase 2.

The project managers said that because of the uncertain timing of the project's cash needs and the capital market's lack of experience in absorbing and trading development authority bonds, it was "inappropriate" to rely initially on this source for more than a portion of the funding needs.

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B1 Pam 18/3/91  
MATTHEW CURTIN

Among financial institutions which have submitted tenders are a consortium including Volkskas Bank, Volkskas Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank, Standard Merchant Bank, and United

Volkskas Merchant Bank GM Gerhard Smit and Standard Merchant Bank GM Johan Smit both said at the weekend they had received no word from the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority on the success or otherwise of their applications.

In January Gerhard Smit said the development authority could become a major player in the capital market, "possibly up to R10bn over the long term".

The Volkskas consortium has provided R135m bridging finance for the project.

Nedbank was awarded a R375m contract to provide the authority with bridging finance last year.

Total funding requirements for the project, including construction, servicing and financing costs, will be R6,5bn.

SA's Concor, Group 5, LTA and Grinaker Construction will join consortium members from France, Germany, Britain and Italy to build the 180m Katse Dam, the highest in Africa.

The dam will cost R1,4bn, and the two transfer tunnels and delivery tunnel will cost R1,5bn.

# Economics pull Lesotho towards incorporation

CAM-TC-15 27/3/91 (167)

By GREG MILLS

THE demise of apartheid holds enormous implications for southern Africa, including Lesotho. Completely surrounded by South Africa, the tiny kingdom has arguably survived politically and economically because of apartheid and South African domination.

While changes in Pretoria's foreign policy thrust raise the possibilities of permanent security in the region, paradoxically they open a Pandora's box of political, economic and constitutional options in neighbouring states.

Lesotho is arguably the most economically vulnerable of all of South Africa's neighbours. About 90% of its exports go to South Africa which, in turn, supplies more than 95% of imports, most of which are transported by South Africa. Almost all electricity is received from Eskom and all oil requirements are routed via refineries in Durban.

## Dismissal

Efforts to delink its economy have not been entirely successful. The elaborate Highlands water project, signed with South Africa soon after the 1986 coup, emphasises that integration, both through the influx of South African capital and technology and the financial red-



**MAJOR-GENERAL JUSTIN LEKHANYA** initially popular both in Pretoria and Maseru, his domestic position has become increasingly tenuous. He may not have time to execute his plans.

tances from South Africa to Lesotho.

Not surprisingly, Pretoria's rigorous imposition of border restrictions in 1985 temporarily crippled the economy, precipitating an overthrow early in the following year of Chief Leabua Jonathan's government by the army under the command of Major-General Justin Lekhanya. Chairman of both the six-man Military Council and a subordinate Council of Ministers, Lekhanya was initially popular both in Pretoria and Maseru. Since that time, his domestic position has become increasingly tenuous.

Relations between King Moshoeshoe II and Lekhanya gradually deteriorated, leading to the monarch's dismissal by government decree last November. Later that month his son, 27-year-old Prince Mohato, was sworn in as King Letsie III.

In June 1990 Lekhanya formed a National Constituent Assembly to construct a new constitution for civilian rule through multi-party elections scheduled for June 1992. This does not necessarily mean that the general is ready to step down. Reportedly, Lekhanya has considered forming his own political party and there is speculation that any new constitution will have to incorporate a "Pinochet-style" veto to ensure the army's support.

However, Lekhanya might not have the time to carry his plans through. There are noticeable signs of dissatisfaction in the army over salaries, terms of

service and corruption.

Political developments in South Africa have once again raised the old debate over incorporation. The cover-page caption of a popular Lesotho magazine read recently "Would Lesotho sink without apartheid?"

Though there is a strong pride in the existence of Lesotho as an independent nation, the argument for incorporation is based on economic rather than emotional considerations. The survival of Lesotho's 1.7 million population depends on three sources of income: international aid, migrant labour remittances and a share of the common earnings of the Southern African Customs Union, all of which are likely to diminish in a post-apartheid scenario.

Those of the Left believe Lesotho has a "right" to incorporation that given the tiny kingdom's contribution to the wealth of South Africa, it is unacceptable that Lesotho should now be excluded from "the gains" of black majority rule.

## Key source

The kind of integration envisaged could determine the benefits of such a move. The existence of a separate local government in Lesotho in wider South African-centric federation would retain a degree of autonomy and territorial integrity while benefiting from the South African economy, particularly through the free movement of Basotho workers. Some fear that incorporation without the

institutionalised checks and balances of a federal or confederal system would result in wholesale annexation.

Of course, this assumes a desire on both sides of the Caledon River for integration to occur. Even though Lesotho might want this to happen, a majority-rule government in South Africa might not. Though South African dominance has in the past been seen as "white-dominance" and thus mitigated against incorporation, in a post-apartheid context such dependency could be viewed not only as inevitable but necessary to ensure survival in Lesotho. After all, because of apartheid, Lesotho receives massive international sympathy and development aid amounting to more than 15% of GNP.

The role of the South African National Union of Mineworkers could be crucial. The movement, headed by Mosotho James Matlotti, contends that "every worker in South Africa is a South African", thereby removing a key source of income through miners' remittances. Reportedly the union's leverage within the Congress of South African Trade Unions has forced the ANC's acquiescence in this regard. Labour income from the 160 000 migrants accounts for more than half of Lesotho's GNP. Over half the population depends on these earnings.

A new South Africa is also likely to shift priority in the allocation of jobs to its own citizens and address the huge unemployment problem, especially in the homelands. At the same time, many professionals will be attracted to the better working conditions in a non-racial South Africa.

A reduction in migrant labour will also reduce Lesotho's share of Sacu revenue, at present about 70% of the government's total income. If the number of migrants decreases, so does capital flow to Lesotho and thus the ability to buy goods from South Africa. And the fewer the goods imported, the smaller the share of customs revenue.

The mandate to negotiate Lesotho's economic and political future does not lie with the current military regime and any agreement entered into by Lekhanya would not be regarded as binding by many Basothos. For this to occur, like the new South Africa, Lesotho would require a truly democratic system of government.

□ Dr Mills teaches at the University of the Western Cape.



SATAPPT NEWS

# R1,3bn loan for Lesotho water project

GRETA STEYN

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THE Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) will receive R1,3bn from a consortium made up of Standard Bank and First National Bank

A feature of the loan is that there will be no interest payments during the irrigation project's six-year construction period

Interest will be capitalised and at current interest rates the compound effect will more than double the nominal value of the debt *6/10/91 16/4/91*

The 16-year loan is the first leg of the LHDA's long-term funding exercise

For the second leg, bankers say the LHDA will not use bank credit and has asked for assistance in tapping the South African capital market to raise an additional R1,5bn

A statement issued on behalf of the LHDA yesterday said the loan would be signed within the next two months and would carry a government guarantee

This long-term rand financing follows the R135m and R750m borrowing arranged last year for short-term bridging finance.

Sapa reports that the LHDA intends working closely with the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority, which implements the South African part of the project, on co-ordinating fund-raising

Yesterday's statement said further examination of LHDA's specific capital-market programmes would be deferred until the basic funding had been finalised, probably by mid-year

The LHDA has been working with its merchant bank advisers, Chartered WestLB in London, for several years on the strategy and implementation of the project-financing package. This is likely to consist of over 25 separate facilities in at least six different currencies

International project-financing on this scale represents one of the largest and most complex exercises of its kind in the world today, says the LHDA statement

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# Contractors give tender system the thumbs up

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6/10am 17/4/91  
CLIENTS and successful contractors have given a thumbs-up to the tender system used for awarding tenders for main works in Phase 1A of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)

The R6,5bn project to build the Katse Dam and dam infrastructure has been funded by a range of international agencies, including the World Bank, while bridging finance has been raised on the SA capital market

Four groups tendered for the project and a joint venture made up of Hochtief (Germany), Marti (Switzerland) and Concor (SA) won the contract for the SA portion of the delivery tunnel, awarded on January 17

Department of Water Affairs deputy director-general and leader of the SA delegation to the Joint Technical Commission for the LHWP Theo van Robbroeck says some of the tenderers submitted alternative proposals based on a one-pass system, but the successful party, with a bid of R386m (the second lowest), won on price and the way it planned to carry out the operation

The joint venture's bid for the dam project was R120m lower than its nearest rival

Van Robbroeck says. "Every aspect of the tenders and their award had to be approved by the Joint Permanent Commission, which is made up of members from both countries"

## Leading

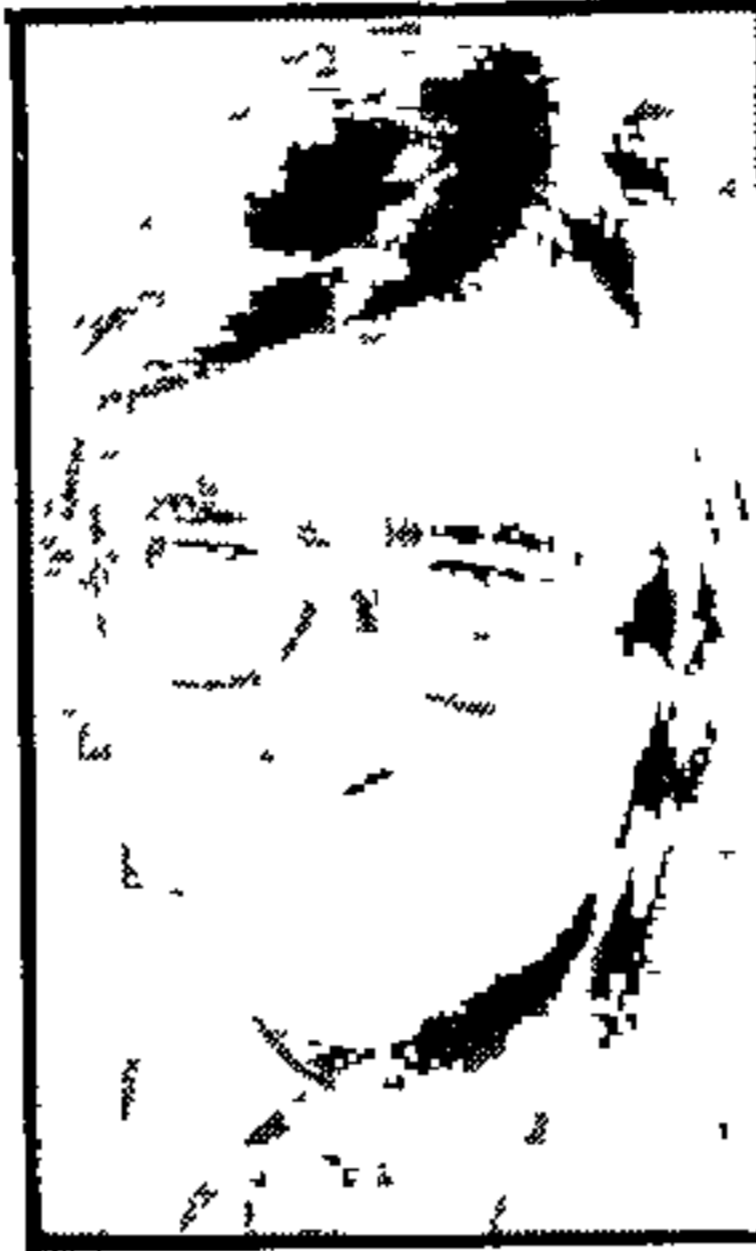
The system worked and the project has the leading companies from the European and SA construction industries, he says

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority acting deputy CE Bob Witherell is happy about the way the contracts went

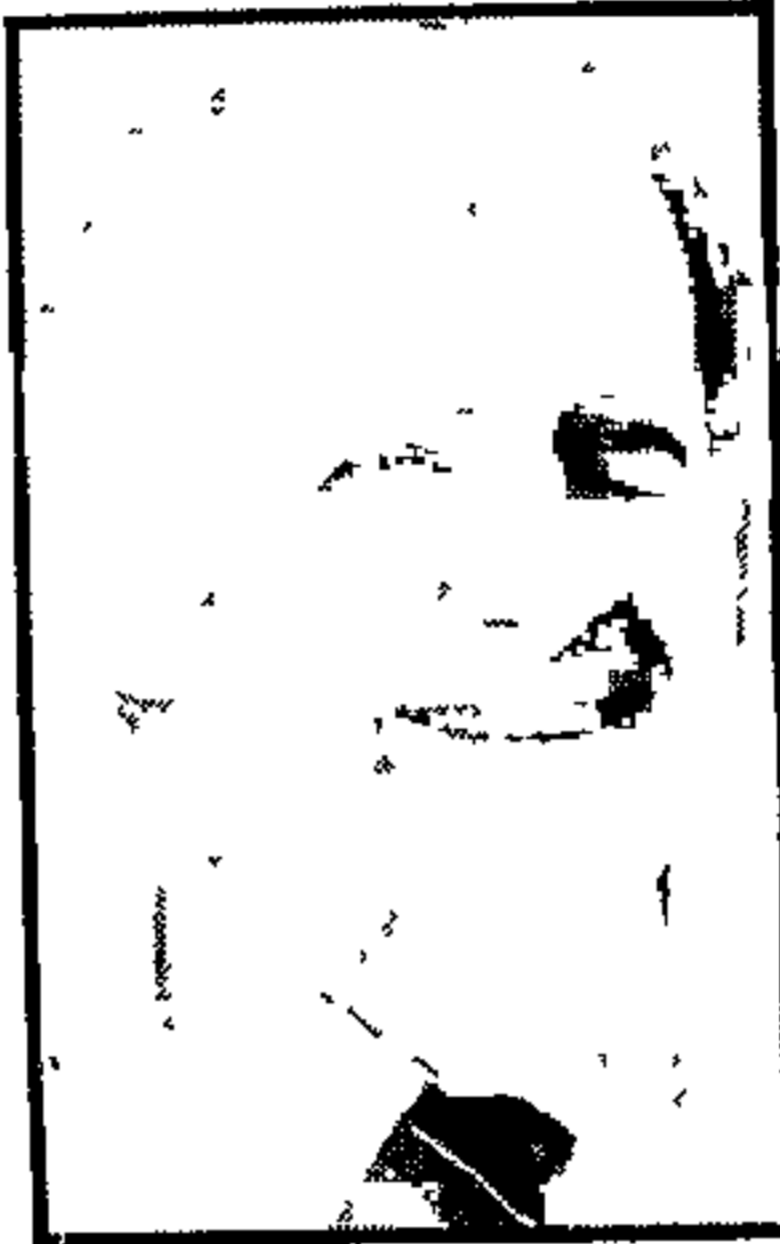
"One thing we have proved by the award of the contracts for phase 1A is that the tender system adopted is resistant to influence"

He says many contractors thought they could bring pressure or influence to bear and win the contracts

Some foreign contractors tried to apply political pressure. A few small Lesotho companies thought they could get a slice of the major works (though they will be awarded some infrastructure work) and some SA companies thought they would naturally be awarded the work



THEO VAN ROBBROECK



PETER CLOGG

The contracts were won by joint ventures made up of SA and European firms

Witherell says the most difficult part in deciding on the most acceptable tender was assessing the financial package offered

In the end, the joint venture with the lowest construction price also had the best finance

Some contractors were concerned that this method would result in someone who was not qualified coming in with the lowest bid

Witherell says "Their fears were groundless. It turned out we were correct to choose this approach as there was a lot of shuffling around of partners in the joint ventures at the last minute due to financing difficulties"

Group Five executive chairman Peter Clogg, whose company is part of the joint venture which won the Katse Dam contract, says "The Italian company, Impregilo, is the lead company

"Impregilo, UK based Stirling and ourselves formed a partnership for the project when we were approached by another group made up of French company Bouygues, SA's Concor, Hochtief and British company Kier, to form a larger consortium

"This formed the final line-up"

LESOTHO has over the years reaped rich economic benefits from its domination by South Africa, but the imminent demise of apartheid will not only put this relationship at risk, it could threaten the future of the tiny kingdom as a viable independent state.

This is the view of Dr Greg Mills, of the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Western Cape in Bellville. Political developments, he says, have once again raised the old debate over incorporation of Lesotho into South Africa.

Writing in the latest issue of the Africa Institute Bulletin, Dr

# End of apartheid threatens Lesotho's

Star 20/4/91.

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Mills says changes within South Africa hold enormous implications for its neighbours, most of all for Lesotho.

South Africa handles almost all of Lesotho's imports and exports, supplies its electricity and all its oil requirements are routed through refineries in Durban.

And most importantly, many Basotho are employed in South Africa, bringing much-needed revenue for the country. The

dismantling of apartheid could therefore threaten this economic integration.

Also because of apartheid, Lesotho receives much international sympathy and development aid, amounting to over 15 percent of its GNP. Dr Mills says although there is a strong pride in the existence of Lesotho as an independent nation, the argument for incorporation is based on economic rather than emotional considerations.

Dr Mills says "Although South African dominance has in the past been seen as 'white dominance' and thus militated against incorporation, in a post-apartheid context such dependence could be viewed not only as inevitable but necessary to ensure survival in Lesotho."

Dr Mills says those on the Left believe that Lesotho has a "right" to incorporation, that given Lesotho's contribution to the creation of the wealth of

South Africa, it is unacceptable that it should now be excluded from the "gains" of black majority rule.

He says the role of the South African National Union of Mine workers could be crucial. The union believes "every worker in South Africa is a South African

The NUM's clout within Cosatu, Dr Mills says, has forced the ANC's acquiescence in this regard. This will in effect make

## BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI

The kingdom's three sources of income — international aid, migrant labour remittances and a share of the common earnings of the Southern African Customs Union — are all likely to diminish in the post-apartheid period.

Without apartheid, Lesotho retains its geographical and economic reality but loses the means of ensuring its exist-

## existence

every Basotho worker a South African citizen, thereby removing a key source of income through miners' remittances.

At the same time, many Basotho professionals could be attracted by better working conditions in a non-racial South Africa. A new South Africa is also likely to shift priority in the allocation of jobs to its own citizens, and address the massive unemployment problem especially in the homelands.

All these factors will help to make incorporation or some form of federal arrangement an attractive proposition.

But Dr Mills says the mandate to negotiate Lesotho's economic and political future does not lie with the current military regime of Major-General Justin Lekhanya — whom he suggests is not as secure in his position as it would seem — as any agreement entered into by Lekhanya would not be regarded as binding by many Basotho.

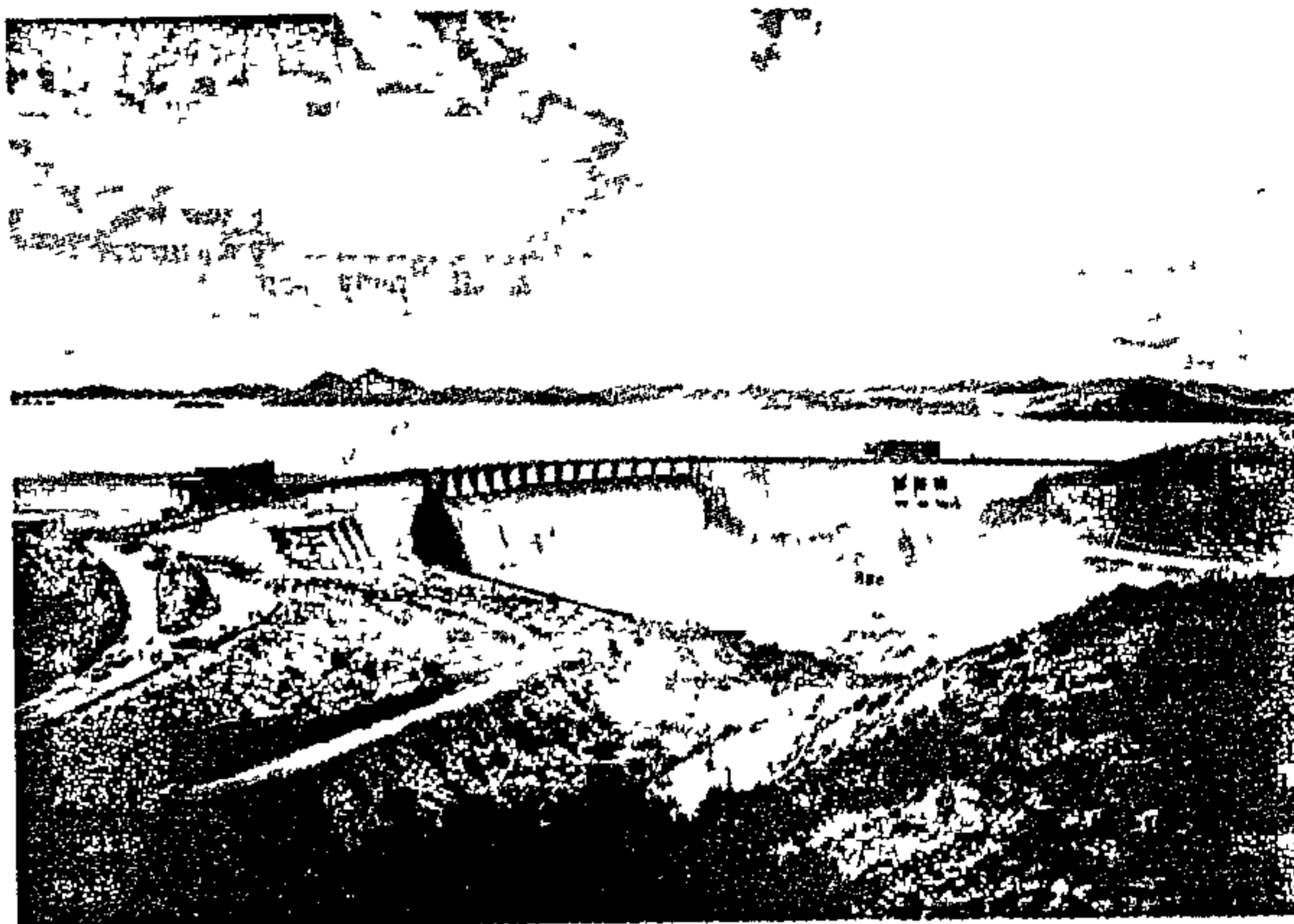
"For this to occur, like the new South Africa, Lesotho would require a truly democratic system of government."



# Business Day SURVEY

*Ninham Shand started his civil consulting engineering practice in 1932 when the ravages of the Depression were still being felt. His Oxbow Project proposals are part of engineering history and the basic concept is embodied in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. MARC*

*HASSENFUSS reports.*



HF Verwoerd Dam

## Experience led to Lesotho scheme job

BIDAY 26/4/91

NINHAM Shand's involvement, spanning three decades, in water research in Lesotho made the group an obvious choice to undertake the feasibility study of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)

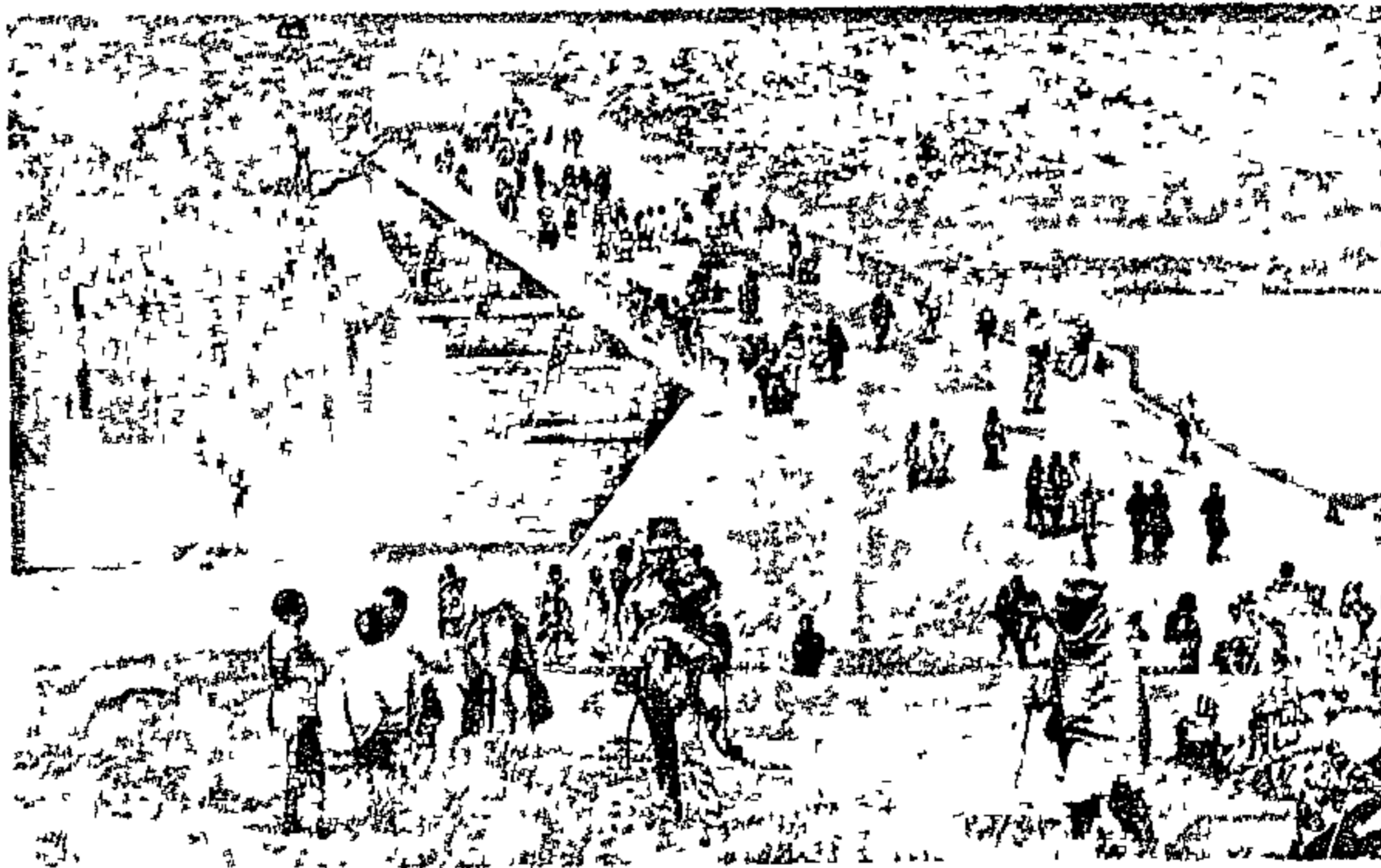
Early in 1983, Ninham Shand, in consortium with Henry Olivier Associates, was appointed by the SA Government to tackle the project with an overseas consortium appointed by the Lesotho Government

Favourable (167)

The study, completed in December 1983, aimed at identifying the most favourable scheme for moving water from Lesotho to the Vaal Basin and for generating electricity in Lesotho

The study also provided for an estimate of funds needed to implement the scheme and a timetable for phased development to meet forecast growth in water demand

When the treaty for the construction of the LHWP was signed between SA and Lesotho in October 1986, Ninham Shand was ap-



Katse bridge in Lesotho

pointed a leading member of the three consortia, where the SA Government provided part of the finance for the design

Ninham Shand is involved in almost every facet of the project including the "water transfer" package comprising the 180m high Katse Dam behind the Maluti mountain range and the 48km-long transfer tunnel under the mountains to the hydro electric station

The design work and supervision of construction was entrusted to a consortium known as Lesotho Highlands Consultants, comprising an SA group (Ninham Shand, Keeve Steyn and Watermeyer Legge Piesold & Uhlman, supported by three other firms) and an overseas group (Sogreah, Coyne & Bellier and Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners)

The design of the 35km

delivery tunnel was carried out by Highlands Delivery Tunnel Consultants (HDTC), a consortium comprising Ninham Shand, Van Niekerk, Kleyn and Edwards, Steffen Robertson & Kirsten and Keeve Steyn

The tunnel is designed to take water from the outlet of the hydro electric station in Lesotho, across the Caledon River to the outfall on the Ash River near Clarence

For supervision of the construction, the engineering work has been divided into two — delivery tunnel south, in Lesotho, and delivery tunnel north, in SA

Responsibility for the first part rests with a two-group consortium, Lesotho Highlands Tunnel Partnership, made up of HDTC and the Lahmeyer Mott MacDonald group from Europe while the section in SA is being supervised by HDTC

### Design

Highlands Infrastructure Consultants (HIC), comprising Ninham Shand, Van Wyk & Louw and Brunette Kruger & Stoffberg, sees to the design of about 300km of access roads into the mountainous terrain and includes the initial parts of the contractors' camps

Construction supervision is divided among several groups with the final 45km of the northern access road being the responsibility of HIC

Water from the LHWP is scheduled to start flowing to the Vaal Dam in November 1996



Star 29/4/91

# Lekhanya award criticised

By David Braun  
Star Bureau

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WASHINGTON — An American university college has become embroiled in a controversy over plans to confer an honorary doctorate on Major-General Justin Lekhanya, military ruler of Lesotho

Copping State College, a traditionally black institution in Baltimore, Maryland, plans to present General Lekhanya with the degree next month.

Local newspapers,

however, are criticising its decision to honour a man they say came to power in a coup engineered by South Africa

College officials said they selected the general for an honorary degree because of his recently announced plans for democratic reforms

The college admits it based its decision on the recommendation of a tourism and development company

It wanted to honour an African leader to help launch its international studies programme.

# Row over plan to honour Lekhanya

Sowetan 30/4/91.

167

WASHINGTON- An American university college has become embroiled in a controversy over plans to confer an honorary doctorate to Major

General Justin Lekhanya, military ruler of Lesotho.

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ent General Lekhanya with the degree next month

Local newspapers, however, are criticising its decision to honour a man they say came to

power in a coup engineered by the South African Government

They have also raked up the 1988 incident in which the General fatally shot a Lesotho college student. The General claimed he killed the student to prevent a rape.

Attorneys for the dead man's family said he was killed in a love triangle.

A Lesotho court declared the killing justifiable homicide.

## Unaware

Officials at Coppin State College said they were not aware of the controversies about Lekhanya.

They had selected him for an honorary degree because of his recently announced plans for dem-



Gen LEKHANYA

ocratic reforms in Lesotho.

The college admits it did no research into Lekhanya, but based its decision upon the recommendation of a Washington-based tourism and development company.

The college wanted to find an African leader to honour as a way of spurring its newly launched international studies programme. - Sowetan Correspondent

# Nujoma won't visit Lesotho

Sowetan Africa News Service

THE Lesotho government has been left completely in the dark by the sudden cancellation of a state visit by Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said from Maseru his government had received a message from Namibia that Nujoma "was no longer coming". No reasons for the cancellation were given, he said.

"The government of Lesotho had made all the necessary arrangements to receive Nujoma," the spokesman said.

Nujoma's non-appearance in Maseru is a second slap in the face to be suffered by the military government within a month. Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, cancelled his visit to Lesotho at the last minute last month following mounting pressure from opposition groups sympathetic to his organisation in the kingdom.

These groups want the government of Major-General Metsing Lekhanya to be isolated. Visits to Lesotho by people like Mandela and Nujoma, they argue, accord the military government credibility it does not deserve.



# Overthrow hardly surprising

Star 11/5/79

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**THE DEMISE** of Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, Lesotho's military strongman, did not surprise knowledgeable Basotho

His critics had been warning that his star was on the wane because of his inability to resolve the problems mounting at his door. The same problems will, however, be inherited by his successor.

Last year General Lekhanya shrugged off a challenge from King Moshoeshoe II, dethrone him and replacing him with the heir-apparent, Seiso II. The men who had seemed to be his chief rivals in the ruling Military Council, the royalist Letsie brothers, were arrested after a failed coup attempt.

This should have left the general in an unassailable position. But his critics said he was blundering in the face of mounting problems, and that invitations to important humnaries — which were spectacularly unsuccessful — were an attempt

The problems that led to the downfall of Lesotho's military leader, General Metsing Lekhanya, will be inherited by his successor, writes **BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI** of the Star Africa Service.

to shore up his waning credibility at home.

The sudden cancellation by Namibian President Sam Nujoma of a state visit to the kingdom this week followed the cancellation of a visit by Nelson Mandela that had taken months of painstaking effort to put together.

Credit for the cancellation of both visits was claimed by a coalition of opposition groups, revolving around students and academics at the University of Lesotho at Roma, who were campaigning for the isolation of General Lekhanya's government.

The government had invested much in that visit, and Mr Mandela's initial acceptance

had been seen as a triumph by the military government over whom are sympathetic to the ANC. The cancellation was thus a doubly severe blow for General Lekhanya.

After crushing the coup attempt last year, General Lekhanya announced he would turn the country over to civilian rule by June next year. He also announced the formation of a constituent assembly.

Opposition groups were not convinced General Lekhanya had any wish to meet his own deadline. They believed that the June 1992 deadline was something he "blurted out" in order to satisfy the clamour, especially by diplomats and the huge donor community in Lesotho,

for a return to democratic rule. They complained that no preliminary steps for the holding of a general election had been taken. No voters roll had been compiled and there had been no delimitation of constituencies.

"Lekhanya is facing mounting problems and he doesn't know which way to turn," a prominent academic said last week. "South Africa (which has been seen by many Basotho as General Lekhanya's mentor) has other things on its plate, and a new image to preserve."

Another academic claimed SA had tried General Lekhanya it would not intervene in the event of another attempt to unseat him and "this has created a lot of excitement among young officers."

While these problems were laid primarily at General Lekhanya's door, they will shift to the door of his successor. Whatever the reasons for his removal were, it has not resolved them. □

# SA troops deployed on Lesotho border

Political Staff

Star  
11/5/91

South African troops have been deployed on the Lesotho border since the coup yesterday which deposed strongman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said the troops were being deployed "purely as a precautionary measure to counter any security threat"

He expressed concern that the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme could be jeopardised.

At this stage it is not possible to say how the coup will affect relations between Lesotho and Pretoria

The Star Africa Service reports from Maseru that confusion still surrounded the coup late yesterday.

During the morning General Lekhanya was escorted by soldiers to the national radio station and forced to announce his resignation

But it was being widely speculated last night that his successor — at least in the short term — would be another general and member of the ruling military council, Phitsoane Ramaema

Sources say the coup was probably prompted by last month's budget, which gave considerable increases to military councillors but

little to officers and other ranks in the army

General Lekhanya came to power in 1986 when former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan was overthrown by the military

General Lekhanya in February last year won a showdown with two members of the Military Council, Colonel Thaabe Letsie and Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, who were related to and strong supporters of King Moshoeshoe.

They were believed to have tried to oust the general, and were removed from the council

● Overthrow hardly surprising — Page 9

# Ex-policeman is Lesotho's new ruler

FORMER policeman Col Elias Ramaema, 57, was sworn in as Lesotho's new ruler yesterday following Tuesday's bloodless coup in which Maj-Gen Justin Metsing Lekhanya was deposed

A spokesman for Lesotho's Information Department said the situation had returned to normal. She denied reports that Lekhanya had been arrested, and said he was "going about his private business"

Ramaema, sworn in as chairman of the military council yesterday afternoon, was expected to issue a statement "very soon"

The spokesman would not comment on any possible new policy details, but said she did not think the future of the Highlands Water Project would be affected

DARIUS SANAI

Sapa reports that after working as a miner on the President Steyn Gold Mine near Welkom, Ramaema joined the Lesotho Police Force. He rose through the ranks and in 1986 became a member of the Military Council. Since then he has held the portfolios of foreign affairs, employment, social welfare, works, transport and information, and broadcasting

The spokesman said two government ministers who reportedly fled Lesotho could return without fear of arrest. Foreign Affairs Minister Thomas Thabane and Finance Minister Evaristus Sekhonyaya were reported to be in SA yesterday

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SIDNEY 2/5/91



Cape Times 2/5/91 167

# Lesotho's new leader

## 'All quiet' after coup

Own Correspondent

MASERU — Former policeman Colonel Elias Ramaema, 57, was sworn in as Lesotho's new ruler yesterday following Tuesday's bloodless coup in which Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya was deposed

A spokeswoman for Lesotho's Information Department said the situation in the country had returned to normal. She denied reports that General Lekhanya had been arrested.

The spokeswoman said the general was "going about his private business".

"The atmosphere here is quite calm, and things are going on as normal," she said.

Colonel Ramaema, sworn in as chairman of the military council yesterday afternoon, was expected to issue a statement "very soon", she said.

She would not comment on any possible new policy details, but said she did not think the future of the Highlands Water Project would be affected.

Sapa reports that after working as a miner on the President Steyn gold mine near Welkom, Colonel Ramaema joined the Lesotho Police Force. He rose through the ranks and in 1986 became a member of the Military Council.

Since then he has held the portfolios of foreign affairs, employment, social wel-

fare, works, transport and information and broadcasting.

South Africa on Tuesday deployed troops near the Lesotho border as a "precautionary measure" to prevent any possible security threat.

The spokesman said two ministers who reportedly fled to South Africa could return without fear of arrest.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said on Tuesday it was not yet possible to say how events would affect relations between Lesotho and South Africa.

According to a source in Maseru, the crisis began on Monday when a large segment of the armed forces began a general strike for higher wages. It culminated the next day with the general making an announcement in a trembling voice over Radio Lesotho.

# Lekhanya's fall no surprise to Basotho

M618  
2/15/91  
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BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI of the Argus Africa  
News Service reports from Maseru

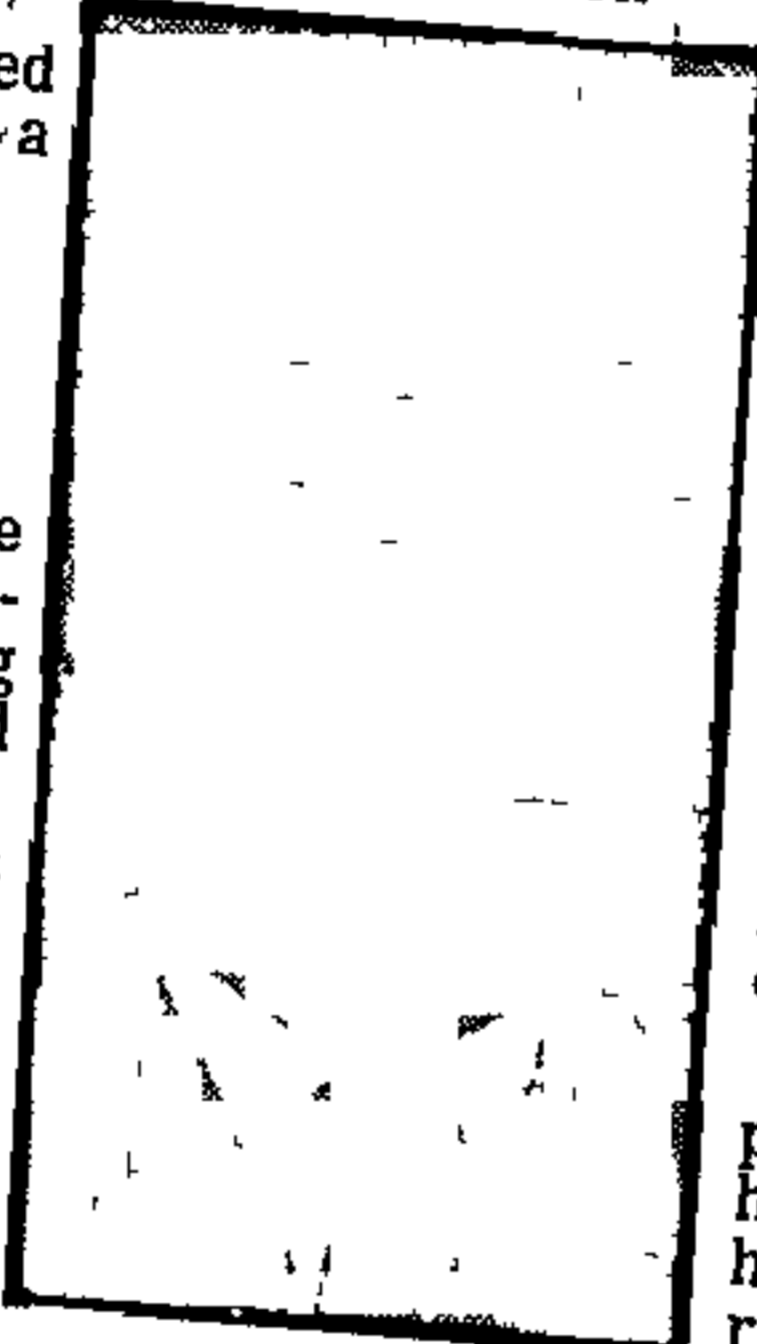
THE demise of Major General Metsing Lekhanya, Lesotho's military strongman, did not surprise knowledgeable Basotho

His critics had been warning that his

## ANALYSIS

star was on the wane because of his inability to resolve the problems mounting at his door. The same problems will, however, be inherited by his successor.

Last year General Lekhanya shrugged off a challenge from King Moshoeshe II, de-throning him and replacing him with the heir-apparent, Seeiso II. The men who had



seemed to be his chief rivals in the ruling Military Council, the royalist Letsie brothers, were arrested after a failed coup attempt

This should have left the general in an unassailable position. But his critics said he was blundering in the face of mounting problems, and that invitations to important luminaries — which were spectacularly unsuccessful — were an attempt to shore up his waning credibility at home

The sudden cancellation by Namibian president Mr Sam Nujoma of a state visit to the kingdom this week followed the cancellation of a visit by Mr Nelson Mandela that had taken months of painstaking effort to put together.

Credit for the cancellation of both visits was claimed by a coalition of opposition groups, revolving around students and academics at the University of Lesotho at Roma, who were campaigning for the isolation of Mr Lekhanya's government.

ment over opposition groups, most of whom are sympathetic to the ANC. The cancellation was thus a doubly severe blow for General Lekhanya

After crushing the coup attempt last year, General Lekhanya announced he would turn the country over to civilian rule by June next year. He also announced the formation of a constituent assembly

However, with the exception of a few who are said to have been elected by development councils, all the members of this assembly were appointed by the military government

Opposition groups were not convinced General Lekhanya had any wish to meet his own deadline. They believed that the June 1992 deadline was something he "blurted out" in order to satisfy the clamour, especially by diplomats and the huge donor community in Lesotho, for a return to democratic rule.

They complained that no preliminary steps for the holding of a general election had been taken. No voters roll had been compiled and there had been no delimitation of constituencies

General Lekhanya's troubles had multiplied as the low gold price sent home thousands of redundant Basotho mineworkers who have no hope of finding alternative employment in Lesotho. Last year Lesotho received R950-million from miners' remittances, more than half the country's GNP

"Without that money, the government would have serious problems," says Neil Rae, manager of Teba in Maseru

At a conference in Maseru last week academics condemned the government for lacking any strategy to deal with the problems of the returning miners

Teachers last year went on strike for higher salaries and are said to be still dissatisfied with what they got and threatening to strike again

"Lekhanya is facing mounting problems and he doesn't know which way to turn," a prominent academic said last week. "South Africa (which

has been seen by many Basotho as Lekhanya's mentor) has other things on its plate, and a new image to preserve"

The government had invested a lot in that visit and Mr Mandela's initial acceptance had been seen as a triumph by the military government



# Ousted military ruler speaks

Soweto 2/5/91



LEKHANYA: "Coup plotters were confused."

**DEPOSED** Lesotho military strongman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya says he hopes the putsch that toppled him on Tuesday morning will not stall democratic reforms in the tiny mountain kingdom.

In an interview at his government house in Maseru yesterday, Lekhanya denied he had been placed under house arrest.

He said he was instead preparing to leave the mansion by May 14 for his smallholding outside the city

## Objectives

Asked about his feelings on the coup and what its objectives would be, Lekhanya said. "Well, I hope the coup was not done (*sic*) to deviate from the belief of the army to democratise the country.

"I hope it will be for the good of all the people of our country."

He said he did not

think the bloodless coup would change the country's policies

"The sergeants and warrant officers who forced me to resign did not seem to know what they wanted besides salary increases

"With the coming to power of Colonel Elias Ramaeme, things will not change, especially projects such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme as the new head of government was my righthand man.

## Control

"He was only asked to take control after I was deposed. He was not even involved in the coup," said Lekhanya.

He also denied he had been cast into a maximum security prison, along with common criminals

Tracing the background leading to his overthrow, the general, who himself came to power in a coup in 1986, said he had been aware of complaints in certain sec-

tions of the army for some time.

"On Monday, I was with some soldiers and their major complaint was that the salary increases were not enough

"On Tuesday, a group of sergeants, led by one Sergeant Qothelo - I don't know his first name - came to my government residence

"They said they had been complaining and I was not satisfying their complaints," Lekhanya said

He said he was then ordered to accompany them to the Radio Lesotho broadcasting centre where he was forced to make a statement on his resignation.

## Escorted

"After an hour there, I was then escorted back to the Royal Lesotho Defence headquarters. I stayed there for about another hour

"There were senior officers and representatives of that group.

"They said now that I had not promised them anything the previous day and I had announced my resignation to the country, I was free and could go

"I was not taken to prison at all. Instead, I came back to my government residence and began packing.

## Confused

"I have been ordered to vacate these premises by May 14 at the latest," he said.

Lekhanya said the coup plotters were confused.

"I have been with Colonel Ramaeme for a long time. He wasn't involved.

"When I heard the plotters speaking, I got the impression that they had no plans as to who should be in charge.

"They only spoke to him after I was deposed."

He did not think the exiled King Moshoeshoe II was the brains behind the putsch

"I am not aware of his involvement, but I know he will be happy," added the general - *Sapa*



CARE T14/15

May 2, 1984

7/167

## Coup will not stall reforms, says ex-leader

JOHANNESBURG — Deposed Lesotho military strongman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya said yesterday he hoped the putsch that toppled him on Tuesday would not stall democratic reforms in the mountain kingdom.

The general also denied he had been placed under arrest. Instead, he was preparing to leave his government house by May 14 for his smallholding outside Maseru.

"The warrant officers who forced me to resign did not seem to know what they wanted besides salary increases. With the coming to power of Colonel Elias Ramaema, things will not change — especially projects such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme," General Lekhanya said.

"The new head of government was my right-hand man. He only asked to take control after I was deposed. He was not even in on the coup."

The general, who himself came to power in a coup in 1986, said the coup plotters were confused.

"I got the impression that they had no plans as to who should be in charge," he said.

He also did not think the exiled King Moshoe-shoe II was the brains behind the putsch.

# Ousted general denies being arrested

Deposed Lesotho military strongman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, yesterday said he hoped the putsch that toppled him on Tuesday would not stall democratic reforms in the tiny mountain kingdom

In an interview from his government house in Maseru West — where he was packing his belongings — the general also denied he had been placed under arrest. Instead, he was preparing to leave the mansion by May 14 en route to his farm outside Maseru

Asked about his feelings on the coup, he said "Well, I hope the coup was not done to deviate from the belief of the army to democratise the country. I hope it will be for the good of all the people of our country"

He said he did not think the bloodless coup would change the country's policies

"The sergeants and warrant officers who forced me to resign yesterday morning did not seem to know what they wanted besides salary increases

"With the coming to power of

MASERU — Colonel Elias Phisoana Ramaema (57) was sworn in as new chairman of Lesotho's Military Council yesterday afternoon

Police said in a statement that two former Cabinet Ministers had fled the country in the wake of the putsch. They did not identify the Ministers but said they could return home without fear

Colonel Elias Ramaema, things will not change — especially projects such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme — as the new head of government was my right-hand man. He only asked to take control after I was deposed. He was not even in on the coup," said the general

He denied he had been cast into a maximum security prison with common criminals

Tracing the background leading to his overthrow, General Lekhanya, who came to power in a coup in 1986, said he had been aware of complaints in

From humble beginnings as a miner at the President Steyn mine in Welkom, Colonel Ramaema went on to join the Lesotho police force. He rose through the ranks and in 1986 became a member of the Military Council

He has held the portfolios of foreign affairs, employment, social welfare, works, transport, and information and broadcasting — Sapa

Certain sections of the army

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"I have been with Colonel Ramaema for a long time. He wasn't involved. When I heard the plotters speaking, I got the impression they had no plans as to who should be in charge. They only spoke to Colonel Ramaema after I was deposed."

All was quiet in Lesotho yesterday and people went about their business as usual

Opposition groups believe the latest developments have taken the country closer to democratic rule — Sapa

# Lekhanya: From ironman to farmer

The ousting of Lesotho strongman Justin Lekhanya was surrounded by bizarre events, reports **EDDIE KOCH**  
Wimail 3/5-9/5/91.

**M**AJOR General Justin Lekhanya, Lesotho's military ruler until this week, has retired to a village outside Maseru where he plans to become a full-time farmer of cattle and sheep

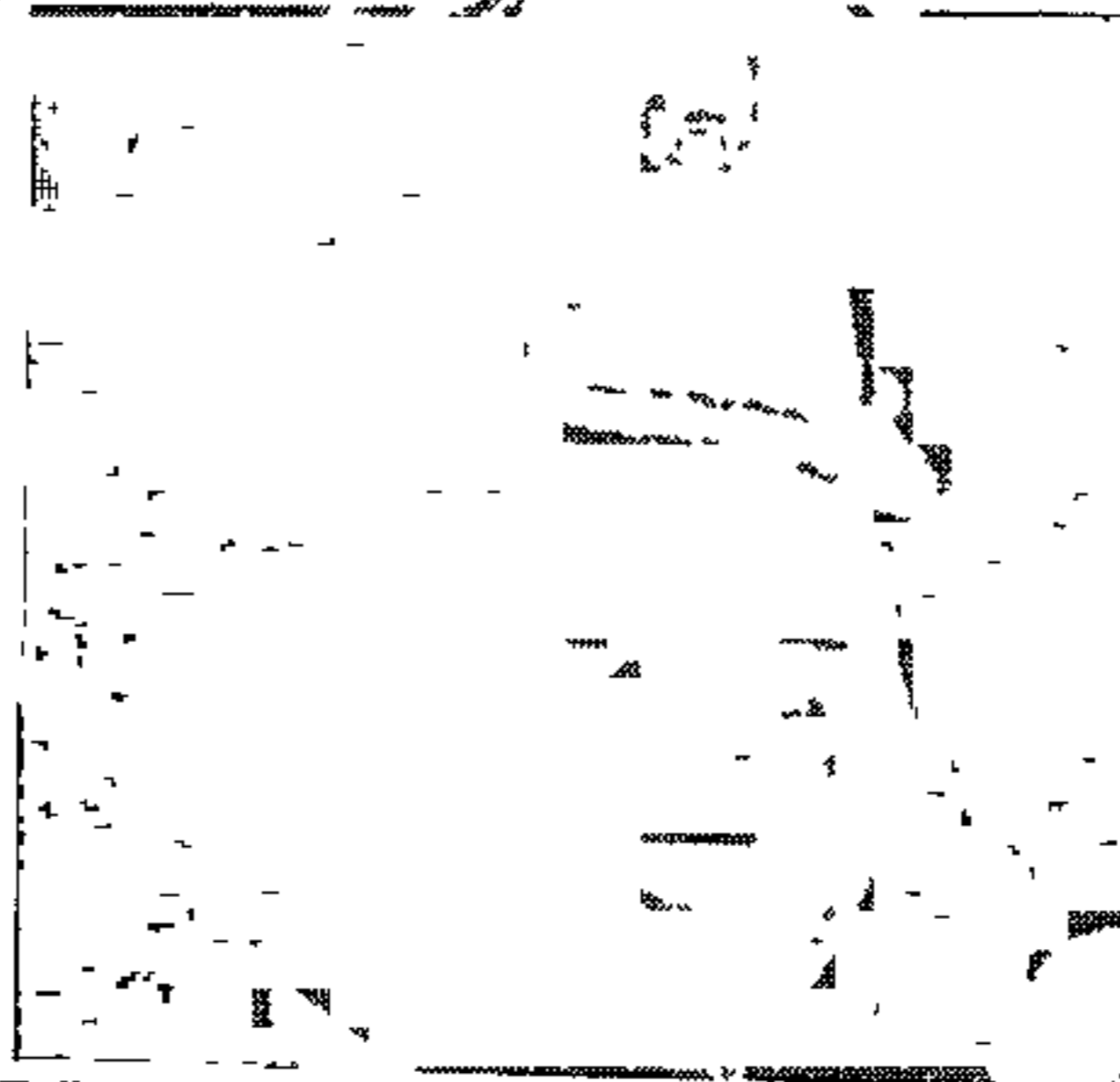
The general's abrupt change in career is a result of one of the strangest coups seen in the mountain kingdom where politics has been punctuated by repression, military rebellion and counter coups

First the army went on a wage strike last week. Then two battalions surrounded Lekhanya's home in Maseru on Tuesday morning and hauled him off to the radio station. Two hours later the man once feared as the ironman of Lesotho announced his resignation in a wavering voice.

On Wednesday the general was allowed to go home, where he granted interviews to journalists while packing his belongings and told them he was planning to retire to his smallholding and farm cattle and sheep.

The same day Colonel Elias Phisoana Ramaema, a former miner from the President Steyn mine, was sworn in as head of state.

Lekhanya was probably right when he told reporters the bloodless coup would not change much in Lesotho. "The sergeants and warrant officers who forced me to resign did not seem to



**Fallen ruler .. Major General Justin Lekhanya** know what they wanted besides salary increases. With the coming to power of Colonel Ramaema things will not change. The new head of government was my right hand man."

Among the bizarre events that surrounded the general's fall was the recent decision by an American university to grant Lekhanya an honorary doctorate because of his record on human rights.

Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, who came to power by means of a putsch himself, was overthrown by Lekhanya after Pretoria blockaded Lesotho and demanded that it expel exiled members of the African National Congress.

When Lekhanya seized power in 1986 he

ousted the ANC and the economic blockade was lifted.

Lekhanya's coup was initially greeted with much enthusiasm by the people of Lesotho who were not exactly enamoured with the repressive practises of his predecessor, Leabua Jonathan.

But the general rapidly lost popularity because of his close ties with South Africa, which is reputed to have trained many of the officers in the Lesotho police and paramilitary forces, and his fierce repression of political opposition.

Lekhanya's support among rural peasants also waned after he ousted King Moshoeshoe II and sent the monarch, who had objected to his style of military rule, into exile in England.

"Basically the civil servants and the army officers were fed up with Lekhanya because they had been offered wage increases of as much as 60 percent in some cases and ended up getting as little as five percent this year," local journalist Lawrence Keketso told *The Weekly Mail*.

Little is known about the country's new ruler and it is not yet clear if he will continue with moves to restore civilian rule.

Colonel Lesole Jane, leader of the National Constituent Assembly, told reporters, however, that the new rulers would continue the policies of the old government.

Ramaema rose through the police ranks and in 1986 became a member of the Military Council.

Since then he has held the portfolios of foreign affairs, employment, social welfare, works, transport and information and broadcasting.



DAWN BARKHUIZEN, IN MASERU, REPORTS ON AN EVENT THAT CAUSED MORE EXCITEMENT IN LADY

# THE QUEEN

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**TWO blinks and you would have missed this week's bloodless "coup" in Lesotho.**

In fact, so smoothly was Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya ousted as head of the ruling Military Council, that nobody paid much attention — other than the media and the SADF.

Soon after the "coup", news flashes informed the world that the macho military strongman was behind bars in a maximum security prison.

The next day, I strolled into his official residence in Maseru and found him casually (and freely) packing his belongings, pistol strapped to the belt of his blue jeans, with the promise of a full military pension in his pocket.

He was unconcerned, he said. Certainly his heart had been broken by "the small, elite group" of men who turned on him.

But they had, after all, given him two weeks to move out of the official residence and on to his sprawling dairy farm, and they were letting him keep his old bodyguards.

It was "not really a surprise", explained the benign officer, when the Lesotho Royal Defence Force's Special Service Unit surrounded his house on Tuesday morning, marched him to the local radio station, waved a scrap of paper under his

nose and ordered him to inform the nation of his resignation.

He had word that trouble was in the offing three days before and passed the message on to his embattled allies, controversial cabinet ministers Tom Thabane (Foreign Affairs) and Evaristus Sekhonya (Finance).

The two are now believed to have fled to South Africa, leaving rumours of corruption and drug deals in their wake. Twenty-four hours before being stripped of power, the general said he had earlier met a group of soldiers to discuss their discontent over a 22 percent pay rise

## Blood

"I tried to explain that we were facing heavy expenditure, with thousands of unemployed miners coming home and increasing hunger in our country."

"They didn't seem to understand," said Maj-Gen Lekhanya. The next morning, their lack of understanding became even more apparent.

"I did not resist because I did not want blood spilt," he said.

None was

In downtown Maseru, civil servants paid scant attention to the removal of their leader. Like everyone else in Lesotho

Sit times 5/5/91  
that day, they went about their business as usual.

Public reaction may best be described as vague bemusement.

The most visible reaction came from the SADF which roared into the Free State border town of Ladybrand.

If truth be told, the presence of hundreds of South African soldiers massing across the border caused the Basothos far more angst than events within.

For at least 24 hours after the major-general swept along the main street in a military cavalcade on his way to resign, nobody had a clear idea of what had happened or, more pertinently, what was going to happen.

"Misty" was how opposition Basutoland Congress Party chief Ntsu Mokhehle described events. Not even Military Councilor Colonel Jacob Jane was able to tell those in Lesotho's Constituent Assembly what had happened, sighed Mr Mokhehle.

Lekhanya's refusal to get rid of the two fugitive cabinet ministers in the face of mounting pressure was one of the factors which had precipitated the revolt, he suggested.

Dr Mafa Sejanemane, political commentator and National University of Lesotho Academic Staff Association chairman, thought it more likely that a dispute

**DEPOSED HEAD ... Lesotho's former leader Maj-Gen Lekhanya relaxes with a cup of tea after the bloodless coup**

Picture: SUE KRAMER

QUESTION 2 (16 marks)

A friend of yours has recently opened a business. Not being conversant with accounting, she has decided to take a short course in accounting. In discussing the course with you, she makes the following comments:

- (a) "A business is insolvent when there are insufficient funds in the bank to pay trade creditors."
- (b) "All businesses must maintain a current ratio of 2:1 and an acidtest ratio of 1:1."
- (c) "Efficiency ratios indicate how profitable a business is."
- (d) "If a business's bank overdraft has varied between R50 000 and R90 000 over the past four years, it is misleading to include R50 000 as part of current liabilities when calculating the liquidity ratios."

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO:

critically discuss each of her comments.

Mark allocated BRAND THAN IN LESOTHO

- (a) 4
  - (b) 4
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 4
- # COUP

in military ranks over the April pay increase had spurred the soldiers to action.

In his view, the coup was "relatively insignificant, but nevertheless positive"

"It has revealed deep divisions within the military Coupled to that is the fact that the new leaders are not strong men like the major-general They have been caught in the momentum taking Lesotho towards democracy and will not be able to hang on to power indefinitely."

Even after being sworn in as the country's new leader, Colonel Elias Ramaema was unable to clarify the situation.

After agreeing to an interview in his new office, the colonel's aides twice postponed the appointment, then asked for a list of questions to be submitted for his perusal

### Salary

Shortly afterwards, the new leader was seen hot-footing it from Government House in his new official car.

Among the questions posed were

● Was it true that Colonel Ramaema was a reluctant successor who had agreed to his appointment only hours before being sworn in?

● Was it true that the deposed Maj-Gen Lekhanya had sat in on urgent discussions to choose his successor?



IN . . . Colonel Elias Ramaema takes the oath during a ceremony in Maseru

● Was it true the coup occurred in the wake of a newspaper article on Maj-Gen Lekhanya's increased salary package of more than R10 000 a month, compared with the R500 for rank and file soldiers?

The colonel's only public statement to his people came in the evening of his first day in office, when he spoke on government-controlled Radio Lesotho.

He was presumably not surrounded by gun-toting soldiers as he reaffirmed his predecessor's commitment to establishing a democracy by 1992

It then became clear that while the "coup" had achieved a change in personality, little amendment to policy was likely



# Lesotho remains on course

Star 7/5/91

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**T**HERE will be no change in Lesotho's foreign policy, including its relations with South Africa, and the country will honour all agreements signed by the former administration of deposed Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya

This undertaking has been given by Colonel Elias Phisoana Ramaema, who replaced General Lekhanya after last week's bloodless putsch

In an interview with The Star Africa Service, Colonel Ramaema also committed his administration to sending the soldiers back to the barracks and turning the country over to civilian rule by June next year. The former mineworker and father of three gave an indication that he would follow General Lekhanya's agenda to the letter

At the headquarters of the Military Council in Maseru, Colonel Ramaema gave the assurance that his administration would abide by agreements with Pretoria on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and the International Monetary Fund's enhanced structural adjustment programme

This programme was partly to blame for General Lekhanya's downfall as it commits the government to a reduction in public spending, and hence the refusal by the government to accede to demands for more pay from junior officers.

Colonel Ramaema said the Highlands water scheme should go ahead because much of the kingdom's funds and loans from other countries had been invested in the project

"It is our intention to let the Highlands water scheme run as originally planned. We want to go through phase one," he said. "Then all the parties concerned will negotiate the second

Lesotho's new leader, Colonel Elias Ramaema, says agreements made by the previous administration will be honoured. **BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI** of The Star Africa Service reports.



New head of Military Council . Colonel Elias Ramaema, appointed to succeed ousted leader General Justin Lekhanya, is sworn in by Chief Justice Peter Cullinan

phase"

On foreign policy, he said "We will maintain good relations with all our neighbours, including South Africa"

The democratisation process would go ahead, he added "This new government is committed to returning to democratic civilian rule in 1992. There's no turning back. The army is prepared and ready to hand over power to the nation"

Colonel Ramaema also committed his administration to repealing an order by the military which had banned party-political activity in the country.

He said all the necessary arrangements, including updating the voters roll and the delimitation of constituencies, would be carried out as soon as possible for elections next year

But on more pay for the

armed forces, an issue which may prove his undoing, Colonel Ramaema was non-committal.

"I'm not in a position to offer the soldiers more money," he said "But what we will do is explain to them. We can't interrupt the budget. We will take their complaints, sit down and see what can be done

"I can't give a clear answer as to when the matter will be solved. That will depend upon the economy"

Colonel Ramaema, a reticent fatherly figure who looks a little older than his 57 years, said that unlike General Lekhanya, he thought he had a better chance of survival in his job.

The way General Lekhanya had been forced out of power worried him, "but not very much". He denied there was any problem with discipline within the army

Had he any sympathy for General Lekhanya? "Yes, I do sympathise with him, the way he was removed from the administration. But I think the armed forces had the intention to remove him that way"

Colonel Ramaema claimed he did not know who was behind the coup

He denied that the two days' delay in finding a replacement for General Lekhanya was because of disagreements within the military

"Within that short period the Military Council sat down together and decided what could be done, who could take over. That couldn't be done in a rush"

But what would stop him meeting the same fate as General Lekhanya?

"They can remove me the way they removed Major-General Lekhanya. But I'm confident they won't remove me." □



# Too poor to satisfy demands

**THE NEW** military government in Lesotho is no more likely to satisfy the demands of the disaffected soldiers who ousted it than the former government was.

So says former Lesotho finance minister E.R. Sekhonyana, who fled the country shortly before the coup which toppled Major-General Metsing Lekhanya last week.

Speaking in Bloemfontein, Mr Sekhonyana said Lesotho was too poor a country to meet the demands made on its coffers by the disaffected soldiers.

"It is an impossibility," he said. "We have a solemn agreement with the International Monetary Fund and we have to abide by it."

Mr Sekhonyana said the toppling of General Lekhanya and his replacement by Colonel

Those in Lesotho who believe the new government will top up their purses should not hold their breath, says the country's former finance minister. **BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI reports.** (167)

Elias Ramaema had raised expectations among soldiers, nurses, doctors and teachers who were clamouring for more money.

Mr Sekhonyana, along with Tom Thabane, the former foreign minister, fled the country last Monday, the eve of the coup.

Before the coup they had been possibly the most powerful politicians in the country apart from General Lekhanya.

Speculation of an imminent coup had been circulating in Lesotho for almost three weeks

before the event, the former finance minister said.

He said he knew that he and Mr Thabane would be targets of the soldiers.

He said soldiers with blackened faces had raided one of his homes on Tuesday, looking for him.

The new government has appealed to the two former Ministers to come home without any fear of harassment.

But Mr Sekhonyana said he was not convinced that the military government had any control over the soldiers who had

searched his house and who had led to his fleeing the country.

Mr Sekhonyana said certain groups had blamed him for the government's refusal to accede to civil servants' demands for more pay.

He said he also had enemies within the Basotho National Party, the party of former prime minister Chief Leabua Jonathan, who were using their sons in the army to "get at" him.

He and Mr Thabane were also being wrongly blamed by certain sections for the overthrow of King Moshoeshoe.

Mr Sekhonyana, one of the richest men in Lesotho, dismissed allegations of corruption against him as ridiculous.

"I have spent 20 years in government and I wasn't working for rocks all those years." □

# It's 'business as usual' in Lesotho

Sowetan 7/15/91

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MASERU - There will be no change in Lesotho's foreign policy, including its relations with neighbouring South Africa and the country will honour all agreements signed by the former administration of deposed Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya.

This undertaking has been given by Colonel Elias Phisoana Ramaema, who replaced Lekhanya after last week's bloodless putsch by junior officers

In an interview with the Sowetan Africa News Service, the first he has given since he was sworn into office by Chief Justice Mr Justice Peter Cullinan on Wednesday, Ramaema also committed his administration to sending the soldiers back to the barracks and turning the country over to civilian rule by June 1992

## Programme

The former mineworker and father of three gave an indication he was going to follow Lekhanya's agenda to the letter. Dressed in a grey suit and flanked by high-ranking officers at the headquarters of the military council in Maseru, Ramaema gave the assurance that his administration would abide by agreements with South Africa - on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project - and the International Monetary Fund's enhanced structural adjustment programme

This programme was partly to blame for Lekhanya's downfall as it commits the government to a reduction in public spending and hence the refusal by the government to accede to demands for more pay from junior officers

Ramaema said the Highland Water Scheme should go ahead until completion because a large amount of the country's funds and

FOCUS

BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI  
Sowetan Africa  
News Service

loans from other countries have been invested in the project

"It is our intention to let the Highlands Water Scheme run as originally planned. We want to go through phase one," he said

"Thereafter all the parties concerned will negotiate the second phase"

On foreign policy he said "We will maintain good relations with all our neighbours, including South Africa"

## Banned

The democratisation process, he said, will go ahead "This new government is committed to returning to democratic civilian rule in 1992. There's no turning back

"The army is prepared and ready to hand over power to the nation and thereafter go back to the barracks"

He also committed his administration to repealing an order by the military which had banned party political activity in the country

## Sympathy

He said all the necessary arrangements like updating the voters' roll - there has been no census since 1970 - and the delimitation of constituencies would be done as soon as possible for them to prepare for elections next year

But on more pay for the armed forces, an issue which had brought down his predecessor and may prove his undoing, Ramaema was non-committal



MAJOR-GENERAL JUSTIN LEKHANYA

"I'm not in a position to offer the soldiers more money," he said

"But what we will do is explain to them. We can't interrupt the budget. We will take their complaints, sit down and see what can be done

"I can't give a clear answer as to when the matter will be solved. That will depend on the economy"

Ramaema, a reticent fatherly figure who looks a little older than his 57 years and who at times had difficulty in understanding the questions, said, unlike Lekhanya, he thought he had a better chance of survival in his job

The way Lekhanya was forced out of power worried him "but not very much"

He denied there was any problem with discipline within the army

It was a "mere complaint" which the soldiers wanted attended to, which led to Lekhanya's downfall

Had he any sympathy for Lekhanya. "Yes, I do sympathise with him, the way he was removed from the administration. But I think the armed forces had the intention to remove him that way.

He claimed that he did not know who the people behind the putsch were

"That one also will be looked into, whether there were some officers involved in the removal of the major-general"

He denied that the two days delay to find a replacement for Lekhanya was because of disagreements within the military.

"What was being done within that short period was the military council sitting down together and deciding what could be done, who could take over. That couldn't be done in a rush"

But what would stop him meeting the same fate as Lekhanya?

"They can remove me the way they removed Lekhanya. But I'm confident that they won't remove me"

Sowetan's cartoonist Len Sak is on leave. His work will reappear when he returns.



# Are days of Lesotho's new leader already numbered?

(167) ARGUS 10/5/91

BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI of the Argus Africa News Service reports from Maseru

THE question being asked in Lesotho in the wake of last week's bloodless coup is how long will the new man at the helm survive

And if he survives, where will the money the soldiers are asking for come from?

Colonel Elias Ramaema has hardly ensconced himself in his chair and observers are already writing his political obituary

The coup leaders' favourite for the job is believed to have been Lieutenant Tanki Pius Molapo, Minister of Employment and Social Welfare in Lekhanya's government

He turned it down on account of age — he is in his early thirties — and the fact that he did not think he could deliver on the soldiers' main demand — more pay

Significantly, Lieutenant Molapo is the big winner in Colonel Ramaema's new cabinet

He is the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting — two cabinet portfolios rolled into one. He is, observers say, the power behind the throne

Colonel Ramaema is almost the opposite of the flamboyant Lekhanya. He is diffident, almost shy, soft-spoken and seems ill at ease in his new role

His problem is where to find the money to buy peace with the soldiers. The IMF

has imposed stringent conditions on the country to cut public spending, and Colonel Ramaema has already committed his administration to those terms

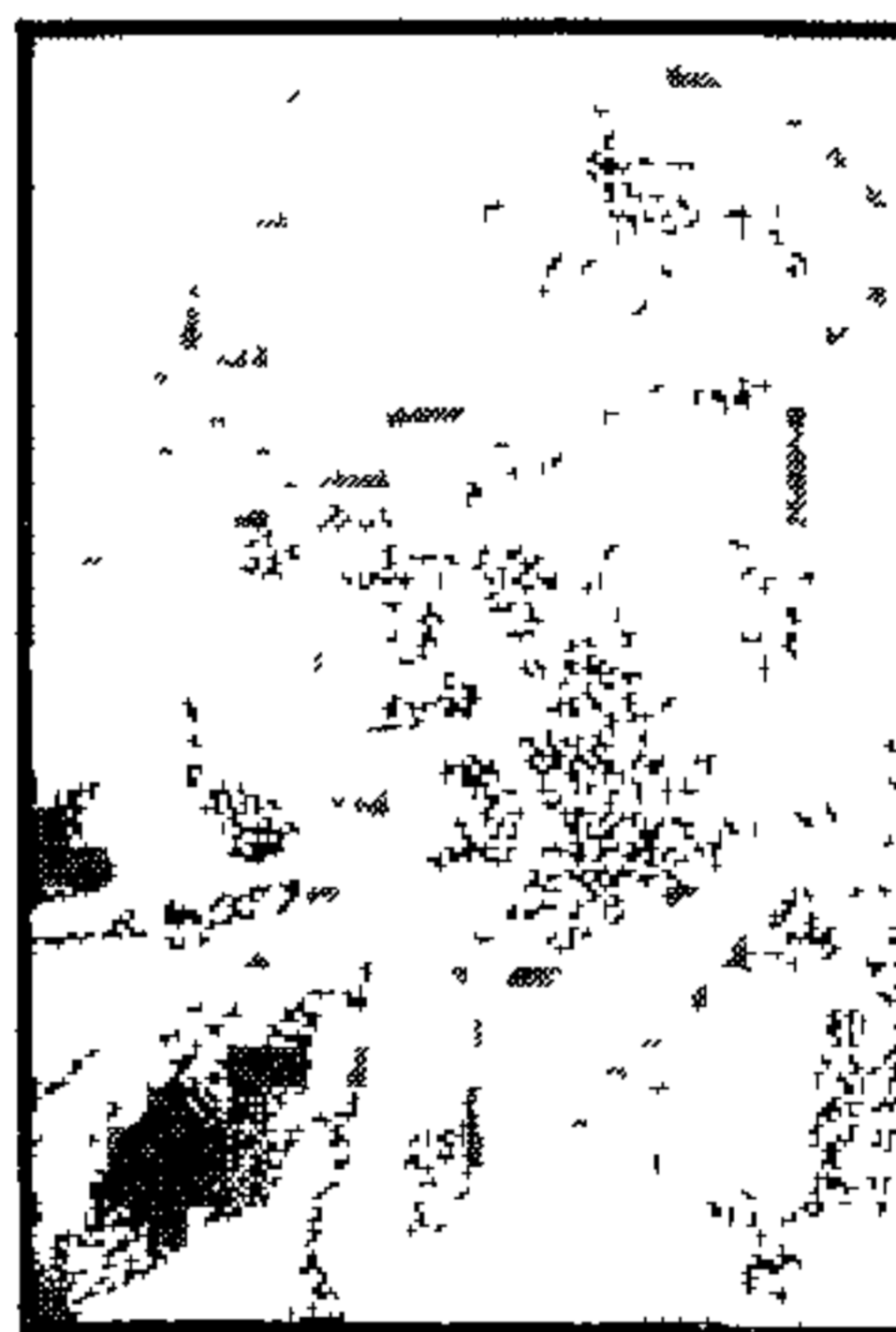
He will have to find the money somewhere — the entire civil service is clamouring for more pay — if he is not to be expelled from power. He has said he would try to convince the soldiers the country cannot afford to meet their demands. Which is what Lekhanya was trying to do when he was bundled out of power

Lesotho is a poor country with an army that has grown too big and too powerful for the country's own good

But those opposed to the government say the choice of Colonel Ramaema indicates a dearth of leadership talent in the military which is necessary to confront the country's problems. The crisis will simply deepen and the faction-fighting in the military will continue

In the long run this in-fighting, they argue, augurs well for the chances of a return to democratic rule as it will finally dawn on the soldiers that they neither have the people nor the answers to pick the country out of its present crisis

But Colonel Ramaema appears to be more committed to returning the country to civilian rule than his predecessor ever was. He wants all soldiers back in their barracks by June next year. That is if the armed men lurking in the shadows allow it



Colonel Elias Ramaema ... observers are already writing his political obituary.

