

ENVIRONMENT — 1996.

MAY — JULY.

Kempton Park hazardous waste site gets rezoning green light

(56) ARG 1/5/96

Staff reporter.

THE PROPOSED Chloorkop hazardous waste disposal site near Kempton Park has been given the green light by a Townships Board recommendation to go ahead with rezoning.

But the recommendation must be passed on to the Gauteng Provincial Legislature that has the final word on the site's future.

A lengthy Townships Board hearing has recommended the R12-million site should be appropriately rezoned to landfill toxic, hazardous and industrial waste, despite ongoing objection from residents.

The rezoning ruling is seen as a major breakthrough in alleviating pressure on Gauteng's only other operating

hazardous waste site. EnviroServ's controversial Holfontein site near Springs.

The site has prompted concern from authorities that it cannot contain the amount of waste which it is accepting and has experienced problems with leaking walls.

Although EnviroServ is adamant it can handle the vast inflow from Gauteng's industries, it has been criticised for taking in too much liquid waste.

In a statement, Waste-tech said hazardous waste disposal prices in Gauteng had increased by up to 300% since the closure of its Margolis hazardous waste site near Germiston last year.

The Chloorkop site was approved by the Kempton Park City Council in 1992, but

an administrative error led to a zoning dispute with the neighbouring Midrand Council and various other objectors.

The Kempton Park/Tembisa Metropolitan Sub-Structure subsequently refused to rezone the property, prompting an appeal by Waste-tech that has now been successful.

Waste-tech said in a statement the Townships Board ruling was a "vindication" of the company's selection criteria when the site was identified in 1985.

It also vindicated the granting of an operating permit in 1993 by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the statement said.

Responding to objectors' concerns during the Appeal process, the Townships Board has laid down about 30 condi-

tions which have to be satisfied before the operation on the site can proceed.

The company said it had no objection to these conditions, covering a range of administrative, legal, technical and consultative issues.

"But a detailed study is required to assess their practicality and impact on the commercial viability of the site," it added.

Before Waste-tech can commission the site, its legal position must be finalised.

The company said this decision would be influenced by the views of government and industry, the needs of the market, the implications of enforcing the conditions laid down by the Townships Board, and the views of the host community.

African fauna gets a boost as wildlife (56) bodies unite

ARG # 1/5/96
Argus Correspondent

HARARE. - Wildlife in Africa has been given a boost by the formation of an alliance of wildlife societies linking southern, central and east Africa.

Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa have formed the Alliance of Wildlife Societies of Africa (Awlswa) here after a meeting of wildlife society heads.

Dave Hatton, president of the Wildlife Society of South Africa, said that within the wildlife and conservation societies in the countries represented there was an influential group of people with immense skills, knowledge and experience in wildlife conservation and environmental issues on the sub-continent.

"This collective knowledge will now be pooled and shared through a structured communications network covering the entire region.

"Instead of individuals going to international congresses and representing a single society or country, Awlswa can speak with one voice."

Mr Hatton said wildlife societies in Madagascar and the western Indian Ocean islands would be invited to join.

Negotiations would be opened with Mozambique to resurrect their wildlife society.

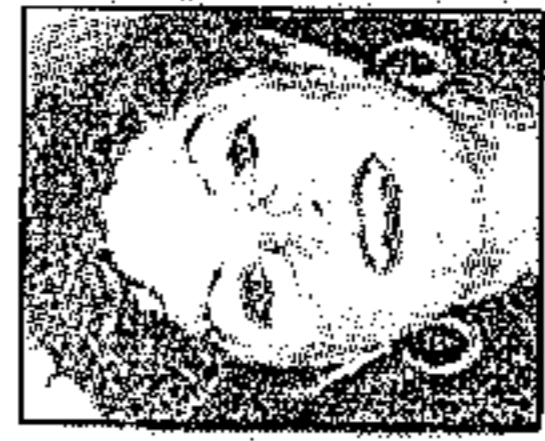
He said that through conservation "we are all involved in the social, economic, political and environmental issues which contribute to meeting basic human needs such as clean water, fruitful soil and the sustainable use of natural resources".



ALL I NEED IS THE AIR THAT I BREATHE: Does Cape Town have the expertise, the money and the political will to combat its air pollution problem? And if not, what will the costs be to our health, natural environment and tourist industry?

PICTURE: ANDREW BROWNA

Counting the costs of polluting our air



AS THE familiar winter smog settles on Cape Town, Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING asks why we are so complacent about it.

THE Hottentots Holland mountains disappeared yesterday. So did Bellville Hill, Melkbosstrand and even Robben Island. City commuters driving over De Waal Drive had to accept on faith that these landmarks were still there — buried behind a blanket of dirty brown pollution.

"It's just that time of year again", people say — "temperature inversions, no wind, so the pollu-

tion builds up. But it'll go as soon as it rains/the wind blows/summer comes."

Have we come to accept that from April to September we have to live with the brown smog every warm, windless day? And what are the costs of doing so?

Dr Petro Terblanche of the CSIR says urban air pollution is one of the most serious health problems facing South Africa. The single major source of urban air pollution

is motor vehicle emission. She says a healthy adult exposed to 10-35ppm of carbon monoxide in the air for four to eight hours will absorb enough of the gas to inactivate 5% of his haemoglobin — the same effect as smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

The huge number of people in squatter camps who use open fires to cook on and to heat their homes also contribute to the pollution. Those of us who may feel smug that we don't, because we use "clean" electricity, are wrong. We simply cause air pollution else-

where — mainly in Mpumalanga. UCT's Mr Clive van Horen, who has studied electricity generation and its health impacts, says one of his major findings was that

the price of electricity did not include the costs to society — particularly the health costs.

He estimates health costs resulting from electricity generation could be as high as R800 million a year.

A "new" cost of air pollution that Cape Town must consider is the impact on tourism. The major thing Cape Town has to sell to foreign tourists is its scenery. Imagine a tour guide saying: "Trust me, behind that brown haze is the famous Table Mountain," or "You can't actually see it today, but Robben Island is somewhere out there in the smog." Not a big seller.

The authorities say they are monitoring the pollution. The aca-

demics say they are studying it. No one says they are taking steps to stop it.

The city council agrees that air pollution in greater Cape Town has got steadily worse since the early 80s, mainly because of population growth, industry and the increased number of motor vehicles.

But they say they cannot change things until they know the exact causes, and for that they must wait for the academics to finish their studies.

Fair enough. But then, assuming the studies say our air pollution is caused primarily by smoke from domestic fires, from industry and from motor vehicle emissions (one hopes there isn't some unknown air pollution "third force" they will

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Cool weather on the way

LISA TEMPLETON

DON'T let the unusual balmy weather this month lull you into believing that the Indian summer will continue forever. Winter is definitely on its way — this afternoon rain clouds are expected and temperatures will drop.

The weatherman says April has been unusually dry, with 33mm of rain falling at the airport compared with an average of 55mm for April, and temperatures soared to 35°.

Rain is expected this afternoon and the predicted maximum temperature is 21°. Tomorrow and Friday should be clear, with low temperatures.

(5b) CT/15/96

Waste dumping to go ahead at Chloorkop

Star 1/5/96

(56)

Waste-Tech claims Township Board's decision is vindication of its criteria for selection of sites

The proposed Chloorkop hazardous waste disposal site near Kempton Park has been given the green light by a Townships Board recommendation to have the site rezoned.

But the recommendation must be passed to the Gauteng provincial legislature which will have the final word on the site's future.

A lengthy board hearing has recommended the R12-million site should be appropriately rezoned to landfill toxic, hazardous and industrial waste, despite ongoing objections from residents.

The rezoning ruling is seen as a major breakthrough in alleviating pressure on Gauteng's only other operating hazardous waste site, EnviroServ's controversial Holfontein site near Springs.

The site has prompted concern from authorities that it cannot contain the amount of waste which it is accepting. It has also experienced problems with leaking walls.

Although EnviroServ is adamant it can handle the vast inflow from Gauteng's industries, it has been criticised for taking in too much liquid waste.

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The Chloorkop site was approved by the Kempton Park City Council in 1992, but an administrative error led to a zoning dispute with the neighbouring Midrand Council and various other objectors.

The Kempton Park/Tembisa Metropolitan Substructure subsequently refused to rezone the property, prompting an appeal by Waste-Tech that has now been successful.

Waste-Tech said in a statement the Townships Board ruling was a "vindication" of the company's selection criteria when the site

was identified in 1985. It also vindicated the granting of an operating permit in 1993 by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the statement said.

Responding to objectors' concerns during the appeal process, the Townships Board has laid down about 30 conditions for the operation of the site.

The company said it had no objection to these conditions, covering a range of administrative, legal, technical and consultative issues. "But a detailed study is required to assess their practicality and impact on the commercial viability of the site," it added.

Before Waste-Tech can commission the site, its legal position must be finalised. The company said this decision would be influenced by the views of Government and industry, the needs of the market, the implications of enforcing the conditions laid down by the board, and the views of the community. - Staff Reporter.

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. - A large area near Hammarsdale has been evacuated in fear of pollution, after a tanker and trailer carrying liquid gas overturned on the N3 and burst into flames.

The tanker exploded sending flames shooting about 30 metres into the air and across both carriageways of the road.

The accident happened at about 4am yesterday when the tanker, carrying a methane-based liquid gas to Maritzburg, went out of control and overturned on the Sterkspruit bridge.

The tanker's driver escaped with only a slight back injury, but as gas was leaking from the vehicle the emergency services thought it might explode.

"We evacuated everybody, both residents and people in vehicles, from the area within a 2-km radius before it exploded," said Gary Hinrichsen, a spokesman for the provincial traffic police.

"So far only the main tanker has exploded and the trailer - we think it is carrying another type of gas - has gone down into the river bed.

"The Department of Water Affairs is here and will check on possible pollution of the

Pollution fear after liquid gas explosion

river as soon as they can get close enough."

Mr Hinrichsen said flames from the tanker had subsided greatly since it exploded.

"It seems to be burning itself out and we don't really expect any trouble from the trailer.

"The fire fighters have been able to move in much closer since the flames have died down."

He said remnants of gas in the area could delay the open-

ARG 2/5/96

ing of the road.
"Rescue teams at the tanker are still wearing breathing apparatus."

Firemen from Durban with specialist equipment to deal with hazardous materials flew to the scene, although the tanker and its lethal contents had exploded just before they touched down.

"We are now waiting for the main tanker to stop burning before we move in," said a

spokesman for Durban Fire and Emergency Services.

"We will then try to seal the smaller tanker, which is leaking," he said.

Dianne Naicker, public relations officer for the Durban emergency service, said:

"One of our helicopters went to pick up an analyser, used to determine the amount of gas in the air around the scene of the accident, from the Durban Fire Department and flew it to the scene.

"Depending on the analysis, we will decide whether the area has to be evacuated or not."

The cab of the tanker was burning fiercely, but fire teams kept their distance and were waiting for the truck to burn out.

The tank carrying the inflammable liquid had detached itself from the truck and lay about 10 metres from the vehicle.

The incident happened opposite a children's home but as yet no reports have been received of any injuries from the home.

Heavy vehicles were backed up for almost four kms on either side of the evacuated area while light vehicles were being diverted.

Mine effluent destroys major Gauteng wetland

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: An internationally recognised wetland on the Blesbokspruit near Springs is being destroyed by a daily dose of one hundred million litres of contaminated mine water.

In a classic conflict between conserving the environment and protecting jobs, the cabinet decided in November to allow Randgold's Grootvlei Gold Mine to pump contaminated water out of

its Number Three shaft.

The decision ensured the continued operation of Grootvlei and three other marginal mines in the area, retaining 6 562 jobs in mining and support industries and preventing the loss of about R300 million in income to the mine owners and the state.

But the water's high metal and salt content is destroying Gauteng's only internationally-recognised wetland.

Outraged residents bordering

the wetland have vowed to take both the government and Grootvlei management to court.

Anglo American, which owns about half the land in the area, said it would co-operate with other landowners. "That discharge is taking place on our property and nobody asked us if we minded," said Anglo ecologist Dr Gouche Smuts.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry officials have yet to determine the extent of the dam-

ET 2/5/96

age, but already plant life and fish have been found dead and bird and mammal life has markedly decreased.

The contaminated water also enters the Vaal Barrage where it is used for drinking water, and affects agricultural land irrigation downstream. The pollution level in the water is double that stipulated by the mine's pumping permit granted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Last month the cabinet decided

(56)

the government would help fund a settler facility to remove the suspended metals in the water. But this measure will only come into effect in seven to eight months and will not reduce the high salt content of the water.

The mine has said it would not stop pumping while the settler facility is being constructed.

Chief geologist Mr Trevor Welbourne said Grootvlei was acting "as an agent of the state" under the mandate of the cabinet decision.



Effluent ... damaging the sensitive wetland.

Gold mine says it is being made scapegoat

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The Grootvlei gold mine says it is being made the scapegoat of a regional problem.

The mine is pumping 100 million litres of contaminated water into the sensitive Blesbokspruit wetland near Springs each day.

According to Grootvlei mine chief geologist Trevor Wel-

bourne, there is a vast but contaminated water source underlying the entire Springs area.

About 1m deep, the underground basin covers almost 1 000sq km.

It is this water that threatens to flood the four marginal mines in the area, and for which Grootvlei has taken the responsibility of pumping.

Grootvlei itself contributes

only 7 million litres of water per day to the total pumped, says Welbourne.

The remaining 93 million litres fill the basin each day from surface runoff.

The water is highly contaminated by iron and other underground metals.

Until 1991, this water was pumped into another source. But in five years, no measures

have been put in place to decontaminate the water or find alternative uses for the huge underground water source.

Today, pumping is essential for the mines' continued existence.

But the sensitive Blesbokspruit wetland is turning red, fish and plants are dying, and rare birds and mammals are leaving the area.

Gauteng wetland at risk from pollution

Contaminated mine water pumped from Grootvlei mine after cabinet decision

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

An internationally recognised wetland on the Blesbokspruit near Springs is being destroyed by a daily dose of 100 million litres of contaminated mine water.

The Cabinet decided in November to allow Randgold's Grootvlei gold mine to pump contaminated water out of its No 3 shaft.

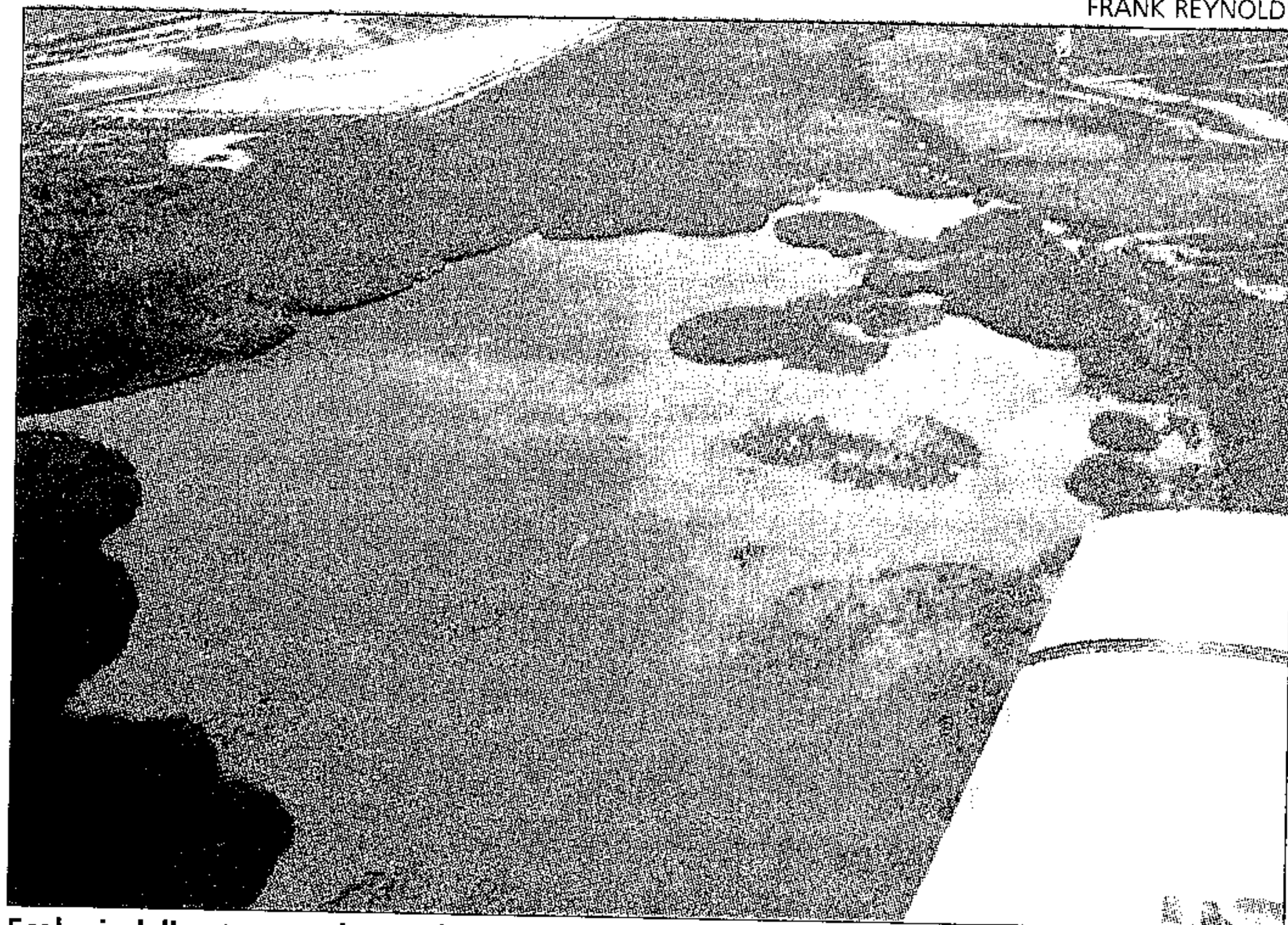
The decision ensured the continued operation of Grootvlei and three other marginal mines in the area, retaining 6 562 jobs in mining and support industries and preventing the loss of about R300-million in income to the mine owners and the state.

But, at huge environmental cost, the water's high metal and salt content is destroying Gauteng's only internationally recognised wetland, downstream of the mine. The wetland includes the famous Marievale bird sanctuary.

Last month the Cabinet decided the Government would help to fund a settler facility to remove the suspended metals in the water that most directly affect marine life in the wetland and have turned the water red. But this measure will come into effect only in seven or eight months and will not reduce the water's high salt content. Residents have dismissed the settler facility as "window-dressing".

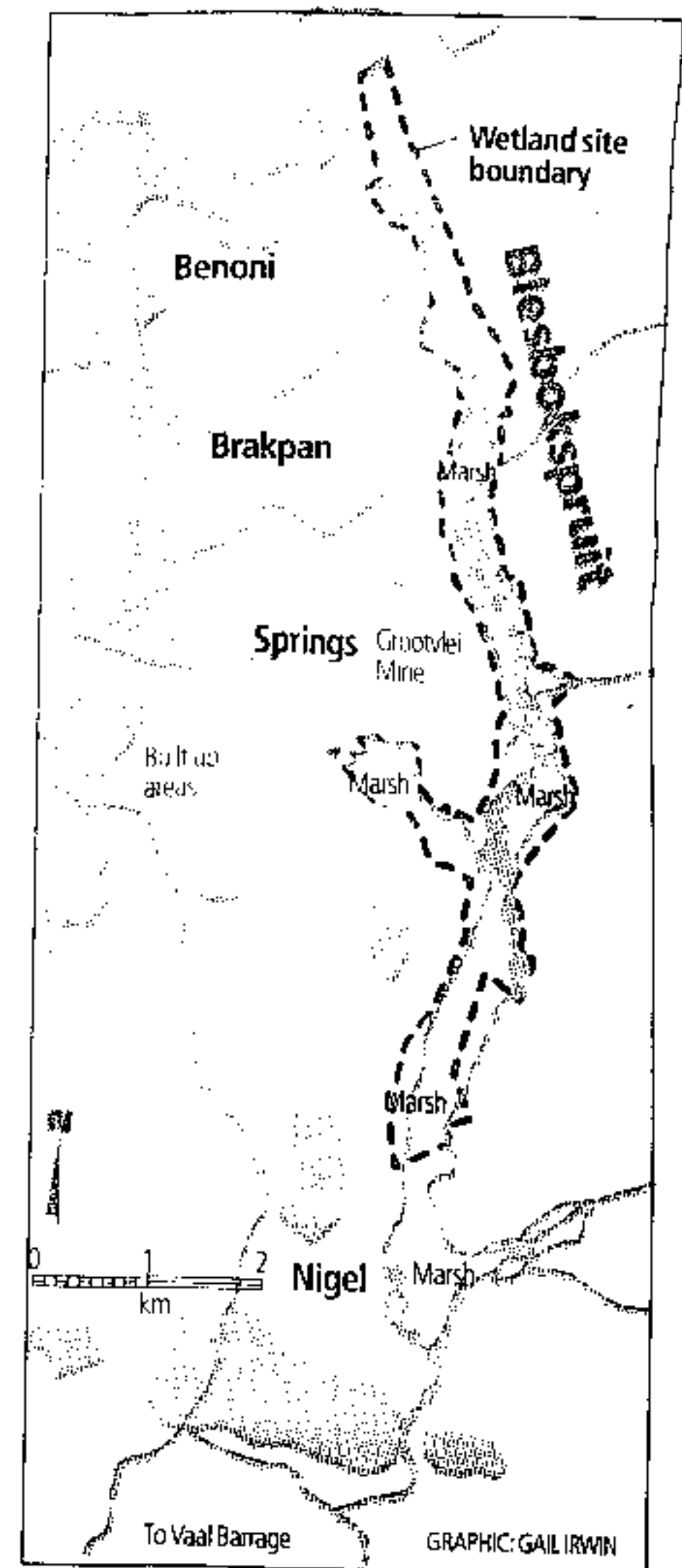
Outraged residents bordering the wetland have vowed to take both the Government and Grootvlei management to court in what they describe as an environmental disaster and a flagrant disregard by the Government of its own law.

Anglo-American, which owns



Ecological disaster ... a plume of contaminated reddish water discolours the crystal-clear Blesbokspruit wetland from a mine pumping station (left).

FRANK REYNOLDS



about half the land in the area, said it would co-operate with other landowners and was looking at its legal options.

"It is quite clear the situation is out of control. That discharge

Over 6 500 mining jobs saved

is taking place on our property and nobody asked us if we minded," said Anglo ecologist Dr Gouche Smuts.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry officials have yet to determine the extent of the dam-

age, but plantlife and fish have already been found dead and bird and mammal life has markedly decreased.

All four government departments involved are seriously concerned, say spokesmen. However, their legal powers have been curtailed because of a cabinet decision to allow pumping.

The contaminated water also enters the Vaal Barrage, where it is used for drinking water, and affects agricultural land irrigation downstream. The pollution level in the water in the wetlands is double that stipulated by the mine's pumping permit granted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The department warned in November that if water quality did not improve, the mine would be closed. In spite of this, the department has yet to take action against the mine, al-

Plantlife and fish found dead

though it said this week this was now being considered.

Springs Wildlife Society spokesman Stan Madden, who has spent 33 years conserving the wetland, said it was in the process of being destroyed.

Gauteng's recent high rainfall diluted the water pumped into the wetland since last year, and the impact on the wetland went unnoticed. But for the past two weeks, residents have watched thick, red-brown water spreading rapidly from the mine's pumping station into the wetland. Crystal-clear water has been transformed to murky red.

The mine has said categorically it would not stop pumping while the settler facility is being constructed.

The Gauteng department of conservation and environment intends taking the issue up with the Government. MEC Aboc Kahn will view the spruit from a helicopter this week.

LAST DUNES AT STAKE AS MILNERTON COUNCIL DECIDES ON DEVELOPMENT

Secret meeting to decide on lagoon

CT6/5/96

THE PUBLIC is to be barred when the Milnerton council decides whether to approve, in the face of wide opposition, development of the last piece of strandveld. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

HARRY the Strandloper may have sat there. Jan van Riebeeck could have ridden past it. This week the Milnerton council is to meet behind closed doors to decide its fate.

"It" is the last significant remnant of West Coast strandveld in the metropolitan area.

