

Every few years millions of them set off in a suicidal rush across the plains of Scandinavia into the sea.

Zoologists believe that this is due to overcrowding brought on by over-reproduction. In their research, psychologists have shown that the most marked result of stress caused by overcrowding amongst animals is the increased growth and activity of their adrenal glands which regulate the metabolism of the body.

Where stress is sustained over long periods it results in physical weakening, such symptoms as extreme rage and violence or extreme passivity or docility, sexual aberrations and a collapse of what we call "normal group behaviour".

This could explain the social disintegration of so many Black communities, also the enormously high rates of crime.

In Soweto there are nine police stations, 1 000 African policemen, 150 White policemen.

Fourteen months before the riots The Star put Soweto under the microscope in its series entitled "The Shadow City".

It examined the festering wounds of social disintegration and deprivation and warned of a developing "witches brew of racial hatred". Leaving the politics of the situation aside, a scientific survey was undertaken to determine the social disabilities of Sowetonians and what they themselves saw as their most urgent need.

The following priorities emerged, all of them relating to quality of life.

- The people of Soweto have a unanimous desire to own their own houses.
- They want more houses and better quality ones.
- More schools and creches — one million toddlers have 38 creches. Classes in schools are 50-70 in size and many children cannot get into school.
- More street lighting to penetrate the shadows where tsotsis lurk; more homes with electricity.
- University. They reject homeland universities as residential life is costly.

- Free choice of where to live instead of arbitrarily being allocated housing on an ethnic basis.

- Better roads and pavements, transport, shopping and sporting facilities — there still are no supermarkets in Soweto and so residents have to shop in central Johannesburg.

- More cinemas. There are still only two cinemas plus a hall used as a cinema.

Other major grouses were insufficient police protection against thugs, the shortage of restaurants and hotels, the need for bathrooms in the houses.

It is obvious from this survey that the growth and encouragement of a stable middle class with stable home ownership was the surest way to reduce tension. But nothing was done and the toll has been tragic.

There have been two positive responses to date:

The language issue was settled and the 30-year lease on home ownership was dropped.

On August 19, 1976, the Government dropped the time limit on the lease granted under the *Urban Home Ownership Scheme* — a move regarded by the Blacks as significant recognition of their permanence in the urban areas.

Africans will now be able to buy or build homes in urban townships on "indefinite" period leases. Also homeland citizenship is no longer necessary as a prerequisite to buying a home.

Two schemes are available for people who want to build their own homes and for people who want to buy their existing homes.

Those urban dwellers who work for affluent or *enlightened employers will benefit.*

Several large companies have already indicated they will help their employees to build or buy their homes.

The urban dweller has proved conclusively to be the achilles heel of the grand plan of separate development. The Black Sash and opposition parties have consistently warned the Government who, in their wisdom, have ignored all the danger signals.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of two aged members of our local branch of the Black Sash in East London, namely MISS BRUTON and MISS FALES.

They were lifelong friends, passing to rest within a month of each other, sharing the same convictions in matters of justice and truth as revealed to them.

Their lives devoted to the Sunday School movement, they gave time and all they could spare specially to the children of the poor in our community.

In seeking a tribute to their long life of service to others in the simple definition "fond faithful". Surely in these times when injustice and inhumanity are rife, this is not to have lived in vain.

Miss McFarlane