This hinges, however, on what kind of constitution the country finally ends up with. A constituent assembly is drafting a new constitution, but those opposed to the military are already pouring scorn on whatever product will come out of these deliberations

The problem is in the composition of the assembly. All its members are appointees of the military. The military are also insisting on a clause in the constitution making the head of the army an ex officio member of the cabinet

Should this happen — and nobody stands in the way of the military in Lesotho — the country may have a civilian government that takes its or-

ders from the barracks, which in essence means no change from the status quo

Lesotho's main political parties have also suffered a loss of credibility through their collaboration with the military government. Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, perennial opposition leader of the Basotho Congress Party, has accepted an appointment to the constituent assembly

Members of the Basotho National Party — the party of former Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan who was overthrown by Lekhanya — have provided the intellectual sustenance for the military government. Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, a top BNP man and now in hiding in South Africa, for instance, was Lekhanya's Finance Minister

The opposition mantle has therefore fallen on an amorphous group of students, academics and trade unions. Thousands of mineworkers who were retrenched in the big miners' strike of 1987 have formed themselves into a powerful co-operative which is increasingly making itself heard

Whether these groups will form themselves into political parties in the event of a general election still remains to be seen

But whoever finally forms a new civilian government will only do so with the permission of the army, especially the junior soldiers. And he will have to take their views very seriously to have any chance of survival

AFRICA



## Work bonanza for Lesotho

THE 30-year construction phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has already resulted in the creation of several thousand jobs *Star 18/5/91*

N J Matete of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), says the project's workforce is expected to peak at around 6 500, which would help lessen Lesotho's dependence on South African mines as

the major source of work *167*

Many more jobs will be created through tourism, fishing and irrigated agriculture *168*

"The development of infrastructure will be significant and will make a real contribution to regional development and the creation of markets for local produce and job opportunities," he says — Sapa

# Maseru riots after beating

Argus Africa News Service  
MASERU — Central Maseru

was in a state of pandemonium today after a night of violence and looting in which nearly 20 shops were gutted.

Police fired a constant hail of bullets into the air to try to disperse crowds swarming around a shopping centre where a young woman was beaten to death on Monday for allegedly stealing a tee-shirt.

The incident sparked a demonstration by several hundred women and teenagers who tried to burn down the premises of the storekeeper be-

lieved to have been responsible for the woman's death.

The police, who are still hunting for the man, had to use teargas to drive the mob away from the area.

But the crowd grew during the late afternoon and evening, when the looting began in earnest.

During the night, a senior police officer was seriously injured in a stone-throwing incident and a youth stabbed.

Police have ordered Indian shopkeepers, who seem to be the main target of attacks by the milling crowd, to close.

Argus 15/9/76

## Race riots hit Maseru after shopper's death in store

MASERU — A Chinese man was stoned to death and another person was shot dead as race riots, sparked by the slaying of a black woman, raged through Maseru yesterday

Angry mobs attacked Asian-run businesses and set several vehicles on fire, and the army was called in to help police restore order. Foreign business people who had sought shelter in the police station were evacuated under army escort from the city centre

*By Day 23/5/91*  
It was the third day of unrest. Protests began on Monday after a Lesotho woman accused of shoplifting at a shopping centre run by Chinese and Indian traders from SA was beaten to death

Shops were looted as police battled to control angry residents

Most shops in the Lesotho capital are closed. Rioting has extended to towns outside Maseru

The woman, Manthabiseng Senatsi, was allegedly beaten to death

by employees of the SA-owned clothes shop

It is understood that a baby on Senatsi's back picked up an item in the shop on Monday morning.

Senatsi was unaware the baby had picked up the item, which cost less than R5, and was accused of stealing it. She was allegedly kept in the shop until late on Monday afternoon when her body was thrown onto the street.

Police said three people had been arrested — Sapa-AP

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# LESOTHO RAGE

167 CT 23/5/91

**MASERU.** — A Chinese businessman was stoned to death and another person shot dead as race riots, sparked by the slaying of a black woman, raged through the streets here yesterday.

Angry mobs attacked Asian-run businesses and set several vehicles on fire, and the army was called in to help police restore order. Foreign business people who had sought shelter in the police station were evacuated under army escort from the city centre.

White South Africans ran a gauntlet of petrol bombs and abuse as they made for the nearby border by car

Last night the civil defence unit at Ladybrand in the Free State — where a crucial by-election between the National Party and the Conservative Party took place yesterday — arranged accommodation for hundreds of foreigners.

Scores of Taiwanese businessmen and their families massed at the Maseru Bridge border post, with only the clothes they wore and no other possessions.

The Maseru streets were reported to be quieter after the introduction of a 6pm curfew.

The South African Department of Foreign Affairs said last night that no South Africans were in danger.

The SA Defence Force denied that its troops were "deployed or any way involved" in Lesotho.

The denial followed reports from independent

sources that South African paratroopers had been sent to the mountain kingdom.

Yesterday was the third day of unrest in Maseru. Protests began on Monday after a Lesotho woman accused of shoplifting at a shopping centre run by Chinese and Indian traders from South Africa was beaten to death.

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the shopping centre on Monday and Tuesday, threatening to burn down the shops if the business owners did not leave the country. Police fired into the air and hurled teargas to disperse protesters.

Late on Tuesday, mobs began looting Asian-run businesses.

Police and soldiers ran most looters out of the city centre yesterday, but mobs continued attacking businesses on the outskirts of Maseru.

Hospital authorities confirmed that two people had died. One of them, a Chinese businessman, had been stoned to death. The other person, who was not identified, had been shot. The circumstances of the person's death were not immediately known.

Police said on Tuesday that three people had been arrested in connection with the death of the alleged shoplifter.

● The country's former leader, General Meisinger Leqhanya, was ousted in a bloodless coup three weeks ago — Sapa-AP and Political Staff

# Police patrol Maseru after riot killings

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ARGUS 23/5/91

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — The Lesotho capital was quiet today in the aftermath of rioting in which at least five people died and 15 were injured

Police patrols were reported to be preventing people from going to work and most shops were closed.

There were also reports that the rioting, which had strong racial undertones, had spread to the towns of Teyateyaneng, Maputsoe, Leribe and Mohale's Hoek.

A South African Police spokesman at the Ficksburg border post near Maputsoe said large crowds had gathered across the border and several shots had been heard

He said his men were advising people, particularly lorry drivers with cargoes, not to cross the border

Some Maseru residents said they heard gunfire during the night but all was reported quiet this morning as police stood guard outside smouldering shops burned in the rioting, which began after a Mosotho woman was beaten to death in a shop after being accused of trying to steal a R10 T-shirt. Her body was thrown on to the pavement.

The woman was said to have denied the theft and had said the T-shirt had been picked up by the baby on her back without her knowledge

Antipathy towards Indian and Chinese shopkeepers appears then to have flared into looting and burning. Police at first used teargas and fired over the heads of the rioters but when this failed to stop the violence they reportedly shot directly at rioters

A Chinese businessman was killed, apparently stoned to death, and at least one Mosotho was shot dead Un-

confirmed reports today said another three Basotho had been killed

Police have arrested three people, including two women, in connection with the woman's death. Many other people were arrested during the rioting and looting

There was no sign early today of a return to Maseru by the large numbers of Chinese and Indians who fled across the border to Ladybrand to escape the violence.

Other reports said the SAP had erected a roadblock between the Maseru border post and Bloemfontein yesterday after rumours that some rioters were planning to go to Bloemfontein to attack branches of the Harties store where the woman was killed.

There were burned-out cars on the streets of Maseru today. About 20 shops had been looted and gutted.

The Lesotho government said it was determined to take strong steps against rioters and that a repeat of yesterday's events would not be tolerated

Steps had been taken to ensure that work on the Lesotho Highlands water scheme would not be disrupted. The violence did not affect construction work at the site, said a government spokesman

● South Africans in Lesotho were in no danger, but the situation could change and was being monitored, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement from Pretoria today, reports Sapa.

"South Africans in Lesotho are safe. The Trade Mission is ready to assist any foreign nationals who require a visa," the statement said.

The Taiwanese embassy in Pretoria referred all inquiries to the ambassador in Maseru. He was unavailable for comment



# Hundreds flee Maseru race riot

By Esmare van der Merwe  
Political Reporter (16)

**LADYBRAND** — Hundreds of foreigners — mainly Chinese and Indian — have fled to South Africa to escape the race violence which erupted in Lesotho on Monday after the killing of a woman caught shoplifting.

In Ladybrand, mattresses and sleeping bags were hastily placed in a community hall, the showgrounds and local hotels to accommodate the refugees.

Ladybrand mayor Fritz Weibach said everything possible was being done to help them.

Sapa reports that a dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed in Lesotho and a large contingent of security forces have been deployed in and around Maseru.

A source in Maseru, who asked not to be named, told Sapa she heard machine gunfire in the Lesotho capital between 8.20 pm and midnight.

## Stoned

A Chinese businessman was stoned to death in the violence that erupted on Monday afternoon. Another man was shot dead and several people were injured and arrested in running battles with the army and police in Maseru.

People in Ladybrand said a black woman, identified as Manthabeseng Senatsi, was beaten to death at a Maseru clothing store after shop assistants accused her of trying to steal a T-shirt costing R10.

They said the woman's baby, who was on her back, had picked up the T-shirt. She had offered to pay for the item, but shop assistants refused to accept the money.

Some said the woman had been killed by black workers at the Indian-owned shop, others said she had been murdered by Indians.

A white Maseru businessman told The Star in Ladybrand last night "She was apparently repeatedly beaten and put in a fridge, then taken out again to

be beaten up." This went on from 9 am to 4 pm.

Hundreds of Maseru residents, who later gathered outside the shopping centre, demanded to be let into the shop to confront the shop employees, but were barred by police.

Since then, residents have been stoning and setting fire to the houses, cars and businesses of foreigners. Many people were escorted out of Lesotho by the police and defence force.

A Lesotho policeman said hundreds of refugees were flocking over the border.

Jay Naidoo, a factory worker in Maseru, said about 25 workers at the factory had been ordered to leave this morning by their employer. They had fled to Ladybrand with only the clothes they were wearing.

Several Chinese huddled together in Ladybrand streets. Their cars appeared to have been stoned.

About a hundred beds were put up by the Civil Protection Unit, the SAP and SADF at the showgrounds to accommodate the refugees, said to be predominantly Chinese.

Stefan Coetzee, a truck driver from Kuruman, who entered Maseru yesterday morning to deliver a load of salt, hurriedly fled when his 30-ton truck was stoned. He was slightly injured.

"I became suspicious when I saw a huge mob of blacks standing next to the road, about 2 km from the border post. I tried to turn my truck around, but it was too late," he said.

A businessman said he had been warned by blacks not to go through town yesterday. He nevertheless went — and fled later without even stopping at the border post when "all hell broke loose" and groups of stone-throwing people entered the industrial area.

The Lesotho government has given an assurance that unrest in the country is being brought under control.

Taiwan's ambassador to Lesotho, Tsing Chin Kwei, who visited more than 100 Taiwanese refugees at Ladybrand, said the Lesotho government had undertaken to protect the lives and property of Taiwanese residents.



Riot refugees . . . Huddled together in hastily arranged accommodation, hundreds of



### Maseru quiet after riots

MASERU — Lesotho's capital city was quiet yesterday after the ruling military council's imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew throughout the country on Wednesday (16/5).

This followed violence in Maseru after a woman was reportedly beaten to death on Monday in a Pepco shop for allegedly stealing a T-shirt valued at less than R4.

Military Council chairman Col Phisoane Ramema said on radio the people who murdered the woman would soon appear in court (16/5/91).

Pepco issued a statement saying it was against company policy for anybody to beat up a thief. Culprits should be taken to the police if it was true that employees killed the woman, the company would try to compensate her family.

An unconfirmed report said a Chinese person was killed by a rampaging mob while a Lesotho citizen was fatally shot by police at Lekhaloaneng.

AP-DJ reports that the IMF yesterday approved a \$24.1m loan to Lesotho to support the country's three-year economic reform programme — Sapa

### Divisions in UN ranks over US threat to 'punish' Iraq

Iraq's internal affairs. US officials could not clarify whether Washington would use its veto.

Britain alone among the five permanent Security Council members with veto power has unequivocally supported Bush. France favours a softer approach, with one diplomat saying: "Don't overload the boat or else it will sink."

China and the Soviet Union are likely to view the US position as interference — Sapa-AP

### OAU likely to focus on economics

European market after 1992 and its likely consequences for Africa.

OAU secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim said earlier this month that African nations, which hope to create a common market, would take a significant step towards economic unity at the Abuja meeting.

Fafowora said the lifting of economic and trade sanctions on SA was likely to be discussed.

"Maybe three or four African nations will push for the removal of sanctions at the OAU summit but the vast majority will resist such a move," he said.

"I don't see any major African country pressing for the removal of sanctions. The mood (on SA) is one of cautious optimism," he added — Sapa-Reuter

### Regional political issues

are likely to take second place to pressing economic problems at top-level meetings of the OAU opening in Nigeria on Monday, Nigerian experts said.

They said major topics would be increased economic co-operation and self-reliance in Africa, which is saddled with an estimated total foreign debt of \$260bn.

This represents a significant shift away from politics, which traditionally has held sway at OAU meetings since the early '60s.

"In view of the changes taking place in the world we hope this OAU meeting will be a major event in terms of shifting the focus from political to economic issues," said director-general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Oladapo

## OAU likely to focus on economics

But the agendas for the June 3-5 OAU summit, and a meeting of the OAU's council of ministers starting in the central city of Abuja on Monday are also likely to include SA and upheavals in countries such as Ethiopia and Liberia.

Fafowora said the summit should give particular attention to the single

### Significant

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Fafowora said the summit should give particular attention to the single

# Lesotho riots spread

167

By EDDIE KOCH

RACE riots in Lesotho have spread from Maseru, capital of the mountain kingdom, to other towns near the border with South Africa, shutting businesses and keeping heavy troop patrols out on the streets.

Violence and looting of Indian and Taiwanese firms erupted after a Basotho woman carrying a baby on her back was allegedly beaten to death for stealing a T-shirt from a shop owned by Indian South Africans.

Taxi and bus services in and around Maseru are not operating normally but it appears rioting in

the capital has subsided. The violence is reported to have spread to other rural towns such as Leribe, Teyateyaneng and Mafiteng.

Political unrest in Lesotho follows the bloodless military coup that toppled strongman General Justin Metsing Lekhanya earlier this month and is linked to the fact that new ruler Colonel Elias Ramoana this week scrapped a regulation banning all mass gatherings in the country.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on Thursday that South African citizens and property had not been threatened in Maseru.

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# Maseru calm as troops <sup>(167)</sup> patrol streets <sub>ET 24/5/91</sub>

MASERU. — The situation in Lesotho appeared to be under control after a heavy police and army presence appeared in the capital's streets yesterday, following an outbreak of violence against Asians and Chinese here

Isolated cases of looting were reported on the outskirts of the capital yesterday and sporadic incidents have been reported in rural areas such as Maputsoe near Ficksburg and Mafeteng in southwest Lesotho

The Lesotho government said it was determined to take strong steps against rioters and that a repeat of Wednesday's events would not be tolerated

Scores of shops in the main street had their windows smashed and the contents looted, and nearly every shop was smashed in the busy commercial area around the bus terminus

This area was cordoned off by the army yesterday and heavily guarded. The rioting also spread to at least five other towns in Lesotho, but was said to be under control by yesterday afternoon

## 'Not threatened'

The death toll has risen to three after another businessman was killed when he tried to drive away from a riot scene and crashed into a shop

Initial estimates of the damage are expected after a Maseru Chamber of Commerce meeting this morning.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha said in Cape Town that South African citizens and property had not been threatened by the violence in Maseru. The situation was calm, though tense in certain districts.

The Taiwanese ambassador to Lesotho, Mr Tsing Chin-kwei, said yesterday that the situation in Maseru had returned to normal after days of rioting and looting following the death of a shoplifter on Monday

He said about 270 Taiwanese refugees had been given temporary accommodation in a community hall and others had been housed by the local Taiwanese community in Ladybrand — Sapa



# Looting follows Lesotho attacks

167

MASERU - Isolated cases of looting have been reported on the outskirts of Maseru this week, but the situation in Lesotho's capital is virtually normal after Wednesday's violence. Sowetan 24/5/91

Sporadic incidents have been reported in rural areas such as Maputsoe near Ficksburg and Mafeteng in south-west Lesotho.

The Lesotho government said it was determined to take strong steps against rioters and that a repeat of Wednesday's events would not be tolerated.

Steps had been taken to ensure that work on the Lesotho Highlands water scheme would not be disrupted. The violence did not affect construction work at the site, said a government spokesman.

Meanwhile, damage caused in violence since Monday was not as serious as originally thought. It was limited to the southern suburbs of Maseru and an area in the vicinity of the Cathedral, near a large bus terminus.

- Sapa

# SA man dies trying to flee Lesotho rioters

PRETORIA — A South African man died in Lesotho earlier this week, Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday.

Lesotho police reports said Mr Johannes Hendrik van Dyk, 26, died on Wednesday when his car crashed while he was trying to escape rioters

Mr Botha warned South Africans planning to enter the country to consult the police at the border posts and the SA mission in Maseru before crossing the border

Lesotho authorities said people who wanted to enter the country would be escorted from the border to their destination

There has been a renewed outbreak of violence in Lesotho, and a policeman was believed to have been shot dead at the town of Maputsoe yesterday morning

This brought the death toll at the town to five.

Reports of arson have been received from Leribe and the Defence Force has quelled unrest at Buthe Buthe — Sapa



Asian and Chinese people (above and below) seek refuge in Ladybrand after this week's violence in Lesotho, which left four people dead and ruined a ten-year scheme to attract foreign investment. This week there were chaotic scenes at the Taiwanese embassy as terrified businessmen flocked to the compound seeking sanctuary.

# FLEENING RACIAL RAGE

CID 448 2' 11710

(117)



R'S DEGREE  
STUDY FOR

... uneasy calm has reg...  
... Maseru after a...  
... week of violence against...  
... Asians that has left four...  
... dead and ruined a 10-year...  
... scheme to attract foreign...  
... investment.

A 6pm to 6am curfew has...  
... been declared under martial law...  
... regulations and army officers...  
... are patrolling the streets of the...  
... capital

Buses and taxis are ferrying...  
... Indian and Chinese people to...  
... the border They are taking...  
... temporary refuge in nearby La-...  
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This week there were chaotic...  
... scenes at the Taiwanese embas-...  
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... flocked to the compound seek-...  
... ing sanctuary

Embassy officials say they...  
... will close the diplomatic facility...  
... as soon as all Taiwanese citizens...  
... are evacuated from the country.

The violence was said to have...  
... been sparked by an incident in...  
... Maseru on May 20 when a...  
... woman accused of shoplifting in...  
... an Asian-owned store was beat-...  
... en to death by security guards  
... Soon afterwards, a mob of...  
... more than 500 people attacked...  
... the store with stones and sticks.  
... Alongside Indian traders

At the same time, South Afri-...  
... ca's struggling mining industry...  
... has been shedding employees at...  
... a rapid rate

In the past three months...  
... 5 000 men have been perma-...  
... nently laid off at a time when...  
... poor harvests have meant many...  
... families depending upon mine...  
... wages are near starvation

Many men cannot return to...  
... their villages because there is no...  
... food

The result is a smouldering...  
... anger that can lead to mob vio-...  
... lence at the slightest provoca-...  
... tion

Government officials say the...  
... violence will worsen Lesotho's...  
... economic prospects Many be-...  
... lieve the factories that have...  
... been destroyed will not be re-...  
... placed, meaning a loss of hard-...  
... won manufacturing and service...  
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In addition, the flight of the...  
... Chinese will undermine the na-...  
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... when a structural adjustment...  
... plan inspired by the Internation-...  
... al Monetary Fund is coming...  
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The plan calls for the shed-...  
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# Army to protect traders

LESOTHO was quiet yesterday morning following a week of unrest which, according to official sources, claimed the lives of 19 people

Police said yesterday that the spate of arson and looting which started on Monday had left 19 people dead, 60 wounded and 56 business premises damaged and looted

Unofficial sources put the death toll much higher *clpion 26/5/91*  
There were no incidents in the capital

Maseru on Friday, but at Mafeteng a clothing store was destroyed in an arson attack and at Maputsoe an undisclosed number of people were killed in clashes with security forces *(167)*

Police called on regional chiefs "to take appropriate measures" against people who continued to loot

Traders were urged to resume business because security forces would protect them "against rioting criminals" - Sapa

# Locals accuse settlers of stealing their jobs

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

SIMMERING racial tension sparked the riots that this week turned Lesotho into a mini-Cato Manor, according to government and academic sources in the impoverished mountain kingdom.

National University of Lesotho Academic Staff Association spokesman Mafa Sejanemane said Basothos had become increasingly resentful of Taiwanese immigrants who were running the majority of small businesses and industries in Lesotho.

Hundreds of Taiwanese had flooded across the border within the past five years, he said.

Many had entered the country illegally, according to government sources, and apparently managed to obtain passports and business rights with relative ease.

The Taiwanese settlers were seen as taking jobs from Basothos at a time when the nation was suf-

fering starvation and chronic unemployment, Dr Sejanemane said.

"Within five years it seems that almost the entire country has fallen into their hands. What happened this week was a backlash worsened by the actions of criminal elements."

## Pittance

Not only were the immigrants seen as taking jobs from Basothos, but they were also running businesses like vegetable stores and fish-and-chip shops that Basothos believed they should be running themselves.

Taiwanese employers were also reputed to be treating black staff badly and paying them a pittance.

Businessmen fear the instability will have a devastating effect on the coun-

try, which is almost wholly reliant on foreign funding and investment.

The possibility of many Taiwanese businessmen quitting Lesotho as a result would only serve to exacerbate unemployment, they say.

Severe retrenchments by Reef and Free State mines — which employ about 40 percent of Lesotho's workforce — have presented the ruling Military Council with one of its gravest crises yet.

As many as 70 000 of the 130 000 miners employed across the border are expected to be laid off.

General political turmoil set the scene for this week's uprising in which at least three people — two Basothos and one Taiwanese woman — were killed and which saw businesses throughout the country burnt and looted.

Earlier this month, military ruler Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya was ousted in a putsch.



# Naked couple stoned in Lesotho race frenzy

SI Times 26/5/91  
By CAS St Leger  
in Maseru (167)

A CHINESE husband and wife were forced to strip and then stoned as race hatred gripped Lesotho this week.

Johnny Chen, the owner of a building supplies store, had tears in his eyes as he described in Cantonese how he and his wife, both naked, escaped with their lives after being confronted by a frenzied mob.

The violence that exploded across Lesotho this week left as many as 19 dead, dozens injured and damage estimated at R2 000-million.

Officials put the death toll at only eight, but unconfirmed reports suggested the figure was much higher, with as many as 60 wounded.

A woman was murdered in Maseru on Monday, sparking off an orgy of looting, burning and the smashing of shop windows. The rioting left a trail of empty shops and broken glass from Mafeteng in the west to Teyateyaneng and Leribe in the north.

## Died

Two people were killed in Maseru on Tuesday and five in Leribe on Thursday.

Unconfirmed reports say a policeman was shot dead at the border town of Maputsoe, near Ficksburg, on Friday morning.

The country was quiet yesterday, but police and army units were out in force.

A South African, Johannes Hendrik van Dyk, 26, died on Wednesday when his car crashed while he was trying to escape a rioting mob.

Lesotho's King Mohato Letsie promised on Friday that compensation would be paid to the families of the dead.

The violence spread at the weekend to Maputsoe in the north-east, where there was a four-hour gun battle and widespread destruction.

The destruction was selective, it was aimed at "foreigners", with Taiwanese, Chinese and Indians



HAPPY TO BE ALIVE . . . Johnny Chen and his wife, who fled for their lives as a mob hurled stones at them

the main victims. Some premises were totally destroyed, burnt or looted of all goods. Locally owned shops escaped unscathed.

Of Lesotho's population of 700 Chinese and Taiwanese, 330 took refuge in Ladybrand, a few kilometres across the border from Maseru. About 100 of Lesotho's Indian population of 1 000 fled to Ficksburg, with a few going to Ladybrand.

Both towns opened their hearts — and their

community halls — to the refugees.

About 80 people from Taiwan and mainland China this week camped out in Ladybrand's community hall, sleeping in rows on the floor and preparing communal meals.

"We are grateful to South Africa for the hospitality," said a shocked and bewildered CK Huang, chairman of the Chinese Association in Lesotho.

He has been a Lesotho resident for 22 years and

the swathe of racial hate left him stunned.

Others said they fled without their passports and were grateful that the South African authorities had allowed them to cross the border.

Jimmy Young, a resident of 12 years, watched his Ford agency burn. Lost in the flames were two diesel trucks, a pickup, two Sapphire cars and many customers' vehicles.

"I employ only locals," he said. "My workers ran

away and climbed on the roof. There was a crowd of 500 people attacking my workshop. My spare parts, storeroom, tyres and tools were looted."

The Chinese pieced together a version of the incident on Monday at

10am which sparked off the riots.

A woman carrying a baby on her back was accused of shoplifting at the Hearty Supermarket in downtown Maseru.

The black staff beat the woman so badly she died later that day. A local security guard discovered the dead woman locked up in the shop on Monday night.

## Smashed

A few people threw stones, but there were no injuries. The outburst came mid-morning on Tuesday, when the crowd grew to about 500. Stoning, looting and burning began on the outskirts of Maseru.

Among the smashed shops were some bearing familiar names — Pep Stores, Chicken Licken.

Two kilometres from town, at Thabong on the airport road, gas cylinders caught alight and exploded, blowing off a tin roof and sparking flames so huge that the grass on the verge of the opposite side of the road was burnt.

A bystander said "We have a greeting in Lesotho 'Tsamaea ka khotso' — 'Go in peace'. I think we have forgotten about it."

There was a similar explosion at the Easigas dealer in Leribe, where the explosion and fire gutted the building.

All the Indians we spoke to were afraid to give their names. One, a Leribe businessman, fled to Ficksburg with his family and clothes.

"I heard that 20 buses were on their way to the border near Maseru, packed with trouble-makers. Then, on Friday morning, there was a gun battle

in Maputsoe, across the bridge from Ficksburg. There is scarcely a window left unbroken in the place."

Most of the refugees have money. Some were able to stay in hotels. The Taiwanese community in South Africa had collected R11 000 by midday on Thursday to help their distressed compatriots.

All want to return — but are afraid to do so.

Chinese Consul General George Pei Lung Tuan has visited the refugees and is advising them on when it might be safe to go home. In the meantime, they walk around Ladybrand looking lost.

## Puzzled

They are adamant that the pay and working conditions they gave their workers was adequate, even generous.

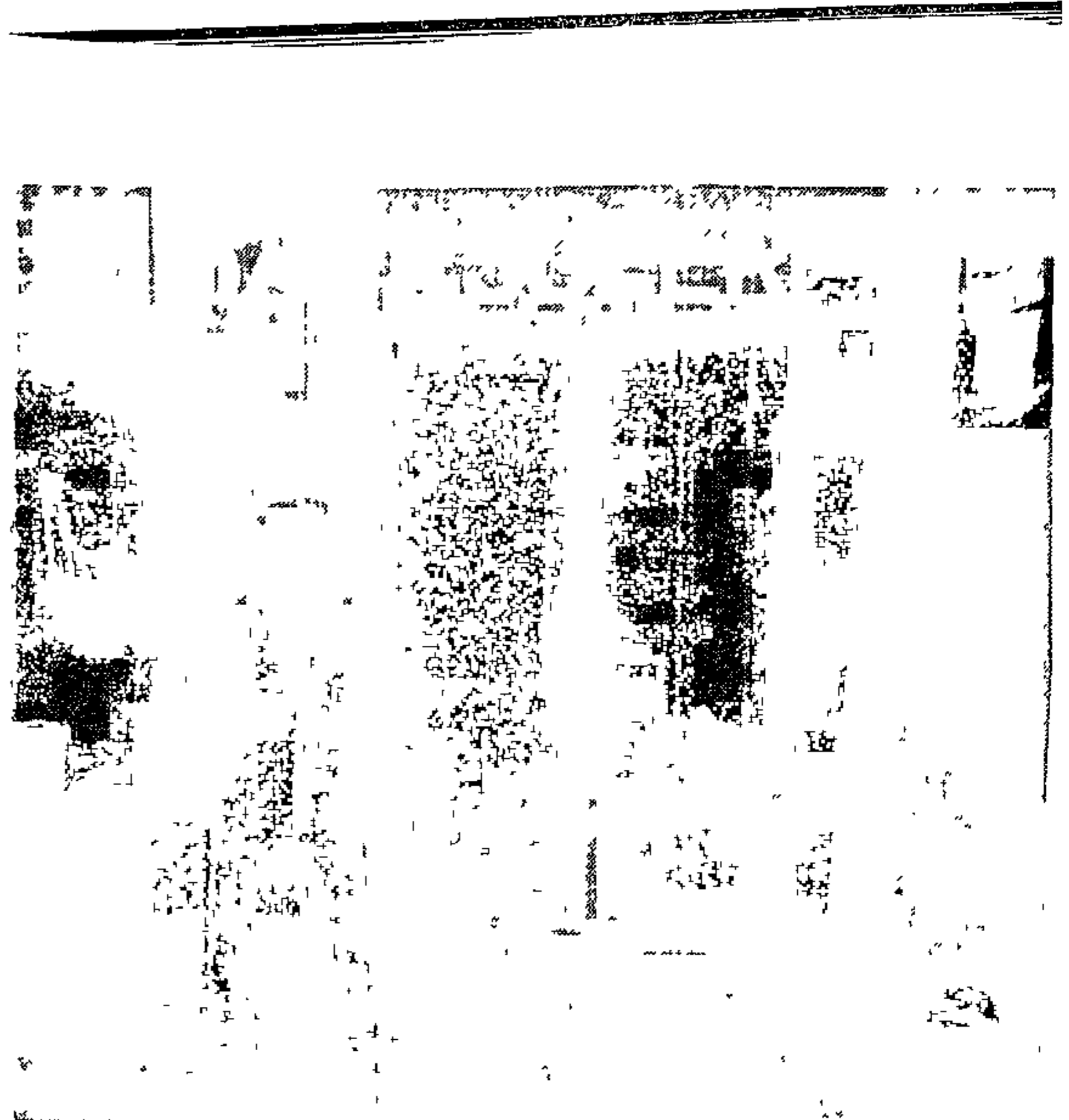
They maintain they were at least matching the Lesotho unskilled wage of R171 a month or semi-skilled wage of R214.

But there are rumblings in Lesotho that the Chinese and Indian communities not only exploited their workers, but also took work the locals could have done. The Taiwanese, with their staunch free-enterprise work ethics, are puzzled by this.

"We worked hard all our lives for what we have," said one.

With only uptown Maseru untouched by the rioting, the city is a ghost town at night, with the 6pm to 6am curfew still in force. There are roadblocks and frequent patrols by Lesotho's paramilitary forces.

At least 200 people have been arrested.



JARD DUTY . . . a policeman keeps watch over a ransacked supermarket

# Lesotho <sup>(167)</sup> reaches out to <sup>South African</sup> investors

THE chairman of the ruling Lesotho Military Council, Colonel Elias Phisoana Ramaema, yesterday promised to protect investors whose businesses and industries were affected during last week's riots.

"The government intends to restore the confidence of all the investors whose businesses and industries were affected and wishes to reassure them that all the necessary measures will be taken for their protection."

Employees of one business in Lesotho last Monday reportedly beat and killed a Mosotho woman for suspected shoplifting, setting off a wave of riots across the mountain kingdom.

The riots left in their wake devastation and loss of life, the colonel told the Lesotho National Constituent Assembly.

Addressing the Assembly yesterday Ramaema extended the government's sympathies to all the innocent victims of the unrest, as well as their relatives.

Ramaema also extended the government's condolences to the dead woman's family. He said the entire nation had been greatly pained by this "senseless killing."

He said: "We have an expatriate community in Lesotho composed of people who have come to join ranks with us in the battle against poverty. We have representatives of nations and international organisations, whose presence among us points to the bonds of friendship that bind them to the people of this country."



# Maseru death toll mounts <sup>167</sup>

*Sowetan 30/5/91*

MASERU - The death toll in last week's riots in the Lesotho capital has risen from 19 to 24 according to police chief Major-General Tingo Tinta

The statement said that 66 people - including four police officers - had been seriously injured in the unrest sparked off when an alleged woman shop-lifter was beaten to death by the store-keepers in a South African owned store.

Hundreds of mainly

Chinese and Indian store-owners were forced to seek refuge in South Africa from mobs that attacked them and their business'.

It is expected that most of the refugees will stay in South Africa until after the funeral of the as yet un-named woman this Saturday.

Most of the businessmen had indicated they will return to Lesotho.



# Maseru riots claim <sup>(167)</sup> 34 lives

JOHANNESBURG.—  
Thirty-four people were  
killed in the race riots  
which raged through the  
Lesotho capital of  
Maseru last week, the  
country's commissioner  
of police said on Tues-  
day night.

16/5/91  
Major-General Tengo  
Pinda said a further 66  
people had been injured  
in the riots, which were  
sparked by Monday's  
slaying of a Lesotho wo-  
man accused of shoplift-  
ing in a shopping centre  
run by Chinese and  
Indian traders.

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Hundreds of Chinese  
and Indian residents  
fled the mountain king-  
dom, seeking refuge in  
neighbouring Lady-  
brand and Ficksburg

# Article 'could do damage to Lesotho investment climate'

City Press 2/6/91

167

THE Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has noted with great concern the article titled "Fleeing Racial Rage" (*City Press* May 26) which has considerably distorted the facts and could cause irreparable damage to Lesotho's investment climate

Here is our response.

Quote 1. "Hundreds of shops lie in ruins and eight major factories have been burnt down"

Response: Statistics released by the Lesotho Police Department state that 77 shops have been damaged throughout the whole country. Sixteen of these were burnt down while 61 were damaged by stone-throwing.

Not one factory was damaged Security was arranged with the police by LNDC immediately and factories closed temporarily to deter any possible damage. Consequently, by Monday, May 27, all factories were open and have been operating normally since

Quote 2. "Local observers say the eruption of rage is the result of pent up anger against influx of foreign - mainly Asian - businesses which have benefited from lucrative incentives packages in the midst of unemployment"

Response Foreign industrial in-

## PEOPLE'S PRESS

Where City Press readers speak out

Preference will be given to short, neatly written or typed letters. While pen names will be used on request, all letters must include the writer's full name and address.

The Editor  
PO Box 3443  
Johannesburg  
2000

vestors in Lesotho were not under attack Chinese and Indian retail traders who were competing with small Basotho businessmen by running cafes, garages, bottle stores, restaurants etc are the people whose premises were damaged Investment incentive packages offered by the Lesotho Government through LNDC are not available to retail traders

Foreign investment in Lesotho is welcome from all countries These investors provide investment capital, technical skills, technology, foreign exchange earnings as well as the much needed jobs for the Basotho.

Quote 3. "For more than a decade the government has been advertising overseas. People with small amounts of capital could get sites, buildings and cheap labour in Lesotho"

Response: True, the government, through LNDC, has been attracting foreign investment Only projects worth over R250 000 are considered for access into the LNDC industrial premises All in-

dustrial estate land has been allocated to LNDC to sub-lease to serious industrial investors or to put up factory buildings for rental by manufacturing enterprises

Quote 4. "Government officials say the violence will worsen Lesotho's economic prospects Many believe the factories that have been destroyed will not be replaced, meaning a loss of hard won manufacturing and service jobs"

Response As already mentioned, no factories were damaged whatsoever and normal operations resumed on Monday 27 May 1991

Quote 5 "Title of Article: Fleeing racial rage"

Response: Lesotho since independence in 1966 has been characterised by a high degree of racial harmony and has had no record of racist outbreaks of violence so common in other countries

Quote 6: "Embassy officials say they will close the diplomatic facility as soon as all Taiwanese citizens have been evacuated from the country"

Response: A spokesman for the Embassy of the Republic of China in Lesotho has today categorically denied this allegation by *City Press* Diplomatic relations between the two countries have not been affected - LNDC, Maseru.

# Unique theatre out to combat poverty

*Sowetan 4/6/91*  
*(167)*  
*(167)*  
MASERU - African playwright Zakes Mda applauds whenever audiences invade the stage and start ordering the actors about.

It's even better when they start rewriting the whole play, the politically-minded academic says

Mda says his brand of participatory theatre staged in Lesotho's village squares and fields combats powerlessness and poverty among rural people in this army-ruled mountain kingdom

"It's unlike Europe or America where you just sit and watch a play and then afterwards applaud," he said in an interview

"Our audiences are vocal, so we exploit that to the fullest. And they will not just be vocal from the sidelines

"They actually come onto the stage and show us how it should be if they feel what the characters are doing is wrong

## Corruption

"Dialogue and debate is created. The villagers who want to expose corruption name real names."

Mda (43), professor of English at the University of Lesotho, says much conventional "agitprop" drama is pre-packaged preaching that encourages oppressive political attitudes

He says theatre devised by the poor themselves is a more effective way of eroding dependence on development aid and stimulating criticism of corrupt rulers and tribal chiefs

"This can be a dangerous perspective in many Third World countries because it contends that development must imply liberation. The ruling classes may not be amused," he said.

The 1.6 million Basotho have benefited little from the R2,8 bil-

*FOCUS*

lion in foreign aid commitments provided since 1970 by 25 countries and 72 development agencies

The aid was aimed at easing Lesotho's economic dependence on South Africa, which encircles the country and provides work for Basotho migrant workers on gold mines

## Meeting

In one year the country received R137 in foreign aid for every man, woman and child - more per capita than impoverished Somalia or Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa

Yet most projects fail and the country remains one of the worst off. Wealth measured by annual per capita gross domestic product is near the bottom of the scale at about R560

"The starting point of development is often in the mind of the expert and not in the reality of the man who is developing," wrote Lesotho historian Mosebi Damane

"People are called to a meeting to be told how to stop soil erosion, but the foreign concepts used are hardly ever adequately explained. These concepts, furthermore, often clash with our cultural beliefs"

## Problems

Mda and his actors live with the inhabitants for several days before performing in a village to learn its problems.

They devise a play on the issues with the villagers, who invariably intervene during the performance and often act parts



ZAKES MDA

themselves

"Any spectator can replace any actor and lead the action in any direction," he said

Problems have included illegal land sales by local chiefs who go on to pocket the profit, soil erosion, child disease and immunisation, sexual disease and the migrant labour system

## Strikes

One of the most heated plays was by women angry with South African unions whose pay strikes led to the sacking of their migrant worker husbands. Children had gone hungry as a result.

Afterwards most spectators resolved that Basotho should support South African unions, even in political disputes. A minority said Basotho had no business in South African affairs

Mda said. "Development here fails mostly because somebody from America, or even from here in Maseru, will draw up a very beautiful plan without talking to the people to hear what they say and find out what they want

"Money is pumped in as long as the donors are here. But when

they go, the project dies

"People see themselves as recipients, enforcing dependency. Some aid workers are now beginning to learn this"

There is widespread corruption, a fact conceded by government officials, diplomats and aid workers

"This is a very rotten place," said Mda. "A lot of aid money ends up in someone's pocket. And of course rural communities are aware that the so-called rulers are getting all these things, sometimes at their expense"

## Emotional

When emotional issues are discussed, the performances "can get out of hand and turn into shouting matches", Mda said

He tries to give everyone a hearing by keeping the debate "in a theatrical form within the world of the play"

Mda, who will spend the second half of 1991 as writer in residence at Britain's Durham University, plans to take his development theatre next year to the street gangs of Cape Town. - Sapa-Reuter



## New Lesotho coup foiled

SEVERAL army officers were arrested in Lesotho on Friday after attempting to reverse an April coup which ousted the kingdom's military ruler Justin Lekhanya, diplomatic sources said yesterday. *AP 9/16/77*

The sources said that on Thursday several senior pro-Lekhanya officers, in an apparent counter-coup, had detained four junior officers who were behind the April 30 coup.

The anti-Lekhanya faction, known as the Support Team, regrouped and in

turn arrested their army opponents on Friday night. *(167)*

Maj-Gen Lekhanya, who had seized power in 1986, was ousted by fellow officers after a row over army pay.

He was replaced by Colonel Elias Ramaema and is now reported to be living in seclusion in Lesotho.

Although there has been no official statement from the Lesotho government, sources indicated there had been no change in the leadership of the ruling military council - Sapa

# Swoop on Lesotho<sup>(167)</sup> officers

S. Times 9/6/77.  
By CAS St LEGER

A NUMBER of army officers have been arrested in Lesotho a month after a military coup ousted Major-General Metsing Lekhanya.

Sources say up to five officers have been arrested after complaints of their handling of recent race riots, which left up to 30 dead and many injured.

Earlier reports, however, indicate the figure could be as high as 19 high-ranking officers and say the arrests occurred on Friday after an abortive coup attempt in the capital of Maseru.

These reports say the officers, who imprisoned four junior officers responsible for the April 30 coup which toppled Lekhanya and replaced him with Colonel Elias Ramaema, were themselves jailed.

The military in Maseru denied that any arrests had taken place.

# Lesotho <sup>167</sup> officers *Sowetan* arrested *16/91*

MASERU <sup>16/91</sup> Eighteen senior officers of the Lesotho defence force were arrested on Friday night after a failed coup attempt against Colonel Elias Ramaema's month-old government.

Ramaema took power in a bloodless coup on April 30 when Major Justin Lekhanya was forced to broadcast his resignation.

Sources said the arrested officers wanted to reinstate Lekhanya as head of state and the army.

## Coup

"It was more or less an internal army matter which has sorted itself out. There has been no change as far as we know to the leadership or the ruling Military Council," a diplomat said in Maseru.

Another said: "It's been very peaceful, no violence used, no violence expected and no threat to the community."

A spokesman at the Maseru Bridge border post, Captain E. Fischer, said they had been told of the coup attempt by informants but that the situation was under control.

"Entries and exits at the border have been completely normal."

- *Sowetan Correspondent and Sapa.*



11/6/91

# Lesotho's General (167) Lekhanya now in SA

JOHANNESBURG — Ousted Lesotho strongman Major-General Metsing Lekhanya has surfaced in South Africa, days after rebel officers tried to seize power in an apparent bid to reinstate him.

The Department of Foreign Affairs last night confirmed that General Lekhanya, toppled in a bloodless coup in April, was in South Africa.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs is aware of the fact that General Lekhanya is in South Africa," a spokesman said. "Like any Lesotho citizen he has the right to enter South Africa for a period of two weeks. The purpose of his visit is private."

● Twenty Lesotho army officers were sacked yesterday, three days after the arrest of other officers implicated in an attempted coup, the Military Council said in Maseru — Sapa



**HEAVY CONTRACT** ... Mr Dieter Mollhoff, chief engineer of Hochtief, with Mr GCD "Claasie" Claassens, director general of the Department of Water Affairs, and a copy of the R400m tunnel contract. Picture Benny Gool

# Lesotho water tunnels dwarf UK "chunnel"

By PETER DENNEHY

167

TUNNELS about to be bored through the Lesotho mountains to bring water to the Reef are so long they make the English "chunnel" look like a small undertaking

Yesterday a R400-million contract was signed by the South African government's Ministry of Water Affairs and a consortium of three large contractors — South African, German and Swiss — for a 22km section of tunnel near Clarens in the Free State

The entire Lesotho Highlands water project will cost R5 500 million. It includes 84km of 5m-diameter tunnel, which is more than double the total

length of the "chunnel" between Britain and France

Water will start coming through to the Reef from 1996, starting at 17m<sup>3</sup> a second and rising to 32 m<sup>3</sup>/sec, or over a third of Lesotho's total usable rainfall runoff of 90m<sup>3</sup>/sec.

The German and the South African contractors, Hochtief AG and Concor Holdings (Pty) Ltd (SA), built the Huguonot tunnel

Dr Hans-Peter Kertel, a director of Hochtief, said the three contractors would bring with them a mixture of German efficiency, Swiss precision "and South African ability to overcome problems, as demonstrated in the phrase 'n Boer maak 'n plan", he said

**The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING**

(1) No

(a) The Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing does not keep statistics because the matter does not fall within the scope of its activities

(b) The Minister of Justice has already given a written reply to a question in the House of Assembly, that the Department of Justice has already made substantial progress with an investigation into dogfights and attacks on people and that proposals with regard to all dogbreeds are being considered

(2) and (3) Fall away

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**Lesotho Highlands water project: cost**

412 Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry †

(1) (a) What is the estimated total cost of all the phases of the Lesotho Highlands water project and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished, (167)

(2) whether it is one of the objects of the above-mentioned water project to supplement the water supply of the PWV area, if so, how many persons is it estimated the PWV area can accommodate (a) with and (b) without the additional water than can be supplied by the said water project,

(3) to what extent will the Lesotho Highlands water project affect the flow of the Tugela River approximately 50 kilometres from its mouth during the winter months, expressed in cubic metres per second?

B1085E

**The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY**

(1) (a) Without the financing costs being taken into account, the estimated total cost of all the phases of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project amounts to R14,960 million. The RSA is, however, only bound to the first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project of which phase 1A, which is presently under construction, will cost R5,9 million without the financing costs being taken into account. This sub-phase shall commence water supply to the RSA by 1996 and is estimated to satisfy the water requirements until the year 2004

(b) February 1991

(2) (a) and (b) Yes, the purpose of this project is to supply water to meet the increasing demands in the entire Vaal River supply area, which includes the Eastern Transvaal coal fields, PWV Area, Western Transvaal and Free State gold fields and various lesser users

Population projection is but one of

**USA/RSA embassies staff details**

378 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs †

(1) Of how many (a) accredited and (b) non-accredited members of staff does the American (i) embassy and (ii) diplomatic representation in the Republic consist,

(2) of how many (a) accredited and (b) non-accredited members of staff does the Republic's (i) embassy and (ii) diplomatic representation in the United States of America consist,

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

B971E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

(1) (a) (i) 41 with diplomatic titles

47 administrative or technical personnel

(ii) 21 with consular titles

17 administrative and technical personnel

(b) (i) 124 locally recruited at embassy

(ii) 80 locally recruited at consulates

(2) (a) (i) 35 with diplomatic titles

10 administrative and technical personnel

(ii) 36 with consular titles

6 administrative and technical personnel

(b) (i) 59 locally recruited at embassy

(ii) 73 locally recruited at consulates

(3) 20 May 1991



the various methods which can be employed to estimate future water demands, but water itself is not the limiting factor for the growth of the PWV Area, as water can be imported from elsewhere. With the rise in the standard of living of communities there is an increase in the water demand per person and the total demand can thus increase for many years even if the population remains constant. Should there be no supplementation of existing water supply sources in the future and should there be no implementation of water restrictions, it is estimated that about 12 million people in the Vaal River supply area could be supplied with water.

The following figures give an indication of the order of size of population growth for which provision was made in the water demand projections and the water resource development proposals.

Population growth in the Vaal River supply area

Year	Million people
1980	8,6
1990	10,7
2000	13,5
2010	17,3
2020	22,4

According to expectations, about 65% of these people will be residing in the PWV Area.

(3) Not at all

#### Vote No 28 Programme 3

456 Mr J C BOTHA asked the Minister of Development Aid + (28) (28) (28)

Whether, with regard to Vote No 28—Development Aid, he will subdivide the amount of R5 504 477 000 under Programme 3—“Assistance to governments of self-governing territories”, according to aims, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B1184E

#### The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID

The aims of the allocation of funds are described in detail on page 28-9 of the Department's Vote (28) (28) (28)

The amounts involved are as follows

1	Manpower assistance	R189 174 000
2	Additional amount	R5 303 986 000
3	Project Aid	R11 317 000

The further subdivision of the amount is not possible.

#### Prisoners/hunger strikers: particulars

457 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services (28) (28) (28)

(1) Whether he will furnish the names and other particulars of (a) all prisoners who have been refused release by the Government and (b) the hunger strikers who are not political prisoners, if not, why not, if so,

(2) (a) in respect of the prisoners who have been refused release by the Government (i) what are their names, (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted and (iii) on what date did each apply for release and (b) in respect of the above-mentioned hunger strikers, (i) what are their names and (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted?

B1185E

#### The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) and (2)

Due to the extensive information required by the hon member with regard to each individual case, it cannot be provided within the scope of this reply. However, should the hon member be interested in the details of a specific case he is most welcome to approach my office whereafter I will make the information available to him on a personal basis.

I would however like to mention that since 2 February 1990 and up to and including 18 June 1991 a total of 1 040 security and security/unrest related prisoners have been released in terms of the various measures available but particularly as a result of the categories announced by the Government, the

#### The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(a)

(i)	(aa)	R83 278 million	(i)	(aa)	1,50%
(ii)	(aa)	R7 049 million	(ii)	(aa)	0,13%
(iii)	(aa)	R15 671 million	(iii)	(aa)	0,28%
(i)	(bb)	R1 277 725 million	(i)	(bb)	23,09%
(ii)	(bb)	R129 539 million	(ii)	(bb)	2,34%
(iii)	(bb)	R155 018 million	(iii)	(bb)	2,80%
(i)	(cc)	R1 205 002 million	(i)	(cc)	21,77%
(ii)	(cc)	R92 386 million	(ii)	(cc)	1,67%
(iii)	(cc)	R143 991 million	(iii)	(cc)	2,60%
(i)	(dd)	R130 041 million	(i)	(dd)	2,35%
(ii)	(dd)	R5 600 million	(ii)	(dd)	0,10%
(iii)	(dd)	R14 186 million	(iii)	(dd)	0,26%

Information in respect of Public Ordinary School Education and teacher training only, according to the 1990/91 printed budget (CS-sector)

Out of the total number of applications received

- 621 prisoners were released,
- 583 applications have been referred to the consulting bodies for advice (363 of these applications were refused by the State President but nevertheless referred to the consulting bodies of judges for review and advice. The consulting bodies have already concurred with 155 of these refusals),
- 2 502 applications were refused,
- 79 were duplicate applications,
- 109 were applications by prisoners who committed their crimes after the cut off date of 12h00 on 8 October 1990, and
- the remaining 2 315 of these applications are at present being dealt with

It is important to note that the applications of those who clearly fall outside the guide-lines for defining political offences are refused whilst the applications of those who nevertheless claim that they fall within these guide-lines and where doubt may exist are referred to the consulting bodies for advice

*Own Affairs*

Education budget details

85 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture (28) (28) (28)

What (a) amount and (b) percentage of the education budget of his Department was spent in (i) the Republic (ii) the Orange Free State and (iii) Natal on (aa) pre-primary (bb) primary, (cc) secondary and (dd) tertiary education during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

B1144E

#### Education budget details

85 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture (28) (28) (28)

What (a) amount and (b) percentage of the education budget of his Department was spent in (i) the Republic (ii) the Orange Free State and (iii) Natal on (aa) pre-primary (bb) primary, (cc) secondary and (dd) tertiary education during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

B1144E

#### Certain school's management board meeting: pamphlet

88 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture †

(1) Whether immediately prior to a management board meeting at a certain school, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, a pamphlet was distributed on the grounds of this school, if so, (a) in terms of what regulations and/or directives, (b) with whose permission, (c) what are the particulars of the incident and (d) what is the name of the school concerned,

(2) whether his Department is contemplating any action in this regard, if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when,

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

B1201E

#### The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) Yes,

# Faction friction wracks Lesotho

167  
CIPres 30/6/91.

**A** MONTH after race riots brought Lesotho to a halt, questions are still being asked about the true nature of the violence

The military government of Colonel Elias Ramaema is also racked with infighting

Mob violence was touched off on May 20 with the murder of a 56-year-old woman, Mathabiseng Senatsi, who was accused of shoplifting in a South African-owned store. In the days that followed as many as 50 people were killed and a 6pm to 6am curfew was enforced by army and police.

Three weeks later Senatsi's funeral passed by quietly and the curfew was relaxed to 11pm to 5am.

The final tally of damage shows more than 100 businesses were damaged and looted, with 16 burnt down. Although major factories owned by Asian investors in the Maseru area were protected, many smaller facilities are in ruins.

While a commission of enquiry looks into the events, rumours of a mysterious "third force" driving the unrest have continued to circulate.

Suspicion is that the original riots were used as a "cover" for organised groups that wanted to target Chinese investors who have stretched the law on foreign ownership to take control of businesses many believe should be reserved for Basotho.

Local officials who wish to remain unnamed say the violence was initially a spontaneous response to the killing.

Asian shop owners were attacked, but they were not singled out. Instead people attacked businesses where security personnel are known to beat suspected shoplifters as normal practice.

After the first day of riots, Trade and Industry Minister Moletsane Mokoane publicly attacked Chinese investors for "taking over" Lesotho's business sector.

During the riots that followed, Asian businesses were again targeted.

There is speculation that gangsters from South Africa, or disgruntled former employees of some Asian-owned factories, may have orchestrated the second stage of the violence.

A number of speakers from the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce hit out at Chinese-owned stores, claiming that Asians were operating cafes, bottle stores, clothing and food outlets that should be reserved for Basotho. Government officials were also blamed.

One visiting Asian researcher says wealthy Taiwanese investors and poorer traders from mainland China were operating in the country.

Matters have been made worse by eruptions in the army. As many as 26 soldiers may have died in an attempted counter coup on June 7 carried out by the faction which supports the deposed Major-General Justin Lekhanya. A week later, 20 officers were dismissed.

Lekhanya appears to be backed by the powerful South Africa-based chief Evaristus Sekhonyana, a veteran supporter of various administrations.

Another group supports the cousin of deposed King Moshoeshoe II, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, who is in prison following conviction for the murder of two government ministers and their wives in 1986.

A general election scheduled for May next year is now in jeopardy - AIA



# Ntsu urges his followers to accept new plan

MASERU. Basotholand Congress Party leader Dr Ntsu Mokhehle on Sunday made an impassioned plea to his followers to accept Lesotho's new constitution drafted by the Constituent National Assembly. (167)

Addressing a political rally at Lakeside Hotel in Maseru, his first since returning from exile, Mokhehle highlighted three issues: the new constitution, education and land tenure.

"I plead with you to accept and support the new constitution because it is better than the 1966 one" The BCP leader said the new constitution was not perfect, but it entrenched democratic values

On the land issue, he said many Basotho were losing their jobs in South Africa, and at home many were losing control over their land. This could result in them becoming slaves in their own country, Mokhehle said. The only way to avoid this was to stabilise the government, which would,



Ntsu Mokhehle

finally work in the interests of the Basothos and not for foreigners, he added.

On education, he stressed the need for vocational training to be introduced in schools. He pointed out as long as vocational training was excluded in schools, "we will ever remain slaves of other countries"

Regarded as a firebrand of Lesotho politics, Mokhehle returned from exile more than a year ago after the military government declared a general amnesty for political exiles. Sapa



# Court action stops Lesotho water project

CT 20/7/91 (167)

MASERU — All work on the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme within a radius of 200km of the Katse Dam was stopped by the Maseru Supreme Court yesterday, pending the outcome of an urgent court order by two diamond companies.

The companies are demanding R565 million in compensation from the Lesotho Highlands Development scheme for losses they may suffer because of activities in the area where they have mining rights.

The development in question forms part of the first three phases of the water scheme and structures of almost R200 million will have to be removed if an agreement cannot be reached.

A spokesman for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority said yesterday that construction was proceeding as normal except in the small area affected by the urgent interdict.

If the rest of the development is brought to a standstill it would have serious implications for South Africa, which relies heavily on the completion of the scheme.

However SA's permanent representative on the joint committee of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, Mr Hans Pettenburger, said yesterday that he was unaware of the court order — Sapa

# Gem row threatens PWV water project

INTERNATIONAL contractors on the R6,5-billion Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme are trying to avert a three-week hold-up on the project which could add millions to the cost.

The Supreme Court in Maseru ordered on Friday that work be halted in an area of 200m<sup>2</sup> around the Katse Dam pending the outcome of an urgent application for compensation claimed by two diamond-mining firms.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) and the contractors have until August 12 to reply.

Contractors from Italy, France, Germany, the UK and South Africa have skilled staff and equipment worth millions on the site of the dam and three tunnels which will help divert water northwards from the Maluti Mountains to the PWV.

## Hitch

LHDA chief executive Masupha Sole was in meetings on Friday, but a transport contractor supplying the site said the injunction halting work had not been served.

Group 5 managing director Peter Clogg said "It's unbelievable that this kind of legal hitch could hold up such a huge project."

Group 5 is a member of the international consortium led by Italy's Impregilo which is building the R1,4-billion dam.

The companies which have applied for R565-million compensation for the loss of their alluvial diamond rights are Swissbork and Rampae Diamonds, both represented by Josias van Zyl. Their rights apparently cover most of the streams and riverbeds in the Maluti Mountains where Katse Dam is being built.

The 180m-high dam is the key structure in the project, which is due to supply the first water to the Vaal River system by 1996.

Mr Clogg says construction is going well and is either on or ahead of schedule.

By IAN SMITH

A long stoppage would have serious repercussions and if vital work missed the proper season completion could be set back by up to a year.

Even a short hold-up would

hit small sub-contractors, many of which have bought expensive equipment and cannot afford downtime.

"Many would not survive the shock," said a contractor.

One solution would be a negotiated settlement. But there will be arguments about compensation and who should pay it.

# Lesotho water project goes ahead

6/22/91  
BRENT VON MELVILLE

WORK on the first phase of the R6bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project continues despite a Supreme Court ruling last week that construction be halted immediately.

A Maseru Supreme Court interdict on Friday ordered the cessation of all work on the project within 200km of the Katse Dam pending the outcome of an application by diamond mining companies Swissborough and Rampae Diamonds. The application claims compensation of R565m for loss of diamond rights in the area.

However, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority CE Masupha Sole said construction continued despite the interdict. He said the project had been given until August 12 to show cause why the interdict should not be extended.

Infrastructural work worth about R300m, including bridges and access

roads, has been completed or is nearing completion.

LTA MD Collin Wood, whose company has built a R150m bridge and access road, said yesterday "The real question here is whether this court order could threaten construction of the R800m Katse Dam and three access tunnels that make up the first phase of the project."

Work on the R858m tunnel project began officially in February.

Meanwhile a Diamond Board spokesman said the only diamond mine he knew of in the area was Letseng-La-Terrai, which De Beers closed nine years ago.

Water Affairs and Forestry director-general Klasie Claassens said work on the SA side was proceeding on-schedule.



## Work continues at water project despite interdict

Star Africa Service

(167)

Star 24/7/91

Mystery surrounds the identities of two diamond mining companies which have acted to halt construction of the giant Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

The companies, Swissbough Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd and Rampai Diamonds (Pty) Ltd, obtained an urgent High Court application in Maseru last week, stopping work within a 200 km radius of the Katse Dam, a key component of the multibillion-rand project.

The two companies are claiming compensation of R565 million for loss of diamond rights in the area.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has been given until August 12 to show cause why the interdict should not be put into effect.

The LHDA intends to contest the order and yesterday its chief executive, Masupha Sole,

confirmed that the LHDA was proceeding with the implementation of the project.

Mr Sole said the area affected by the interdict formed a small part of the area covered by the project.

Inquiries about the two companies have drawn a blank.

Joseph Teboho Moiloa, one of the LHDA lawyers, said he had first heard of the companies when papers were served on them "They appear to be paper companies."

It was established that the companies were represented by a Johannesburg law firm, Bowman, Gilfillan, Hayman and Godfrey. But one of the lawyers involved in the case, Charles Wilkens, said through his secretary that he had "no mandate" to discuss the matter.

An LHDA spokesman said the companies seemed to have obtained a lease for the disputed land in 1988, two years after work on the project started.

...st was Mr Gunter Bro-  
zel in 1985. — Sapa

## Varsity bans political parties

MASERU — The  
National University of  
Lesotho has banned the  
activities of political  
parties at the university.  
The step was appar-  
ently taken following the  
participation of academ-  
ics in the formation of  
the new political organi-  
sation in Lesotho, called  
the Popular Front for  
Democracy in Lesotho,  
which will participate in  
the elections in 1992 —  
Sapa (167) CT 30/7/91



# Block on water scheme lifted

(167)

CT 30/7/91

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority has won the right to continue work on the R6bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project

The authority said yesterday it had succeeded in having set aside an interdict blocking it from continuing work on the scheme

The lifting of the interdict follows an application by the authority last week in which it claimed Lesotho's High Court had been misled by diamond mining companies Swissbough and Rampae Diamonds in granting the interdict

The two diamond companies are claiming compensation of over R500m for loss of revenue in the area and claimed in court last week that revenue of more than R81m had been lost already. The July 18 interdict specified that ongoing work inside a 200km<sup>2</sup> area around the Katse dam be suspended

Authority chairman Mr Masupha Sole said the failure of that application was a good step towards the normalisation of the activities of the first phase of the water project — intended to carry water to the PWV area

The application for monetary damages will be heard on August 12



Sowetan 30/7/91.

# Varsity bans politics

MASERU - The National University of Lesotho has banned the activities of political parties at the university.

Registrar Mr Mokhele Likate yesterday said the decision was reached after a special meeting of the university council where an adhoc committee was also formed to look into students' and lecturers' participation in party politics.

Sources said these steps were taken following the active participation of senior university lecturers in the formation of the new political organisation called the Popular Front for Democracy  
- Sapa.

# Interdict blocking Lesotho project lifted

6/Day 30/7/91

BRENT VON MELVILLE

(167)  
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## Affected

The two diamond companies are claiming compensation of over R500m for loss of revenue in the area and claimed in court last week that revenue of more than R81m had been lost already. The July 18 interdict specified that work inside a 200km<sup>2</sup> area around the dam be suspended.

However a Development Authority spokesman said the affected area

was relatively small in comparison with the size of the project

Even so, following the interdict authority chairman Masupha Sole said the cost of halting work would be prohibitive. It was understood the cost would run to about R3m a day. Construction on the project therefore continued in the interim.

That prompted an application by the diamond mining companies that the authority be found in contempt of court. They claimed that its refusal to stop construction undermined the authority of the court and interfered with the course of justice.

Sole said the failure of that application and the subsequent lifting of the interdict against the authority was a good step towards the normalisation of the activities of the first phase of the water project — intended to carry water to the PWV area.

The application for monetary damages will be heard on August 12

## Doubt cast on Lesotho mines' claim

**GEOLOGISTS** in Lesotho have questioned claims made by two diamond mining companies against the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

The geologists believe Swissbourn and Rampae may have over-estimated the value of diamond resources they say will be inundated by the water scheme's Katse Dam. The two are claiming over R565m in compensation

**BRENT VON MELVILLE**

The geologists say the possibility of a major diamond deposit in the region is remote (167)

The area has been drilled extensively and there is little likelihood of a diamond pipe being found. If diamonds did exist they would be in gravel beds

If the value estimates of Swissbourn and Rampae

are accurate, the grade of such deposits would have to be very high and the geologists are not convinced this is likely. BIP 2/8/91

They say the natural drainage of the area would have carried any diamonds away from the area

A source at Anglo American said its exploration of the site had indicated there was only a minuscule prospect of diamonds



## Lekhanya restricted to house

167

*CP/Pres 4/8/91*  
LESOTHO'S former military ruler, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, was placed under house arrest on Friday after allegations he was plotting a return to power in the tiny mountain kingdom.

Lekhanya was served with a government order barring him from leaving his home on the outskirts of the capital, Maseru.

On July 9, he had been ordered not to travel more than 80 km from the house.

He was also prohibited from associating with anyone other than his family except to consult a doctor.

Friday's order accused the former military strongman of being a threat to public order and State security in Lesotho.

## Food crisis in Lesotho

167

MASERU — A national food emergency was yesterday declared in Lesotho by the chairman of the ruling military council, Major-General Elias Ramaema

The declaration follows forecasts of the lowest yields of maize, sorghum and wheat in 10 years

General Ramaema appealed for emergency food aid "to cope with the effect of drought and to prevent famine" He said severe drought conditions from August to November last year and excessive rainfall in January and February this year had resulted in an estimated deficit of 120 000 tons of maize, 62 179 tons of wheat and 31 553 tons of sorghum -

Sapa CT8/8/91

# Lesotho to approach SA for emergency aid

Monday 9/8/91

(167)

LESOTHO is to approach SA for aid in the wake of its declaration of a food emergency this week.

Military council chairman Maj-Gen Elias Ramaema declared the emergency when it became clear the country's cereal crop would fail

His nation faces a food deficit of 120 000 tons of maize, 62 000 tons of wheat and 31 500 tons of sorghum

## Drought

Lesotho government secretary Sekhonyana Bereng said in Maseru yesterday "In terms of the existing cordial relations between the two countries an appeal will no doubt be made"

Other nations would also be asked to help

Ramaema said Lesotho's self-sufficiency had declined noticeably, with forecast production able to meet only 39% of maize requirements, 21% of sorghum and 3% of wheat

He blamed severe drought for the worst

DAVE LOURENS

cereal crop in 10 years.

A spokesman for the SA trade representative in Maseru said no official requests for aid had been received by late yesterday afternoon.

He said droughts on the same scale as the current one had previously been experienced in 1933 and 1960.

The spokesman said it was anticipated that part of the needs would be met by increased commercial imports, but was concerned that some households would not be able to afford adequate supplies of staple foods, especially if the SA harvest was also poor as was expected.

Ramaema appealed to "friendly countries and international organisations for emergency food aid to cope with the drought and to prevent possible famine".

The drought during the normally wet months of September and October was followed by unseasonal flooding in January and February, ruining many farmers' crops





# A rare trial shocks Lesotho

CP news  
18/8/91

164

A CURRENT trial in Lesotho has put the spotlight on the practice of "medicine murder"

The case involves the death of Mabolae Ranyali, 15, whose corpse was found decomposing and missing certain body parts in the house of her grandmother, the Chieftainess of Ha Ramabanta, in 1988

Chieftainess Mathealira is currently on trial with two accomplices, charged with the murder of her granddaughter

Medicine murder entails cutting body parts, most often the genitals and facial parts, from a living person while collecting excess blood. These ingredients are used to make a medicine called "liretlo", which is consumed or smeared over the body

The medicine is believed to help the users achieve goals such as securing a political appointment, winning a court case, ensuring successful business ventures, settling a land dispute or keeping trouble away from a village

After collecting the body parts and blood, the victim is killed and left in an open area to be discovered. The medicine is only effective if the victim is given a proper burial. If the medicine fails to produce results another victim has to be found

Distinguished Mosotho historian, Dr Mosebi Damane explains "Our oldest beliefs stem from the basis that there are close links between plant, animal and human

life. Taken further, these links include characteristics which are transferable between the life forms"

Cultural practices have evolved as a result. Many Basotho belong to totems or clans and derive characteristics from certain wild animals. This can lead, for example, to the belief that by making liretlo from the body parts of a soldier from the Bataung (lion) totem, a person can acquire the soldier's strength and courage

Children often become liretlo victims because of their youthful innocence and purity

Damane says "In times of social and political stress people appeal to the supernatural which they have learned from our ancestors"

Liretlo became more widespread during the times of the Zulu wars around the middle of the last century. It became common practice to use enemy corpses to make liretlo

The arrival of missionaries and later the British colonial administration resulted in cultural, social and political upheaval. Lesotho's values and customs became somewhat clouded

Damane says an upsurge of liretlo in the late 1940s resulted from intense rivalry concerning the "placing of chiefs"

In 1946 the British colonial administration created the National Treasury, whereby chiefs were given fixed salaries and their role

as judges were diminished. They had to be recognised by the colonial government and could be deposed

This weakening of indigenous government resulted in a feeling of insecurity. Chiefs consulted traditional doctors, known as ngakana-ntsonyana, who prescribed liretlo

Medicine murders peaked in 1949 when two chiefs were tried and hung by the colonial administration for liretlo killings. Today the head of the Lesotho police's Criminal Investigation Department, DT Mohape, says liretlo cases have become rare

He says "Murder is murder and there are no cultural differences in the way it is viewed by traditional and modern Basotho"

Damane says that to halt the practice altogether, motivation must not be based on cultural attitudes, but on basic humanity

"People who believe in the power of culture to transform a person are very naive and terribly wrong. It is at the level of humanity, and not culture, that you can teach someone something"

But he predicts Lesotho's weakening economy, the anticipated return to democracy in 1992, possible incorporation into South Africa and the return of an estimated 50 000 unemployed miners from South Africa may only make medicine murder more difficult to eradicate - ANO

# Lesotho scheme draws backing from SA money market

SOUTH Africa's money market is the main financing pool from which the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) obtains cash to pay contractors working for the water transfer part of the Lesotho Highlands Project.

Repayment is by means of the more than 22 foreign, commercial and export credit loan agreements which will come into effect later this year.

Actual scooping from the pool is being done by a phalanx of banks

*By Day 21/8/91*  
**Initial**

Joint Permanent Technical Committee financial controller Johann Claassens says "We refer to the two initial bridging finance operations as 'CMA (Common Monetary Area) Phases I, II'

"Phase I, of R135m — repaid in March — was arranged by Volkskas, Volkskas Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank

"Phase II's R750m comprises two loans of R370m each from the same consortium and Nedbank respectively and also E10m from

Barclays Bank in Swaziland

"This is the money we're drawing down at the moment and will be repaid either late this year or early next year

"After that, it will be on to Phase III — a basic R1bn plus finance charges — through Standard Bank and First National Bank. This will be more than bridging finance, and is still being finalised

The funding operation has been praised by overseas merchant bankers.

In the longer term, the SA capital market will have funds drawn from it jointly by the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority and LHDA

## Mechanism

Discussions on the mechanism to be used are taking place and one possibility is that one or other merchant bank will be chosen as market-maker in issued stock

"This is an example of First World sophistication being put to use in the Third World," says Volkskas Merchant Bank's Jan-de Kock

## QUOTES

MERCHANT banking's fundamental resource is intellect. You have to have people who seek self-fulfilment and fun in constructing deals — and until the deals arrive you wonder how you're going to pay the lights and water —

FirstCorp MD Dave Lawrence

We survive on the edge and the biggest difficulty is finding people able to train themselves. However, as in normal banking, the key to success is proper rating of credit risk — Investec Merchant Bank acting MD Bernard Kantor

The CEO has to be hands-on in this business. One MBO can make a huge difference to the relationship between your assets and your liabilities — Volkskas Merchant Bank MD Jean Brown

This is a seasonal business, with constant switching from listings to rights issues, to MBOs, to acquisitions and so on. There's no question of firing on all cylinders at once — Finansbank executive director Wilhe Ross

Merchant bankers are ambitious bastards who think they can do everything. — Anonymous

# Lesotho prepares for Moshoeshoe's return

**Argus Africa News Service**

MASERU — An action committee has been formed to prepare for the return of de-throned King Moshoeshoe II to Lesotho

One of the committee members, Mr Vincent Malebo, who until last year was Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said the present monarch, King Letsie III, would have to step down to make way for his father

King Moshoeshoe II was deposed by the then military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya and exiled to Britain last year. He is now on a visit to Swaziland

(167) ARCT 11/9/01  
Mr Malebo led a deputation to Swaziland last week to tell the former king that his people wanted him to return. Mr Malebo said Moshoeshoe had been accorded a reception by the Swazi government normally reserved for heads of state

It is not yet clear how the government will view the return of the former king

Meanwhile, one of the king's staunchest supporters, Chief Kgoabane Theko, a principal of Thaba Bosiu, has been removed from his office by the Minister of Interior, Mr Mphosi Matete, on the grounds that he has behaved in a manner prejudicial to public safety



(167)  
**Lekhanya ties lifted**

The Lesotho government has lifted restrictions on the former chairman of the military council, Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya. The restrictions were imposed on General Lekhanya two months ago after the failure of a coup against the government of Major General Elias Ramaema.

Star 18/9/91

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# Lekhanya order lifted

MASERU - The Lesotho government has lifted restrictions on the former military council chairman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya

No reasons have been given for the lifting of the house-arrest order

The restrictions were imposed on

*Sowetan 18/9/91*  
Lekhanya two months ago after the apparent failure of a coup against the government of Major-General Elias Ramaema. Lekhanya was required to remain indoors from dusk to dawn, and not to leave the magisterial district of Maseru without the written permission of the police

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# Lesotho scheme a boon to contractors

HAD it not been for the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, the civil engineering industry could have experienced even worse conditions than the "very difficult" year it had in 1990/91.