The Milnerton council is to decide on Wednesday whether to give the go-ahead for the Lagoongate Waterfront, a controversial R200-million Milnerton lagoon mouth development comprising a hotel, residential units and a shopping complex.

The proposed development on

I changed my mind 100%.
"This is the last coastal dune and strandveld left in the whole of Table Bay. We owe it to future generations to preserve this little piece of what once covered the whole area."

The Milnerton council should have carried out an environmental impact assessment and decided, on the basis of the findings, how the land should be used, Fassman said.

The council was trying to "bulldoze" the project through as one of its last actions before the elections, he said. Councillors voted last week to exclude the public from Wednesday's meeting.

"They are going to sell it for R12-million, but so far no money has changed hands, so it is still public space," Fassman said. "Once it has gone, there is no second chance."

The residents' association and other organisations, who have joined forces under the umbrella of Concerned Parties, believe the dunes should be upgraded, conserved and used for public education and recreation.

At least two of the plants growing among the dunes are included in the Red Data list of species that are recognised internationally as being under threat.

The co-ordinator of the Botanical Society's search and rescue project, Ms Lee Jones, said that as South Africa had ratified the Convention of Biological Diversity, the onus was on government at all levels — including local government — to conserve threatened plant species.

In a letter to the council, Ms Linda Isaacs of the ANC's environment desk

said that the decision should be held in abeyance until after the local elections.

"The monetary considerations appear to take precedence over environmental rights. Is this development justifiable?" Isaacs said.

The WWF's chief executive, Dr John Hanks, has written to the council expressing concern that the development could affect the natural processes governing the ecological integrity of Rietvlei.

"If the biological and habitat diversity of Rietvlei were to be jeopardised in any way, the efforts to have the system protected as a metropolitan wetland reserve could well lose much of their meaning," Hanks said.

● Milnerton's town clerk, town secretary and town engineer were not available for comment.

Ecotourism under-utilised'

56 (238) ARG 7/5/96

PORT ELIZABETH. - Ecotourism had the biggest job creation potential in the Eastern Cape, but was the most under-utilised, Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus has said.

She was addressing the Investment and Business Linkages Conference in Port Elizabeth.

Another speaker, Development of South Africa general manager Johan Kruger, cited the lack of infrastructure as the biggest reason for the failure of developing nations.

He said many parts of the Eastern Cape had infrastructures which had to be subsidised by the government.

A formula should be found by government by which infrastructure would be provided.

Ms Marcus said the government did not have money, but what money the government did have came from the people and should be well spent. - Sapa.

Resident to lay charges

Over Signal Hill litter

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

A Bo-KAAP resident is so infuriated that people are frequently dumping garbage and rubble on the slopes of Signal Hill that he has decided to lay charges against some of the offenders.

Sulaiman Samaai, who is active in the community, said several Bo-KAAP residents had no respect for their natural surroundings and were dumping refuse and other debris along the road leading up to the mountain.

He claimed that recently even the police had dumped a dead dog on the slopes.

"What the residents and other people guilty of dumping dirt on the mountain do not realise is that Signal Hill forms part of the environmentally sensitive mountain chain, and we cannot allow dumping to continue.

"Along Military Road, the road leading up to the navy's base from where they fire the Noon Gun, litter and refuse is strewn all around.

"And last week, the police dumped a dog near the entrance to one of the shooting ranges after killing the animal."

Mr Samaai said the dog was run over by a car in Buitengracht Street and was seriously injured. He alleged a police van then picked up the stricken animal, took it to Signal Hill and shot it before dumping it among the trees.

"This is the second dead dog that has been left in front of the shooting range and already some of the residents are accusing members of the shooting club of doing the dumping."

Police spokeswoman Vrienne Lentoor said it was not the police's policy to go around dumping refuse or dead dogs on any sites not meant for dumping.

"We appeal to the public to get as many details as possible of the personnel involved and to report such incidents to their nearest police station.

"Only in this way can we deal with this type of behaviour," Sergeant Lentoor said. Mr Samaai said a member

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of the shooting club also witnessed one of the residents dumping a "huge pile" of rubbish on the mountain and that they had now decided to institute legal action against the resident.

"We have had enough of this and other people coming up into the area to dump their garbage and have informed the Cape Town City Council about it.

"They removed the dog and some of the other garbage but we want them to take legal action against those caught dumping on the mountain."

A council spokesman said it was illegal for people to dump their rubbish on the mountain, along any roads or in open fields, and that strong action would be taken against those found guilty.

She said people should continue to report incidents of dumping to the council and should copy down the number plates of the offenders' motor vehicles.

"Offenders will be heavily fined if they are caught breaking the law," she said.



HEALTH HAZARD: Sulaiman Samaai of Bo-KAAP discovers the source of a foul smell, a dead dog, which he claims was dumped there by the police.

Cheaper electricity – yes but at what cost to health?

ARC 7/5/96

56

100

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

A DECISION to put the Athlone power station back on line has come under fire from residents of surrounding residential areas because they fear that pollution associated with coal-fired power stations will affect their health.

A delegation from Pinelands, Langa and Athlone – the three residential areas clustered in the vicinity of the power station – addressed a meeting of the city's amenities and health committee on their concerns yesterday. They have enlisted the help of the Legal Resources Centre to push for a public participation process, and for proper environmental monitoring in all surrounding residential areas.

The committee, which was holding its last meeting prior to the May 29 election, resolved that the matter should be taken up by the next council, but heard the objectors out.

William Kerfoot, from the LRC, said his clients were concerned about the lack of a public participation process because, although the power station was not a new project, bringing it back into operation was a significant departure from the past 10 years when it was not in use.

"We would have thought the Cape Town City Council should have felt it was important to embark on public participation. Why was this not done? What is the policy in matters of this magnitude?" he queried.

Mr Kerfoot also asked whether the council had considered an environmental impact assessment before bringing the power station back into full production, and whether there was any study focusing on the potential pollution to the greater Cape Town area.

Finally, Mr Kerfoot asked why the council had not made further representations to Eskom in an effort to bring down the cost of peak-time electricity, the chief reason for the use of the Athlone power station.

Brian Watkyns, a Pinelands councillor, suggested that residents had already begun to feel the health effects of the power station, based on letters he had got from people complaining of respiratory problems.

He also queried the safety

standards being practised at the power station with regard to asbestos.

Simpiwe Mbuli, of the Langa Development Forum, said residents of Langa, where there was a high incidence of tuberculosis, feared that the power station would further compromise their health.

While the power station could provide cheaper electricity, he was concerned that the people of Langa would "pay indirectly" with their health.

City electrical engineer Fred Berwyn-Taylor said it was not correct to imply that the council was unconcerned, because it had put steps in place to keep a close watch on the power station.

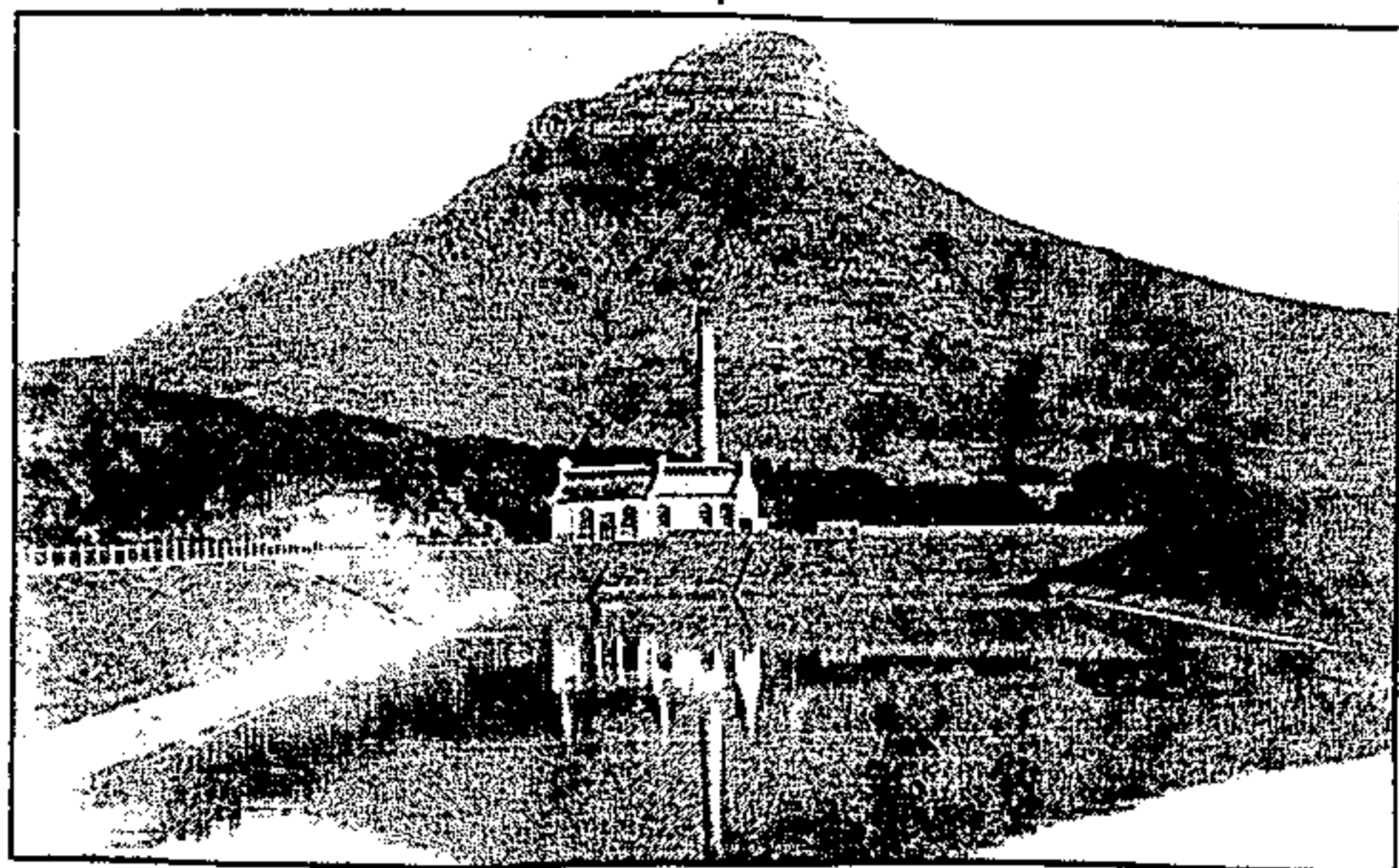
He said the Athlone plant was in good condition, and he believed it would be operating well within prescribed limits.

On public participation, he said he had always regarded the Athlone power station as part of his operational responsibility.

"I felt there were no new issues to be raised. It would be within limits. It was not an issue of public interest in my mind."

With regard to asbestos, Mr Berwyn-Taylor said the power station was complying with all safety requirements. Asbestos was a substance which had been widely used in society, but now the dangers were being realised. Large sections within the power station would have to be replaced, and the council was dealing with those areas where it was most urgent.

"I don't believe there is any danger."



Pictures: THE CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL.
FIRST STATION: The Moltenc Power Station was the first to produce electricity for Cape Town.

Marcus praises ecotourism

BD 7/5/96

PORT ELIZABETH — Ecotourism had the biggest job-creation potential in the Eastern Cape but was the most under-utilised sector there, Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus said yesterday.

Marcus was addressing the Investment and Business Linkages Conference in Port Elizabeth. Another speaker, Development Bank of South Africa GM Johan Kruger, cited the lack of infrastructure as the biggest reason for the failure of developing nations.

He said government should provide the infrastructure. Marcus told the conference that government did not have money, and the money the government did have came from the people and should be well spent.

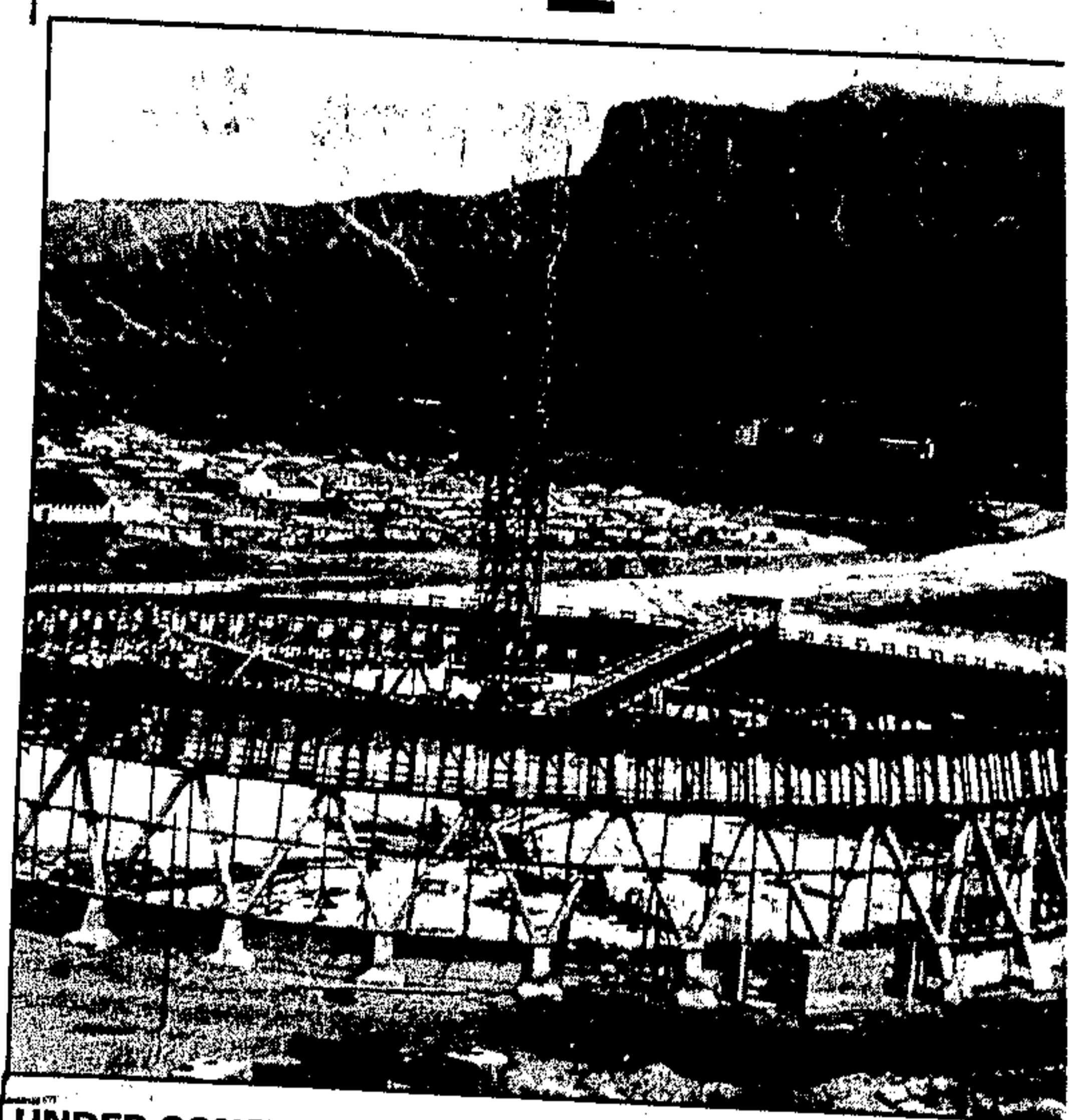
Referring to fraud in the province, Marcus said it should be contained through proper control measures. — Sapa.

(56)

Residents tear powe

56

ARG. 7/5/96



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: The massive cooling tower of the Athlone Power Station slowly takes shape in 1958; today it is a common sight on the landscape.

Council decision

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

THE controversial Cape Town City Council decision to fire up the Athlone Power Station, which has been on cold stand-by for the past decade, has stirred more than the dust now being emitted from the station's chimneys. A council report says the electricity supplied by the station during the periods when there is a high demand for power will save the residents of

Cape Town millions of rands on their electricity bills.

But residents living in areas surrounding the plant say the pollution the power station is producing cannot be measured in rands, and that there are also other hidden costs which the council is not revealing.

For the past 35 years the power station's imposing towers have dominated the Cape Flats landscape, and residents living near it could easily tell the wind direction by watching the way its smoke blew.

Then 10 years ago the power station was placed on cold stand-by, and the smoke and the noise of the turbines stopped.

But inside the complex workers kept the boilers and other machinery in a constant state of readiness.

The ever-increasing flow of people into the Cape metropole demanding cheap electricity ensured that the power station was never shut down.

And today the power station's towers are again spewing out steam and helping to keep the city's electricity bill down, much to the consternation of the nearby residents in Langa, Pinelands and Athlone.

They say that in spite of the

modification of power station of sound measure air pollution the plant available level

Athlone coal-fired there will noise generated process of turbines.

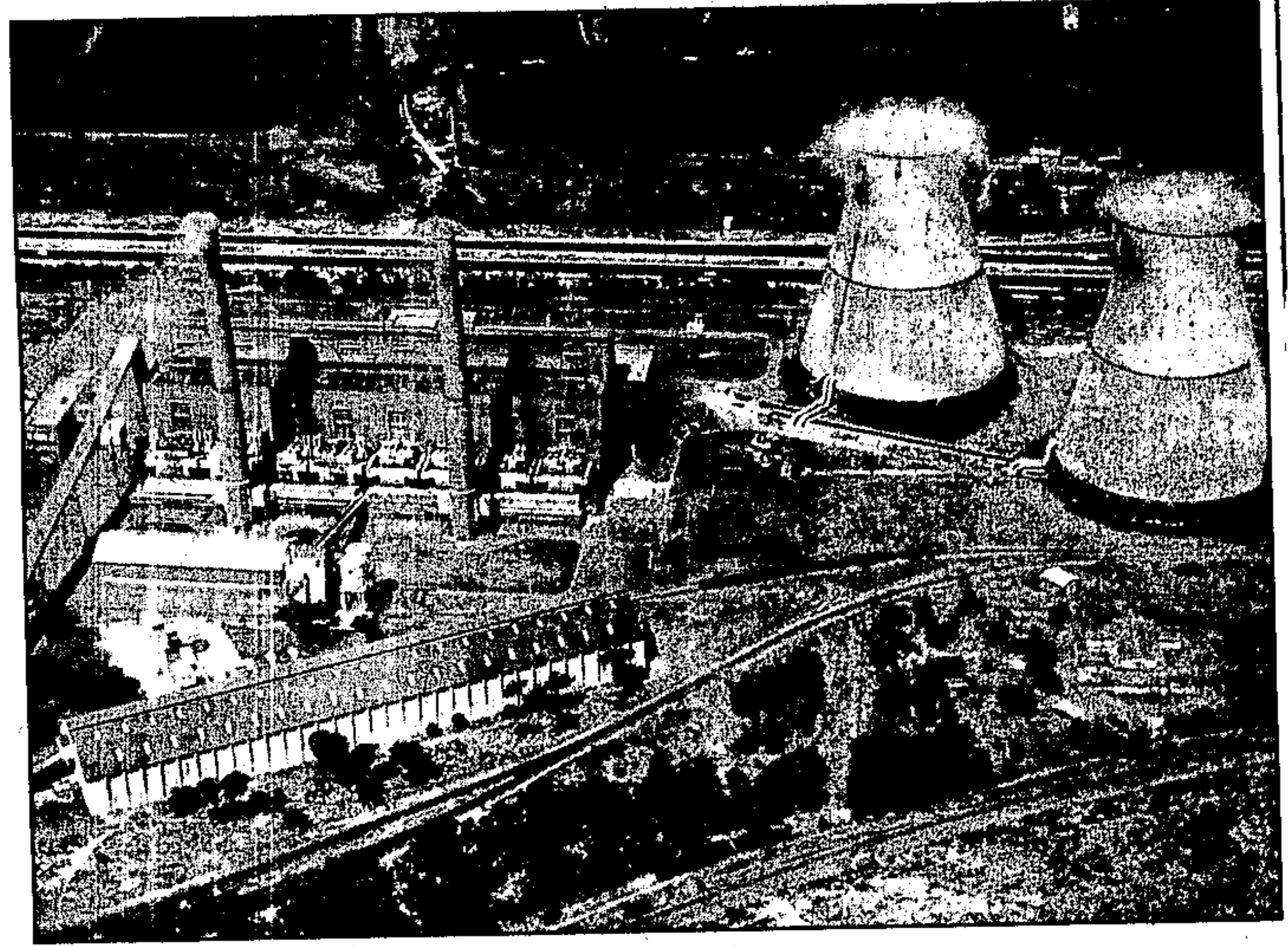
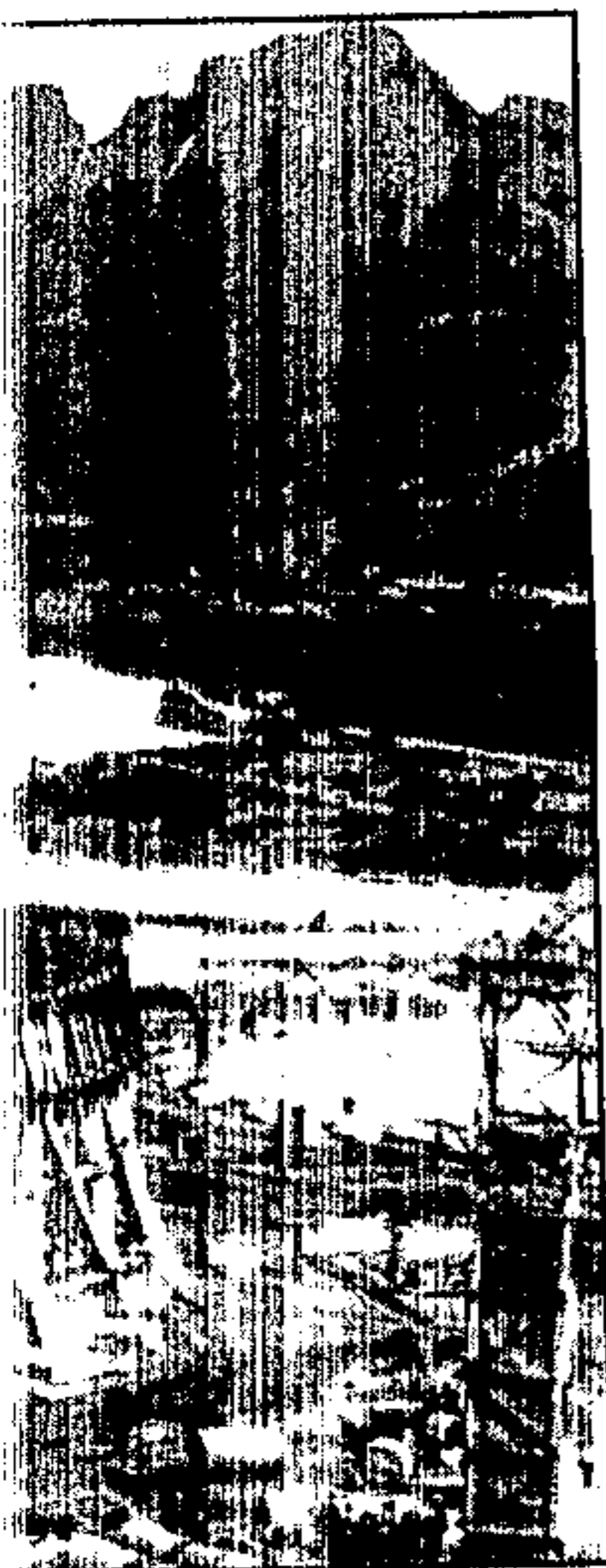
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Power Wouter Roal standard emission metre, but be lowered

"We are keep ash the expected 170mg/cum reduce steam

"Fabric installed on ash emission 50mg/cu.m, neers are e. sound-attenuation

Station pollution



the Athlone Power Station
the landscape.

ATHLONE POWER STATION: The famous Cape Flats landmark is being fired up again to help produce cheap electricity for the greater Cape Town area.

on will save city millions

ARG 7/5/96

modifications done to the power station and the installation of a range of filters and sound mufflers, the noise and air pollution emanating from the plant still exceeds acceptable levels.

Athlone Power Station is a coal-fired station which means there will be ash emission and noise generated in the daily process of warming the steam turbines.

But plans are in place to keep these levels to a minimum and the Cape Town City Council has set aside R30 million to spend on improving the operation of the power station during the fire-up stages.

Power station manager Wouter Roggen said the national standard guideline for dust emission was 400mg/cubic metre, but that it was about to be lowered.

"We are working very hard to keep ash emission well within the expected new maximum of 170mg/cubic metre, and to reduce steam noise to a minimum.

"Fabric filters are to be installed on the boilers to limit ash emission to about 50mg/cu.m, and council engineers are experimenting with sound-attenuators to limit

sound levels. We are also heating the steam turbines at night to keep the levels down." He said the recommissioning of the station was in the early stage and much of the light fall-out monitored in the vicinity of the station in recent months had turned out to be wind-blown particles from other sources.

The station was commissioned in 1961 with an initial capacity of 90 000 kilowatts, but doubled its output after additional work in 1973, and its current book value was in the region of R600 million.

It had eight, two-drum, high-head natural circulation boilers and six steam turbines - five Swiss Orlikos and a Japanese Hitachi - with an output of 180 000 kilowatts.

Before it went on cold stand-by, the station was run as a base load station providing power to meet the basic needs of the city.

Those two enormous Davenport natural draft cooling towers are about 85 m tall and each has the capacity to handle about 20 million litres of water an hour, and the diameter of the cooling pond is a massive 70 m.

The station's coal storage

facilities can store up to 25 000 tons of the fuel, and handling equipment like the wagon tippler and weigher can process 400 tons an hour, and the automatic continuous belt weigher 200 tons an hour.

In 1985 the council and Eskom struck a deal which enabled the city to get cheaper electricity from the Electricity Supply Commission than the station could supply.

Mr Roggen said it made economic sense to use the Eskom supply as the costs of transporting the coal from up north were increasing all the time.

"Those very attractive rates of purchase made it difficult for us to compete and the station was no longer used but held in readiness to produce at least 50 megawatts on a 24-hour basis.

"During the past 10 years, the station was occasionally called upon to produce the energy. It was only when Eskom reduced their preferential tariff to the council that we were informed to prepare for the big switch-on." So after being put on cold stand-by for the past decade, the station is being fired up in stages to help keep Cape Town's future electricity bill down.

When back in full service in three years' time, the station will save the city millions of rands annually by reducing peak energy purchases from Eskom.

Mr Roggen said the council bought electricity from Eskom at two tariffs - one for the normal supply at a very cheap rate, and the other to meet the needs of consumers who use more energy during the peak periods like the cold winter months.

"It is the price of this peak energy purchase that pushes the city's electricity bill up and the station will now be used to supply power to help keep this cost at a minimum.

"In the past we operated as a base load station, now we will operate as a peaking station to meet the peak demand of electricity during the day."

He said electricity generated at the Steenbras hydro-electric pumped storage scheme would also be used to help reduce the dependency on Eskom.

"Although it is very expensive to operate this coal-fired station, with the present peak rates offered by Eskom, we can deliver cheaper energy to the city and in doing so, save the consumer and the council millions of rands."

Asmal attacks water pollution

(56) BD 8/5/96
CAPE TOWN — The deterioration of water quality in the Blesbokspruit on the East Rand as a result of water being pumped from Grootvlei Mine was cause for extreme concern, Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

A memorandum on pollution in the river would be tabled in Parliament on May 15, he said.

Despite requests from his ministry, the mine had failed to comply with permit regulations.

Since the permit was issued in November 1995, the mine had pumped an increasing volume of water, the quality of which had deteriorated. Pollution was likely to worsen as a result of low flows during winter.

Government had to weigh up the benefits of Grootvlei and other mines to the economy against the value of the wetland, agricultural production downstream and the recreational use of the river. — Sapa

Candidates tested on environment

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

THE Wildlife Society has challenged local election candidates to commit themselves to the environment by sending out questionnaires to survey their attitudes.

The society also has announced it will be inviting the main political parties to take part in a debate around environmental issues on May 15.

Questions candidates are being asked include how seriously they view environmental problems such as air pollution, particularly "brown haze" over Cape Town, marine pollution, the lack of effective waste management, insensitive land use and shack fires due to inadequate provision of electricity.

Other issues concern the proximity of Koeberg nuclear power station to Cape Town, the lack of water and sanitation services, loss of indigenous plant and animal species, water wastage and alien vegetation.

ARG 8/5/96
In a test of how candidates will perform after the elections, they are also asked how they will vote on issues such as the Table Mountain cableway upgrade, increasing water tariffs to reduce water usage, compelling consumers to pay for plastic bags and restricting private vehicles in busy urban centres.

● The Cape Independent Alliance led by Clive Keegan and Arthur Wienburg has set up a "Citizens Information Centre" to enable voters to find out more about their campaign. The telephone number is 481 2111.

The CIA will also be holding public meetings in the United Church Hall, Belmont Road, Rondebosch, on Thursday this week, and in the Claremont Civic Centre on Monday, May 13.

● A cellphone company will be making 800 cellphones available to organisers and officials for the May 29 election, with the aim to have a cellphone on standby at each polling station on the day to fill the gaps where fixed-line telephones are unavailable.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

FAMILY WALK: A trio of elephants take a stroll in the Addo Elephant Park. An international donation of R11 million means the creatures will not be culled in the near future.

R11 million donation for land buy takes SA elephants off culling list

ARG 8/5/96

56

JENNY VIALL
Staff Reporter

ELEPHANTS in South Africa will not be culled in the near future, thanks to an R11 million donation to secure more land for them.

Culling has not, however, been ruled out as a future option to control elephant numbers. The first instalment of the R11 million, given by the International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW) was yesterday handed to chief executive of the National Parks Board Robbie Robinson at the Addo Elephant Park near Port Elizabeth.

The money will be used to buy and expand land for elephants to live on, the first beneficiaries being the Addo park, for which additional land will be bought, and the Marakele National Park, being established in Thabazimbi in the Northern Province.

The money has been given on condition that no elephants will be killed on land bought with IFAW funds.

The agreement between the board and the IFAW signals a breakthrough in relations between the two parties, which have been at loggerheads on the annual culling of elephants in the Kruger National Park.

The IFAW has campaigned against the killing of elephants in the park, the only game reserve in South Africa where this happens, earning it the name of "bunny huggers" while the National Parks Board, which favours culling, came to be known as the "killers of the Kruger".

The board announced in January that it would not cull elephants this year, the first time in 28 years, while it reviews its elephant management policy.

Dr Robinson said that while

conservationists had the duty to protect animals, elephants needed space, and as human numbers increased, elephants suffered.

"Culling has to be an option. The world is shrinking at an alarming rate."

Options other than culling include relocation and exploring contraception. However, no elephants would be culled on land bought with IFAW funds.

In 1994 IFAW saved 144 elephants from being killed by relocating them in family groups to other reserves.

David Barritt, IFAW Africa director, said he believed that once the culling policy was reviewed, there would not be any culling in the Kruger park.

He said IFAW had never accepted that the so-called sustainable utilisation of animals, in effect farming for human benefit, was without serious flaws.

Asmal under pressure to decide on future of spruit polluted by mine

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal has been left to make a decision almost single-handedly on the future of the Blesbokspruit near Springs, polluted by a daily dose of 100 million litres of mine water pumped into it by Randgold's Grootvlei gold mine.

A cabinet memorandum on the effect of pollution on the Blesbokspruit wetland, internationally protected by the Ramsar convention, as well as agriculture and water for human consumption downstream, would be tabled in Parliament on May 15, a statement said yesterday.

In the statement, Asmal expressed "extreme concern" about the unacceptable deterioration of the water.

"Since Grootvlei mine has, despite regular requests from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, consistently failed to comply with permit regulations, the minister is now investigating his legal options in the matter," the statement said.

The statement follows a top-level meeting on Monday between Asmal, a representative for Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha, and Gauteng's MEC for Conservation and Environment Aboo Khan.

They decided that a cost-benefit analysis of the area, weighing up the merit of retaining the four marginal mines should be conducted.

56
Asmal has come under extreme pressure from environmental departments following the cabinet decision last year to allow the daily pumping by Grootvlei.

Pumping ensured the survival of Grootvlei and three other East Rand marginal mines, retaining 6 562 jobs in mining and support industries and R300-million in income to mine owners and the state.

But last week, severe deterioration of the wetland, including the death of plants and fish were noted by residents, who met last night with advocates to discuss a court order to stop the pumping and a separate action for damages.

The water enters the Vaal Barrage further downstream, and has an unacceptably high metal and salt content.

All environmental departments concerned, as well as the police's Endangered Species Protection Unit, are waiting for Asmal to put forward a recommendation to cabinet.

Meanwhile, in a strongly-worded letter to all the ministers concerned, the Wildlife Society said the impact to date on the wetland was "so significant" that it needed to be placed on the Montreux Record "as an urgent priority".

This record exists solely to list those wetlands registered as Ramsar sites that are subsequently degraded, damaged or destroyed. Such a listing would be an indictment of South Africa, said Northern Areas Wildlife Society chairman Bruce Davidson.

The greenest light for the E

(288) (56) A50

Against huge odds, the people of this breathtaking province have taken good care of their natural resources and are clearly determined to get it right for a tourist-laden future

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

>Welcome to my squatter camp, is how Environment and Tourism Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa greeted The Star at his home town, Port St Johns.

The occasion was the first day of a week-long workshop to thrash out an action plan for development in the Eastern Cape.

We met under the cool canopy of huge fig trees on the banks of the Bulolo River, which cuts through one of the stunningly beautiful afro-montane forests unique to the Eastern Cape.

"Some squatter camp!" I said. "This is paradise."

"Of course, but you know what I mean," Holomisa said with a nudge.

The popular perception of the Eastern Cape is one of a region racked with violence, financial mismanagement and environmental degradation.

The facts are that the majority of people live peacefully at the mercy of a few thugs. But financial controls and proper auditing of government institutions are now in place.

The people of the Eastern Cape, against huge odds, have taken good care of their natural resources. Yes, there have been negative impacts on pristine environments, but the province has the finest undisturbed coastline in South Africa, and unparalleled indigenous forests.

Close to 40 000ha of magnificent evergreen forests remain. In addition, the people for the most part live in harmony with their surroundings.

Well-constructed homesteads, painted in white, blue, green and yellow, are surrounded by grass and trees, instead of barren patches of earth. Neatly fenced crop-

lands are the norm, as are the keeping of geese, pigs, sheep and cattle. The dwellings do not detract from the natural scenic beauty, instead they add a picture postcard charm.

Legend among seafarers is that the Wild Coast is the watery grave of sailors. It's an inhospitable coastline, with tempestuous seas and soaring cliffs surrounded by treacherous reefs. For sailors, the one break in the high



Major player ... the Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism, Bantu Holomisa.

Table Mountain Sandstones is the great gateway cut by the mighty Umzimvubu River. On its western bank lies the town of Port St Johns, which was incorporated into the independent Transkei in the mid-70s.

"Given the high prices which the South African Government was prepared to pay for properties and the failure of the Transkei government to offer concrete guarantees of security of tenure to whites, the Port St Johns whites departed, virtually en masse," Clive Napier and Laurence Schlemmer commented in their

1985 study "Broken Promises and Lost Opportunities".

The revitalisation of Port St Johns as a unique tourist resort is now back on track, following last month's workshop. It has been identified as a priority in the development of the region, and a draft development plan for the town, commissioned by the Department of Local Government and Land Tenure has been prepared by Van de Verre Apsey Robinson and Associates.

In addition, audits of the region's natural resource base are comprehensive. Compiled by experts, these studies cover everything from flora and fauna to historical and cultural assets.

Existing development plans include a comprehensive Transkei Coastal Development Plan by Guy Nicholson Consulting Services for the Transkei Development Corporation.

A computerised database containing all the published and unpublished reports on environmental management, planning and research has been compiled by Coastal and Environmental Services.

The Grahamstown-based consultants have also identified gaps and made several suggestions for further study.

Opportunities abound, from zoned sites for hotels, to residential areas with spectacular views of the coastline, and business nodes. However, would-be developers will have to take note that the Eastern Cape has staked its claim as the Green Province of South Africa.

The unanimous resolution by all roleplayers from government to grassroots organisations at the Port St Johns workshop was that all development proposals will have to include an assessment of their environmental impact before implementation.

The resolution exceeds current



The Wild Coast ... Second Beach at Port St Johns is typical of the long, undisturbed c

national legal requirements where environmental impact assessments of development are not yet required by law.

The General, as Holomisa is called in his home town, made it quite clear at the workshop that he will remain a major player in the development of the Eastern Cape.

Together with the Goldfields Foundation, he was a prime mover behind the workshop, which was the first in a series of planning meetings that will take place throughout the Eastern Cape.

Goldfields involvement dates back some three years, when it

began a long-term multimillion-rand social investment programme in the region from which it draws 20% of its 80 000-strong labour force for its mines.

The Port St Johns workshop represented the coming together of government, grassroots organisations and the private sector, united in a commitment to put the Eastern Cape on the road to sustainable development.

At an information sharing meeting in the Port St Johns town hall, Holomisa told the 200 or so people who had gathered, that the next step in the battle to put the land of their forefathers on the world map, was to market the

town as the Gateway Coast.

The outcome of the workshop was a set of proposals. These included the development of an integrated development plan for Port St Johns, the Umzimvubu district, and the creation of a system of walkways, a central craft market, and a network of smaller satellite towns.

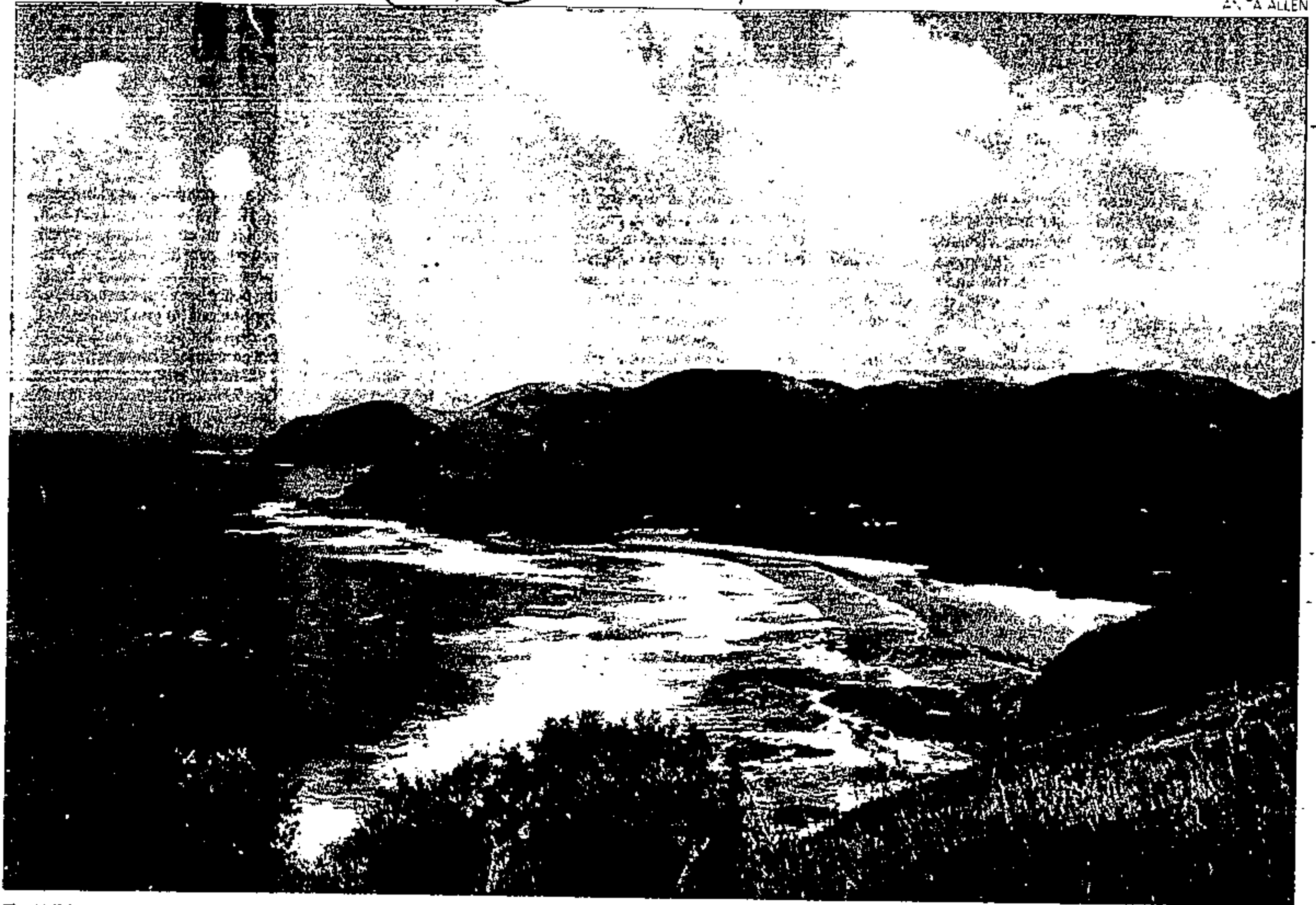
Also a priority was the building and transformation of the military base at Port St Johns.

The sprawling town, which is now being moved to have a new site, is planned to construct a counter-insurgency

Greenest light for the Eastern Cape

(288) (56) Star 8/5/96

ANITA ALLEN



The Wild Coast ... Second Beach at Port St Johns is typical of the long, undisturbed coastline along the Eastern Cape, a potential magnet for holidaymakers.

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These included the compilation of
an integrated development plan
for Port St Johns and the Umzi-
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of a system of walking trails and a
central craft market with a system
of smaller satellite markets.

Also a priority for capacity
building and training is the con-
version of the Mount Thesiger
military base at Port St Johns.

The sprawling complex, rum-
moured to have cost billions of
rand to construct, was used for
counter-insurgency training of

700 soldiers at a time, and was at
one stage under the command of
Selous Scout Ron Reed-Daly.

The RDP committee wants the
base converted to an educational
and skills training centre.

Already, the University of
South Africa uses part of the base
for accommodation and lectures
for some 200 students.

Chairman of the Goldfields
Foundation Mike Tagg said that
his organisation would look at
funding educational projects at
the base.

All over the Eastern Cape,
there are signs of returning invest-
ment. Many of the family-type
holiday resorts have been re-

vamped or are in the process of
being upgraded after many years
of neglect.

In Port St Johns, private, mu-
nicipal and provincial camps and
nature reserves offer holiday ac-
commodation and camping facili-
ties. Umgazi River Bungalows, a
few kilometres from Port St Johns
is currently running at 70% occu-
pancy, further along the coast
Seagulls and Wavecrest are back
in business after expensive reno-
vations.

The Eastern Cape, it appears,
is poised to exploit its enormous
potential for tourism and recre-
ation - the world's fastest growth
industry.

Nufcor in radiation control joint venture

David McKay

BD 9/5/96

THE SA Nuclear Fuels Corporation has established a joint venture company with British Nuclear Fuels Limited to seek radiation control business from SA's uranium oxide producers.

Nufcor said yesterday that the company, Radpro, would measure, monitor and control radiation hazards, in a market expected to burgeon given the surge in uranium oxide prices. SA producers include Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine.

The new operation would be

backed by subsidiary BNFL Engineering, which has developed expertise in radioactive waste storage and management in the UK.

Chairman Tom Main said the Atomic Energy Corporation provided consultancy on the treatment of radioactive systems, but did not provide solutions to radioactive hazards — Radpro's specific aim.

World supply for uranium oxide was expected to double to 80 000 tons during the next 10 years to meet increasing demand for uranium oxide, Nufcor GM Charles Scorer said.

plaint had been lodged by the Member of the Executive Council for Finance and Expenditure of the Eastern Cape and not the Minister of Justice under whose jurisdiction the personnel under investigation falls. According to the Commission, acting Judge Browde had, however, ruled that as long as a complaint was made by a Minister of the Cabinet or a member of the Executive Council of Province, the Commission would consider it without reference as to whether or not it concerns that particular Minister's or MEC's department. In the opinion of the Commission the investigation had therefore been legally conducted on a proper complaint by the above-mentioned MEC;

- (3) no. transparency and openness to the Commission's investigations are already provided for in the fact that hearings take place before the Commission. The Commission also indicated that it has no objection to informing any interested party on the state and extent of investigations which have been, or are being undertaken into any matter.

New questions:

- *1. Sen C R REDCLIFFE--Health. [Question standing over.]

Erection of electrified fences around SANDF bases

- *2. Sen J SELLE asked the Minister of Defence: Whether the South African National Defence Force intends erecting electrified fences around any SANDF bases in the Republic; if so, (a) around which bases, (b) why, (c) when and (d) what will be the estimated cost of erecting such fences?

S210E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

Electrified fences can be used in two ways to protect military bases or installations.

First, they can be used to prevent intrusions by making use of the lethal characteristics of electric current. No South African National Defence Force bases or installations are pro-

ted in this way, nor is it intended to use this lethal mode in the future.

Second, the shock caused by an electrified fence when in non-lethal mode is used as a deterrent. This non-lethal mode is also used to operate alarm systems. The current is used to activate detection sensors thereby alerting guards. Various bases and installations are already protected in this manner and it is planned to extend this non-lethal system to other Army bases.

- (a) The South African National Defence Force has the following number of bases protected by non-lethal electrified fences.

South African Army	13 bases
South African Air Force	1 base
South African Navy	2 bases

It is planned that the system will be extended to the following Army bases in the short term.

- 83 Technical Store Depot
- 1 SA Infantry Battalion
- 4 SA Infantry Battalion
- 8 SA Infantry Battalion
- 91 Ammunition Depot
- 5 Base Ordnance Depot

Long term planning includes a further 41 bases.

- (b) The primary reason why electrified fences are used for the protection and safeguarding of National Defence Force equipment and interests is to deter would-be transgressors from accessing NDF property. By proclaiming the use of electrified fences by warning signs, fewer guards are required to protect NDF facilities. It therefore releases soldiers to perform their primary function of securing the sovereignty of South Africa and their secondary function of supporting the South African Police Services to maintain law and order.
- (c) The timescales to implement electrified fences on the remaining installations are as follows:

- Short term phase to be completed in 1997/98 financial year.

— Long term phase to be completed in 2001/2002 financial year.

- (d) The estimated cost of this Army project is R47 million for the short term phase and R40 million for the long term phase.

Senator J SELLE: Mr President, unfortunately Senator Moorcroft has been called away on urgent constituency business, and I ask that questions three and four stand over until next week.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: Mr President, I have been requested by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to answer the question on his behalf. I have come here with the prepared answer. I assure you that the request has nothing to do with any events outside this room today.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! It sounds very interesting. I think we should allow the hon the Minister to respond. [Laughter.]

The MINISTER: Mr President, it is a very short answer.

Fire at AECI factory: commission of enquiry

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

Whether he intends requesting the appointment of a commission of enquiry into the fire at the AECI factory at Macassar in December 1995; if not, why not; if so, when?

S212E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism):

A meeting during which this issue was discussed with the interested parties took place on 23 April 1996 in Cape Town under the chairmanship of Deputy Minister H B Holomisa. It was the view of this meeting that a Commission of Inquiry should be appointed and proposed terms of reference were therefore also formulated.

This proposal will be submitted for consideration to Cabinet as the Cabinet has to advise the President on the appointment of such a commission.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! The hon the Deputy Minister is with us, and I would like to welcome the hon the Deputy Minister on her first appearance in the Senate. I am sure it is definitely going to be followed by more successful appearances here. [Applause.] The hon the

Deputy Minister has a choice as to whether she wants to respond to this question or not. It seems to me the hon the Deputy Minister is eager and very willing to do so.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS: Mr President, it is true that I am eager and willing to answer the question, since we have prepared the answer to the question.

Building of oil refinery in Saldanha/Vredenburg area

*4. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

Whether his Department has been approached by any company wishing to build an oil refinery in the Saldanha/Vredenburg area; if so, (a) by which company, (b) what was the nationality of the company, (c) when was the approach made and (d) what was his or his Department's response thereto?

Hansford 9/5/96
S213E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(a), (b), (c) and (d) On the basis of information available to me, neither the Department nor any of the state corporations in the CEF group of companies has ever been approached by any company wishing to build an oil refinery in the Saldanha/Vredenburg area. Nobody has approached SFF even to store or procure crude oil on behalf of any company intending to build a refinery in the area.