The South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (Safcec) said in its annual report that the three contracts for the Lesotho project, totalling R2bn, provided some respite for the industry

At R4,7bn, the value of civil engineering construction undertaken by contractors was down 15% in real

<sup>B10au</sup>  
WILLIAM GILFILLAN

terms on 1989/90

Employment also dropped about 15% to below 75 000 in the year. Taken with the 10% drop the previous year, employment in the industry dropped by about 20 000 over the past two years. The outlook for the industry continued to look bleak

The industry's output decreased at a faster rate than the overall economy during the past year and represented only 1,75% of gross domestic product

"In view of SA's desperate shortage of housing and

<sup>19/9/91</sup>  
shelter, the slowdown in township development has been particularly disappointing" (167)

The report blamed this on the long starting-up period of the Independent Development Trust (IDT), township unrest, boycotts, high interest rates and the regional services councils' channeling of funds earmarked for township infrastructure to black local authorities as bridging finance

Safcec said government's 1991 Budget provided only limited funds for infrastructural development as it attached a low priority to the construction and maintenance of SA's infrastructure

"In the private sector

some major new developments, such as the Columbus project, may commence but general civil work in the mining and manufacturing sectors is expected to remain in short supply"

Safcec anticipated that the industry's downturn would end within the first half of 1992

But acceleration of the urbanisation process and the recently announced R600m for rural roads and site services scheme might result in the downturn ending sooner

Safcec said the need to maintain the existing infrastructure in SA should be recognised as infrastructure was important for economic development



167  
star 20 (9/9)

## SA, Lesotho talks 'a success'

Both South Africa and Lesotho's Foreign Affairs Ministers agreed at a meeting at the Union Buildings, Pretoria, yesterday that they shared common values, such as freedom of speech, religion and the need for a free market economy.

Addressing a news conference after a working lunch, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said it had been his pleasure to meet his counterpart, Pius Tanki Molapo, following Lesotho's change of government in April.

The implementation of the vast Lesotho Highlands Water Project remained on schedule, with economic benefits for both countries, Mr Botha said.

Mr Molapo had indicated Lesotho intended reverting to civilian rule as soon as feasible.

Mr Botha said he was encouraged by the momentum of southern African countries moving together.

Mr Molapo said "We came as friends to see our other friends" — Sapa

**Promise of free poll**

The chairman of the Lesotho Military Council, Major General Elias Ramaema, says his government is still committed to holding free and fair elections next year. Addressing the National Constituent Assembly in Maseru, Major Ramaema said the current sitting of the assembly would produce a draft constitution which would be put before the Basotho nation.

Star 24/9/91

(164)

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LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

# The rands will flow

16M

FM 24/9/91.

The signs are growing that the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project could turn out to be another Mossgas. The capital cost of Phase 1A of the project is now pegged at R5,9bn by the Department of Water Affairs, more than twice the R2,5bn estimate made just two-and-a-half years ago by then Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze.

Customers using water out of the Vaal River, including those served by the Rand Water Board and as far afield as Kimberley, will face sharp escalations in water charges in the years ahead. In fact, the project is already forcing up water rates.

Both the Lesotho and Mossgas projects were conceived during the sanctions years and destined to become white elephants once these were lifted. But that doesn't explain why the Department of Water Affairs pushed ahead with the expensive Lesotho project when there were far cheaper options.

Depending on the terms of the bilateral agreements between Lesotho and SA, it may not be too late to reconsider the project's later stages and choose an alternative, such as getting water from the Caledon or Tugela rivers.

It is, however, too late to turn back on Phase 1A, which is under construction and planned for completion in 1997. "SA is liable for the full costs, as well as for the annual royalties on water used," says Water Affairs Deputy Director-General Tiny Krige.

He says the following contracts have been awarded or estimated:

- The R1,526bn Katse Dam, which will hold 1,95bn m<sup>3</sup> (Vaal dam holds 2,6bn m<sup>3</sup>) and be completed in 1996.
- Roads, accommodation and infrastructure contracts to the value of R577m.
- The R1,13bn delivery tunnel to the As River in SA, and
- R566m for engineering costs.

In addition, the R5,9bn in capital costs for Phase 1A also include the first R80m water royalty payable on the delivery of water, administration costs of R790m for the phase's 10-year duration, and R197m for environmental costs.

"This R5,9bn projection includes provision for escalations and contingencies during the duration of Phase 1A until its completion in March 1997," Krige says. The 1989 cost estimate did not provide for normal price escalation, contingencies and design refinements, says the project's managing engineer, Willie Croucamp.

Krige says a major plus for the project is that operational costs will be low — gravity will carry the water to

SA so there will be no pumping costs. "This is a major benefit against the alternative Orange-Vaal transfer scheme, which we also considered and which would have involved pumping water from the Orange River at Aliwal North to the Vaal system."

### Pumping up the alternatives

However, proponents of the cheaper-to-build Caledon-Vaal and Tugela-Vaal pump projects say their schemes would be even cheaper to operate than the Lesotho project.

Consulting engineer Basil Lund says that even if the interest cost on Phase 1A was a very low 10% a year, this would add more than R1/m<sup>3</sup> to the cost of water supplied to the Vaal system. In comparison, he says, the cost of pumping the same volume from the Orange River via the Caledon River would be a mere 12c-15c/m<sup>3</sup>.

Pretoria-based engineering geologist Dave George adds that additional water from the Tugela system could be cheaply diverted across the Drakensberg because Water Affairs has an arrangement with Eskom to provide inexpensive off-peak power for pumping the water into the Sterkfontein dam.

Other factors add to the growing concern over the Lesotho project's cost. For one, the R5,9bn estimate for Phase 1A, Krige says, does not include the interest payable on local and foreign loan financing over the next few

decades.

Krige adds that SA is committed to finishing Phase 1B by 2005, which will include the Mohale dam and a 30 km tunnel linking the dam to the Katse dam, and this will cost billions of rands more.

All cost estimates are certain to rise. With the enormous cost escalations that normally occur with any megaproject, SA's high inflation and interest rates, and a low rand that will add to imported costs, as well as the rugged terrain in which construction will take place, some observers say that Phase 1A alone may cost water users R9bn or more by 1997.

The Rand Water Board has already started levying the costs of the project, as passed on by Water Affairs, to consumers in the PWV area. Following Water Affairs' 3c/kilolitre Lesotho-project levy increase to the board, local water users will now pay 10c/kilolitre towards the cost of the megaproject. These levies are bound to rise as costs filter down to users.

"I estimate that project levies charged to the board will be in the region of 24c-30c/kilolitre by 1997," Krige says. Water Affairs hopes to generate about R1,5bn from this source by 1997, Croucamp adds.

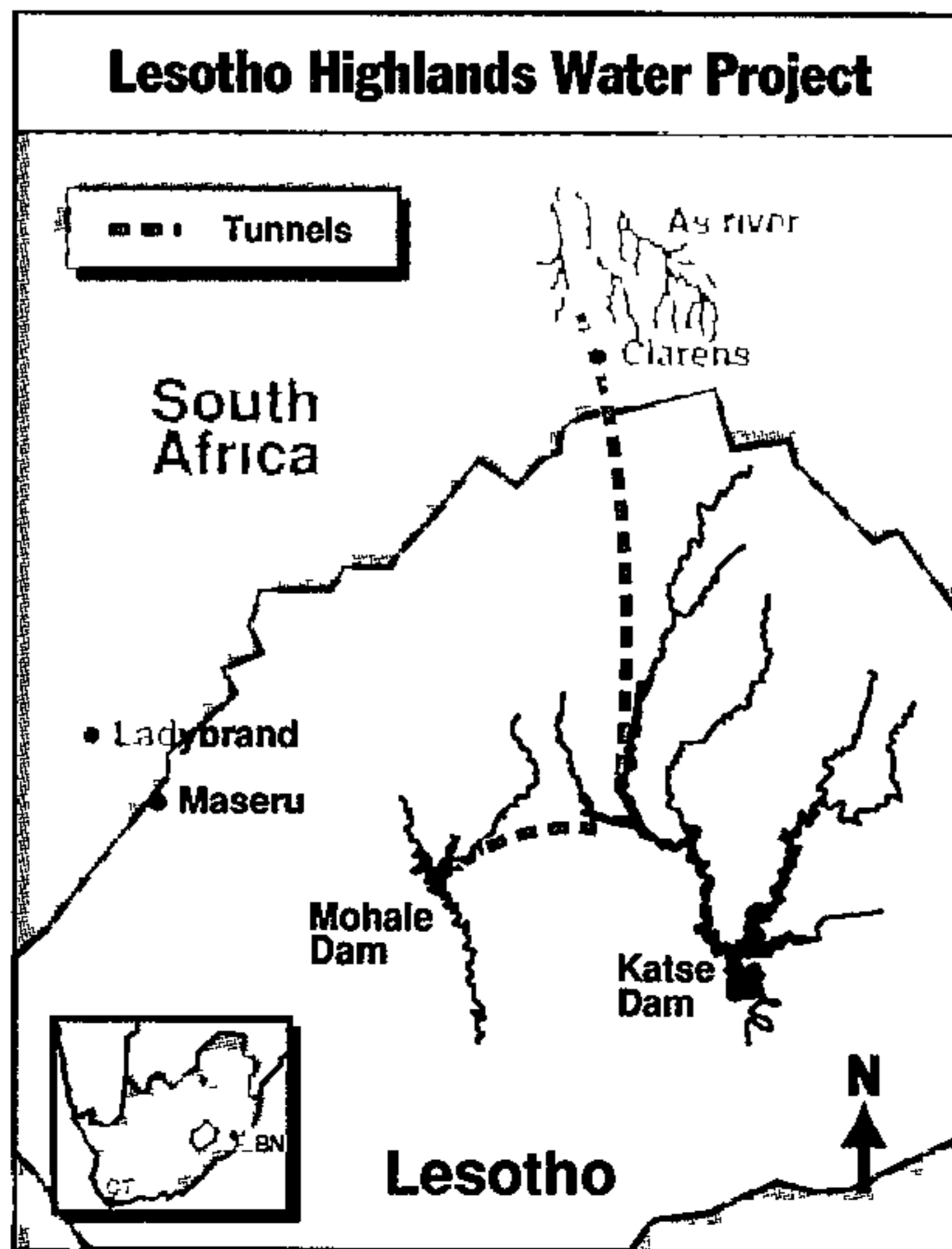
Another uncertainty about the cost of the project is that, while SA is liable for most of the cost on the Lesotho side (with the exception of the hydropower project), and is committed to paying royalties for as long as it takes the project's water from Lesotho, it has only an overseeing role as far as the expenditure of funds on the Lesotho side is concerned.

Croucamp says export credit loans to the value of R2,7bn should shortly be raised by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, with SA responsible for repayment.

He adds "We will attempt proper financial control over expenditure through the offices of the Joint Permanent Technical Committee, with equal representation by the SA and Lesotho governments," Krige says.

The Lesotho project was not the only proposal to channel water to the parched PWV. Before money began pouring into this project, at least two other projects, delivering the same volume of water as Phase 1A but at a fraction of the cost, were submitted to Water Affairs but rejected in favour of the Lesotho project.

Croucamp says it is unfair to compare the thoroughly investigated Lesotho project with preliminary, reconnaissance-type estimates on other schemes.





EM 24/9/91 (164)

One scheme provides for a series of 20 weirs in the Caledon River and the eventual pumping of water from the Orange to the Vaal system. It could be completed for a mere R1bn, says consulting engineer Lund, who developed and pushed this scheme in conjunction with a consulting engineering firm.

"The Orange-Caledon-Vaal scheme is initially envisaged to deliver 18 m<sup>3</sup> a second, which is the same capacity as Phase 1A of the Lesotho project (a topographic model is with Water Affairs)

"The attraction of this scheme is that it could be done in stages, as the need for water in the PWV area grew, by adding pumping capacity at a cost of only about R250m for each additional 18 m<sup>3</sup> a second capacity required."

#### Cost-effective phases

He adds that the total pumping cost for a 400 m lift is about 15c/m<sup>3</sup> compared with the more than R1/m<sup>3</sup> unit cost of water from the Lesotho project.

Another advantage, he says, is that the Caledon River weir project could also satisfy substantially the water needs of the Free State and Lesotho.

In a second option, engineering geologist George says the Tugela-Vaal scheme can be extended in cost-effective phases. "For a capital cost of less than R1bn, the Tugela and its tributaries in the Ladysmith-Colenso-Winterton area could deliver about 10 m<sup>3</sup> a second to the PWV, or more than half of the Lesotho project's Phase 1A. Pumping costs per cubic metre are less than the royalties to be paid to the Lesotho project authorities."

However, Croucamp says, the projected increase in water demand in the PWV area over the next 30 years is about 70 m<sup>3</sup> a second. The Lesotho project, therefore, is designed, with all four phases, to deliver this volume.

Arnold van Huyssteen

# 'Kaunda will lose election'

ZAMBIAN president Kenneth Kaunda and his United National Independence Party (Unip) will lose the October 31 elections by a significant margin, says Kent University International Relations lecturer Stephen Chan *8/20/91 1/10/91*

The likely victors and only other significant party is the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) led by trade unionist Frederick Chiluba, says Chan

In a paper written for the SA Institute of International Affairs, Chan says the immediate effects of a Unip loss would be a vast loosening of what have been difficulties in terms of trade and other economic interchange with SA

"I think that you will find SA being very positively and enthusiastically courted by a new government — it would be very anxious indeed for investment," Chan says

TIM COHEN

UK and US representatives believe Unip could just shade the presidential elections but would have to deal with a parliament firmly in the MMD's control.

"Kaunda would be prepared to accept a situation like that because he had been angling for a new constitutional base which would give the president power over parliament.

"It may mean ditching all of his lieutenants and supporters in the Unip party but he is prepared to do that if it means that he is able to hang on to personal power. The Americans and British are both wrong in thinking that it is going to be a close run affair. My own opinion is that it is going to be quite a decisive defeat — but this is based only on my own intuitive appreciation of the politics of that country"

## Rural spin-off from Lesotho power project

MASERU — More than 4 000 Lesotho households are to benefit from the construction of electrical sub-stations, part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Association (LHDA) said in a statement yesterday there were more than 120 villages situated in the project's catchment area and none had access to a reliable source of electricity *8/20/91 1/10/91*

A socio-economic survey was conducted by the LHDA at the beginning of Phase 1A of the project and electrification of the

villages had been determined as a priority

Although the LHDA is constructing the sub-stations, the Lesotho Energy Corporation is responsible for the supply of electricity to the villages *(167)*

The statement said funds would come from the LHDA while the actual electrification of the villages would be provided for by donor contributions

Three of the sub-stations would be constructed during Phase 1A of the Water Project, while another would be constructed during Phase 1B — Sapa

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Three of the sub-stations would be constructed during Phase 1A of the Water Project, while another would be constructed during Phase 1B — Sapa



Star 2/10/91 (16M)

## Women team-up to form Lesotho party

MASERU — A political party, with an all-woman executive, has been formed in Lesotho to contest next year's general election.

The Kopanang Basotho Party is the brain-

child of leading Lesotho educationist Limakatso Ntakatsane

Miss Ntakatsane said although her party would concentrate on the plight of women, it was not sexist and men were free

to join

There are now 12 political parties preparing to participate in next year's elections, after more than 20 years of dictatorship — Star Africa Service

# Women up front

MASERU - A political party, with an all-woman executive, has been formed in Lesotho to contest next year's general election

The Kopanang Basotho Party is the branch of leading Lesotho educationist Ms Limakatso Ntakatsane (164)

Ntakatsane said although her party would concentrate on the plight of women it was not sexist -  
*Sowetan Africa News Service*

# Lesotho still reels from April riots

S/Times (Bus) 6/10/91 161

WHILE Zaire faces the prospect of rebuilding its economy in the wake of last week's riots, Lesotho is still reeling from the effects of racial riots in April.

Some businesses in Maseru report sales down by 50%, and a virtual squeeze on new investment has thrown the country more deeply into crisis.

The downturn is attributed to a combination of factors, the recession, mine retrenchments in South Africa, which employs more than 100 000 Lesotho citizens, and the devastating effect of the April riots.

Work is continuing on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, but elsewhere projects have been put on ice.

A prominent businessman in Buthe-Buthe has shelved plans for a bakery, and major construction projects are on hold.

South African suppliers have slashed credit facilities

By CIARAN RYAN

to Lesotho companies, in many cases demanding cash on delivery.

This means less stock on the shelves and fewer sales. The fear is that the country could erupt in violence again at any moment.

One of the main reasons for the slump is the political uncertainty following a coup by General Ramoema, who ousted his predecessor, Metsing Lekhanya, this year.

## Farm

There is a suspicion that, despite assurances of a general election and return to civilian rule next year, Lesotho's military officers have tasted power and could easily precipitate a security crisis as a pretext to seizing power from an elected civilian government.

Deposed leader General

Lekhanya has reportedly bought a farm for more than R1.5-million across the border in the Free State, where he now spends much of his time. He remains under a form of house arrest in Lesotho, where his movements are restricted.

The April riots came at a time when retrenched mineworkers were streaming home from South Africa.

A local woman was beaten to death in Harties store in Maseru after allegations that she had stolen an item of clothing.

Rumours circulated that it was a Chinese-owned store (which was not true), igniting a rampage through the streets of Maseru by thousands of rioters.

The orgy of looting and killing lasted three days before it was brought under control.

Chinese, Indian and white

residents were targeted in an unprecedented airing of ethnic and racial hatred.

It was an opportunity to settle old scores with Chinese and Indian traders in particular, who were felt to be enriching themselves at the expense of locals.

Several Chinese residents were killed. Unofficial reports put the total death count at more than 100 as rioting spread to other centres such as Leribe and Mampuso. Buthe-Buthe, which has a large and affluent Indian population, was largely unaffected.

The police came in for sharp criticism over their handling of the riots, having called in the army only after most of the damage had been done.

There were reports of army personnel rounding up known criminals and instructing them to loot stores, and then shooting them "in the interests of public order".

The looting and killing in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi followed similar patterns. The only difference is that the damage in Lesotho was less and the return to normality was eased by the presence of its powerful neighbour, which is responsible for most of the country's investment.

## Strike

"There is a definite reluctance to invest in Lesotho at the moment because people are unsure about the future," says Ghemus Geldenhuys, South Africa's trade representative in Maseru.

Aid organisations are increasingly linking aid grants to the process of democratisation and "good government". The days of easy hand-outs are over.

According to the World Bank, Lesotho received US\$118-million in 1989. Only Botswana received more aid per capita (\$133 a head compared with Lesotho's \$60).

The situation in the country is exacerbated by a bank strike, now into its third month, as sacked bank clerks hold out for higher pay and reinstatement. Banks are open for a few hours a week, resulting in queues more than 100m long outside the tills.

The strike is the cause of mounting unrest, and one bank manager was found

murdered last week — a murder which many believe is related to the strike. The government has threatened closure of the banks unless the situation is resolved speedily.

The elections next year will see the return to the political arena of Chief Jonathan's long-standing opponent, Ntsu Mokhehle, leader of the Basutoland Congress Party.

Mokhehle beat Jonathan at the polls in 1970, but Jonathan declared the elections null and void at the last minute.

Mokhehle and his followers formed the Lesotho Liberation Army in an attempt to oust Jonathan by force. The chief adopted a pro-ANC stance which antagonised South Africa, prompting lightning raids on ANC houses in Maseru and the killing of several political activists.

# J-Net will focus on data interchange

## Business Times Reporter

JOAN JOFFE has come out of the wings. The founder and chairman of Joffe Associates has announced the launch of her new business venture, J-Net.

The joint venture with Olivetti Information Technology and an Israeli company will focus on electronic data interchange (EDI) via a value-added network (VAN).

EDI allows pre-format, standardised documentation to be sent over networks instead of having to be generated on paper.

Telkom has granted a few VAN licences to industry players in line with its new deregulation process.

Standard Bank and ISM launched their EDI system, Trafex, earlier this year, while First National Bank launched its Firstnet system this week, also to focus on this growing market.

Joffe has been active in the computer industry since 1959,



JOAN JOFFE

and she started Joffe Associates in 1977, taking the company to an annual turnover of R100-million. She sold the business to Datakor before that company's JSE listing in 1987.

"Bound by a restraint of trade agreement which expires soon, I've taken a low profile since resigning from the Datakor Group at the end of 1990," she says.

"But the restraint wasn't a hindrance to me, because I have no desire to re-enter the PC retail business," she says, adding that the new business bears no resemblance to the Joffe business, and it is thus not in conflict with the restraint.

Thinking behind J-Net's formation are two main trends in the computer industry, namely downsizing and outsourcing.

"These forces are giving rise to an exponential growth and development of specialist service operations.

"Companies are divesting themselves of operations and divisions which aren't part of their main line of business.

"Instead, they are outsourcing these functions from specialist organisations," she says, adding that outsourcing is expected to be a major growth trend over the next few years.

"Outsourcing is the rationale for this new venture."

# COMPANIES

PRELIMS	Turnover (Rm)
Dialmov	13,8
Perskor	599,5
Persbel	—
Rentbel	134,9
Harwill	N/A
TPN	—
Simmers #	9,2
Waverley *	0,6
Pals	N/A
Cons Diam □	2,9
Momentum	—
Sanlic	82,4
Berzack	100,3
Bivoc	100,6
Voltex	1257,6
Elcentre	—
Elgro	—

\* 15 months # 18 months □ 16 months

INTERIMS	Turnover (Rm)
Powtech	605,2
Raptor ▲	14,1
IB Joffe	13,6
Penpin	119,7
Penboard	32,1
Femcotec	54,7
Wesco	1714,5
Mast	9,8
Wankie (Z)	93,4
Altech	453,1
Adprom	26,2
Ohio	8,4
Amgold	—
Litho	31,5
Barprop	48,9
BIL	N/A
COPI (C\$)	106,6

▲ 12 months Z = Zimbabwe dollars



**New party formed** (167)

A new political party, the Liberal Party of Lesotho, has been formed in Maseru. Its leader, Paul Mollette, says he wants closer ties with South Africa.

STW 17/10/91

# Home of Mokhehle searched

Source 23/10/91

MASERU - The home of the leader of the Lesotho opposition Basutoland Congress Party, Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, was searched by armed members of the Lesotho Defence Force and Lesotho Mounted Police at the weekend. (16M)

This follows the arrival of a large number of "suspicious" parcels from South Africa.

Sources close to the BCP said the parcels were in fact a consignment of blankets in BCP party colours that had arrived in boxes, manufactured in South Africa

# SA bags Lesotho cement deal

167  
Brent Von Melville

SA PRODUCERS have signed a contract to supply cement for the first phase of the R9bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) — ending fears that local manufacturers would be left out in the cold.

The contract and a pending agreement are said to be worth more than R110m, and should see the SA Cement Producers' Association (Sacpa) — consisting of Pretoria Portland, Anglo-Alpha and Blue Circle — supply about 700 000 tons of cement to the R800m Katse Dam, the R1bn access tunnels and the R400m delivery tunnels.

The contract was signed earlier this year, and calls for the supply of about 420 000 tons of pure cement and 180 000 tons of extender (pulverised fuel ash supplied by Ash Resources of Secunda), and

40 000 tons of cement for the delivery tunnels on the SA side. Cement would be supplied by Anglo-Alpha's Ulco plant.

According to Sacpa LHWP subcommittee chairman Ernest Cerutti there is also an agreement pending for the supply of about 100 000 tons of cement with the Lesotho Highlands Project Contractors (LHPC) for the access tunnels in Lesotho.

While the total contract represented only about 10% of cement demand of about 8-million tons annually, a Sacpa spokesman said it came as a "minor boon" in view of the depressed building industry.

Cerutti said the SA industry would also

□ To Page 2

## Cement

810 cas  
7/11/91  
be allowed to tender for the LHWP's R1bn hydropower component.

There has been concern within the industry since the signing of the LHWP implementation treaty in 1986 that SA materials, including cement, would be prohibited by politically motivated funders anxious to reduce SA's role in the scheme.

That worry was underpinned last year when it was speculated that Sweden was seriously considering supplying the full complement of cement for the first phase as a measure of foreign aid to Lesotho.

Sacpa was also convinced that the Lesotho government — ultimately responsible for funding of the hydropower component — would prohibit SA companies from

tendering for materials, as a requirement for funding by the World Bank.

But economics, logistics and the re-acceptance of SA back into the world political fold had played a large part in awarding the contracts. "The LHWP contractors are simply sourcing cement supplies from the cheapest possible suppliers," said Cerutti.

In order to handle the large volumes, Sacpa has also commissioned an R8,5m cement depot in Ficksburg, to be constructed by Concor Blue Circle commercial director Peter Kett said the depot would handle about 150 000 tons of cementitious material annually, filling the orders for the first phase within four years.

□ From Page 1



## Lesotho gets R240m road

GERALD REILL *167*

PRETORIA — The R240m northern access road of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is to be opened by Lesotho's King Letsie III today, SA's Water Affairs Department announced yesterday *Monday 15/11/91*

The road stretches from Pitsend in the northwest and allows access to the construction site of the Katse Dam and forms part of Phase Ia, which will be completed in 1996.

The SA Institute of Civil Engineers recently voted the road the best civil engineering achievement in southern Africa in 1991.

The contractors were LTA Construction (Lesotho) and French-based contractors Dumez International.

try, raising more than the annual Red Nose Day, Ithuba or Operation Hunger

"Perhaps part of our success is due to the poor economy when many are feeling the

will be distributed in the prize-winning draw at an international carnival from 5 pm at Gold Reef City on Thursday Telephone 337-4150 or buy entrance tickets for R25 at the gate.

## King: water project key to new deal

MASERU — The Lesotho Highlands Water Project was the key to a new relationship between the mountain kingdom and South Africa, King Letsie III said at the weekend

Speaking at the opening of the R240 million access road to Katse Dam, he said the water scheme had strengthened Lesotho's position, which should shift from one of total dependence to a more balanced relationship.

South Africa had had the foresight to recognise that Lesotho could provide the most economical solution to the dangerous shortfalls in water supply in the Vaal catchment area

The Lesotho government had to ensure that the scheme was more than just a trade agreement regarding water

"It must be transformed into a fundamental base for the growth of wealth in Lesotho," the king said. — Sapa

16/11/97  
Stats

167

16/11/97



# Water scheme loans sealed

(167)

CT 20/11/91

## Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG —** The Lesotho Highland Development Authority (LHDA) has shored up offshore loan agreements worth about \$525m — the final step in financing requirements for the \$2bn first phase of the Lesotho water scheme

It is now estimated that all five phases of the project will cost \$5bn (about R14bn).

The first phase includes construction of the Katse Dam

The latest loans, officially agreed to yesterday in London, comprise export credits and commercial loans from leading European financial institutions headed by the Banque Nationale de Paris, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, Credit Lyonnais of Italy, and Dresdner Bank of Germany.

● The SA government has officially undertaken to make all debt service payments of all loans secured in the project treaty signed by SA and Lesotho in 1986



# Money now on tap for Lesotho water scheme

Finance Staff

164

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) yesterday signed loan agreements totalling more than \$500 million to complete the financing requirements for the construction of Phase 1 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)

The loans comprise export credits and commercial loans from leading banks in France, Germany and UK, and term loans from the Commonwealth Development Corporation, according to a statement issued by the LHDA

The agreement was signed at London's Dorchester Hotel yesterday. Total spending on the first phase of the \$5 billion project will be \$2 billion. The project is scheduled to be completed in five phases

At the function the South African government signed a separate deed to meet all debt service payments in re-

spect of the loans

The South African government undertaking is in fulfilment of its financial obligations in terms of the LHWP Treaty signed by SA and Lesotho in 1986

Among the key lenders are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Germany's Dresdner Bank, the Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais and UK's Hill Samuel Merchant Bank

## SA lenders

SA lenders include the Development Bank, Standard Bank, FNB, Volkskas and Nedbank

LHDA Chief Executive, Masupha Sole, said after the ceremony that "securing of the finance represented a major milestone in the implementation of the LHWP"

Mr Sole said he "looked forward to the implementation of the four further phases, the next of which will be the

hydro-electric component"

Lesotho's Minister of Finance and Planning, AL Thoahlane said after the signing the LHWP "had allowed Lesotho to forge new commercial and financial relationships with the international community and broaden its existing co-operation with development agencies"

Mr Thoahlane said the Lesotho government had established a development fund "into which revenues arising from the sale of LHWP water to South Africa will be deposited to finance further development of the country"

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Finance, Water Affairs and Forestry, JA van Wyk, said "the water which the LHWP will deliver to the industrial heartland of South Africa is critical for its future development"

Mr van Wyk said the LHWP "augured well for the further development

of southern Africa's water resources"

Yesterday's loan agreement follows the signing by the World Bank and the LHDA of a financing loan agreement of \$110 million in September this year

## Power station

A donor conference is scheduled to be held at Maseru from November 26 to 28 to finalise the financing of the R860 million Muela Hydropower Station, a component of Phase 1A for which Lesotho is solely responsible for financing

SA banks as well as multilateral agencies, such as the European Community, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank, are believed to be at the forefront of potential lenders for the projects

Tenders for civil works contracts for the Muela Hydropower Station are scheduled to be called in the first half of 1992

## Offshore financing <sup>167</sup> for Lesotho scheme

BRENT VON MELVILLE

THE Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has shored up offshore loan agreements worth about \$525m — the final step in financing requirements for the \$2bn first phase of the Lesotho water scheme

It is now estimated that all five phases of the project will cost about R14bn

The first phase includes construction of the Katse Dam.

The latest loans, officially agreed to yesterday in London, comprise export credits and commercial loans from leading European financial institutions headed by the Banque Nationale de Paris, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, Credit Lyonnais of Italy and Dresdner Bank of Germany <sup>B1 Day 20/11/91</sup>

In a related development SA has officially undertaken to make all debt service payments in respect of all loans secured thus far, in line with the project treaty signed by SA and Lesotho in 1986

The Phase I facility was guaranteed by the Development Bank of SA, while Phases II and III are guaranteed by government.

Onshore financing for the project has been raised mostly in SA, with export credit loans of R1,5bn raised through tendering. The balance of the financing has been raised in a three-phased approach

□ Short-term money market facility of R135m was provided by Volkskas Bank, Volkskas Merchant Bank (VMB) and Rand Merchant Bank (RMB). It was repaid in

□ To Page 2

## Lesotho <sup>B1 Day 20/11/91</sup>

March this year;

□ Short-term money market facilities of R750m was provided by Nedbank, Volkskas, VMB, RMB and Barclays Bank of Swaziland to be used as bridge financing and to be repaid early 1992, and

☑ A multi-option money market facility worth R1,5bn was provided by a consortium of Standard Bank of SA and FNB.

LHDA CE Masupha Sole said from London yesterday the loans represented a "major milestone" in the implementation of the project. Sole said the next phase would be the implementation of the hydroelectric component — which would wean Lesotho off its reliance on SA electricity. Once operational in 1996, the Muela

<sup>167</sup> □ From Page 1  
hydropower project would save Lesotho a \$9,6m-a-year electricity bill from Eskom

Lesotho would also be paid about \$25m a year, rising to \$110m on completion of the project, in royalty payments from SA

SA's Deputy Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk said the water that the project would deliver to the "industrial heartland" of SA would be critical for its future development

Yesterday's loan agreement followed the signing by the World Bank and the LHDA of a financing loan agreement of \$110m in September

Tenders for civil works contracts are scheduled to be called in the first half of next year

# R860m for Lesotho power station

B 10 am 28/11/91

FINANCING of the R860m 'Muela' Hydropower Station, a component of the R14bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), should be finalised by the weekend at a conference hosted by the Lesotho government in Maseru.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority said 30 delegates representing donors and aid agencies including the EC, World Bank, European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank would attend the conference start-

BRENT VON MELVILLE

ing today

In terms of the scheme's 1986 treaty, 'Muela's financing falls squarely on the Lesotho government, unlike the financing for the other components of Phase 1A, for which the SA government is responsible

Finance is being raised on the basis of guarantees from the Lesotho government and debt service repayments will be made from the sale of electricity

The station, located in

the Nqoe valley 122km northeast of Maseru, will have a capacity of 72MW. Transmission of electricity will be over a 61km-long 132kv line to Maputsoe and form the backbone of distribution systems to the populous lowlands between Maseru and Butha Buthe

The station will save Lesotho about \$9,6m a year in electricity bills to Eskom and the supply of water to SA will net about \$25m a year from 1996, rising eventually to \$110m by completion, in royalty payments

167



**\$130m for Lesotho (167)**

A TOTAL of \$130m in additional funding for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has been secured at a donor conference in Maseru.

A statement on Friday from the Lesotho government and the Lesotho Highlands Authority said the money would be used to help fund the R860m Muela Hydro-power Station, a component of Phase 1A of the Highlands Water project. BID 2/12/91

**Lesotho studies project**

A R1,5m study into the effects of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project on water quality and the aquatic eco-system, was officially commissioned in Maseru yesterday. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority signed an agreement with the CSIR.

The CSIR will collect baseline data and develop a limnological model to predict the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the Katse Reservoir, a component of Phase 1A of the project. A monitoring project will also be designed. (16M)

B/Daw 6/12/97

**Aid for Lesotho**

(b) (7) (C) (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)

LONDON: — The Commonwealth will assist Lesotho's transition from military to civilian rule, Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku said.



## Lesotho poll in gear (67)

Chairman of the military council Major General Ehas Ramaema announced in Maseru yesterday that the registration of voters for next year's elections, the first since 1966 independence, would begin today. General Ramaema said registration would take four months. General Ramaema said one problem facing his government was how to register Lesotho migrant workers in South Africa.

11/12/67  
S. A. S.

LESOTHO - GENERAL

1992

1. The Government of Lesotho has a long history of...  
2. The country is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations...  
3. The population of Lesotho is approximately 2.5 million...  
4. The capital city is Maseru, which is also the largest city...  
5. The official language is Sesotho, although English is widely used...  
6. The country is a developing nation with a focus on economic growth...  
7. The government is a constitutional monarchy with a multi-party system...  
8. The country is a member of the Southern African Development Community...  
9. The economy is primarily based on agriculture and mining...  
10. The country has a rich cultural heritage and is known for its traditional crafts...

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10. The country is a member of the African Union...

# Mokhehle poised to lead Lesotho

Sowetan 11/2/92 (167)

IN December 1973 Ntsu Mokhehle, the stormy petrel of Lesotho politics, left Maseru for the mountains after he was tipped off that his arch-rival, Chief Leabua Jonathan, had assigned an assassin to liquidate him.

He spent a month hiding in the mountains before stealing into South Africa, then Botswana, Zambia and exile.

He is reported to have also lived in Soweto and QwaQwa as the armed wing of his party, the Lesotho Liberation Army, tried unsuccessfully to unseat Jonathan from bases in South Africa.

Now back in Lesotho, Mokhehle, frail and in poor health, is expected to lead his party, the Basutoland Congress Party, to victory in the country's elections later this year, the first in 22 years.

Jonathan, the man who denied him power by declaring the results of the 1970 elections null and void, is long dead.

The BCP recently held its first congress inside the country since 1969. Mokhehle (74) was elected party leader by acclamation.

Almost 50 years of struggle - first against the British, and then against Jonathan and the military government - have taken their toll. The oratory that used to move crowds to tears or boiling anger is gone. Gone too is the confident stride. His walk is now almost a shuffle.

He told congress delegates, his voice at times faltering, to go back to their villages to prepare for power.

In an interview at his home in Maseru, Mokhehle spoke of relations with South Africa, with the ANC and PAC and territory that Lesotho is claiming from South

## FOCUS

Eighteen years ago, Ntsu Mokhehle went into exile to escape an assassination bid. He is back and is still a major factor in politics. **BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI**, of the Sowetan Africa News Service reports.

Africa.

A priority in Lesotho, he says, is to restore peace before the concerns of ordinary Basotho - economic deprivation, unemployment, bribery and corruption - can be tackled.

Mokhehle believes the South African Government was either actively involved in denying him power in 1970 or they put the idea into Jonathan's head.

"What the people in South Africa were afraid of was that there was a little country within their borders which did not accept apartheid.

"Also our tendency of moaning over our territory which is in their hands. They also were not certain about our attitude to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project."

His party's policy towards South Africa, he says, will be one of good neighbourliness.

"We will try by all means that where we agree we work together, and where we disagree, we will make it clear we don't agree. But good neighbourliness is our main objective in relations with South Africa."

But Mokhehle says he gets "scared" when even the ANC speaks of incorporating his country into South Africa.

"We're small but we want our sovereignty to be respected. We have a right to exist as a nation, small as we are. And I think South Africa and all those who aspire to take government in that country should accept this."

He describes South Africa as a senior partner in the "economic one-ness" of this region. "But that doesn't justify South Africa trying to throttle us."

His party also wants to see the question of the "conquered territories" between South Africa and Lesotho settled.

These, he says, includes the area along the border and extend as far as Winburg and Bethlehem.

"But originally the whole of the Free State was our territory. You find our graves everywhere."

He is not sure whether any South African Government will entertain the matter, "but let them say no. It's better to know that they say no."

## Federal

However, he says there is a case for some form of federal arrangement between the two countries. But this should be on the basis of a sovereign state discussing the matter with another sovereign state.

"Not in the manner that we should be thought of as a province."

Mokhehle says his party has not yet had the time to look into the finer details of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The scheme, he says, will go ahead without any interruption.

"But in such a manner that Lesotho get some benefits. At the moment the emphasis is on the

advantages and benefits that South Africa will get out of it."

Mokhehle describes the BCP's relations with the ANC as "rather cold".

The chilly relations between the two dates back to Mokhehle's student days at Fort Hare in the forties. He says the incorporation of Lesotho into South Africa was one of the issues which forced him to resign his membership of the ANC in the early fifties.

Relations with the PAC are cordial. "The PAC to a certain extent is brother to BCP, as Pan Africanists."

Many Basotho on the mines, some of them BCP members, join the National Union of Mineworkers and also take out ANC membership cards. Some of them were seen at the BCP congress wearing T-shirts with pictures of both Nelson Mandela and Mokhehle on them.

Analysts have pointed out that this is an indication that there is support among Basotho for some form of federal arrangement, if not complete unity, between Lesotho and a post-apartheid South Africa.

But Mokhehle disagrees. He says Basotho have been "cheated" into joining the ANC.

"They join the NUM with the understanding it will deal with conditions at work, but by so doing they unwittingly join the movement that is a part of the ANC. Most of them feel cheated, and they even tried to form another mineworkers' union."

On the sensitive question of King Moshoeshoe II, who has been banished to England by former military ruler Major-General Lekhanya, Mokhehle says he is not going to interfere.

"We're not going to interest ourselves in the matter. We'll take it as it stands. We are interested in the office of the king, but not in the personalities involved."

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thlooe. Newsbills by Sydney Matlhaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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# Victory in his sights at last

STAR 15/2/92

(16)

**Fifty years after he began fighting against British domination and 19 years after he fled into exile to lead an insurgent movement against Leabua Jonathan's dictatorial regime, Ntsu Mokhehle is at last about to gain power in Lesotho. But his is not so much a victory march as a weary shuffle, his strength drained by age and adversity. BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI reports.**

**I**N DECEMBER 1973, Ntsu Mokhehle, the stormy petrel of Lesotho politics, headed into the mountains after he was tipped off that his arch-rival, Chief Leabua Jonathan, had assigned an assassin to liquidate him.

He spent a month hiding in the mountains before slipping into South Africa, then Botswana, then on to Zambia and a long exile.

He is reported to have lived in Soweto and Qwa-Qwa while the armed wing of his party, the Lesotho Liberation Army, tried unsuccessfully from bases in South Africa to unseat Chief Jonathan.

Now back in Lesotho, frail Mr Mokhehle is expected to lead his party, the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), to victory in the country's elections later this year, the first since 1970.

Chief Jonathan, the man who denied him power by declaring the results of the last elections null and void, is long dead.

The BCP recently held its first congress inside the country since 1969. Mr Mokhehle (74) was elected party leader.

Almost 50 years of struggle — first against the British, and then against Chief Jonathan and the military government — have taken their toll. The oratorical skill that used to move crowds to tears or boiling anger is gone. Gone too is the confident stride. His walk is almost a shuffle.



MTHOMBOTHI

**TIME IS AGAINST THE STALWART: Age and adversity have taken their toll on Ntsu Mokhehle.**

ment was either actively involved in denying him power in 1970 or that it put the idea into Chief Jonathan's head.

"What the people in South Africa were afraid of was that there was a little country within their borders which did not accept apartheid, and also our tendency to moan over our territory, which is in their hands. They also were not certain about our attitude to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project."

"But we will face these things when we take government. We're pragmatic people."

His party's policy towards South Africa, he says, will be one of good neighbourliness.

"We will try by all means where we agree to work together, and where we disagree, we will make it clear we don't agree. But good neighbourliness is our main objective in relations with South Africa."

However, Mr Mokhehle says he gets "scared" when the ANC speaks of incorporating his country into South Africa.

"We're small but we want our sovereignty to be

respected. We have a right to exist as a nation, small as we are. And I think South Africa and all those who aspire to take government in that country should accept this."

He describes South Africa as a senior partner in the "economic oneness" of this region. "But that doesn't justify South Africa trying to throttle us into becoming their part."

His party also wants to see the dispute over the "conquered territories" between South Africa and Lesotho settled.

These, he says, include the area along the border and extend as far as Winburg and Bethlehem.

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He says there is a case for some form of federal arrangement between the two countries, but that

this should be on the basis of a sovereign state discussing the matter with another sovereign state — "not in the manner that we should be thought of as a province."

Mr Mokhehle says his party has not yet had the time to look into the finer details of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The scheme, he says, will go ahead without any interruption, "but in such a manner that Lesotho gets some benefits. At the moment the emphasis is on the advantages and benefits that South Africa will get out of it."

He says there are reports that certain pages of the original contract of the project are missing.

"We will have to re-examine the original document. But we have no intention at all of stopping the project."

Mr Mokhehle describes the BCP's relations with the ANC as "rather cold". (A senior ANC official attended the BCP congress in Maseru but said he was not on official business.)

The chilly relations between the two date back to Mr Mokhehle's student days at Fort Hare in the Forties. He says the incorporation of Lesotho into South Africa was one of the issues which forced him to resign his membership of the ANC.

Relations with the PAC are cordial. "The PAC to a certain extent is brother to the BCP, as Pan Africanists."

**I**F THE ANC became the government of South Africa, Lesotho under the BCP would have to deal with it as governments deal with each other. Mr Mokhehle says "There's no question of a special treatment of South Africa simply because it's run by the ANC or PAC."

Many Basotho on the mines, some of them BCP members, join the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and take out ANC membership. Some were seen at the BCP congress wearing T-shirts with pictures of both Nelson Mandela and Mr Mokhehle on them.

Analysts have pointed out that this indicates support among Basotho for some form of federal arrangement, if not complete unity, between Lesotho and a post-apartheid South Africa.

Mr Mokhehle disagrees. He says Basotho have been "cheated" into joining the ANC. It is obvious the NUM is not his best friend.

"They join the NUM with the understanding it will deal with conditions at work, but by so doing they unwittingly join a movement that is a part of the ANC. Most of them feel cheated, and even tried to form another mineworkers' union."

On the sensitive question of King Moshoeshoe II, who has been banished to England by former military ruler Major-General Melsing Lekhanya, Mr Mokhehle says he is not going to interfere.

"We're not going to interest ourselves in the matter. We'll take it as it stands in the office of the king, but not in the personalities involved."

Will he be able to stay the course at his age? "Some people have headed government being much older than I am. But when and if circumstances demand that I should leave, even now, I won't have regrets. I have done my part and I think the young men should take over."

**H**E TOLD congress delegates, his voice at times faltering, to go back to their villages to prepare for power.

In an interview with The Star Africa News Service at his home in Maseru, Mr Mokhehle spoke of relations with South Africa, the ANC and PAC, and of territory Lesotho is claiming from South Africa.

He is certain he is at last about to achieve his life's ambition of governing his tiny country. "All the signs are that we will make it," he says.

He feels that a priority in Lesotho is to restore peace before the concerns of ordinary citizens — economic deprivation, unemployment, bribery and corruption — can be tackled. "And I think they believe that the BCP will fight these evils."

He dismisses his main rival, the Basotho National Party (BNP), as a party of chiefs, with whom the people have associated all the country's misfortunes since independence.

Mr Mokhehle believes the South African Govern-



# Lesotho red-faced over Chinese passports

By Barney Mthombothi  
Star Africa Service

STAR 20/1/92

An over-ambitious scheme to lure wealthy Hong Kong businessmen to invest their millions in Lesotho has collapsed amid recriminations and extraordinary bungling in the higher echelons of the kingdom's government

While a senior foreign affairs ministry official this week described the scheme to sell passports to Hong Kong Chinese as "a major irregularity" which had acutely embarrassed Lesotho, the kingdom's Minister of Trade said he would be failing in his duty if he did not support it, and vowed to make it succeed

In its eagerness to entice Hong Kong businessmen, the military government brought

out an extraordinary government order changing the law to make it possible for them to be granted Lesotho citizenship. The order has, however, now been nullified

The Lesotho government has also notified foreign embassies that 276 passports sold to foreign nationals, mainly Chinese, have been cancelled

Although the scheme was aimed at Hong Kong businessmen eager to leave the colony before it falls under Beijing's rule in 1997, more than 95 per cent of those who bought the passports were from mainland China, not generally known for its entrepreneurial spirit

The principal secretary in the Foreign Affairs department, Mr M Mathibeli, said the passports were cancelled because they had been issued "under dubious

circumstances"

Mr Mathibeli said although the scheme was designed to attract foreign investors, it soon became "an outright sale of Lesotho passports"

"It's a major irregularity which is very embarrassing for Lesotho," he said

One of the Chinese whose passport was cancelled took the government to court. But the military government brought an extraordinary order which effectively stopped the trial

The trial could have given the Basotho people an insight into a scheme which has become a national controversy since anti-Chinese riots in the kingdom last May, which left several people dead

An office opened in Hong Kong to recruit investors for Lesotho has now been closed

(167)

# News

# Lesotho passport scam

STAR 22/2/92

16

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MASERU — An ambitious scheme to lure investment to Lesotho from Hong Kong before it is taken over by China has collapsed amid recriminations and allegations of government bungling

A senior foreign affairs ministry official this week described the scheme — selling Lesotho passports to Hong Kong Chinese — as “a major irregularity” which had acutely embarrassed Lesotho

In its eagerness to attract investment from Hong Kong, Lesotho’s military government brought out a government order changing the law in order to make it possible for Hong Kong residents to be granted Lesotho citizenship

The order has, however, now been nullified

The Lesotho government has also notified foreign embassies that 276 passports sold to foreign nationals, mainly Chinese, have been cancelled

An odd aspect of the project is that although it was aimed at Hong Kong businessmen eager to leave the colony before it falls under Beijing’s rule in 1997, more than 95 percent of those who bought the passports were from mainland China.

**A SENIOR Lesotho government minister has hit on a novel way to attract investments: selling passports. But others in the government have frowned on his initiative, reports BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI of the Africa News Service.**

The principal secretary in the foreign affairs department, Mr M Mathibeli, said the passports were cancelled because they had been issued “under dubious circumstances”

An investigation by the Africa News Service has unearthed documents from non-government sources which reveal serious disagreements between Lesotho government ministers over the project and the clumsy way in which the matter was handled by the military leader, Major General Elias Rammaema

In October 1990, a Hong Kong businessman,

John Wu, led a delegation to Lesotho at the invitation of the then military leader, Major General Justin Lekhanya, to discuss an “investment programme” for Lesotho

After a meeting with General Lekhanya’s ministers, a Lesotho delegation went to Hong Kong in November 1990 and, according to its own report, “returned enthusiastic about the project”

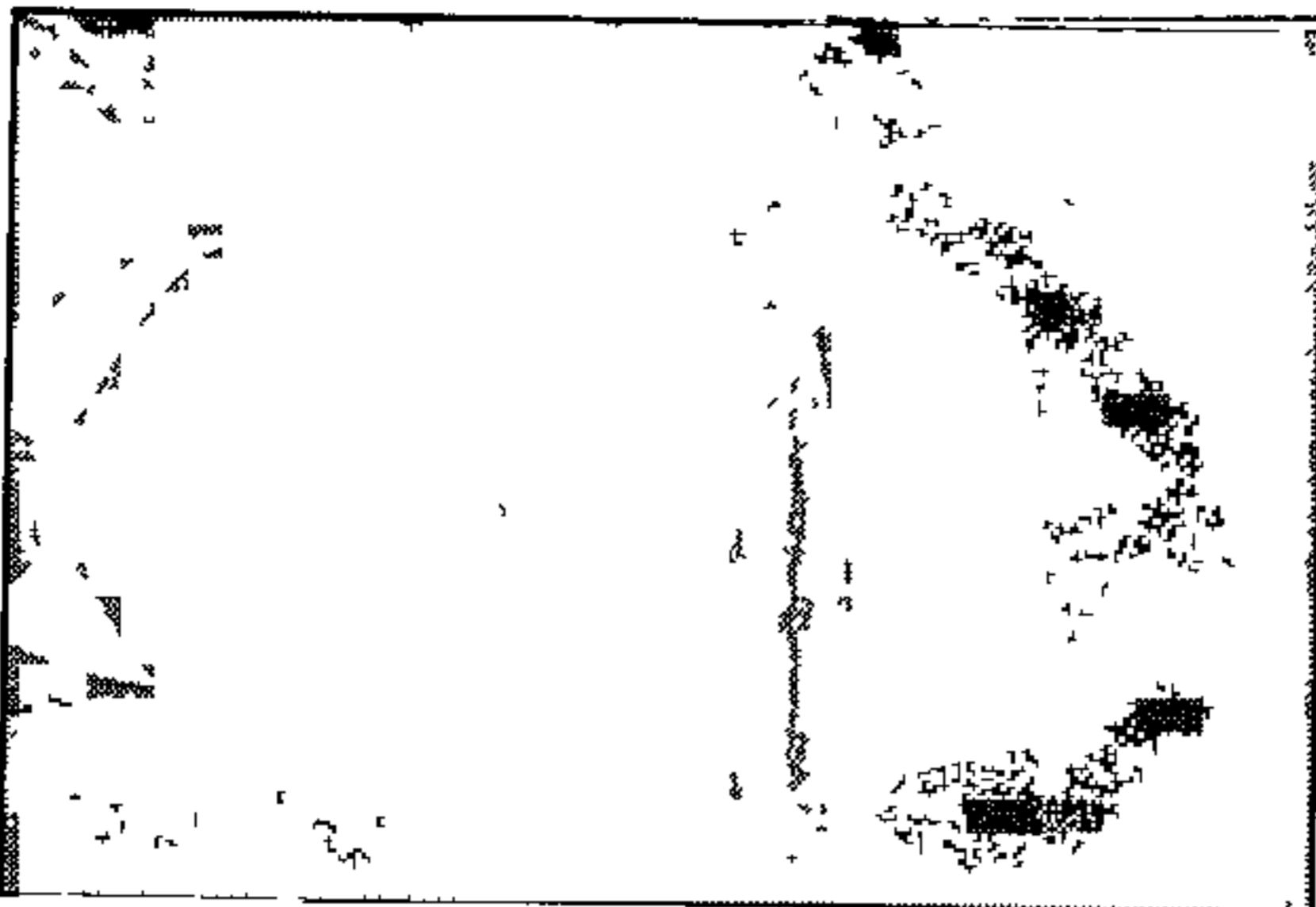
The project involved the establishment of an office in Hong Kong to be known as the Lesotho Hong Kong Development Corporation Ltd (LHKDC) to be run by Mr Wu to recruit investors for Lesotho

The investors would be offered a “package” which included the offer of Lesotho citizenship at the payment of a nominal fee

The military government also undertook to change the law so that foreigners “whose work, trade, commerce or industry” would benefit Lesotho could be granted citizenship

This was done through an extraordinary government gazette on May 11 1991

Meanwhile, on December 14 1990, General Lekhanya wrote to Mr Wu’s wife, Lydia Kwok-Hing Wu, appointing her Lesotho’s honorary



**OVERTHROWN: General Lekhanya.**



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# stamped out

consul in Hong Kong, pending approval by the British authorities

General Lekhanya was overthrown in April last year. His successor, Major General Elias Ramaema, formally appointed Mrs Wu as honorary consul in a letter dated May 30 1991

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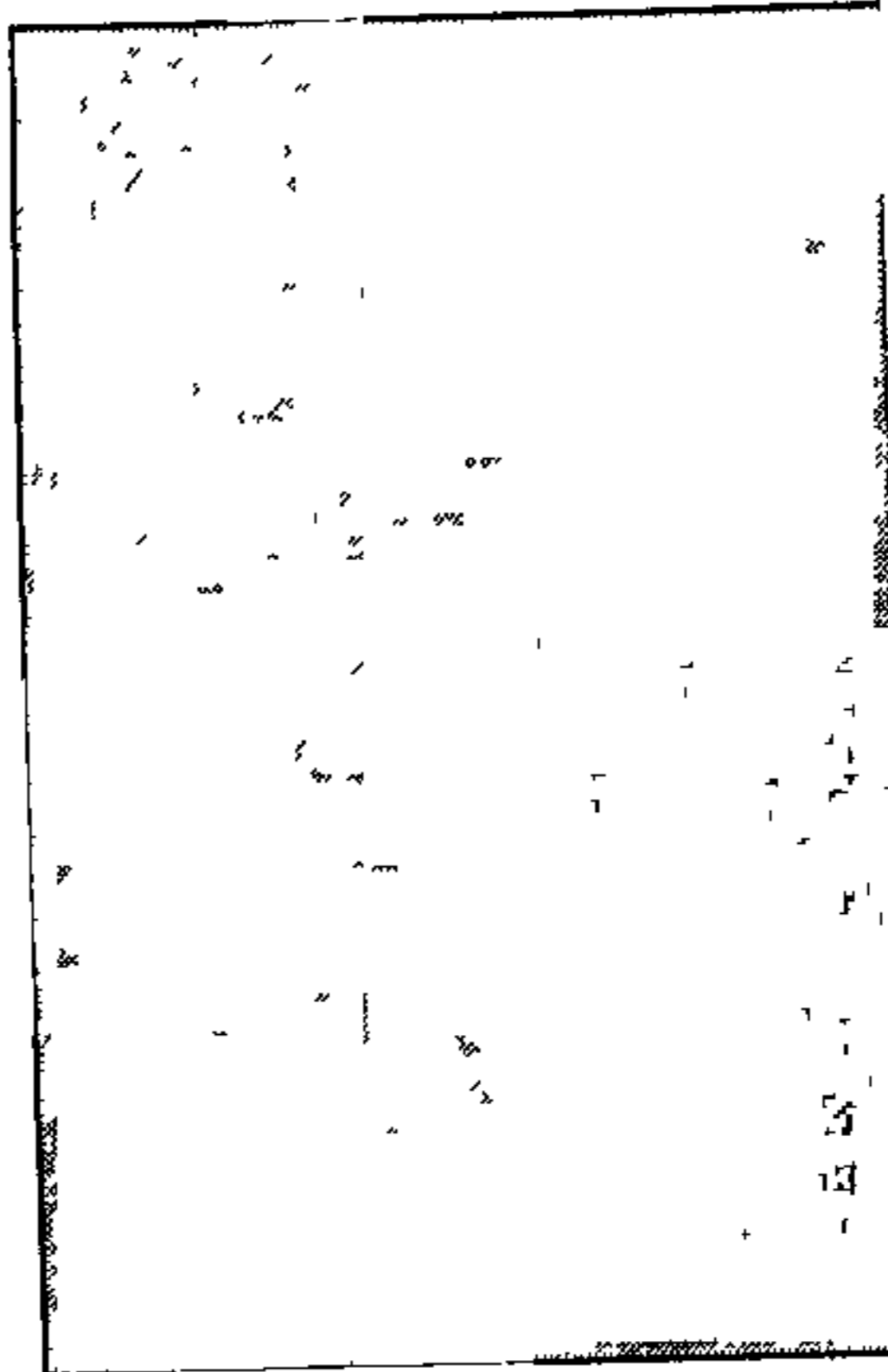
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However, on August 30 General Ramaema wrote to Mrs Wu terminating her appointment. A few days later, on September 5, he sent another letter cancelling the previous one

But by then the project was all but dead. According to one document "political differences between the various ministries" made it impossible for the project to proceed. The military government had also been shaken by the anti-Chinese sentiments from ordinary Basotho during the May riots

And on September 25, the government issued another extraordinary government gazette nullifying the gazette of May 11, which made it possible to grant instant citizenship to foreign investors.

In December last year, the Lesotho government notified foreign embassies that the 276 passports sold to foreign nationals had been cancelled.



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CLUMSY: General Ramaema.

## Lesotho govt halts Highlands court case

81024 25/3/92 (167)  
MASERU — The Lesotho government yesterday halted court proceedings against the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority and the Commissioner of Mines

The case was brought by Rampai Mining Co and Swissbrough Mining Co for protection against "unlawful" interference by the development authority in constructing the Highlands water project

The Lesotho High Court said it had removed from the roll the application for suspension of some work on the project

This followed a government order at the weekend revoking the mining leases in the deeds registry which gave mining rights to the companies involved.

In court yesterday, Judge Lehohla said he regretted being deprived of the chance of hearing such an interesting case.

Swissbrough MD J van Zyl said yesterday the Lesotho government had wiped out the group's mining rights and its claims for damages and compensation, which it valued at more than R1bn — Sapa-Reuter.

# Lesotho foils mining companies

Star Africa Service

(167)

the area

STAR

25/3/92

MASERU — Efforts by two mining companies to halt construction of the giant Lesotho Highlands Water Project and to claim R300 million damages have been foiled by a new law passed by the Lesotho government cancelling mining rights in

In the Lesotho High Court yesterday, the Swissborough and Rampai mining companies withdrew their applications for court orders halting work on the hydro-electric project and claiming damages for diamond production that might be lost if dia-

mond fields were covered by the water project

This followed the introduction by the military government of a new law apparently aimed at blocking the court action

The law simply revoked all mining rights granted in the area.



of memory and other disorders

"The bishop advised me to seek medical attention. He is very concerned about my safety," Makhalemele said

He said it was agreed to be provided with alternative accommodation while the hostel was being converted into family units

## Diamond group case for Hague hearing

*Sowetan 26/3/92*  
MASERU - The diamond group which on Tuesday had its mining leases revoked by the Lesotho government will take its case to the World Court in The Hague and the United Nations

The group has also stopped mining activities in the north of the country and has expressed concern for the safety of its employees,

SAPA

SABC radio news reports

The managing director of Swissbrough Diamond Mines, Mr Joe van Zyl, said on Wednesday the Lesotho Government's decision to halt High Court proceedings and to revoke the mining leases made a mockery of the rule of law

Van Zyl said he would

not adhere to a demand that the group should vacate the land and remove its plant and equipment within 90 days

He also said he had heard rumours that the South African Government had pressured Lesotho into taking action against his group

The court case was brought by the mining

*(167)*  
group after a dispute with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority over the Highlands water scheme

Van Zyl said that it had not been the group's intention to delay the Highlands water scheme, but negotiation attempts about the losses the mining group would suffer had fallen on deaf ears

## Lesotho mine to seek World Court hearing

STAR 26/3/92  
MASERU — One of the two mining groups that had their mining leases revoked by the Lesotho government on Tuesday will take its case to the World Court and the United Nations

The group has also stopped mining in the north of the country and has expressed concern for the safety of its employees

Swissbourgh Diamond Mines managing director Joe van Zyl said the Lesotho government's decision to halt High Court proceedings and to revoke the mining leases made a mockery of the

rule of law (167)  
He intended to appeal to the World Court and the UN

Mr van Zyl said he had heard rumours that the South African Government had pressured Lesotho into taking action against his group

The court case had been brought by the mining group after a dispute with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority over the Highlands water scheme

Mr van Zyl said it had not been the group's intention to delay the Highlands water scheme  
— Sapa

# RMP gives 20 000ha to Parks Board

*8/Day 30/3/92*  
 RAND Mines Properties (RMP) has handed over 20 000ha of pristine wilderness in the Langekloof Mountains to the National Parks Board, to be used for environmental education and the creation of hiking trails. A statement on Friday on behalf of Rand Mines Properties and the Parks Board said the area, near the Tsitsikamma National Park, was the country's biggest known remaining wilderness in private hands. The land will probably be incorporated into the Tsitsikamma National Park. RMP handed over the area at a function at the Storms River Mouth camp in the Tsitsikamma on Friday.

The land — which has been privately owned for almost 100 years and which has never been put to commercial use — is known as Zoetkraal. It incorporates a 35km-long valley with water running all year round. Former RMP MD John Turner, who initiated the project, said it had been agreed with the Parks Board that the overall concept for the management of the land would be sharply focused on outdoor recreation and environmental education. "Therefore, walking-hiking trails and rustic accommodation will probably be the main feature of development" — Sapa

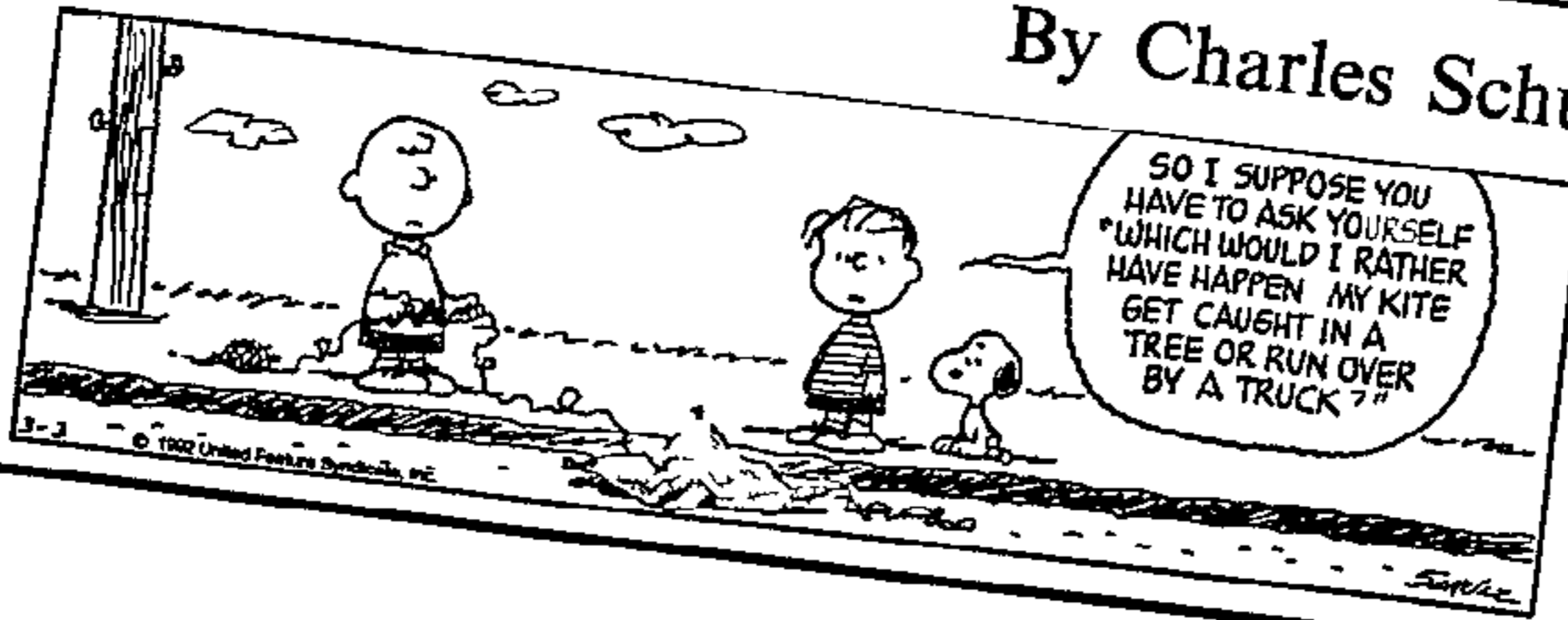
# Diamond firm petitions FW

*8/Day 30/3/92*  
 MASERU — A diamond mining company has petitioned President FW de Klerk to hold an inquiry into the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme Treaty. Swissborough Diamond Mines MD Joe van Zyl said on Friday his company had petitioned De Klerk to inquire into who was responsible for action taken by the Lesotho government.

On Tuesday Lesotho revoked the mining group's mining leases. Van Zyl said he had heard rumours that SA had pressured Lesotho into taking action against his group. All mining operations have been suspended pending legal proceedings to set aside Lesotho's decision to revoke the mining leases. Van Zyl said earlier this week the company would take the issue to the world court and the UN. — Sapa

# PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



M I A I





# Ex-officials in Lesotho gem row

S Times (Buss) 5/4/92

By CIARAN RYAN and IAN ROBINSON

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A COMMISSION of inquiry is to be set up in Lesotho to investigate the issue of mining licences to Swissborough Diamond Mines (SDM) on sites which had been set aside for the Lesotho Highlands water project

The Lesotho Government revoked all mining licences issued to SDM after legal action was taken against the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA).

SDM claimed that the water project threatened its mining rights, worth about R1-billion.

Sources in Maseru say the issue of licences to SDM was expedited by a former military councillor and two former ministers.

A report in The Mirror newspaper in Maseru says licences were issued "so that at some stage the LHDA could be blackmailed into paying huge sums of money which could be shared between themselves (the former ministers and councillor) They acted behind the scenes."

Lesotho's Attorney-General and Minister of Law, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs, Kelebone Maope, told Business Times the licences were cancelled because

"they were obtained contrary to mining law"

"These companies (SDM and sister company Rampai) were abusing their rights. Our mining inspectors were frequently chased away from the mine."

SDM has been given 90 days to leave the site

SDM group managing director Josias van Zyl plans to appeal to the International Court of Justice in The Hague

Mr Van Zyl has also asked President De Klerk to hold a judicial inquiry into the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme Treaty which was concluded between the governments of South Africa and Lesotho

Mr Van Zyl is banned from Lesotho

Mr Van Zyl says cancellation of his leases was "a blatant violation of the rule of law . . . and of the constitution of Lesotho".

Commissioner of Mines Baile Jesse says not only were the licences not

issued in accordance with proper procedure, they required development work to begin within a specified time and this was not done.

Mr Jesse says. "One suspects they knew the validity of the mining leases would ultimately be in conflict with the Highlands water project."

"It is unethical to secure mining rights and then not mine them. Furthermore, these areas are not proven to have large reserves of diamonds because no geological survey was done in the area."

Mr Jesse says of the five areas for which mining leases were issued,

SDM was only working Patiseng-Khumelu, with a small operation at Matsoku

SDM secured mining rights on all the major waterways feeding in the Highlands scheme two years after the project began

Lesotho Government mining officials doubt that the area is as rich in diamonds as Mr Van Zyl claims Lesotho's richest kimberlite pipes are at Letsing and Kao, areas not affected by the water project.

Mr Maope says "We had to consider the national and regional importance of the Highlands project above that of Swissborough"

The Lesotho Government has issued an order preventing anyone from seeking compensation for losses allegedly suffered as a result of the water project

# SA is accused in Lesotho gem case

ST TIME [BUS] 12/4/92 (167)  
SWISSBOURGH Diamond Mines (SDM) has blamed the South African Government for complicity in the revocation of the company's mining leases by Lesotho's Military Council in November 1991.

SDM has launched an urgent application in the High Court of Lesotho to set aside the council's action

The SA Government and the Joint Permanent Technical Commission (JPCT) have been cited as respondents. Court papers allege that the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is controlled by the JPCT.

Both the SA Government and the Lesotho Government have three representatives on the JPCT. All its decisions require the approval of both governments.

SDM managing director Josias van Zyl says it is "inconceivable that the JPCT and therefore the South African Government has not been involved" in the steps taken by the LHDA and the Lesotho Government against the com-

By CIARAN RYAN and IAN ROBINSON

pany, culminating in the revocation of its mining leases.

Mr Van Zyl alleges that the two governments "are acting in concert" against SBD and its subsidiaries "with a view to advancing a joint project (Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme) and avoiding liability for compensation".

SDM's application follows the announcement by the Lesotho Government that a commission of inquiry will investigate why mining licenses were issued to SDM two years after the areas were set aside for the water project.

Mining authorities in Lesotho allege that former high-ranking ministers expedited the granting of mining leases to SDM in anticipation of a legal clash with LHDA. They hoped to receive a large settlement for dropping the case, it is claimed.

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R2,7m to its shareholders and a further amount of R2,7m to a number of associated companies in respect of subordinated loan

The company was finding it increasingly difficult to meet its salary obligations, he said

# Lesotho rulers warn traditional leaders

MASERU — Lesotho's ruling Military Council has warned the country's traditional leaders to halt activities aimed at restoring exiled King Moshoeshoe II to the throne

In a statement released in Maseru yesterday, the council advised chiefs to stop efforts to return King

Moshoeshoe to the throne as it would negate their oaths of allegiance to King Letsie III

The council said the King's return was scheduled for April 28 to May 2 — a month earlier than his expected return on May 28

King Moshoeshoe was de-

throned in 1990 and exiled to Britain after refusing to approve the dismissal of three council members. The monarchy was stripped of all its powers by former military ruler Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya. Moshoeshoe's son was declared the new monarch but has not been crowned — Sapa

510am 15/4/92

(167)





# Nation warned on king

*Sowetan 15/4/92*  
MASERU - The ruling military council yesterday issued a veiled warning against public support for the return of King Moshoeshe II.

The king was deposed by the military government in 1990 when he refused to approve the dismissal of three military council members.

He left the country and former military ruler Major-General Justin Lekhanya later stripped the monarchy of all powers.

Moshoeshe's son was declared the new monarch but has not been crowned.

A group of supporters announced recently Moshoeshe would return to Lesotho in May.

In a statement broadcast on Radio Lesotho yesterday, the government advised the nation to avoid destabilisation or being dragged into a potentially dangerous situation.

It said the nation only had one king, Letsie III, and that local chiefs would be showing him disrespect by supporting Moshoeshe.

The military leaders want to prevent widespread public support for Moshoeshe, but have no objections to his return as an ordinary chief.

Lekhanya, who seized power in a 1986 coup, was ousted last year in a bloodless coup and replaced by another council member, Major-General Elias Ramaema.

The military leadership has promised elections this year and a return to civilian rule in the landlocked, mountainous country the size of Belgium.

Lesotho is surrounded by South Africa and is economically dependent on its larger neighbour. - Sapa-AP

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# Lesotho govt opposes deposed king's return

STAR 15/4/92

Star Africa Service

167

MASERU — The Lesotho government has strongly warned that the imminent return of deposed former King Moshoeshoe II could lead to instability in the country.

The Lesotho royal family decided at the weekend that the former king should return to Lesotho on May 28.

But in a strongly worded statement in Maseru yesterday the government said King Moshoeshoe's return could shatter the fragile peace as the country prepared for a return to civilian rule later this year.

The government also warned chiefs to stop campaigning for King Moshoeshoe's return and to abide by their oath of allegiance to his son and



King Moshoeshoe II

successor, King Letsie III.

But King Letsie III was at the side of his mother, Queen Mamohato, when the announcement of his father's return was made at the weekend.

King Moshoeshoe was dethroned by former military leader Major-General Metsing Lekhan-ya in February 1990 and was exiled to Britain.

**Moshoeshoe**  
*STAR*  
**can return, but**  
*28/4/92*  
**not as king** *167*

MASERU — Lesotho's exiled King Moshoeshoe was free to return home but not as king, Military Council chairman Major-General E P Ramaema said yesterday

Addressing members of the council and the National Constituent Assembly, he said there were "rumblings" in the local press on the question of how many monarchs Lesotho had and the expected return of King Moshoeshoe

He said arrangements made for King Moshoeshoe's return reached an impasse when the king set certain conditions, including the resignation of the government, the installation of an interim government and the holding of elections within six months

He said for these reasons the government had come to the conclusion that the king had abdicated, and King Moshoeshoe had subsequently been informed of this

King Letsie III was installed to fill the constitutional void. — Sapa



**AFRICA**

# Military surrenders to democracy

Wimark 30/4-7/5/92

*Another military government in Africa is getting ready to hand power back to civilians. The Lesotho government is trying to remain aloof but it is being accused of favouring one party. By NAT MOLOMO*

**P**OLITICAL rallies in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho are marking the start of a journey back from military to civilian rule. For the first stage, a commission has toured the country sounding people's views on a draft constitution adopted by the Constituent National Assembly.

A code of conduct for political parties has been devised and 600 election numerators trained and despatched to the villages. So far, 552 000 of the expected 892 000 voters have registered. Delimitation of constituencies is yet to be made.

A delay in the timetable could result from a fire which wrecked part of the government complex in Maseru and destroyed many vital documents.

Elections, scheduled for October-November, will be monitored by the Commonwealth Two Australian constitutional and electoral experts and the deputy chief justice of Zambia, Matthew Ngulube, have been sent by the Commonwealth Secretariat to advise the government. The Canadian government has delivered 3 000 ballot boxes.

Lesotho's government has agreed that the state radio can be used by the political parties to put over their messages.

*LESOTHO'S military government called an emergency meeting of the constituent assembly on Monday to discuss whether exiled King Moshoeshoe II should be allowed to return to the throne.*

*A committee of chiefs and relatives of the king have arranged for the king to return on May 28 after two years of exile in Britain.*

*The head of the military government, Major General Phisoana Ramaema, has said the exiled king can return as a chief but not as monarch. The military government deposed him and replaced him with his son, King Detsi III, amid allegations that he was misusing his powers.*

*The constituent assembly, set up in 1990 to draft a replacement for the constitution suspended in 1974, was expected to spend three days debating whether Moshoeshoe should return to the throne.*

*In another development, Ramaema sacked two of the six officers on his military council last week without giving reasons. Brigadier Benedict Lerofoli was responsible for health and the highlands water project. The responsibilities of the second officer, Colonel Jacob Jane, included constitutional affairs.*

*the military wing of the exiled BCP until it accepted an amnesty offer to return home three years ago and was declared dissolved.*

*Those who defend the government against charges of pro-BCP bias point to Ramaema's firm commitment to return the country to democracy in 1992 and the fact that any step backward would be viewed with disfavour by the international donor community.*

*The leader of the BCP, Dr Ntso Mokhehle — who spent 15 years in exile — praised the military government for promising a return to civilian nation regardless of their political*

## From a monarch to a chief?

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The leader of the BCP, Dr Ntso Mokhehle — who spent 15 years in exile — praised the military government for promising a return to civilian nation regardless of their political

affiliation".