Value of cargo stolen from airport container depots

*5. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) What was the total value of cargo stolen from airport container depots in (a) 1994 and (b) 1995;

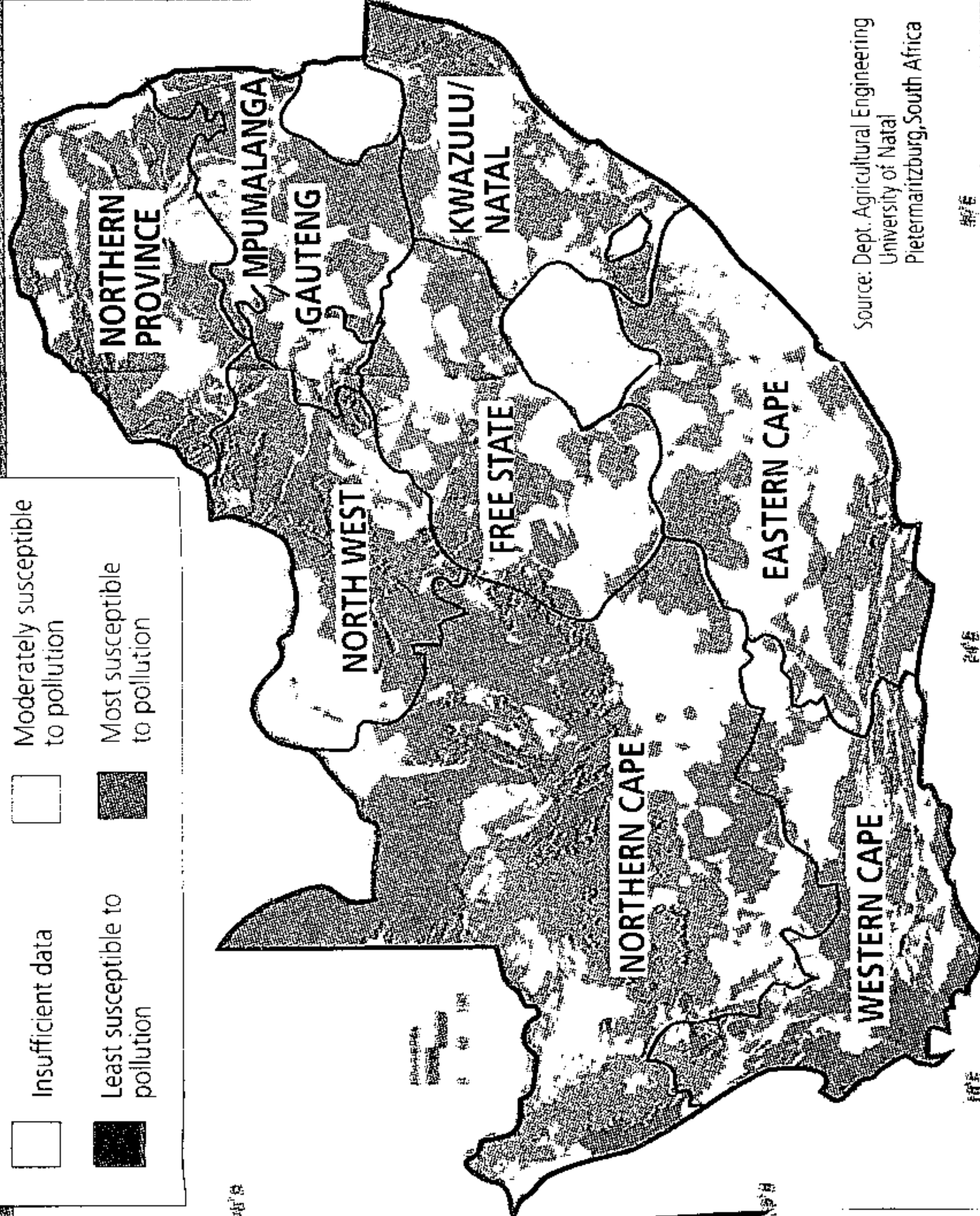
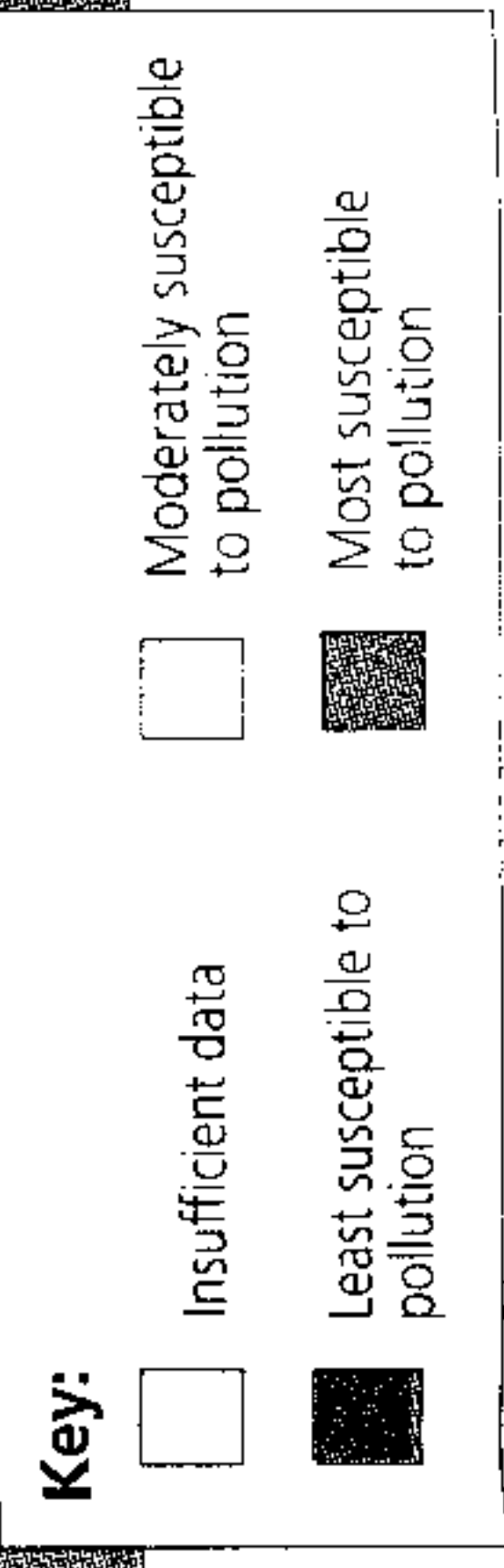
(2) whether any efforts are being made to reduce such thefts; if not, why not; if so, what efforts?

S214E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) The securing of cargo at airports is an airline responsibility and the Department of Transport does not hold statistics on the value of cargo stolen from airport con-

DANGER AREAS FOR UNDERGROUND WATER



Source: Dept. Agricultural Engineering University of Natal Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Groundwater research isolates danger

(5b) SAN 9/5/96

'Hot spots' where the threat of pollution to underground water is greatest have been identified.

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Alarm bells are ringing for southern parts of the former Transvaal, sections of the western, eastern and northern Cape, and regions in Mpumalanga bordering Swaziland which have been identified as "hot spots" where underground water is most susceptible to pollution.

Recent research by the University of Natal has highlighted the vulnerability of groundwater to contamination in these parts of the country, and agricultural engineering researcher Steve Lynch has stressed the need for a national chemical analysis of underground supplies in drought-prone southern Africa.

This would provide data which would be the basis for important future comparisons.

The main pollutants are believed to be slimes dam run-off from gold and coal mines (Free State gold mines alone produce around 5 million tons of slimes a month), but raw sewage from informal settlements and agricultural and industrial chemicals have also been cited.

"These mines regularly commission environmental impact assessments by outside companies, but the results are often confidential for fear of reaction from environmentalists," said Lynch.

"Many potentially hazardous contaminants are colourless, odourless and tasteless, and are therefore difficult to detect by passive means," he said.

On the Witwatersrand no research monitoring has been done on groundwater. Its location, depth, strength and quantity are

unknown.

"If factories are polluting the groundwater, it will not be known until the supply is tapped.

"In the USA, contamination at the Pullman disposal site from

Threat of drought underpins the study

1890 to 1907 is still a source of groundwater pollution today. Billions of dollars have been set aside to clean up more than 2 500 contaminated sites," he said.

Lynch stressed that in addition to potential pollution factors, which would only be discovered after the damage was done, the

ever-present threat of drought underpinned the need to study the country's groundwater reserves seriously so that future options, including storage of water underground, could be tackled in a practical way.

Kwazulu/Natal is seen as "moderately to least susceptible to pollution" because of the depth of groundwater (15 to 30m), the topography (mountainous, which allows rainfall to run off into rivers) and the soil type (sandy clay loam).

The other end of the scale includes parts of the former southern Transvaal, where the water lies five to 15m below the surface and the land is relatively flat, allowing water to seep underground.

The shallowest groundwater spots in SA have been identified

near De Aar and at Springfontein near the Gariep dam, where water lies less than 5m below the surface, and the deepest regions are in the Kalahari desert, where water is found deeper than 30m below ground level.

Lynch said most groundwater originated from rainfall over millions of years where an average of 460mm a year had been calculated in SA, compared with a world average of 860mm.

This placed an even greater importance on supplies of underground water.

Only 5% of southern Africa gets more than 900mm, mainly in the Drakensberg down to the Kwazulu Natal coast and the Western Cape, where one spot in Jonkershoek receives about 3 400mm a year compared to Gauteng's 500-600mm.

Wetland pollution disaster grows

Star 13/5/96

57

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Millions of litres of contaminated water pumped into sensitive ecosystem daily, killing fish and threatening the birdlife

By TAMARA DE BEER

Residents living on the borders of the internationally recognised Blesbokspruit wetland near Springs have discovered the rotting bodies of hundreds of carp whose gills have been blocked by effluent from the Grootvlei gold mine.

Following a Cabinet decision last year to save Grootvlei and three other marginal mines from flooding, Grootvlei pumps 100 million litres of highly contaminated water into the sensitive wetland ecosystem every day. If these mines were flooded and forced to close, more than 6 000 jobs in mining and support industries would be lost as well as R300-million to mining and the state.

But the contaminated water now threatens agriculture downstream, where experts say its high salinity will sterilise soil. It also becomes part of Gauteng's drinking water when it enters the Vaal River.

The Cabinet will this week reconsider its decision to allow pumping, but distraught residents living near the wetland say it is already too late.

"We've lost it," Fred Reynolds said yesterday. Another resident, Bill Ross-Adams, claimed it would take at least six years for

the system to recover if pumping were halted immediately.

In the interim, however, the mine has said it will not stop pumping.

A spokesman for Grootvlei, Dirk van Eeden, said last night that any decision to end pumping before this week's Cabinet decision would be premature. "Grootvlei acts as an agent of Government in this case, so it is for Government to decide," he said.

Residents took The Star on a boat trip through a portion of the wetland yesterday. Hundreds of 50cm-long carp between eight and 10 years old floated dead on the reddish water. Suspended iron oxide particles from the mine have become trapped in the fish's gills, clogged reedbeds and saturated the floor of the system, discoloring the formerly crystal-clear water to a reddish brown.

On Saturday, residents held a fish rescue operation, saving about 60 and transferring them to a nearby uncontaminated lake.

Reynolds supplied The Star with an aerial photograph taken two weeks ago, revealing the plume of red-brown water spreading into the crystal-clear wetland from the mine's pumping station.

He said a recent air trip revealed the pollution had spread to within metres of the world-fa-



Floating death ... dead carp litter the surface of the Blesbokspruit wetland, as the contaminated mine water that killed them spreads towards the Vaal River.

amous Marievale bird sanctuary.

The water quality of effluent pumped from the mine is double the pollution levels stipulated by a pumping permit granted last

year by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The discovery of the dead fish this weekend follows the blacklisting of the wetland on the Mon-

treux record last week. The record lists wetlands of international importance, according to the Ramsar Convention, that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed.

SMOKING DAMNS YOUR LUNG

Candidates' green commitment tested

56 CT 14/5/96
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

HOW green are your local election candidates?

The Wildlife Society has sent all candidates a questionnaire to establish their attitude to environmental issues — and will make the results public.

Spokesman Mr Andy Gubb said the aim was to enable voters to make a more informed decision on May 29.

Candidates are asked to say how they would vote on such issues as a proposal to install expensive scrubbers to reduce pollution in the Athlone power station; the introduction of higher tariffs for high water usage; and a proposal to allow the cableway upgrading to go ahead before completing an environmental impact assessment.

They are also asked to rate on a scale from "not at all serious" to "critically serious" issues like air pollution, building on wetlands, the pumping of sewage into the sea and water wastage.

The poll tests their opinions on the proposal to make Table Mountain and the peninsula into a national park and the environmental impact of the 2004 Olympic Games.

● The Wildlife Society has organised a panel discussion on the environmental policies of the major political parties tomorrow at 7pm in the lecture theatre of the Civic Centre.

Caltex to reduce emissions as part of upgrade programme

From Reuter

(18) (56) CT (DR) 14/5/96
Cape Town — Caltex South Africa was spending R93 million on a scheduled upgrade that would last 45 days, Terry O'Donovan, a company spokesman, said yesterday.

He said the upgrade, which began last month, was part of the company's triennial maintenance and inspection programme. It would also involve the installation of pollution equipment to reduce emissions, he said.

Inspecting the refinery for wear and tear and corrosion would cost about R40 million.

A further R23 million would be

spent on the installation of electro-static precipitators to reduce pollution. Increasing the output of value-added products would cost R30 million.

The refinery would normally produce 2,5 million barrels of petrol, diesel and jet fuel in 45 days. O'Donovan said that the lost output had been made up through building up stockpiles.

He said that 525 000 barrels of petrol and jet fuel had been imported, mainly from Europe and the Middle East to meet the shortfall which could not be met with the stockpiles.

Caltex South Africa is a unit of Caltex Petroleum, a fifty-fifty joint venture between Chevron and Texaco.

Race quota for Oly

56 Olympic contractors
CT 15/5/96

THE CAPE TOWN OLYMPIC Bid Company has set out in its draft policy how it aims to empower blacks through the contracts it awards. **DALE GRANGER** reports.



COMPANIES hoping to tender for Olympic bid contracts have until July to meet a stringent condition that 40% of their owners and employees must be black.

This is set out in a draft policy document on black economic empowerment that has been sent to companies.

Many of them have been working voluntarily for the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company and now hope to secure building contracts when the first of these are awarded in July.

Another requirement is that contracted companies pay the bid company a retention fee of 12% of the value of the contract. This is to be forfeited if the company fails to comply with any of the conditions of the contract. This fee will not apply to any company that is fully owned by blacks.

The cabinet is to decide on May 22 whether to commit R900 million to the Olympic bid. If it agrees to this, R86m is to be released for the building of sports facilities. These include a badminton hall in Philippi East, a boxing centre at Khayelitsha and indoor training facilities in Langa, Scottsdene and Grassy Park.

Cabinet delays in committing financial support have put the bid company under pressure in preparing for the visit in December by an International Olympic Committee evaluation committee — which

expects to see, at least, that the construction of sports facilities is underway.

The first of the tenders is to be awarded by July and building is expected to begin in August.

In business circles, questions have been raised about there being sufficient suitably qualified black professionals — specifically in architecture, quantity surveying and building — to comply with the bid company's requirements.

A quantity surveyor said that the reaction from businessmen who met the bid company last week to discuss its policy was "stony silence".

The Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and the Master Builders and Allied Association (MBA), endorse black empowerment, but do not support the policy of prescribing racial quotas.

Mr Mike Loy, director of the MBA, said the policy was "extremely ambitious", but the MBA welcomed the opportunity to discuss it with the bid committee.

Mr Alan Lighton, executive director of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber supported joint ventures between black- and white-owned businesses and the bid company's efforts to promote black empowerment. However, it believed it was "unwise" for the bid company to opt for rigid empowerment policies and that each case should be taken on its merits.

The director of sports and facili-

ties for the Olympic bid company, Mr Robbie Stewart, said of the racial quota: "We are serious and are going to meet those targets."

He warned companies against tokenism. "There are guys who go around as black fronts ... those guys are not going to last long. We want to be profitable and we can't afford to carry anybody."

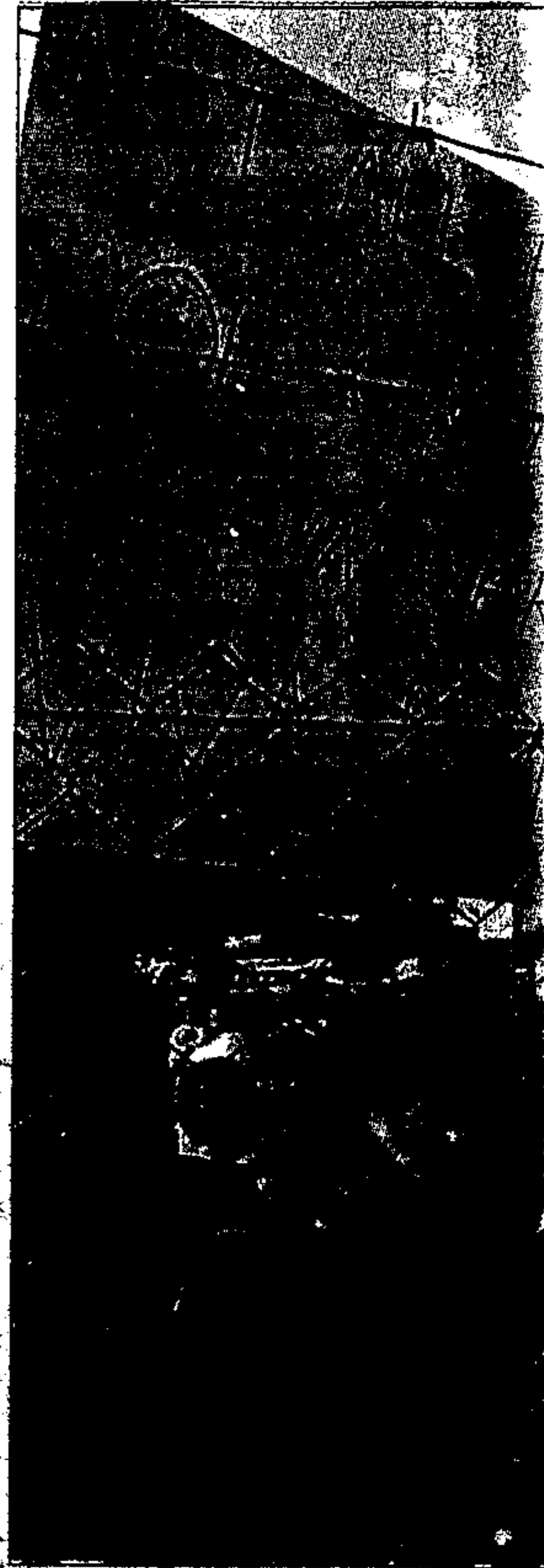
"We want to have people properly empowered at the end of it and we are going to weed out the fakes. The only way we are going to create a lot more professional firms in the marginalised sector (is) by giving them the opportunity through the Olympic bid to gain experience they might not have had."

"This is about the people of South Africa bidding for the Olympics ... we believe we will have enough quantity surveyors and architects in 1998 when major construction gets under way. Companies must be ready for it and try to achieve those targets."

The bid company hoped that contractors north of the Western Province would also be drawn into the projects, Stewart said.

Mr Rob Meek, a director of Gapp Architects, co-designer with black firm ACG of the new Hartleyvale hockey stadium, an Olympic standard facility, said the joint venture had "no problem" with the 50-50 arrangement.

● **BARRY STREEK** reports that the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Steve Tshwete, has rejected perceptions that the government is taking too long to reach a decision about supporting the Olympic bid. "Given the magnitude of the hosting and the cost this implies for all tiers of government, it is prudent that everything (necessary) is done, to justify cabinet's decision."



SUPPORT: Residents of Beacon Valley, Mit. racial insults were shouted by a group of Na

the Harare Declaration on human rights (CMAG), and the United Nations.

In the case of CMAG, the Group was appointed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held in New Zealand during November last year, to deal with serious or persistent violations of the principles of the Harare Declaration, *inter alia* in Nigeria. The Group met in London during December 1995 and again in April 1996. At the first meeting, it was decided to send a mission to Nigeria to pursue dialogue with the Nigerian Government aimed at the speedy restoration of democracy and constitutional rule. Following the continued refusal of the Nigerian Military Government to receive the mission, the Group, at its second meeting, *inter alia* took note of the fact that political and other detainees had not been released and recommended implementation by the Commonwealth of a number of further restrictive measures against Nigeria, including visa restrictions on, and a denial of educational facilities for, members of the Nigerian regime and their families; an arms embargo; a ban on sporting contacts; and a downgrading of diplomatic missions. It was also decided that further measures, *inter alia* of an economic nature, would be considered in consultation with the European Union, the United States and other members of the international community.

In the United Nations, South Africa, although not a member of the Commission for Human Rights, played a pivotal role in the adoption by the Commission of a resolution by consensus on the human rights situation in Nigeria, which *inter alia* called on the Nigerian Government to restore *habeas corpus* and release all political prisoners.

(b) The press conference took place on 13 February 1996. The request for the audience was conveyed on 23 February 1996.

The meeting took place on 5 March 1996. The second CMAG meeting in London took place on 23 April 1996.

The United Nations Commission for Human Rights adopted the resolution on

Nigeria in Geneva on 23 April 1996 as well.

(c) There has unfortunately been no positive response by the Nigerian Military Government to any of the above-mentioned actions to date as far as the release of General Obasanjo and other political prisoners or detainees is concerned.

Government delegation to Beijing: discussions

*22. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether he intends leading a Government delegation to Beijing for discussions with the government of the People's Republic of China; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when are the discussions to take place and (b) what will be the subject of the discussions;

(2) whether the South African delegation will convey to the government of the People's Republic of China the attitude of the South African Government towards the issue of diplomatic relations between (a) South Africa and the People's Republic of China and (b) South Africa and the Republic of China; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) what is the attitude of the South African Government to each of the issues referred to in paragraphs (2)(a) and (b) above?

N524E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

The hon member is referred to the oral reply given to Question 12 in the National Assembly on 15 May 1996.

Tax amnesties: amounts retrieved

*23. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether any amounts in back taxes have been retrieved in any of the various tax amnesties in the past five years; if so, what amount was recovered during each amnesty period?

N525E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

The 1993 moratorium was aimed at taxpayers who failed to render tax returns timeously. Assurance was given that prior years' tax

returns would be accepted without the imposition of penalties in respect of the late rendition thereof. This moratorium did not prove very successful as it was not properly publicised. Separate records of the amounts of tax paid by taxpayers who submitted arrear returns were not kept.

The object of the 1995 tax amnesty was to expand the taxpayer-base by registering as many taxpayers as possible. Many of the taxpayers who came forward during the amnesty period were salaried taxpayers. In these cases they were registered as taxpayers as from the 1995 tax year. It can further be argued that there are no arrear taxes in these instances as their employers had already deducted/employees tax at source and it was paid over to the Receiver of Revenue where the employers were registered.

By 18 April 1996 a total of 15 662 taxpayers had been granted amnesty and taken on the income tax register. The Commissioner for Inland Revenue is unable to furnish specific details relating to arrear tax paid under the amnesty as this information was not captured separately and many of the assessments have yet to be issued. Furthermore in terms of the Tax Amnesty Act the applicants are entitled to pay off the taxes over various periods, depending on which taxes are involved. The Commissioner is however aware of two separate payments totalling R1 357 260 relating to previously undisclosed sales tax which were made as a result of the 1995 tax amnesty.

State tender contracts: investigation of affirmative action

*24. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 26 on 6 September 1995, the Task Team investigating affirmative action in respect of the awarding of State tender contracts has delivered its report; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what proposals did the Task Team make and (b) what is the status of these proposals?

N526E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

Yes.

(a) The Task Team proposed, as an interim strategy until a Green Paper has been completed by the end of June 1996, that a preference system be introduced to target the previously disadvantaged sector of the community. This preference system is based on equity owned by Blacks and women. Guidelines for the implementation of an affirmative procurement policy, through joint ventures between established and emerging companies, was also drafted by the Task Team.

(b) The preference system as well as affirmative procurement policy were approved as an interim measure by Cabinet and is in the process of being implemented by national departments and provinces.