The junta, meanwhile, is being accused in the courts of electoral irregularities. The BNP is claiming that when the military, then under Major General Metsing Lekhanya, ousted Jonathan in 1986, it repealed the legal basis for a democratically elected civilian government.

The party says it wants to avoid the election winner finding the legitimacy of the elections being challenged.

It is not known how many of the 15 parties in Lesotho plan to fight the elections, but the main contest is likely to be between the BCP and BNP.

Although the BCP says it will not avenge itself if it comes to power, some civil servants are fearful.

After Jonathan nullified elections and suspended the constitution in 1970, BCP members were harassed, lost their jobs and their leaders were held in prison.

The new leader of the BNP, Evaristus Sekhonya, who was finance minister in civilian and military governments, has been quoted by the Roman Catholic weekly *Moetsi* as saying that in no circumstances will the BNP allow Mokhehle to rule if the BCP wins the election. It seems some people have still not grasped the meaning of democracy — Gemini News





## New approach to retrenchment

WILSON ZWANE

UNCONVENTIONAL thinking was necessary to avoid retrenchments, said personnel consultant Denis Keenan-Smith in the latest edition of *People Dynamics*.

Keenan-Smith said the failure to save jobs was fraught with "potentially serious political consequences".

He said since a retrenchment programme was an equivalent of a "process of asset stripping", it should be embarked upon only after all alternatives had been explored and exhausted.

Besides "conventional retrenchment avoidance methods" — such as manpower planning, retraining, job sharing and overtime limits — unconventional thinking was also necessary.

Keenan-Smith proposed a multi-manufacturing concept which would have as its prime objective not simply the avoidance or limitation of retrenchments, but also the companies' survival.

"Its aim is the improvement of productivity levels and the profitability of the enterprise," he said.

The concept, which relied on creative and unconventional thinking and which was intended as a mechanism and a process, would focus on people and draw on fundamental organisational and motivational principles.

"It mobilises the collective energy of employees and encourages and enables all employees to increase their involvement in decisions affecting their work and work environment," Keenan-Smith said.

# Lesotho water scheme adequate for seven years

ADRIAN HADLAMB

THE R10bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project would provide adequate water supplies to the PWV for only seven years before additional water would have to be found elsewhere, probably at a cost of several more billions, experts said this week.

Future scenarios being investigated included obtaining water from the Zambezi or constructing a pipeline to central African water sources, said Johannesburg City Council executive director of water and waste Melvyn Watson.

### Requirements

"Most of the world's major cities are built on rivers or have access to sufficient water supplies. Johannesburg sprung up because of gold and water is scarce," Watson said.

The first phase of the Lesotho Highlands scheme, which would provide up to two thirds of the PWV's water requirements, would be completed in 1997. By 2004 however, an additional water source would have to be found to meet the region's growing demand.

"We can live without electricity,

but not without water. Without water, this city will die," said Watson. PWV ratepayers faced increasing water tariffs as planners struggle to provide sufficient quantities.

The region's water consumers paid almost R10m a month, in the form of a special levy, towards the costs of the Lesotho project. This amount was expected to triple before water from the project was connected to the Vaal river system.

The levy of 10c a kilolitre would be increased to 14c in October. Average domestic consumption was about 25kl a month — meaning an average levy of R2,50 a household. Total PWV monthly consumption was 80-million kilolitres.

The council was expected to announce new increases in municipal water tariffs next month which would "take into account" the rising Lesotho project levy, said Watson.

Apart from the Ribn share of the project which was the Lesotho government's responsibility, PWV ratepayers would be expected to pay the balance, almost R9,7bn. Gradually increasing levies up to

1997 were expected to soften the blow of expensive water supplies from Lesotho once the project was on line. The project's managing engineer, Willie Croucamp, said funding would "all come from the water consumer" in the PWV region. State aid was provided on a small scale for some infrastructural development together with the initial funding for the feasibility studies.

Watson said "Johannesburg is a drought-stricken area and we have just got to have the water. Whatever the end cost, we who need the water will pay for it."

### Financing

The full scope of the Lesotho project, which would take 30 years to complete in four phases, included six major dams, 225km of tunnels, three pumping stations and 650km of new or upgraded roads.

And while the financing of the scheme, which involved 30 major loans in six currencies, was one of the largest exercises of its kind in the world, only seven years after its construction the PWV would once again be on the prowl for new supplies of water.

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STAR 18/5/92

# Allegations of Lesotho poll bribes

MASERU — Some political leaders in Lesotho were trying to influence the outcome of the forthcoming general elections by offering money to members of the Lesotho armed forces and civil service, the country's Military Council and Council of Ministers chairman, Major General Phitsoana Ramaema, claimed yesterday



# Bribery 'rife in (167) Sowetan Lesotho'

18/5/92  
SOME politicians in Lesotho were trying to influence the outcome of the forthcoming general elections by bribing the armed forces and civil service, the country's ruler Major General Phisoana Ramaema, claimed yesterday.

Radio Lesotho quoted Ramaema as saying at a rally near Leribe that some members of the armed forces had been approached by political leaders who promised them money if they helped them win the forthcoming elections.

He added that the "infiltration" could jeopardize the military government's efforts and endeavours to return the country to civilian rule.

He dismissed claims that the military government enthroned King Letsie III.

# Education crisis can't wait for Codesa - expert

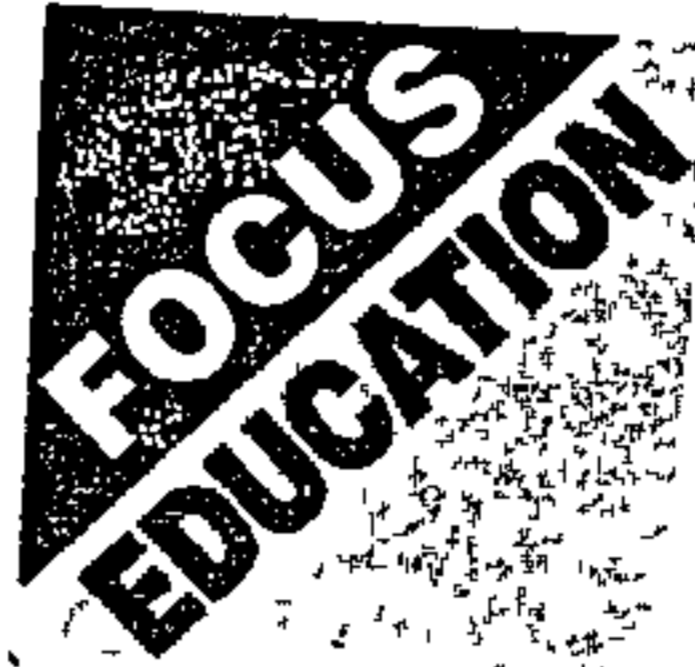
Sowetan 18/5/92

## Sowetan Reporter

THE education crisis is too urgent and desperate for SA to await the development of a new constitution at Codesa.

So says human resource specialist Johan Swanepoel, sending a challenge to SA's politicians in the run-up to a major conference next week on education entitled Education Enrichment - a Time for Action.

"Laudable and desirable as the constitutional development talks at Codesa are, politicians have to realise that education is a long-term process, the basis of which is already long overdue," says Swanepoel.



"The structural problems facing black education cannot be solved overnight once the ink on a new constitution is dry - whenever that might be."

In the two years it might well take for a constitution to be developed, says Swanepoel, annual statis-

tics show that over a million children will drop out of school, and at least 250 000 black matriculants will fail.

The two-day conference, organised by corporate training organisation CTU and scheduled for May 26, will examine the most urgent measures that need to be taken to break the education deadlock.

Key speakers will include representatives from the ANC, the NUM, big business and academia. Among the topics are education reconstruction, community colleges, technology in education and adult literacy.



## Lesotho envoy turns down posting

MASERU — Lesotho Foreign Minister, Captain Pius Molapo, who was fired from his job two weeks ago, is refusing to take up his new post as ambassador to Maputo (67)

Mr Molapo was demoted by military ruler, Major-General Elias Ramaema, and sent to

Maputo as ambassador to Mozambique and other Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference countries

But Mr Molapo has refused to take up his new appointment. Army sources say he wants to go back to the barracks — Star Africa Service

26/5/72  
STAR 20/5/72

Source 21/5/92

# Lesotho officer refuses post

LESOTHO'S former Foreign Minister wants to return to his military barracks rather than take up a new post as ambassador to Mozambique (167)

Quoting sources close to the military government and friends, a local radio report said Captain Pius Molapo was likely to be expelled from the public service because of his unwillingness to take up his new post in Maputo - Sapa



# King will return 167

LESOTHO'S deposed king, Moshoeshe II, on Wednesday said he would definitely return to his country from London on May 28, and the ruling military council would have to turn him back at the border to prevent his entry. *Svejan 22/5/92*

Speaking at a news conference in London on Wednesday before his departure, the king told SABC-TV's London representative he had written to the military council about his views and intentions, but had been ignored

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

8/22/82  
**SA, Lesotho links** (167)

SA AND Lesotho agreed yesterday to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, a joint statement said.

# Tension in Lesotho as king plans return

LESOTHO authorities tightened security this week after exiled King Moshoeshoe II warned he would return to the troubled mountain kingdom next weekend.

With tensions already high as the country prepares for its first free election in 22 years, politicians predict the king's return could spark fierce clashes between republicans and royalists.

The Military Council says Moshoeshoe II, who has been living in London for two years, may return as an ordinary citizen. But he has made it clear that he wants to return as constitutional monarch.

A faction of older men, the Marashu, have vowed to march him back to his palace, but soldiers from the Royal Lesotho Defence Force say this will take place "only over our dead bo-

By Stivers 24/5/92  
Dawn Barkhuizen

dies", government sources told the Sunday Times.

Basutoland Congress Party leader Ntsu Mokhehle said he feared the king's return could derail the fragile democratisation process.

"Never has the fear of outright civil war been so great," a businessman said this week. "Business has ground to a standstill. Everyone has adopted a wait-and-see attitude."

## Illegal

Police have stepped up street patrols and road blocks. Anonymous leaflets are circulating in main centres, claiming there are serious divisions within the army over the return of the king.

The Military Council has issued a stern warning against partici-

pation in illegal gatherings or demonstrations, after the Lesotho royal family invited the public to welcome the king next Saturday.

It is highly unlikely that South Africa will intervene in the event of civil unrest, according to South African government sources.

The king's return compounds an uneasy situation. Military Council leader Colonel Elias Ramanaema has survived numerous coup attempts in recent months. Civil servants and soldiers are particularly insecure as elections loom.

Further fuelling the tension are rising starvation levels and massive unemployment as tens of thousands of miners are retrenched on South African mines.

Crime has reached such levels that many people are afraid to go out at night. Two months ago, foreign embassies in Maseru warned their staff after an expatriate was murdered.

King Moshoeshoe II left Lesotho in 1990 after a fall-out with the now-deposed head of the Military Council, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya. He refused to return unless the Military Council was scrapped.

He is demanding the country revert to the 1966 constitution which gave him executive powers.

## Crowned

His son, 29-year-old Letsie II, was sworn in in his place, but has never been crowned. Letsie has indicated that he will step down for his father.

● Diplomatic relations between Lesotho and South Africa were strengthened when the trade missions in both countries were upgraded to embassies this week.

SA Trade Mission head Germs Geldenhuys will act as ambassador until an appointment is made



## 'Breakthrough' in Highlands project

*BIDay 26/5/92*  
THE first tunnel-boring machine used on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project yesterday broke through the last metre of sandstone rock formation at the Muela intake tunnel near Butha Buthe

The drive through 1 890m of rock took 48 days and cost about R53m to complete. The excavation was part of Phase 1A of the project, connecting the Muela Dam and hydro power station to the Caledon River by way of a delivery tunnel.

A second drive of 5 270m, costing about R150m, is expected to start early next month.

The project has been sharply criti-

(167)  
MEREDITH JENSEN

cised over its rocketing costs. Phase 1A is expected to exceed R10bn.

Industry spokesmen said yesterday water levy prices, currently at 10c/m<sup>3</sup>, would increase by almost 40% to 14c in October this year.

The project's managing engineer in the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, Willie Croucamp, said the levy would be further increased during the construction of Phase 1A.

Phase 1A will supply the necessary amount of water until 2003, if population growth and water consumption predictions are accurate.

ED

(frica)

No. 89

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29 May 1992



# Affirmative action supported

Monday 29/5/92



SUSAN RUSSELL

**MOST** urban blacks support affirmative action in the employment field, according to a survey published by Market Research Africa this week

The survey found two out of every three urban blacks were in favour of blacks being offered jobs rather than whites, even if black applicants were less qualified

The findings are based on interviews with 2 000 urban black over the age of 16, representing over 7-million people

The largest groups in favour of affirmative action employment policies were in sales (52%) and office workers (49%).

Next came students and skilled blue collar workers, 38% of whom felt blacks should be given a chance even if they had fewer qualifications, while 34% of unskilled blue collar workers were in favour of the concept

Market Research Africa found that fewer people in professional and managerial positions believed employers should discriminate in favour of blacks when taking on or promoting staff

People whose home language was Sotho (51%) were also more likely to en-

dorse the concept than those whose home language was Zulu (37%) or Xhosa (31%)

Market Research Africa chairman and MD Clive Corder said it was simply a matter of time before SA followed the US example of instituting an affirmative action programme to level the playing field as far as employment was concerned

"However, it should be recognised that while this may please one sector of the community, it will upset another.

"Reverse discrimination could well have negative social and economic repercussions," said Corder.

Meanwhile, the results of a similar survey published by Market Research Africa last week revealed that two out of five urban blacks supported a programme of redistribution of wealth by law

That survey showed that 38% of urban blacks in the Cape favoured redistribution while 37% in Transvaal, 31% in the Free State and 25% of those living in Natal supported the idea.

● See Page 7

## Curfew greets royal return

Monday 29/5/92 . Business Day Reporter

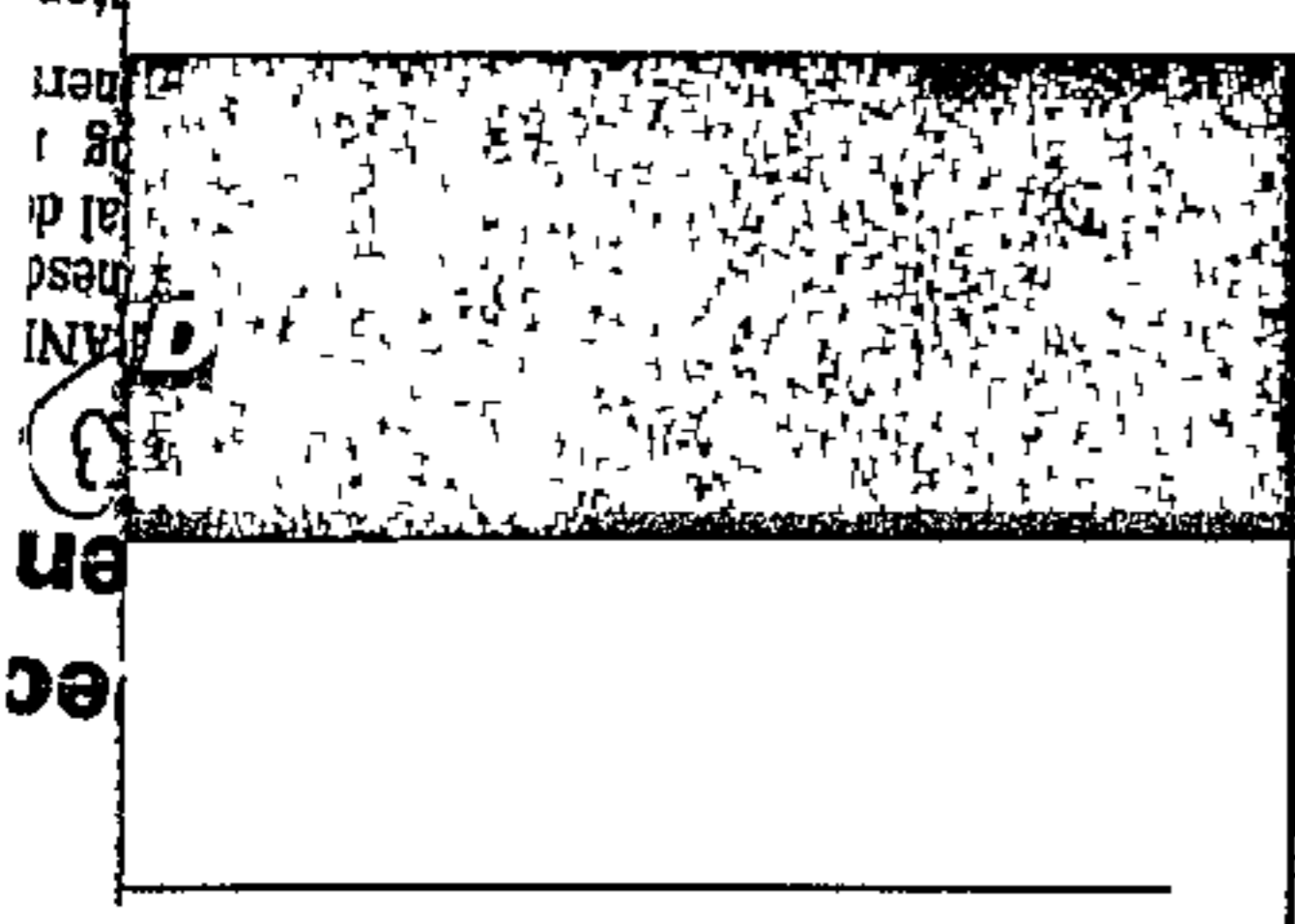
167

LESOTHO's deposed monarch King Moshoeshe II returns to Lesotho this weekend from exile in London.

He was exiled in 1990 by Lesotho's military government and replaced by King Letsie III Moshoeshe is demanding the reinstatement of executive powers to the monarchy ahead of a general election this year

Sapa-AP reports that police imposed a nighttime curfew and set up roadblocks outside the capital ahead of his return, citing public safety as a reason for the measures.

Moshoeshe is scheduled to fly into SA on Friday and to drive to the royal village in Lesotho on Saturday



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# Lesotho decision gets BCP backing

So what 29/5/92

(167)

**THE Basotho Congress Party has endorsed the stand taken by Lesotho's military authorities that exiled King Moshoeshe should in no circumstances be allowed to get involved in forthcoming elections in the country.**

BCP deputy leader Mr Molapo Qhobela Molapo said yesterday that if the exiled king was so concerned with the democratic rights of the Basotho people, he should have lifted a ban on the 1966 constitution

Moshoeshe is due to return to Lesotho this weekend.

Molapo said "Chief Seeiso (Moshoeshe) was in effect in control of the country from January 1986 up to the time when Major-General Lekhanye sent him into exile, for reasons better known only to the two of us"

He said instead of lifting the ban on the constitution, which was later suspended by Chief Leabua Jonathan, Moshoeshe had slapped "Order No 4 on the people of Lesotho," which had "the malicious aim of preventing them from expressing their political views"

"Of course Seeiso knew that with the proper registration of voters the BCP would always win any election in Lesotho," he said

Asked to comment on the curfew imposed on Wednesday, Molapo said "I welcome the curfew as it shows that the authorities intend to steer Lesotho to free and fair elections and not allow anarchy and lawlessness by the so-called welcoming committee to destabilise the country"

- Sapa



AFRICA BRIEFS

W/M out 29/5-4/6/92

King to return

167

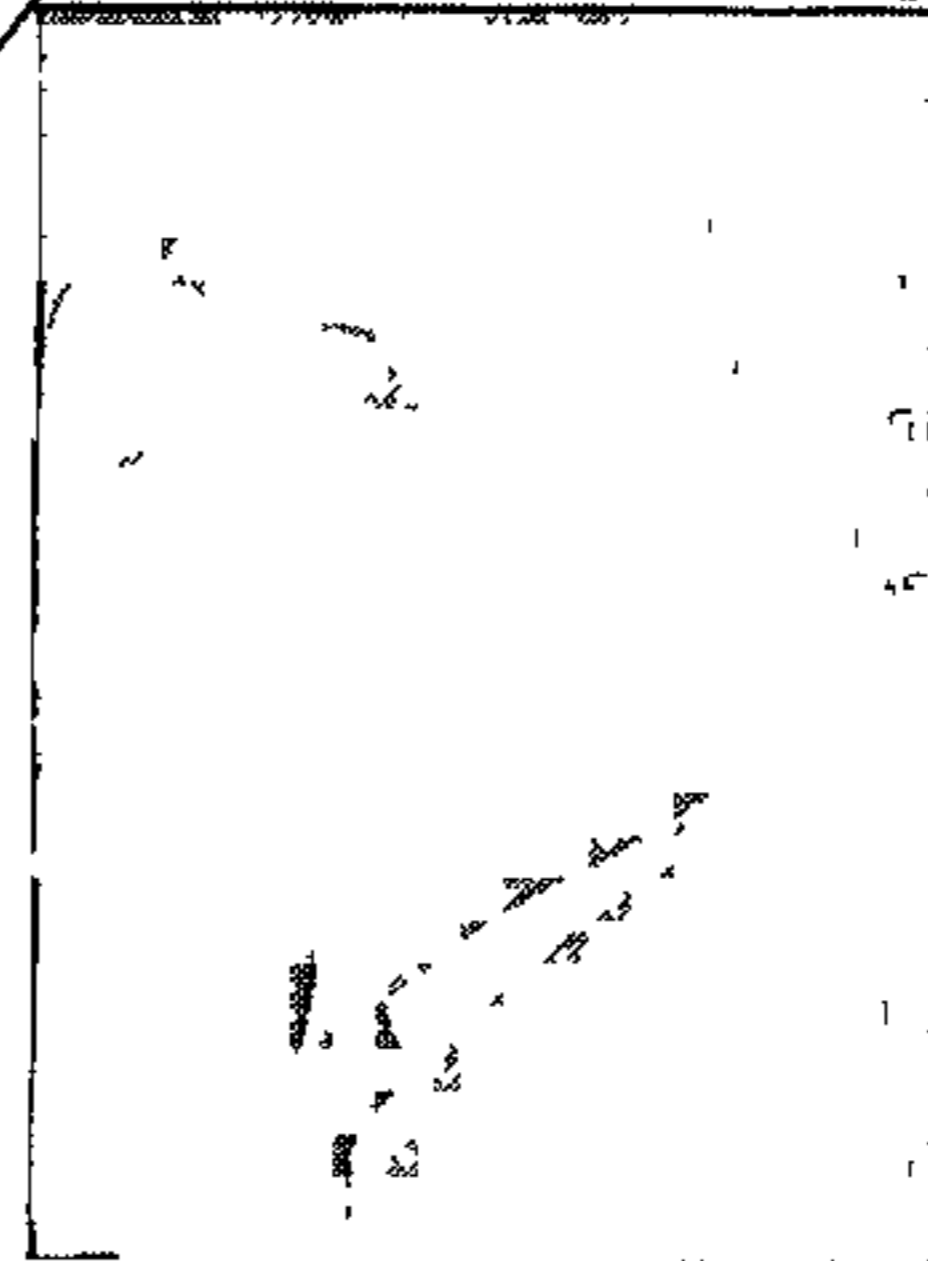
■ THE exiled king of Lesotho, Moshohoe II, plans to return home this week in response, he says, to many messages from inside the country urging him to come back and assume his constitutional position. The king, who has been living in Britain since his second exile was imposed by the military government in 1990, said he would return by road from South Africa. He has had no reply to messages telling the military his plan.

# 'The people have called me home'

STAR  
29/5/92

167

Lesotho's deposed King Moshoeshoe (right) says he would be happy to return if his people wanted him. But he does not know whether the government which banished him will have him back. HILARY ANDERSSON of The Star Africa Service reports.



ON THE eve of his proposed return, uninvited, to Lesotho after two years of exile, deposed King Moshoeshoe said in an interview in London that he would resume the throne if his people wanted him to

But he denied that retaking the throne was the purpose of his return, saying he would take up whatever political role his country preferred for him

King Moshoeshoe does not know whether the military government that banished him will allow him back, for it has remained silent on his plan to return. There is likewise uncertainty over what the public reaction might be either to his return or to a refusal by the government to let him in

His plan was to fly from London to Johannesburg today and then to travel by road in a convoy to the Lesotho border, where a welcome has been organised

"I am going back to Lesotho because my people have called me back, and I will do what they want," he said

King Moshoeshoe said he favoured a constitutional system in Lesotho in which the king operated within some sort of democratic formula

"I am not interested in party-building but in nation-building," he said. "We could be like Malaysia. The monarch there is accountable to his people. But there are really no parallels for what I would like to see in Lesotho. I want to see a truly African democracy"

He said he wanted to "get back and sit down with the villagers and talk about the demo-

cratic future of our country".

In some quarters there is a suspicion that by returning uninvited, King Moshoeshoe is laying the grounds for a clash with the country's military rulers.

"I have known Colonel Ramema (head of the military government) since 1986," he said, "and I do not believe he understands even the basic concepts of democracy. But he cannot help his own very severe limitations

"The only long-term solution to the problem of continuing military coups in Lesotho is to go back to the drawing board. We do not need such a large army in Lesotho"

King Moshoeshoe said that on his return he would stay with his son (who after his father's banishment was installed as King Letsie III) at the traditional royal home at Matsieng

"And why shouldn't I stay at home?" King Moshoeshoe asked. "The people of Lesotho, I believe, are brave and they will stand up to the challenge of democracy. My son understands that he is bound by the wishes of the people. He has always understood this. We have been in contact and he is with me"

King Moshoeshoe said he had written several times to the military government asking to open dialogue with him when he returned, but had received no reply.

He was hoping that the "current leaders' patrons" would take command, and order them to enter into talks with him. He did not say who these "patrons" were □

## Exiled king postpones return

EXILED King Moshoeshoe of Lesotho has indefinitely postponed a planned return home and will await the arrival of the country's military ruler on a personal mission to see him, Lesotho's ambassador said on Friday.

High Commissioner Mohlabi Tsekoa said in a telephone interview that Lesotho's military ruler Elias Ramaema, who has said Moshoeshoe can come home as a chief but not as a king, would arrive in London "in the near future".

"It has been communicated to me

and to the former king via this office that the chairman (Ramaema) is coming and that therefore he should stay put for discussions between the two of them to arrange a peaceful return," Tsekoa said.

King Moshoeshoe, 54, has lived in London since the military government deposed him in 1990.

The military men replaced him with his son, King Letsie III, amid allegations that Moshoeshoe was misusing his powers. — Sapa-Reuter

C/11/12/31/5/92

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## 'Let king return or face crisis'

Star Africa Service

(167)

MASERU — There will be a political crisis if the military government refuses to allow deposed King Moshoeshe to return to Lesotho, former Lesotho Cabinet minister Vincent Malebo, now a newspaper editor, has warned. *STAR 31/6/92*

Mr Malebo, a supporter of the move to restore King Moshoeshe to the throne, says that if there is any violence as a result of a refusal to allow the deposed king to return, the military government would have to bear the responsibility.

A government delegation was due to arrive in London yesterday for talks with the king. According to reports from London, they were expected to tell him he could come home provided he abandoned any aspirations to regain the throne.

The head of the military government, Colonel Elias Ramaema, is due.

The king had planned to return to Lesotho last Saturday after two years in exile in London but was dissuaded from doing so by the British government, which fears his return might disrupt the current moves by the military government to return power to an elected civilian government.

# Amnesty plea on Lesotho torture

167

AMNESTY International has called on Lesotho's military government to investigate torture and deaths of detainees in its jails and to take action to stop extrajudicial executions

Sowetan 3/6/92

The London-based human rights organisation said in a report received in Johannesburg yesterday it feared "existing patterns of police torture and ill-treatment of prisoners could continue even after the planned election of a civilian government later this year" - Sapa

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Lesotho poll date set**

MASERU — General elections would be held in Lesotho on November 28, the country's ruling military council said yesterday

26/11/78  
81/10/192

167





## Elections in Lesotho

MASERU - General elections will be held in Lesotho on November 28, the ruling Lesotho Military Council said in a statement yesterday. (167)

It reiterated its commitment to return the country to democracy and said "The chief electoral officer, Mr Noel Lee, has held regular consultative talks with government on several issues relating to the coming general elections" Sowetan. 4/6/92

# Elections announced in Lesotho

Star Africa Service

STAR 4/6/92  
(167)

MASERU — General elections will be held on November 28, Lesotho's ruling military council announced yesterday.

This will be the first elections since 1970 when the then prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, cancelled the first post-independence poll when it appeared that his party was losing.

He ruled Lesotho until January 1986 when military commander General Justin Lekhanya staged a coup and gave King Moshoeshoe II executive and legislative powers. The king was dethroned in 1990 and while in exile in England his eldest son, Prince Mohato, replaced him as King Letsie III.

The date for elections was announced two hours before Major-General Elias Ramaema left Maseru for London for talks with the dethroned king.

King Moshoeshoe's planned arrival in Lesotho last week caused a panic in which the military imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Britain intervened and the king agreed to postpone his visit until after a meeting with General Ramaema.

(167)  
S.M.S. 16/9/72

## Discussions on future of Moshoeshe

LONDON — Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Elias Ramaema, arrived in Britain yesterday for talks aimed at allowing exiled King Moshoeshe II to return home without disrupting the country's plans for democracy.

General Ramaema was due to meet Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku later yesterday.

A spokeswoman for the Commonwealth said Chief Anyaoku hoped to bring General Ramaema and the deposed monarch together for talks today, provided his talks with Chief Anyaoku were successful.

Chief Anyaoku's mediation is aimed at finding a compromise between General Ramaema, who has said King Moshoeshe can return as a chief but not as king, and the exiled monarch, who has said it was up to the people of Lesotho to decide his fate once he has returned — Sapa-Reuter.



The robbers ordered every- hit. No arrests have been made

# Council to approve return

STARZ 8/6/92  
LONDON - Lesotho's military leaders and deposed King Moshoeshoe II have reached agreement in London that the king could return to Lesotho on August 1 with the full approval of the ruling military council

King Moshoeshoe resumes the throne, a joint council must assess whether or not such a move has support in Lesotho

But any attempts to prevent his return to the throne are likely to be overtaken by reality.

Delegates representing the king and the government emerged at midnight, exhausted after 14 hours of intensive closed-door negotiations at the offices of the Commonwealth Secretariat

It has been the clear position of King Moshoeshoe's delegation all along that when he returns, it will only be as king

"Besides, everyone at the talks accepted that the current monarch, Lestisie III, would be standing down to make way for Moshoeshoe," said the Commonwealth spokesman.

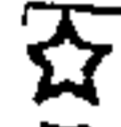
"The Lesotho military government fully recognises Moshoeshoe II as king of the Basotho people," said a Commonwealth spokesman, "even if it has not directly said that he is the king of Lesotho"

The dispute that dominated the talks until the last minute was not the question of under which guise King Moshoeshoe should return, but when he should return. - Star Africa Service.

The official position of the military council is that before

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**Sowetan Foreign News Service**

LONDON - Lesotho's military leaders and deposed King Moshoeshoe II reached agreement in London at the weekend that the king could return to Lesotho on August 1 with the full approval of the ruling military council

The delegates finally emerged exhausted after 14 hours of intensive closed-door negotiations early on Saturday morning at the offices of the Commonwealth Secretariat

"The Lesotho military government fully recognises Moshoeshoe II as king of the Basotho people"

said a Commonwealth spokesman "Even if it has not directly said that he is the king of Lesotho"

The official position of the military council is that before Moshoeshoe retakes the throne a joint council must assess whether or not such a move has support in

Lesotho But any attempts now to prevent his return to the throne are likely to be superseded by reality

"It has been the clear position of Moshoeshoe's delegation all along that when he returns it will only be as king Besides every-

one at the talks accepted that the current monarch, Letsie III, would be standing down to make way for Moshoeshoe," said the Commonwealth spokeswoman.

The dispute that dominated the talks until the last minute was not the ques-

# Date set for King's return

tion of under which guise Moshoeshoe should return, but of when he should return

"The military council's initial position at the talks was that he should not return at all," said one of the mediators "Then it became a question of whether

he should return before or after the elections"

The talks mark a coup for Moshoeshoe, whose planned return two weeks ago, was timed to prompt precisely such a clarification of his status before elections which are scheduled for November 28

There had been some concern from his delegation that the military council intended to stall his return until a referendum was held on whether Lesotho should be a republic or a monarchy

The agreement that has now been reached hinges on consensus that democratic elections will go ahead as planned

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...torn sail and its sheet  
Chris Cairncross was lost at sea  
● Page 8

### Lesotho curfew lifted (167)

MASERU — The authorities in Lesotho have announced that the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed two weeks ago had been lifted with immediate effect. The curfew was imposed two weeks ago by the government because it feared the return of deposed king Moshoeshe II from exile in Britain would spark unrest in the country. STAR 10/6/92

### Body to probe land dispute

A judicial commission of inquiry has been appointed to investigate the land and border dispute.

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# King will not get the throne again

MASERU - Lesotho said it would not let King Moshoeshoe II back on the throne when he returns from exile

Attorney-General Mr Kelebone Maope told a news conference on Monday this was an agreement between the king and the military government in London last week.

Moshoeshoe has lived in London since the military deposed him in 1990 and replaced him with his son, King Letsie III. He planned to return to Lesotho at the end of last month but delayed the trip on British advice.

## Delegation *Soweto 10/6/92*

A Lesotho delegation then travelled to London for talks where it was agreed the king would return by August 1.

Maope said the government would prefer him to return after elections, the first in 20 years, tentatively set for November.

He said recent statements by Moshoeshoe indicated he wanted to regain his position as head of state and stop the country returning to democracy.

The exiled king's statements had created "a climate of fear conducive to conflict and violence," Maope added - *Sapa-Reuter.*

**Ex-king** (167)

**'can't come**

**back as**  
STAR 16/6/72  
**monarch'**

Star Africa Service

MASERU — The ruling military council has denied reports that it has agreed to the deposed king Moshoeshoe II being allowed to reoccupy the throne when he returns to Lesotho

A statement issued by the military council contradicts news reports that, in talks in London at the weekend between the exiled king and the head of the military government, Major-General Elias Ramaema, it was agreed that Moshoeshoe could return to Lesotho as king in August

The statement said the status of the former king was "not negotiable" since Lesotho already had a king in Moshoeshoe's son, King Letsie III.

To negotiate such a matter would involve changing the country's laws, which was beyond the scope of the talks in London, brokered by the Commonwealth

The military government said it was not opposed to Moshoeshoe's return, but it had to be in peace and should not threaten the stability of the State

The statement said Moshoeshoe "must abandon his expressed intention to put an end to the present democratisation process and to replace it with an interim government".

Minister of Law and Constitutional Affairs Kelebone Maope said there was "no way" that Moshoeshoe would return as king.



Regal champion of democracy ... King Moshoeshoe II

# Will the king have a throne?

Wimanel 12/6 = 18/6/92. (167)

**L**ESOTHO'S King Moshoeshoe II announced from exile in London this week that he will return home by the end of July, under an agreement reached in London with Lesotho's military ruler Major General Elias Ramaema.

As Lesotho approaches the November elections to return the country to civilian government after six years of military rule, the matter of the king's return is a wild card that could upset the military regime's management of the exercise.

It is not clear whether the exiled king will return as Lesotho's monarch or merely as a traditional chief. Characterising himself as a regal champion of democracy, Moshoeshoe stated he expects the people of Lesotho to determine whether he should reign.

The timing of Moshoeshoe's homecoming was agreed upon at the meeting between the king and Ramaema which was brokered by Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku. It was set up after the king postponed his plans to return to Lesotho at the end of May in defiance of the ruling Military Council.

The day before Moshoeshoe planned to fly back to Lesotho, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, Lynda Chalker, dissuaded him from

*The exiled Lesotho king is coming home for elections. He says his status is up to the people — but the military government disagrees. RISHAAD ALI reports from London*

making the trip. Chalker persuaded Moshoeshoe that an early return could jeopardise Lesotho's stability and the upcoming democratic elections and, ultimately, the return to civilian rule. She promised Moshoeshoe a meeting with Ramaema to establish conditions for his eventual return would be arranged within a week.

The agreement says Moshoeshoe can return, but leaves his status unclear. It is a vague compromise which states the king should return to Lesotho in such "a manner which enhances the prospects of peace, stability and national reconciliation".

This week Lesotho attorney general Kelebone Maope said under the terms of the agreement, Moshoeshoe could return but not rule. Moshoeshoe has rejected that interpretation.

It was announced this week that a joint commission, formed by members of the Military Council and the Committee for the Return of His Majesty, would negotiate a date for the king's return.

The military has been ruling the tiny

mountain kingdom since Major General Justin Lekhanya seized power in January 1986 by ousting the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan. Although South Africa denied having any direct involvement in the coup, the new military government established friendly relations with Pretoria and reversed Lesotho's policy of giving refuge to anti-apartheid exiles, particularly African National Congress members. Agreements were reached that neither country would allow its territory to be used for attacks against the other and many ANC exiles based in Lesotho were expelled.

These changes did not please Moshoeshoe, who was proud of Lesotho's historic tradition of independence from South Africa. Following a public row in early 1990, Lekhanya suspended the monarch's executive and legislative powers and exiled the king before he himself was ousted in a coup. Lesotho's 32 principal chiefs accepted the appointment of Moshoeshoe's son, Letsie III, as the new king. Letsie has proved to be more

malleable than his father. His supporters say Letsie would abdicate upon his father's return, but other sources indicate Letsie may want to stay on the throne.

Moshoeshoe also has a history of clashes with the country's political rulers over the extent of royal powers. His detractors suggest Moshoeshoe's motives are less to encourage democracy than to safeguard his powers and property.

While many question the king's commitment to democratic rule, Ramaema's Military Council is not taking chances. Moshoeshoe's earlier announcement that he would return was greeted by panic measures. Roadblocks were set up on all routes to the capital and the commissioner of police announced a night-time curfew.

Both Moshoeshoe and Ramaema, it appears, hope to win endorsements in the November elections. Although neither is standing for office, both have supporters among the 17 political parties intending to put up candidates. The registration of voters is complete and it appears the elections will determine what type of government, and what relations with South Africa, Lesotho will have upon its return to civilian rule.



# Poll survey appeal

Sowefam 17/6/92

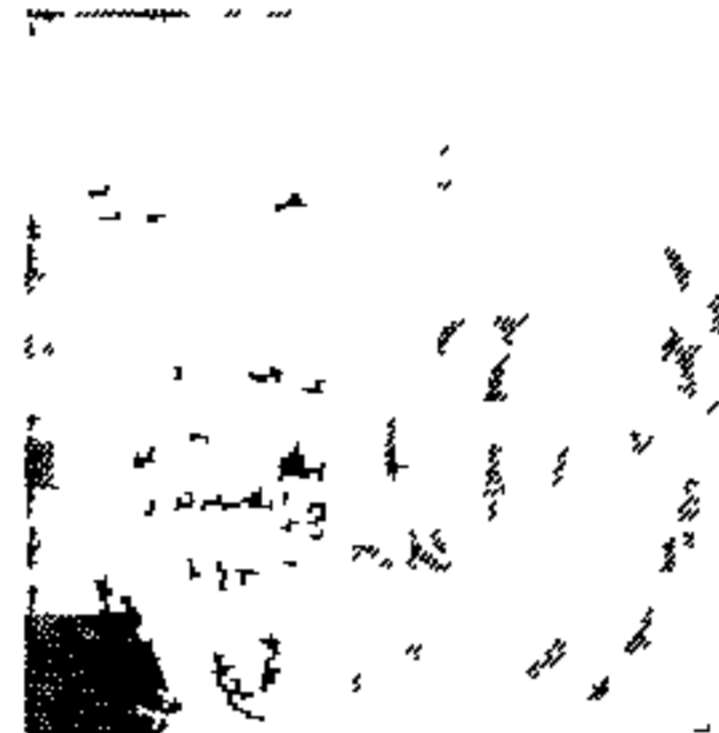
(167)

MASERU - Lesotho's chief electoral officer yesterday appealed to political parties to carry out their own survey and supply his office with estimations of people they expect to be registered for November's elections when the registration of voters reopens in August

In a meeting with the elections advisory committee - comprising repre-

sentatives of political parties, the Christian Council of Lesotho, the armed forces and senior electoral office staff - Mr Noel Lee said so far about 700 000 people had registered but expressed fears that about 100 000 did not get the chance to register

The registration of voters, which took four months, is currently suspended and is expected to



**Dr LEABUA JONATHAN** resume in August

The CEO urged the senior staff not to take sides

with any political parties so they can work towards free and fair elections.

Lesotho goes to the polls on November 28 for the first time since 1970 when Dr Leabua Jonathan, the then Prime Minister, declared a state of emergency and suspended the constitution after he lost to the Basutoland Congress Party - SA Press Association

# Lesotho death a mystery

So wefer

19/6/92

167

**AUTHORITIES in Lesotho have failed to throw any light on the mysterious circumstances in which a South African businessman died in detention in Lesotho after spending 10 months in jail without being brought to trial.**

**Sowetan Africa News Service**

Mr Charles Lamb committed suicide in prison last month, according to a lawyer in Maseru. But relatives of Lamb say they were told by Lesotho prison authorities that he died of kidney failure and the death certificate showed the same cause of death. However, the suicide version is supported by a note Lamb wrote before he died.

His sister, Mrs Susan Beylveidt, said she first heard of his arrest in January this year. A few weeks ago - 10 months after he was first imprisoned - she was told by a man who had been detained with him that her brother had died in prison and that the prison authorities alleged he had committed suicide.

Members of his family drove to Maseru to identify and take away his body. They were met by members of the prisons department.

"They were very friendly - now I think maybe too friendly," Beylveidt said.

She said a man whom she earlier had seen wearing a prisons uniform claimed to have performed an autopsy and gave them a death certificate saying Lamb had died from kidney failure.

"We were too upset to recall that earlier we had been told he had committed suicide, and later we heard from a fellow detainee that the so-called pathologist worked at Maseru prison, where he handed out pills to the prisoners."

After bringing Lamb's body back to South Africa in a trailer towed behind their car they began to suspect that something was seriously amiss, his sister said.

When they went through the pockets of his suit, which had been returned to them by the prisons authorities, they found a letter written in her

brother's handwriting on papers taken from unrolled cigarettes.

The letter, which appears to be intended for a court, claims that he had been wrongfully accused and had been assaulted while in custody.

Beylveidt recalled that in the prisons offices she had seen a small pile of other letters written by her brother on cigarette papers but had been told that these would be photocopied and sent to her. She said she had not received the letters and now suspects they might contain information that the prisons authorities wish to conceal.

"We wanted to have an independent post-mortem done in South Africa, but we could not afford it, so we had to bury my brother without knowing for sure what he died of," she said.

## Death

The note, written by Lamb and dated May 12, the day before his death, says "This is to notify you and all concerned that with this I give up I have had enough of the so-called judicial system of this country. It stinks. It has now caused me more than just the money I'm losing, but my wife and children and my life. I have come to the end of the road."

Mr Edward Phoofofo, Lamb's lawyer, said that according to court records Lamb was arrested in July last year. Two weeks later, on August 13 1991, he made his first appearance in court charged with fraud. When he made his second appearance on September 24 1991, a bail application

was vehemently opposed by the prosecution on the grounds that he was a South African and was likely to abscond as there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.

Bail was set at R750 000, which Lamb could not raise. It was later reduced to R5 000 in cash and two local sureties of R50 000 each. He was to report to the police daily.

Lamb was unable to raise this bail either and it was later reduced further to R3 000 and one local surety of R30 000. Lamb could not raise this bail either.

Asked why the court had initially imposed bail of R750 000, Phoofofo said "The magistrate was trying to protect his skin. He would have been in trouble if Lamb had skipped bail."

When Lamb appeared again in March this year, the chief magistrate said he was acceding to the state's request for another remand "with great reluctance."

"Had the accused not been an expatriate, I should have released him by now," the magistrate reportedly said.

When Lamb appeared again on April 15, the magistrate declined to postpone the case, effectively freeing Lamb. However, instead of being released, Lamb was brought before another magistrate who remanded him in custody.

Phoofofo said there was nothing in the court records to show that the second magistrate had taken note of the first magistrate's decision.

"There is also nothing in the record to show why the other magistrate took an unprecedented step to overrule his own colleague on such an important matter without giving any reason for so doing. This procedure was grossly irregular."

Phoofofo said Lamb's case was then set down for hearing on August 24 1992, more than a year after his arrest.

## Court appearance

He said Lamb told him after his last court appearance on May 12 that he was going to take his own life. Phoofofo said he left Lamb convinced that he had succeeded in persuading him not to carry out his threat.

"(But) the next day I was informed that he was in a coma at the hospital, and on Friday noon he was dead."

The lawyer said Lamb might have committed suicide by means of an overdose of medication.

"I owe it to him (Lamb) as my client to say publicly that this man has suffered under the unfairness of our judicial practices," he said.

"If the prosecution had a well-founded case against him, why did it take so long for the Crown to bring him to justice?"

Phoofofo said Lamb's case was not an isolated one. It is not uncommon for people in Lesotho to be held for more than a year before they appeared before a magistrate.

Drastic action, he said, was needed to "scrub off the dirt" permeating all levels of the judicial system.

Although Lamb died several weeks ago, his death has only now come to light. The Lesotho government has made no statement on the matter and, when approached for comment, various government departments referred inquiries to other departments.

The South African representative in Lesotho, Mr GJJ Geldenhuis, said he was informed about the matter only after Lamb had died but added that "the book has not been closed."

Lamb's death has provoked bitter attacks on Lesotho's judicial system from lawyers.

"We must reform ourselves and remove the stain on our good name that the death of Charles Lamb has brought to Lesotho," said the president of the country's Law Society, Mr WCM Magutu.

Lamb, a 37-year-old South African businessman, was imprisoned in Lesotho in July last year on suspicion



# Death in desperation?

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ARG 20/6/92

■ Lesotho authorities have failed to throw light on the mysterious death in detention of South African businessman Charles Lamb, who spent 10 months in jail without trial.

**HANS-PETER BAKKER**  
Argus Africa News Service

**JOHANNESBURG** — Charles Lamb committed suicide in prison last month, according to a Maseru lawyer. But his relatives say they were told by Lesotho prison authorities that he died of kidney failure — and the death certificate confirmed this.

However, the suicide version is supported by a note Mr Lamb allegedly wrote before he died.

Mr Lamb's death on May 13 has been revealed only now. The Lesotho government has made no statement on the matter.

The South African representative in Lesotho, Mr G J J Geldenhuys, said he was told about the matter only after Mr Lamb had died but added "The book has not been closed."

The death has provoked bitter attacks from lawyers on Lesotho's judicial system.

Mr Lamb, 37, a South African businessman, was imprisoned in Lesotho last July on suspicion of fraud. His sister, Susan Beyleveldt, said she heard of his arrest in January. A few weeks ago she was told by a man who had been detained with him that her brother had died and the prison authorities alleged suicide.

Relatives drove to Maseru to identify his body and were met by prison officials. "They were very friendly — now I think maybe too friendly," Mrs Beyleveldt said.

She said a man she saw earlier in prison uniform claimed to have performed an autopsy and had given them a death certificate saying Mr Lamb died of kidney failure.

"We were too upset to recall that earlier we had been told he had committed suicide and later we heard from a fellow-detainee that the so-called pathologist worked at Maseru prison where he handed out pills to the prisoners."

After bringing Mr Lamb's body back to South Africa in a trailer towed behind their car they began to suspect something was seriously amiss.

They found a letter written in her brother's handwriting on cigarette paper in his suit pocket.

The letter, which appears to be intended for a court, claims he had been wrongfully accused and assaulted in custody. He also appeals for the heavy

bail to be reviewed or to allow him to stand trial.

The family is also unhappy because his lawyer, Mr Edward Phoofolo, was seen wearing Mr Lamb's expensive ring when they first met him. Mr Phoofolo took up Mr Lamb's case two weeks before his death.

In his last note Mr Lamb bequeathed his ring and watch to the lawyer, who told Weekend Argus. "He said it was a gesture of gratitude for the bit that I did for him in his last days."

The note allegedly written by Mr Lamb, dated May 12, says "This is to notify you and all concerned that with this I give up. I have had enough of the so-called judicial system of this country. It stinks. It has now caused me more than just the money I'm losing, but my wife and children and my life. I have come to the end of the road."

Mr Phoofolo said Mr Lamb's case was set down for hearing on August 24, more than a year after his arrest. He said Mr Lamb told him after his last court appearance, on May 12, that he was going to take his own life. But he believed he had persuaded him not to carry out his threat.

Mr Phoofolo said he did not know how Mr Lamb might have committed suicide but thought he might have taken a drug overdose.

"I owe it to him as my client to say that this man has suffered under the unfairness of our judicial practices."



# Judicial <sup>(167)</sup> system slammed

ARG 20/6/92

Weekend Argus  
Africa News Service

**JOHANNESBURG —** Mr Charles Lamb was forced to commit suicide because of the intolerable treatment he received from the Lesotho judicial system, says the president of the country's Law Society, Churchill M Maqutu.

In a statement Mr Maqutu said the country's authorities would have to work hard to remove "the stain" left by Mr Lamb's death on the system.

"If we do not do anything to improve the conditions under which all detainees and awaiting trial prisoners are kept, then Mr Lamb will have died in vain. We value human life, therefore a tragic death should never just be forgotten

"The death of Mr Lamb at the Central Prison Maseru has touched us all. It has caused all people involved in the administration of justice to re-examine themselves and their attitudes

"It is a matter of great regret that in dealing with too many people we begin to be increasingly insensitive to human beings as individuals."

Mr Maqutu said awaiting-trial prisoners in Lesotho sometimes spent up to two years in prison before their cases could be heard. The Chief Justice had ordered magistrates to visit prisons from time to time, but this had not been done.

# Lesotho king's return delayed

(167)  
STAR 47192  
LONDON — Contrary to earlier reports, Lesotho's deposed King Moshoeshoe II will not be returning to the mountain kingdom today and no new date for his return has been agreed upon.

Earlier, sources in Maseru said the king, who has been living in exile in Britain for more than two years, would arrive in Johannesburg today en route to Lesotho.

The sources said the move was meant to defy Lesotho's ruling Military Council.

The Committee for the Return of His Majesty II said that the preconditions laid down by the Military Council for the return of King Moshoeshoe II were "totally unacceptable." These were that.

- The king abandon claim to the throne.
- His son, King Letsie III, remain in power.
- Moshoeshoe must not interfere with the democratisation process under way in Lesotho.
- His status not be subject to discussion with the present government.

Discussions between the two parties had been temporarily suspended, the committee said.

It claimed the preconditions were in violation of an agreed statement signed under the mediation of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, in London last month — Sapa.

# Democratic election

■ Long Road: Veteran Basotho politicians vie to control tiny mountain kingdom

By Victor Tsuai

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THE mountain kingdom of Lesotho is bracing itself for the long road towards democracy when one of the major contestants, the Basotho National Party holds its first rally this weekend

Another party brushing up the cobwebs and taking up the cudgels is the Basotho Congress Party led by Mr Ntsu Mokhehle.

*Sowetan 10/7/92*  
The build-up to the November 28 elections has been made possible by the military government of Major-General Elias Phisoana Rammaema

The BNP enters the fray under the leadership of veteran politician, Mr Everitas Sekhonyela (55) a Canadian trained economist and former ambassador to the United Nations

His opponent, Mokhehle, is a BSc Fort Hare graduate and has led the BCP for over two decades



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# Pretoria won't allow Moshoeshe convoy

MASERU — The South African Government will not allow deposed King Moshoeshe to return to Lesotho in a convoy from Johannesburg.

South Africa's trade representative in Maseru, Genus Geldenhuys, said the ex-king — who is expected to arrive at Jan Smuts Airport from London on July 20 — would

## AFRICA SERVICE

be received by Government officials "as the father of the king of Lesotho"

The Government expected him to take the next flight to Maseru

It is believed that the Department of Foreign Affairs wants to avoid involvement

# SA group (167) joins Lesotho in R100-m STAR 17192 casino venture

## Property Reporter

A South African business consortium is to take part in the development of a R100 million casino complex in Lesotho, the first project in an aggressive bid by the country's government to increase tourism.

Its partner in the venture, launched yesterday is the Lesotho National Development Corporation, but funding, according to consortium leader and former Western Province cricketer Andre Bruyns, has been generated in Europe.

The complex, to be named Eagle Rock, will comprise a casino, restaurants and theme bars, an 18-hole golf course and other sporting facilities. There will be a ski resort nearby.

Lesotho Trade and Industry Minister Moletsane Mokoane said the project was in part the result of the infrastructure created to build the R6,5 billion Highlands Water Scheme.

Mountainous areas previously accessible "only by helicopter" were now served by tar roads, and the country could embark on a programme of tourism development and accompanying job creation.

Eagle Rock will be situated in a mountain amphitheatre, near the Caledon River on the South African border, a three-hour drive from Johannesburg.

## No lawyers for Chihana

**HARARE** — Lawyers had been refused access to detained Malawi democracy activist Chakufwa Chihana, one of his defence team said yesterday.

Harry Chume said he had confirmation that Chihana had been redetained by police on Tuesday after his release on Saturday, but attempts to see him had been unsuccessful.

He said he believed Chihana, who had been on bail on charges of sedition, was being questioned in the southern city of Blantyre.

"We do not know what this is in connection with," Chume said. "We have been trying to get in touch with him."

Lawyers had approached the state counsel in the sedition case for help. Chume said he did not see what actions by Chihana since his release could warrant his arrest — Sapa-AFP.

# Northern Lesotho to have super ski and casino resort

**CONSTRUCTION** of a Lesotho ski resort would begin before the end of the year, Lesotho Holdings & Development MD Andre Bruyns said at the project's launch yesterday.

The ski resort would be part of a R100m casino, golf course and hotel development in northern Lesotho, part of a joint venture by a consortium of SA businessmen together with the Lesotho National Development Corporation, he said.

Bruyns said most of the capital generated for the project would be coming from European investors and would provide a major injection of foreign capital into the country.

A mountain pass near the resort site would be suitable for the creation of a ski piste, Bruyns said.

Research into the area's temperature had shown that artificial snow could be produced on a small scale

### ADRIAN HADLAND

"without too much trouble"

Machines had been developed in Europe which were capable of producing artificial snow at much lower temperatures than had been the case only a few years ago, Bruyns said.

"With a temperature of around two degrees Celsius you can make artificial snow," he said.

Lesotho Trade and Industries Minister Moletsane Mokoroane said the construction of the resort, which will be called Eagle Rock, would be the start of an aggressive tourism development programme in Lesotho.

"The programme is in part a result of the infrastructure which now exists following the implementation of the R6,5bn Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme," he said.

Parts of Lesotho, particularly the scenic mountain areas, which could

only be reached by helicopter before initiation of the highlands water scheme, were now accessible by road, he said.

The Eagle Rock project, which has been in the planning stages for two years, is expected to take up to 22 months to complete.

Provisional tenders have already been submitted.

It is hoped clients from many parts of SA will be attracted to the 200-room hotel, ski piste, casino and restaurant complex.

Also included in the resort will be theme bars, an 18-hole championship golf course, and a number of other sporting facilities.

Lesotho National Development Corporation MD A M Monyake said a series of resorts had been planned.

These were aimed at creating "major job opportunities for Lesotho", said the minister.

17/1/92 (167)



# Moshoeshoe (167) all set for Lesotho return

ARG 18/7/92

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — King Moshoeshoe II is leaving London for here tonight and intends to continue to Lesotho on Monday, according to a spokeswoman from his office in London

He may be accompanied on his British Airways flight from London by Lesotho's High Commissioner here, Mr M K Sekoa and, in spite of the Lesotho government's preference that he travel on to Maseru from Johannesburg by air, has other plans

"He would still like to travel on by car," said a spokeswoman, "but whether he does or not will depend on what happens in talks when he arrives in South Africa. It is likely that these talks will include representatives of the South African government," she said

According to King Moshoeshoe's London office, there is no question of him not being allowed into South Africa, and it has been fully agreed that he can stay for the weekend talks

"The South Africans are being cautious and everyone is waiting to see what will happen on Monday" said the spokeswoman

Lesotho's ruling Military Council has sanctioned his return on Monday, but in a letter to King Moshoeshoe two weeks ago outlined stringent conditions

These included the king accept a pension, not interfere with the election process and not return as king

"As far as we are concerned these conditions have been dropped," said King Moshoeshoe's London spokeswoman "We have heard nothing more"

King Moshoeshoe who was in Oxford yesterday paying last-minute visits to friends, and collecting his "bits and pieces," is still fully expecting a regal welcome on arrival back in Lesotho whether it be at the airport or at the road border post

## King is back

LESOTHO's King Moshoeshe II arrived in Johannesburg yesterday from  
*Sowetan 20/7/92 (167)*



*Sowetan 20/7/92 (167)*  
exile in London and was planning to fly back home to the mountain kingdom today. An aide in London said the king had chartered a jet for the return to Maseru which appears to have been cleared by Lesotho's military government - *Sowetan Reporter-Sapa/AFR*

# Hugs and kisses as

# Moshoeshoe returns

STAR 21/1/92

(167)

MASERU — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho returned to an emotional welcome in his homeland yesterday after more than two years of exile in London.

Jubilant women, sobbing uncontrollably, mobbed him as he got down from the chartered plane which flew him into Maseru airport from Johannesburg on the last leg of his trip.

They smothered him in hugs and kisses, placed a traditional Sotho basket-weave hat on his head and strewn blankets on the ground to pave his walk to the terminal building.

King Moshoeshoe's return is being monitored by two emissaries from Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who brokered the terms of his return with Lesotho's six-man ruling military council.

Police at the airport were extremely edgy as hundreds heard the king make a homecoming speech in Sesotho.

Fears have been expressed that the king's reappearance could raise the political tem-

perature before elections in November to return the kingdom of 1.8 million people to civilian rule.

King Moshoeshoe went into exile in February 1990 after a row with Lesotho's former military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya over the powers of the monarchy.

The king had only ceremonial powers under Lesotho's first post-independence constitution, drawn up after independence from Britain in 1966.

But he frequently dabbled in politics.

## Altercation

This led to parliamentary legislation providing for his removal in case of unconstitutional behaviour in 1970.

Limited executive powers were granted to the king once more in 1986.

But these powers were taken away again in 1990 after King Moshoeshoe was involved in a constitutional altercation with General Lekhanya, leading to his exile.

Military council head Major-

General Elias Ramaema flew to London last month to draft the terms of the king's return.

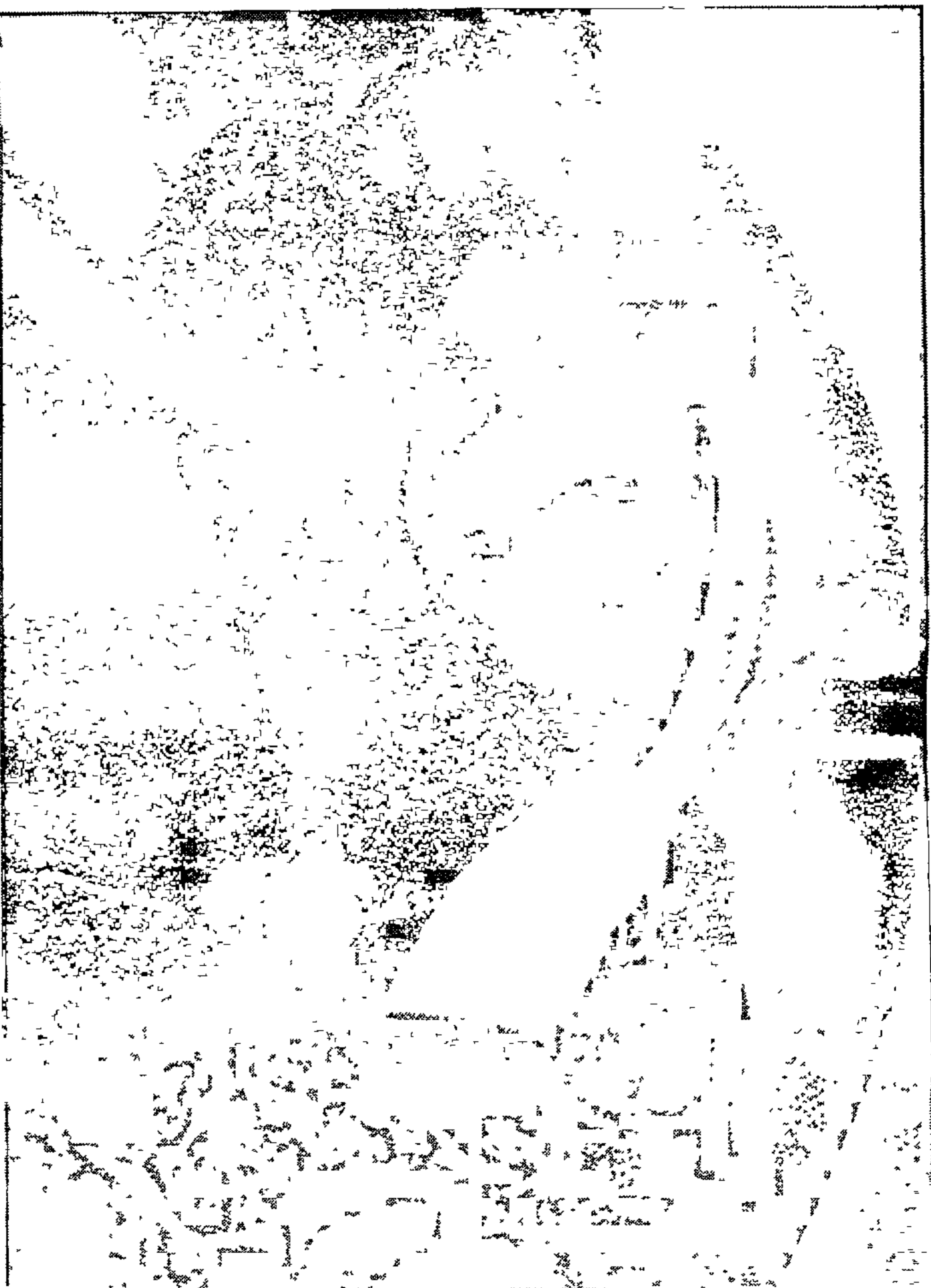
After 14 hours of talks, aimed at ensuring that the return did not disrupt Lesotho's return to civilian rule in November, it was agreed that "his majesty's early return to Lesotho should proceed in a manner which enhances the prospects for greater peace, stability and national reconciliation".

"The achievement of this objective implied the continuation in office of the present administration and the protection of the integrity of the current process of democratisation," the agreement said.

The agreement stipulated that the government would have a hand in the arrangements for the return.

But King Moshoeshoe has already objected to media reports that he is returning as an ordinary tribal chief and is insisting on the title His Majesty.

The king was due to celebrate his arrival with a feast at the royal palace at Maseru yesterday. — Sapa-AFP



Royal welcome . . . the exiled king of Lesotho, Moshoeshoe II, after spending more than two years in London, arrives at Maseru Airport yesterday to be hugged and kissed by a jubilant crowd.

Picture: AFP



# Regional reforms threaten railroad

**DAR ES SALAAM** — Moves towards peace and reform in southern Africa threaten the existence of a railroad built to punish SA for apartheid.

The Chinese-built Tanzania-Zambia railway, planned to reduce the reliance of black states on SA ports, looks increasingly less relevant as apartheid is dismantled and regional peace plans gather pace.

"Apartheid has crumbled and we see signs of peace in Angola and Mozambique. These are good developments but for Tazara it simply means a hell of a lot of competition," one railway official said.

The aim of the so-called Tazara line was to give independent African countries an alternative to SA ports by carrying their exports to Tanzania for on-shipment.

Rivals included SA routes, the Beira railway in Mozambique, Angola's Benguela railway which is privately owned by Belgian conglomerate Societe Generale, and truck companies in the region.

Civil wars in Angola and Mozambique since 1975 reduced railway traffic on the Benguela and Beira lines to a trickle and SA trade suffered because of sanctions.

All that has changed Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Angola are all openly dealing with SA. Angola's civil war is over and there are moves to end strife in Mozambique too.

Zambia alone accounts for half of Tazara's traffic. Up to 35 000 tons of Zambian copper is hauled to the Tanzanian port

of Dar es Salaam each month, while a further 10 000 is sent by rail via Zimbabwe to the Mozambican port of Beira.

For now, drought in southern Africa means Tazara will have its work cut out hauling relief food. But in the longer term, its future looks very insecure, railway and aid officials say.

The 1 860km railroad from Kapiri Mposhi in central Zambia to Dar es Salaam carried up to 1-million tons of cargo in 1991-92, up from 900 000 tons the year before. Officials estimate up to 1.5-million tons could be moved this year because of the drought.

But Tazara's survival after that is threatened by perennial chronic shortages of rolling stock and working locomotives which have prevented the railway from meeting its full capacity of up to 2.5-million tons of traffic a year.

Freight capacity could fall during the coming year as more of Tazara's aged Chinese-built engines are taken out of service and trains travel at slower speeds due to the poor state of the track.

Foreign donors have given up to \$230m to a 10-year 1984 programme to modernise Tazara but are suspicious of the communist influence of its Chinese technicians.

Aid officials say Tazara's officially swift transit times are unreliable and freight tariffs, although currently cheaper than other railway routes, could be undercut by trucking companies — Sapa-Reuter.

## Another Chiluba minister quits

**LUSAKA** — Allegations of widespread corruption caused the resignation yesterday of a second member of President Frederick Chiluba's cabinet.

Minister of Science, Technology and Vocational Training Akashambwata Lewanika said in a letter to Chiluba he would step down from the cabinet but retain his seat in parliament.

Lewanika, a founder of Chiluba's Movement for Multiparty Democracy, said in his letter the government "seems to condone the misdirection of public offices and resources to private concerns. This undermines government credibility. It betrays our people".

He also accused MPs of suppressing a parliamentary subcommittee report exposing top-level corruption. Chiluba made no comment on the resignation.

Youth and Sport Minister Baldwin Nkumbula quit last week.

He declined to provide specific allegations of corruption, but said the country's new leaders should refrain from plundering the nation's wealth.

Chiluba, 49, a trade union leader, ousted Zambia's founding father Kenneth Kaunda in elections last October. He pledged to stamp out corruption and human rights abuses associated with Kaunda's 27 years in power. — Sapa-AP.

# Emotional return for Moshoeshe II

**MASERU** — Lesotho's King Moshoeshe II returned home to an emotional welcome yesterday after more than two years of exile in London.

Ululating women, sobbing uncontrollably, mobbed him as he got down from a chartered plane.

They smothered him in hugs and kisses, placed a traditional Sotho basket-weave hat on his head, and strewn blankets on the ground to pave his walk to the terminal building.

Moshoeshe's return is being monitored by two emissaries from Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Erneka Anyaoku, who brokered the terms of his return with Lesotho's six-man ruling military council.

Police at the airport were extremely edgy as hundreds heard the king make a homecoming speech.

Fears have been expressed his reappearance could raise the political temperature ahead of November elections to return the kingdom of 1.8-million people to civilian rule.

Moshoeshe went into exile in February 1990 after a row with Lesotho's former military ruler, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, over the powers of the monarchy.

He had only ceremonial powers under Lesotho's first constitution, drawn up after independence from Britain in 1966.

But he frequently dabbled in politics, leading to parliamentary legis-

lation in 1970 providing for his removal in case of unconstitutional behaviour.

Limited executive powers were granted to the king once more in 1986, but taken away again in 1990 after Moshoeshe was involved in a constitutional altercation with Lekhanya, leading to his exile.

The head of the military council, Maj-Gen Elias Ramaema, flew to London in June to draft the terms of the king's return.

After 14 hours of intensive talks, aimed at ensuring that the return did not disrupt Lesotho's return to civilian rule in November, both sides agreed that "his majesty's early return to Lesotho should proceed in a manner which enhances the prospects for greater peace, stability and national reconciliation".

"The achievement of this objective implied the continuation in office of the present administration, and the protection of the integrity of the current process of democratisation".

The agreement stipulated the government would have a hand in the arrangements for the return.

Moshoeshe has already objected to media reports that he is returning as an ordinary tribal chief and is insisting on the title His Majesty.

He was due to celebrate his arrival with a feast at the royal palace at Matsieng yesterday — Sapa-AFP



# Call for crisis meeting after Mugabe's anti-Semitic jibe

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Jewish Board of Deputies is seeking an urgent meeting with President Robert Mugabe over an anti-Semitic jibe he reportedly made to a crowd in Matabeleland

The government-controlled Bulawayo Chronicle reported that while he explained his plans to nationalise white land, during a rally in the Bubi district, Mugabe said: "Commercial farmers are hard-hearted people, you would think they were Jews."

Shortly afterwards he told a German television crew: "White people had better face the land problem now, rather than be deprived by force in the future. If white people had hearts, they would understand. But if they do not, hard luck."

Veteran white liberal politician and Central African Jewish Board of Deputies president Muriel Rosin said: "In other countries, remarks like this have started a wave of anti-Semitism." She said her eight-member board had held a crisis meeting in Harare on Sunday to discuss a letter to Mugabe, which was dispatched yesterday.

"We have requested with the utmost urgency an audience with the president as, throughout history, our experience has shown that such statements by those in power have often been the forerunner of

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MICHAEL HARTNACK

extreme anti-Semitic actions," she said. "We would not want it to happen here"

She said Zimbabwe's Askenazi and Sephardi Jewish communities were small. "That is 1 007 souls, counting every Jew — man, woman and child. But they have done a hell of a lot for this country."

She said that when Jewish community leaders met Mugabe after Zimbabwe's 1980 independence, they broached the subject of his formal recognition of the PLO, which has an embassy in Harare "He made it absolutely clear to us that politically they (ruling Zanu-PF party members) were anti-Israel, but were not anti-Semitic."

Rosing said that in the 60 years since she emigrated to the then Rhodesia from Britain to marry a leading local surgeon, she had never encountered anti-Semitism

At the weekend, Mugabe consulted Sir Timothy Bell, image adviser to Britain's Tory party, on how to generate investor confidence in the face of "negative publicity" generated by the drought and the Zanu-PF plan to take over 6-million hectares of maize and tobacco belt currently owned by 4 500 whites.

## Dry Swaziland, Lesotho reeling

GENEVA — A major international relief organisation said yesterday Swaziland and Lesotho had been especially badly hit by the drought sweeping southern Africa.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said at least 40% of the 800 000 people of Swaziland would soon need emergency food aid as the country underwent its worst natural disaster in living memory.

"The figures of those affected ... are rising daily as whole communities, proudly self-sufficient just a year ago, succumb to the ravages of a searing drought which has reduced the harvest to 30% of normal."

At the same time, basic rations provided in a government relief operation were already being reduced by 30% as supplies threatened to run out.

In Lesotho the drought was hitting hard in mountain districts. In one hospital, one tap was being used for one hour a day for all hospital needs

The IFRC weekly bulletin quoted Lesotho Red Cross official Roland Mokomo as saying the age-old community help system could be breaking down "with neighbours and relatives apparently unable to help those even more unfortunate than themselves" — Sapa-Reuter.

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## Dry Swaziland, Lesotho reeling

GENEVA — A major international relief organisation said yesterday Swaziland and Lesotho had been especially badly hit by the drought sweeping southern Africa.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said at least 40% of the 800 000 people of Swaziland would soon need emergency food aid as the country underwent its worst natural disaster in living memory.

"The figures of those affected ... are rising daily as whole communities, proudly self-sufficient just a year ago, succumb to the ravages of a searing drought which has reduced the harvest to 30% of normal"

At the same time, basic rations provided in a government relief operation were already being reduced by 30% as supplies threatened to run out.

In Lesotho the drought was hitting hard in mountain districts. In one hospital, one tap was being used for one hour a day for all hospital needs.

The IFRC weekly bulletin quoted Lesotho Red Cross official Roland Mokomo as saying the age-old community help system could be breaking down "with neighbours and relatives apparently unable to help those even more unfortunate than themselves". — Sapa-Reuter.



# Moshoeshoe returns home

■ Lesotho's king is back home to an emotional welcome after two years:

*Sowetan 21/7/92 (167)*  
MASERU - King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho returned to his homeland to an emotional welcome yesterday after more than two years of exile in London

Ululating women, sobbing uncontrollably, mobbed him as he got down from the charter plane which flew him into Maseru airport from Johannesburg on the last leg of his trip.

They smothered him in hugs and kisses, placed a traditional Sotho basket weave hat on his head, and strewed blankets on the ground to pave his walk to the terminal building

King Moshoeshoe's return is being monitored by two emissaries from Commonwealth secretary general Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who brokered the terms of his return with Lesotho's six-man ruling military council

King Moshoeshoe went into exile in February 1990 after a row with Lesotho's former military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, over the powers of the monarchy

The king had only ceremonial powers under Lesotho's first post-independence constitution, drawn up after independence from Britain in 1966

But he frequently dabbled in politics, leading to parliamentary legislation providing for his removal in case of unconstitutional behaviour in 1970

Limited executive powers were granted to the king once more in 1986, but taken away again in 1990 after King Moshoeshoe was involved in a constitutional altercation with Lekhanya, leading to his exile

# AFRICA NEWS Jewish Deputies seek u

## Africa in brief

### *Sowetan 22/7/92* Illegal gem trade

WINDHOEK - President Sam Nujoma is to discuss allegations of Angola's illegal diamond trade affecting Namibia with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, State House spokesman Daniel Smith said in Windhoek yesterday

He said Nujoma would raise the matter through regular government channels or when they next meet. Diamonds are Namibia's largest single foreign exchange earner, contributing R1,2 billion of the R3,3 billion in total export earnings for the last financial year.

### Rwanda ceasefire

KAMPALA - Rwanda and its rebel foes will meet in Ethiopia next week to discuss the details of a ceasefire shattered only hours after it was supposed to end a 21-month tribally based war.

A Rwandan embassy official said his government would send a delegation to Addis Ababa to hold talks with the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front starting on July 27.

The talks will be held four days before full implementation of an internationally-brokered ceasefire, to be monitored by a 50-man military observer force from Zimbabwe, Senegal and Nigeria.

### Moshoeshoe home

MASERU - Former King Moshoeshoe has returned to army-ruled Lesotho calling for reconciliation and democracy, but a potentially explosive dispute about the role of the monarchy remains unresolved.

"A chief is a chief by the will of the people," Moshoeshoe told journalists on Monday on his return from two years' exile in Britain, under an agreement brokered by the Commonwealth.

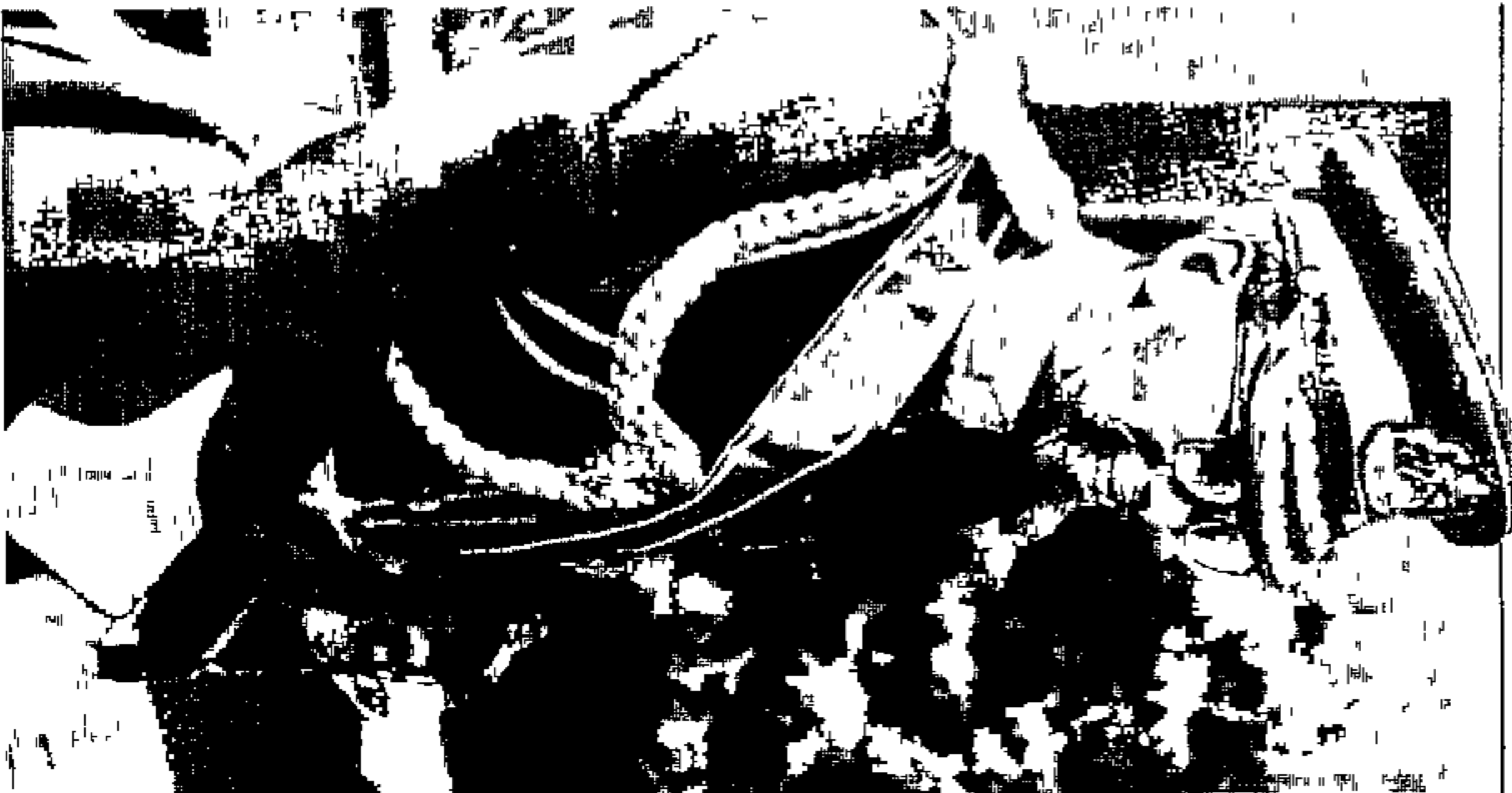
"Bring rain! We are starving," shouted ecstatic supporters when Moshoeshoe left his limousine to ride with blanket-clad horsemen into his drought-stricken village of Matsieng. Moshoeshoe (54) vowed to campaign for human rights and assist the mountain state's scheduled transition to democratic civilian government after six years of army rule.

### Peace signals studied

TUNIS - Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation leaders met yesterday to co-ordinate their response to peace overtures by new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The leadership must assess the situation after the Israeli elections which created new conditions to deal with," said PLO executive committee member, M Abba - Sapa-Reuter-AFP

## AFRICA



King Moshoeshe II ... Hero's welcome

# Monarch in the mountains

John and 2417-3017 192.

**T**HE hero's welcome accorded King Moshoeshe II in Lesotho on Monday this week sounded a clear warning of the pivotal role he is set to play in the kingdom's political future.

Received by thousands of cheering Basotho as he stepped from a chartered aircraft at Moshoeshe I international airport near Maseru, the king immediately stressed that his purpose in returning from his two-year enforced exile in Britain was to "contribute towards genuine democratisation" in Lesotho and to fight the current abuse of power.

Dismissing charges that his aim was to destabilise the move towards democracy, he also denied that he had been exiled by the military government of Major-General Metsing Lekhanya in March 1990 for refusing to honour the dismissal of three members of the ruling Military Council. He was sent abroad for calling for an independent commission of inquiry into corruption in high places, he said.

In an exclusive interview with *The Weekly Mail*, Moshoeshe said he was prepared to offer the Basothos his experience and insights to enable them to build a happier future. "I have

*King Moshoeshe returned to Lesotho this week vowing to fight for true democracy in the mountain kingdom.*

**By MIKE PITSO in Maseru**

spent out my own humble analysis of the kind of infrastructure that will be conducive to free and fair elections — that is my primary concern

"Democratisation is wider than narrow party politics, more pluralistic. It allows for interest groups such as labour unions, commerce and women's organisations to participate freely," he said. His comments come against the background of widespread allegations of human rights abuse by the current regime

Moshoeshe called on the Basotho people to recall the past, so that they should not repeat their mistakes. The suspended 1966 independence constitution was laid on foundations which could lead the nation to genuine democracy

The king said there was a tendency of those in authority to monopolise the machinery of the state and the means to a livelihood. The rest of the population, outside the ruling party, was

marginalised and excluded from economic development.

He said the Basotho were robbed of their rights in 1970 when the constitution and the high court were suspended after a coup. The people would never tolerate a dictatorship, whether the dictators had been elected or not.

Questioned on his future role in Lesotho, the king said the people would decide it. He would travel extensively throughout the country consulting ordinary people and would fight against the misuse of law and power which now prevailed in the country

Moshoeshe declined to be drawn on whether his son, King Letsie III, should abdicate in his favour. Although he was sworn in in November 1990, Letsie was never formally crowned. Many Basotho still regard his father as the rightful monarch

On regional politics, Moshoeshe remains unapologetic about his strong anti-apartheid stance. He said he hated apartheid as much as black dictatorship, but was not against white people in general — pointing out that many South African whites were opposed to apartheid policies



AFRICA

# Lesotho ignores Amnesty call

WJW 24/7 - 30/7/92

By ALEXANDRA DODD  
AMNESTY International has issued an urgent call to Lesotho's ruling military council to investigate and act on a spate of alleged deaths in custody, extra-judicial executions and cases of torture

An Amnesty report, issued last week, backs the call with evidence of torture and other abuses, and includes post-mortem reports on prisoners who died in custody. It calls for an independent commission of inquiry to bring those responsible to justice

Trade unionists are key targets for abuse, according to the report.

But Lesotho's minister of justice and prisons, Kelebone Maope, said "there is no need to hold a commission. There were problems within the army itself and the army has dealt with them". He was unable to give details of what action had been taken

The army has ruled Lesotho since 1986, but will be handing over power to an elected civilian government after multi-party elections in October this year

Among the cases Amnesty listed is one in which prisoners were stripped naked, covered with wet blankets, beaten and made to kneel for hours on crushed stones. In another, six prisoners, injured in a disturbance at Maseru Prison on

August 31 1991, were kept in waterlogged cells and denied medical treatment for months

Among them was John Ralengana whose eventual medical examination revealed multiple weals and abrasions on his back, legs, arms and on one side of his face. The physician also identified reduced vision in his left eye.

There were puncture wounds and septic ulcers on his thighs, and consistent with pellet shots. By

March 1992 Ralengana had still not received medical treatment.

Amnesty says that in some cases, inquests have been held into deaths in detention, or the High Court has concluded that torture or other abuses have taken place, but no action has been taken against the policemen responsible

The report expresses concern about the continuing imprisonment of 23 people

arrested during the 1986 military coup, who were tried by a court martial without proper representation

The report highlights the government crackdown on trade unions, and particularly newly formed politically independent unions in the Congress of Democratic Unions (CDU), which has been refused official registration. These include construction workers', teachers' and bank employees' unions

In recent months tough measures have been taken against labour, including the jailing of officials and the use of the Internal Security Act to restrict the holding of meetings.

Particular sensitivity surrounds the Lesotho Highlands Development Project, where the Construction and Allied Workers Union of Lesotho (Cawule) has tried to represent workers.

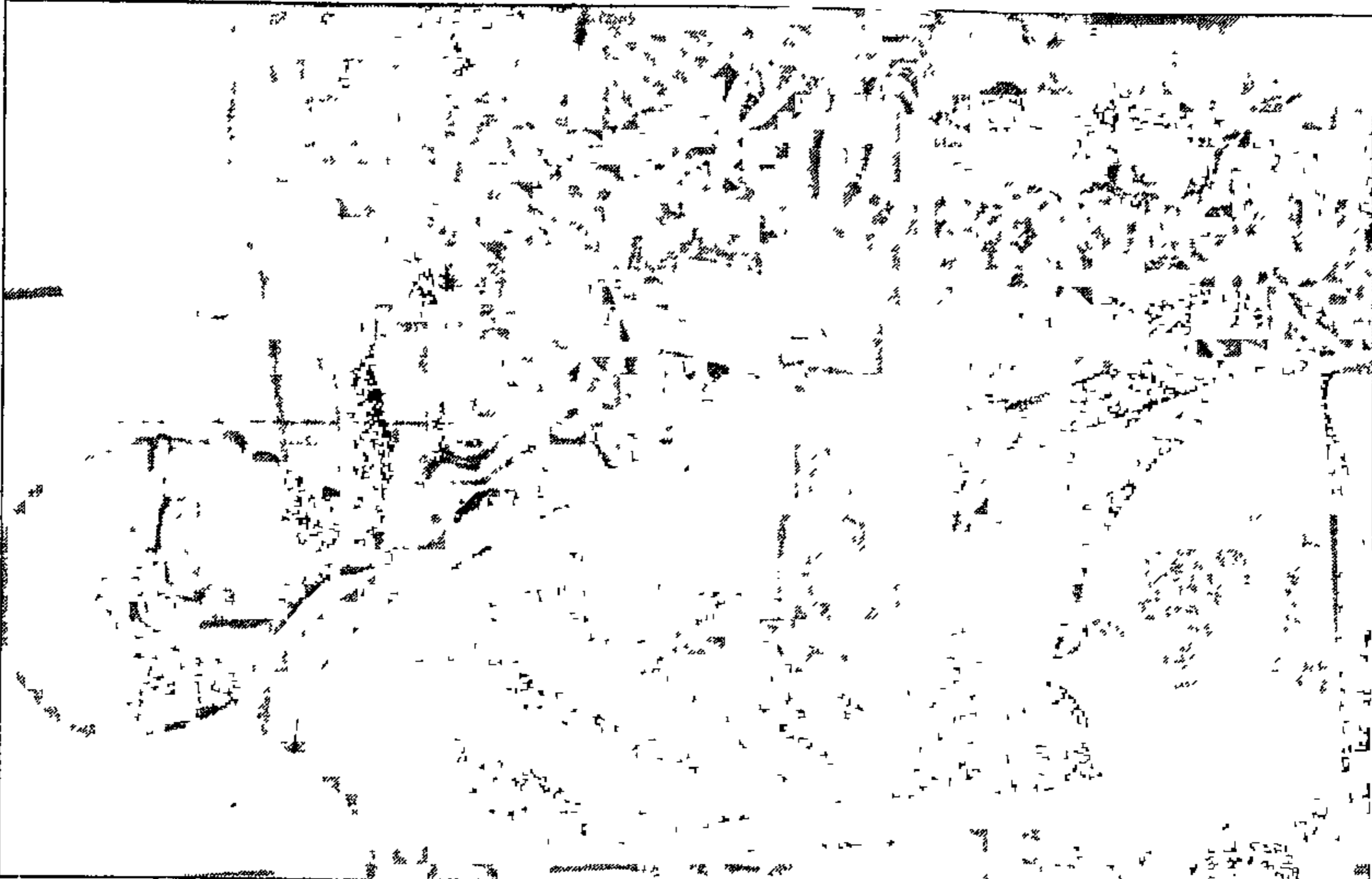
In an incident in January this year police are reported to have

opened fire on local men seeking work at the project's first dam construction site in Katsse

In another incident, Ngaka Sula, a Cawule official who worked as a watchman at the Katsse site, was shot dead by police in August 1991. Cawule officials are prohibited from entering Katsse, and Amnesty says Sula was apparently killed in reprisal for giving access to a regional union organiser and another man, Kekeletso Mofana.

Mofana claims he was threatened by policemen who told him they had killed Sula because of his "hostile attitude".

# NEWS FEATURE The tiny kingdom of Lesotho makes a tentative approach to democracy



King Moshoeshoe . returned from exile.

## Moving into democracy

Southern 31/7/92 167

**M**ASERU - The tiny African kingdom of Lesotho held its last, disastrous attempt at democracy in 1970

The election winners are still waiting to take office

Memories are long in this mountain enclave, where the oldest political party is seeking to win power snatched away when its 1970 election victory was harshly suppressed.

Shifting with the democratic winds sweeping Africa, decades of turbulent army and autocratic civilian rule are giving way to multiparty elections - and a revival of old animosities

### Issued a warning

Maseru's *Mirror* newspaper recently issued a warning that heightened emotions among the 1.8 million population could reproduce the kind of township violence ravaging neighbouring South Africa

"Lesotho is a small country completely surrounded by South Africa, where fellow citizens of that country are violently destroying each other," its editorial said

Rival politicians, draping brightly-coloured blankets over business suits, are attracting thousands of club-wielding tribesmen to village rallies in preparation for the November 28 elections and the end of six years of army rule

Mindful of the events of 1970, politicians say the main issue is the election itself and the restoration of democracy. The economy, hard hit by

## ROBUST RHETORIC Politicians visit

### the villages with armed supporters:

drought and redundancies on South African mines, which employ 95 000 workers from Lesotho, comes a close second

Remittances from miners account for half of the nation's wealth as measured by gross national product

The Basutoland Congress Party decisively won the 1970 poll but strongman prime minister Leabua Jonathan of the rival Basutoland National Party kept power by suspending the constitution and declaring the elections null and void

The BCP says hundreds of followers were later shot dead in clashes with Jonathan's security forces

Last year the army officers who toppled Jonathan in 1986 joined other African states in scheduling elections to win development aid and satisfy popular demands for democracy

### Dabbling in politics

They agreed to return the country to democracy under monitoring by the Commonwealth and the Organisation of African Unity

The campaigning has been peaceful, the rhetoric robust

The BCP is confident that no one - not even a former king fond of dabbling in politics - will try a repeat of 1970

"We are definitely not going to

countenance any monkey tricks from (former king) Moshoeshoe and no monkey tricks from any feudal chief messing about in the villages. You can forget about it," BCP vice-president Mr Molapo Qhobela Molapo said

"We are not going to allow anybody, even Moshoeshoe, to try and run against the decisions of a democratically-elected parliament. Otherwise I am going to come down on them like a ton of bricks," he said in an interview

### Misusing his power

Former king Moshoeshoe returned from exile this month, two years after the army deposed him amid charges he was misusing his power. The army replaced him with his son Letsie III

But Moshoeshoe (54) wants more than a figurehead role for the monarchy. He plans to travel the country to ask ordinary people whether they want him restored to the throne. The BCP, the oldest political organisation, bills itself as a party of commoners and is current favourite to defeat the BNP, traditionally a party of tribal chiefs and landowners

"The BCP appear to have the edge (over the BNP) in the campaign," said a senior Western diplomat. "The perception is that the BCP were cheated in 1970, and in Lesotho people have very long memories. To many, 1970 was yesterday" - *Sapa- Reuter*

# Politicians are in for a lesson

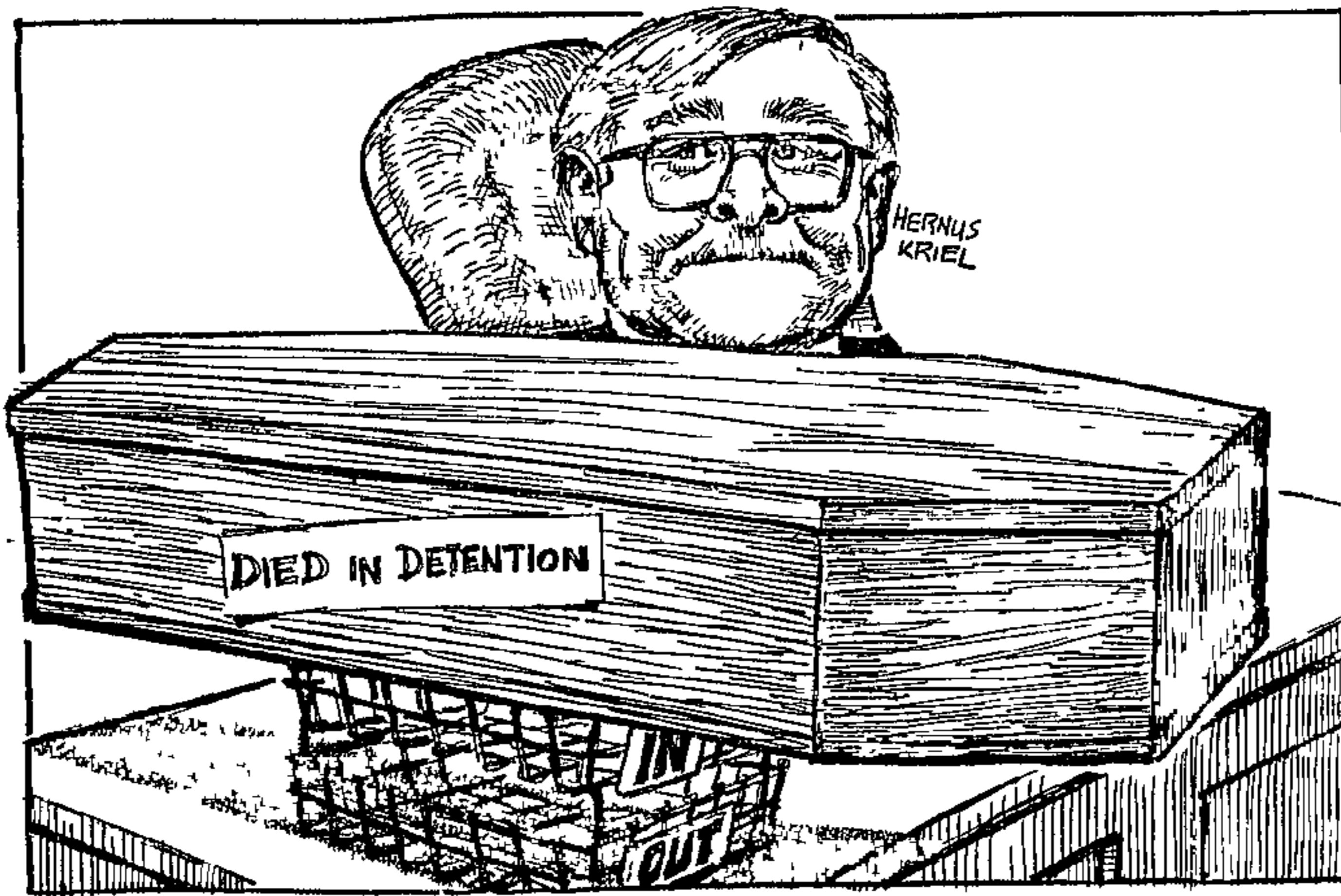
South 8/8 - 12/8/92 (167)  
TOUGH-TALKING Mosotho woman Limakatso Ntakatsane made history when she recently formed a political party to contest the November general election in Lesotho

Ntakatsane, a school teacher, says she hopes to salvage Lesotho from its poverty if her party, the Kopanang Basotho, wins the election — the third since independence from Britain in 1966

Lesotho, ruled by a series of military juntas since 1986, had its last general election in 1970 — AIA



**FOCUS** 'The people will decide my future' - King Moshoeshoe



*focus on* **Lesotho**

*Sowetan 12/8/92*

(167)

**VICTOR Tsuai** It has been rumoured that now that you are back from exile you could be placed under house arrest to limit your activities?

King Moshoeshoe I've not as yet heard of it. But that is a possibility. But I have no reason to suspect that the military government, lacking as it is in democracy, could do such a stupid thing.

I hope they will not stoop so low. Of course this has happened before in 1967 and in 1968. I still don't know why this was done in the first place.

**Could you be frank and tell us if you intend ascending your throne?**

In the United Kingdom I emphasised that the people of Lesotho must have fundamental rights.

People want democracy and so do I. We are tired of pseudo-democracy and dictatorship.

**But do you still aspire to power?**

At the moment I have no personal ambition to do that. But if the people approach me I will be willing and ready to serve them.

The people will decide.

**Could you be more specific?**

It is in the power of the people to decide on that.

**In view of the military government's decision to depose you, do you still have an axe to grind?**

I have no axe to grind with them. But they seem to be afraid to come out and face me. I wish they could come out of their military cocoon.

**Do you think there is free political activity now that the country's elections are being held in November?**

First and foremost, there doesn't seem to be free political activity in spite of claims to the contrary. How on earth do you explain the presence of the abhorrent Internal Security Act (ISA) that has been borrowed from South Africa?

**Don't you fear that the ISA could be used to either gag you or limit your activities?**

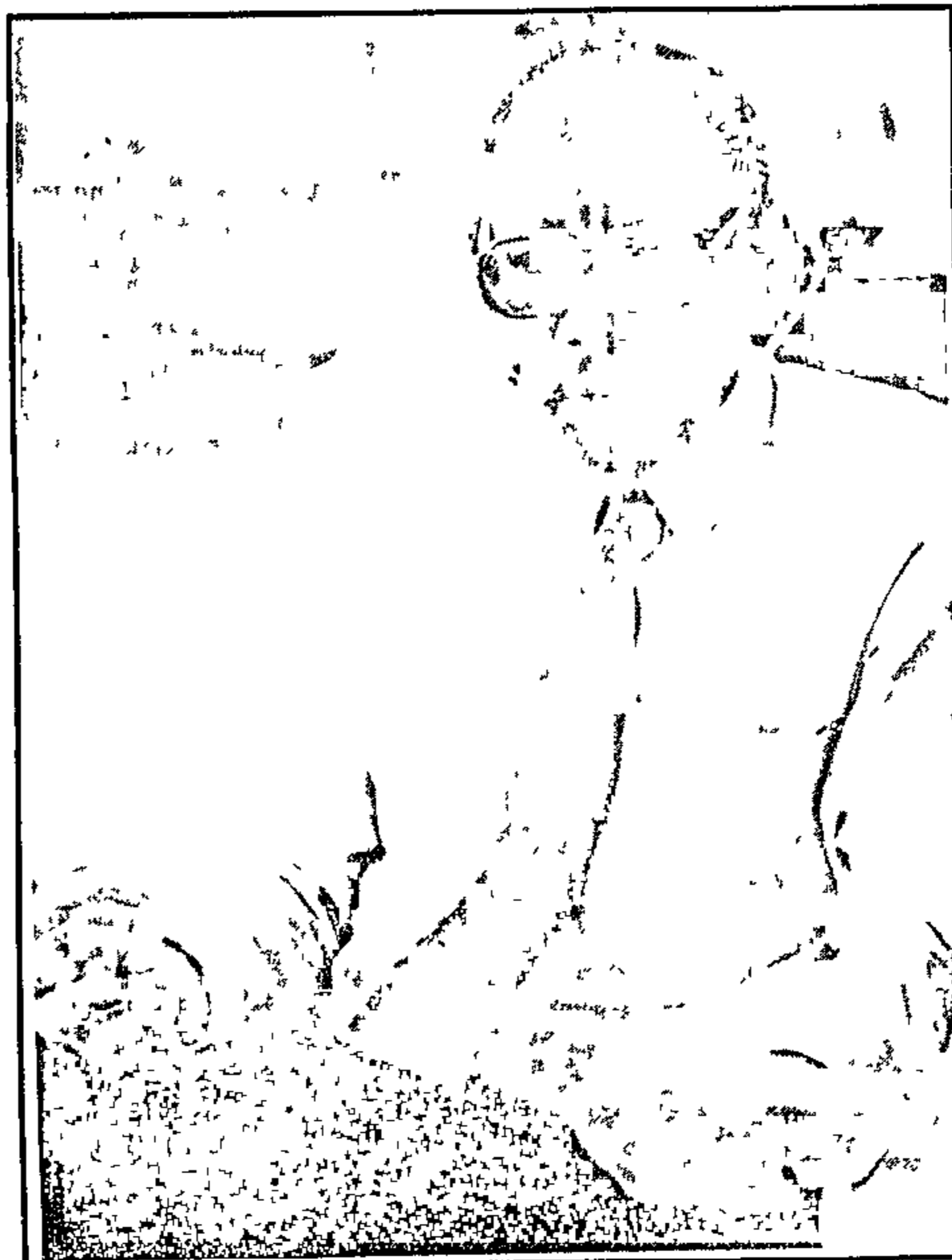
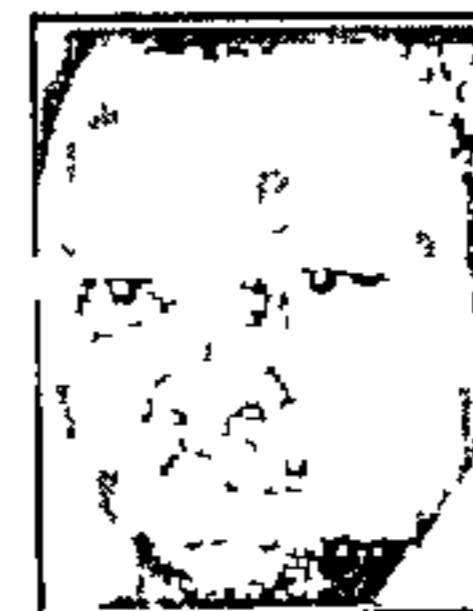
It very well could. But the issue here is that it limits the very essence of democracy and empowers the imprisonment of people. It should be done away with.

**What do you think are the critical issues that have bedevilled your country for so many years?**

First of all there is an urgent need to restore power to the people of Lesotho. It is their fundamental and God-given right. We have to stop the acute lack of unaccountability.

The lack of legitimacy and credibility must cease forthwith.

Deposed monarch King Moshoeshoe's return to Lesotho has raised the political temperature in the kingdom. In an interview, the king told *Sowetan's* **Victor Tsuai** that the decision about his future rests with the people of Lesotho.



King Moshoeshoe . the people will decide

would be caused on The squad practised at Northern's, Parow, newspapers in a bid to instead

Coach Mr Bob Dwyer said he was always quietly confident the test would take place

continued violence in the stands To page 2

# Cut-off coming for 087 lines?

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

THE head of Telkom yesterday threatened to cut the controversial 087 telephone service once the pilot phase ended in December.

Mr Danie du Toit, the managing director of Telkom, said Telkom had taken steps to carry out earlier threats to pull the plug on the multi-million rand 087 service which has provoked "a howl of public indignation".

This follows his threat in June that bad debts and consumer complaints could lead to the service closing

Yesterday Mr Du Toit asked service providers not to invest any further money in the industry

"There is a definite and very real chance that the service will not continue once the pilot phase ends in December," he said in his address at the closed annual meeting of investors in the Premium Rate Association of South Africa (Prasa)

He said Telkom had already taken a decision that competitions and gambling would be "excluded completely" from any future contract

Of 400 people polled in a recent Telkom survey, 80% believed the service should be terminated immediately, said Mr Du Toit

Mr Neil Jacobsohn, chairman of Prasa, the umbrella body representing around 25 companies who provide 087 services, said last night that he considered the situation to be "in a state of negotiation"

"We do not believe that Telkom could contemplate shutting down an industry in which in excess of R100 million has been invested and in which very substantial mainstream companies are involved," he said

● Highest 087 bill — Page 3

## Bid to halt 'tomlasee' Foreign subscriptions

Crack of dawn



# Maseru Bridge where loco rules

STAR 25/8/92.

(167)

**A** LOT of people have crossed the Caledon River at various points and in various ways over the centuries but no traffic has been more interesting than that which has passed over the Maseru Bridge since it was built 97 years ago.

There is a peculiar concentration of traffic on the bridge in that it carries trains as well as motor vehicles and pedestrians along its one-lane width. The trains take precedence, since not even a kombi taxi driver would want to play chicken with a railway locomotive on a narrow bridge high above a river.

I wouldn't bet a case of beer on it not happening, but it will have to happen before May 1994 because by then a new bridge will have been built for the motor vehicles and the pedestrians, leaving the old one to the trains.

The project was announced in Maseru last week and it set off a train of recollections, something like the TV ad about the Van Staden's River bridge in the Cape.

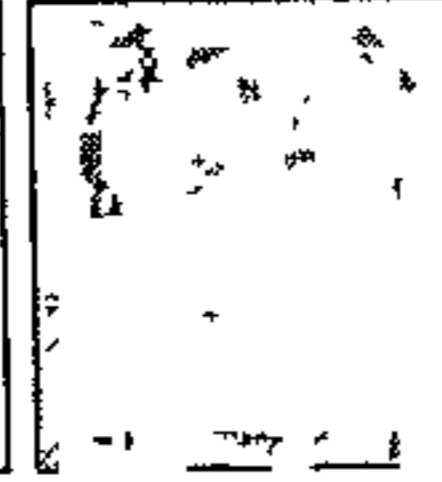
There is nobody around who can recall how they used to get across the river before the Maseru bridge was built in 1895. On a pontoon ferry, probably. But since then the old bridge has carried everything from ox-waggons taking charcoal to the blacksmith in Teyateyaneng to Lamborghinis transporting blondes to wicked weekends at the casino hotel in Maseru.

Being part of the main transport link between the Lesotho capital and South Africa, the bridge has borne the heaviest traffic of any Caledon crossing. It has carried British colonial officials on their way from Durban docks to take up new postings in the protectorate of Basutoland. It has carried South African tourists in Model T Fords with the luggage strapped on the back.

Unless I am badly mistaken, it has carried Basotho men on their way to serve as non-combatants with the British forces during the two world wars. It has certainly carried migrant workers going to the South African goldmines, most of them with nothing but hunger and hope, and the same mine-workers coming back with money in their pockets and scars on their souls.

**Out of Africa**

GERALD L'ANGE



There was some traffic across the Caledon that deliberately avoided the Maseru bridge: the ANC cadres who slipped across the river at night to escape from the SAP or to join insurgent cells in Lesotho, and the men in balaclavas who slipped across the river at night to kill them. Some of the dead probably crossed back over the bridge in coffins, as did a South African businessman who died in mysterious circumstances in a police cell in Maseru some months ago.

Most of the traffic over the bridge was much happier than that, however, especially in the days before Sun City when the casinos in Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland were the only places where South Africans could slip Calvinism's clutch and blow their savings on roulette and their minds on hard porn. Among those who crossed the bridge and were subsequently seen sitting in the front rows of the strip shows and the blue movies were slightly furtive men who were more often seen in the front pews in dorps west of the Caledon. There is no doubt that quite a few Free Staters went back across that bridge after their first visit with an entirely new perspective of life.

One of the more dramatic crossings of the bridge was made by two white men who swept into Lesotho standing on top of the cow-catcher of a railway locomotive on the day that Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan was toppled in a coup. Because South Africa was thought to be behind the coup — and perhaps because they were reported to be wearing raincoats — the two men were widely rumoured to be agents of the South African clandestine forces. Perhaps they were just SAR shunters, but the other version makes a better story, much more in keeping with the character of the bridge. □



# Leaders implicated in passports racket

STimes 18/10/92.

(167)

LESOTHO's former military strongman, Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, and his Council of Ministers have been implicated in a lucrative passport-selling racket which netted at least R8-million.

The findings of a judicial inquiry into the sale of 276 passports to residents of Hong Kong and mainland China have not been released by the Lesotho government, although they have been available since July.

However, the Sunday Times is in possession of Mr Justice JL Kheola's report, which finds the "former chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers are to blame for the debacle"

"He (Major General Lekhanya) applied undue pressure on officials to mount the

## From Dawn Barkhuizen in Maseru

scheme to the detriment of the normal checks and balances," says the report.

The passports were sold for \$28 000 (about R78 000) each last year, and the scheme — ostensibly designed to attract investment from Hong Kong businessmen — came to light when a number of "Lesotho citizens" tried to emigrate to Canada using false passports.

Other passports were found in the possession of drug dealers in South East Asia and some may have been used by Asian immigrants to South Africa.

The Lesotho government revoked the passports after Canadian authorities refused to admit would-be immigrants from Hong Kong in March this year.

Shortly after that, most Commonwealth countries imposed visa restrictions on all Lesotho nationals.

About 90 percent of the passports appear to have been bought by peasants from mainland China and people under the age of 21.

Several illegal Chinese immigrants who are now stranded in Lesotho are seeking to have their citizenship upheld by the courts.

The commission — appointed by the current Military Council chairman, Major-General Elias Ramaema, in April — found that not a cent of the R8-million paid for the passports had gone to the Lesotho government.

## Distorted

Applicants for the passports were never screened or interviewed to assess their investment potential.

No proof of their financial ability was obtained, and they were not required to provide police clearances or swear allegiance to king and new country.

However, a few were made to "sing the official anthem in a distorted fashion" — and filled in false application forms.

While a number of other people were involved in the racket, the real blame lay with Major General Lekhanya and the Council of Ministers, who forced the scheme through, the commission found.

Despite repeated efforts, the Sunday Times was unable to reach a spokesman for the Military Council for comment this week.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

810AM 22/10/92  
Concern in Lesotho (167)

THE provisions of the Further Indemnity Bill might be applied to grant indemnity to persons allegedly involved in commercial offences at the Lesotho Highlands water scheme, Jurg Prinsloo (CP Roodepoort) said yesterday.

Speaking during the second reading debate on the Bill, he said he had been contacted by attorneys in Lesotho who said their clients might be prejudiced if indemnity were granted to persons allegedly involved in crimes of corruption which had led to considerable overspending at the Lesotho Highlands water scheme project.

# 'I left him because he used a condom'

By Violet Maraisane

WHEN the Basotho realised that Aids sufferers in their country were African foreigners, they sat back and relaxed. That was six years ago

Today, the disease is killing more Basotho than foreigners, known here as *Makoerekoere*.

"Basotho! Aids is here. It kills and we have to change our attitudes," urges a government advertisement on the radio and in newspapers.

Sixty-four Aids cases have been recorded since 1986 in a country of one million people

Yet despite this reality, both men and women continue to shy away from the use of condoms. They say condoms affect their sexual excitement

Teacher Mr Robert Mohale says

South 14/11-18/11/92  
the mere knowledge that he is using a condom makes him uneasy. He says he is aware of the risk one takes by engaging in unsafe sex.

Waitress Ms Lerato Ntsekhe says she feels uncomfortable when a man flicks out a condom

"I even left one man because he used condoms when he was with me. I felt he was using them because he didn't trust me."

The migration of Basotho men to South African mines makes women more vulnerable. There are more women in Lesotho than men. Women have to share partners and this explains why for every one male Aids sufferer, there are seven women.

Mosotho men blame women for spreading Aids. But while this blaming goes on, the disease is spreading

even faster.

Doctors here have estimated that unless attitudes change, 550 people will have contracted the Aids virus by the end of the year.

There are currently 17 reported Aids cases in Maseru, a city of 180 000.

But the World Health Organisation estimates that the real figure is probably twice that of reported cases. It predicts that if people do not change their attitudes soon, Lesotho will have 4 438 people with Aids by 1996

Dr Tlhabi Moorosi at Maseru's Queen Elizabeth II hospital says the number covers only officially reported cases

"The disease is prevalent, even among healthy people," he says —  
**AIA**



## Lesotho elections off (167)

THE general elections which were due to take place in Lesotho on November 28 have been postponed by the country's military council chairman, Major-General E P Ramaema *Sowetan 26/11/92*

Ramaema, in a statement on Tuesday, cited "unavoidable delays in the preparations (affecting) the essential activity of delimiting constituencies" as the reason for the postponement. The delays meant nominations for the elections could not be completed

## 6 appointed to varsity body

NAMIBIAN President Sam Nujoma, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Namibia, has announced six appointments to the University Council *Sowetan 26/11/92*

They are Dr Theopolina Tueumuna, a doctor at Oshakati State Hospital, Mr Peter Bottger, a Windhoek businessman, Mr Justice Harold Levy, a senior judge of the Windhoek High Court, Roman Catholic Bishop Bonafacius Hausiku, the Reverend Willem Konjore, a Swapo MP, and Mr George Mayambelo, an official in the Ministry of Education and Culture ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

## SA to sign CWC treaty ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

SOUTH Africa will sign the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the development, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, in January next year, Foreign Minister Pik Botha has said ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

"The decision to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention in January 1993 is an expression of the South African Government's wish to participate in international non-proliferation and disarmament activities," Botha said

Although SA is party to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, the CWC goes far beyond the Geneva Protocol which only bans the offensive use of chemical weapons - *Sowetan Correspondents and Sapa*

*Sowetan 26/11/92*

# NEWS FEATURE Waging war against injustices against women, who always remain minors

## Women who still fight for their rights

### ■ MARRIED MINORS In Lesotho

Women are still treated as children:

Sowetan 2/12/92

By Sonli Maseko

**M**ATAELI SEKHANTSO and Puseletso Letete prefer not to dwell too much on how their colleague was chased out of a meeting by blanket-clad, knobkerrie-wielding Basotho men

They expect that the same thing could happen to them because they are involved in challenging the law in their country to give women more protection and grant them full rights, something their men might not like

"I am an unmarried woman," says Mataeli, a qualified advocate, "but that means I cannot apply for a bank loan without my husband's approval"

As a minor she cannot even apply to a court for her husband to be forced to give consent

Lesotho has a dual law system and under customary law, a woman, married or single, is always a minor. That restricts

women a great deal

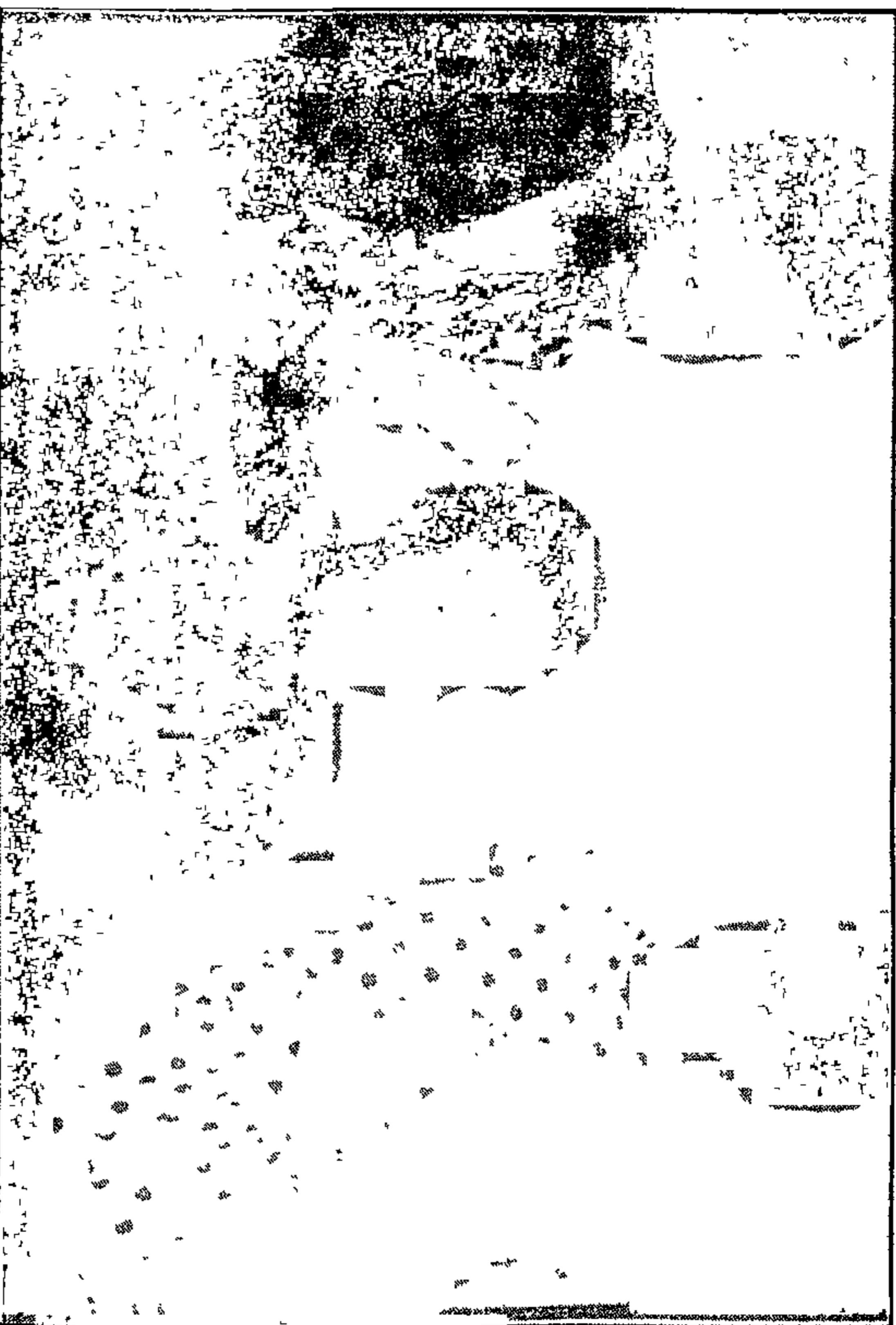
Both women are warm, soft-spoken and smile readily when they speak. Yet they say there is a lot of anger among women in Lesotho

"Before we went to the public gatherings we were not aware there was so much anger. You only need to be there to see how fed up women are (with their legal system)"

When a married woman sues for divorce, she may lose her children under the Basotho customary law, which never gives the woman custody because of an adage that Ngonana ke oa Kogomo (cattle beget children)

A divorce under customary law would also be settled on a "guilt principle" whereby if a man is "blamed" he would have to pay back bohadi (lobola) to the woman's family

However, if a woman is blamed for adultery, then bohadi is not paid back. However, if a woman wishes to sue under common law she could pe-



Learning from the legal funds ... Mataeli Sekhantso and Puseletso Letete plan one of their days with the LRC's Pinky Madlala (seated).

tion the High Court and apply to be emancipated and the mode of life test, based on her lifestyle, is applied

Our interview took place at the Johannesburg Legal Resources Centre where Letete and Sekhantso are visiting to experience working in a public law firm and to learn how to use the law to challenge and change legislation

"You need only look at what the courts have achieved. You need to find a test case which will have an impact on the general public," says the LRC's para-legal worker, Pinky Madlala, who

planned and co-ordinated their programme

The visit is significant because the two women are members of the Lesotho Federation of Women Lawyers linked with international bodies funding projects for women's rights

At the moment a burning issue in Lesotho, a member of the United Nations, is the reluctance by the government to endorse a UN document, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, they say

Endorsing the document would call for the amendment of all laws that discriminate against women. Chief among these would be the Chieftainship Act, which states that a successor to the office of the king should always be a man and never a woman

Puseletso points out a ridiculous situation in which, with the majority of the men in Lesotho working outside the country, in South Africa and other areas, women are unable to get into legal contracts to go into business without the help of their husbands

## ANC leaks: woman jailed

*STAR 10/12/92*  
MASERU — A Lesotho woman was sentenced yesterday to five years in jail for contravening the Official Secrets Act

She was found guilty of passing on classified information about the African National Congress and other liberation movements to a South African intelligence officer

Masehloho Kao (32) pleaded guilty to contravening the

Act.

*(167)*  
The prosecution said Kao had leaked a secret government file in March from the Ministry of Information, where she worked as a telex operator, to a South African officer identified as Michael Jantjie

The court heard that Jantjie was based at Ladybrand, near the Lesotho border — Sapa-Reuter



# Massacre victims relive the horror

C/Pnews 13/12/92

By S'BU MNGADI (167)

AT 1 am on December 9 1982, Maseru was held captive by the moon. It was a beautiful, clear, moonlit night as only the mountain kingdom of Lesotho produces

Ironically, the SADF commandos were assisted by the moonlight in their seek-and-destroy raid that night. The following morning, 30 SA refugees and 12 Basotho - including five women and three children - lay dead

In a media statement later, the then SADF chief, Gen Constand Viljoen said. "Elements of the SADF launched a successful attack on 12 targets in Maseru, Lesotho this morning. A total of about 30 terrorists were killed in the attack and a quantity of arms, explosives and documents were seized."

Viljoen alleged the targets served as planning, control headquarters and springboards for the ANC's "terrorist action" against SA, Transkei and Ciskei

In Durban this week, massacre survivors, their families and friends attended a book launch to commemorate the bloody night.

Entitled *Le Rona Re Batho* (We are also people), the book is written by former exiled Durban lawyer Phyllis Naidoo, who survived the attack.

Naidoo recalls the last few hours before the raid

She wrote that she had gone to bed at midnight after attending a dinner party at a comrade's home. Hearing explosions thereafter, she jumped to the floor but her flat was left unscathed.

At the supper host's house, Jo was about to join two fellow refugees who were sleeping when he heard explosions in the distance. The explosions soon drew nearer

Looking through the window, he saw a black man at the kitchen door. He realised something was wrong and dashed for a window.

As he was about to jump out of the window, shooting began. He was wounded in the head but managed to hide under a tree, watching the raiders from a safe distance

Although the shooting subsided an hour later, the killers did not leave till 3 30 am. His two friends were dead

Cuba House, home to 10 refugees, was reduced to a shell and the eight occupants were also murdered

Santu, a Cuba House survivor, takes up the story . . .

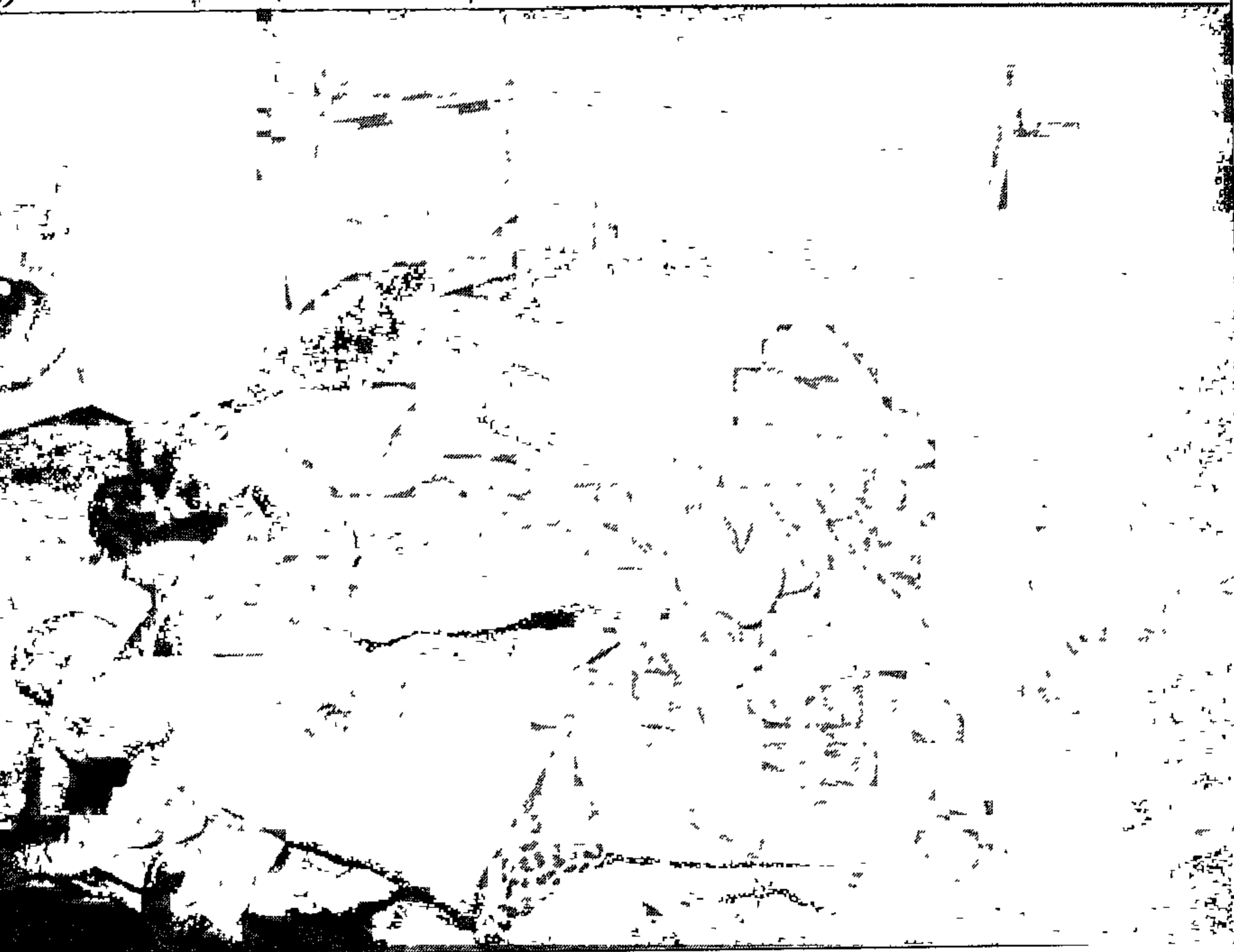
"Vido and I were joined on the double bed by Arrah and Vasta. The other six were asleep on the floor on foam mattresses.

"An explosion woke me. We rolled off the bed as the bullets flew by.

"After five minutes it was all quiet. They were possibly waiting for us to return the fire. But we were not armed

"As the door was being opened Arrah kicked it closed. But an SADF member put his hand through the broken board and started firing.

"We had no lights. One SADF came in with a torch. The explosions contin-



**THE FALLEN . . . Ten years ago this week, the SADF raided a Lesotho town killing 30 ANC refugees including women and children in what is now described as the Maseru raid. The tragedy is commemorated in a new book.**

## New book throws light on Maseru raid

ued outside.

"The first man shot me in the shoulder and I rolled into the corner with my head under the bed. I covered myself with the clothing we had removed earlier. Arrah got up to fight, but he was shot down.

"Two comrades had jumped out of the window. I was too afraid to move. The SADF picked up the bed to remove the suitcases. One searched while the other stood shouting: "Die freedom fighters!"

Santu added that when there was a lull, he and Cecil jumped out of the window and hid in the hedges behind Cuba House.

"We checked to see if we were being followed and ran behind a car. We realised that the whole yard would be checked, so we decided to jump over the fence. But Cecil could not jump and while trying to help him, an explosion lit up the yard. The boers spotted us and one SADF called out to another with a machinegun. As the two came towards us, I decided to run.

"For as long as I live I shall not forget Cecil pleading with the boers 'Please

sir, save my life'. They fired at me and I was wounded in the knee. I fell, and got up hopping away slowly, distancing myself.

"I looked back at Cuba House and saw six to eight jubilant boers, their black polished faces lit up by the burning fires," Santu recalled.

Speaking at the book launch this week, ex-Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Chris Hani said the attackers went to Kuena Flats, housing many expatriate aid workers.

Hani, who had lived in Lesotho since 1974, was away in Zambia that day and had left his wife Limpho and two children behind.

The SADF commandos shouted for 12 minutes for Hani to surrender.

A frightened night watchman had identified the flat he thought belonged to Hani. The flat, in fact, belonged to University of Roma librarian Matum Ralebitso's friend Gene, whom she was visiting.

Ralebitso, daughter of a former Lesotho minister of state and then ambassador to Mozambique, jumped from two stories up but a black SADF mem-

ber peppered her body with bullets

Gene, an SA exile who lived in a flat vacated by Hani, also jumped but broke his leg. He was later found dead with 30 bullet wounds

Four South Africans killed at a house opposite the US embassy included a young Maritzburg medical practitioner Dr Ncipe Bantwini. Bantwini and his girlfriend had come to Lesotho legally through the Maseru border post to celebrate a friend's new-born baby.

Also killed was Jackson Trom alias Gazi, responsible for buying and distributing food to ANC refugees

Gazi, his wife Albertina and three children were awakened by the door being blown apart.

Albertina looked out of the window and saw the house was surrounded

Albertina fled the burning house with her three children.

As they ran away they saw Gazi with his underpants removed being tortured by several soldiers. He was being interrogated in Xhosa

When the mayhem had subsided, Gazi was found dead.

The then ANC president Oliver Tambo defied threats on his life and flew to Maseru in former Mozambique president Samora Machel's plane to attend the mass funeral.

■ *Le Rona Re Batho* by Phyllis Naidoo is on sale at selected bookshops and libraries at R25 a copy.



# Diamonds are forever

## drowned in Lesotho

W/M sat 18/12-22/12/92

*A three-way battle is being waged over diamond concessions valued at*

*R2,5-billion high in the mountains of*

*Lesotho. By PAUL STOBER*

EVIDENCE of an extraordinary abuse of government power has emerged from a bitter dispute between South African diamond miner Josias van Zyl and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Van Zyl has had five mining leases in Lesotho, valued by geologists at R2,5-billion, summarily nationalised by the kingdom's ruling Military Council at — he charges — the instigation of the South African government. He also alleges that mining plant and equipment, infrastructure and workers' housing valued at about R10-million had been destroyed by Lesotho soldiers.

Van Zyl alleges the Lesotho government is effectively controlled by Pretoria. As proof, he says South Africa was responsible for the establishment of the Military Council when it precipitated the downfall of the government of Leabua Jonathan by closing its borders with the landlocked kingdom.

He also refers to charges by King Moshoeshoe II that the Highlands Water Treaty was imposed on the country by South Africa.

An eminent international law specialist who was consulted by Van Zyl believes the argument will hold up in court. The lawyer also stresses that although the allegations have been put to President F.W. de Klerk in a series of petitions, the state president's office has yet to issue a denial.

It was reported this week that De Klerk had rejected any claim that Van Zyl may have against his government, denying responsibility for any

es was scheduled to continue to be heard in the Lesotho High Court on March 24 1992. But, shortly after the proceeding started, the judge was presented with a government gazette which revoked SDM's leases and indemnified the Lesotho government and the LHDA from any claims for compensation.

The judge then ruled that he could not hear the matter and SDM launched an application for the scrapping of the decree. The Lesotho High Court has yet to hand down a decision.

Shortly afterwards, the company's mining plant sustained about R10-million damages when it was vandalised by men described as wearing uniforms of the Lesotho army.

In the meantime, Van Zyl has launched a campaign to get the international community to press the Lesotho government to restore the leases and compensate him for his losses. He is also considering taking his case before an international body for a ruling.

In his campaign he makes it clear that he holds the South African government equally responsible for his losses. He points out that the root of the problem is the unlawful action of the LHDA, which can only act with the approval of both the Lesotho and South African governments.

Van Zyl also condemned South Africa's apparent "lack of concern for the welfare of its nationals", given that it has re-established diplomatic links with Lesotho while one of its citizens was being mistreated.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), the Lesotho parastatal which oversees the work of the project, ignored the offer and carried on its operations in the area. SDM then applied to the High Court of Lesotho and, on July 18 1991, was granted an interdict which stopped the LHDA from carrying on its work.

Later that month, SDM agreed to lift the interdict after the LHDA undertook to negotiate a settlement with the mining company.

However, says Van Zyl, before he could begin negotiations, the commissioner of mines for Lesotho served his firm with a 60-day notice that he was cancelling the company's lease at Rampai, and all the other mining leases of the company.

The Lesotho government also said it had proof that Van Zyl had obtained the leases through bribery, knowing that the land would be flooded and he could claim compensation.

SDM launched an urgent application in the High Court and, on November 20 1991, was granted an interim order allowing it to continue its mining operations.

A full hearing about the cancellation of the leas-



# Police sent to protect border farms

STAR 21/12/92. (5) (167) (177)

Police are being sent to the border with Lesotho to protect white farmers after Saturday's attack on a Ficksburg farmhouse in which Leonie Pretorius (14) was killed by gunmen.

And after a weekend attack in Transkei, police have warned motorists to avoid the area or enter it at their own risk.

Free State Police Commissioner Major-General Tertius Calitz said last night that policemen would be sent immediately to farms between Clarens and Zastron.

There are about 200 farms along the Lesotho border.

Police said the three men who launched the attack had fled across the border.

Free State Agricultural Union president Dr Pieter Gous has warned that farmers would take the law into their own hands and root out attackers.

He was commenting after the farmhouse attack and a second attack on whites in Transkei earlier on Saturday.

A joint SA-Lesotho hunt was launched after the attack in which Leonie died. The gunmen had fired shots into the room where she, her brother and a friend were watching TV.

Police Commissioner General Johann van der Merwe has of-

fered a R100 000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers.

The second attack took place about 7 km inside Transkei when a man in a bakkie opened fire with an automatic rifle on a Dordrecht family, wounding J D Coetzer (78) and her son, L Coetzer (52), his wife (43) and their son (22).

One of the Coetzer family returned fire and, in the ensuing gunbattle, the driver of a passing truck, I J Schutte from Dordrecht, was wounded.

Police warned motorists to use an alternative route.

● A 56-year-old man was found stabbed to death on the Border farm, Oaklands, yesterday morning.

● Transkei leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa yesterday condemned the attack on motorists on the Queenstown-Dordrecht road in Transkei, but added that "the whole thing is becoming suspicious".

"I fail to understand that if it was Apla (that carried out the attack) why they would be concentrating these things in and around Transkei."

Apla is the Azaman People's Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for two recent attacks on whites in the Border area. — Staff Reporter and Sapa.



**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Lesotho joins manhunt**

LESOTHO's government had given SA its full co-operation in tracking down those responsible for a gun and handgrenade attack on a Free State farm on the Lesotho border on Saturday night, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said yesterday

He said he had been in contact with Lesotho's government and that joint SA/Lesotho police operations had been launched to hunt down the attackers

Leonie Pretorius died in the attack, the second in the Ficksburg area

B/DAM 21/12/92

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# Police patrol border farms

RAY HARTLEY

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POLICE moved quickly to secure farms and towns on the Transkei and Lesotho borders yesterday, after the declaration of 23 unrest areas in the region by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel

Additional police had been moved in and new Internal Stability Unit bases were being established yesterday, police spokesman Capt Lisbe Vermeulen said

Security operations would continue on Christmas day and through the rest of the festive season. Police said they had not ruled out attacks on isolated farms and towns on Christmas day

Tensions in the area remained high yesterday after two stormy farmers' meetings on Tuesday at which Kriel and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee were heckled and booed. Farmers and right-wingers demanded greater security measures and cross-border raids against Apla gunmen, the alleged perpetrators of attacks on whites in the border areas

The white Mineworkers' Union came out in support of the farmers' demands, with a spokesman saying violence against defenceless whites on farms and in towns

would not be tolerated

Pretoria police spokesman Capt Piet Brandt said police would "treat fire with fire" and act with equal vigour against armed right-wingers and Apla gangs, if they broke the law. He added, however, that the AWB and other right-wing groups had not "taken the lives of innocent people", as Apla allegedly had

Transkei leader Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa has accused the police of threatening to take drastic action against black guerrilla movements, while allowing white right-wingers to move about carrying heavy arms openly

Holomisa yesterday called for an "indaba" early next year to address the deployment of AWB members along Transkei's borders with SA

Ficksburg schoolgirl Leonie Pretorius, who was shot dead last week, was buried at an emotional service in the town yesterday, Sapa reports

Free State ANC spokesman Dirk du Toit

□ To Page 2

B100M 24/12/92

## Patrols

B100M 24/12/92

said yesterday Apla's attacks were contributing to the culture of violence that was tearing SA apart. He said the police and SADF no longer had the manpower to prevent violence and suggested that Umkhonto we Sizwe assist under the discipline of a government of national unity

The CP said its Ladybrand MP, Charl Hertzog, would meet the Lesotho police commissioner in Maseru today to discuss the recent violence

"We will reiterate our standpoint that any terrorist base must be neutralised

(within seven days)

The CP welcomed assurances by the Lesotho government that it would not permit Apla to operate from its soil, but it wanted details on how Lesotho would neutralise a terrorist threat

It would also seek assurances that Umkhonto was not allowed to operate from Lesotho. "The CP is not taken in by the ANC 'threats' against Apla," the party said. It saw both organisations as responsible for the current wave of terror against white South Africans

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# Vanishing Lesotho – heartbreak amid the beauty

*Guardian / w in w/mail*

By the Rev Canon Ian D Corbett

30/12/92 - 7/1/93

(167)

WHEN I was planning my first visit to Lesotho in 1986 I made inquiries with British Airways. They gave me an itinerary, with times, via Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Maseru to Lesotho. I had then never heard of Maseru but it turned out to be rather disconcerting information as Maseru is the capital town (not city) of Lesotho!

Clearly not many people ask to go there. Some would be visitors have been told it must be in Italy, presumably because of its spelling; and, indeed, post to Roma, a complex of villages in Lesotho, often travels via Italia. If you get as far as making the journey, you will be taken off in a bus upon landing at Jan Smuts Airport to a distant group of buildings. I was convinced that this was to be for interrogation by the dreaded South African security police. In fact, you are bundled into a tiny local aircraft (Lesotho Airways' two larger planes usually being grounded), and fly a very windy and bumpy course towards the distant mountains.

Lesotho, the mountain kingdom, the "Switzerland of Southern Africa", the "kingdom in the skies", lies to the south of Johannesburg, an independent Commonwealth country the size of Wales or Belgium, that starts at a height where Ben Nevis finishes and rises through two massive mountain ranges to the Drakensberg at between three and four thousand metres in height, before dropping vertiginously to the hills of Natal far below.

It is a country of unimaginable scenic splendour which gives the impression of being many times its actual size because of its tightly packed ranges and consequent difficulty of travel. You land near Maseru, the place of red sandstone (as is much of Lesotho), which, despite some modern buildings and modest tower blocks, still has the air of a frontier post, with animals, and young people out of the initiation schools in the hills, not unknown in its very centre. Old Maseru, around the "bus stop" (bus station) is still like any African urban centre with its music, chatter, street sellers, and bustle.

Outwardly, there is little to show that you have entered a strange alliance between traditional monarchy and military dictatorship, that is undergoing yet another period of political turbulence. You can easily visit Thaba Bosiu, the plateau in the near hills which press upon the lowland strip in the west, where Moshohoe the Basotho equivalent of Chaka of the Zulus (though a good deal more pacific, and indeed among the greatest of Africa's nation builders), effectively founded the nation in 1824.

This great and wise ruler, whose conduct puts both British and Boer incompetence and duplicity to shame, was manipulated by the colonial administration in his old age, not without the connivance of some of the missionaries (in contrast to their predecessors who had a splendid record in supporting the Basotho), and cheated out of much of his land.

The Basotho have constantly been losers throughout their brief history, not least in the later colonial period, as we shall see, and even today they endured a reign of terror in the latter days of Chief Jonathan's government in the 1970s that was to be followed only by military repression in the 1980s. The country had won its independence in 1966, but has known only four years of democracy in that time, up to the cancelled elections of 1970.

The reality of their situation for most Basotho is grinding rural poverty. This is not, admittedly, the undignified squalor of the squatter camps of South Africa, but that of subsistence farming on a dying land. Most Basotho live in tiny villages all over the mountains, making their country the highest generally inhabited one in the world.

Nobody would live here out of choice, it was the twin pressure of the Zulu wars (the Difaqane), and the Great Trek that forced local people up into these bleak, hostile, barren mountains from both east and west. If you visit after the summer rains (if they come), the land is carpeted with a thin covering of grass, but in winter, the longest season, when snow lies deep on the mountains, temperatures may plummet to 20° at night, and shepherd boys freeze to death every year, the real potential for growing is revealed.

Lesotho may have ample water in its many majestic rivers and waterfalls (the highest in Southern Africa roars through a narrow gorge in the central mountains), — water is called "Lesotho gold" — but it has no soil

The sight that burns itself into the memories of travellers is that of the huge dongas, sometimes like river valleys, that scar the countryside the evidence of massive soil erosion, 0.5 to 1.00 per cent a year.

Of course, attempts are being made to reverse the trend, but they can only slow it down. The inevitable sheep and goats may be necessary, but are an ecological disaster, and much of what soil there is is blown or washed away in huge summer gales and floods. The grim fact is that the population is increasing (already 1.6 million, compared with huge Botswana's 1 million) while the cultivable area of land is decreasing. Life for most people is getting worse, not better.

The terrible irony of all life in the south of this vast continent is that such intractable human problems are lived out against a background of surpassing natural beauty. If you go north from Maseru, after eventually negotiating one of the country's many hair-

raising passes, (now sadly larded which merely makes it icily unsafe in winter), you climb on to the "roof of Africa" and encompass some of the most remote and ancient mountain scenery in the world, endless ranges dropping away, until you come to Mokhotlong, once known as the most distant outpost in the British Empire.

When I last went there they had run out of petrol, there had been none for some weeks and nobody knew when the next delivery would be. Seeing my agitation, someone advised me that "you cannot come to Mokhotlong in a hurry!"

Or you can drive south from Maseru and eventually take the old road to Maseru Hook, through Qaba, discovering the most lovely rivers and valleys before you are brought face to face with the solid wall of the Blue Mountains, occasioning a precipitous descent.

And if you persevere further to wonderful, forgotten places whose magic echoes in their names Tebellong, Seforong, Isoelike, Sehlabathebe — you encounter the mighty progress of the Senqu (Orange), one of Africa's greatest rivers, flowing from its mountain sources in the highest Drakensberg to the Atlantic Ocean, succouring Lesotho, South Africa, and Namibia on its way.

The beauty of Lesotho is not confined to its landscape. The Basotho are a very beautiful people. Although it is impossible to speak of a Basotho type, as so many tribes have been forged into the Basotho nation, to me a very characteristic appearance would be a very light, soft brown skin, high cheek bones, almond-shaped eyes (giving some Basotho an almost oriental appearance), and an impressive physique in the young (resulting from too much labour and too little food!) clothed in the ubiquitous Basotho blanket.

And beautiful not only in looks but in character. Hospitality is the number one virtue, especially to strangers. Never ask a Basotho the way, because he will never let a stranger down, he will essay some sort of direction, even if he has no idea where you want to go.

The warmth and openness of a people whose lives are lived, of necessity, around the basic virtues, always overwhelms Western travellers. The land, food, weather, friendship, worship, laughter, music — these are at the centre of life, a life without our distractions because of the need to survive so conversation is direct and deep, friendship warm, physical and trusting.

"Mothoke motho ka batho ba bang" a person is a person only through other persons

This gentle Africa socialism is at the heart of Basotho life and perhaps tragically explains why they and other groups have fallen such an easy prey to individualistic, capitalistic Western aggression. I would be safer alone anywhere in Lesotho than in Britain. Fun is often found in hard and trying lives.

Though building a church in the mountains with no architect, no drawing, and no transport, with the need to feed and accommodate workers who could only remain on site, could be a constant headache — especially when the first, bulging walls collapsed in heavy storms — learning to cope with a Basotho patience and humour was a great lesson to me. And the problems of teaching across cultural and ethnic barriers more often produced situations of farce than of conflict. Traditional customs co-exist happily with Western ways, and trouble only expatriates, particularly the clergy.

So it is all the more distressing that this society is on the brink of collapse, and probably national extinction.

The problems are rooted in history as has been suggested, and not least in the present century. At its beginning, Lesotho, despite its terrain, was self-sufficient in maize. The British colonial administration purposely ran down grain production to release men for labour in the mines of South Africa so began the disastrous system of migrant labour, which is now the lot of nearly much of the male work force. Much of this lost land is beyond reclaim.

The administration equally purposely undermined the system of chieftainship, by liquor and guns, so that its own authority was enhanced. Hence the present crisis in leadership whereby, like Liverpool with

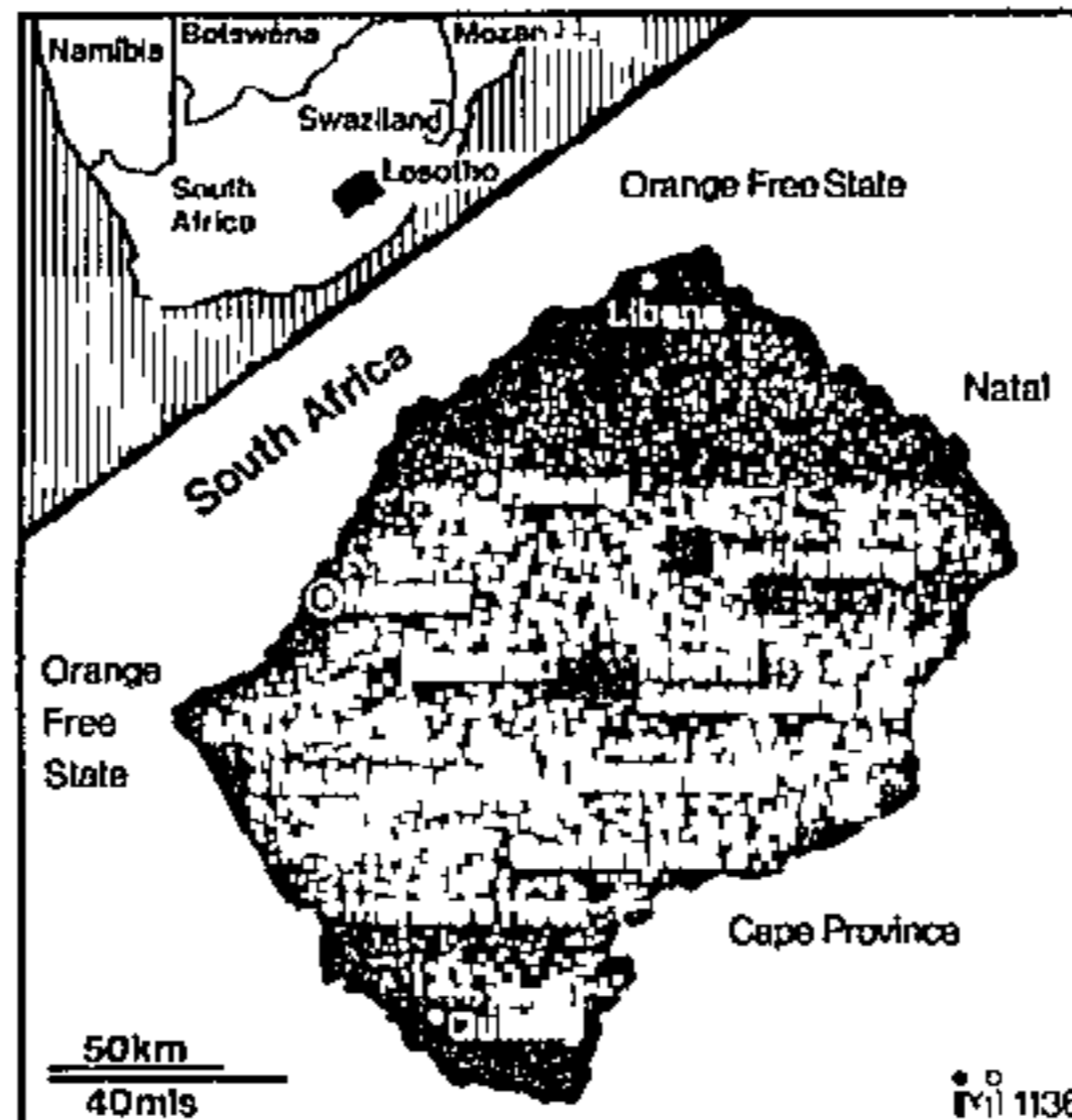
its cathedral to spare, Lesotho has two kings, one in office and one in exile, and a corrupt and inefficient military government which, of course, scarcely has a good colonial precedent to copy.