Madimbo Corridor: protection of environment

*25. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether his Department is considering taking any steps aimed at protecting the environment in the Madimbo Corridor; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether there are any mining activities in this area; if so,

(3) whether any prospecting contracts have been awarded in this regard; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

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

N562E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) Yes. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is considering taking steps to conserve the environment in the Madimbo Corridor, but with acknowledgement of the framework prescribed by Schedule 6 of the Constitution. Schedule 6 states, amongst other things, that the executive responsibility for the environment is a provincial competence.

The Department does not have executive powers regarding the prospecting taking place in this area. The approval thereof has

been granted by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. In addition, the responsibility for environmental management rests with the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The Department is very much concerned about the current state of affairs and proposed to the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism during a meeting on 15 March 1996 in Pietersburg that a meeting with all interested parties should be convened as soon as possible. This meeting will be known as the Madimbo Forum. All interested parties' interests, needs, role and plans for the area can clearly be spelt out by means of the Madimbo Forum. The Department suggested during the same meeting that an integrated development plan be urgently compiled. This plan must make provision for the needs of all interested organisations and must be to the best benefit of the province and all its people as well as the whole of South Africa.

The aim of the above-mentioned strategy is to prevent *ad hoc* development from negatively influencing the greater potential of the area as a conservation and tourism area. Unfortunately there has until now been no progress in this regard at provincial level.

(1) Yes. The prospecting of diamonds by Madimbo Diamond Corporation is presently continuing. Madimbo Diamond Corporation is already prospecting at the third prospecting site.

(2) Yes. A notarial prospecting contract with an option to obtain a mining lease has been granted to Madimbo Diamond Corporation by the State. The approval of the contract has been granted on 22 May 1995 by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs in accordance with section 6(3) of the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act No 50 of 1991).

(3) Yes. A press release is attached.

Dr Dawie de Villiers expresses grave concern about the future of Madimbo Corridor

Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, says that firm action is now needed to protect the Madimbo Corridor

and that he will fully support any renewed efforts of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Northern Province to halt prospecting in this ecologically sensitive area. Dr de Villiers made this statement in view of the fact that the Madimbo Diamond Corporation, formerly Duo Corporate Developers, is still continuing prospecting activities in the corridor despite a pending appeal lodged by the National Parks Board, and attempts by the provincial MEC for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Maris-Stella Sexwale-Mabijne, to halt diamond prospecting in terms of section 31(A) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989).

Dr de Villiers stated that the Madimbo issue has now become a cause for major concern. The Director-General of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has not yet responded to the National Parks Board's appeal. No significant progress has been made by the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism despite the support pledged to them. Meanwhile, the Madimbo Diamond Corporation is proceeding unhindered with prospecting on the third site. Prospecting has already taken place on two sites in the area which was identified by the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA&T) as ecologically sensitive and not suitable for prospecting or mining.

Expressing grave concern about the current state of affairs, Dr de Villiers said that the DEA&T will back all efforts of the Madimbo Forum to develop an integrated development plan for the area. This plan should provide for the needs of all affected parties and benefit not only the Northern Province, but the whole of South Africa and its people. All stakeholders should consult widely and adopt those land-use options that would ensure the sustainable development of this pristine area in the long term. This will also provide an opportunity to take into consideration the land restitution claims made by local communities.

The Minister also re-emphasised his support for community-based ecotourism in the Madimbo Corridor aimed at promoting the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). 'Nature conservation and associated ecotourism are an integral part of sustainable development, and none of these activities can be considered in isolation of

development planning', he said. The strong objections raised by several environmental groups against mining are a good indication of the value of this area, both with regard to its ecological significance and its potential for nature-related economic growth. The corridor is a key area in the planning of an extensive transboundary peace park in a joint effort between South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Dr de Villiers said that should the Madimbo Diamond Corporation continue prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor, it will leave him no choice but to invoke section 31(A) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989).

Issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pretoria.

Kruger Park: extension of boundaries

*26. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

(1) Whether it is the intention to extend the boundaries of the Kruger National Park to neighbouring countries; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what stage has the development and planning of the intended extension reached;

(2) whether any obstacles delaying the process are currently being experienced; if so, what are the relevant details?

N563E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) It is not the intention of the National Parks Board to expand the borders of the Kruger National Park beyond the national boundaries. The concept that does exist is that of a transfrontier national park, based on co-operative management by the Board and Zimbabwe/Mozambique authorities of protected areas; one being the Kruger National Park and the others to be established in Zimbabwe and Mozambique adjacent to the Kruger National Park. The stage has been reached where a joint committee between the National Parks Board and the Mozambique authority has been established to negotiate the issue. Talks between Zimbabwe and the National Parks Board have also been initiated by

me. The Board's approach is that the initiative should come from both sides and that the Board should be neither prescriptive nor force the matter.

(2) There are no specific hindrances, and the matter is pursuing the normal course of friendly negotiation with interaction as and when necessary.

*27. Dr T G ALANT—Arts, Culture, Science and Technology—~~Question standing over.~~

Statistics on street hawkers

*28. Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:†

(1) Whether he or his Department has any statistics on the number of street hawkers currently trading in South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what is the number;

(2) whether he or his Department is currently developing a strategy with regard to the coordination and monitoring of street hawkers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N566E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

(1) No. There is no database reflecting the number of street hawkers trading in South Africa as there has never been any formal registration of these hawkers. The various hawkers associations estimate that there are 200 000 hawkers trading in South Africa. However the local authorities in the various provinces are of the opinion that this figure is highly overrated. Local authorities are now encouraged to register hawkers in order to build up a reliable database on hawkers trading in South Africa.

(2) Legislative competency in terms of the Businesses Act, 1991 (Act No 71 of 1991) was assigned *in toto* to the provincial administrations on 9 March 1995. The Department of Trade and Industry and representatives of the various provincial administrations formulated street trading bylaws which can be used as guidelines in the coordination and monitoring of street hawkers.

SA has taken the right environmental road - for now

(56) Star 15/5/96

Everybody wants a clean environment. The challenge now is to ensure that the environmental clauses in the new constitution are fully implemented, reports Glenda Daniels

Potentially, South Africa has the ability to be among the best countries in the world when it comes to environmental protection, but the real test is whether theory will be translated into practice.

This was the view of a keynote speaker at a recent environmental law conference at Itala, a Kwa-Zulu Natal game reserve.

The two-day national conference, hosted by the Environmental Law Association (ELA), focused on finding the most progressive laws (and their applications) which would serve to enhance and conserve South Africa's environment.

Zayda Lipman, the director of the Environmental Law Centre at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, feels that South Africa has exciting environmental opportunities ahead of it, because it is now shaping future legislation and policy.

And, it has both the positive and the negative experiences of other countries to refer to.

She feels that South Africa is ahead of Australia with regard to legislation because it has environmental protection clauses incorporated into a Bill of Rights.

Also, Australia has separate legislation for air, water, pollution and noise when it should actually have one legislation with a more a holistic approach.

Lipman's view is that central, rather than provincial, government should play an important and active role in implementing policy so that there is uniformity in the country.

"This country has all the right opportunities, and with the Constitutional National Environmental Policy Process (Connep) looking towards an integrated and holistic policy, South Africa is obviously moving in the right direction. It is important to ensure that progressive policies get implemented," she says.

Lipman points to some important environmental trends around the world which she hopes will catch on in South Africa soon.

"Piercing the corporate veil" or "corporate liability", has taken off in a big way all over the world over the past decade.

Recently in Australia, a company director was sentenced to three years in prison for implementing unsound environmental policies.

Integral to the concept of piercing the corporate veil is the notion that even if an individual was personally responsible for an environmental offence, the com-

Some resolutions the ELA has adopted:

- To become more broadly representative and to encourage any interested individual, not just lawyers, to get involved in the organisation.
- To become more publicly active, and to take a stand on various issues and to lobby for changes.
- To work closely with Connep on formulating strong policies, for instance, the formation of an Environmental Protection Agency; and to revamp the Environmental Conservation Act by making it more progressive and representative.
- To bring in students interested in environmental issues at a non-fee paying rate.

less expensive than cure.

In other words, it is better to prevent excessive pollution than it is to try and clear up the mess later on.

A trend overseas, which could well catch on here, is that everyone, especially large companies, attend environmental conferences to make sure they are up to date with the latest policy.

Related to this trend is that law practices are making mega bucks from litigation. This has not yet taken off in South Africa but it could start to happen. There are large law firms overseas which deal exclusively with environmental issues.

Lipman feels that if South Africa could incorporate environmental protection with sustainable development, it would be a "wonderful" country. For her, it is more important to have preventative measures in place than it is to impose fines and penalties.

For this to happen, there has to be a broad environmental awareness.

This, she believes, is growing in South Africa, but is not as widespread as it needs to be.

Lipman says that it is crucial to have campaigns and environmental education in schools.

There should be more "anti-littering" campaigns and "tree-planting awareness" education.

She feels that in many instances people and companies commit environmental offences out of sheer ignorance. This would change with better awareness programmes.

South Africa and Australia, according to her, have something important in common.

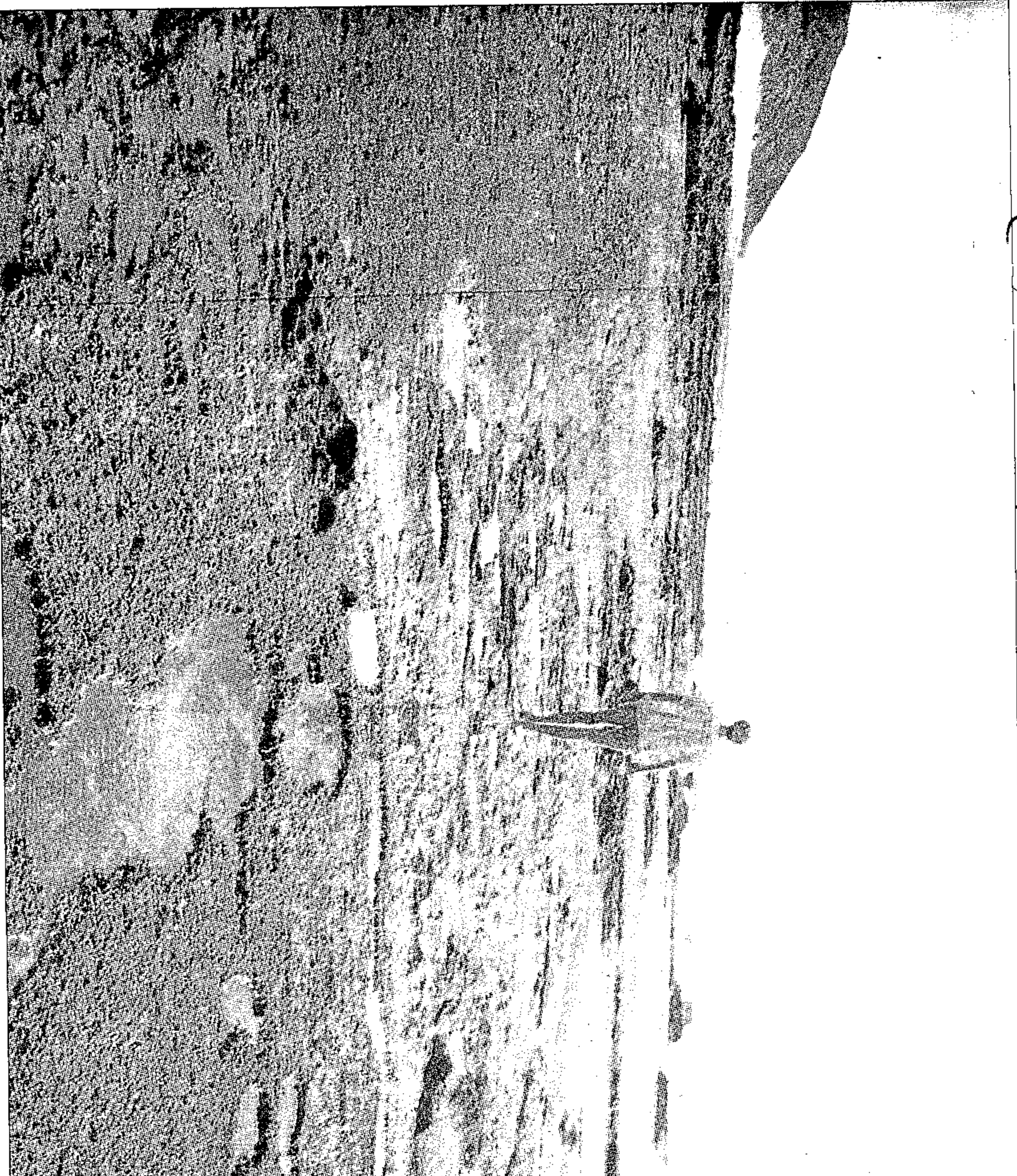
Unlike states in Europe, neither country is over-industrialised and over-polluted.

Both countries have pristine environments which are well worth preserving.

But there are areas, regarding environmental practices, where Australia is streets ahead.

Lipman lists these areas:

- Strict CFC (chlorofluorocarbons) controls for refrigeration - almost



Pristine beauty... environmentalists have described the Cabinet ruling on St Lucia as a massive victory.

totally phased out now.

- Phasing out of inhalants is taking place.
- Fire extinguishers are being phased out.
- Smoking in public places, such as airports, universities and restaurants, is strictly prohibited.
- Severe pesticides regulations are in place.
- Recycling programmes for domestic uses are excellent - most homes have separate bins for tins, paper and food.
- Greeting cards are done on recycled paper.
- Recycled paper is now being introduced for photocopying.
- Polystyrene cups, which emit CFCs and affect the ozone layer,

are phased out:

- Unleaded petrol is used widely.
- Cycling paths have been built to encourage people to cycle to work rather than using cars, which add to air and noise pollution.
- Usage of "clean products", that is, products which are safe from the start, without any poisons used so that testing procedures are unnecessary.
- There are some rules regarding motor vehicle emission.

Africa.

"I feel encouraged because I believe that Connep has the potential to be productive.

"It is a positive thing that it is the first real grassroots initiative in the country and they are making all the right noises."

He adds: "I am actually amazed that in South Africa the environment has become such a major concern.

"While this is so, the process towards change and more progressive policies needs to be people-driven.

"In Europe, people worry about recycling but here there are survival issues, such as the accessibility and the quality of drinking

water."

Brautenseth says that there are indications that the ANC-dominated government will continue to be progressive on environmental issues.

Firstly, there is the incorporation of environmental protection in the constitution.

Secondly, the Government has so far taken a strong stand on waste issues.

Thirdly, the recent resolution to keep St Lucia in its pristine state rather than allow mining development to take place, was significant in the pro-environmental trend taking place in the country.

For more information about the ELA: (031) 302-0111.

- Hansard*
(EB)
- (4.1) Murder
 (4.2) Unlawful possession of a firearm
 (5) Murder
 (6) Attempted murder
 (7.1) Attempted murder
 (7.2) Pointing of a firearm
 (7.3) Crimen Injuria
 (8) Driving a vehicle under the influence of liquor
 (9) Murder
 (10) Housebreaking and theft
 (11) Attempted murder
 (12) Driving a vehicle whilst under the influence of liquor
 (13) Armed robbery
 (14.1) Pointing of a firearm
 (14.2) Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm
 (14.3) Theft of a firearm

(This section of reply laid upon the Table):

- (1) 7 members were convicted of criminal offences in 1995:
 — 3 members were convicted for driving whilst under the influence of liquor
 — 1 member was convicted for possession of daggers
 — 1 member was convicted for unlawful possession of a firearm
 — 1 member was convicted for attempted murder
 — 1 member was convicted for house-breaking and theft.

Senator J SELFE: Mr President, arising out of the hon Deputy Minister's reply, what basis was used for selecting the members of the VIP Guard and were any previous criminal convictions taken into account?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr President, all persons who join the Police Service are investigated with respect to whether or not they have convictions. The fact that a person enters the Police Service not having

a conviction is no guarantee that he will not subsequently commit an offence, and that is what has happened here. People who were already in the force were charged with these particular offences.

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, could he confirm that the Minister of Safety and Security admitted into the VIP Guard people who had been convicted on charges of political murder.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr President, I would have to be afforded notice of such a question. If it were put in writing, we could deal with it next time.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! The Deputy Minister requests that the question be tabled.

East Rand gold mines: pumping of water into Blesbokspruit

*5. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether his Department has issued permits to any East Rand gold mines to pump water containing concentrations of dissolved metals and acids into the Blesbokspruit river system; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) under what conditions were these permits issued and (b) what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that these conditions are being complied with;
- (2) whether the said mines are complying with these conditions; if not, (a) why not, (b) in respect of what aspects are these conditions not being complied with and (c) what action has been or is being taken by his Department to ensure that these conditions are complied with in future?

S263E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

- (1) Permit number 15M was issued by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry on 22 November 1995 to Grootvlei Property Mines in the East Rand in terms of section 12B 2(b) of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) to pump water from their

underground workings into the Blesbokspruit.

This water contains suspended metals, mainly ferrous oxide, and dissolved salts. There are no acids discharged in this water. The pH of the water discharged is 6,5, which is essentially neutral.

- (a) The permit was issued on condition that, amongst other conditions:
- The discharge of underground water comply with the requirements set out in the permit;
 - the installation of a settling facility should commence immediately from the date of issuing of the permit;
 - the short-term impact must not be unacceptable, or the quality of the discharge should improve over time;
 - the mine appoint a consultant to design a treatment facility to treat the water pumped from underground, within a specified time period;

there were also other conditions.

(b) The Mine has not complied with the conditions laid down in the permit and I therefore advised the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs yesterday that I had only one option, namely to withdraw the permit.

This will, unfortunately, lead to the flooding of the mine in due course. The mine will then have to close down which could lead to increased unemployment in the East Rand.

However, a Joint Venture Committee between the various Government departments involved and the mine is investigating various alternatives and possible options in order to find the best solution to the problem. A cost/benefit analysis, which will also look at the long term scenario for this sub-region will also be done at the same time.

In the recent past I have put two proposals to the Cabinet regarding the

installation of a settling facility, as well as the cost-benefit analysis of such action. The implementation of such settling facility would increase the quality of the water, resulting in the reduction of the suspended solid concentration of the polluted water. The construction of a settling facility would, however, take up to nine months to complete. This could have a negative impact on the environment, especially during the winter months when dilution is minimal. The Cabinet is well aware of this situation.

- (2) As already mentioned, the mine has not complied with the conditions of the permit.

(a) The mine management claims that it does not have the financial means to treat the water to the water quality standards required by the permit. The treatment of the water includes the removal of high concentrations of suspended solids (mainly ferrous oxide) and dissolved salts. The capital investment to construct a treatment facility of this nature amounts to approximately R200 million, excluding the operating costs amounting to millions of rand per annum.

(b) As I have said the mine has not complied with the water quality requirements as stipulated in the permit. The water discharged has not been within the tolerable limits set by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, nor has the quality of the water improved over time as pumping continues.

(c) The mine was warned several times that the Permit could be withdrawn. The mine still did not make an effort to comply with the conditions of the Permit. The Permit was subsequently withdrawn on 15 May 1996.

Pollution of water supplies by sorghum processing factory in Magaliesberg

*6. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether his attention has been drawn to allegations that a sorghum processing factory in the Magaliesberg area is polluting

water supplies in that area with formalin; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether any tests for pollution have been conducted (a) on the factory site and/or (b) in the area; if not, why not; if so, what were the results of the tests;

- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action?

S264E

Senator E K MOORCROFT: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I wonder if he could tell us what he intends doing about the apparent defiance on the part of the mine the hon Minister's instructions. I refer here to a programme on television last night in which it was stated that water was still being pumped, and also to an article in *The Argus*, of which I will read the relevant part:

The mine has said that it will not stop pumping. I wonder if the hon Minister could respond?

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Mr President, a few minutes before my arrival here I was in discussion with the chairman of the board of Randgold, its chief executive, and the mine manager. We have drawn attention to the need for a response which is within the accepted constitutional provisions.

In other words, there must be a willingness to accept the withdrawal of the permit, otherwise I shall use the available means to enforce it.

On the other hand, as I said in my statement yesterday, we must consider alternative arrangements which could be made to preserve the quality of the water for downstream users and maintain the integrity of the vlel, which is one of the great wonders on the East Rand.

There are thousands of jobs involved in this too. Furthermore, other mines may be affected by the refusal to allow demining. Therefore, in a very sensitive and—as hon senators will appreciate from my demerour this afternoon—very complicated and difficult area, there has to be a balancing factor. We must in the end, as custodians of the water quality of our nation, ensure that its quality does not deteriorate to such an extent that downstream farmers, the Vaal barrage

and ultimately the vlel itself, are seriously affected.

Senator A E VAN NIEKERK: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, there is a perception that if that mine closes down its operations, there will be a natural overflow of the water. Does the Minister have a plan for pumping it or purifying it? [Interjections.]

THE MINISTER: There are perceptions; the hon senator is right. Usually, they are dressed up as categorical statements of scientific truth. Part of the problem here is to disentangle assertions from fact.

I must say to the House that I have been involved in this for the last four months virtually full-time. I am very impressed by the quality of the service I have received from my officials, and they have been honest, professional and keen. Any decision that is finally taken must take into account the implications of what the senator has said. Up to now, we have not been able to establish with any certainty what the effects would be, but that advice has to be looked at very carefully.

One thing we cannot do is to carry on a tradition that because a particular approach is adopted, the environment can go to hell. We can no longer do that. Therefore, a balancing approach has to be taken by reference to all the information that we can gather, and in the end the information must be put on the table. I shall certainly, when the ultimate decision is taken, place in the library of our Parliament all the documentation, which will be available to the members of this House.

Senator A E VAN NIEKERK: I would like to follow up on that. Does that mean that the Minister is not going to take a decision on the permit before he has all the relevant facts?

THE MINISTER: Mr President, the decision on the permit has been taken. It had to be taken because of the presence of the iron oxide in the water. There was no choice. It was not simply a discolouration of the water; there was very serious pollution of the water. Also, because of the certainty that increased salinity would affect the farmlands, one had to have this short, sharp slap.

In my view as Minister, I do not think the mine, although it is under new ownership now, has responded meaningfully to the persistent need for responsive action on its part pointed out by my officials. That is why, at the end of the day, one has to grapple with this issue by withdrawing the

permit. I hope that very much of this afternoon's discussion with the mines may result in the type of action that should have been taken last December.

Part of the problem is that up to now the mines have been used to getting large subsidies from the State for demining and for other construction works. Such money is no longer available from the State coffers.

- (1) Yes, I am aware of allegations regarding boreholes being contaminated with formalin through alleged negligence by the sorghum processing factory.

- (2) (a) and (b) Yes, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry conducted tests on the factory site and the surrounding area, in order to detect any possible formalin contamination.

I the effluent quarry on the factory premises, low concentrations of formalin were found. This quarry, which was being used as an effluent disposal facility, has since been replaced by a concrete dam.

No formalin could be detected in any boreholes in the vicinity.

- (3) My Department recommended the construction of the concrete dam, and compelled the company, Hekpoort Foods (Pty) Ltd, to apply for a permit under section 21 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) thereby ensuring effective disposal of the effluent. The dam has since been built and the Department is currently processing the permit application. As no pollution could be detected, there is no reason for me or my Department to take further action in this regard.

*7. Sen W F MNISI—Health. [Question standing over.]

Houses built by Government in Western Cape

*8. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Housing:

- (a) How many houses were built by the Government in the Western Cape in 1995 and (b) what is the current estimated backlog of houses in that province? S266E

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING:

- (a) 2 030.

(b) Approximately 167 700 with an additional 63 000 families living on serviced sites in need of a permanent dwelling.

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could she tell us how many serviced sites were laid out in the Western Cape during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING: Mr President, I do not think that is a follow-up question, but a new one, and therefore I will have to furnish the hon senator with an answer later on. I do not have the statistics here, but we do have it in the office.

Senator B T NGCUKA: Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can she tell us whether the whole amount that was allocated to the Western Cape for housing was utilised last year?

THE MINISTER: No, not all the money allocated to the Western Cape Province Legislature was used. There are two sides to the response to this question. The Western Cape has been able to progress on projects that originated in the old dispensation, but when one looks at the new statistics reflecting their activity with regard to our new subsidy scheme, very little has been done. This is an issue we have raised with the legislature.