Admittedly, this government, previously under the thumb of Pretoria, but now wrong-footed by the rapid developments across the border, has legalised political activity again, but the result has been a revival of old animosities and a plethora of small parties inevitable in a society where a generation at least has not known any form of democratic or accountable government.

The church is seeking to play a role in national reconciliation, but has to live down its own past when different denominations were associated with different political parties as one old man remarked to me, "the Basotho were united until the missionaries came". Lesotho had its own race riots last year, and the future looks unstable to say the least.

Will the army hand over power? And, if so, will they leave any money in the coffers to render a civilian government viable? Nobody knows where all the foreign aid that is poured into Lesotho goes, and corruption is endemic, from the treasury to the university. As the country puts itself through the hurdle of an IMF/World Bank structural adjustment programme, the inevitable happens: already inadequate services are starved further.

The decline in standards in both the education and health services in the years I worked in Lesotho, from 1987 to this past year, has been drastic, while a quarter of the national budget is expended on an army for which there is no conceivable use. Hospitals have no medicines, schools have — well, hardly anything: teachers staged a strategic



- Under military rule 1986 coup
- Only 13% of land suitable for cultivation
- 25-30% of workforce employed in South Africa
- South Africa provides 97% of imports, 100% of energy, 96% of visitors

strike in 1990 which may yet be a catalyst for the organising of labour, but, as yet, there is little of that in Lesotho.

While health care and education are declining, so unemployment, sickness, poverty, and violence are increasing. I know, it sounds like Britain under the Tories but, believe me, the bottom line is infinitely lower. Even that bulwark of African society, the extended family, is breaking down under the strain, and one of my unofficial tasks was the care of an increasing number of poor, unwanted, unemployed, and often homeless youth. Present retrenchment of labour in the mines of the Republic adds to the gloom.

Yes, you will hear of the Lesotho Highland Water Project, which is being vaunted as the salvation of the nation. You can now travel, by a wide highway, the highest in all Africa, into the once secret interior of Lesotho, a land of breathtaking deep valleys, with rare vegetation and a wild proliferation of bird life, to where the Katse Dam is being built, possibly the first of several, which will supply water to the expanding population of the Vaal Triangle in South Africa for the next century.

It amounts to a rapt of the country. Not only will it destroy a unique, natural habitat, together with villages and sacred burial grounds, but the treaty which established the operation concluded by the inexperienced and easily manipulated military government, gives almost no advantage to Lesotho, which will even have to buy back its own water in case of drought.

The theoretical hydro-electrical potential is actually double the nation's total needs, which is pointless, but in any case will be incapable of being harnessed because of lack of money. Had it not been for European consultants on the project, no Basotho would have been employed, even as labourers. As it is, violence, rioting, strike action, and corruption in the site is frequent, but it is so remote that it is difficult to ascertain that justice is done.

The new road system may open the country up to tourism, at present, tourists come chiefly from South Africa, since there is no money for any tourist infrastructure, and material from the Lesotho Tourist Board may well be misleading and inaccurate. You can have a great outdoors holiday there if you know residents or are just adventurous!

But tourism in Lesotho would seem to me to be akin to what some rebel suggested might be an appropriate initiative for Thatcherite Britain, namely to make the north-east one large tourist park so those in the loyal Tory south could go and see how the other half lived! There is a sense in which, as a "white Masotho", as I was some times called, I would feel some embarrassment at hoards of tourists coming in to "view the natives", until they had an adequate standard of living which it would not be beyond the capacity of a serious government to work towards.

But I see little prospect of this. The people increase, the land decreases. The people get poorer, and the World Bank makes them poorer still. The political situation merely moves from one state of confusion to another. There is no viable economy, no experienced leadership. The future for most Basotho is as bleak as their mountains. The brain drain to South Africa will accelerate, and the most hopeful scenario must surely be some sort of integration into whatever "new South Africa" emerges, but naturally there will be some proud, nationalist resistance to this.

Lesotho is vanishing in more ways than one. The Basotho have a tragic history of being betrayed by Boer, Briton, and now by their own ruling elite. Does this have to be the fate of every poor African people whose main failing, it seems, is to be communistic, hospitable, and person orientated, so that it becomes an easy prey to aggressive opportunists of whatever hue? Are such forgotten people to be forever forgotten, with no champion to espouse their cause?

When the great African sun sets as a crimson ball, colouring the high plateaux a rich orange, and the mountains first purple and then blue, is it too fanciful to imagine need-less rivers of blood, and to hear, first in the cry of a late eagle a shriek of despair, and then in the deep silence of the African night no answer to Africa's sorrow?

*Ian Corbett is an Anglican priest who, until this year, was Warden of Lelapa la Jesu (Family of Jesus) seminary in Lesotho.*



LESOTHO - GENERAL  
1993

# Lesotho will co-operate with SA to track 'terrorists'

STAR 7/1/93

167 ~~8/1/93~~

Lesotho yesterday denied there were any Azanian People's Liberation Organisation (Apla) bases in the mountain kingdom

A delegation from the Lesotho government visiting Ficksburg in the eastern Free State — where recent attacks on white farmers have stirred community fury against the PAC's military wing — said Lesotho would not be used as a springboard for Apla attacks on white South Africans

The Lesotho government pledged it would co-operate to track down "terrorists"

Meanwhile, Transkei military leader Major-General Bantu

Holomisa remained confident last night that his request to the SA Government to second Mr. Justice Richard Goldstone to Transkei would be granted

Holomisa sent a diplomatic note to President de Klerk on Monday requesting that he release the judge to Transkei to head a commission of inquiry into the activities of Apla in the homeland. He is still awaiting a reply

Holomisa said last night he was so sure the Government would agree to his request that he had not even considered any other judges for the position

Goldstone had indicated he

was "keen" to head the Transkei commission, Holomisa said

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Awie Marais, who indicated on Tuesday that the Government's reply could be expected yesterday, said last night that Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee had not yet announced his decision

The matter was being dealt with urgently, Marais said

A Port Elizabeth-based committee of the Goldstone Commission investigating Apla went into recess on Tuesday to give Transkei and the PAC time to respond to evidence led by the SAP and SADF that Apla was

using the homeland as a base from which to launch its assault on South Africa

But Holomisa and the PAC have refused to lead evidence before the committee or even to co-operate with it

The committee is due to resume its hearings on Monday

● Holomisa said last night that Transkei would allow ballistic tests on pistols lent to the PAC last year to be performed only by a neutral party

Speaking on TV1's "Agenda" programme, Holomisa reiterated that all the weapons had been returned unused — Staff Reporter, Sapa

# Guns and farm fear? A rural legend

167

WJW and 8(1-14)1993

Ficksburg farmers dismiss as media hype stories of a 'border war' with Lesotho after two attacks on whites. They're here to stay, reports Ferial Haffajee

**G**UN-TOTING farmers patrol the streets searching anybody who isn't white, children go through hours of target practice, police on horseback patrol the electric fence on the Lesotho border. This image of the eastern Free State town of Ficksburg and surrounds, beamed into thousands of homes after two attacks on farmhouses in December, could almost be termed "rural legend".

When *The Weekly Mail* visited the area, every farmer offered a cup of tea and the use of his phone. The farmers shyly enjoy their newfound media profile, but most scoff at the border war that journalists from across the world have come in search of.

Many are not even sure that the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) are responsible for the violent attacks, but they do not dispute that the attacks are political.

Preferring the euphemisms "die troebel" (the trouble) or "die veiligheidssituasie" (the security situation), most will not attribute the violence to any organisation.

There are guns, but they are well hidden. Children have been trained to use them, but the youngsters seen by *The Weekly Mail* this week preferred to play with baby "bakkies" and swim in their pools.

Farmers are, of course, alarmed by the two attacks. They are all buying more dogs and geese, putting up wire netting on their windows and leaving more than one light on in their homes to confuse attackers.

The local stores have run out of expanding metal, used as a safety screen on the inside of windows. One farmer told of how his two daughters now sleep in a walk-in safe when just three weeks ago they slept under the stars.

Gertie Visser, a local schoolteacher,



Sitting by the fence... Gene Visser and a sleep-in Stability Unit sergeant inspect holes cut into his farm's boundary fence on the Lesotho border

says that last year they had a New Year's Eve party on their sprawling lawns. They still had their party this year, but guests crammed into their lounge.

"There has been a lifestyle change," she says.

The policeman sent to guard the Visser farm looked like part of the family, as they sat outside enjoying Cokes, Castles and the January heat.

Gene Visser has a huge Swiss flag flying from a tall mast on his double-storey house and the graffiti on his walls depict not mealie farmers, but Swiss yodellers.

This oddball farmer, who is not Swiss but says he is fascinated by all things Swiss, basks in his home town's fame. He's appeared on local and international television and appears to find the war games excit-

ing. He keeps two rifles — one army-issue — near at hand. He is a crack shot, he says.

The Visser's are no rightwing fanatics. Of the fire and brimstone meeting in Ficksburg a fortnight ago, when Law and Order Minister Hermus Kriel was booed amid loud demands for hot pursuit raids into Lesotho, Gertie Visser says "The people at the meeting were not from Ficksburg. Their attitude was so upsetting. I mean, who do they want to shoot in Lesotho? There's only women and children there."

Other farmers in the area are less vocal about their guns and many would not even take them out for photographs.

"Dit sal mos rue moot jyk rue" (That wouldn't look nice)," said

Steyn Opperman, an older farmer in the area.

Charles Barret chose not to have policemen guarding his property because "they will not be here forever" and he prefers an uninterrupted view of the poplars on the border.

Like many other farmers, he is keener to talk about the drought which has the beautiful region in a stranglehold, than about Apla.

He did not plant any wheat this year and missed the December harvest. Opperman, who also could not plant this year, puts it in a nutshell "The

guys at the co-op are not talking about security, they are talking about money about the drought."

Frnk Grobbelaar, the owner of the Rustlers Valley resort, says he has had no cancellations because of violence and dismisses the Apla threat as "media hype".

"There was anger at the economy, the drought, the political uncertainty but there was no outlet," he says "Now they have found something to pin it on."

Rumours abound in Johannesburg that farms in the area can be picked up for a song from farmers desperate to get out. Indeed, there are many farms for sale — but they have been on the market for three years and nobody's buying.

"It's not abnormal, it's happening all over the country," says a local estate agent.

He attributes the poor state of the property market to the drought, which has caused many bankruptcies, and to impending labour legislation for farm-workers.

The farms are cheap, but the Lesotho Highlands Water Project encouraged speculation and sent prices artificially high. Now, says the agent, they are settling down at their real value.

All the farmers interviewed by *The Weekly Mail* had no intention of selling because of the attacks. "Where are we going to?" asks Louisa Opperman. "Many of the men are farmers, they have no other education."

"*n Ou se wortels is hier nou was* (My roots are now here)," agrees her husband, Steyn.

Barrett looks round at the land which has been in his family for generations. It is surrounded by the Malet mountains and trees. Twelve kilometres of river run past his land, marking the border with Lesotho.

He shakes his head slowly when asked if he will leave.



# Lesotho to hold first elections since 1970

51 AM 15/11/93

(167)

MASERU — Elections aimed at restoring civilian rule in Lesotho will be held on March 27, the military government said yesterday

It would be the first election in the small, mountain kingdom since 1970, when then-prime minister Leabua Jonathan's National Party lost to the Congress Party

Jonathan then seized power with military backing and ruled the nation until a military coup in 1986

Major-General Elias Ramema, who took over as head of the ruling military council in a bloodless coup in April 1991, has promised to bring back civilian rule

But previous election dates have been postponed for varying reasons

The status of the monarchy is likely to be a major issue in

the election campaign

The military council stripped former King Moshoeshoe II of all executive power and forced him into exile in 1990, then made his son the new king.

Moshoeshoe returned from exile last year and wants to restore power to the monarchy

Britain adopted the territory as a protectorate in 1868 and granted it independence in 1966

More than 90 percent of Lesotho's people live in rural areas and only 10 percent of the land is arable.

About half the male workforce travels to South Africa to work in gold mines. The 130 000 mineworkers are Lesotho's major source of income, along with foreign aid

— Sapa-AP.



King Moshoeshoe ... Threat of violence if he doesn't get his throne back

# Nobody's rushing to the polling booth

LESOTHO'S on-again, off-again elections have been delayed once more, fuelling speculation by contending political parties that balloting could be marred by vote rigging and violence.

The new postponement from the end of January until March arose from errors in the delimitation of some of Lesotho's 65 constituencies, Commonwealth-appointed chief electoral officer Noel Lee said last week.

Nomination of electoral candidates from the 17 political parties is now expected to take place this week. Polling of the 737 610 registered voters would then follow within 60 days.

But politicians, civilians and even foreign aid organisations are frustrated and suspicious. The elections have been repeatedly stalled since the military government announced in 1991 that it would step down in favour of civilian rule.

In addition, Lee will soon be replaced by another electoral officer so that he can return to his own country of Jamaica to work on election preparations there. The newcomer must start afresh in gaining the trust of the parties. Another concern is that international poll observers will number less than 50.

Lee said, however, that the series of delays could not have been avoided and prospects still remain good for peaceful and democratic elections — the first for Lesotho in 23 years.

"We have been very open with the political parties and they have been a part of every decision made," Lee said. "And there is no one man in power, so we're not topping a government that wants to remain in control. The military wants to step down."

Not everyone is as certain as Lee that all is

# Nobody's rushing to the polling booth

Not everyone in Lesotho agrees

that the stalled voting process will be hunky dory once it gets off the ground.

By **BOBBIE JO KELSO**

aboveboard and will go well. Instead, most politicians are busy pointing fingers at others as possible sources of fraud and violence.

The Basotho National Party (BNP) is one example. It was toppled by the military in 1986 after 16 years of dictatorial rule and now believes the army favours its chief rival, the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP). BNP leader Evaristus Retselisitsoe Sekhonyana alleges the new delay is to help the BCP quell infighting.

Both parties fear their rivals will become violent if votes don't tally up in their respective favour. The possibility is real. In Lesotho's 1970 elections, the then-ruling BNP declared itself the winner, despite results showing a BCP victory. It imposed a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and exiled or imprisoned opponents. About 500 people were killed.

Sekhonyana only assumed the BNP party leadership in December 1991, but he now publicly asks for forgiveness of the BNP's actions in 1970. "It is not out of a sense of guilt or shame, but because without reconciliation there can be no future," he said. "But I can understand why we did what we did. The BCP were anti-police, anti-chiefs, anti-church, anti-establishment."

The BCP, which has turned down the volume on its once-fierce radical politics, is tipped by analysts to win the elections but some fear it would

# Nobody's rushing to the polling booth

(167)

seek revenge once in power. Other observers believe its factional squabbles could also threaten stability.

Up to 1 000 members of its former military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), are believed to still be in South Africa and not in agreement with the party's leadership on key issues. LLA members who came home under a 1988 amnesty could still be armed, since the government did not force them to turn in weapons.

Controversy concerning Lesotho's monarchy could also cause problems, but nobody need point a finger of suspicion at the royalist party, the Maramatlou Freedom Party (MFP). Its leader, Moekeise Malebo, issued his own warning that violence could erupt if former king Moshoeshoe II is not allowed to regain his throne.

The MFP successfully fought for the homecoming last year of the former king, who was exiled to Britain in 1990 by the military and then replaced by his son. Today, the party is fighting to reinstate the former king, although to date he has been barred from taking the matter up in the nation's courts.

The MFP election manifesto includes returning him to power, which has led some to insist the party is forcing an unwise referendum on the future of Moshoeshoe II and the monarchy, too. The party won only one parliament seat in the 1970 elections, but the MFP, with Malebo at its helm, won't budge on the issue.

"If the king doesn't go back to the throne there will be trouble and it should not be blamed on us," he said. "If you cannot even allow me to go to court, won't I have to take up my gun?"

# Finance man in missing R12m riddle

By JAMES BRITTAIN

A FORMER Lesotho finance minister is under investigation after a R12-million Taiwanese grant vanished from government accounts in 1990.

Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, Lesotho's finance minister from 1986 until 1990 and now chairman of the Basotho National Party, admitted sending the money to a Luxembourg bank account in 1990, but denied that the money had been moved fraudulently.

The Taiwanese government refused to comment on the matter.

According to documents leaked to the Sunday Times, the matter was uncovered during an investigation early last year conducted by the present Minister of Finance, Mr Leshele Thoahlane.

Mr Thoahlane found that the \$4-million grant to the Lesotho military council in 1990 had been transferred out of the Central Bank of Lesotho into an overseas account.

## Docket

In January last year Mr Thoahlane called for a police investigation because he suspected fraud.

In a letter leaked to the Sunday Times, he reported the matter to the chairman of the military council, Major-General Elias Ramaema.

According to Lesotho sources, a docket was opened, but the investigation has not been completed.

Documents showed that the \$4-million was transferred to an Austrian bank in June 1990 and from there to a bank in Luxembourg in August.

Mr Sekhonyana said the funds were secured by the then military council chairman, General Justin Lekhanya. He said some was spent on an irrigation project in Lesotho and the rest on "security matters".



### US group slated for tobacco links

KATHRYN STRACHAN

LOCAL anti-smoking groups have attacked a visiting US-based organisation, Healthy Buildings International (HBI), for serving the interests of the tobacco industry and opposing local initiatives for smoking controls.

Healthy Buildings International director Simon Turner told a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that his organisation's survey of office environments in the city concluded that 72% of office workers experienced symptoms associated with the "sick building syndrome"

But Medical Research Council spokesman Dr Derek Yach said that while the organisation billed itself as an indoor environmental consulting firm it did not disclose its tobacco industry links *15/01/93 26/1/93*

"Their efforts have ranged from trying to convince businesses not to adopt 'no smoking policies' to influencing governments not to pass clean indoor air laws," said Yach

The organisation had been active around the world in supporting smokers' rights groups and business coalitions to defeat specific tobacco control initiatives, said Yach, adding that Turner was the son of the head of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee said the organisation had targeted SA at a time when government

is preparing to pass legislation curbing smoking in public places.

Saloojee said the dispute, arose over methods to purify indoor air.

HBI advised employers to install their ventilation systems

complementing smoking cessation programmes.

The anti-smoking lobby claimed that ventilation systems could not remove nicotine particles.

# Not guilty pleas in finrand fraud trial

SUSAN RUSSELL

THE trial of four businessmen who allegedly took part in a series of fraudulent finrand transactions, in which R32,7m was brought into the country, began in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Company directors Abraham Liebrecht Coetzee and Hendrick Schalk Coetzee pleaded not guilty to 12 counts of fraud.

Pieter Le Roux de Bruin and Johann Marais pleaded not guilty to 10 and eight counts of fraud respectively

It is alleged that during 1987/88 Reserve Bank authorisation was fraudulently obtained for the importation of a total of R32,774m via the finrand on the pretext that Bloomington Investments Ltd of Hong Kong wished to invest the money in two SA companies, Aroma Tobacco and Aroma Cigarettes.

Reserve Bank authorisation was also allegedly obtained to send R19,703 185m of this amount out of the country, purportedly to pay for machinery imported from overseas.

According to the indictment Abraham Coetzee and Hendrick Coetzee were both directors of Aroma at the time the offences were allegedly committed, while

Marais was a senior manager at Standard Bank's Eloff Street branch.

The foreign investor, Bloomington, and the two companies from which machinery was purportedly purchased, Dolford Trading Inc and Machine Specialists Inc, were all directly or indirectly controlled by a businessman named as Jock Kim Cho.

De Bruin worked for Cho until 1985. The State alleges that the four conspired with Cho to introduce funds into SA via the finrand under false pretences, convert them into commercial rands and export them on the pretext that forex was needed to pay for overseas creditors.

In some of the charges it is alleged that Aroma's bankers were induced to process applications for the release of amounts totalling \$3,147 432m and £7,569 780m in the belief that Reserve Bank authorisation had been given for the payment of creditors overseas.

The State alleges that the machinery was either not purchased at all or that the invoices for the goods were falsified to reflect more than the amount actually paid for the goods.

## Tunnel boring ends far ahead of schedule

PRETORIA — The Robbins tunnel boring machine has completed a 5,2km section of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project a year ahead of schedule, according to a Water Affairs Department spokesman.

The machine is one of five boring a series of tunnels to take water from the Lesotho highlands to SA.

Starting on a south drive from Ngoajane in July, the machine took 137 working days

*15/01/93 26/1/93*

GERALD REILLY (167)

to reach its target at a vent shaft near the Hololo River. In September it tunneled a record 1 203,4m.

The machine will be reassembled at Ngoajane for its third and last drive towards the Caledon River

The first water from the project is scheduled to reach SA early in 1997.

# Basotho want new government

SO4714 6/2-10/2/93 (167)  
THE Basotho entered 1993 as a restless, expectant nation. Everybody in Lesotho, it seems, wants a new government.

For most in the tiny mountain kingdom of 1.4 million people, 1992 brought little but the drought and the promise of a return to multi-party politics after 22 years.

The decision in June last year by the ruling military council of Major General Phisoana Ramaema to allow general elections probably remains the climax of the year.

At least 12 political parties have indicated that they will contest the elections which, though postponed because of shoddy preparations, will certainly be held this year.

The contestants seem to agree with the reasons for the postponement. Voters' rolls were not ready and constituencies were not delineated by November last year — the original target date for the polls.

Mr Noel Lee, the government's chief electoral officer, says the postponement was necessary to ensure a

free and fair election for a nation which is increasingly becoming restless over its first chance to choose its new rulers.

Ramaema agrees, citing two main factors. He says all preparations must be completed first and a new date, this time a definite one, must be agreed upon by all.

However, many Basotho want an early election date set because they do not seem to trust the military. They are eager to go to the polls and get a government they feel will address their needs.

Dr Ntsu Mokhehle, the leader of the Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) which looks set to win the elections, says he is not bothered by the delays. He simply wants a free and fair election in Lesotho.

Meanwhile, a new national constitution is said to be ready and will be published soon. The constitution may be used by any party that wins the elections. The new document includes amendments to the 1966 constitution. — AIA



# focus on Lesotho

**E**VEN THE LONG AWAITED GENERAL elections in Lesotho, one of the major crucial issues which could decide the country's future, will remain unresolved

Following four postponements, Lesotho appears to be steadily crawling towards an election day. Most of those who will flock to the polls on March 27 will be doing so for the first time. Others will be voting for the first time in 23 years.

Commemorating the sixth year of military rule on January 20, Lesotho's chairman of the ruling military regime Major General Elias Ramaema, admitted that the world was tired of military rulers.

Apart from inheriting an economy racked by all sorts of deficiencies, coupled with widespread corruption, the new government will be confronted by two major issues in need of urgent attention.

## Monarchy issue unresolved

Firstly, the country will have to resolve the monarchy issue which plunged the country into a constitutional crisis in 1990 when the then strongman, Metsing Lekhanya, stripped King Moshoeshe II of his powers and sent him into exile before subsequently replacing him with Moshoeshe's eldest son, Letsie III.

Recently, Letsie indicated he wanted to return the throne to his father but the military has put its foot down stressing that Moshoeshe can no longer be king. They even insist on calling him with his pre-installation name, Chief Bereng Seiso.

Those lobbying for Moshoeshe's return to the throne argue it is baseless to have an election before the monarchy issue is resolved.

However, others contend a democratically elected government is the legitimate structure to resolve the issue satisfactorily.

Some even take the argument further and advocate the idea that a referendum on whether Moshoeshe should return to the throne, should also test the Basotho's opinions on the entire monarchical system.

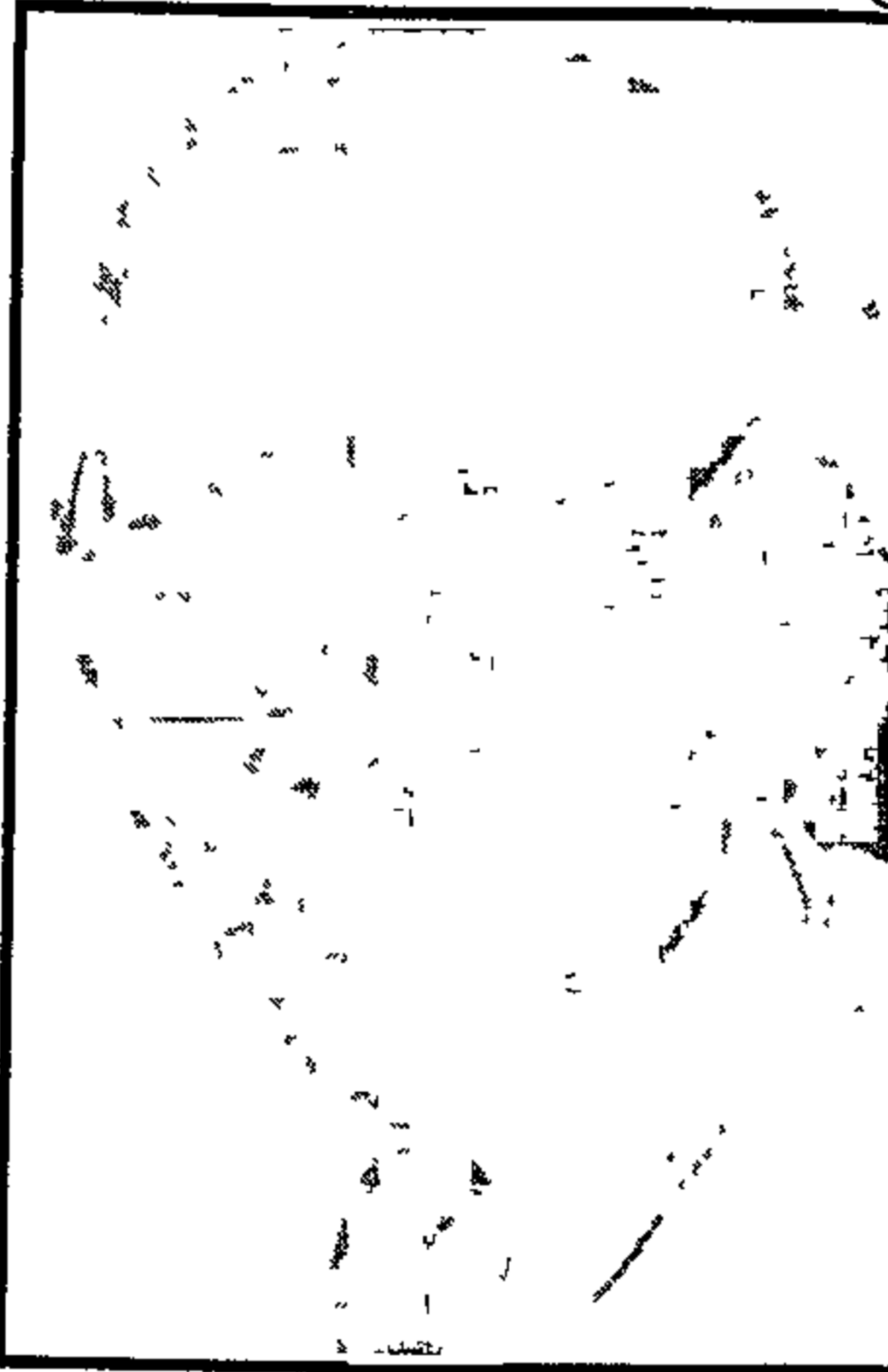
Moshoeshe himself has publicly declared his readiness to abide by the will of the people, whatever the outcome.

Weakening calls for Moshoeshe's re-installation is the indifference of the two major political parties in Lesotho. Only the medium-sized Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) has thrown its weight behind the ousted king. The organisation is historically known for its sympathy towards the system of chieftainship and the monarchy.

"The issue of the review of boundaries between Lesotho and South Africa has been a popular one in the former's politics," as one academic once put it. This sentiment echoes the

The major issues exercising the Basotho before the first elections in 23 years are the question of the return of Moshoeshe II to the monarchy and Lesotho's incorporation into post-apartheid South Africa, reports

**Mzimkulu Malunga:**



King Moshoeshe II ... stripped of his powers.

Those lobbying for Moshoeshe's return to the throne argue it is baseless to have an election before the monarchy issue is resolved.

feelings of a substantial number of the Basotho

The pro-incorporation lobby argue the Basotho have contributed immensely to the development of South Africa but do not enjoy fringe benefits like their South African counterparts.



They also cite the 1986 debacle during which a 25-day economic blockade by Lesotho's powerful neighbour led to the collapse of Chief Leabua Jonathan's regime, as an illustration of the country's dependence on South Africa.

"Some of the Basotho work in that country for over 20 years and thereafter come home to die without any benefits," says trade unionist Puseletso Salae.

However, even the protagonists of incorporation are becoming cautious as South Africa's political destination remains unclear.

Those who reject incorporation base their appeals on nationalistic feelings. They argue the country was "built with the blood of their forefathers" and it would be a mistake to simply surrender independence.

## Historic rivals

Though there are over a dozen political parties contesting the coming elections, like on the two previous occasions the race is still between the historical rivals, the Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) and the Basotho National Party (BNP).

Despite their internal disputes and breakaways by senior officials, the two parties remain the most organised in the country. Neither of the newly formed organisations appear to be strong enough, at this stage to end 30 years of BNP-BCP domination of the political scene.

Both organisations have put up candidates in all the 65 constituencies. The MFP has put forward 51 candidates while the remaining nine parties have fewer than 20 candidates each.

One of the great ironies of these elections is that the former ruler, Lekhanya is running for parliament on a BNP ticket, the party whose government he toppled in January 1986.

A series of postponements have dampened the electorate's euphoria about the elections. Some are even beginning to question the military's commitment to relinquish power.

The army has enjoyed a relatively easy life since 1986, the soldiers' salaries sharply overtook those of other civil servants while many of those in senior positions became overnight tycoons.

Whether after eight years in power the military will permanently return to the barracks remains a question which only time can answer.



## Lesotho fires 9 ministers

MASERU. — Nine Lesotho ministers lose their jobs today, in line with the military government's decision to dissolve its Council of Ministers. (167)

Only five ministers will remain in office, Major-General Elias Ramaema, chairman of the ruling Military Council and Council of Ministers, said in a statement yesterday. CTM 2/93

He said the outgoing ministers would receive full benefits — Sapa

Soweto 25/2/93

## Big shortage for Lesotho

LESOTHO has projected a cereal deficit of 16 500 metric tons for this year and its Department of Agriculture said the supply situation remained unsatisfactory (167)

# Lesotho's moment of justice dawns

STAR 25/2/93.

(167)

The building stands as inconspicuously as any other in downtown Maseru. Only when you have weaved your way through the street vendors and passed through the main entrance does it become clear that the building houses a political party.

Not just any political party, its supporters claim, but Lesotho's government-in-waiting. That is how the Basutoland Congress Party sees itself and how most political observers in the tiny kingdom see the outcome of next month's election — the first democratic poll in 23 years.

In the office of party leader Ntsu Mokhehle, the furniture has a just-delivered freshness about it. Deputy leader M Q Molapo and party secretary-general N Mphanya are with him.

The booming voice is gone, replaced by a soft-spokenness that sounds out of place to those who have heard the oratorical skills of the Mokhehle of old. More than 15 years in exile

have taken their toll on his health.

The first question to Mokhehle is will there be an election?

For several years now, the ruling Military Council has been promising a hand-over to civilian rule. Elections were promised for June last year. Then the date was moved to November. The next date pointed was January. And now, March 27.

When General Metsing Lekhanya suspended party-political activity in Lesotho in January 1986, he claimed that it was to allow for "healing the wounds inflicted on the people through party-political activity".

There seems to have been very little healing since then, however. Rivalries are as bitter now as they were at the height of the clashes between Chief Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party and the BCP.

Chief Jonathan has since died, but for Mokhehle, the moment of justice seems only an election away. The firebrand of Lesotho politics may not have the powerful voice of many

The old lion of Lesotho politics, Ntsu Mokhehle, is sure he will lead his party to victory in next month's election. JOE LATAKGOMO of The Star's Africa News Service reports from Maseru.

years ago. He may no longer be able to move people to mutiny as he previously did with his brilliant oratory.

But any thought that he has lost the sharpness of mind, the keen political sense that won him many a follower, is dispelled as he stresses what he believes is an important point made by his deputy.

The BCP believes that its moment has come. There are no scientific polls in Lesotho, and the whims of rural voters are unpredictable, but the bush polls suggest a win for the BCP over the BNP.

The BCP believes that people have not forgotten its charismatic leader. They hope the electorate have not forgotten the man who fought with such determination against both the British and Jonathan's gov-

ernment in pursuit of democracy and justice.

If they have, they will be rounded — and for this purpose, the BCP has arranged rallies where Mokhehle will appear.

Nine rallies will be held, culminating in what Molapo describes as the final thrust in Maseru on March 20.

"This will be the biggest rally ever held here, and after that, we will pack away our campaigning and the people of Lesotho will decide," he says.

There is no bitterness in Mokhehle's voice when he speaks. He laughs at the suggestion that the BCP symbol of a knobkerrie, and the slogan about the use of this traditional Basotho weapon, are in any way a cry to war and incitement to violence.

Molapo dismisses this and suggests that a party that has

suffered like the BCP "cannot and will not behave in a manner that will disrupt the democratic process".

"Unlike the previous times dates have been set, the election date of March 27 has been gazetted. It was not just a date announced on public radio," Molapo says.

He adds that two more reasons have convinced his party that elections will definitely take place. Once nominations have been held, the election has to be held within a specified period. This means that all the legal instruments for holding the election are in place.

Finally, the chief electoral officer, Jocelyn Lucas, and the respected military officer, visited Denmark three days after nomination with the full list of registered candidates to arrange for the printing of ballot papers.

But an election was also held in 1970, and Leabua Jonathan did not accept the result?

"At the time, Jonathan was in Pretoria's pocket, politically and economically," says Mola-

po. "Not only that, Pretoria also seconded a so-called electoral expert named Pretorius to handle the process."

The South African Government had a vested interest and, together with the West, was convinced that the BCP was communistic, he claims.

When Jonathan staged a coup — according to the BCP they had won 36 seats to the BNP's 23 and Maramatlou's one — he placed the king under house arrest, arrested 35 BCP MPs, banned all newspapers and shut down the High Court, "telling Justice Jacobs to go back across the border."

"This time, the people of Lesotho cannot allow any political, military clown to play the donkey with their fundamental constitutional democratic rights," Molapo says.

By most accounts, in just over a month, Mokhehle's dream, denied to him in 1970, will become a reality.

"But we are not taking things for granted. We are working hard in the BCP to ensure that we win all 65 seats," he says. □



**NEWS FEATURE** *An election was held in 1970 and Leabua Jonathan did not accept the result*

# BPC believes its time has

## now come

*Sowetan 26/2/93*  
**VETERAN POLITICIAN BCP's Ntsu**

*Mokhehe is confident of winning next month's elections in Lesotho.* (167)

**By Joe Lataksomo**  
Sowetan Africa News Service

**MASERU** — The building stands as inconspicuously as any other in downtown Maseru.

You have to weave your way past street vendors and only once inside the main entrance does it become clear that the building houses a political party.

Not just any political party, as supporters would remind us, but Lesotho's government-in-waiting. That is how the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) sees itself and how most political observers in the tiny kingdom see the outcome of the election next month — the first democratic poll in 23 years.

The office of the leader of the party, Ntsu Mokhehe, is through a grill-door entrance the furniture has a just-delivered freshness about it. His deputy, MQ Molapo, and party secretary-general N Mphahanya join him to welcome me.

The booming voice is gone, replaced by a soft-spokenness that even sounds out of place to those who have heard the oratorical skills of the Mokhehe of old.

More than 15 years in exile have clearly taken their toll on his health. Will there be an elec-

as he stresses what he believes is an important point made by his deputy.

The BCP believes that its moment has come. There are no scientific polls in Lesotho and the whims of rural voters are unpredictable but the bush polls suggest a win for the BCP over the BNP.

Clearly, the BCP still believes that people have not forgotten the charisma of its leader. They hope the electorate of the country has not forgotten the man who fought with such determination against both the British and Jonathan governments in pursuit of democracy and justice. If they have, they will be reminded — and for this purpose the BCP has arranged public rallies where Mokhehe will appear.

### Final thrust

Nine rallies will be held, culminating in what Molapo describes as the final thrust in Maseru on March 20.

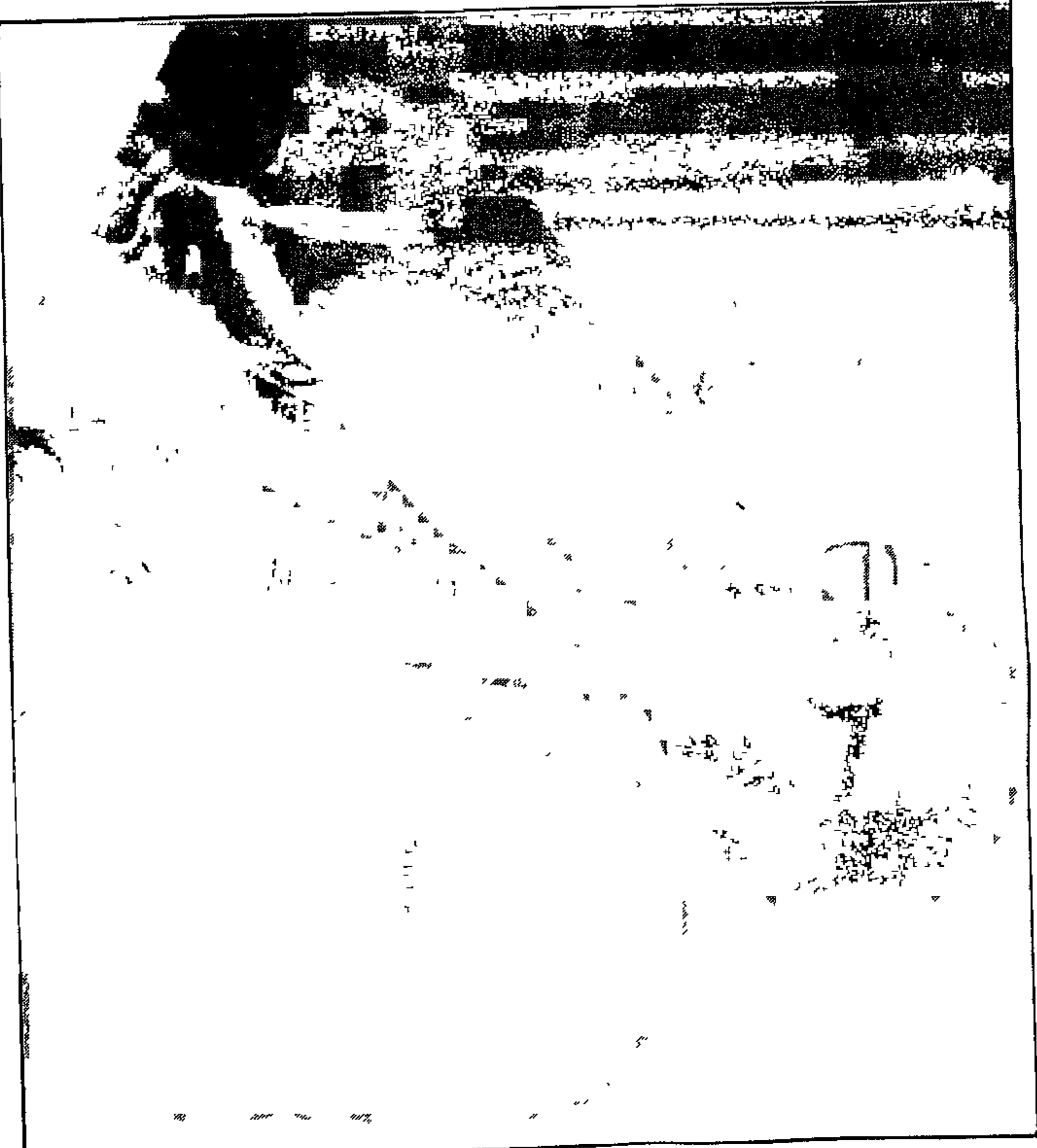
"This will be the biggest rally ever held here and after that we will pack away our campaigning and the people of Lesotho will decide," he said.

Every so often Molapo turns to "my leader" to seek confirmation of his re-

**This time, the people of Lesotho cannot allow any**

**political, military clown to play the donkey with**

When he does speak, there is no bitterness in Mokhehe's voice. He laughs at the suggestion that the



**BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehe senses victory in the election.**

Molapo "Not only that, Pretoria also seconded a so-called electoral expert named Pretorius to handle the process. To ensure that in the event of a petition to the High Court they could influence the process, Pretoria also seconded a Chief Justice Jacobs," he added.

Also, the South African Government had a vested interest and, together with the Western powers, was convinced that the BCP was communist, he claimed. When Jonathan staged a coup — according to the BCP they had won 36 seats to the BNP's 23 and Maseru's one — he placed the king under house arrest, arrested 35 BCP Members of Parliament, banned all newspapers and

shut down the High Court, "telling Justice Jacobs to go back across the border."

"This time, the people of Lesotho cannot allow any political, military clown to play the donkey with their fundamental constitutional democratic rights," Molapo says as Mokhehe nods assent.

By most accounts, in just over a month, Mokhehe's dream, denied to him in 1970, will become a reality at last.

"But we are not taking things for granted. We are working hard in the BCP to ensure that we win all 65 seats," says Mokhehe.

now, the ruling Military Council has been promising a hand-over to civilian rule

Recently, elections were promised for June last year. Then the date was moved to November. The next date pointed was in January. And now March 27.

When General Metsing Lekhanya suspended party-political activity in Lesotho in January 1986, he claimed that it was a step necessary to allow for "healing the wounds inflicted on the people through party-political activity"

There seems to have been very little healing since then, however. In fact, old sores have been reopened, old fights resumed and rivalries are as bitter now as they were at the height of the clashes between Chief Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party (BNP) and the BCP.

#### Moment of justice

Jonathan has since died but for Mokhehe the moment of justice seems only an election away. The firebrand of Lesotho politics may not have the same power in his voice as he did those many years ago.

He may no longer be able to move people to mutiny as he did with his brilliant oratory.

But, any thought that he has lost the sharpness of mind, the keen political sense that won him many a follower, is soon lost

But about the use of this traditional Basotho weapon,

are in any way a cry to war and an incitement to violence.

Molapo dismisses this as "waffle" and suggests that a party that has suffered like the BCP "cannot and will not behave in a manner that will disrupt the democratic process"

#### Gazetted

"Unlike the previous dates that have been set, the election date of March 27 has been gazetted. It was not just a date announced on public radio," Molapo says. "Therefore, there can be no retreat."

He adds two more reasons which have convinced his party that elections will definitely take place. Once nominations have been held, the election has to be held within a specified period. This means that all the legal instruments for holding the election are in place.

Finally, the chief electoral officer, Ms Jocelyn Lucas, and the responsible military officer visited Denmark three days after nominations with the full list of registered candidates to arrange for the printing of ballot papers.

But an election was also held in 1970 and Leabua Jonathan did not accept the result. "At the time, Jonathan was in Pretoria's pocket, politically and economically," says



As relations between Pretoria and Lesotho bloom, the graves of ANC martyrs serve as reminders of an angry past. **JOE LATAKGOMO** of the Argus Africa News Service reports from Maseru.

**A**CCCESS to the old cemetery is difficult at the best of times. On rainy days it is impossible to reach by car.

The potholed, winding road was once given a tar layer of sorts. That was when African National Congress president Nelson Mandela scheduled a visit to Lesotho, not only to pay tribute to the members of his organisation who died on its soil, but also to thank the Basotho for giving refuge to ANC exiles at the height of the struggle against apartheid. The trip was cancelled and the road left to deteriorate.

Some of the Basotho who walk past the cemetery now may wonder why one part is neatly fenced off. But an examination of the graves tells the story. Mzukisi Maranqana, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82. Mdlankomo Liqwa, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82. Dr Nqoipe Bantwini, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82. And so it goes on. Twenty-seven times the story is repeated. Or could it be more? Some of the graves are now overgrown, the people buried there forgotten heroes of the liberation struggle.

They are not the only ones, though. The SADF raid on Maseru on December 9 1982 was part of the government's total onslaught against the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress and other anti-apartheid forces. In this raid at least 42 people were killed — 12 of them Basotho. There were other raids across the border, on Maseru, Maputo, Gaborone and even into Lusaka.

Those were the days when South Africa demanded, and extracted, its pound of flesh from neighbouring countries. Political refugees were often forced to leave countries like Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland or Mozambique, either through threat of raids, economic sanctions or, in the case of Mozambique, the Nkomati Accord.

While Leabua Jonathan had been seen as a puppet of the South African government, he tried to prove otherwise — and paid for it heavily. Mr Jonathan called for elections in 1985 which were boycotted by the opposition following his seizure of power in 1970. His party "won" all 60 seats, but there

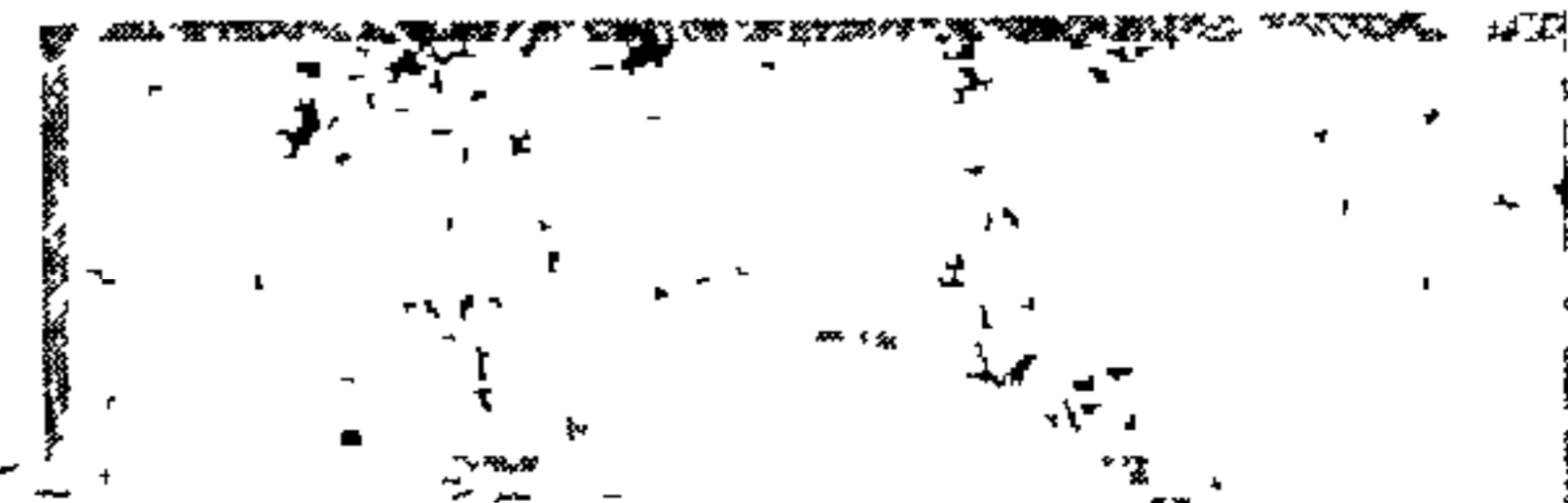
# 27 graves: Reminders of an angry past

(167)  
ARCF 27/2/93



**Peace rules  
as SA buries  
hatchet with**

□ **THE DIPLOMAT:** South African Ambassador Mr T G Visser in his office in Maseru





of operating out of South Africa, where BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle had been given refuge.

When Mr Jonathan did not deliver to expectations, South Africa imposed a blockade on January 1, 1986, and within 15 days, had brought the kingdom to a standstill which precipitated the coup in which General Metsing Lekhanya toppled him. Within one week, the Military Council ordered ANC refugees out of Lesotho — much to Pretoria's delight.

Today, relations between the two countries are cordial. The SA Ambassador to Lesotho, Mr T G Visser, assured the Lesotho king on presenting his credentials that he would continue "to work towards the maintenance of the cordial bilateral relations which have existed between our two countries..."

"Gone," he said, "are those unfortunate days of grand apartheid. Gone are those days of petty racism. The South African government has abandoned apartheid forever."

The Lesotho Highlands Water project, he said, binds South Africa inextricably to Lesotho. In a subsequent interview, Mr Visser said that when the scheme is on stream Basotho "will be relatively wealthy from income from water supplied to the PWV."

Last year, when Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Renier Schoeman visited the country, he said South Africa had a vital interest in stability and orderly administration in surrounding countries "because unsettled conditions elsewhere in the region deter foreign investment in South Africa."

"Promoting political and social stability in individual countries is a key component of our policy of co-operation in the region," he said.

"We are pleased with the political developments in South Africa," said the secretary-general of the Basotho National Party, Lekhooana Jonathan Mr Jonathan was a former Minister of Works in the Leabua government. "We are surrounded by the Republic of South Africa and our economic structures are intertwined with those of the Republic in trade and monetary regimes, including the labour force from Lesotho... Consequently Lesotho is compelled, under all circumstances, to co-exist peacefully with South Africa."

Asked whether there were any bases of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) in Lesotho and how his party would deal with such a situation if it won the elections, Mr Jonathan declared: "We will not allow Apla, or any other army to operate from our soil if we are in power. However, for the present, it is a question of the Military Council coming clean on whether there are such bases."

The BNP is not unduly concerned that

19 On the evening of 6 February, thieves removed the entire stock of merchandise from Thompson's Retail Store.

It was shown that the 1 February stock on hand had purchases had been R20 000 and purchases the period 1 February to 6 February. The company sales had averaged 30% during the past several filing an insurance claim, Thompson should es inventory theft at:

- a) R12 000
- b) R20 000
- c) R22 000
- d) R32 000
- e) R19 800

20 The following statement does not describe specialized journals:

- a) Specialized journals each record transactions
- b) Specialized journals are primarily necessary when there are large volumes of transactions
- c) Specialized journals are essential for the preparation of financial statements
- d) Specialized journals enable summarized information to be posted to the general ledger
- e) The use of specialized journals reduces the likelihood of errors in posting

21 The following transactions took place during a given month.

- i) Sold goods to A and received a cheque
- ii) Delivered office equipment no longer required to B and received a cheque
- iii) Took delivery of goods for resale from C
- iv) Sent goods sold and tax invoice to D
- v) Sold old office furniture to E on credit

Of the above five transactions, the following combination is most likely to be entered into the sales journal:

- a) i), ii), iii), iv) and v)
- b) i), ii), iv) and v)
- c) i) and iv)
- d) iv) and v)
- e) iv) only

## Lesotho

Lesotho will continue being the junior partner in the interdependency "The bigger South Africa grows, the thirstier it will become," said Mr Jonathan, clearly indicating that any government in Lesotho would do well to cement the terms of the water project.

At least, for the residents of Maseru, improved relations will mean no more fear of raids, of living next to Moscow House (where Chris Hanu lived while in Lesotho), or even the danger of having a refugee living with you.

And those who lie buried in foreign soil... perhaps will be better remembered once a democratic government is in power



□ THE DEAD: The grave of one of the ANC members killed in the SADF raid into Lesotho in 1982, Dr Ngcipe Bantwini.



# focus on LESOTHO

Sowetan 1/3/93

**M**ASERU - Access to the old cemetery is difficult at the best of times. On rainy days, it is impossible to reach it.

The winding, pot-holed road was once given a tar layer of sorts. That was when African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela scheduled a visit to Lesotho.

Not only to pay tribute to the valiant comrades of the organisation who died in a foreign land, but also to thank the Lesotho people for having given refuge to members of his organisation at the height of South African repression.

The trip was cancelled, and the road left to deteriorate. Some of the Basotho who walk past the cemetery now wonder why one part was neatly fenced off. But an examination of the graves tells the story. The concrete headstones are a grim reminder.

Mzukisi Maranqana, massacred by SADF, 9 12 82. Mdlankomo Liqwa, massacred by SADF, 9 12 82. Dr Ngejane Bantwini, massacred by SADF, 9 12 82. And so on, the story goes. Twenty-seven times, the story is repeated. Or could it be more?

Some of the graves are now overgrown, the people buried there the forgotten heroes of the liberation struggle.

They are not the only ones, though. The South African Defence Force raid on Maseru on December 9 1982 was part of the Government's total onslaught against the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress and other progressive forces. In this raid at least 42 people were killed - 12 of them Basotho.

## Neighbours raided

There have also been raids on Gaborone, and even into Lusaka.

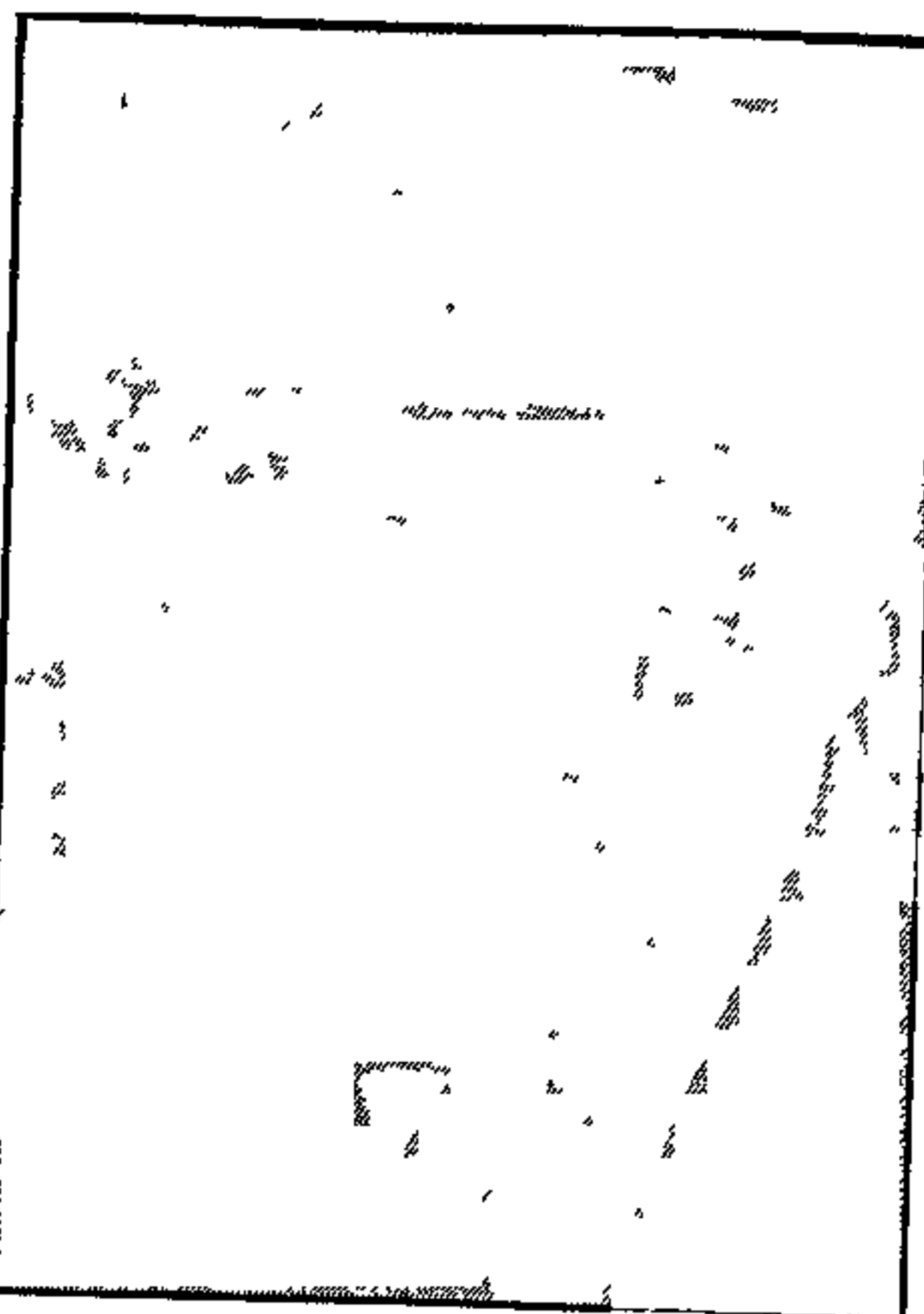
Those were the days when South Africa demanded, and extracted, its pound of flesh from neighbouring countries. Political refugees were often forced to leave countries like Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland or Mozambique, either through threat of raids or through treaties like the Nkomati Accord.

While Chief Leabua Jonathan was seen as a puppet of the South African Government, he tried to prove otherwise - and paid heavily. Jonathan called for elections in 1985, which were boycotted by the opposition following his seizure of power in 1970.

His party "won" all 60 seats but there was an increase in activity by the Lesotho Liberation Army (the BCP's army), and Jonathan accused the LLA of operating out of South Africa.

He also claimed that BCP leader Mr Ntsu Mokhehle had been given refuge by South Africa. When he did not deliver to expectations, South Africa imposed a blockade of the border on January 1 1986 and within 15 days, had brought the kingdom to a standstill which led to

As relations between Pretoria and Maseru bloom, the graves of ANC martyrs killed in SADF raids serve as a reminder of an angry past. **Joe Latakomo** of the Argus Africa News Service reports:



**Leabua Jonathan .. seen as a puppet of the SA Government.**

the coup in which General Metsing Lekhanya toppled him. Within one week the Military Council ordered ANC refugees out of Lesotho - much to South Africa's delight.

## Sound relations

Today, SA-Lesotho relations are sound. The SA ambassador to Lesotho, Mr T G Visser, assured the Lesotho king on presenting his credentials that he would continue "to work towards the maintenance of the cordial bilateral relations which have existed between our two countries."

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(167)  
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"We are pleased with the political developments in South Africa," said Mr Lekhooana Jonathan, the secretary-general of the Basotho National Party, who is a former Minister of Works in the Leabua government.

"We are surrounded by the Republic of South Africa and our economic structures are intertwined with those of the Republic in trade and monetary regimes, including the labour force from Lesotho. Consequently Lesotho is compelled, under all circumstances, to co-exist peacefully with South Africa," he said.

Asked whether there are any bases of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) in Lesotho, and how his party would deal with that situation if they won the elections, Jonathan declared "We will not allow Apla or any other army to operate from our soil if we are in power."

## Junior partner

The BNP is not unduly concerned that Lesotho will continue being the junior partner in the interdependency. "The bigger South Africa grows, the thirstier it will become," said Jonathan, clearly indicating that any government in Lesotho would do well to cement the terms of the Lesotho Highlands water project.

At least for the residents of Maseru, improved relations between Lesotho and South Africa will mean that there will no more be the fear of raids, of living next to Moscow House (where Communist Party boss Mr Chris Hani lived while in Lesotho), or even the danger of having a refugee living with you.

And those who lie buried in foreign lands will perhaps be better remembered once a democratic government is in power.



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## INTERPELLATION

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

## General Affairs

## Rationalization: temporary employees

\*1 Mr C I NASSON asked the Minister of National Health

- (1) How many temporary employees in the service of her Department lost their jobs as a result of rationalization during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available,
- (2) whether she intends introducing any further rationalization measures, if not, why not, if so, how many temporary workers is it estimated will lose their jobs as a result thereof during the next 12 months?

C19E INT

\*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH Mr Speaker, in pursuance of the Cabinet's decision to effect a saving on the salary account, 34 temporary employees were retrenched. Unless the Cabinet decides otherwise, I do not intend to implement any further personnel rationalisation measures.

\*Mr C I NASSON Mr Speaker, last year the hon the State President announced that all Government departments should rationalise and reduce their personnel by 5%. It is estimated that approximately 46 000 Public Service workers are going to lose their jobs.

The hospitals will also have to rationalise their personnel. Most of the employees or officials are going to receive an attractive retirement package to which up to five years of service will be added. However, there is another category of employees, namely the assistants, the labourers and the general employees, who are still in the temporary service of the hospitals. The programme of rationalisation will be a serious blow

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to them, as they are not contributors to the Government Service Pension Fund. They will consequently receive a retirement package which will certainly not be worth their while [Interjections.] As a matter of fact, these employees, who have already been prejudiced because they are still temporary, are going to be seriously prejudiced by any rationalisation programme. To crown it all, they will have no other choice but to accept this rationalisation package.

There are thousands of temporary employees at hospitals who, after 25 years of service at a hospital, are still employed on a temporary basis. Many of these employees have also reached retirement age and they are also being prejudiced, even if they retire on pension at the normal retirement age. In 1991 there were protest actions by hospital personnel at all the hospitals in this country. One of the grievances which was raised countrywide, was that the conditions of service of these assistants, labourers and general workers were still very unfavourable and unacceptable, especially the fact that these workers were still employed on a temporary basis. These temporary employees have very little if any protection against malpractices in their work situation. As a result the matrons at the hospitals can do as they like with these workers. They can even mistreat those people. These workers are afraid of the matrons of hospitals [Time expired.]

\*Mr H B CUPIDO Mr Speaker, rationalisation, whether in the Public Service or in the private sector, is unavoidable. As a result of the economic situation in which the country and the world finds itself, the State is being forced to economise. This leads to the department requesting personnel whose functions are not essential for the functioning of such a department, to participate in the rationalisation programme. When one talks of rationalisation it is not a question of members "losing" their jobs or being "dismissed". It is the responsibility of every department implementing the rationalisation programme to investigate the extent of hardship which may follow as a result of rationalisation. I am overjoyed that the Department of National Health, through the hon the Minister

of National Health, responded that thorough investigations take place after planning, and planning with accompanying consensus with the staff members involved. It is also gratifying to hear that the Department of National Health does not plan any further rationalisation of personnel.

\*Mr C I NASSON Mr Speaker, the hon member for Kasselwiel is completely out of touch with reality. He need only enquire at hospitals. Then he will realise that what I stated, is the true situation. If that hon member's party is insensitive to the aspirations of these workers then the NP is going to lose a great many votes [Interjections.]

It is a great pity that the hon the Minister announced this afternoon that she was not going to introduce any further measures. The temporary employees in our hospitals have very little if any protection against malpractices in their work situation. As a result, a matron at a hospital can do as she likes with these workers. Consequently these employees are scared to death of the matrons of hospitals because they can be threatened with dismissal as a result of the most trivial offence. In the case of many of these dismissals, matrons are often guilty of unfair labour practices.

The trade unions are continually negotiating with the various provincial administrations and the Commission for Administration with regard to the improvement of conditions of service of this category of worker. On 27 and 28 January this year trade unions and labour organisations held such negotiations, and it is a pity that no press statements were issued after the negotiations in order to inform the public. I should like to ask the hon the Minister why these employees could not have been appointed on a permanent basis. What is she going to do to ensure that the pensions of these temporary employees will not be detrimentally affected when they retire due to rationalisation? If these employees were to be appointed permanently today, and they would therefore be allowed to contribute to the Government Service Pension Fund, what would happen to these previous years of service which such employees served in a temporary capacity? Some employees have been in the service of the State on a temporary basis for up to 25 years.

\*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH Mr Speaker, the hon member is out of touch

with what is happening here [Interjections.] I must point out to him that he formulated his interpellation incorrectly. He clearly asked how many temporary employees in the service of her department lost their jobs. My department does not manage hospitals. I think that the hon member should have done his homework more thoroughly [Interjections.] He should have formulated the matter more clearly and indicated that he wanted to talk about the treatment of general assistants by provincial administrations [Interjections.] As the interpellation reads, I must give him information with regard to what the Department of National Health and Population Development did, which is a completely different department. I would advise the hon member to go and do his homework [Interjections.]

I am prepared to reply to the hon member in general, and to say that the guideline of the provincial administrations was that all employees should be treated fairly in this process of staff reduction, and that it was clearly to be taken into consideration that services were not allowed to be compromised and that the rendering of service to the public had to be given the highest priority.

I also want to point out to the hon member that temporary employees contribute 5% of their salary to the pension fund, while permanent employees contribute 8%. Therefore if they are changed to permanent employees immediately there is a financial implication which has to be taken into consideration. There are quite a few factors which are therefore being investigated at the moment [Interjections.]

Debate concluded

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

Certain company in Lesotho: alleged confiscation of interests

\*1 Mr L T LANDERS asked the State President

(1) Whether he has received a request from

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South African investors in and shareholders of a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the State President's Office for the purpose of his reply, calling for the appointment of an independent public commission of inquiry into the alleged confiscation of this company's interests in Lesotho, if so, (a) when and (b) what is the name of this company,

- (2) whether he will comment on the revocation by the Lesotho Government of a specific mining leases order whereby the interests of the said company were allegedly confiscated, if not, why not, if so, what are his comments? C7E

The STATE PRESIDENT

- (1) Yes
  - (a) 30 March 1992
  - (b) Swissbourngh Diamond Mines as represented by one Mr Josias van Zyl
- (2) No

Mr L T LANDERS Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the State President's reply, I want to ask him whether he would tell the House whether the company in question requested that an independent commission be appointed to inquire into this matter. Would he also tell the House whether he intends to appoint one, and if not, why not?

The STATE PRESIDENT Mr Speaker, on two occasions the State President—in one instance it was the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs who was the Acting State President at the time—wrote to Mr Van Zyl to inform him of our decision. After further representations, I again wrote to the same Mr Van Zyl in December 1992. I do not want to give any details here, because there is a court case pending in the Lesotho High Court at the moment in which the subject matter of this question is at issue. However, I just want to quote two paragraphs from the two letters concerned.

In the letter, dated 3 June 1992, from the hon the Acting State President, it is stated *inter alia*

Die aangeleentheid is deeglik oorweeg, waarna daar tot die slotsom gekom is dat u self in hierdie geval tot die Regering van Lesotho

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behoort te wend en dai die Suid-Afrikaanse Regering nie aan u versoeke kan voldoen nie

In a letter, dated 3 December 1992, which I signed, it is stated *inter alia*

Na deeglike oorweging van die aangeleentheid, moet ek u mededeel dat die Regering van oordeel is dat daar nie aanvaarbare gronde bestaan op grond waarvan aan u versoek om vergoeding gehoor behoort gegee te word nie. Die Regering ontken enige aansprekbaarheid vir skade wat u in Lesotho sou gely het. Dit staan u derhalwe vry om voort te gaan met enige alternatiewe stappe wat u mag oorweeg.

Mr L T LANDERS Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the State President's reply, I want to ask him please to inform the House why the South African Government did not intervene diplomatically, or otherwise, on behalf of South African nationals who suffered damages, allegedly to the amount of R1 billion in Lesotho, apparently as a result of the actions of the Lesotho government which, it is alleged, was acting on the instructions of the South African Government, whereby the interests of South African nationals were destroyed and taken away from them.

The STATE PRESIDENT Mr Speaker, the South African Government does not need sermons from that hon member with regard to its duty to safeguard the interests of South African nationals. However, the South African Government can only do so in cases in which it is convinced that those interests have been harmed, in the first instance, and, secondly, if interests have been harmed, that they were harmed on a basis which justifies intervention by the South African Government. If the hon member had listened properly, he would have noticed, from what I quoted from the letter dated 3 December, that we made it clear to Mr Van Zyl that we were convinced that there were no acceptable grounds on which we could comply with his request for some other form of compensation.

Mr L T LANDERS Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the State President's reply, can he then also tell the House whether it is not true that a document emanated from his office, a document which was penned by a certain Dr

Ackermann and which was called the "Advice document", in terms of which Swissbourngh Diamond Mines, according to Dr Ackermann's recommendation, be paid an amount of R50 million in settlement of the claims being made by Swissbourngh Diamond Mines. If that is in fact the case, then what happened to that recommendation?

The STATE PRESIDENT Mr Speaker, as I stand here I am not aware of such a document. If the hon member could let me have a copy I will look at it. I shall also talk to Dr Ackermann as soon as I get to my office.

However, I have before me, as part of the material collected in preparation for this question, the considered advice which was given to me at different times by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. I also have before me an analysis of the whole history of the matter, in which such an advice does not feature at all.

I would also like the hon member to let me have that copy and to tell me to whom the document was addressed. If it was an internal advice document I would be extremely interested to know how the hon member got possession of such a document.

Mr L T LANDERS Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the State President's reply, is it not true that Protocol 4, which was signed by South Africa and Lesotho, provides for the raising of foreign loans in excess of \$500 million for the fulfilment of obligations of the South African Government, the Lesotho government and the Lesotho Highlands Development Association in terms of the water treaty, the specific purpose of those loans being to make good compensation for people who lost their properties in terms of the development project?

The STATE PRESIDENT Mr Speaker, there is no question about it. Provision is made in the protocols for compensation for those who are entitled to it. However, if a person comes forward and bases a claim on certain assumptions when there are no grounds for such assumptions and when technical advice indicates that there are no such grounds, it would be irresponsible to positively consider any request for compensation if all the advice that one gets militates against the suggestion that there is a proper claim for compensation.

Mr L T LANDERS May I put a final question, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER Yes, the hon member may ask a final question.

Mr L T LANDERS Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the State President's reply, it is alleged—I am not saying that this is so, but I have been informed of this in writing and telephonically, and I would be satisfied if the hon the State President would answer yes or no—that directly or indirectly a request was made to Mr J van Zyl that the proposed draft petitions that he made available to the hon the State President and the other departments affected be held back until after the referendum which was held in the Republic of South Africa on 17 March 1992. Is this in fact so?

The STATE PRESIDENT Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any such thing.

Ministers

Certain company in Lesotho: compensation to shareholders

\*1 Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

- (1) Whether he or his Department has received any recommendations in respect of or requests for the payment of compensation to the shareholders of a certain company, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply and whose interests in Lesotho were allegedly confiscated as a result of the implementation of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, if so, (a) from whom were these recommendations or requests received and (b) what is the name of the company concerned.
- (2) whether any compensation has been paid to the shareholders of this company, if not, why not, if so, (a) what compensation and (b) on what grounds,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C14E

\*The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

- (1) Yes I received a copy of a request to the South African Government, which re-

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quest was dealt with by the Office of the State President

- (a) Mr J van Zyl on behalf of the shareholders of Swissbrough Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd
- (b) Swissbrough Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd

- (2) No, as the South African Government denies all liability for the payment of such compensation
- (3) No

Executioner in service of Department

\* 2. Mr S S OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Justice †

Whether his Department has the services of a hangman at its disposal at present, if not, why not, if so, what (a) is his annual salary and (b) are the further relevant details?

C27E

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTER'S COUNCIL (for the Minister of Justice)

Yes, the Department has the services of an executioner at its disposal. Because of the sensitivity of the matter no further particulars can be revealed.

#### INTERPELLATION

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

*Own affairs*

Legal proceedings against Department

\* 1. Mr C I NASSON asked the Minister of Education and Culture

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, legal proceedings were instituted against his Department by a certain organization, school principal and two parents, if so, what was the finding of the court in these proceedings,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- (2) whether the court concerned issued an order as to costs against his Department, if so, what were the costs?

C21E INT

\*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE Mr Speaker, the answer is that the court's finding is contained in a report consisting of 34 pages. The ruling of the court implies that a circular issued by the department on 22 December 1992 relating to the non-appointment of replacements is invalid. [Interjections]

Secondly, the answer is yes, but the costs have not yet been determined because all the orders as to costs that were made have been suspended pending the outcome of the appeal court. Does that hon member want to say "hear, hear" again?

\*Mr C I NASSON Mr Speaker, the department would have had more money for the normal functioning of our schools if the hon the Minister had not been so wasteful with his education expenditure. [Interjections] As a taxpayer and a public representative I had to hang my head in shame when I read in last week's *South* about the hon the Minister's car telephone which cost R14 000, and that he receives a housing subsidy of R108 000 from the department while he wants to lay off approximately 4 000 teachers in order to save money for his department. [Interjections] Yes, after all, we do not receive housing subsidies.

It is ironic that the hon the Minister is introducing economy measures. The result of these economy measures is that the department has to incur greater expenditure in order to succeed with its economy measures. The hon the Minister could have. [Interjections]

\*Mr SPEAKER Order! Hon members must give the hon member a chance.

\*Mr C I NASSON The hon the Minister could rather have used the R200 000, which the court case is allegedly going to cost him, to pay for textbooks for schools. Our schools have no textbooks and exercise books. No material is being

\*Mr P C MCKENZIE Mr Speaker, may I ask the hon member a question?

\*Mr C I NASSON No, Sir, I do not have time. The hon member for Bonteheuwel could have requested a turn to speak.

No material or supplies are being delivered at schools because the department has put a freeze on main orders being filled, since it has no money. [Interjections] The hon the Minister has now lodged an appeal against the court rulings. He is playing for time. This appeal will mean that the court costs will now amount to twice or three times the original amount. [Interjections] This amounts to the misapplication of very scarce funds.

It is also clear that the hon the Minister is playing for time. [Interjections] Once again I should like to appeal to. [Time expired]

\*Mr B P CUPIDO Mr Chairman, it is very clear to us that this debate has not dealt with the question put by the hon member for Bokkeveld. This question was aimed at creating the opportunity for something to happen. What he wanted to happen has happened. He wanted to get at the hon the Minister in a personal capacity. That is regrettable. We stand on the threshold of great change in education. It is very important that we try to create the correct climate for the transition to the single education system we have been appealing for in this very House year after year. [Interjections.]