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could she confirm that the reason why these delays take place is because of the community liaison forums that were created; in other words, that the RDP forums cannot come to a decision with regard to the building of these houses or the serviced plots? [Interjections.]

THE MINISTER: I do not think that is the reason, because as far as I am concerned, the duty of the MEC and his team is to make sure that when subsidy money is being allocated, it moves into projects, and it is their duty to monitor the progress of those projects. If there is any problem with regard to social compacts, they have to resolve it. It is their duty. [Interjections.]

Decentralising of control over water to provinces

*9. Sen M O E WILEY asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether any consideration is being given to decentralising the control over water to the provinces; if not, why not; if so,

Grootvlei told to stop pumping water

Mine defies govt order in wetlands row

David McKay
and Linda Ensor

RANDGOLD & Exploration defied a government order yesterday to stop pumping water from gold mine Grootvlei into an East Rand wetlands area, claiming government orders on the issue were "contradictory".

Water and Forestry Affairs Minister Kadar Asmal ordered the mine to stop pumping yesterday — a move that could destroy at least 6 000 jobs — after deciding it was causing irreparable environmental damage to the Blesbokspruit wetland.

Asmal said the mine had made no serious attempt to meet the standard of water quality demanded by its pumping permit, and dismissed the group's claims that it was acting as a state agent in pumping the water.

But Randgold said last night that it would continue pumping, pending a meeting with Asmal. A spokesman said Grootvlei had previously been acting as an agent of government on pumping. Responsibility now lay with a joint venture between Asmal's de-

partment, the departments of environmental affairs and tourism, and mineral and energy affairs, the Gauteng provincial government and the Central Economic Advisory Service. The venture had failed to find solutions, despite months of talks.

Asmal's order is believed to be the first in SA history that seeks to stop mining operations as a result of a directive from the water affairs department, a clear signal to industry that he will be stringently applying the "polluter pays" principle.

He withdrew the mine's permit because of the dangerously high levels of iron oxide and dissolved salts which threatened the wetlands. Fish and crabs had died and birds had been driven away.

Asmal warned of water contamination. "I had no option but to withdraw the permit," he said.

Grootvlei MD Peter Noble said mineral and energy affairs had told the mine that the Cabinet would make about R20m available to construct a fa-

Continued on Page 2

Grootvlei (56)
BD 16/5/96

Continued from Page 1

cility to remove ferrous iron from the water — the main threat to waterlife. However, a further R200m would be needed for a desalination plant to make the water potable.

Asmal said his department had tried unsuccessfully over the past few months to get Grootvlei to comply with the conditions of the permit issued on November 22. An average of 100 megalitres of water was being pumped into the wetlands daily when the permit stipulated an average of 70 megalitres.

"While mining companies have been provided with assistance by the state

in the past, any assumption that the pumping of water from this mine is the responsibility of the state is unwarranted. The mine has not been acting as an agent of the state as has been reported," Asmal insisted.

If the pumping is stopped, it is estimated that Grootvlei has about 30 days before working areas of the mine become flooded, effectively shutting down the mine.

Asmal said Grootvlei's permit could be reviewed if it and the mining industry took immediate, concrete steps to meet the department's standards on water quality. A mere commitment was insufficient and the mine would have to provide "palpable guarantees" and a "cast-iron" arrangement that it would do so.

Court action halts Oudekraal development

Samantha Sharpe

BD 16/5/96

56

CAPE TOWN — Developers at the Oudekraal hotel site at the foot of Cape Town's Twelve Apostles have agreed to stop work pending the outcome of an application in the Cape Town Supreme Court for a review of its rezoning.

The application, brought by the National Parks Board against the developer Hottentots Huisie, the Llandudno/Hout Bay local authority and Western Cape development and tourism

MEC Lampie Fick, was scheduled to come before the court yesterday, but was set aside until June 18.

The parks board claimed in court papers that the local authority's decision to rezone portion 3 of the Cape farm was outside its legal power.

The court action followed a public outcry over the planned 70-roomed hotel and conference centre, and the refusal by the National Monuments Council to give the go-ahead before an environmental impact assessment.

Environment under the spotlight

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

NEW environment policies, the question of coastal management, Table Mountain and a new fisheries policy will be under the spotlight in the debate on the Environmental Affairs and Tourism Vote in the National Assembly today.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Dr Dawie de Villiers, is expected to deliver a visionary speech in which he will discuss Connepp (the Consultative National Environment Policy Process), in which a new policy is being drafted.

He will outline what progress has been made and report back on the progress made in developing coastal management policies.

De Villiers will also talk about the role of the fishing industry, the new fisheries policy due to be completed by June 3, and the investigation into the allocation of



NEW POLICY: Dr Dawie de Villiers

fishing quotas.

The latest developments on Table Mountain and the progress towards declaring it a World Heritage Site are also likely

CT 16/5/96 (56)
to be raised by the minister.

A draft White Paper on tourism, which still has to be submitted to the cabinet, has been drawn up and De Villiers will refer to this issue as well.

● South Africa does not have a national policy or comprehensive legislation on hazardous waste, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa said at a symposium on importing chemical waste, Sapa reports.

Holomisa said the poor understanding of the actual issues and lack of information, such as annual statistics, had led to unsatisfactory hazardous waste management practices.

There was not enough control over waste transport and malpractices, as few industries had waste management strategies.

"Also, there is a lack of suitable landfill sites for disposing of waste," Holomisa said.

Court halts Oudekraal hotel plan

CT 16/5/96 (56)

MELANIE GOSLING
STAFF WRITER

DEVELOPMENT of the controversial multi-million Oudekraal hotel complex at the foot of the Twelve Apostles has been suspended as a result of a Supreme Court order obtained by the National Parks Board yesterday.

Work on the site will stop pending a review of the processes whereby the rezoning of the property and the Oudekraal Hotel complex development plans were approved by the authorities.

The matter goes to trial on June 18.

Under the order, by agreement between the parties, the developers, Hottentots Huisie Pty Ltd, must cease all clearing, demolition, excavation, earth-moving or construction work on the White House site until the court has made a finding.

The only work they may continue is to complete the contract for widening Victoria Drive and the construction of road access.

The parks board claimed in



'NO HOTEL': Demonstrators protested against the proposed development in front of the White House earlier this year. **PICTURE: THE ARGUS**

court papers that the decision to approve the hotel and conference plans was made through "an unfair procedure".

The board also claimed the developers and the local council had failed to get comment from the public who might object to

"the desecration of a nature area".

It submitted that the Llandudno/Hout Bay council failed to have sufficient regard to the fact that the Oudekraal property was in an area of "considerable national and international value" because of its natural beauty and ecological diversity.

The board's Mr David Daitz, coordinator of the proposed Table Mountain national park, said yesterday he was "delighted" that the case would be heard quickly and that there would not be a protracted court action.

The Save the Mountain Campaign has supported the board's court action.

In a statement yesterday spokesperson Ms Cecilia Assad said: "To date we have 5 000 signatures opposing the development.

"The National Parks Board is the only authority bold enough to take action to prevent disaster."

The developer, Mr Steve Jones, was not available for comment yesterday.

Mine defies order on wetland contamination

BY TAMSEN DE BEER
AND PATRICK BULGER

Randgold's Grootvlei gold mine near Springs has chosen to ignore an order by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal to immediately halt pumping contaminated mine water into the Blesbokspruit.

Grootvlei spokesman Dirk van Eeden said last night the mine would not stop pumping until "the contradictory directives issued by government departments have been cleared up".

Earlier yesterday Asmal ordered the mine to stop pumping, in what officials termed a government first in reversing a mine water-pumping permit. The permit to pump was granted in November last year, but the mine has not met with permit conditions.

The mine was seeking an urgent meeting with Asmal, Van Eeden said. He conceded that although rising water levels affect the mine only after a week, it would continue pumping.

Illustrating the apparent contradictory directives to the mine, manager Peter Noble said in a statement last night the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had recently advised the mine that funds would be made available by the Cabinet to construct a water-settling facility. This would remove much of the suspended solids in the water that have been responsible for the death of fish in the wetland.

He said the mine had also been allocated R1-million to appoint consultants to conduct a detailed cost-benefit analysis on mining in the Far East Rand basin.

Asmal informed the Cabinet committee on economic affairs of his decision yesterday.

It follows a series of articles in The Star highlighting the plight of the wetland as 100 million litres a day was pumped into it, killing fish and wildlife. Asmal's announcement was greeted with relief by private landowners and environmentalists.

Before releasing a statement contesting Asmal's directive, Noble yesterday labelled the decision "shortsighted".

He said the underground water basin that threatened to flood Grootvlei and about four other marginal mines in the area was a potential water resource of 400 million cu m.

"Nobody has asked how best

► ... To Page 2

Mine defies

wetland order

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this water can be managed and brought to the advantage of the country," Noble said.

Asmal's decision will directly affect 3 000 workers employed on the mine and a further 3 000 in related industries who will lose their jobs if the mine is forced to halt production.

Noble said the mine had one week of operations left before water in its workings made underground conditions difficult and unsafe.

Within two months, the mine would be flooded, he said.

Director of water quality management for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Sakkie van der Westhuizen, said there was "still time", adding that the mine should show a commitment to finding a solution.

And Asmal has himself not ruled out the possibility of "future pumping", insisting, though, that "immediate concrete steps" should be taken by the mine towards purifying the water.

Asmal said it was his duty to enforce the Water Act, and this had to be balanced against potential job losses.

Gold mine stops pumping effluent into vleei

56 27/5/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

GROOTVLEI gold mine in Gauteng stopped pumping polluted effluent into Blesbokspruit — a wetland of internationally recognised importance — late yesterday afternoon.

Water Affairs Minister Mr Kader Asmal said at a press briefing yesterday the mine would only be allowed to resume pumping when its management could guarantee they would acquire an R18-million

settler machine to extract iron oxides from the water.

Also, a consultant first had to examine what remedial action could be taken to remove the more obtrusive effects of the pollution from the wetland.

Asmal said the mine and his department would also need to look at long-term solutions to reduce the salinity of the effluent.

The announcement came after Randgold executive chairman Mr Peter Flack flew to Cape Town yesterday for a three-hour meeting

with Asmal — the day after the minister withdrew the mine's permit to pump polluted water into the wetland.

The mine stopped pumping at 4.30pm yesterday on Flack's orders.

Said Asmal: "This is a new departure for us in South Africa... We've used this precedent to establish the ground rules. We recognise the mine makes a very significant contribution to our country. At the same time the mine recognises its obligation to environmental conservation."

"The mine had come to expect there would be certain intervention by the state which historically is what the mining industry has been used to. But the largesse from the state is just not available and therefore we have to make tough decisions."

Grootvlei mine has allocated R10m towards the cost of the settler machine and will approach neighbouring mines to fund the balance.

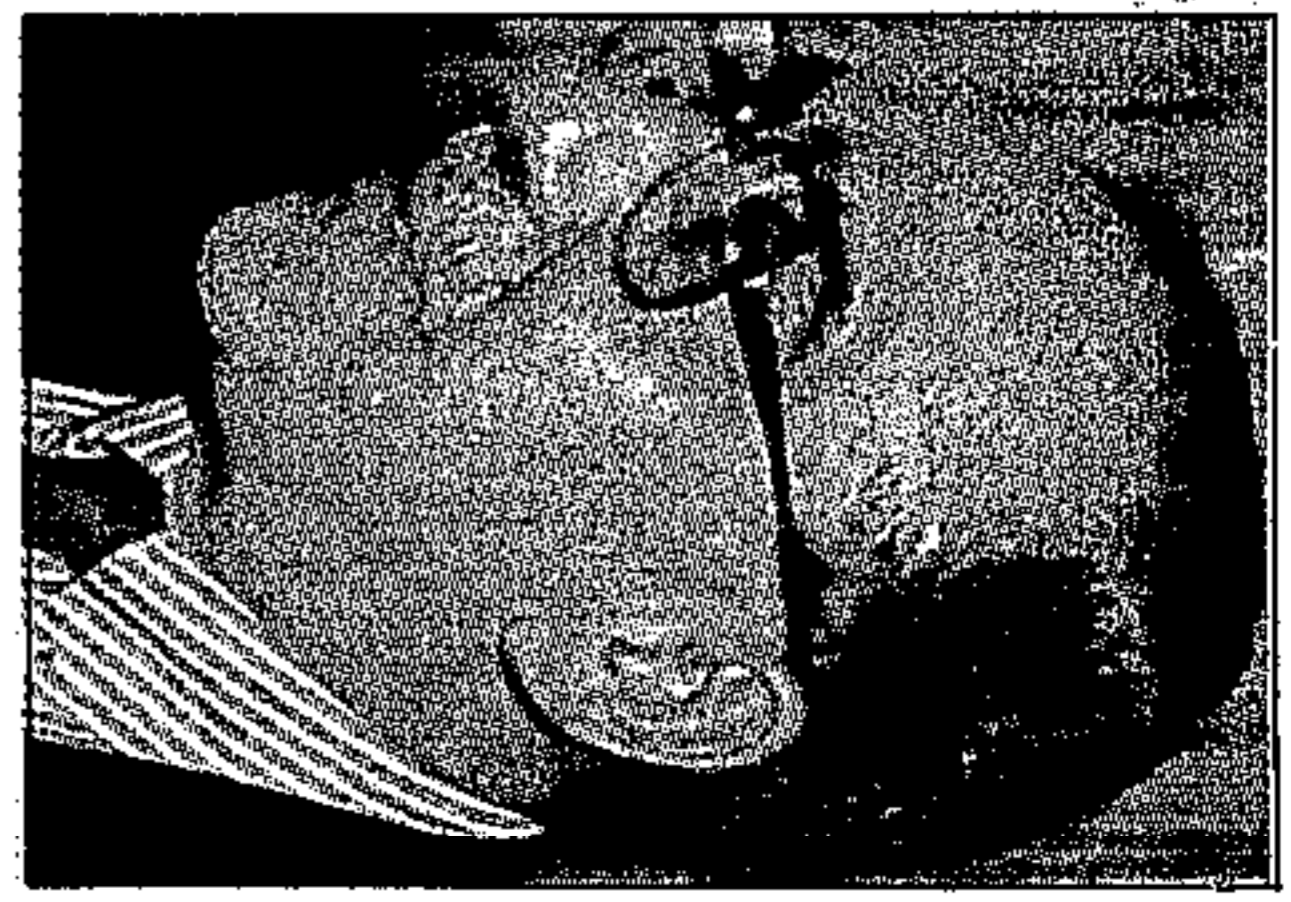
Flack said the mine was continuing production but was unable to

say how long they would be able to continue without pumping.

He said Grootvlei and four other gold mines on the East Rand together employed more than 5 500 people.

Asked why Randgold had not managed to come to a negotiated solution months ago, Flack said: "The department and mine were passing one another like ships in the night."

Yesterday the two parties had arrived at some agreement in a matter of hours, he said.



AGREEMENT: Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal

Cape Flats residents

fight for green space

56 CT 17/15/96

MITCHELLS PLAIN residents have had no response from the city council to requests for the investigation of a sand-mining operation which has claimed the lives of two children. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Mitchell's Plain Community Development Forum has called on UCT's Environmental Advisory Unit to help them stop the sandmining of some of the last dunes in the suburb.

Forum co-ordinator Mr Cee-Jay Williams said yesterday: "The dunes are the only bit of green open space in this part of Mitchell's Plain. When they go, we will be left with just a concrete jungle. And then in 20 years' time, when the authorities realise there are no 'green lungs' in Mitchell's Plain, will they bulldoze some houses to make a park?"

Williams said the community had not been consulted about the sandmining operations. They had written to the City Council asking them to investigate but so far had not received a reply.

"The area is not fenced and any kids can go and play there. The dunes are unsafe now because the bulldozers have undercut them. Last year we lost two children.

"We wanted to keep the dunes and we planned to plant indigenous fynbos there again. Now half of them have gone. If this was Bloubergstrand, they would have listened to the residents — but they don't in Mitchell's Plain," Williams said.

Mr Simon Goudie of UCT's Environmental Advisory Unit said yesterday he had faxed the city council calling for an immediate moratorium on sand extraction from the dunes adjacent to Westridge.

He said there was a high risk of dune destabilisation and the extraction was being done, with-

out safety measures, right next to a residential area.

"There doesn't seem to be any environmental management plan for the extraction of sand, which there has to be under the Minerals Act. This is typical of what is going on in working class environments in Cape Town," Goudie said.

The National Botanical Institute's Mr Barrie Low said most of the dunes on the Cape Flats had been removed to build Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain.

"We could have been very creative about incorporating the dunes into land use, but we were not. Once they have gone, that's it."

Low said the fact that the indigenous vegetation had become infested with alien vegetation was no excuse to mine the dunes. Once the aliens were removed the natural strandveld returned quickly.

Mr Alastair Graham of the City Council's planning department, to whom Goudie wrote, was not available for comment yesterday.



SANDMINE: Mr Cee-Jay Williams, of the Mitchell's Plain Community Development Forum, at the dunes which are being mined for sand. There is no fence around the site and children from the neighbouring residential area can wander there freely.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMIT

Call for 'holistic' environmental plan

Staff Reporter *(56)*

A CALL has been made to the Cape's new Metropolitan Council by an influential new body, the Urban Conservation Managers Forum, to take on the environmental management of all natural open space in the region. *ARG 17/5/96*

The forum consists of conservation managers, law enforcement officers, planners and education officers employed in conservation management.

Forum spokesman Barry Paterson said there were numerous small, but important, urban and rural conservation areas throughout the region, such as Rondevlei, Wolfgat and Tyger-

berg nature reserves. Other areas without formal conservation status include Zeekoeivlei, Sandvlei and the Kuils and Liesbeek Rivers.

"With the pending restructuring of local government, we feel this is an opportunity to address the historical lack of appropriate management of natural open space," Mr Paterson said.

"Many of these areas are managed by individual municipalities, without conservation trained staff or with a single conservation manager isolated within an engineering or horticultural department.

"We believe a solution is for the Cape Metropolitan Council to take on, as a primary

function, the overall supervision of natural open space in the region," he said.

In addition, they should manage riverine corridors and green belts in consultation with the relevant local structures and other departments.

"It is vital that riverine corridors are managed holistically in order that problems relating to individual components are adequately addressed" he said.

Zeekoeivlei, for example, which was one of the most nutrient enriched inland water bodies on earth, had a catchment area that extended

across three substructure boundaries.

"Management and rehabilitation of such a system relies on a co-ordinated, holistic, environmental management plan being implemented over the entire catchment," Mr Paterson said.

The forum envisaged an Advisory Board selected by an independent arbitrator from recommended nominees.

Mine halts toxic water pumping

Staff Reporter

AKCJ 17/5/96

56

A GAUTENG mine management has stopped pumping polluted water into a sensitive wetland after an urgent meeting between Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal and the mine's executive chairman.

This came after an earlier decision at the mine to ignore an order from Mr Asmal to stop pumping contaminated mine water into the Blesbokspruit, which feeds an internationally recognised wetland.

Pumping stopped at the Grootvlei mine near Springs yesterday, after Randgold executive chairman Peter Flack met Mr Asmal.

The Department of Water Affairs on Wednesday withdrew a permit allowing the mine to pump water into the spruit.

About 100 million litres of contaminated water had by then been pumped into the vlei area, killing hundreds of fish and other wildlife.

Grootvlei turns off pumps after accord

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Randgold Exploration turned off the pumps at its Grootvlei mine yesterday after agreeing with Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal they would jointly seek ways to keep the mine operational without polluting the East Rand's wetlands.

Randgold executive chairman Peter Flack ordered the pumps turned off from 4.30pm, about 26 hours after Asmal withdrew its permit to do so.

Flack said mine production would continue until at least Monday, when Asmal would personally visit Grootvlei to listen to proposed measures to ensure continued operations.

Asmal indicated he was willing to rescind his withdrawal of the permit, but only if Randgold provided tangible guarantees that it would install a settler plant to remove iron oxide deposits from the water by end-August.

This would require Randgold to secure about R8m from neighbouring mines, which together with its own contribution of R10m, would be sufficient to pay for the settler.

Asmal said a decision to rescind his order would also depend on how long Grootvlei could continue mining operations without pumping water, an assessment which Randgold would undertake during the next four days.

A critical factor would be the rise of the water level. The effects of a cessation of pumping on the Blesbokspruit

wetland would also be assessed over the weekend.

Asmal said Randgold would also have to make concrete proposals on Monday on remedial action to remove the more obtrusive and visible signs of pollution on the banks of the vlei.

As for a long-term solution, Asmal said his department would undertake a three-month cost-benefit analysis of the mining operation.

He believed the neighbouring four mines on the East Rand had an obligation to assist Grootvlei with pumping water as their water contributed to the build up in the mine.

Questioned about the mine's defiance of his order to stop pumping, a conciliatory Asmal said: "Heightened positions may have been taken which is part of the new learning curve..."

He ascribed Grootvlei's tardiness to the mine's expectations about state intervention, which were no longer valid in the new SA.

Asmal said that had Randgold's defiance continued, he would have sought a court interdict to stop pumping. He is due to meet National Union of Mineworkers officials today to discuss the implications for the 3 000 directly employed on the mine.

□ The Springs City Council said it was instructing its lawyers to obtain a court interdict against any further pumping of contaminated water into the Blesbokspruit Wetlands by the Grootvlei mine.

Carolus offers a home to 'progressive' Nats

Nomavenda Mathiane

ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus yesterday offered "progressive" NP members a political home in the ANC.

Addressing the Transport and General Allied Workers' Union's congress, Carolus slammed the NP for walking out of the government of national unity and betraying the mandate the party had received from those who voted for it in the 1994 general election.

She said the walkout indicated that the NP was bent on protecting the white minority.

Other speakers, including union president Alfred Ndlovu, Labour Minister Tito Mboweni, Cosatu general

secretary Sam Shilowa and the SACP's Jeremy Cronin, welcomed the NP walkout, saying that it called for the repositioning and consolidation of the ANC tripartite alliance.

Cronin said: "It is our alliance which pushed (NP leader FW) De Klerk out of the government of national unity."

He said the NP had been experiencing problems within its ranks.

What had finally pushed the party out of the government of national unity had been the removal of the lockout clause from the constitution.

He said organisations such as the Brenhurst group, representing those who owned 80% of the economy, wanted government to be a "toy telephone" while they clung to economic power.



Police run past an injured student at Pretoria as they halt racial clashes.

New pay rise bid in metals sector

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SEIFSA's negotiators asked to be allowed to consult their constituency yesterday on new union proposals in this year's wage talks in the giant metal industries.

This followed Numsa's unmandated proposal of R19 an hour over three years, said spokesman Enoch Godongwana.

The union's original proposal was that the lowest-paid employee earn R14,40 an hour — 60% of an artisan's average R24 an hour.

The lowest-paid employees currently receive R6,74c an hour.

Godongwana said the union had indicated it was prepared to "explore an offer above R14,40 and less than R24".

Wage talks resume on May 29.

The employers' federation has tabled a proposal of a 6% across-the-board increase.

Mine stops pumping polluted water

BY TAMSEN DE BEER
AND PATRICK BULGER

In a dramatic about-turn, Grootvlei gold mine has stopped pumping contaminated water into the Blesbokspruit near Springs and has reached agreement with Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal.

Asmal, citing environmental damage and contravention of the mine's pumping permit, withdrew the permit on Wednesday.

The mine responded by saying it would defy the order and continued pumping. It declared it would do so until "contradictory directives" issued by government departments had been cleared up.

The mine had been informed about a month ago that the Cabi-

net would make funding available for water purification.

At a media conference yesterday, following a marathon meeting between mine management and water affairs officials, it was announced that the mine had stopped pumping at 4.30pm.

It was also agreed that Asmal would visit the mine on Monday in search of a permanent solution.

Appearing alongside Randgold executive chairman Peter Flack, Asmal said he would have sought a court interdict if the mine had continued to defy his order.

One of the conditions he set for talks between the mine and the department was the guarantee that a settler unit to separate the iron oxides from the water be in place by the end of August.

Star 17/5/96 (56)
Flack said the mine would know by Monday how long it could continue operations without pumping water.

Once the water level rises, working conditions underground become unsafe as subsidiary access points and ventilation passages are flooded.

Acting government mining engineer Dick Bakker said last night he would never allow people to work under such conditions, and the mine would be forced to close, costing about 6 000 jobs in mining and support industries.

Pollution in the wetland has started to affect the world-renowned Marievale bird sanctuary, 7km south of Grootvlei's pumping station.

**Condoms to be
given out in jails**

Younges

School pupils targeted in poison education programme

Business Day Reporter

THE health department has embarked on a long-term educational project to alert the youth of SA to the dangers of pesticides, domestic chemicals, poisonous plants and petrochemical products.

The aim of the programme was to eradicate ignorance, prevent possible cases of poisoning and foster the correct attitude towards

the necessary but potentially dangerous products.

The programme was directed at pupils in standards three to five, a receptive target group who could also convey the message of safe management of pesticides to their family members and the rest of their communities.

An important component of the programme was thorough and intensive training sessions for

(56) BD 13/5/96
teachers who would then go on and present lessons in a "stimulating and imaginative manner".

About 300 schools, 378 teachers and 14 000 pupils in Northern Province, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Free State were already involved in the project — mostly in rural areas where intensive farming and large-scale crop growing took place and where the use of pesticides was a necessity.

COURT BID TO STOP DEVELOPMENT

Parks Board moves on Oudekraal plan

THE DECISION TO approve plans for a controversial hotel at Oudekraal was "unauthorised", the National Parks Board says. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



THE National Parks Board is going to court this week in a bid to halt the controversial multi-million Oudekraal Hotel development on the site of the landmark White House at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

The board is launching Supreme Court action on Wednesday against the developers — Hottentots Huisie Pty Ltd — the Llandudno/Hout Bay local authority and the MEC for planning, Mr Lampie Fick.

This comes just weeks after the National Monuments Council dug in its heels by refusing to give the go-ahead for the Table Mountain cableway upgrading project until the environmental impact assessment of the project had been completed — a clear signal that statuto-

ry conservation organisations are flexing their muscles over development issues which affect the Peninsula's mountain chain.

In court papers the National Parks Board has applied for an interdict to stop the developers from demolishing the White House and from proceeding with any clearing, excavation or construction work on the property.

The board has sought the interdict pending a review of the processes whereby rezoning of the property and the Oudekraal Hotel complex development plans were approved by the authorities.

The board claims that the decision to approve the plan was made through "unauthorised and unfair procedure".

The developers and the local council had failed to get comment

from the public and from public bodies who might object to "the desecration of a nature area". They also ignored a specific request from the South Peninsula Environmental Forum that the public be properly advised of the applications.

The National Parks Board also submits that the Llandudno/Hout Bay council failed to have sufficient regard to the fact that the Oudekraal property was in an area of "considerable national and international value by virtue of its unique natural beauty, biodiversity and other natural qualities which the provincial, national and international community have seen fit to protect".

They submit, too, that the local council had failed to have regard to the fact that their decision to approve the development could set a precedent and lead to further incremental development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

The court action follows a public outcry earlier this year over the proposed 70-bedroomed hotel and

conference centre on the scenic Victoria Road — on the border of what is to become the Table Mountain and Peninsula national park.

Protesters led a march on Parliament to voice their opposition to the development.

They also took up occupation of the White House, forcing the owner to get a court order to have them removed.

Professional environmentalists say the Parks Board's court action and the recent stance taken by the National Monuments Council show a

departure from the days when authorities "rolled over" and gave in to developments in environmentally sensitive areas, leaving it up to the public and green lobby groups to stand up for protection of the Peninsula.

The Fuggle Report on the future management of the Peninsula mountain chain recommended that the sweep of mountain from the skyline of the Twelve Apostles to the sea should be preserved.

(56) CT 13/5/96

**READERS
FOCUS ON
CABLECAR
— PAGE 4**

NUM invited to take part in indaba with mine owners over pollution

(56) Star 18/5/96

Cape Town - Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal yesterday met representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers who fear massive job losses if the Grootvlei gold mine is forced to close down because of environmental damage to the Blesbokspruit wetland.

Asmal had invited the NUM to attend talks in his Pretoria office next Monday with the mine's owners and management, his ministry said in a statement.

Representatives of local authorities, other mines in the area, Rand Water, and agricultural and environmental bodies would also be present.

The NUM had expressed fears about the jobs of large number of miners if Grootvlei were closed.

Concerned

However, its delegation, led by assistant general-secretary Gwede Mantashe, had made it clear they were equally concerned about the environment.

The NUM said it understood that water quality standards should be met.

Asmal had emphasised that the polluted water entering the Blesbokspruit wetland was the responsibility not only of Grootvlei but also of other mines in the area.

The minister had urged a co-operative approach by the private sector to problems that were theirs and not the Government's.

Asmal had said he hoped Monday's meeting would not only resolve the immediate crisis at Grootvlei, but deal with broader, longer-term water and development issues on the East Rand.

Grootvlei mine stopped pumping polluted water into the Blesbokspruit at 4.30pm on Thursday, after the Cabinet agreed on Wednesday to withdraw the mine's permit. - Sapa

EnviroServ to expand operations in SA

Edward West

56 20/5/96

INDUSTRIAL and domestic waste group EnviroServ plans to use the funds raised from today's listing to expand operations in Cape Town and Durban and to fund future acquisitions.

The company lists 5-million or 11% of its 45-million shares through a private placing on the JSE's chemicals sector today. The listing was expected to give the company a market capitalisation of about R100m, MD Kevin de Villiers said.

EnviroServ has about 400 industrial clients who generate about 1 000 tons of industrial waste a day.

It also has 13 local authority contracts for domestic waste disposal.

Amic's construction arm LTA owns 50% of the domestic waste disposal business.

The company processed about 98% of Gauteng's and 49% of SA's "seen" industrial waste. "We estimate that every ton we dispose of, four more tons are dumped illegally," said De Villiers.

Of its forecast R92,5m turnover for the year to December, R53,5m was expected to be derived from domestic waste removal and R39m from industrial waste.

Last year the temporary and permanent closure of industrial waste sites of other companies resulted in increased volumes being handled by EnviroServ.

The most significant increases in volumes of domestic waste handled were expected to emanate from market-share gains in other provinces in the short term.



Randgold chairman Peter Flack, left, with Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal shortly before their two-hour meeting in Pretoria to discuss the future of the group's gold mine, Grootvlei. Asmal said a decision on the future of the mine would be given within 11 days.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Grootvlei's future 'depends on R6m'

David McKay

BD 21/5/96 (56)

THE short-term future of Randgold's East Rand gold mine Grootvlei hinged on securing R6m for constructing five settlement ponds to remove ferrous oxide killing water life at the nearby Blesbokspruit wetlands, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

He said Grootvlei had promised to provide R10m for the construction of the ponds — which would cost a total of R18m — while other mines threatened by flooding would provide R1,25m, but a further R6m had to be found.

Asmal indicated the mineral and energy affairs department could provide these funds. He also suggested that Grootvlei could be allowed to resume pumping water flooding its underground workings

if the efficacy of the ponds was proved. He had 11 days to make a decision before the first shaft of Grootvlei became inoperable.

However, a major caveat was that the construction of a desalination plant costing between R150m and R250m with annual maintenance costs of between R25m and R90m had to be built to secure the long-term potability of the wetlands area, Asmal said. He warned that the state was no longer a Father Christmas, meaning that Grootvlei could not rely on the state for these funds.

Randgold chairman Peter Flack said he was happy with the outcome of his meeting with Asmal yesterday which also included over 50 other people representing NUM, the mines in the East Rand basin, and ecologists.

Proposal to review whales' protection

(56) BD 21/5/96
CAPE TOWN — SA, a sanctuary for the southern right whale, wants to ease its ban on whaling off its shores by reviewing its membership of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which administers a worldwide moratorium on hunting.

A confidential document sent to government departments and some conservationists ahead of the IWC's June meeting in Scotland proposes that SA should keep a low profile and should decide by the 1997 meeting whether to downgrade its membership to observer status.

The document seems set to reopen the emotional debate about the bloody business of hunting the world's biggest mammals.

"It is proposed that SA should retain its independent spirit in order to protect its interests and should use its influence to combat extremism in favour of non-whaling," SA's IWC commissioner and department of sea fisheries director Guillaume de Villiers said in the paper.

He said there was no immediate threat to the estimated 2 000 southern right whales that visit the coast mainly between June and November to mate and calve.

The whales draw thousands of tourists every year.

"At the moment, in South African waters, all whales are protected. I would be extremely surprised if the government were to open up whaling on our coast," De Villiers said.

But veteran Save the Whales campaigner Nan Rice, who condemned the document, said SA had been a premier whaling nation till the late 1970s and owed it to the world to fight for their survival.

Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs Bantu Holomisa said the proposal had not been discussed by government.

The document, drafted by De Villiers, points to anomalies in policies on mammal conservation and proposes that a clear position should be adopted before the IWC's 1997 meeting. — Reuter.

Rethink on SA's whaling stand proposed

CT 2/5/96

(56)

SOUTH AFRICA, a sanctuary for the southern right whale, is reviewing its membership of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which administers a worldwide moratorium on whale hunting.

A confidential document sent to government departments and some conservationists before the IWC's June meeting in Scotland proposes that SA should keep a low profile and should decide by the 1997 meeting whether to downgrade its membership to observer status.

SA IWC commissioner and

Department of Sea Fisheries director Guillaume de Villiers confirmed the authenticity of the document, but said it was a proposal and not yet official policy.

"At the moment, in South African waters, all whales are protected. I would be extremely surprised if the government were to open up whaling on our coast," he said.

But veteran Save the Whales campaigner Ms Nan Rice, who condemned the document outright, said SA had been a premier whaling nation for 184 years till

the late 1970s and owed it to the world to fight for the survival of the whales.

The document points to anomalies in policies on mammal conservation and proposes that a clear position should be adopted before the IWC's 1997 meeting.

SA supported the creation of a southern ocean whale sanctuary below the 55th parallel in 1994 and bans all whaling off its own shores, but also supports the harvesting of white rhinos, seals and elephants to finance conservation.

— Reuter

Time running out for mine as water pollution level increases

Star 21/5/96 (56)

Decision to close down mine will be based on how well settler ponds manage to purify Blesbokspruit

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Only 11 days remain before underground water levels at Randgold's Grootvlei gold mine – still pumping polluted water into the Blesbokspruit – rise to dangerous levels and force the mine's closure.

In that time, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal must decide if he will allow the mine to temporarily pump water into the Blesbokspruit, despite pollution levels being more than double those stipulated in the mine's water affairs permit.

Asmal said his decision in 11 days would be based on how well five settler ponds to be built by the mine work as a temporary purification measure.

But water affairs officials say it would take about three weeks to build the ponds.

It is hoped the ponds will remove most of the suspended iron oxide particles that have caused dramatic visual pollution and killed hundreds of fish and plants in parts of the Blesbokspruit wetland.

By September, a longer-term clarifier will be operational, although R6-million in construction costs have still to be raised.

Grootvlei and two other mines have raised R11,25-million towards the R18-million needed for the facility.

Asmal said the idea of the state subsidising the mining industry

was something the industry had inherited. It had become very wealthy and he had "scolded" mines about their reluctance to contribute funds.

The director of scientific services for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Tami Sokutu, confirmed last night that, should Asmal allow further pumping, there would be about 10 days of unprotected pumping before the ponds could be built.

Sokutu also said that if pumping continued, salinity levels in the water once it reached the Vaal Barrage might exceed levels fit for human consumption.

Barrage water would need to be diluted with water from the Vaal Dam.

In a government first last Wednesday, Asmal withdrew the mine's pumping permit, citing environmental damage and hazards to other water users downstream.

Grootvlei responded by continuing to pump until an urgent meeting on Thursday between Randgold and Asmal halted pumping and opened the way for talks between them.

Yesterday, Asmal opened an informal press briefing by saying: "We made history today." Discussions had taken place at his Pretoria offices between 60 stakeholders and had been an exceptional exercise, involving a willingness to compromise from all parties, he said.

Grootvlei's future may affect East Rand mines

David McKay

THE future of Randgold's waterlogged gold mine Grootvlei will be known today as the Cabinet meets to decide on whether the mine can resume pumping underground water into the Blesbokspruit wetland — a move analysts believe is essential for the survival of other mines in the East Rand basin.

Issues which could be discussed by Cabinet include the efficacy of five settlement ponds which would remove ferrous oxide from the pumped water and the provision of R6m towards the R11,25m that has been pledged by Grootvlei and other mines towards the construction of the settlement ponds.

Grootvlei pumps the underground water on behalf of several other mines in the East Rand basin including Randgold's ERPM and a resurgent Consolidated Modderfontein. These mines are also at risk.

BD 22/5/96
The decision to continue pumping would also stay the axe on 6 000 jobs.

Sources close to Randgold echoed Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal on Monday who believed a compromise was possible. "All parties are compromising because it is in everyone's interest to keep the mine open," the source said.

Randgold declined to comment until after the meeting when the mine's future would be clearer. An important factor in the long-term survival of the mine is the construction of a desalination plant costed at between R120m and R250m with additional maintenance costs. One analyst believed the construction of the plant was essential as it would save the mine and utilise a national resource. The amount of underground water is about 25% the size of water held in the Vaal Dam.

Another analyst believed the effect on the Randgold group would be small as Grootvlei ac-

(24) (56)
counted for only 2,8% of the group's total net asset value. However, the East Rand basin of mines contribute about R750m in foreign exchange earnings — about 2,7% of SA's total estimated forex earnings for this year. Shares in Grootvlei fell 18% yesterday as investors were unnerved by the lack of a deal earlier this week.

Grootvlei's shares dived R2 to R10,75, just off their worst morning level of R10,50, after about 20 500 shares changed hands.

GREENS WELCOME 'RESPONSIBLE DECISION'

Milnerton lagoon development on hold

CT22/5/96

(56)

THE DECISION to allow building development to go ahead at the Milnerton lagoon mouth has been deferred, Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE controversial R200-million development at Milnerton lagoon mouth has been put on hold — until the new council is in place.

The Milnerton council voted six to five against making a decision on the development at their final council meeting yesterday. The matter will be deferred to the Northern Substructure's new council next month.

Councillors who voted to defer the decision on the development to the new council were deputy mayor Mr Fezile Mali, Ms Zorah Ebrahim, Mr Terrence Mhlangatshoba, Mr Philip Rasmeni, Mr Chris Smeda and Ms Isobel Hutchinson. Those who voted against were mayor Mr Ron Hulley, Mr Jan Bester, Ms Clavoette Lee, Mr Des Stoffberg and Mr Willem van Staden.

The move was welcomed by

environmentalists, who have strongly opposed the development on the last coastal dune and strandveld left in Table Bay.

Mr Johannes Coetsee, MD of Milnerton Lagoon Mouth Development, said his company was very disappointed the matter had been deferred to the new council, as they were ready to start building the hotel, shopping complex and residential units.

Wildlife Society spokesperson Ms Marlene Laros said yesterday: "We applaud the Milnerton council for not making a decision on the development and are happy that the constituents of the future Northern Substructure will now be able to have input into a decision which affects their environment."

The Botanical Society's Ms Lee Jones said: "We're really thankful for a responsible decision by people who obviously understand the

importance of sound and sustainable development."

Hulley said after the vote: "It is an absolute tragedy that we had to end in a division. But this is democracy and that's the way it works."

The council received a fax from the Milnerton Residents Association yesterday, saying the association would consider taking court action against the council if they sold the land for development without addressing the concerns of interested parties.

Hulley said he took exception to the threats.

"If certain individuals want to take action, we will deal with them later," he said.

At least 10 environmental and other organisations have opposed the development and say the dunes should be used for education and conservation.

Two of the plants growing in the dunes are included in the Red Data list of species, recognised internationally as being under threat.

Polluting mine's fate hangs in the balance

The Argus Correspondent

ONLY 11 days remain before underground water levels at Randgold's Grootvlei gold mine, which is pumping polluted water into the Blesbokspruit, rise to dangerous levels and force the mine's closure.

In that time, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal must decide if he will allow the mine to temporarily pump water into the Blesbokspruit, despite pollution levels being more than double those stipulated in the mine's Water Affairs permit.

Mr Asmal said his decision would be based on the efficacy of five settler ponds to be constructed by the mine as a temporary purification measure.

But Water Affairs officials have pointed out it will take about three weeks to build the settler ponds.

It is hoped the ponds will remove most of the suspended iron oxide particles that have caused dramatic visual pollution and killed hundreds of fish and plants in parts of the Blesbokspruit wetland.

By September, it is expected that a more permanent clarifier will be operational, although R6 million in construction costs have to be raised.

Grootvlei and two other mines have raised R11,25 million towards the R18-million facility.

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2014
BRG 22/5/96
"It may be in the interests of peace and stability to find that money, but it is very large," said Mr Asmal.

"The idea of the state subsidising the mining industry is something we inherited," he said.

The industry had become very wealthy, and he had "scolded" mines about their reluctance to contribute funds.

The director of scientific services for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Tami Sokutu, confirmed on Monday night that should Asmal allow further pumping, there would be about 10 days of unprotected pumping before the ponds could be built.

Mr Sokutu also said that should pumping continue, salinity levels in the water once it reached the Vaal Barrage might exceed levels fit for human consumption.

Barrage water would need to be diluted with water from the Vaal Dam.

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Candidates see 'green'⁽⁵⁶⁾ for elections

ARG 23/5/96

Wildlife Society survey on environment

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

LOCAL election candidates appear to have a stronger commitment to the environment than their predecessors.

This is the view of the Wildlife Society of South Africa which received a 17 percent response rate to 1 147 questionnaires sent out to candidates campaigning for the May 29 election.

In its report on the replies, the Wildlife Society said that one had to be aware "of the tendency of respondents to want to provide the 'correct answers'".

At a debate earlier this month, the political parties sharing a platform "wanted to appear as green as possible.

In fact it was quite hard to believe that some of these parties have already been involved in the worst environmental decision-making in our city", the society said.

The Wildlife Society said it had successfully put the environment on the election agenda, and now believed there was a need for a "capacity building programme" to enable councillors to make environmentally-sound decisions.

In its results, the society found that women generally rated environmental problems as more serious than men. Political parties gave similar ratings to each other.

All of the issues, including air pollution, marine pollution, waste management, environmentally insensitive

land use, lack of electricity, water and sanitation services, loss of indigenous plants and animal species, and water wastage were rated serious to critically serious by most of the respondents.

Two issues which were rated as less important were the proximity of Koeberg nuclear power station to the Cape metropolitan area - with the majority viewing it as "not very serious", and "the invasion of natural areas by alien plants".

A high percentage of the respondents also felt that the Cape Metropolitan Council should manage air quality, public open space, urban river systems, metropolitan waste systems and water demand.

"This indicates that the future councillors see the CMC playing a central role in the environmental management of Cape Town."

About a third of the respondents were not sure what effect the Olympics would have on Cape Town, while 35,4 percent thought it would be detrimental, and 33,3 percent thought it wouldn't.

The majority also agreed that higher tariffs for high water consumption should be charged to encourage water management.

On the issue of the cableway upgrade, 78 percent of the respondents said they would not give permission to start construction for upgrading facilities before the completion of an environmental impact assessment.

Plastic bag laws to be debated soon

(56) ARG 23/5/96

THE National Assembly's environmental affairs committee will soon consider proposals to regulate the use of plastic packaging and bags.

The proposal drawn up by IFP MP Farouk Cassim, and backed by a multi-party group of environmentally aware MPs, seeks to modernise the Environment Conservation Act which it considers outdated and which the Department of Environmental Affairs has no plans to amend.

An official said only technical legislation involving the former TBVC homelands was to be tabled this year.

Mr Cassim said amendments to the Act would probably be considered at the committee's meeting on June 5, categorising what constitutes waste.

It proposes to compel the Minister to make regulations requiring waste disposal authorities to set aside specially designated areas to collect waste for recycling.

The Minister would also be required to regulate the use of plastic packaging and imported substances and articles that have an impact on the environment. Mr Cassim said he hoped his proposed amendments would open up the debate about ensuring a clean environment. - Sapa.

Candidates see 'green' for elections

Wildlife Society survey on environment

ARL 23/5/96 (58)

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Reprieve for flooding Grootvlei is on the cards

David McKay

RANDGOLD mine Grootvlei will not be forced to close after the water affairs and forestry department said yesterday that government could allow the mine to resume pumping water from its underground works from next week.

Ministry spokesman Themba Khumalo doubted whether government would permanently withhold Grootvlei's pumping permit as the effect on the mines in the area would be "a disaster".
Water Affairs and Forestry

Minister Kader Asmal presented findings from Monday's meeting between the department, mine management and various other parties, including the NUM, to the Cabinet yesterday, and scheduled another meeting next week at which a decision would be made.

One of the key issues the Cabinet would discuss next week was funding to build five settlement ponds — estimated at R18m.

Khumalo indicated that the mineral and energy affairs department could provide some, if not all, of the outstanding R6m.

About R11,25m had already been pledged by Grootvlei and some other mines in the waterlogged East Rand basin for construction of the ponds.

The settlement ponds would extract the ferrous oxide from the water.

Ferrous oxide — a conglomerate of rusted steel in the mine's underground workings and decayed pyrite — has been responsible for the death of waterlife in the nearby Blesbok spruit wetland.

It is a week since Asmal withdrew Grootvlei's permit to pump water from underground

into the wetlands.

According to estimates, the mine has only seven days before its first shaft floods and becomes unsafe to operate, and only three weeks before the entire mine is flooded.

It is not clear whether government will act timeously to save the shaft if a final decision is made only next week.

Randgold chairman Peter Flack said he was "very optimistic" a compromise with the department was possible.

He said that the mine would continue to operate in the meantime.

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City smog
levels cause
for concern
24/5/96

THERE had been no improvement in the level of photochemical fog over Cape Town — which has been very evident recently — the Minister of Environment Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

Motor vehicle emissions had remained the same between April 30 last year and April 30 this year, although the number of motor vehicles had increased over this same period.

De Villiers, who was replying to a question tabled in the Senate by James Selfe (Democratic Party), said that a comprehensive study into all aspects of motor vehicle emissions was being carried out at present.

This study was expected to be completed by 1998, De Villiers said. — Political Staff

Five cabinet ministers meet to thrash out Grootvlei issue

Authorities say they cannot allow mine to contaminate water

(56) Star 24/5/96

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The short-term answer to preventing the Grootvlei gold mine from flooding may be found today, when five cabinet ministers meet to focus massive attention on a solution.

But Rand Water has emphasised that the contamination levels are unacceptable in the long term, and may seek to have the mine's pumping permit withdrawn.

Saline levels of the undiluted effluent pumped from Grootvlei are four times higher than World Health Organisation standards, said Rand Water CEO Vincent Bath.

"We cannot allow this amount of pollution from a single source," he said, adding that a short-term solution would be "tolerable" for a year at most.

The Cabinet this week assigned additional ministries – Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mineral and Energy Affairs, Trade and Industry, Labour and Finance – to discuss the issue with Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kader Asmal.

If sufficient facts are available at today's meeting, a short-term solution is possible, said Asmal's adviser, Barbara Schreiner.

The mine last week stopped

pumping the contaminated mine water into the Blesbokspruit because of environmental damage and negative impacts on downstream water-users.

The mine is now threatened with flooding and possible closure, and four other marginal mines and about 6 000 jobs in the East Rand basin are in jeopardy as the water rises a metre each day.

The mine has just more than a week before underground conditions become unsafe.

Short- and long-term solutions have been hamstrung by a lack of funds, and were designed for different kinds of contaminants.

Grootvlei and two other mines raised R11,25-million towards an R18-million settler plant to provide a short-term solution by removing ferrous oxides, which have caused most of the environmental damage.

It was hoped the plant would be constructed by September, but the shortfall has yet to be raised.

Long-term solutions aimed at desalinating the water would also be weighed up at today's meeting, Schreiner said.

The cost of a desalination plant is between R120-million and R250-million. Asmal said the state was reluctant to continue subsidising the mining industry.

Ban provokes labour outcry

Kader Asmal is facing a dilemma on which comes first nature or jobs? **Eddie Koch** reports on the implications for both sides involved in the Blesbokspruit wetlands-versus-Grootvlei gold mine controversy

WATER Affairs Minister Kader Asmal — already embroiled in the toughest jobs-versus-environment dilemma he has faced since taking office — is now squaring up to organised labour over the ban he slapped on a marginal gold mine from pumping contaminated water into the Blesbokspruit wetland.