It is truly regrettable that we should display our personal vendettas here. Perhaps the hon member is afraid of what appears in the newspaper, for example the finding about the irrelevance of the DP. [Interjections] I am not even referring to the LPSA. [Interjections] Cries of distress are going out. [Interjections]

\*Mr SPEAKER Order! Hon members may not make speeches from their benches. They must be called upon to speak. This applies specifically to the hon member for Schauderville. The hon member may proceed.

\*Mr B P CUPIDO My appeal to hon members of Parliament is that we should examine what we can do in respect of creating a climate and a

dispensation so that no one will be prejudicially affected in the process when we reach the point of a single education system for all, something we are all striving for.

Mr D M G CURRY Mr Speaker, what is important in this era of the transformation of South African society is the management of that transformation. It is clear that the NP is failing in this transformation process. [Interjections] We are now talking politics, because this it what has led to the situation in our community. This will be proved on the day the election takes place.

On Sunday night we had a taste of that. We had a taste of the community's reaction. We were told by the hon the State President that owing to the steps the NP had taken, 80% of the Coloured people supported them and were going to vote for them. Where were they at the Civic Centre, in the heart of Cape Town, on Sunday night? [Interjections]

I have said to the hon the Minister that education is going to be a thorny question for the Minister who occupies that position. Therefore, the way in which that hon Minister deals with the process of transformation is going to be important.

Last year an Act was passed by Parliament which gave teachers the right to apply for retirement at an early age. We all supported this as a method by which the number of teachers in service could be decreased. Therefore further steps are now being taken to rationalise

I am getting tired of listening, here in Parliament, to how the Government Ministers waste money in their departments. Every day brings an exposure of their inability to manage their departments' finances, despite 40 or 50 years of NP rule. There is the case of Telkom. [Interjections] We were told that if they were privatised the telephone services would save us money. We would even get a better service.

\*Now we are all paying more for telephones. [Interjections] Now we are told we must pay more so that we can receive a better service. This is the party that is in control of these things.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



tor Danie Hough yesterday

BIDAM 4/3/93

### R520m Post Office loss

BUSINESS Day incorrectly reported yesterday the Post Office suffered a loss of R30m more than budgeted for. In fact, the utility incurred a loss of R520m, compared to an expected R570m loss. Business Day regrets the error.

### Japan steel exports up

JAPAN's steel exports in January rose 3,9% from the same month a year ago to 1,24-million tons, marking the ninth consecutive month of year-on-year gain, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation reported in Tokyo yesterday. A spokesman said sharp increases in exports to China helped offset plunging exports to the US in the wake of anti-dumping duties on carbon steel imports.

REPORTS Sapa Business Day Reporters AP DJ

as much labour as technically possible

## China spends R9m on office block

BIDAM 4/3/93  
TRACY SCHNEIDER

THE Great Wall Group, a trading company founded by the mainland Chinese government, has bought a R9m office block in Bedfordview to start its business venture in SA.

The office will be opened officially at a function this evening.

China's trade with SA previously was conducted discreetly through Hong Kong until political changes in SA prompted it to introduce direct trading links last year.

Exhibitions are now planned in both countries, starting in Johannesburg in April with a trade expo organised by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The Great Wall Group will be involved in an exhibition in SA in September, when 100 corporations will display a variety of goods including textile, industrial, chemical and

hardware products. SA businessmen will be invited to exhibit in Beijing in March 1994.

"We came here with the express purpose of facilitating trade and economic co-operation with SA," said the group's business manager Qingguo Jiang. "Apart from the Bedfordview offices, we have R2m in other assets and are looking into other real estate opportunities and joint investments with local businessmen. We also are hoping to invest in factory and manufacturing plants."

And China and SA Trading GM Chenxiong Liu said "About 200 Chinese businessmen will come to SA to meet their counterparts and discuss business."

Si wine wine As as a facit clud T com and or I F Ver bar

## 'Tax hike will slow economy'

BIDAM 4/3/93

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The tax hike to be imposed in the March 17 Budget will slow down an almost static economy further and stagnation will continue into 1994, economists say.

Stellenbosch Bureau for Economic Research economist Nils de Jager said yesterday consumer confidence was at a low ebb anyway and would be depressed further as disposable incomes shrank.

Sales would decline further, spare industrial capacity, now at about 20%, was likely to increase, as would unemployment and crime.

The conventional Keynesian medicine for a rundown economy, De Jager said, was to increase state spending directed at creating jobs and to reduce taxation. However, in government's present Catch 22 situation, this was impossible.

It could be said taxation was being raised to pay interest on government's massive debt which had reached 9% or nearly R30bn.

Interest on the debt was the largest

single Budget item, even exceeding the education vote.

De Jager said the debt problem had been aggravated by government writing off R3,6bn in drought aid in the coming financial year instead of over three years as first intended.

But, De Jager added, perhaps the most worrying consequence of higher taxation was the impetus it would give to greater unemployment.

Absa senior economist Adam Jacobs said tax hikes would contract the economy further and could result in government's tax take from companies and individuals actually decreasing in spite of the hikes.

"We are caught in a vicious circle with company profits and taxpayers' incomes threatened by declining consumer demand and growing unemployment," he said.

Jacobs said another serious consequence would be a further shrinking of personal savings.

## De Klerk rejects mine loss claim

BIDAM 4/3/93

CAPE TOWN — Government was not liable for losses suffered by SA company Swissborough Diamond Mines, President F W de Klerk said in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question by Luwellyn Landers (LP Durban Suburbs), he said government had told Swissborough director Josias van Zyl there were no acceptable grounds for the appointment of an independent inquiry into the alleged confiscation of the company's interests when the Lesotho government revoked its mining leases as part of the Lesotho highlands water scheme.

Van Zyl had been told to direct any claims to the Lesotho authorities. The Swissborough issue is pending before the Lesotho high court.

The question had been why government had not intervened after SA nationals had suffered a R1bn loss. De Klerk said it had to establish if the loss had been suffered, and then if intervention was required. — Sapa

## Chamber call for wage restraints

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries had urged that wage restraints be included in Finance Minister Derek Keys' model for economic restructuring, it said in a statement yesterday.

The Keys model, due to be published next week, is thought to address economic restructuring to promote the productivity of resources.

Wages had risen over the past three years despite negative growth to such an extent that it had increased the unit cost of production, a chamber spokesman said.

Wage increases had created a structural economic problem which could not be addressed by only looking at wage restraints, but other factors such as export incentives and government control needed to be examined.



UUM 100



**Bad food report denied** (167)

■ JOHANNESBURG — Lesotho has denied reports that food it received as aid from the European Economic Community went bad before being distributed, SABC radio news reported on Tuesday.

*W/MCA 8/3-11/3/92*  
A spokesman for the drought aid implementation group in Lesotho said in Maseru that no food had been lost. He said, however, that recent rains might shorten the life of the donated maize and it would have to be distributed faster than before. — Sapa

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were other cross-border raids on Maputo, Gaborone and Lusaka

Those were the days when South Africa demanded its pound of flesh from its neighbours. Political refugees were often forced out of their havens, either through threat of raids, sanctions or, in the case of Mozambique, the Nkomati Accord.

While Leabua Jonathan was seen as a puppet of the South African Government, he tried to prove otherwise — and paid heavily.

In 1985 he called for elections. His party "won" all 60 seats, but there was an increase in Lesotho Liberation Army activity. Jonathan accused the opposition Basotho Congress Party's military wing of operating out of South Africa, where BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle was hiding.

When Jonathan failed to live up to expectations, South Africa blockaded Lesotho. Within 15 days, the kingdom was at a standstill. This precipitated General Metsing Lekhanya's coup, and within a week, the Military Council ordered ANC refugees out of Lesotho — much to Pretoria's delight.

### Wealthy

These days, relations between the two countries are cordial.

South African ambassador to Lesotho, TG Visser, says the Lesotho Highlands Water Project binds the two countries inextricably. When the scheme comes on stream, the Basotho "will be relatively wealthy" from the income it generates.

Last year, when Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Renier Schoeman visited Lesotho, he said South Africa had a vital interest in stability in surrounding countries "because unsettled conditions elsewhere in the region deter foreign investment in South Africa. Promoting political and social stability in in-

# Martyrs forgotten as SA, Lesotho

## bury the hatchet

MASERU Access to the old cemetery is difficult at the best of times. On rainy days it is impossible to reach by car.

The pot-holed, winding road was once tarred that was when ANC president Nelson Mandela scheduled a visit to Lesotho to pay tribute to the members of his organisation who died on its soil and to thank the Basotho for sheltering ANC exiles at the height of the struggle against apartheid. The trip was cancelled, and the road left to deteriorate.

Some of the Basotho who walk past the cemetery now might wonder why one part is neatly fenced off. But an examination of the grave-stones tells a story.

● "Mzukisi Marangana, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82."

● "Mdlankomo Liqwa, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82."

● "Dr Nqcipe Bantwini, massacred by SADF, 9.12.82."

And so it goes on. Twenty-seven times the story is repeated. Or could it be more? Some of the graves are overgrown, their occupants forgotten heroes of the struggle.

### Raids

They are not the only ones. The December 9 SADF raid on Maseru was part of the Government's total onslaught against the ANC and other anti-apartheid forces.

In this raid at least 42 people were killed, 12 of whom were Basotho. There



**FORGOTTEN:** The grave of an ANC member killed in Maseru is a grim reminder of an angry past.

**THE graves of ANC martyrs serve as reminders of an angry past, writes Africa News Service assistant editor JOE LATAKGOMO.**

dividual countries is a key component of our policy of co-operation in the region."

Basotho National Party secretary-general Lekhooana Jonathan said "We are pleased with the political developments in South Africa. We are surrounded by (it) and our economic structures are intertwined with those of the Republic in trade and monetary regions." This, he said, compelled Lesotho to co-exist with South Africa in peace.

"The bigger South Africa grows, the thirstier it will become," said Jonathan, indicating

that any government in Lesotho would do well to cement the terms of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

### No fear

For the residents of Maseru, improved relations between the territories signal there will no longer be the fear of raids, of living next to Moscow House (where Chris Ham lived) or even of accommodating refugees.

And those who he buried in foreign soil perhaps they will be better remembered once a democratic government is in power.

## BRIEFS

### On track <sup>(167)</sup> for elections

SOUTH 43-10/3/93

LESOTHO'S chief electoral officer, Miss Joycelyn Lucas, says preparations for the country's first general election in 23 years are progressing according to plan

She says one problem is being experienced, however

Constituencies' borders had only been finalised after registration and this has meant that thousands of voters now had to be re-registered in their proper constituencies

This re-registration has led to allegations that officials in the election office have been tampering with the registration of voters to benefit some parties.

Lucas denies the allegations.

There are about 780 000 registered voters in Lesotho, but after corrections, there could be 800 000



## Big day for Lesotho

MASERU — Absentee voters were given an opportunity to cast their votes yesterday and today in Lesotho's first multiparty election since 1970. (167)

The office of the electoral officer has announced that absentee members of the security forces, election officers, people in Lesotho missions abroad and candidates for the election can cast their votes as absentee voters.

Those who qualify as absentee voters

Sowetan 24/3/93

Star 24/3/93

# Lesotho prepares for influx

Heavy traffic can be expected at Lesotho border posts this weekend as migrant workers, believed to make up about half the kingdom's electorate, come home to cast their ballots on Saturday (16/3)

## 'Thousands of jobs' at mercy of quota

MASERU — Taiwanese garment manufacturers in Lesotho said yesterday they would close down if Washington refused to review its export quota on clothes produced in the tiny mountain kingdom.

Washington imposed the quota at the beginning of the year to stop Pretoria from evading sanctions by re-exporting clothes through Lesotho and to prevent Taiwan from exceeding its own US quota by re-directing exports through the kingdom, businessmen say. (167)

Moletsana Monyake, director of the Lesotho National Development Corporation, said the departure of up to 16 Taiwanese firms would leave thousands without jobs.

A spokesman for a group of Taiwanese businessmen, who asked not to be named, said Washington's decision to impose a quota of nearly nine million garments a year had cut Lesotho's clothes exports by 75%. B/DAM 12/3/93

"We (will) close down if the quota is not put right," said the businessman. He was not prepared to discuss the alleged re-direction of exports.

The US embassy in Maseru said limitations on clothes exports were aimed at preventing manufacturers from using Lesotho as a middleman.

"This development is largely due to the rapid increase in garment exports to the US over recent years," the embassy said in a statement — Sapa-Reuter.



Star 10/3/93  
**SA, Lesotho  
farmers meet**

**BLOEMFONTEIN** — A historic meeting between South African and Lesotho farmers at Hlalele on the South Africa-Lesotho border yesterday expressed hope that better communication would put an end to cross-border crime.

The two delegations agreed theft could no longer be tolerated, and Lesotho farmers, chiefs and residents asked that police action on their side of the border be stepped up. — Sapa (167)

*Hansard*

*Hansard*

- (2) ±83%
- (3) no

Certain high school declared Model D school

21. Mr L LOUW asked the Minister of Education and Culture †

Whether he recently declared a certain school, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to be a Model D school, if so, (a) why, (b) (i) on what date was the school so declared and (ii) how many White pupils were enrolled at the school as at that date, (c) (i) how many (aa) White pupils and (bb) pupils of colour are currently enrolled at this school and (ii) in respect of what date is this

information furnished and (d) what is the name of the school concerned? B272E

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE.**

No, a Model D school was opened in unutilized buildings at Brandfort. With the amalgamation of the Hoërskool Staatspresident Swart, Brandfort and the Laerskool Brandfort in the buildings of the Laerskool Brandfort, the terrain of the Hoërskool Staatspresident Swart became available. On 1 January 1993 the new Model D Hoërskool/High School Brandfort was opened on this terrain. On 25 February 1993 it was attended by 70 pupils from other population groups and had no white pupils.

*Hansard*

*Hansard*

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**QUESTIONS**

Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

President's Council: moratorium on appointments

\* 1 Mr P A C HENDRICKSE asked the State President

- (1) Whether, in view of his announcement on 29 January 1993 that the President's Council is to be phased out, he will impose a moratorium on further appointments to this Council, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (2) whether persons appointed to the Council after 29 January will receive the same compensation in respect of early termination of services as will members of the Council appointed prior to that date, if so, why, if not, why not? C29E

†THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (for the State President)

- (1) To the extent that I have the constitutional authority to decide on the appointment of members of the President's Council, it is my intention, subject to the quorum requirement in section 74 of the Constitution, not to make any further appointments. In my capacity as leader in Chief of the National Party I wish to state, subject to the afore-mentioned reservation, that no new appointment will be made either by means of decisions by the respective Houses in terms of section 70(1)(a)-(c) of the Constitution. For purposes of section 70(1)(d) of the Constitution I urge opposition parties to follow the same approach.

To the extent that the above-mentioned approach may require corrective legislative measures, the intention is to provide for them in the legislation concerning the final dissolution of the President's Council.

- (2) No, because it is foreseen that the term of office of any member of the Council will play an important part in the determination of the extent of any compensation payable because of the Council's final dissolution.

Ministers

Company in Lesotho: diplomatic protection for SA shareholders (167)

\* 1 Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (1) Whether he or his Department has provided diplomatic protection in respect of South African shareholders of and investors in a company whose interests in Lesotho have allegedly been confiscated and whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if not, why not, if so, (a) when, (b) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of this protection and (c) what is the name of this company,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C8E

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

- (1) No. No request from the South African shareholders of and investors in the company concerned for protection of their interests in Lesotho has been received by my Department. However, the former South African Representative to Lesotho did entertain a request from a South African shareholder of the said company to enquire when judgement in an urgent application brought by the company and others against the Military Council of Lesotho and others in the High Court of Lesotho may be expected.
- (a), (b) (i), (ii) and (c) fall away.
- (2) This matter has been dealt with in the State President's reply to question No 1 of 19 February 1993.

Mr L T LANDERS: Mr Chairman, is the hon the Deputy Minister in a position to reply to any questions? P 70 — 12

# focus on Lesotho



On Saturday, Lesotho's more than 700 000 voters go to the polls to choose their representatives in the 65 constituencies from 243 candidates

Although the military has undertaken to hand over power many doubt whether they have the will, or desire, to do so

"There is no doubt that the military has acquired a liking for the power and privilege associated with ruling — and, given the opportunity, will keep it indefinitely," said a businessman in Maseru

The question Basotho ask is who is to be the judge of whether the politicians have performed to the satisfaction of the military?

"This new (military) government is committed to returning to democratic civilian rule by 1992 There is no turning back," military strongman Phisoana Ramaema said soon after taking power

But there is no election fever in Lesotho There are no colourful posters declaring the virtues of the various political parties It is almost as if Basotho doubt whether there will be an election Or as if they are suffering from political fatigue

The latter seems more likely to be the case In a small country like Lesotho, dependent on its powerful neighbour for almost everything, it does not take long for people to feel the impact of political decisions Nomination day early this year gave people the feeling the elections would become a reality after two postponements

And donor countries, believing that political accountability will result in economic accountability, have encouraged the process through various forms of assistance in preparation for the elections The British, Americans, Danes, Canadians and Germans have all contributed to making the elections possible

The secretary-general of the Basotho National Party, Lekhooana Jonathan, who is a former Minister of Works, declared "We hope the election process goes off smoothly The military has promised the Basotho people a return to civilian rule"

The BNP and Ntsu Mokhehle's Basutoland Congress Party are the only parties that have fielded a full house of 65 candidates and which stand a realistic chance of winning the election The BNP has conducted an effective campaign, while the BCP carries legitimacy with many of the younger Basotho While expressing concern about the voter education programme, Jonathan was confident his party would win with at least 40 seats

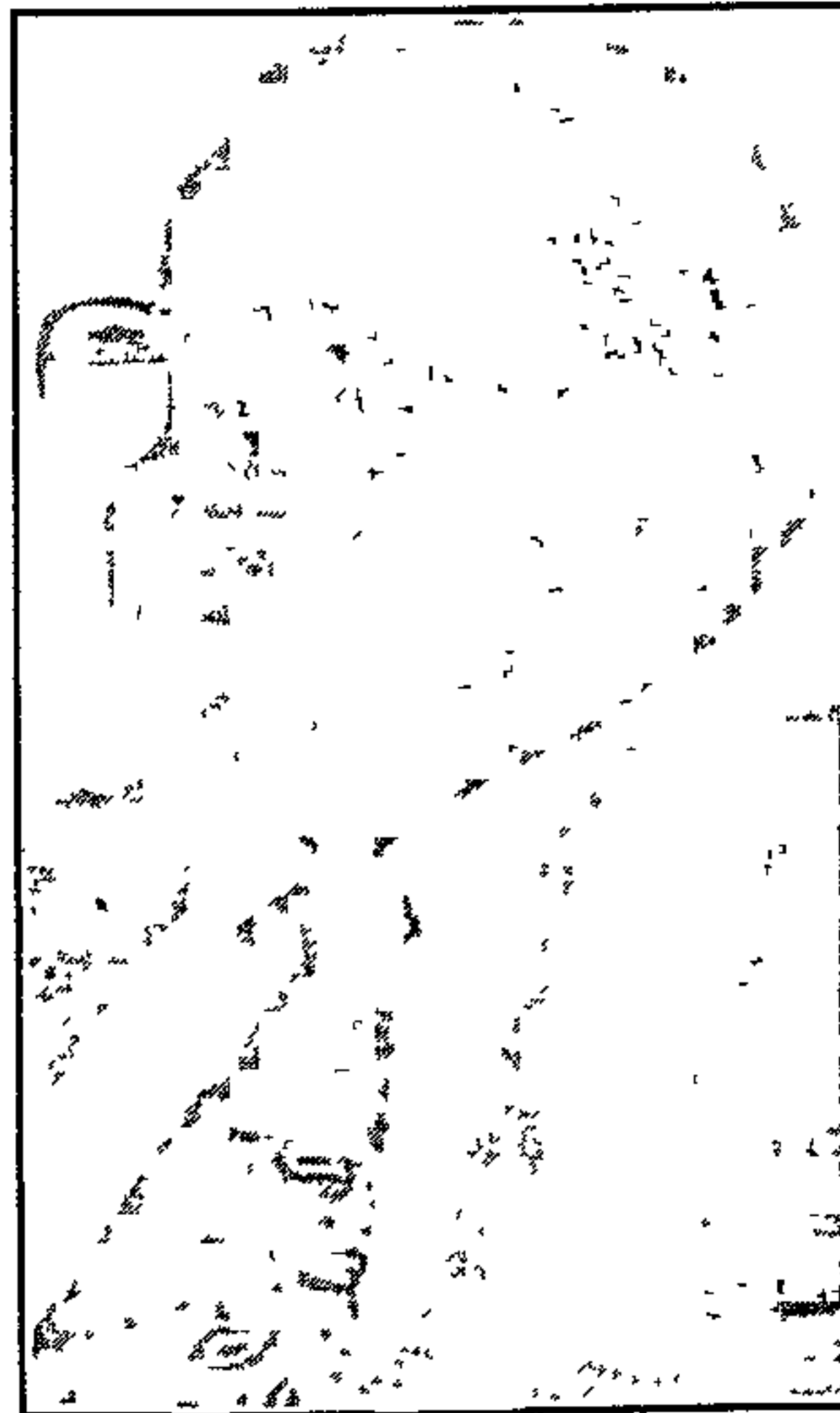
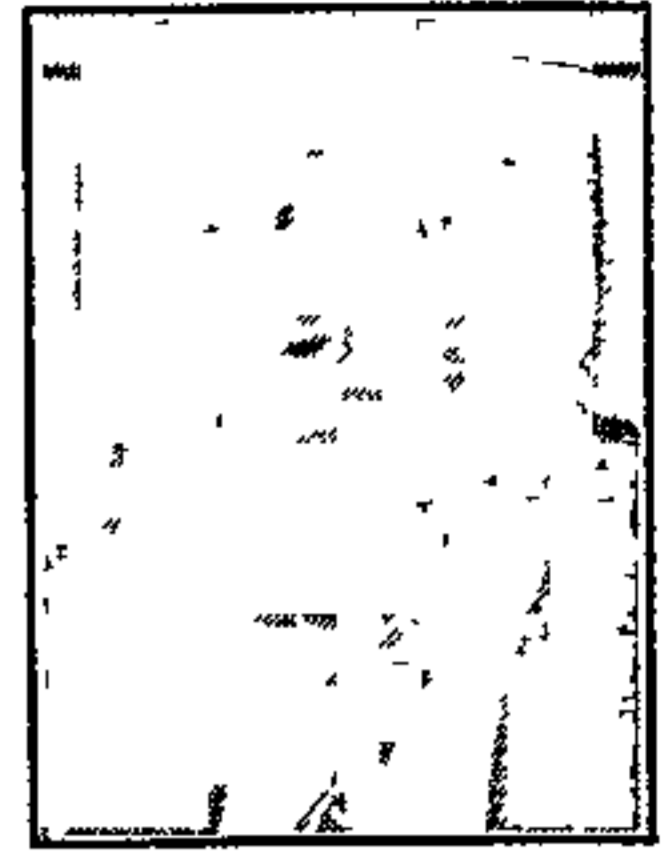
The UN-appointed chief electoral officer Jocelyn Lukas, who has had 10 years experience in her own country of Trinidad and Tobago, said the process was on target

"Everything is infrastructurally in place But every election has its own problems — no doubt

*Sowetan 25/3/93*  
Lesotho voters go to the polls for the first time in 23 years, seven of them under military rule, but there is uncertainty over whether the military is really willing to hand over power.

**Joe Latakgomo** of the *Sowetan Africa* News Service reports from Maseru:

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**BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle.**

**“The major fear is that there will be violence on election day. The BCP has been accused of intimidation, a charge denied by its leaders”**

there will be problems,” she said in an interview

The major fear is that there will be violence on election day The BCP has been accused of intimidation, a charge denied by its leaders

There is also the fear of vote-rigging and the

**“The question Basotho ask is: who is to be the judge of whether the politicians have performed to the satisfaction of the military?”**

fact that fewer than 50 international observers will monitor the election has caused concern

But it is the allegiance of the military and the civil service that is the greatest threat to peace In 1970, BCP members were arrested and harassed They also lost jobs that were taken by BNP party faithful There are fears that if the BCP win, they will go on a revenge spree

The military has played a balancing act up to now Both Ramaema and Kelebone Maope have been accused of favouring the BCP BNP leader Sekhonyana has charged that the delays in holding the elections were to help the BCP overcome internal rifts and infighting

But Lesotho's "Iron Lady", Limakatso Ntakatsane, leader of the Kopanang Basotho Party, believes that "if all the structures are properly in place, Lesotho could provide the continent with an example of how free and fair elections are conducted"

The BCP, on the other hand, fears that the military will want to continue running the country and that can only be achieved if the BNP wins The military fear that a BCP government will allocate top positions to members of the Lesotho Liberation Army, which they would integrate with the military to protect the government from a coup by senior officers whose loyalty cannot be guaranteed

It is interesting that Major General Lekhanya is a BNP candidate What the significance of this is, is difficult to tell

But for the people of Lesotho, the quest is still primarily for peace, stability — and jobs Whoever is seen to offer hope for the attainment of these will win the elections



## Basotho go to the polls

Wilmont 26/3-1/4/93 (167)  
LESOTHO is set for a return to democratic government after 23 years of one-party and military rule. But a prominent Lesotho academic, Mafa Sejanamane, has predicted that no party is likely to win an overwhelming majority of seats in tomorrow's elections.

Sejanamane, director of the Centre for Southern African Studies at the kingdom's national university, said the Basotho National Party or the Basotholand Congress Party would probably win.

He added that the king would be a constitutional monarch, which was what the nation wanted. — Sapa

# Lesotho votes today

167

MASERU. — After several false starts, Lesotho's long quest for democracy could be realized today when the tiny African kingdom holds its first free election in 23 years.

But fears of violence and vote-rigging, along with the military's apparent reluctance to give up power, have raised questions about the country's ability to embrace civilian rule.

"Everything is in place," Jocelyn Lukas, the UN official overseeing the election, said this week. "But every election has its own problems — no doubt there will be problems." Border traffic was heavy

## Quest for democracy has finally come

yesterday as migrant workers returned on foot or in buses from neighbouring South Africa, which completely surrounds Lesotho. No posters or other signs of an election were visible in the capital.

Lesotho's last election, in 1970, collapsed when former Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan annulled the result and declared a state of emergency because his ruling Basotho National Party was losing to the rival Basotho Congress Party.

Since then, there have been two military coups, three governments and two kings. A mil-

itary coup led by Major General Metsing Lekhanya ended civilian rule in 1986, and Lekhanya stripped the monarchy of its executive powers four years later.

A six-member military council still runs the country, led by Major General Elias Ramama, who ousted Lekhanya in 1991.

Today's election has been promised for seven years and delayed at least four times, usually because of logistical problems cited by military leaders.

About 730 000 of Lesotho's 1.6

million people are eligible to vote, with about 50 international observers monitoring.

More than a dozen parties have fielded a total of 243 candidates for the 65-seat Parliament. Only the Basotho National Party and Basotho Congress Party were considered possible majority winners.

Under Jonathan's authoritarian rule, the Basotho National Party held power for 21 years after independence from Britain in 1966. Ironically, the man who ousted it — Lekhanya — is running today as a BNP candidate. The party is probably

the best-known among Lesotho's largely rural population.

Whichever party takes power will inherit a ruggedly beautiful but impoverished enclave that is heavily dependent on South Africa.

The new government also faces a question over the monarchy, still held in high regard by much of the population.

King Moshoeshoe II, forced into exile by Lekhanya three years ago, was allowed to return last year on agreement he would avoid disrupting the elections. His eldest son, who assumed the now-ceremonial throne as King Letsie III, indicates he wants to return it to his father — Sapa-AP.



## Lesotho feels poll pangs

MASERU. — Soldiers were on guard in Maseru amid fears of violence on the eve of Lesotho's first general election in 23 years. (16) AREG

The military government declared a holiday, sent voters home to outlying constituencies and tightened security for today's poll. 27/3/93

Seventeen parties are contesting the poll in which some 700 000 voters in 65 constituencies will elect a 243-seat parliament — Sapa-Reuter

■ Fuller report on page 4



# Lesotho braces for polls

Star 27/3/93

SOLDIERS guarded shops and government buildings in Maseru yesterday amid fears of violence on the eve of Lesotho's first general election in 23 years

The military government declared a holiday, sent voters home to outlying constituencies and tightened security before today's vote

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### Vote rigging

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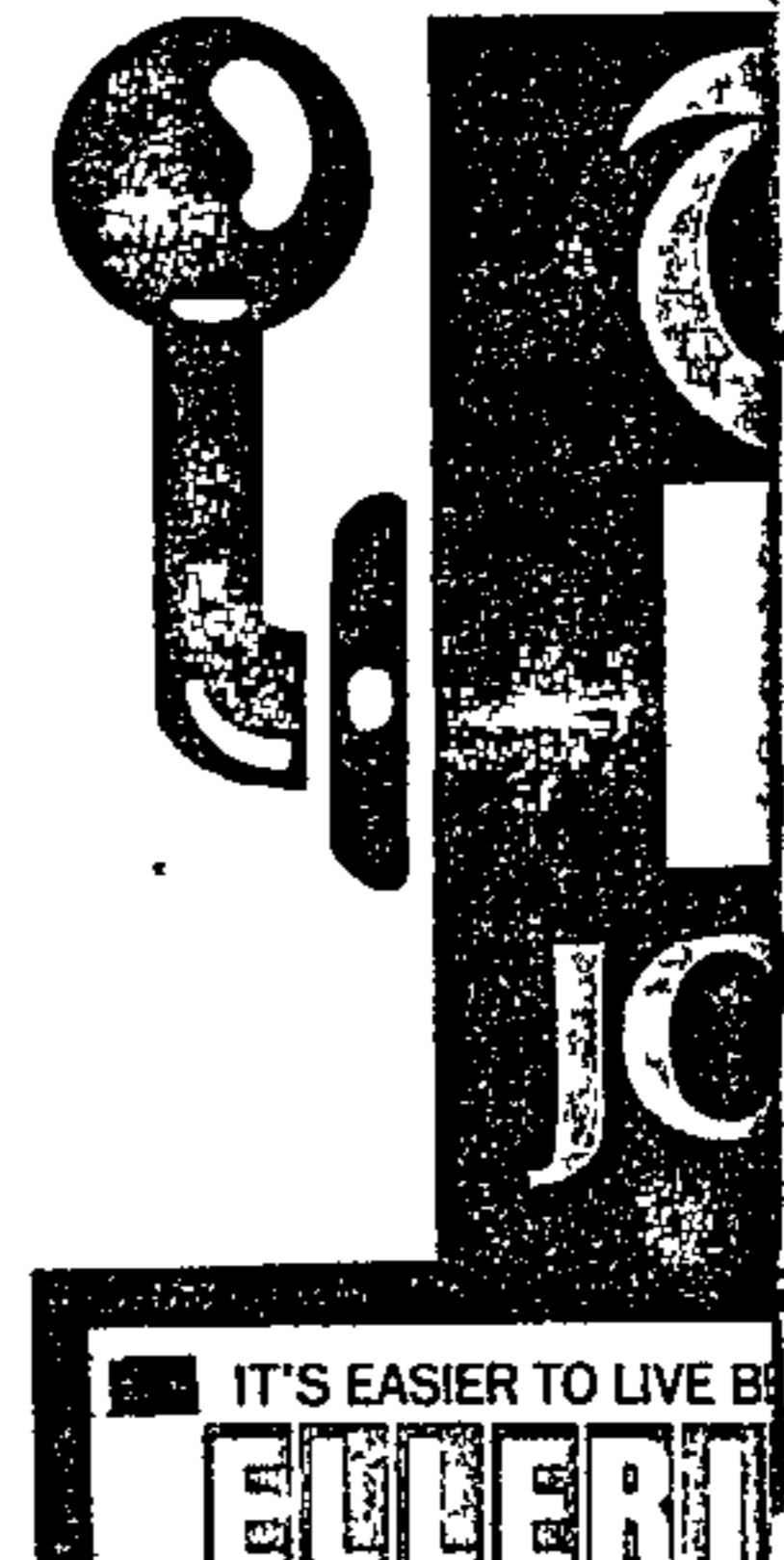
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One of more than 100 foreign observers monitoring the election said

"People fear there will be violence because parties have been accusing each other of intimidation and dirty tactics during the campaigns

"There is also the fear of vote-rigging," he added

Lesotho's head of state, King Letsie III, is a constitutional monarch and will not be affected by the election result. — Sapa-Reuter



was 10% FOR CASH

# Lesotho braces for polls

Star 27/3/93

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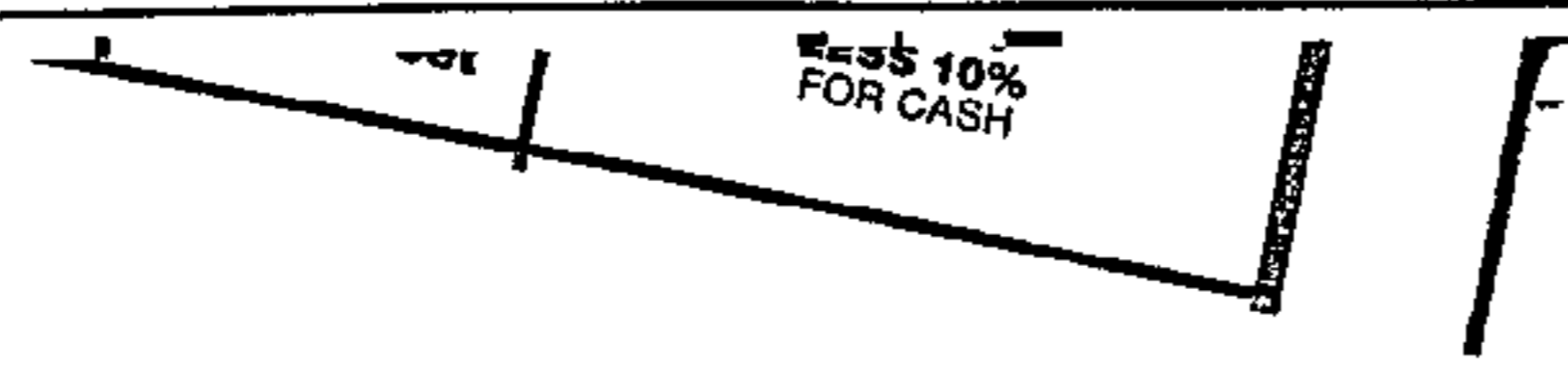
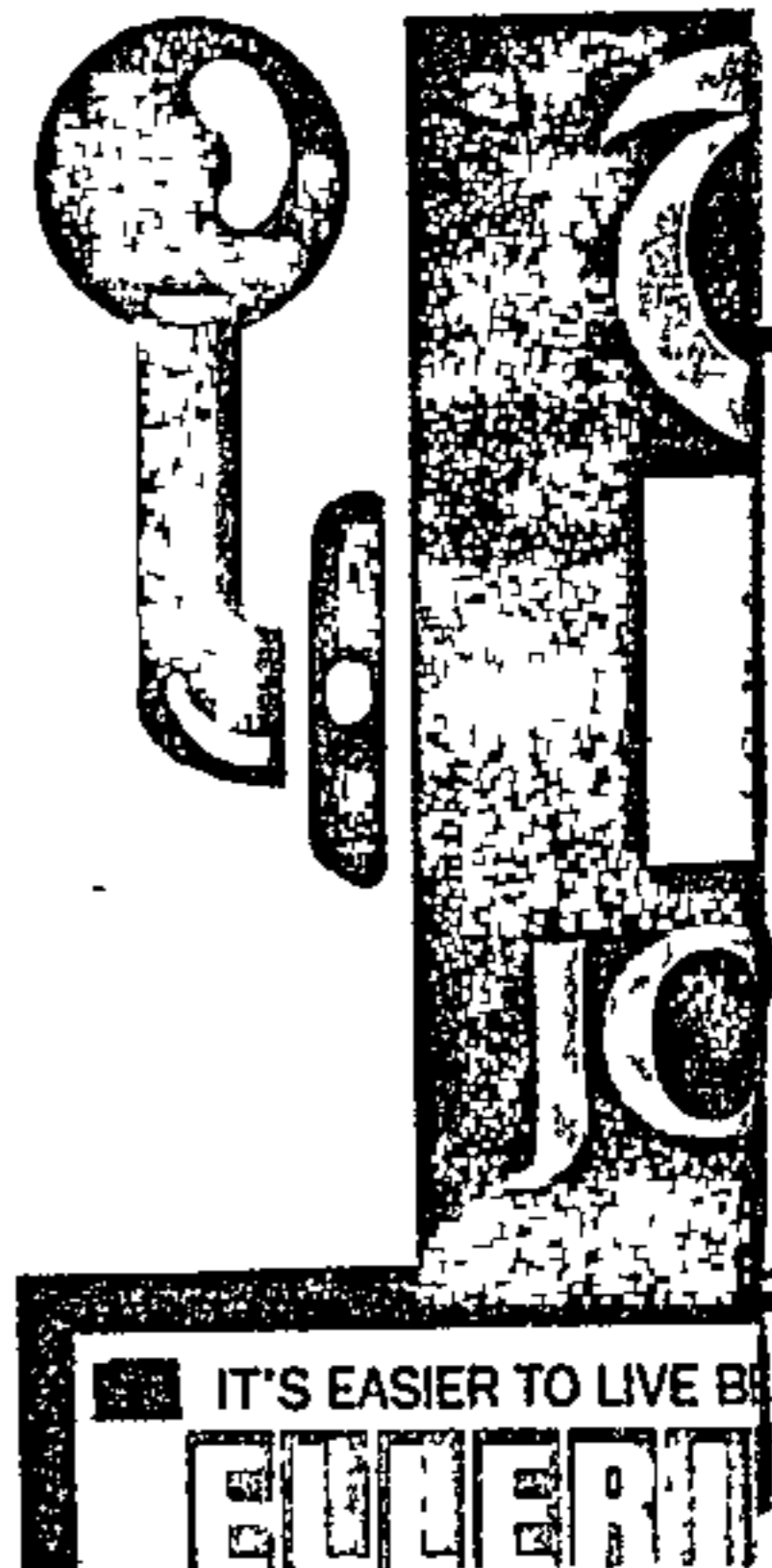
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## NEWS ROUND-UP

# Lesotho poll snags

MOST of the 1 600 polling stations in Lesotho opened late yesterday, and at least one party has complained of deliberate election sabotage (167)

According to official independent election observer Donald Simpson, most of these stations were opened between one and five hours after the official starting time of 7am STimes 28/3/93

Basotho Congress Party official David Mochocholo complained of deliberate sabotage and Marematlau Freedom Party leader Vincent Malebo complained about shoddy preparations, he added

The election process was too complicated for Lesotho, Mr Simpson said. It was aimed at preventing fraud by "ruthless European criminals" and was not necessary for the mountain kingdom

For one thing, there were too many polling booths with about 400 people per polling station, he said. In last year's Potchefstroom by-election there was only one station for at least 15 000 people.

# BNP unhappy with elections

■ BCP looks set for victory: (167)

*Sowden 29/3/93*

**MASERU** - The Basotholand Congress Party (BCP), making a comeback after two decades in exile, looked set on Sunday for a clear victory in the first elections for 23 years in the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho

But its main rival, the Basotho National Party threatened to reject the result, raising fears of a recurrence of the violence that racked the country after the last elections in 1970. Unofficial returns gave the BCP 25 of the 65 constituencies so far reported.

In 1970, the BNP's leader Chief Leabua Jonathan declared the poll null and void, suspended the constitution and arrested opposition activists when it became clear his party was going down to defeat in the hands of the BCP.

Jonathan remained in power until the military ousted him six years ago. More than 500 people died in violence following the 1970 election. In one of the constituencies, BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle received 5 000 votes more than his nearest rival - *Sapa-Reuter*

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Star 29/3/93

# Row erupts over BCP win in Lesotho poll

By Joe Latakomo  
Star Africa Service

(167)

MASERU — As the Basutoland Congress Party swept to a landslide victory in Lesotho's first election in 23 years, the former ruling party, the Basotho National Party, rejected the outcome and threatened to challenge it in court.

Last night, the BCP had won all of the 30 constituencies in which results had been declared and needed to win only another five to win a working majority of the 65 constituencies under Lesotho's electoral law.

Delays in delivering ballot boxes and voting papers to outlying constituencies resulted in voters casting ballots long after the polls were supposed to have closed.

The BNP said that because of this it would not accept the result of the election.

Commonwealth and other ob-

servers will give their assessment only after all results are in, but some have already said that despite the delays the election was generally free and fair.

BNP officials said, however, that the party was considering seeking a court injunction today to nullify the election.

The BCP, led by veteran politician Ntsu Mokhehle, recorded huge majorities over the BNP in most of the constituencies it won. The victories were received with joy by supporters of the BCP, which had been in the political wilderness for most of the time since former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan aborted the 1970 election when the result went against his BNP and seized power.

The ruling military council, which has pledged to return the country to civilian rule, has said it would make no comment on the election until all results were known.



# Threat to reject Lesotho poll result

MASERU — The Basotho National Party (BNP), Lesotho's government for 16 years until toppled by the army, has threatened to reject the result of weekend elections showing its former exiled rivals holding a substantial lead

By late last night official returns showed the Congress Party (BCP) with 30 of the 65 constituencies. And analysts said the BCP needed to win only five of the remaining 35 constituencies to be declared the outright victor

Final results were expected later today. But the ruling Military Council, which had pledged to return the country to civilian rule, said it would not make an official announcement on the outcome until later in the week

Seventeen parties contested

the 243 seats in 65 constituencies, but only the BNP and BCP fielded a full slate of candidates

There had been fears of a repeat of the violence that followed the last election in 1970, when the BNP's Chief Leabua Jonathan declared the poll null and void, suspended the constitution and arrested opposition activists.

Chief Jonathan ruled the country, entirely surrounded by South Africa, until 1986, when he was toppled by the army, which promised to bring back civilian rule

After the weekend results were reported, a BNP spokesman said "The elections were not only conducted in violation of the electoral law and regulations, but every tenet and spirit of fairness and equity"

Polling did not begin on time and there were problems in the distribution of electoral material

(167)  
"It is therefore difficult for the BNP to see its way clear to accept the outcome of the elections," he said in a statement

Chief electoral officer Jocelyn Lucas said she could deal with the complaints only if they were sent to her office, and a spokesman for a Commonwealth observer group said the group was satisfied with the way the election had been carried out

ARC 29/3/93  
"We received no complaints of irregularities, nor did we receive any reports of intimidation or incidents that might have marred the peaceful and orderly conduct of the poll," he said in a statement. — Sapa-Reuter

# Lesotho opposition leads the polls

MASERU — The Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) yesterday looked set to win Lesotho's first election in 23 years as the military prepared to hand over power to a democratically elected government.

The BCP was exiled for nearly two decades after the 1970 poll. The party had trounced its bitter rival the Basotholand National Party, which had the support of the military, in all of the first 11 constituency results yesterday afternoon.

Observers said the outcome looked like a landslide for the BCP as results from the remaining 53 constituencies continued to stream in. The BCP took the crucial Maseru constituency with 63% of the vote.

BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle said he wanted peace and reconciliation for Lesotho. "After all these years of turmoil, our main objective is to get democracy restored. We want reconciliation with all the parties,"

adding that he wanted the army to "go back to barracks as soon as possible." "It looks like a pretty big majority for the BCP so far," chief electoral officer Jocelyn Lucas said.

UN international observer mission coordinator Rafael Pintor said he was "very impressed with the whole exercise."

Despite fears of violence and the slow electoral process on Saturday, there were no signs of incidents and up to 80% of Lesotho's 700,000 electorate went to the polls. Some areas did not begin polling until Saturday evening.

At least 15 villages were due to go to the polls early yesterday as logistical difficulties prevented ballot boxes from reaching the more mountainous areas, Lucas said. Government helicopters had struggled to get ballot boxes to the polls on time. — Sapa-AFP.

SI/AM 29/3/93

(167)

## Lesotho urged to accept <sup>(161)</sup> poll verdict

<sup>CT 30/3/93</sup>  
THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has urged all parties in Lesotho to wait for the official verdict on whether the polls there were free and fair

Mr Botha said in a statement yesterday that no-one should pre-empt chief electoral officer Mrs Jocelyn Lucas' assessment, which was expected to be issued on or before April 2

The electoral office said the BCP won a clear majority in weekend polls, taking 36 out of 65 constituencies, with results still being reported yesterday

A United Nations team of 130 election observers from 30 countries said in a statement voting had been free and fair

The Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) has put two decades of exile behind it to win Lesotho's first general election in 23 years but the former ruling party which once banned it has cried foul.

The BCP's main rival, the former ruling Basotho National Party (BNP), had not won a single seat for the 243-member parliament.



# Lesotho's former rulers cry foul

Star 30/3/93

16/1

MASERU — The Basotho-land Congress Party (BCP) has put two decades of exile behind it to win Lesotho's first general election in 23 years, but the former ruling party which once banned it has cried foul.

The electoral office said the BCP won a clear majority in weekend polls, taking 36 out of 65 constituencies, with results still being reported yesterday in the tiny mountain kingdom.

A United Nations team of 130 election observers from 30 countries said in a statement that voting had been free and fair.

## No grounds

"International observers have not found grounds to believe that there have been fraudulent activities or public disorders that would invalidate the outcome of these elections," it said.

The BCP's main rival — the former ruling Basotho National Party (BNP) — had not won a single seat for the 243-member parliament by mid-afternoon yesterday.

Full results were not expected until Friday.

Prime Minister-elect Ntsu Mokhehle promised Lesotho, completely surrounded by South Africa, clean government and prosperity but warned this would have to be achieved through hard work.

"This is really not a time for celebration but rather a time to rededicate ourselves to the daunting task of solving the national crisis of hunger, disease, ignorance and joblessness," he told a press conference.

"Lesotho's economy is in a very bad state," he said.

Evaristus Sekhonyana, whose BNP ruled Lesotho for 16 years until it was toppled by the army in 1986, said he had complained to the military government and international observers about alleged voting irregularities.

"We have ample evidence that there have been irregularities."

"We have written to the military council and international observers listing all violations of electoral law," he said.

Sekhonyana said his party would not resort to violence but

hoped the army would address his complaints promptly.

Those complaints include allegations that some polling stations were late in opening while others had closed too late.

## Civilian rule

Asked if he would accept the transition to civilian rule, he said. "We are not against the BCP. We are against any kind of electoral fraud."

Mokhehle dismissed Sekhonyana's allegations.

Chief electoral officer Jocelyn Lucas said she had not received the complaints and would respond when she had all the facts.

The ruling military council has promised to begin the transition to democratic rule by the weekend.

There had been fears of a repeat of the violence which hit the last election in 1970, when the BNP abolished the poll, suspended the constitution and arrested opposition activists.

Lesotho was quiet yesterday with no sign of either tension or celebrations. — Sapa-Reuter

# Political route in Tense Lesotho

Sowetan 30/3/93 (167)

**T**HE BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY put two decades of exile behind it to win Lesotho's first general election in 23 years — but its main opponent called foul and said it would not accept the result.

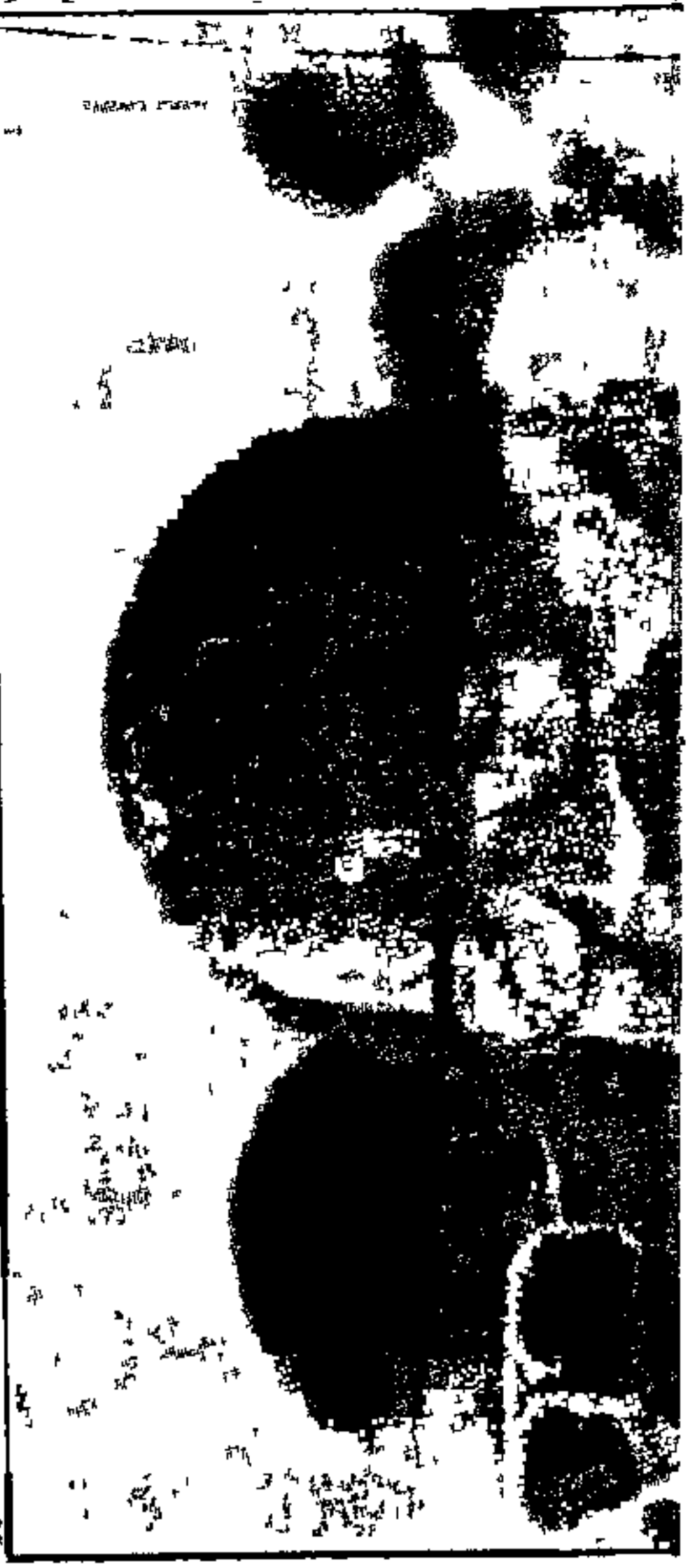
The electoral office said the BCP won a clear majority in the weekend elections, taking 36 out of 65 constituencies, with results still being reported in the tiny mountain kingdom completely surrounded by South Africa. "We are not surprised by the big win. We worked very hard for it," said BCP general secretary Mr Ntsukunyane Mphanya, who called on the Basotho National Party to concede defeat.

The BNP, which banned the BCP after the last elections in 1970, attacked the poll in a statement on Sunday night.

Listed a series of complaints, the BNP said it was "difficult to see its way clear to accepting the outcome of the 1993 elections".

Leaders of the party, which by noon yesterday had failed to win a single seat in the parliament, met to decide what action to take.

Voting started on Saturday under tight security but continued into Sunday due to logistical and administrative problems in some areas. South African army helicopters were used to ferry materials — Sapa-Reuter







# NEWS Stunning victory in Lesotho elections • 156 Israelis killed since 1987

# BCP prepares to take over reins

By Joe Latakomo  
Sowetan Africa News Service

*Sowetan*  
31/3/93

**M**ASERU—After its stunning victory in the Lesotho election, Ntsu Mokhehle's Basotho Congress Party was yesterday preparing to take over power from the military government.

A court action to nullify the elections was, however, still being threatened by the defeated Basotho National Party.

The BNP's lawyers were expected to seek an urgent injunction from the High Court yesterday on the grounds of irregularities in the polling.

But the BCP was going ahead with

## ■ COURT ACTION Defeated Basotho

### National Party threatens to have poll

### result nullified by High Court: (167)

preparations to take over power on Friday, having so far won all of the 42 constituencies in which results had been declared.

Another 23 results from outlying constituencies in the mountainous kingdom were still outstanding.

BNP leader Evaristus Sekhonyana has challenged the finding of foreign observers that the elections were free and fair. At least three observer groups — from the Commonwealth, the Organisation of African Unity and

the American International Republican Institute — have made this finding. Sekhonyana said the results were inconsistent with the fact that the elections had been contested by two "extremely strong parties". One of them had, nevertheless, apparently won no constituencies.

The result in one constituency, he said, suggested that 10 300 out of 11 300 registered voters had cast their ballots. "Nowhere in the world has this ever happened," he said.

Star 1/4/93

## Lesotho a democratic one-party state

MASERU — The Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) has swept the board in Lesotho's first election in 23 years to take all of the kingdom's 65 constituencies.

(167)  
Yesterday's final two results from Saturday's election capped the rout of the Basotho National Party (BNP). The BCP took every seat in the 243-member parliament, making Lesotho a "one-party state".

Work came to a standstill in Maseru as BCP supporters celebrated in its headquarters.

In a victory statement, BCP leader and prime minister-designate Ntsu Mokhehle said his government would waste no time in the "daunting task of putting into place practical steps towards solving the national crisis of hunger, disease, ignorance and joblessness".

Mokhehle's party attracted 74 percent of the 500 000 votes.

Evaristus Sekhonyana, whose BNP ruled Lesotho for 16 years until it was sacked by the army in 1986, said he felt "a deep sadness" at the results, reiterating his claims that the poll had

been rigged.

He indicated that he would accept the result, but would never formally concede defeat.

"There is nothing we can do. All I can do is sit back and watch with sadness," he said.

The election had been tipped to be close between the rivals.

A Lesotho University analyst said Sekhonyana, a former finance minister and reputed to be the richest black man in southern Africa, had lost support amid widespread allegations of corruption — Sapa-AFP.

## Lesotho election landslide

*31 DAY 114193*  
MASERU — Basotholand National Party (BNP) leader Evaristus Sekhonyana indicated yesterday he would accept victory by the rival Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) as the BCP swept the board in Lesotho's first election in 23 years (167)

However, in an interview Sekhonyana still insisted the election had been rigged and said he would never formally concede defeat

"The incoming government can do what it likes, but nobody can make the BNP say we are conceding defeat. But the military council is still the government and when it announces the incoming government, we will have to accept that," he said.

The BCP took all of the kingdom's 65 constituencies and won every seat in the 243-member parliament.

In a victory statement, BCP leader and Prime Minister-designate Ntsu Mokhehle said his government would have no time in tackling "the daunting task of putting into place practical steps towards solving the national crisis of hunger, disease, ignorance and joblessness" — Sapa-AFP



# Rumour of coup sweeps Maseru

MASERU — The Lesotho military council went into emergency session yesterday as rumours of a coup spread through the capital on the eve of a handover to civilian rule.

Truckloads of soldiers sped through town towards Government House and the building housing Radio Lesotho

Something urgent has come up," said government Chief of Protocol Mr Tsoeu Ntsane. He would not elaborate.

A government source said there were strong rumours that a faction of the army that has ruled the southern African kingdom since 1986 was unhappy that the military council was relinquishing control.

"I don't like what I see," a Western diplomat said. "If there is a coup, it will be a wildcat situation."

On Wednesday the Basotho-land Congress Party (BCP) swept the board in the country's first democratic elections in 23 years, trouncing former rulers the Basotho and National Party (BNP). The BNP, which snatched victory from the BCP in 1970, was toppled by the military in 1986.

BCP leader Mr Ntsu Mokhehle is due to be sworn in as prime minister today — Sapa-AFP.

Star 214193

# Lesotho military 'upset' (167)

By Brendan Templeton

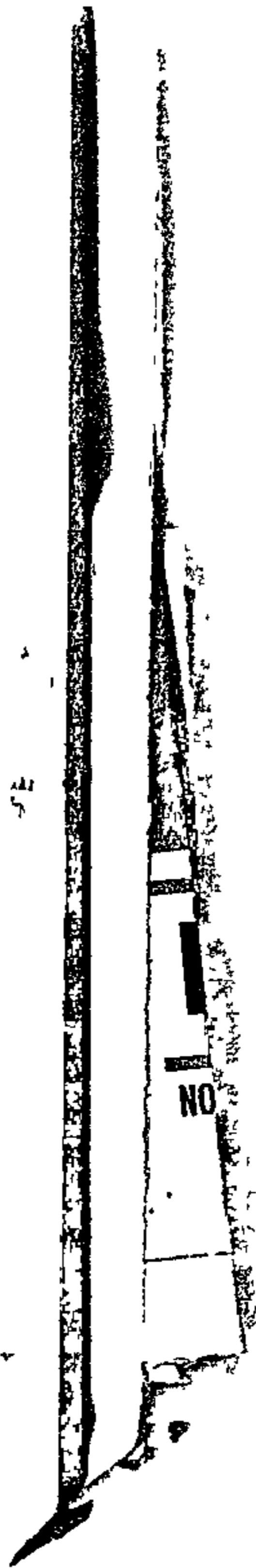
Lesotho opposition leader Evaristus Sekhonyana last night pledged his allegiance to the country's fledgling government after rumours of an imminent coup.

The rumours forced an emergency session of the country's military council, which later confirmed that the new government would be sworn in today.

Speaking from Maseru last night, Basotho National Party leader Sekhonyana stressed that his party was committed to a legitimate opposition role, but warned elements in the military could be unhappy with last weekend's election results.

Sapa reports that a government source also said a faction of the army was unhappy that its rule of the kingdom since 1986 was ending.

● More reports — Page



FM 2/4/93

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be honoured. He has no realistic option. The threat by BNP leader Evaristus Sekhonyana, who lost his Mount Moorosi seat in Quthing, to contest the election result in court has, it seems, been dropped on the advice of his lawyers. It would have been laughable anyway.

Commonwealth observers pronounce the election free and fair. "Nothing we saw would dent our confidence" that the losers will accept the results, says Commonwealth observer group chairman Lord Carlisle of Bucklow. "There were no signs of trouble."

Antipathy to Sekhonyana, an able politician with a good technical record as Finance Minister under Lekhanya, was widespread, based on strong allegations of misappropriation of funds. He is certainly one of the country's more conspicuously prosperous gentlemen. Significantly, Jonathan's widow withdrew support from Sekhonyana.

Indicative of voters' determination for change was their refusal to leave polling stations where booths and boxes simply didn't arrive on Saturday. Voting had to be extended to Sunday.

There were 14 parties and 11 independents in contention, though only the BCP and BNP were serious contenders and fought all constituencies, which had a total of 737 000 registered voters and 1 766 polling stations. Between 75-100 Commonwealth and church observers were present.

### TIME TO GO

The ANC's militant Natal Midlands chairman Harry Gwala is to retire from politics at the end of the year. Gwala (72) suffers from a motor-neuron disease, apparently brought on as a result of 20 years of incarceration for opposition to apartheid. He says it is time to take a rest.

The ANC says no pressure was brought on him to quit; it appreciates his many years of dedication to the struggle.

No-one from the Military Council was allowed to stand. Lekhanya did stand and was soundly beaten.

Mokhehle (75) is a teacher with a masters degree in science, awarded with distinction by the SA Native College (Fort Hare) in 1948. He was a member of the ANC, served as an adviser to the PAC and other liberation movements, and helped found political parties in Botswana and Swaziland.

In 1958 he went to London to lobby for a new constitution for the then Basotholand, and four years later was back there on the committee negotiating a new constitution. He became opposition leader in 1965 and was involved in independence talks.

After the aborted election of 1970 Mokhehle was imprisoned for two years, and then exiled for 16. As all opposition had been banned Mokhehle formed the Lesotho Liberation Army in 1974.

When Lekhanya announced an amnesty, Mokhehle returned to Lesotho in the late Eighties, becoming a member of the constituent assembly formed by the military to thrash out a new constitution. This is expected to be adopted by the new government.

Among the new government's immediate tasks (assuming it is allowed to take office) will be the role of the monarchy and, indeed, whether King Moshoeshoe will regain the throne seized from him by the military and thrust in 1990 on an unwilling son, Letsie 3, who wants his father re-instated.

Whether Lesotho will seek closer links with a new SA government — as was mooted by the main parties — remains to be seen.

The election, apart from being Lesotho's response to the spread of democracy in Africa, also reflects urbanisation and the demands that accompany it. The land question is paramount. The BCP will have its work cut out coping with the phenomenon, which another ex-protectorate, Swaziland, is also experiencing.

Swaziland, where Mswati 3 has been trying to adjust the monarchy to modern trends, will have observed the Lesotho election closely. It is next in line. ■

FM 2/4/93, CURRENT AFFAIRS

was due to write to the ruling Military Council pointing out this fact. This was in expectation that its veteran leader, Ntsu Mokhehle, would today (Friday) be named PM-designate, ending 23 years of authoritarian rule — the last seven under army officers, first under General Metsing Lekhanya, who was toppled in a coup two years ago led by Col Elias Ramaema, the present strongman. Analysts predict a clean sweep by the BCP — so much so that concern is being expressed in Maseru that there may be no official opposition in the National Assembly, which would be bad for democracy. Civil servants are also worried about losing their jobs. They tend, in the nature of things, all to belong to the other main party, the Basotho National Party (BNP), which held sway till the military took over.

Mokhehle — who won the first post-independence election in 1970 but was denied office by then BNP leader and PM, Leabua Jonathan, who rescinded the poll — has assured bureaucrats that there'll be no witch-hunt — "no unnecessary retribution," as he put it. Mokhehle won the Quoling seat by 6 123 votes against 1 347 for the BNP candidate and 100 for the pro-monarchy Maramatlou Freedom Party.

Mokhehle, who like the BNP supports a constitutional monarchy, has also given the assurance that all treaties with SA, including the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, will

conf

LESOTHO FM 2/4/93 167

### Return of the prodigal

With landslide victories in 50 of the 65 seats declared so far in last weekend's election in Lesotho, the Basotho Congress Party (BCP)



# Deadlock in talks on black education

*By M. 2/4/93*  
**KATHRYN STRACHAN**

The Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso) rejected the move, claiming that only the total abolition of the fee would be acceptable.

Paso spokesman George Mpya called on "all African students to continue to boycott payment of exam fees".

NECC spokesman Desmond Thompson said yesterday's meeting was intended to focus on the demands for a halt to unilateral restructuring of the education system, and the urgent establishment of a national education forum to negotiate the way ahead.

Other demands placed at the meeting included the issue of matric exam fees, the urgent provision of resources to black schools, the reopening of negotiations on teachers' salary increments, and the establishment of a national fund to deal with the funding crisis at tertiary institutions.

Thompson said that unless government agreed to those demands, the organisation would launch a campaign "to force them to see reason".

If all negotiations failed to bear fruit, the organisations' members would carry out their threat of occupying white schools and carry the chaos of black schools into the white sector.

The NECC would also be appealing to the international community to support its demands, he said.

THE crisis in education deepened last night when talks between the National Education Conference and new Education Co-ordinating Minister Piet Marais deadlocked over solutions to problems in black schools.

The deadlock has fuelled fears of widespread disruptions with organisations threatening to target white schools after the Easter holidays if their demands cannot be met through negotiations.

The talks between the conference — made up of the ANC, Azapo and teacher and student organisations — and Marais coincided with yesterday's launch of government's new administration designed to streamline the 14 education departments into a single non-racial education ministry.

The dispute between the conference and government was heightened by Department of Education and Training Minister Sam de Beer's unilateral decision to cancel a meeting with the organisations, also scheduled for yesterday, on grounds that the controversial issue of matric exam fees had been resolved.

De Beer announced on Wednesday that the fees would be reduced by one third. But instead of appeasing the organisations, the reduction served only to fuel the dispute.

The National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) has attacked De Beer's "authoritarian and undemocratic" move of cancelling the meeting, as well as his "disrespect for the opposition".

## Coup threat and court action in Lesotho

**ADRIAN HADLAND and LLOYD COUTTS**

The coup threat subsided late yesterday as the military council addressed soldiers, a senior government source confirmed, reports Sapa-Reuter. (167)

Earlier reports indicated the council had gone into emergency session after the Basotho Congress Party's sweeping electoral victory.

Lesotho's chief electoral officer is expected to announce today whether the country's first democratic elections in 23 years were free and fair.

PRETORIA — Rumours of an impending military coup spread through Lesotho's capital Maseru yesterday, but residents said the city's streets were quiet.

And the Basotho National Party, which appeared to have been defeated in last week's elections, said last night the full bench of the Lesotho High Court was hearing an urgent application to invalidate the result and restrain the military council from handing over power.

It said ballot papers had been "doctored" and "the results were too consistent to be genuine". *By M. 2/4/93*

## SADF doubles troop deployment

**PETER DELMAR**

Spokesmen for the SADF's Pretoria headquarters and Witwatersrand and Natal commands confirmed that active Citizen Force and Commando strengths had been increased since President F W de Klerk announced a stepped-up call-up last week, but declined to give details.

A spokesman for Natal Command said Commando members were being called up on a 12-hour rotation basis and Citizen Force members on a 30-day basis.

It was not intended to call up every eligible Citizen Force member in the province, and specific units were calling up members according to the units' specific tasks, he said.

End Conscription Campaign spokesman Chris de Villiers said it was not yet clear whether the increased call-ups were aimed at "a show of strength or if it is going to be a continuing clampdown".

THE SADF had, in less than a week since the announcement of a 10-point plan to combat crime, more than doubled troop deployment in the troubled Vaal Triangle, a spokesman said yesterday.

And force levels could escalate further as thousands more troops — many of them part-time members of the Citizen Force — were sent to the area which had witnessed a growing number of attacks on civilians. Maj Andreas Jordaan said the deployment of soldiers in the Witwatersrand Command area was being concentrated in the "red areas" of Soweto, the East Rand and the Vaal Triangle.

SADF activities were aimed at supporting police by raising the defence presence through patrols and joint operations such as roadblocks.

Jordaan said that in addition to the active deployment of troops on the ground, the defence capacity in the Vaal Triangle had been boosted by putting Commando forces on alert.

... ..



## Lesotho rejects military rule (67)

THE FIRST free elections since 1970 in the impoverished state of Lesotho, surrounded by South African territory, peacefully ended seven years of military rule on Sunday with the Basotholand Congress Party's electoral landslide.

For Ntsu Mokhehle, the BCP leader, it has been a long wait. The last elections 23 years ago, were suspended and a state of emergency declared after early returns indicated that the BCP was about to defeat Chief Leabua Jonathon's ruling Basotho National Party (BNP).

With results still trickling in from remote mountain constituencies, the BCP seemed set to take all but one of the 65 parliamentary seats, which fell to the BNP.

Guardian/W/W/214-714193



**B**ALANCED on a walking stick, an old bent woman wearing a blanket and black sneakers walked slowly into the school room. She approached the officials at the front and leaned forward to hear the instructions.

'This is your ballot,' said the elections supervisor, a young woman in a white cotton vest with the words 'Your vote is your power' printed on the back. She explained how to fold and mark the ballot paper — that any mark, a check or an X or a cross would do — and cautioned that the old woman should be careful to select only one candidate.

'Does this mean I may choose the one I like?' the old woman said.

Yes, she was told.

It is an honour, she said, and, stoop shouldered, went in to cast her vote.

Next in line, a bespectacled old man in overalls guffawed on his way in and out of the makeshift polling booth.

If voting is a holy act, it was reflected in the extraordinary determination of the Basotho people to cast their ballots last week end.

Tens of thousands of migrant workers from South African gold mines worked extra shifts in advance or risked losing pay to return home to vote. Lines of voters, umbrellas shielding them from the sun, waited patiently for hours as in many cases the ballot boxes arrived late or failed to show up. People in the mountains walked miles, arrived on horseback or were ferried in helicopters.

The Commonwealth Observer Group, headed by Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, was "enormously impressed by the good humour of the citizens of Lesotho: they queued in large numbers with patience and dignity, the spirit in which they did so augurs well for the future peace and stability of Lesotho."

Elections are no longer quite the flavour of the month in Western capitals that they were three years ago when the Berlin wall came down and Africa appeared on the verge of a brave new world of multi-party democracy. Elections have not arrested the economic disintegration of Eastern Europe and Africa.

But no one told the people of Lesotho that the poor, the old, the discarded, their vote was indeed their power, the brief moment in a rickety booth when their opinion carried some weight. There were no election posters, no party colours, and no opinion polls. No one would say whom they had voted for. Until the first returns started coming through in the early hours of Sunday morning, pointing to a Basotho Congress Party landslide, it was supposed that the race was neck and neck.

As in other Africa elections such as Zimbabwe and Namibia, the bush tele-

# Basothos' brief moment of power in a rickety booth

W/maail 2/4-7/4/93

Lesotho's (67) elections were free and fair and the Basotho seized the opportunity to exercise their only power. But the elections won't end their poverty and helplessness.



By  
**PHILLIP  
VAN  
NIEKERK**



'May I choose the candidate I like?'

Photo JOHN PARKIN/AP

graph is the most potent instrument of political communication. The lesson for South Africa is that people usually know what they like, and are in far less need of voter education than conventional wisdom dictates.

After 23 years of emergency and military rule, democracy of sorts has returned to Lesotho. For Ntsu Mokhehle, the 74-year-old leader of the BCP, it has been a long wait. The last elections in 1970 were suspended and a state of emergency declared after returns indicated that his party was about to defeat Leabua Jonathan's ruling Basotho National Party.

The history of South African interference, of BNP one-party rule, and of military rule, made people reticent to speak their minds.

"In the villages, one is a member of the Congress Party and one is a member of the National Party. These things

do not bring harmony among us," said a woman outside the booth at the mission station at Nazareth in the mountains. "Maybe God will assist us in finding peace, but there is uneasiness."

Voting in Maseru, Jamison Quobela, who described himself as a church and gambling man, dismissed these fears. "That's the problem here. They don't realise that politics is like gambling. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. You've got to accept the results and try your luck again."

How ironic then that the election whose purpose was to bring democracy to Lesotho should result in a de facto one-party state. The BCP swept all 65 seats. The BNP's whinge that the election violated "every tenet and spirit of fairness and equity" was almost understandable given the extent of their humiliation.

There were indeed glitches, or what

the international observer groups termed "deficiencies". The International Republican Institute, for instance, noted that the government-controlled media were shackled and that administrators "severely underestimated the logistical challenges of conducting an election, resulting in substantial delays in voting."

However, election officials on the ground were diligent to a fault. The women electoral officers, who were the backbone of the event, spent a thankless day explaining the complicated ballot to scores of voters. So careful were election officials in some constituencies to ensure the privacy of the voters that candles had to be used to light shrouded polling booths.

All the foreign observers felt that despite the shortcomings, the elections were free and fair. The BNP failed to show how they were especially disad-

vantaged by the polling delays, when all parties suffered them equally.

Given what happened when Jonas Savimbi cried foul in Angola and Lesotho's own history of military interference in politics, the BNP's bad sportsmanship was rather like screaming 'fire!' in a crowded cinema.

The problem with the Lesotho election was more structural: more to do with the acceptance by all the parties of an archaic first past the post, winner take all electoral system borrowed from the British.

If the Lesotho parties had adopted proportional representation, the BNP would have been ensured at least a quarter of the seats in parliament, and the smaller parties would have picked up a couple as well.

In that sense, though the Basotho voted before South Africa, they should have taken a leaf out of Codesa's book, where proportional representation was accepted in the declaration of intent before multi-party talks even began. Only the Inkatha Freedom Party has reverted, somewhat strangely, to support for a constituency system.

What this system has done to Lesotho is ensure a virtual absence of checks and balances on the power of the BCP. However, Mokhehle, who is likely to form a government within the next few days, sounded a note of reconciliation in an interview this week.

"We have no intention of retaliating against anyone," he said. "I am 74 years old now, and I feel that there has been a lot of lost time. It will be very difficult to repair the loss of such a number of years. But we want to focus now on the present and the future, not on the past."

In his victory speech, Mokhehle said it was time for the people of Lesotho to "re-dedicate ourselves to the daunting task of putting into place practical steps towards solving the national crisis of hunger, disease, ignorance and joblessness."

Whatever the intentions, the BCP has virtually untrammelled political power. Conversely, given the dependent position of Lesotho on neighbouring South Africa and on international aid, it will have very little economic leeway. Which is often the problem of elections in the Third World. It is becoming increasingly clear that one party rule is a symptom of a malaise deeper than can be cured by one election.

When the people of Lesotho, just like those in Poland, Russia, Zambia and Benin, realise that an election does not automatically end the poverty and the powerlessness of their lives, the euphoria will be long gone.

It is too early to speculate on how the BCP leadership, inexperienced from never having been in power and with no checks on their now found power, will respond when the pressure mounts.



# Former

# exiled

# party

# heads for

# victory

South 3/4 - 7/14/93  
(167)

**T**HE Basotho National Party (BNP), which ruled Lesotho for 16 years until it was toppled by the army, said this week it would not accept the result of last weekend's elections.

Initial results showed that its former exiled rivals — the Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) — had won a substantial majority.

Returns showed the BCP had won 36 of the 65 constituencies, with results still being reported on Tuesday.

The results showed that the BNP had not won a single seat for the 243-member parliament.

The ruling Military Council, which has pledged to return the country to civilian rule, said it would not make an official announcement on the outcome of the elections until later this week.

Seventeen parties contested the 243 seats in 65 constituencies, but only the BNP and BCP fielded a full slate of candidates.

There had been fears of a repeat of the violence which followed the last election in 1970, when the BNP's Leabua Jonathan declared the poll null and void, suspended the constitution and arrested opposition activists.

Jonathan ruled the country until 1986 when he was toppled by the army which promised to bring back civilian rule.

After the initial results were

# Lesotho royals face an uncertain future

South 3/4 - 7/14/93  
(167)

**T**HE Basotho are thinking of turning their kingdom into a republic because of the uneasy situation at the royal palace in Maseru.

There was much excitement over this week's election for a civilian government — the first general election in 23 years.

But recent events in the royal household have led many to question the importance of the monarchy in their newly-found democracy.

All has not been well since 1990, when King Moshoeshoe was deposed and exiled to Britain by the military government as a result of differences over policy matters.

Moshoeshoe's eldest son, David Mphahlele Bereng Seciso, succeeded him as King Letsie III and was installed in November 1990.

In July 1992, the former king returned home and formed a political party, the Maseru Freedom Party, which was one of 12 parties contesting the elections.

On the eve of the elections, King Letsie wanted to step down to enable his father to return to the throne.

"The chief of the nation and its head of state is my parent, His Majesty Moshoeshoe II, and I am convinced that the nation is also of the same opinion. As for myself, I am only acting temporarily during the period of dislocation in government."

To most voters in this country of 1.8 million people, the fight between the military government and the monarch seems irrelevant. They want the new government to decide whether the country should remain a kingdom or become a republic.

With Moshoeshoe heading a political party in the elections at the



**VICTORY WALK: The leader of the Basotholand Congress Party Ntsu Mokhele (centre) walks with supporters in Maseru during the country's first general election in 23 years.**

reported, the BNP said "The elections were not only conducted in violation of the electoral law and regulations, but every tenet and spirit of fairness and equity."

The BNP said the polling had not started on time and also said there were problems in the distribution of electoral material.

"It is therefore difficult for BNP to see its way clear to accept the outcome of the elections," the party said in a statement.

Chief electoral officer Jocelyn Lucas said she could only deal with the complaints if they were sent to her office.

A Commonwealth Observer Group said it was satisfied with the way the election had been carried out despite the BNP complaints.

"We received no complaints of irregularities, nor did we receive any reports of intimidation or incidents that might have marred the peaceful and orderly conduct of the poll," it said in a statement.

"We are satisfied that those who voted were able to freely and fairly record their views," the group said.

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# Lesotho expects a few miracles

Star 2/14/93

(167)

Winning Lesotho's first multiparty democratic election was the easy part for Ntsu Mokhehle's Basotho Congress Party (BCP). Now the real difficulties begin, writes **JOE LATAKGOMO** of The Star's Africa Service.

**I**N THE next four years Ntsu Mokhehle will be expected to have largely met the expectations of a politically volatile electorate. For a poor country like Lesotho, economic reconstruction is not going to be easy.

It will be next to impossible for the BCP to achieve more in those four years than the government of Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party did in its 20 years in office and the Military Council in seven.

The economy has deteriorated markedly, with unemployment increasing and the spending power of Basotho decreasing. In the mountain districts the effect has been even worse, and the recent drought, though largely broken now, has also taken a heavy toll.

Central Maseru also shows evidence of this economic decline. The fragile economy of this town cannot even support its own people. Everywhere, groups of men can be seen discussing their hopelessness.

Jobs are hard to come by, and even Teba, the Chamber of Mines recruiting office, cannot take on all the thousands of job seekers.

The South African mines do not employ the same number of miners as they used to because of the plummeting gold price, high wage demands and the closure of marginal mines.

Traffic between Maseru and border towns like Ladybrand and Ficksburg by people in search of goods and services is unavailable in Lesotho as it has ceased. As one of those stated, "whether we like it or not, Lesotho is almost a province of South Africa. Just look at OK Razars or Spar in Maseru."

But it is the women of Lesotho who have to "take the

knife by the sharp end", as the Sotho saying goes, and find money to provide food for the table.

The informal sector is probably now the major provider of employment. Major streets are bustling with vendors. Those with the means sell vegetables which often have to serve as accompaniment for the staple maize meal since meat has become a luxury few can afford. Others sell the odd cob of corn, roasted on make-shift fires.

Most of these vendors expect a BCP government to dramatically improve their lives. Said a voter while waiting patiently in the queue to cast her vote: "I have suffered too long under Leabua. Maybe my life will be better now."

Wage income remittances from South African mines make up more than half of the country's gross domestic product, and per capita income is about R660. More than 31 percent of the unemployed are under 19, and very politically sensitive. The new government will have to deal with this group if it has to survive.

Various public works projects conducted through the Labour-Intensive Construction Unit (LCU) with the aim of halting rural-urban and cross-border migration have not been able to absorb the migrant workers retrenched in South Africa, whose numbers increased sharply when 9,000 Basotho miners were repatriated after the 1987 miners' strike.

When the military seized power from Leabua Jonathan's leader, General Metsing Lekhanya, experimented with what was called "local democracy" — a network of village committees set up to plan eco-

nomie development. He argued that if programmes were run "from below" they stood a better chance of success. However, even these collapsed because of bureaucratic corruption.

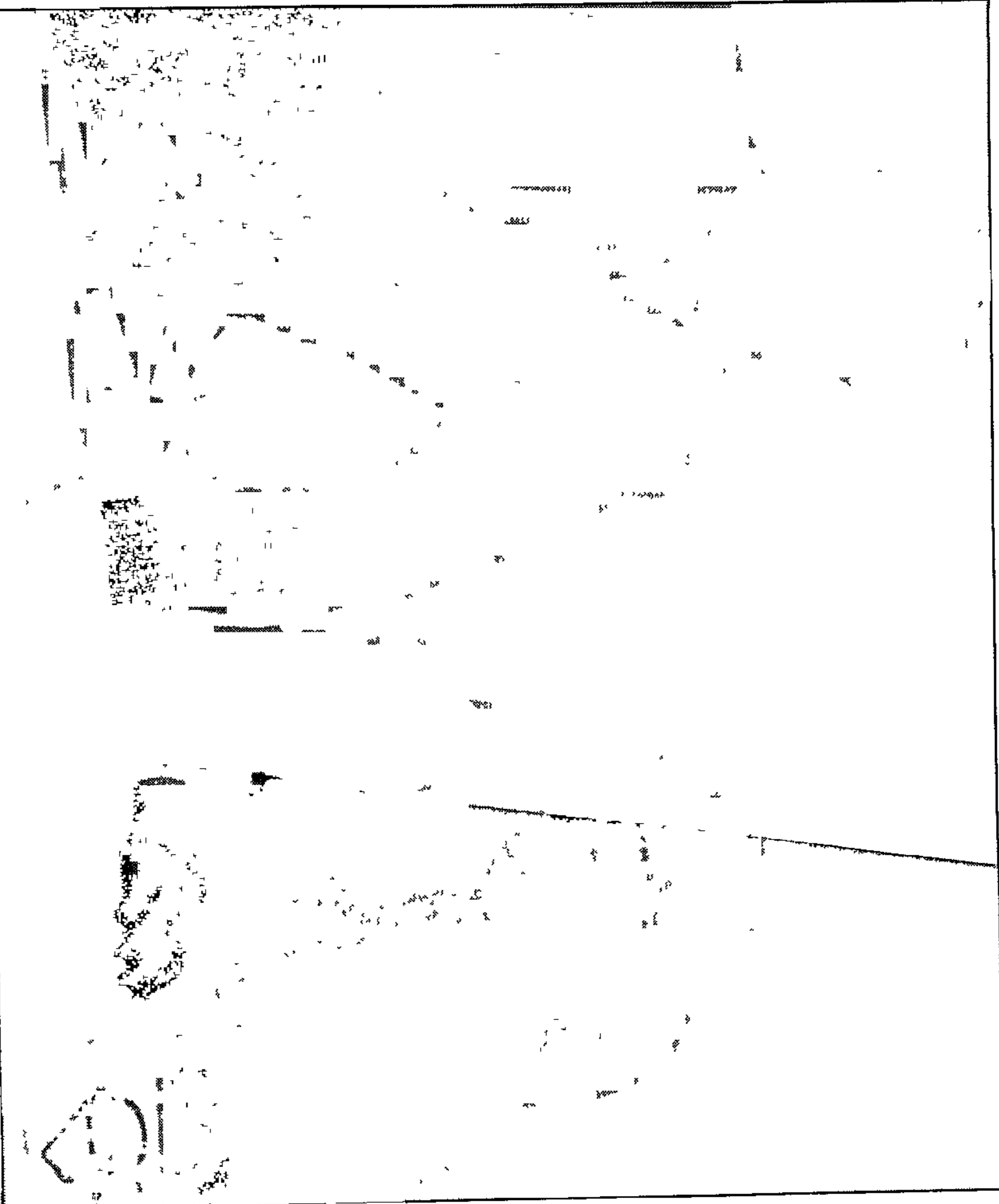
The deputy leader of the BCP, M Q Molapo, says that his party has identified priority areas to give the economy a fir-

up education, health and social services, agriculture and the fostering and strengthening of local government structures.

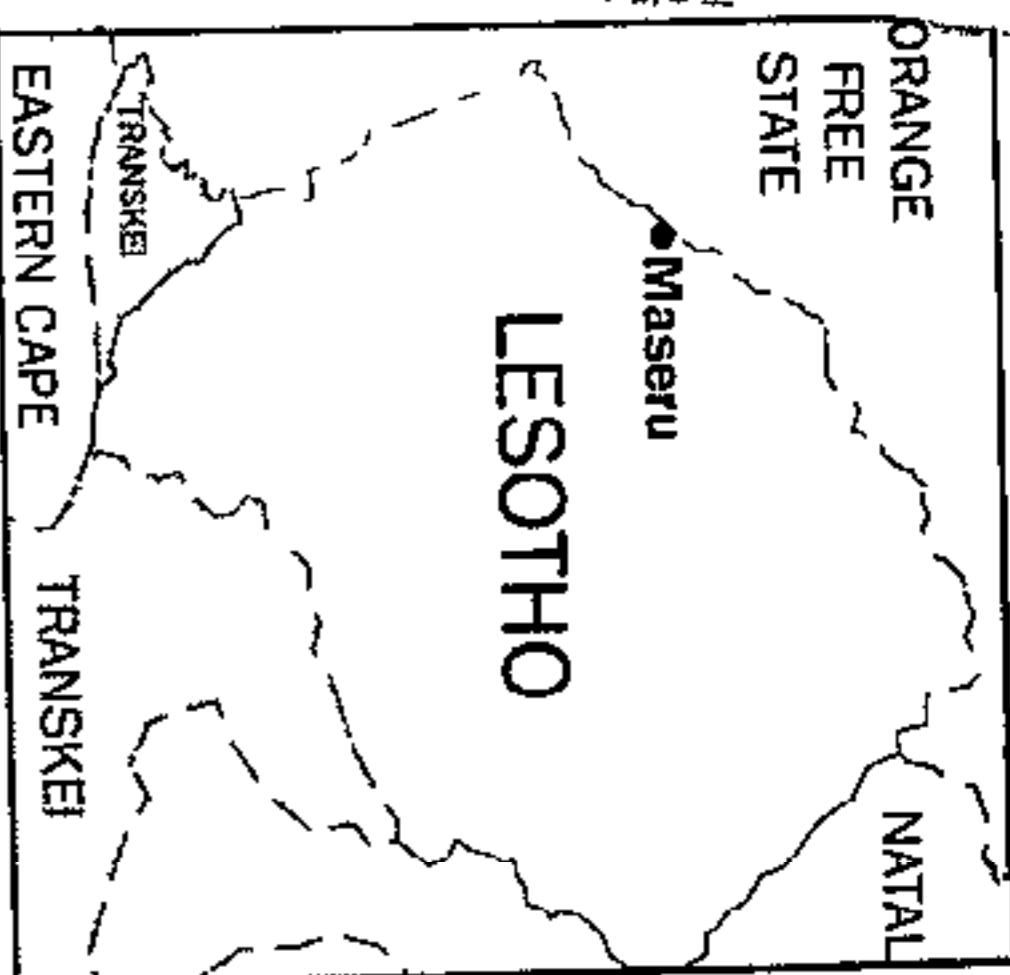
All dictators want to centralise," he said. "If you want a public toilet in Mokolobong, they want you to get permission from Maseru."

Thus, he said, stifled initiative and growth. Some party ideologues, however, still believe that there is a great need to "go out into the villages" and bring about a form of "ujamaa" — communal farming. They see this as a way of keeping people in the rural areas, but making them build up an agricultural base which

can begin to address the country's needs. The reality, however, is that political independence did not bring economic independence. And, as General Lekhanya said before he was ousted, "whoever takes over (government of the country) will inherit a tattered economy." □



At the helm . . . now it's Ntsu Mokhehle (right) and his deputy, M Q Molapo who must meet expectations.



## Pimpernel in from the cold

(167)

### Profile

**N**TSU Mokhehle, once known as his country's Scarlet Pimpernel, became the target of bounty hunters as he led the Basutoland Congress Party from exile after Chhet Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party seized power in 1970.

The man on whose head the government of Leabua Jonathan once placed a R5 000 "dead or alive" reward is set to become Prime Minister of Lesotho.

Last week he led the party he founded in 1952 to a crushing victory over his political rivals in the first democratic elections in 23 years.

The ravages of time and exile have taken their toll on Mokhehle, now a frail 74. But he shows no signs of bitterness. In a pre-election interview, he expressed a desire for reconciliation on which the Basotho nation could begin reconstruction.

Mokhehle has spent his entire adult life fighting political battles. In the mid-1940s, he was one of the African National Congress Youth League members who drafted the Programme of Action which launched the ANC into a new defiant mode in the '50s.

### Constitution

He was a member of the district council of Maseru for three years and in 1958 flew to London to lobby the British for a new constitution.

In 1964, while a member of the official opposition, he was in the delegation which went to London to negotiate a new constitution for an independent Lesotho. In the independence election of 1966 the BCP was beaten by the BNP and Mokhehle became leader of the opposition.

His life changed dramatically when he led the BCP into the first post-independence elections in 1970. When it became clear that the BCP had won the election, Jonathan suspended the constitution and abrogated parliament. More than 500 people died in the unrest that followed, and Mokhehle was jailed for two years.

He fled the country in 1974 after a failed coup to unseat Jonathan. It was from this point that Mokhehle assumed

Scarlet Pimpernel status. He was often reported to have been in Lesotho, or reported seen in Soweto, Qwaqwa, Zambia or Botswana. There were even Lesotho government claims that he was seen recruiting members for the BCP on South African mines.

The BCP's military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), launched its first major hostilities in 1979 when the Maseru post office was attacked.

In an interview in 1979, Mokhehle disclosed that members of the LLA had been trained in Libya together with cadres of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa (PAC), which was much in line with Mokhehle's Pan Africanist leanings.

Jonathan, under pressure to end the violent attacks, started talking in 1981 about holding elections. However, the BCP refused to have anything to do with elections unless they were supervised by the United Nations.

After all the years in exile, Mokhehle has finally realised his dream of leading the Basotho to democracy. In the going constituency, where he was returned with a majority of well over 5,000, a young woman declared, as she watched the long queues of voters: "My mother died last week. My father was among those killed by Jonathan's police. It is sad that my mother did not live at least to see the movement finally get into power."

But a BCP government knows that its problems are not just internal. The question of relations with South Africa must come up soon. There is a certain level of realism about the situation and it is accepted that South Africa will always remain the major partner in the relationship. □



# Lesotho's new premier bids to unite kingdom

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**NTSU Mokhehle, exiled for two decades from Lesotho, called for reconciliation as he was sworn in on Friday as the first democratically elected prime minister in the mountain kingdom in 23 years.**

Despite rumours earlier in the week of a coup planned by the army, almost 30 000 people attended a ceremony during which the Military Council handed over power to Mokhehle, leader of the opposition Basotho Congress Party (BCP).

Thousands of people sang and chanted "Let him (Mokhehle) be installed" before the ceremony at Maseru's national soccer stadium.

The BCP last Saturday won all 65 constituencies for the 243-seat parliament in the first democratic elections in Lesotho for 23 years taking power away from the soldiers who have ruled since 1986 and from the former ruling party.

## Pressure

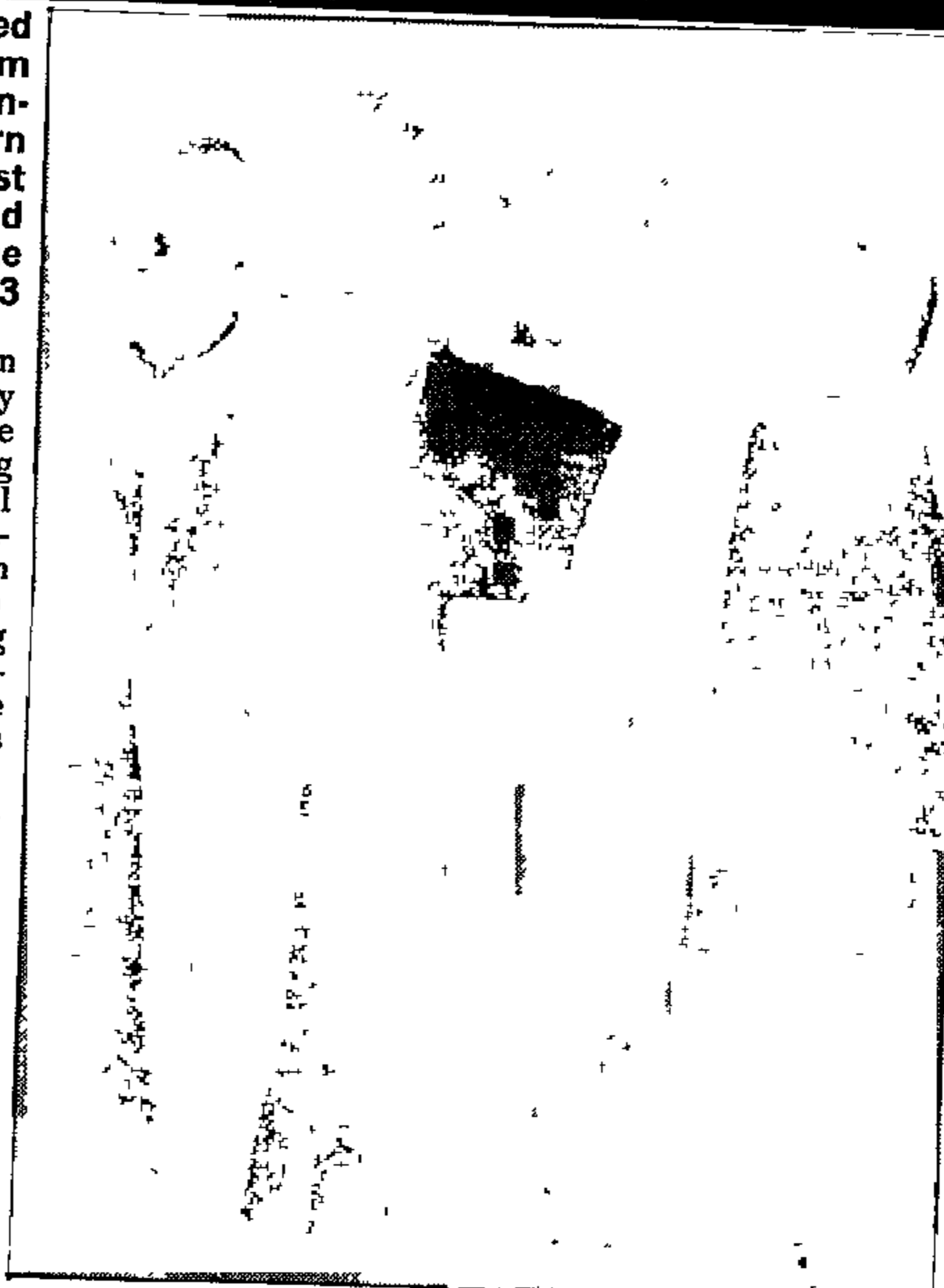
Mokhehle called for reconciliation with the rival Basotho National Party (BNP) and moved to assure the outgoing military government that troops would not lose their jobs.

Reports of a coup bid spread on Thursday and outgoing junta leader General Phisoana Ramaema had to visit the barracks to convince soldiers to accept the outcome of the elections and ease tensions.

The Military Council, under its chairman General Elias Ramaema, agreed to return the country of 1.7-million people to civilian rule after strong domestic and international pressure.

Long regarded as a firebrand, the 74-year-old Mokhehle has led the BCP since its inception in 1952 and was instrumental in spearheading a 1955 campaign for Lesotho's independence from Britain.

The party has already won elections, in 1970, but was then robbed of victory by the BNP's Chief Leabua Jonathan, who had been prime minister since



**FORMER EXILE ... Ntsu Mokhehle, 74, centre, who was sworn in as Lesotho's new prime minister this week**

1965, a year before independence.

The BNP clamped the country under one-party rule after pre-empting the BCP victory in the 1970 elections by declaring the poll invalid, suspending the constitution and arresting opposition activists.

The BNP said it was appealing to the High Court to have the latest election invalidated.

King Letsie III accepted a new draft constitution for Lesotho on Friday — hours ahead of the swearing in of the civilian government.

Mokhehle attended South Africa's Fort Hare University, where he became friends with ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

While at university, he aligned himself ideologically with the radical Pan Africanist Congress.

Lesotho gained independence from Britain in October

1966. In pre-independence elections the BCP lost to its rival, the BNP, which had the backing of the powerful Catholic Church, the South African government and the British government.

But Mokhehle kept his party intact and gradually increased his popularity.

After the abortive 1970 election, Mokhehle and other BCP leaders were arrested. He was released from prison and placed under house arrest in June 1971.

In 1974 the BCP rose in rebellion against Jonathan again. The insurrection was defeated and Jonathan launched a witch hunt. Mokhehle fled into exile.

He lived in Botswana, Zambia and South Africa until returning to Lesotho in 1989. — *Reuter*



# Why it was so difficult just to cast a vote

SI Times 4/4/93

**DONALD SIMPSON, one of the independent observers during the Lesotho elections this week, argues the system was far too complicated for the voters**

YOU needed a 3rd Dan in origami just to fold the most complicated ballot paper I have ever seen. It had two perforated counterfoils, a mock counterfoil and several unusual folds.

The ballot boxes — a gift from Canada — could only hold 300 papers, despite the fact that most polling stations had 500 voters.

The permanent ink stain was not responsive to the expensive ultraviolet lamps, and there were no booths for secret voting, so they had to be constructed on the spot from tin sheets.

Finally, election officials turned up at their polling stations up to 12 hours late.

## Mistakes

The official counting sheets had a dangerous printing mistake, invalidating them and making them impossible to use for anyone, especially inexperienced and less numerate people.

But even without the mistakes, the election was made far too complicated for the simple, land-based Basotho people.

I asked Jocelyn Lucas, the Trinidadian chief electoral officer, why she had constructed such a complex system, with each ballot paper having to be held up for party agents to see before being ticked off in the count.

"I want it to be interesting and

involve everyone in the process," she said.

We in South Africa must never use such a system, or allow unsuitable outside "experts" to advise us. We must stick to the Home Affairs officials, who may be NP but let the CP win to the last vote in many elections.

If the Lesotho system had been used for the Potchefstroom by-election, they would have used 50 polling stations instead of one, and *die boere* would surely have shot dead the polling officials.

## Swing

One danger ahead in Lesotho is that the BCP will split into its moderate and radical wings. The moderates are tolerant of the South African government, but the more numerous younger radicals are pro-ANC.

The BNP will get many seats in the ceremonial Senate through its chieftain allies, who are guaranteed 22 of the 33 seats.

There was a swing from 1970 of about 23 percent to the BCP from the BNP, and about half (48.5 percent) of the 1970 BNP supporters voted BCP this election.

This gave the BCP about 76 percent of the vote (official figures, 75 percent) and the BNP 23 percent.

Under proportional representation, the BNP would win about 13 seats to the BCP's 52.



REALISTIC . . . Lesotho's new leader, the Basotholand Congress Party's Ntsu Mokhehle, has come a long way. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

*C/Press 4/4/93*

# New lease for Lesotho

**T**HE new democratically elected leader of Lesotho, Ntsu Mokhehle, has set himself the goal of decolonising the Mountain Kingdom.

Mokhehle, whose Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) won all the 67 seats in the first free and fair elections in 23 years, said in an interview this week that his main task was to deliver the goods – real democracy and independence.

Speaking from his small office in Maseru, Mokhehle was however realistic, saying "We might have a plan, but our country lacks resources and it might take us time to employ our policies

"But we cannot compromise on issues like freedom of association and free political movement. We also want to minimise foreign participation in the economic affairs of the

**It took Lesotho's new leader four decades of struggle to emerge as the authentic leader of the people in the Mountain Kingdom. Although he admits that the country's lack of resources could retard the implementation of his Basotholand**

country."

He said the previous regimes had to a large extent reduced Lesotho to a South African colony.

However, SA could not be blamed entirely for the underdevelopment of Lesotho because the then government had created an economic vacuum and foreign businessmen had to come in

The BCP would embark on a programme to activate Basotho in the economic sphere.

During the previous government, it was very difficult to start a business. Potential businessmen had to wait

for up to three years for processing of site applications.

To combat hunger, unemployment and general poverty, the BCP advocates the creation of jobs and the elimination of corruption in government circles

After more than two decades of misrule, Mokhehle admitted the road ahead was not an easy one

But who is this new democrat?

Mokhehle was born on December 26 1918 in the town of Teyateyaneng.

He started school at the age of six at St Joseph's

**Congress Party's policies, his aim is to "decolonise" the Kingdom from SA and other foreign influences and remove red tape to give Basotho an easier route to opening their own businesses. MOSES MAMAILA reports.**

Primary. He later attended St Matthew's College and also studied at Healdtown Institution, qualifying as a teacher.

He enrolled at the South African Native College of the University of SA in 1940. In 1944 he obtained a BSc. In 1946 he obtained BSc (Hons) and in 1948 his MSc

Motivated by the desire to free his country from the British colonialists, he formed the BCP in 1952.

The BCP lost the first elections held in 1960.

The second elections were held in 1965 and the Basotholand National

Party (BNP) won.

In the 1970 elections the BCP won, but BNP leader Leaboa Jonathan declared the election outcome null and void, banned the BCP and arrested almost all its leaders. A few left and went into exile

Mokhehle was forced to go into exile after being released from prison.

In 1986 Jonathan was toppled in a coup by Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, who also ruled with an iron fist

In 1991 Lekhanya was toppled by soldiers led by Maj-Gen Elias Ramaema. "Although he gained power through a coup d'etat, Ramaema wanted to ensure the transfer of power to civilian rule," said Mokhehle

It took Mokhehle four decades of struggle to emerge as the authentic leader of the people of Lesotho



# Moguls of intrigue and chicanery outlasted

**T**WENTY-EIGHT years after he should have got the job, Ntsu Mokhehle was sworn in last week as Prime Minister of Lesotho

The scant attention South Africa paid to the event is evidence once again of how shallow our understanding is of our own history and what we have done to people and countries in this region. For it was Pretoria's dirty tricks that kept Mokhehle out of power for so long, inflicting dictatorship and much death on his little country in the process.

The apartheid Government feared Mokhehle because of his close ties to the ANC. He was born in what was then the Basutoland Protectorate, but went to Fort Hare University in 1942 where he met Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo and joined the ANC Youth League which they formed there. Later he became close to Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and absorbed many of his Pan-Africanist ideas.

There can be no doubt that the Basutoland Congress Party which Mokhehle founded in 1952 has all along been the popular party in Lesotho. In January 1960 it emerged from elections to district councils under the British colonial system with 73 of the 162 seats,

making it by far the largest party in indirect elections that followed, the BCP won 32 of the 40 elected seats in the Legislative Council.

Alarmed, the Nat government resolved to prevent this friend of the ANC from gaining power when Lesotho became independent in 1965. As the exposure of the Information Department scandal revealed 15 years later, Pretoria poured money, vehicles and other aid into the election campaign of Chief Leabua Jonathan's Basutoland National Party.

With the help of the Catholic Church, which wields great influence in Lesotho and to its shame joined the campaign, the stop-Mokhehle bid succeeded. But only just. Jonathan won 31 of the 60 seats in the new parliament. He became Pretoria's puppet Prime Minister. Those old enough will remember how the portly Basotho chief became the first black leader to meet a South African premier when he called on Dr Verwoerd to express his thanks, and later met John Vorster as well.

At the next election five years later it was clear that the Basotho voters were going to throw Jonathan out and bring in the BCP. But again it was not to be. Backed



Allister Sparks

by establishing relations with Cuba and the Soviet Union, allowing ANC refugees freer access to Lesotho, and becoming more critical of South Africa.

It produced a sharp reaction South Africa, now under the Rambo leadership of P W Botha, tried to pressure Jonathan back into line. Random attacks began occurring throughout Lesotho — a bomb exploded in the Hilton Hotel, another at the Holiday Inn, yet another at the airport.

Sadly, Mokhehle himself succumbed to opportunism at this time, and in a kind of machiavellian double deal got help from South Africa to wage a low-level guerrilla operation to destabilise the Jonathan regime. It was not his finest hour.

In December 1982 a South African commando raid blitzed through the little capital of Maseru, petrol-bombing and machine-gunning houses and apartments, killing 42 people and wounding many more. It was intended as a terror attack against ANC members, but 11 of those killed were local Basotho.

Eighteen months later, as Jonathan remained obdurate, Foreign Minister Pik Botha and his deputy, Louis Nel, met a group of dissi-

dent Basotho politicians led by one Phako Chaoiane, and offered to fund them if they would form a new political party, the United Democratic Alliance, to oust Jonathan in elections expected later that year.

It is worth pausing here to note what a long track record the Nats have of secretly funding political organisations — from Jonathan to Bishop Abel Muzorewa in Zimbabwe, to Chaoiane, to the DTA in Namibia, to Inkatha and heaven knows who else. All the while proclaiming themselves to be upholders of the principle of non-interference in other countries' domestic affairs.

At all events the Chaoiane ploy flopped. Jonathan called no election and carried on as before. So South Africa got tougher. In January 1986 the army mounted a massive blockade of Lesotho's borders, much as it is doing to Transkei now, and after three weeks the Jonathan Government fell in a military coup.

Pretoria's old friend, General Lekhanya, took over. It was another tawdry time.

The night of the coup two of Jonathan's ministers who were perceived to be particularly close to the ANC, Desmond Sixishe, a

former journalist and long-time friend of mine, and Vincent Makhele, were taken from their homes, with their wives, to remote Bushman's Pass in the Maluti Mountains and butchered.

But Lekhanya's crudity caught up with him. Three years later he shot and killed a student at Maseru's agricultural college in an incident involving a young woman. He claimed he was saving the woman from rape, but few people other than the timid magistrate believed him. Unpopular and discredited, Lekhanya was quietly replaced by General Phisoana Ramaema as head of the Military Council.

It is Ramaema who agreed to return to civilian rule with the election that has now brought Ntsu Mokhehle, at the age of 74, to power at last.

It may be that, like justice, democracy delayed is democracy denied. But at least there is a certain satisfaction at seeing the moguls of intrigue and chicanery outlasted in the end. □

● Allister Sparks is visiting Australia. His weekly column will resume in May.



167 101

CT. 13/4/93

By ALLISTER SPARKS

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**Largest party**

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**Reign of terror**

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# Democracy in Lesotho after SA's dirty tricks



**NTSU MOKHEHLE** Prime minister 28 years after being elected in polls aborted by Leabua Jonathan



**LEABUA JONATHAN** A puppet, financially supported by Pretoria, who sought African credibility

At the next election five years later it was clear that the Basotho voters were going to throw Jonathan out and bring in the BCP. But again it was not to be. Backed by his military strongman, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, a long-time associate of South Africa's security police, Jonathan stopped the count when he realised it was a landslide against him, declared a state of emergency, clapped Mokhehle in jail for a time and placed King Moshoeshoe II under house ar-

rest. A reign of terror followed. Lekhanya took his South African trained Police Mobile Unit into the mountains of Lesotho and set about trying to crush the BCP's grassroots support. Some 2,000 people are said to have perished in the political subjugation. Over the next decade a strange transformation occurred. The opportunistic Jonathan began to chafe at his reputation as Pretoria's puppet and to long for greater recognition

from other African leaders.

At the start of the eighties he set about trying to change his image by establishing relations with Cuba and the Soviet Union, allowing ANC refugees freer access to Lesotho, and becoming more critical of South Africa.

It produced a sharp reaction. South Africa, now under the Rambo leadership of P W Botha, tried to pressurise Jonathan back into line. Random attacks began occurring throughout Lesotho — a bomb exploded in the Hilton Hotel, another at the Holiday Inn, yet another at the airport.

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**Ploy flopped**

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**ON THE MARCH** Communist Party members demonstrate on Sunday outside the Boksburg home where South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani was gunned down on Saturday morning. Picture AP



**New order**

Lesotho tax rates will be reduced, the base widened and new concepts including a tax on capital gains (at income tax rates) and fringe benefits introduced. The Income Tax Order 1993, prepared with IMF help, took effect on April 1.

The changes will affect expatriates working in Lesotho — for example on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project — but the approach to a capital gains tax is too radical to offer guidance to SA policymakers. Lesotho Commissioner of Income Tax adviser Kieran Holmes says the Order is the culmination of several years' work in reform, started in 1990 with a tax on parastatals and a reduction in the number of exemptions. All personal rebates, apart from a single abatement for

**ECONOMY & FINANCE****LESOTHO'S NEW RANGE**

	1991/92		1992/93		1993/94	
	R1	%	R1	%	R1	%
First	5 000	15	6 000	15	*20 000	25
Next	7 000	25	8 000	25	20 000	35
Next	7 000	35	8 000	35		
Next	11 000	45	12 000	42		
Over	30 000	53	34 000	48	40 000	40

\* Subject to a new non-refundable rebate of M600

meals, medical expenses, loans and debt waivers

Objective rules have been introduced for computing the taxable value of benefits. The tax is levied at 40% of their grossed-up value — because this is the maximum personal marginal rate and it is assumed that it applies to

married or single persons, were abolished.

The reductions in rates (see table) have been significant. In little more than a year the maximum personal rate has been slashed from 53% to 40%. The corporate rate has been reduced from 45% to 40% to align it with the maximum personal rate and to ensure the choice of business structures is not tax-driven.

The widening in rate bands and their reduction from five to three was designed to simplify the operation of the Paye system. A measure of self-assessment has been introduced. Persons earning income on which tax has been withheld or income subject to a final withholding tax are not obliged to file a return if their income is less than M50 000 — about R50 000.

Manufacturing income derived by a resident company continues to be subject to tax at 15%, while nonresident shareholders receive dividends derived from manufacturing profits tax-free. Interest income is subject to a withholding tax of 10% at source.

This is a final tax for residents, regardless of their marginal rate, and they receive dividend income tax-free.

The Order substantially increases the allowable deduction for contributions to resident superannuation funds which comply with certain official requirements. The deduction is increased from a maximum of M1 000 a year to 20% of the taxpayer's income. In the case of employees, the 20% deduction is split with the employer according to the apportionment of contributions. In the case of self-employed persons, the deduction is 20% of gross income.

Superannuation funds' income remains tax-exempt. Payouts are taxed in the hands of recipients but the fund must withhold tax at the prescribed rate. Lump sums are taxed at a flat rate of 25%, while a pension or annuity is at the marginal rate. Tax on a lump sum can be deferred where the amount is used to purchase an annuity or rolled over into another superannuation fund within 90 days of the date of payment.

The order introduces a fringe benefit tax. Lesotho, says Holmes, has now joined that small band of countries, including Australia and New Zealand, where the fringe benefits tax is charged to the employer rather than the employee or recipient. It is levied on commonly granted benefits — cars, accommodation, utilities, domestic assistance,

most people receiving fringe benefits.

For capital gains tax purposes, assets are divided into three categories: personal, business and investment assets. Gains on personal assets such as a private residence or personal effects are not taxed. Taxable gains — from the realisation of business and investment assets — are included in gross income while losses are allowed as a deduction. This implies gains are taxed at marginal income rates — a heavy impost by contemporary standards. But gains on immovable property are indexed, which will reduce the impact.

Holmes explains capital gains will be taxed at marginal income rates to even up the treatment of income and capital, thereby eliminating avoidance through taxpayers' efforts to redefine income as capital. ■

new constitution

In his first speech, Kolane said  
"Many people have been asking me  
what kind of parliament this is going to  
be without an opposition, official or  
otherwise" *Sowetan 20/4/93*

"I replied that it could look rather  
unusual but it's going to be an ordinary  
parliament"

## Parliament opens *167*

LESOTHO's first democratically  
elected parliament in 23 years  
opened yesterday following a land-  
slide victory by the Basotho Con-  
gress Party earlier this month

The BCP won all 65 constituen-  
cies for the 243-seat National As-  
sembly. The assembly elected  
Teboho Kolane as speaker. He was  
speaker of the National Constituent  
Assembly which drafted Lesotho's  
*Sowetan 20/4/93*

## 'Assault' death probe

THE inquest into the death of Mr  
Edward Booie Malele, who was alleg-  
edly beaten to death by Gazankulu  
police, has been rescheduled to today  
at the Hlanganani Magistrate's Court

The commander of the Tiyani po-  
lice station, where Malele died, Major  
Piet Baloyi, is scheduled to give evi-  
dence after being implicated by two  
witnesses as having ordered police-  
men to assault Malele *(167)*

Malele was arrested on December  
25 1991 and died the same night

- Sowetan Reporters, Sapa-Reuter  
*Sowetan 20/4/93*



**Parliament opens** *Bloom 2014/93*  
LESOTHO's first democratically elected parliament in 23 years opened in Maseru yesterday. The Basotholand Congress Party won all 65 constituencies for the 243-seat National Assembly earlier this month. New Speaker Teboho Kolane said "Many people have been asking me what kind of parliament this is going to be without an opposition. It could look rather unusual but it's going to be an ordinary parliament."

(167) REPORTS Business Day Reporter  
Sapa-Reuters, Own Correspondent

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

**T**HE newly-elected leaders of Lesotho - the Basotholand

Congress Party - have vowed to make the small mountainous country less dependent on foreign aid and on jobs outside its borders

But reducing dependence on foreign money may be more difficult than leaders of the winning BCP think. Since its independence from Britain in 1966, Lesotho's economy has been integrated into the South African economy. Wage remittances from South African gold mines make up almost half of the country's gross domestic product.

The South African Chamber of Mines, however, has retrenched over 3 000 miners from Lesotho since 1990, but thousands of men each year continue to leave Lesotho to look for jobs on South African gold mines.

"Reducing co-operation with South Africa is not an

# Trying to beat the dependency trap

Open 2/18/93

(167)

option that is likely to work," said Dr Stef Coetzee, executive director of the African Institute in Pretoria. "It's very difficult to reduce dependence on South Africa."

In 1977 Basotho National Party leader Leabua Jonathan tried to go it alone without SA. He also began to criticise apartheid. Foreign aid flooded in and development assistance from the US increased 13-fold from 1976 to 1980. However, SA still brought Lesotho to its knees by imposing an economic blockade.

Again in 1985, the South African government forced Lesotho's economy to a standstill in retaliation for its harbouring members of the banned ANC. Soon thereafter

Jonathan forced all ANC exiles to leave Lesotho as a conciliatory gesture to SA.

Six years ago plans for a democratic election in Lesotho were considered after a military coup ousted Jonathan. The recent election comes after six years of military rule.

The country's newly elected prime minister, Ntsu Mokhehle, first led the opposition BCP to victory in 1970, but the ruling BNP denied the election results, declaring a state of emergency. Jonathan ordered the arrest of all BCP leaders and hundreds of their political supporters were killed.

After 23 years of authoritarian rule, a democratic election has resulted in what is effectively a one-party state. The BCP won all 65

constituencies and all 243 seats in parliament.

Despite the BCP's landslide victory, analysts predict that Mokhehle's economic programme will probably not differ much

More emphasis may be given to manpower training, irrigation schemes and primary levels of education says Coetzee, who suggests that the BCP implement a public works scheme to help combat the high level of unemployment.

"We must go back to the land and produce high value cash crops, both for local consumption and export," said Mokhehle. "Our whole approach to agriculture must change from waiting for the rains that never come, to a

situation where we can produce crops through massive irrigation and other techniques that have helped others achieve their miracles," said the frail 74-year-old prime minister who attended Fort Hare University with ANC president Nelson Mandela.

The BCP leadership wants to strengthen local government structures and attempt to decentralise the Lesotho government. "All dictators want to centralise," said MQ Molapo, deputy leader of the BCP.

But the military leaders before the BCP also experimented with local democracy. A network of village committees and grassroots economic development failed during the past six years due to widespread bureaucratic corruption.

However, analysts agree that Lesotho will have little economic leeway for large-scale reform given its present dependence on SA.

## Opposition

## front born

## in Lesotho

Star Africa Service

(167)

MASERU — Two political parties which contested the last elections in Lesotho have now joined forces with the Basotho National Party led by former Finance Minister, Chief Everistus Sekhonyana

They have already gone on the hustings to challenge the political stranglehold that the ruling Basotuland Congress Party has over the country

The United Party for Democracy and the United Democratic Party joined the BNP in a rally at the weekend where the three parties pledged to unseat the government of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle at the next election, scheduled for 1998

The three parties still believe the last elections were rigged



# World

LESOTHO

## Parties unite

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The United Party for Democracy and the United Democratic Party joined the BNP at a rally at the weekend where they pledged to unseat the government of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle at the next election, scheduled for five years from now *(167)*

Star 21/5/93  
**Water project on track** (68)

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project would not overrun its estimated capital cost of R5,9 billion, and water delivery from the project should start in January 1997 as scheduled, Minister of Water Affairs Japie van Wyk said last week, introducing his vote in Parliament. — Sapa. (67)

Star 21/5/93  
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Star 116193

# Stampede for meat

By Abdul Milazi

Hundreds of people went into a shopping frenzy at the opening of a rebel butchery in Edenvale yesterday, snapping up about 20 tons of cut-price meat in two hours

Four hours after the Farm to Family market opened its doors, the crowd outside grew in size as shoppers were allowed in in groups. Shelves were emptied as soon as they were packed

The Farm to Family meat market, the second of its kind in the country, was the branchchild of 500 Transvaal cattle farmers

who decided to sell directly to the public — cutting through the industry's red tape.

The first market was opened in Harrismith three months ago.

The farmers, working under the banner of the Organisation of Livestock Producers (OLP), are convinced they have broken the monopoly of giant meat-supplying bodies like Vleissentraal, Kanhym and Imperial Cold Storage, which control 80 percent of the industry

OLP chairman Nils Dittmer said his organisation aimed to undercut retail prices by 45 per-

cent. The opening of the Edenvale market was only the beginning, he said

The farmers are planning to establish five similar markets in Johannesburg alone by the end of next year

Shoppers Nancy van Huysteen and Shauna Brits of Bez Valley, who between them bought 40 kg of meat, said the market was a "marvellous" move

The Meat Board has said it will not interfere with the farmers' venture as long as the meat is slaughtered at an approved abattoir.

Star 116193

## BNP warns of sit-ins

MASERU — Lesotho's first democratic parliament in more than 23 years opens on Friday despite threats of sit-ins by the Basotho National Party (BNP)

BNP leader Chief Evaristus Sekhonyana has warned that his party would disrupt the opening of parliament where the Basotholand Congress Party has won all seats

The BNP still claims there were irregularities in the March elections, even though international observer groups declared the process free and fair — Star Africa Service.

A man had appeared in court on charges of fraud and corruption after investigations of alleged irregularities in certain Armscor contracts, Serious Economic Offences director J A Swanepoel said yesterday.

He said a former Armscor employee, a Mr Kyndell, had appeared

Star 116193

## Armscor man on fraud charges

in the Pretoria Regional Court. He was granted bail and would appear in court again at the end of next month

Advocate Swanepoel said Kyndell's appearance followed the con-

clusion of several investigations of alleged irregularities in Armscor dealings

One investigation, the contractual relationship between Armscor and Spescom, found no evi-

dence that an offence had been committed.

A third investigation, into irregularities in orders and purchases, had not revealed any offence by Armscor or its personnel, Swanepoel said — Sapa.

# Urgent application in ballot papers row

Star 216193

By Nomakhosi Jenness  
Star Africa Service

167

MASERU — The Basotho National Party yesterday brought an urgent application before the Lesotho High Court for the return to the office of the chief electoral officer of ballot papers for the constituencies in which the party disputes the results of the election.

In documents before Chief Justice Brendan Cullinan, the BNP claims the removal of the papers from the office of the electoral officer to the office of the principal secretary in the

ministry of law was irregular because the results in 29 constituencies were still in dispute.

The leader of the BNP Chief Evaristus Sekhonyana said that the principal secretary was responsible to the attorney-general, who has been cited as one of the respondents in the matter, and because his party believed that the envelopes containing the ballot papers had been tampered with, they sought a "casual inspection of the papers by the high court, the chief electoral officer and the BNP"

Judgment is expected today

*Sowetan*  
**Dispute goes  
to court** 3/6/93

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Star 4/6/93

# I killed in Lesotho, admits ex-SAP mole

By Zingisa Mkhuma

The Motsuenyane commission of inquiry into alleged ANC violations of dissidents' human rights yesterday heard how a former police informer shot and killed a "comrade" and took part in the killing of two others during a 1982 SADF raid into Lesotho.

Self-confessed police informer and Returned Exiles Committee chairman Patrick Hlongwane, in a video-taped interview, described how he had helped the SADF by pointing out ANC houses in Lesotho before taking part in the killings.

Hlongwane sat in front of the panel and watched the recording in silence.

In the taped interview, he

said he was among the people who raided the Matala area of Lesotho in December 1982 and described how in one house they found three "comrades", who were lined up against a wall before being shot.

He said he killed at least one of them with an R-1 rifle and was paid R500 on his return to South Africa.

Before the inquiry adjourned for the day, commission chairman Dr Sam Motsuenyane asked Hlongwane whether he had anything to say. Hlongwane said the people who took part in the killings were "professionals".

According to the tape, the raiders had a braai, drank beer and smoked dagga and Mandrax on the night of the raid.

The inquiry is continuing.

# A lesson learnt in Africa:

South Africa 516-916193

## 'Parties must believe they can win'

1671



A NUMBER of South Africans monitored and observed elections in Lesotho recently.

Among them was Mr Doug Anglin of the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

There were massive administrative breakdowns in Lesotho which could easily have compromised the election results, Anglin said.

Some of these were that at a number of polling stations ballots and ballot boxes had still not been delivered on the actual day of the elections.

Anglin told of seeing Basotho people from rural areas outside polling stations, sleeping under their blankets in the cold and waiting for the chance to vote.

"The system worked because the

people were determined," he said.

The landslide victory for the Basutholand Congress Party (BCP) proved that "you never know what the people are thinking until you ask them", Anglin said.

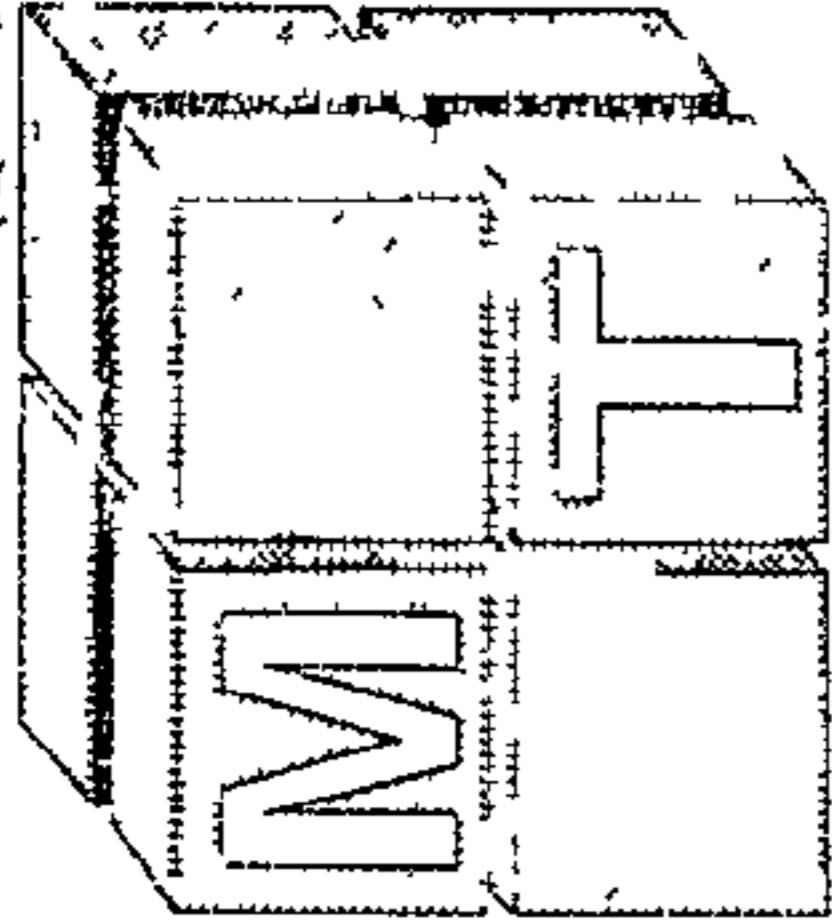
The criterion monitors used when ballots were counted was to establish whether "the intention of the voter" was clear.

"All sorts of marks were made,

but in most cases we were able to decipher the intention of the voters," Anglin said.

From his experience of monitoring elections in Lesotho and Namibia, Anglin drew the following wisdom "It is important that parties think they will win an election. If they don't, they either withdraw from the constitutional process or try to undermine it."

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JOINT PROJECT  
OF MATLA  
TRUST AND  
SOUTH



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# Soldier killed in Lesotho

Staff Reporter

A South African soldier was shot dead in Maseru when he and two other off-duty soldiers crossed the border between the Free State and Lesotho on Sunday, the SADF said yesterday.

SADF spokesman Commandant Maarten Lessing said the SADF was investigating the incident.

All three soldiers were from the 1 SA Infantry Battalion.

SADF spokesmen could not confirm reports quoting "security sources" that the three had allegedly crossed the border to visit a Maseru shebeen.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Jacques Malan said yesterday that information had been requested from Lesotho.

SA ambassador to Lesotho Gerhard Visser said last night he had not been able to get any information from police



Star b17/93

## Tembisa rent boycott

The indefinite Tembisa rent boycott will go ahead unless the council and police meet residents' demands this week regarding hostels in particular. A memorandum directed at the council said the community had been "harrassed, robbed and even killed by criminals residing illegally at Vusumuzi hostel" — Staff Reporter

## Gang steals R300 000

An armed gang stole about R300 000 in cash after holding up two staff members at SS Security in Vanderbijlpark yesterday, police said. According to police the pair were busy offloading a trunk containing the money at the security company's Vanderbijlpark branch when they were confronted by five men — Vereeniging Bureau

## Milestone at dam wall

Star b17/93

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project has reached a major milestone for 1993 with the pouring of the first concrete to raise the 185 m high wall of the Katse Dam, the centrepiece of the project — Staff Reporter

(167)

C

### Holomisa denies rift

UMTATA. — Transkei military ruler Major-General Bantu Holomisa has denied a weekend report that his relationship with the African National Congress is strained because of his alleged failure to crack down on Pan-Africanist Congress extremists. (S) ARG 20/7/93

### Tunnel nearly ready

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Construction of the Lesotho highlands water scheme's southern tunnel is expected to be completed within weeks, almost two years ahead of the planned completion date of April 1995. (S) ARG 20/7/93

### Bop university row

MMABATHO. — The students' representative council of the University of Bophuthatswana has attacked the decision by the university's council to delay the reopening of the institution. (S) ARG 20/7/93

● Reports by The Argus Correspondents and Sapa

Sowetan 20/7/93  
**Natal may expand borders**

A REQUEST that Griqualand East be allowed to remain part of Natal in the new dispensation has been submitted by the Durban Regional Chamber of Business to the Commission for Regional Demarcation.

In oral and written representations, the chamber also proposed that the part of Transkei known as the "Island of Umzimkulu" be incorporated into the Natal region and that the province should retain the coastal strip between Port Shepstone and Port Edward.

### Cops deny Kei border row

THE SAP yesterday denied they had stopped manning the South Africa-Transkei River border post, saying they had only withdrawn from the office of the Department of Interior to set up their own charge office 3km into the Republic.

Police spokesman Colonel Christo Louw said police had moved away from the border post last Thursday to set up a charge office "where the roadblock is being conducted".

"It is not true that we have withdrawn the roadblock. It is still in place," he said.

Sowetan 20/7/93  
**Lesotho scheme nears end**

CONSTRUCTION of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme's southern tunnel is expected to be completed within weeks, almost two years ahead of the planned completion date of April 1995 — Sowetan Correspondents and Sapa

167



## Lesotho Highlands Water Project ahead of schedule

YESTERDAY marked the completion, 20 months ahead of schedule, of the final length of the "bored" section of the delivery tunnel connecting the Muela Tailpond Dam in Lesotho with the Caledon River in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

The scheme will eventually supply water to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal region. The Water Affairs Department said during the advance of "delivery tunnel south" through the mountains, the tunnel boring machine had covered up to 82,9m in 24 hours.

"The best daily advance rate is equivalent to an average progress rate of nearly 3cm a minute"

The target date for completion of the contract was April 27 1995 and the delivery tunnel was scheduled to be commissioned in 1996.

"Remaining activities of the tunnel contract include the lining of sections of the bored tunnels and construction of syphons to cross below the Hololo and Ngoajane Rivers."

"Excavation work at the intake structure at Muela is complete. Concrete works will continue there for another 12 months" — Sapa

*Sowetan 1993*  
**BNP plea dismissed**

THE Basotho National Party's petition challenging the outcome of Lesotho's parliamentary general elections held earlier this year has been dismissed. The petitioners have been ordered to pay costs. (b7)

# State sued for R950m

JOHANNESBURG — A summons for nearly R950 million was instituted against the government in Pretoria yesterday for the loss of five mining leases owned by Swissbourn Diamond Mines in Lesotho in 1992.

The leases were cancelled when Lesotho wanted land for its Highlands Water Project, in which the SA government was also involved, the company's managing director Mr Josias van Zyl said. (167)

278/9/93  
Swissbourn is suing Lesotho for R60m for defamation and is waiting for an application against a rule enabling nationalisation without compensation. Should the application succeed, Swissbourn would sue Lesotho for R2bn, Mr Van Zyl said. He said the leases had been cancelled after the company agreed to drop an interdict against the nationalisation, on the understanding that a settlement would be reached.



## Prisoners want to vote

THE SOUTH African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights has called on the government to allow all sentenced prisoners and people in police custody to be allowed to vote in elections. **South**

Spokesperson Mr Golden Miles Bhudu said SAPOHR had established that white prisoners had been allowed to vote in the past elections. **10/9-14/9/93**

Approached for comment, the Department of Correctional Services said in previous elections prisoners in enfranchised race groups were allowed to vote in elections only if they were serving jail sentences for which there was the option of a fine. **(167)**

Prisoners awaiting trial could also vote, Colonel Danie Immelman confirmed. Reacting to the SAPOHR demand, Immelman said the Ministry of Home Affairs had to decide on any changes and would have Correctional Services' support.

## Election was 'free and fair'

THE BASOTHO National Party's petition challenging the outcome of Lesotho's parliamentary general elections earlier this year has been dismissed. **South**

The petitioners have been ordered to pay the cost of the court action. **10/9-14/9/93**

Handing down judgement, Lesotho chief justice Mr Justice Peter Brandon Cullinan said there was no doubt the elections were free and fair.

If rigging of elections was possible, as alleged, it would have applied in all 65 constituencies. Only 28 petitions had been filed. **(167)**

The Basotho National Party had sought to use the court for political gain, he said.

# Plan for R25bn water bond

DEVELOPERS of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project are planning to raise R25bn from the capital market over the next 25 years to fund the project's completion

The new bond would be issued later this year when an initial R500m would be raised, sources close to the project said

The amount would increase to about R5bn once the bond was established. About R25bn was expected to be raised over the next 25 years. *Biday*

A key element of the bond is that it carries a government guarantee — so it carries the same risk as conventional government debt and will therefore attract a favourable funding rate. *25/10/93*

Government sources said provision for the guarantee was included in the treaty signed by Lesotho and SA

The project, being built by the Lesotho

TIM MARSLAND

Highlands Development Authority and the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority, is required to supply water to the PWV area, whose social and economic upliftment it will assist. The first water from the project is due to reach the PWV area about 1996 when the initial phase is completed.

Most of the infrastructure on the Lesotho side is already in place

It is understood Standard Merchant Bank and Rand Merchant Bank will market the bond, which is being launched by Trans Caledon. *(167)*

Most of the funding so far has been raised from offshore finance and in the money market. However, PWV water users had also been paying a levy on their

To Page 2

## Water bond *Biday* *25/10/93* From Page 1

water to fund the project, Rand Water Board finance GM Alan Rorke confirmed. He said the levy had been increased to 18c/kl from October 1, from 14c/kl.

Government sources said the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority had been set up in terms of the treaty because the project was to be paid for by PWV water users and not taxpayers. *(167)*

Sources said the bond would mature in 2005, but new bonds would probably be

issued to replace the maturing paper.

The yield on the bond was likely to be better at first than those offered on similar government stocks.

Government sources said approval of the issue was still needed from Finance Minister Derek Keys

Dealers said the bond was likely to be attractive to foreigners because of its social responsibility content

# Water project to raise R25bn

(167)

AT 25/10/13

From TIM MALISLAND

JOHANNESBURG — The scope of the Eastern Highlands Water Project has expanded to raise R25bn from the capital market over the next 25 years, according to project specifications.

The project, which is being funded by the government, will be raised in 10-year tranches, said

The project will raise a total of R5bn once the bond is launched. About 12 billion per cent will be over the next 25 years.

## Guarantee

A key element of the project is that it carries a government guarantee. It carries the same risk as a commercial government bond, and the project attracts a similar rating.

Government guarantee is not a condition for the project, but it is included in the treaty.

The project is funded by the Eastern Highlands Development Authority and the Trans-Caledonians. The project is primarily a public-private partnership. The project is a social investment in the region.

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Most of the funding is to be raised in the money market. The project is being funded by the government.

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# Primary issue loan stock

Star 18/11/93

## ■ BUSINESS STAFF

The Lesotho Highlands Water Authority has announced a primary issue loan stock at a nominal value of R500 million to fund part of the ongoing project to transfer water to South Africa.

An interest rate of 12 percent is payable semi-annually over 12 years and the redemption value is 100 percent.

All applications, for a minimal nominal value of R1 million, are to be received by Standard Merchant Bank by noon on November 23.

The loan stock will be listed on the JSE and traded from November 24. (167)

# Dam to cost an initial R8bn

**BIDOM 19/11/93**  
THE first of five phases of the Lesotho Highlands water project, which would export water to SA and generate electricity in Lesotho, was expected to cost R8,4bn, a senior finance official said

Addressing analysts, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority treasury manager Tseko Bohloa said short-term finance for the first phase, expected to be completed in 1996, had already been secured.

At R4,8bn, funds from southern Africa's Common Monetary Area (CMA) accounted for 57% of the total, while water levies within SA made up 17%, or R1,5bn

Foreign funds accounted for 26%, or R2,1bn, of the total short-term financing requirement

However, as the project's life was expected to span more than 30 years, Bohloa said long-term financing was preferable

He was speaking at the launch of the first tranche of the project's primary issue loan stock, which is expected to raise R500m on the local capital market.

Further tap issues could raise up to R5bn for the project, he said (167)

The first phase is designed to deliver 18m<sup>3</sup> of water per second to SA, as well as generate 72 megawatts of hydroelectricity for Lesotho.

The phase includes construction of two dams, excavation of 82km of tunnel and construction of an underground power station. — Reuter.

# Giving up water for poor returns

Sowetan 19/11/93

■ **DRY HOPES** Lesotho Highlands (167)

*Water Project will fail to enrich Lesotho:*

**T**HE TINY, impoverished country of Lesotho perches in the mountains, entirely encircled by South Africa

Although the Basotho people have always managed to hold off complete takeover by their often aggressive neighbour, Lesotho lost its best farmland to Afrikaners in the 19th century

Unable to support its population from such a small and mountainous territory, Lesotho's main export has always been people, migrant miners working in South Africa. With the decline of the South African mining industry, Lesotho is to export its only other resource - water

South Africa already draws considerable water from rivers flowing into neighbouring states, sometimes running them dry. But even this was not enough, so South Africa turned to Lesotho

Negotiations for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project began in earnest after Chief Leabua Jonathan was kept in power as prime minister in 1970 in a South African-

backed coup after Jonathan lost an election. He later turned against his patrons and became a leading anti-apartheid figure. Negotiations on the LHWP were finally suspended in 1984. But South Africa imposed an economic blockade on Lesotho in early 1986 which resulted in Jonathan being deposed in another South African-backed coup

Within the year, the new government of Major General Metsing Lekhanya signed the water project treaty.

Work started in 1991. But the Basotho remained suspicious that their country's only worthwhile asset had been sold to their longtime enemy through the back door. In March this year, in Lesotho's first election since 1970, the government was overwhelmingly defeated by the Basotholand Congress Party of Ntsu Mokhehle, who had been backed by South Africa

LHWP consists of a series of dams, 220 km of tunnels and three pumping stations, which will divert the flow of the headwaters of the west-flowing Senqu or Orange River into the Lekoa, a tributary of the north-flowing Vaal. This will generate hydroelectric power for local consumption en route and deliver 70 000 litres of water per second to South Africa

as driving, child-minding and tea-making, many have brought workers with them

But thousands of hopeful job seekers moved into the construction area and, frustrated in their aim, are now living in poverty in dirty, dilapidated shanty towns which have taken over two original villages near the dam

The villages are already affected by a water shortage because the construction has closed off the nearest river. The invasion of strangers has made things far worse, aggravating housing shortages and sanitation problems and infectious diseases

The project will flood 11 000 hectares of arable land in a country which is already desperately short of land and overgrazed. This means no replacement land can be made available to displaced farmers. Instead, they will receive an allowance of 1 000 kg of maize for 15 years or, if they are cattle farmers, five years' supply of fodder

"You should not expect these farmers to live on maize alone. They used to grow maize, beans, peas, wheat and sorghum in-

their fields," said Rampati Pokaetse, an officer of the Commonwealth Journalists Association in Lesotho

But the costly scheme could create as many problems as it solves. Some have suggested that a smaller series of

dams could have been built for electricity generation and irrigation within Lesotho, especially in the parts flat enough for intensive agriculture. Although such a scheme would not earn as much as is expected in direct

payments from the LHWP, it would have contributed to more local development and employment

● Reprinted with permission from *Panoscope*, a development magazine from Panos Institute, London

## Tourist opportunities

The previous military government made Utopian claims for the project, saying the country would benefit not only from royalties paid by South Africa, but also from tourist opportunities, fish farming, improved communication and jobs

Although 3 000 temporary jobs have been generated during construction, only 200 permanent positions will be needed once the project is complete. Even the temporary posts have made hardly a dent in Lesotho's unemployment problem. Engineers, administrators, police and others are largely from South Africa. Instead of employing local Basotho for jobs such



# Plans for third hydro-electric dam draw flak

Star 27/11/93

**DUNCAN GUY**

**LIVINGSTONE** — A third hydro-electric dam could be built on the Zambezi River, 30 km downstream of Victoria Falls.

At maximum capacity, the proposed R10 billion Batoka Dam project would generate 1 600 MW for equal distribution to Zambia and Zimbabwe, according to the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), a parastatal owned jointly by the two countries.

"Environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies carried out to date indicate that the Batoka hydro-electric scheme has minimal negative environmental impact," the ZRA said.

The dam's backwaters would raise the average water level of the Silent Pool at Victoria Falls North Bank Power Station by 1 m.

However, Zambia's International Council of Monuments and Sites Committee, fearing the entire Batoka Gorge will be flooded, is lobbying the World Bank to withdraw funding for the project.

Whitewater rafting operator Charles Ross has criticised the ZRA for not sticking to its word about holding meetings for the public to comment on the parameters of the EIA.

The anti-dam lobby also claims conservation groups have been unable to get hold of the environment impact assessment report.

They say existing power stations could be refurbished to match the output of the proposed Batoka Dam and that neither Zambia nor Zimbabwe can afford such a costly project.

The ZRA, which will make a decision within the next few days, based on submissions from its board and a government ministers' council, could not be reached for comment. — Sapa

# Lesotho cuts links with Taiwan

Star 3/12/93

Maseru — The Lesotho government has ordered the closure of the embassy of the Republic of China by January 10, after Taipei diplomats allegedly tried to bribe four cabinet ministers.

Home Affairs Minister Lesao Lehohla and Transport and Communications Minister David Mochochoko are reported to have turned down the bribes.

However, the government Minister of Industry and Commerce, Shakhane Mokhehle and Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Ntsukunyane Mphanya had accepted, but later handed in the bribes of R98 000 and R49 000 respectively.

A source in the embassy said two Taipei envoys were given 24 hours' notice to leave the country. The ambassador, Tsung-Chun Kwei, was also asked to leave. He died two days after his return to Taiwan.

The first chancellor, Leroy Li, was also ordered to leave.

The severing of diplomatic ties has raised fears of pending unemployment for many Basotho working in Taiwanese-owned industries in the country. — Star Africa Service

# Medical service to Lesotho grounded after 26 years

SI Times

By DIANA STREAK

A MEDICAL air service which has served needy Lesotho citizens for 26 years has been grounded following the withdrawal of sponsorship by the giant Rembrandt Group.

A Cape Town team of two plastic surgeons, two anaesthetists and two theatre sisters flew to Maseru for the final series of operations last month.

The service was started in 1968 by the medical profession in support of Dr Anton Rupert's involvement as industrial adviser to Lesotho 12/12/93

"The service was originally intended to run for three years and eventually continued for 26 years," a Rembrandt spokesman said this week (16/7)

The spokesman said the service had been discontinued because new circumstances had dictated new priorities, "especially in our own communities".

About 10 visits took place every year during which various specialists from Cape Town operated on selected patients.

The medical teams visited Lesotho on a voluntary basis over weekends. They received no remuneration and all expenses were paid by Rembrandt.

Patients needing major operations would now probably have to travel to Bloemfontein if the Lesotho hospital did not have the facilities or expertise, another medical spokesman said



# Basotho press on leaderless

Star 22/12/93

The old man squints as he ponders my question while trying to get his pavement fire going, the smoke wafting into his face.

"Well," he declares finally, "I don't see much change. There is still no job, no food. No Things have not changed," he declares matter-of-factly.

Like the hundreds who now eke out an existence in the streets of Maseru by selling anything from a mug of coffee to cobs of corn, hopes of a change in fortune coming with a change in government have long since evaporated.

When the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) swept to power by winning all the constituencies during the March elections after years of military and, before that, one-party rule, many saw their vote as a vote for progress and prosperity.

They believed that Ntsu Mokhehle, for years denied a political role first by the Basotho National Party under Leabua Jonathan, then by military regimes, would be the saviour of the mountain kingdom.

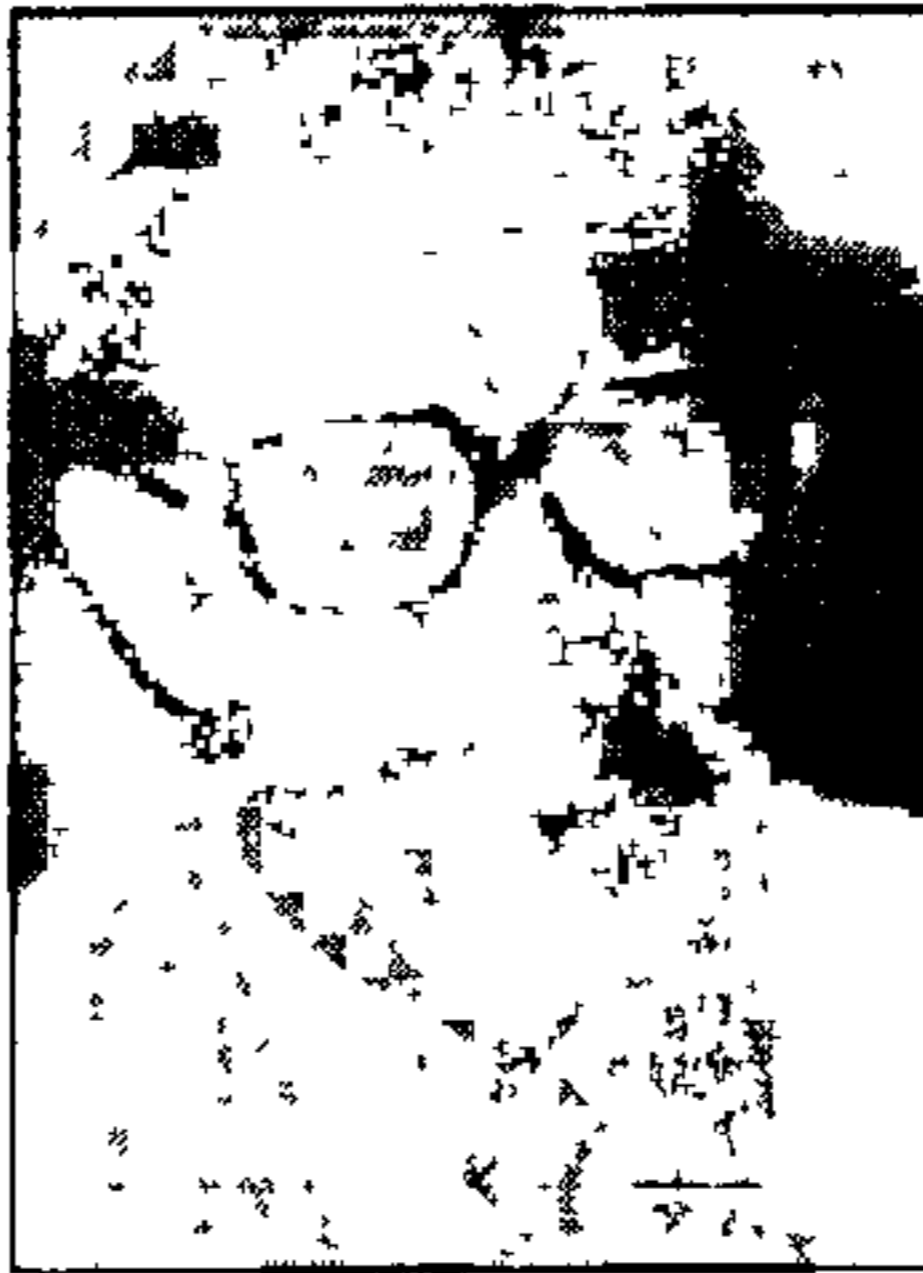
But after nine months in power, many are beginning to question whether the BCP government can deliver on its social and economic reconstruction promises. They have seen nothing tangible.

With the government working in near secrecy, and Mokhehle having virtually disappeared from public view, many Basotho are asking who actually runs Lesotho.

The description of the government's performance has ranged from "stagnant", "not addressing the issues" to "indecisive" and even "uncaring".

Soon after winning the election, the government acted swiftly to announce its Cabinet. But that was where the sense of urgency seemed to stop. It took the government another month before parliament was convened and another two months before principal secretaries were ap-

**BASOTHO** are slowly losing patience with the government of Ntsu Mokhehle (below). The honeymoon is over. Nomakhosi Jenness reports



pointed.

Parliament has also been, at best, pedestrian in its deliberations in the seven months that it has been sitting, with many suggesting that the government was content to maintain the status quo.

The salaries of parliamentarians have been increased from about R1 200 to about R4 000, while cabinet ministers' salaries were increased to between R6 000 and R7 000 a month.

While this move was criticised, the government argued that this was a necessary step as a disincentive to bribe-taking.

But it is in job creation and stimulating the economy that the government is seen to have failed.

Criticism has been levelled particularly at the Ministry of Employment, Trade, Commerce and Tourism. This department has to deal with the economy, at-

tracting investors into a country with limited resources and job creation. Lesotho has never been able to absorb the bulk of its labour resources, and is unlikely to do so in the future.

In the past, wage remittances from South African mines have provided more than half the country's gross domestic product, and per capita income is about R600. But the mines have been reducing the numbers of workers sharply, and this has had a serious impact on the economic life of Lesotho.

Along with labour and unemployment issues, the government has also to deal with increasing crime. Car thefts, robberies and rape are on the increase, leading the Lesotho Human Rights group to call for urgent government attention to the problem.

Another contentious issue is whether or not the BCP's armed wing during its struggle against the BNP government, the Lesotho Liberation Army, has been disbanded. The BNP has accused the BCP of keeping the army in readiness by giving it a new name, Security Lesotho, which ostensibly operates as a private company.

BNP leader Evaristus Sekhonjana has claimed that the BCP is keeping the unit operational in the event it loses power so that it can go back to the bush to relaunch an armed struggle.

The government insists that the former LLA members have "a right to employment", and says that it is not unusual for persons who had worked in the armed forces to join security companies. But this assurance seems not to have done much to allay the fears of many citizens.

The enthusiasm with which people supported the BCP seems to be waning, and as the government heads for its first anniversary in power, it is finding that turning election promises and expectations into reality is not going to be easy, particularly for a country with such a fragile economy.