The Grootvlei Gold Mine near Springs on the East Rand, which is pumping 100-million litres of contaminated underground water per day into a nearby wetland, says it will be forced to close down the mine and sack about 2 000 miners by the end of June if the minister sticks to his guns.

And it appears the corporation that manages the mine, Randgold, has some support from an unexpected quarter. National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) assistant general secretary Gwede Mantashe sent an urgent memorandum to Cabinet members this week asking them to consider measures that could protect the wetland and save workers' jobs.

Nine out of every 10 workers at Grootvlei belong to NUM and the gold mines in the region form one of the union's most important power bases. And as a major affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the miners' organisation has substantial support in government circles.

If the ban extends to other mines in the area that pump polluted water into the vlei — where high concentrations of iron, manganese, nickel, lead and especially ferric hydroxides have killed thousands of fish and threatened the resource base of the wetland — thousands of miners could find themselves out of work this year.

While the union has criticised management for failing to control the pollution problem — thus forcing the minister to take punitive action — a delegation from the labour organisation visited Asmal this week to express its worry about workers' losing their jobs. Union representatives told the *Mail & Guardian*

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that, while they were concerned about the fate of the wetland, the prospect of mass retrenchments posed a far greater national problem — and Mantashe's memo to Cabinet outlines the "enormous economic implications" if solutions are not found. Randgold says that the 6 000 people employed underground by five mines in the immediate vicinity of the Blesbokspruit provide 50 000 dependants with their livelihood from salaries and wages that total R122-million a year.

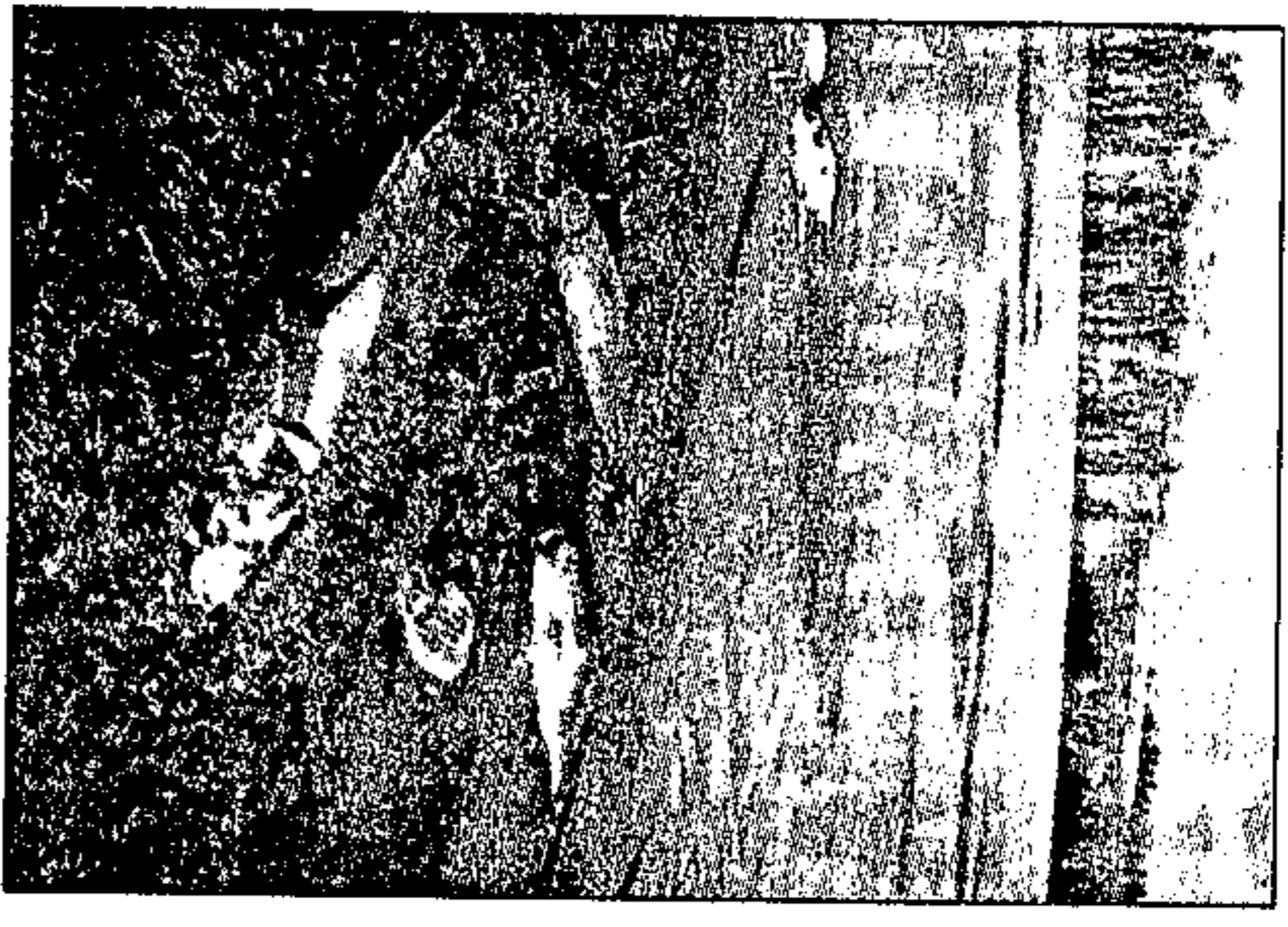
During the controversy last year over the siting of a new steel mill at Saldanha Bay, Asmal went on record as saying that environmental concerns had to be balanced against the need to create and protect jobs for rural communities.

But Blesbokspruit is an internationally protected wetland that sustains a number of bird and fish species and also acts as a natural filter for water that flows into the Vaal River. The minister, as custodian of the country's water resources, was obliged to protect it from destruction by pollution — and now finds himself caught in a classic jobs-versus-environment bind.

Asmal was forced to withdraw the permit allowing the mine to pump water into the wetland last week because mine management had reneged on an agreement — made before the permit was issued — to clean the water to "within tolerable levels" and employ consultants who would monitor the ecological impact of its activities.

NUM's memo urges Cabinet to allow temporary pumping for another two weeks while the mine completed construction of temporary "settling ponds" that will remove polluting iron oxide and other metals from the waste water. Officials in the Water Ministry say Asmal is concerned about the miners' security and wants a negotiated solution to the conundrum he has inherited.

The minister this week acknowledged 6 000 jobs were on the line and said he would decide about lifting the ban by the end of next week — and this move would be influenced by his assessment of the settling ponds' ability to mitigate the pollution.



Fishy business: Thousands of fish have been killed by the contaminated Grootvlei mine water

The Brandy
represents a complete
break with
past tradition

THE BRANDY

'Green group' holds key to quick approval of cableway

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Staff Reporter

ARCT 25/5/96

THE upgrade of Table Mountain's cableway could be approved within two months if a special committee solved environmental problems.

But even if the project is backed, work on the cableway would not start before February to prevent disruption of the peak holiday season.

UCT Professor Richard Fugal will lead the committee, which was set up by Arts and Science Minister Ben Ngubane.

The formation of the committee follows the National Monuments Council's refusal to approve the controversial project until an integrated environmental impact study had been completed.

Louis de Waal, chairman of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, welcomed the appointment and said the company was keen to help Professor Fugal's investigation.

"We believe Professor Fugal's report will be handed to Mr Ngubane for his decision by the end of July. We are still hopeful that we will get the go-ahead for the redevelopment."

Captour chief executive Gor-

don Oliver has appealed to all the relevant authorities to ensure the redevelopment goes ahead.

Mr Oliver said Captour was confident that the cableway company intended to fulfil its obligations to the community as required by the National Monuments Council.

"There is no question of principles being sacrificed or subverted and we do appeal to the National Monuments Council and the Parks Board to reach a healthy and constructive compromise with the (cableway) company in the interest of a win-win situation."

The R61 million upgrading programme includes two new circular cars which could carry 65 passengers each, improved parking facilities, a new restaurant - behind the existing one - at the top which will be sunk into the rock to lessen the visual impact and the replacement of unsightly water reservoirs on the summit by sunken reservoirs.

The existing path in the centre of the mountain will be replaced by a new circular path with the aim of stopping people walking through the fynbos as they seek a better view from the edge of the mountain.

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Asmal concludes pollution deal with Grootylei mine

By ADRIAN HADLAND

(56) (24) STAR 25/5/96

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal gave Grootvlei gold mine the nod yesterday to continue pumping water into the Blesbokspruit, subject to certain conditions.

In terms of an agreement between the mine and the Government, the Randgold-owned mine must erect temporary settling ponds to filter out the pollution before continuing to pump water into the spruit.

The ponds will extract between 60% and 70% of the current levels of iron oxide, according to studies.

The mine's permit was withdrawn earlier this month after its failure to adhere to permit conditions, including measures to control the high levels of

iron oxide being pumped out of the East Rand facility.

Asmal said yesterday the agreement would save 6 500 jobs at the mine and would also protect the Blesbokspruit and the neighbouring wetland from intolerable levels of pollution.

The mine had been issued with an interim permit which would be valid until the end of September.

Pumping could begin on May 31 or as soon as the settling facilities could be made "substantially operational".

Asmal said many meetings and much hard work had taken place to resolve the crisis.

"Sometimes it is necessary to have a short, sharp slap on the wrist. It sharpens the mind," he said.

The completion of an environmental

study and finalising plans for the temporary settler ponds had been long overdue, prompting the Government to act. The action served to show that the Government was serious about environmental protection.

In the longer term, the Government agreed to fund half the R20-million cost of the installation of permanent settling ponds, Asmal said. The mine's contribution would increase if the gold price rose or the rand exchange rate fell more than 6% in real terms.

Asmal said he would be meeting other mining houses from the area next week to discuss their roles in the containing of iron oxide pollution. A cost-benefit analysis of the consequences of mining and the future of the Blesbokspruit was under way.

THE law has lagged behind the growth of green consciousness. Not only has it dragged its feet over environmental issues, it has tended to favour polluters because of economic considerations.

That is gradually changing now, however, and increasingly pollution victims are flexing their legal muscle. The courts are gradually becoming more amenable in awarding compensation, while offenders are finding it increasingly difficult to evade liability.

The issue has been thrown into focus once again by pending legislation. And insurance companies are now forking out for large compensation claims, causing a drastic reassessment of their previous laissez-faire attitude to the problem.

Previously most SA insurance companies did not bother to include pollution in their policies — except where the risk was obvious.

But the alarming increase in claims for damages caused by pollution are beginning to represent huge losses for insurance companies, and trends here are starting to emulate those overseas.

Slowly polluters are being made to pay

BD 27/5/96

MICHAEL JUDIN

In the US, for example, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) may order the owners and operators of hazardous waste, and those who have generated and transported it, to repay the entire, or a substantial portion, of any clean-up costs. The offenders could also find themselves liable for compensatory and punitive damages. As a result, pollution risks have become virtually uninsurable in the US.

Most of those who are still prepared to give cover charge exorbitant premiums. The result, unhappily, is that manufacturers either dump and camouflage their hazardous waste or limit their product range to items that are insurable.

International environment law says "the polluter must pay" — so the costs of harming the environment are picked up by those responsible, freeing the country in which the harm was inflicted. Parliaments enforce principle, not the courts.

In SA, insurance companies rely on the fact that their policies cover liabilities that flow from an accident/incident which may be defined as a "sudden, unforeseen event".

This definition excludes the accumulative effects of hazardous waste dumping, or the omission of toxic smoke from chimney stacks — where nuisance arises from deliberate acts of pollution, the damage is not insurable.

This is changing. Pressure is on the local insurance market now to acknowledge the grave potential of liability from pollution. As a result, liability policies now carry an exclusion clause for damage caused by unforeseen actions resulting in pollution or contamination.

Furthermore, insurance companies will not indemnify clients against the costs of cleaning up

damage caused by pollution unless the nuisance is caused by an accident during the period of insurance.

Insurance companies do not specify as a condition that a third party claim should be made against the insured as a result of the pollution, suggesting that liability costs will be met, whether or not the accidental nuisance causes actionable damage to the public.

Under the law, the insured is legally liable for clean-up costs. If it is not sorted out, the work will be done by another agency and a claim will be lodged for recovery of the expenses. Considering that clean-up costs may exceed third party claims for injury or damage, there is a need to indemnify the insured for both.

The wariness of insurance companies is understandable. After all, they are unable to anticipate the consequences of a major pollution hazard. It is virtually impossible therefore to acquire separate insur-

ance offering wider protection against pollution liability.

As a result, environmental protective policies have all but disappeared from the international market because of the heavy losses sustained by insurance companies.

SA is in a similar predicament. Like most countries, we do not have insurance mechanisms to deal with the consequences of environmental damage. As we re-enter the international arena, it is imperative for the law to be reviewed constantly to keep abreast of the potential threats to our emerging economy.

We have the advantage of learning from the mistakes and successes of the rest of the world in thwarting the dangers of pollution and ensuring equitable restitution. While it is not in the public's interest for insurers to cushion offenders who have deliberately created pollution hazards, insurance should provide protection to polluters who have become liable through events beyond their control.

□ Judin is a senior partner in a firm of attorneys.

BOOKS

Cableway revamp could get nod by July

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

ARG 27/5/96 (56)

THE controversial upgrade of the Table Mountain aerial cableway could still get the go-ahead by the end of July if a special committee under the leadership of environmentalist Richard Fuggle can resolve outstanding environmental issues.

Arts, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane asked a special minister's committee to appoint a committee under the leadership of Professor Fuggle to investigate the redevelopment of the cableway.

The appointment of the special committee followed the National Monuments Council's refusal to give the go-ahead for the project until an integrated environmental impact study had been completed.

Louis de Waal, chairman of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, welcomed the appointment.

He said the company was keen to help Professor Fuggle in his investigation.

"We believe Professor Fuggle's report will be handed to Dr Ngubane by the end of July. We still hope that

we will get the go-ahead for the redevelopment. But even if we did, we would only start the project in February next year because we don't want to close the cableway at the peak of the season in December and January."

Chief executive of Captour Gordon Oliver has appealed to all relevant authorities to find a way to permit the redevelopment plans to go ahead.

Mr Oliver said Captour was confident that the cableway company had every intention of fulfilling its obligations to the community as required by the monuments council.

"There is no question of principles being sacrificed or subverted and we do appeal to the National Monuments Council and the Parks Board to reach a healthy and constructive compromise with the (cableway) company in the interest of a win-win situation."

The R61 million upgrading programme includes two new circular cars with a capacity of 65 passengers each, improved parking facilities at the bottom station, a new restaurant behind the existing one at the top station and the removal of unsightly water reservoirs on top of the mountain, as well as upgrading of paths.

CONSERVATION BENEFITS SHARED

Elephant park, locals form eco-partnership

WHERE FORMERLY there was continual strife between the local people and the Addo park staff there is now a mutually beneficial partnership, writes **MELANIE GOSLING**.

FOUR years ago game rangers from Addo Elephant National Park dared not enter the nearby township of Nomathamsanqua for fear of being stoned.

It was almost open warfare between the locals and the staff of this Eastern Cape game reserve.

Poaching was rife, fence poles were ripped out, vehicles were stoned, rangers were assaulted — one so badly that he nearly lost the use of an arm.

Addo park was seen as an elitist set-up to which the poor were denied access. The locals were seen as a threat to the park's existence.

Now things have changed. At the weekend the two parties came together in a day of singing and festivities to celebrate a partnership.

National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson and representatives from Nomathamsanqua signed the constitution of the Mayibuye Ndlovu (let the elephant come back) Project.

And in a way the elephant has come back. Through Mayibuye the local people are receiving tangible benefits from the Addo park.

It started back in 1992 when the open hostilities led the warden of the nearby Zuurberg National Park, Mr Wandile Mzazi, to suggest to the board that they should involve the



VIVA NDLOVU! Praise-singer Chris Ndubula was one of the celebrants at Addo. **PICTURE: MELANIE GOSLING**

local people in environmental education programmes and try to create material benefits for them.

The initiative was taken up by NPB's Dr Anthony Hall-Martin and the then warden of Addo, Mr Lucius Moolman, who asked representatives from the community to meet them. They came, but were suspicious.

Said Mr Zwai Mjadu, a Nomathamsanqua resident and chairman of the local ANC: "We didn't trust them. We said, 'Why now, when you have ignored us for so long?'"

But they came, they talked and the Addo Liaison Committee was born, and from that the project.

The aims are to redirect certain benefits from the park to the people and promote environmental education in the surrounding community.

Now 20% of the proceeds of the annual kudu cull in Addo goes into Mayibuye's account, which has been spent on projects the community itself decides on.

When the board bought up new farms to add to Addo, they invited the locals to come in and demolish the buildings and use the materials for the town. More than 200 families and the local church used the materials.

All local schoolchildren from Sub A to matric have been through Addo as part of the environmental education project.

A craft market has been established at the entrance to the park where locals sell their curios.

Said Hall-Martin: "This is the first outreach programme of its kind in South Africa that is actually working. The board is not a development agency, but here we created something that may be a catalyst for development."

Said Mjadu, who was recently appointed assistant camp manager at Addo: "I never thought I would one day wear a parks board uniform. I was very suspicious of the parks board when they said they wanted to be better neighbours. But today we see that they have kept their word."

State agrees to give aid to Grootvlei

Linda Ensor

BD 27/5/96

CAPE TOWN — Government has backed down on its refusal to pump money into marginal mining operations by agreeing to fund the implementation of certain anti-pollution measures at Randgold's East Rand Grootvlei gold mine.

Grootvlei was granted a temporary, conditional permit to pump water into the Blesbokspruit on Friday by Water Affairs Minister Kadar Asmal after a

(56) (2025)
meeting of a cabinet subcommittee. The subcommittee consisted of officials from the departments of water affairs, finance, mineral and energy affairs, environmental affairs and tourism, trade and industry and labour.

Saving 6 500 mine-related jobs in the Grootvlei area and protecting much-needed foreign earnings were said to be crucial factors in the decision.

The permit was granted on condition that settling ponds be established at Grootvlei at a cost to the mine of R1m. Studies revealed that the ponds could remove 60% to 70% of the iron oxides from the water.

David McKay reports Randgold said at the weekend that two of three temporary settling ponds would be constructed at Grootvlei by the middle of the week, dispelling fears that at least one of Grootvlei's shafts would be flooded.

Randgold said last week that the first of Grootvlei's three shafts would start to flood within 11 days — towards the end of this week — if the water affairs and forestry department did not allow the mine to resume pumping underground water into the Blesbokspruit wetland.

Randgold commercial director Brett Keble said the temporary settling ponds would be completed by Wednesday and within manageable costs. He warned that Grootvlei was not in a position to pay for the operating costs of the permanent settling ponds which would be completed by September.

Asmal said the state would initially pay all the R850 000 monthly operational costs of the settling ponds and would contribute R10m to the cost of installing a permanent settler plant by September, with the balance of R10m being paid by Grootvlei.

Asmal said he would meet Grootvlei's four neighbouring mines today to discuss what contribution they could make to meeting the monthly costs of operating the settling ponds.

Milnerton project gets green light

28/5/96 (58)

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE controversial R200-million development at the mouth of Milnerton Lagoon received the green light from the local town council yesterday.

The move — on the eve of the local government elections — comes after the council voted last week at its final council meeting to leave the decision of approving the Lagoongate development to the new council.

The approval was welcomed by the developers, who said they had cut back the development — which will include a hotel, residential and shopping complex — to accommodate the concerns of environmental groups.

Mr Johan Pietersen, a spokesman for the developers, said they had scrapped 12 housing units at the southern end of the site to save that section of dune vegetation.

He said changes had also been made to ensure that the

Yesterday's council decision was taken after an appeal from the developer.

Mayor Mr Rod Hulley said earlier the developer had held a meeting with concerned parties on Friday, at which Dr Allan Heydorn of World Wide Fund for Nature had said he was now "very happy" with the project after adjustments were made.

The nod from Heydorn had convinced eight of the nine councillors to rescind their earlier decision.

ecological functioning of Rietvlei was unaffected.

Yesterday's decision was slated by Milnerton Residents' Association spokesman Mr Joachim Fassman, who said: "We are deeply disappointed that a council who should act in our interests went against the interests of Milnerton residents."

Botanical Society spokeswoman Ms Lee Jones said: "I'm very disappointed. It's a great pity Milnerton was prepared to overturn a responsible decision."

R50m more for tree-felling

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

THE RDP programme to remove alien vegetation from water catchment areas is to get another R50 million, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal has disclosed.

Altogether 33 000 hectares have been cleared in six months.

Between October last year and March this year, the Working for Water Programme, which is significantly boosting water supply, spent all but R260 000 of its initial budget of R25m, making it one of the most successful and efficient RDP programmes over the past two years.

The extent of the programme's effectiveness has been revealed in its report for the 1995/6 financial year.

Research has shown that for every hectare of densely infested

(56) CT28/5/96
land that is cleared, run-off into rivers will increase by an extra 3,5 million litres.

In some areas, rivers and springs that have been dried up for years have started to flow again and the run-off into dams has increased.

The head of the programme in the Western Cape, Mr Christo Marais, said yesterday that 21 000 hectares of land of which 2 700 hectares were densely infested, had been cleared in the province.

By the end of March, 3 008 people had been employed on the programme in the Western Cape, he added.

Asmal said 6 686 jobs had been created nationwide for previously unemployed people and more than half of these had been women.

"There is hope, there is dignity, there are the results of a better quality of life."

Call to end ban on ivory

(56)

'People must benefit from natural resources'

ARL 28/5/96

The Argus Foreign Service

HARARE.- Southern African countries with abundant elephant populations continue to hope that the ban on ivory trade will be revised at an international conference in Zimbabwe next year.

While they would like to realise maximum economic benefits from trade in ivory and elephant hide, the international community does not allow them to do so. Instead they are forced to stockpile their ivory and elephant hide.

To trade or not to trade in ivory - that is the big issue that will be discussed at the June 1997 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference in the town of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Cites is an international regulatory body which looks into the management of flora and fauna and decides whether countries like Zimbabwe can trade in wildlife products. Cites banned international commercial trade in ivory in January 1990 by placing the elephant on Appendix One. This rules that an endangered species and its products are not allowed to be traded internationally.

The decision was immediately opposed by southern African countries with viable elephant populations. At the Cites meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in 1992, they argued - without success - for the down-listing of the elephant to Appendix Two. This allows for controlled international commercial trading.

The issue is widely expected to be high on the agenda of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe at the Zimbabwe meeting. These countries formed an independent grouping, the Southern Africa Centre for Ivory marketing (Sacim), in protest against the Cites ivory trade ban.

"One of the major things we are going to push for at this conference is the down-listing of the elephant. We have a stockpile of ivory worth Z\$35million (R15,5m)," says the Zimbabwe Minister of Environment and Tourism, Chen Chimutengwende.

He says Zimbabwe supports sustainable use of its natural resources.

"We believe that people must derive some economic benefit from our natural resources. When people benefit from wildlife, they have an extra interest in its protection."

He says the elephant is not an endangered species in Zimbabwe and disagrees with the argument that trade in ivory encourages poaching. Mr Chimutengwende says: "We are push-

ing for the right of the southern African states, which have an abundant elephant population, to be able to use the elephant and its products for the economic benefit of people."

He says that looking after elephants is costly with the provision of security and special water points and returns are needed.

"We are not irresponsible. If we were allowed to derive economic benefit from the elephant, as we do with cattle, we would ensure this is done in a sustainable manner. Obviously we would want to continue benefiting from cattle, so the same applies to our elephants."

A recent elephant census revealed that Zimbabwe's 64 000 elephant population was well in excess of the country's capacity of 30 000 to 35 000.

Dr John Hutton, chairman of the Cites technical committee on Africa, who lives in Zimbabwe, says: "In my personal opinion, ivory trade has to be re-introduced in some form in the region, where there is good management. As long as the ban is maintained, the elephant will not really have value - and I believe this is a bigger threat to conservation than the ivory trade ever was."

He said the call by Sacim member countries to have their elephants down-listed to Appendix Two had not received a good hearing, and that it was unfortunate the international community was using as an excuse the contention that there had to be African consensus, which there is not, before the elephant population could be down-listed.

"I think one could say it is an unfortunate position and hypocritical, because there was no African unity when the ivory trade was banned - so why does there have to be African unity to unban it in a particular region?" Dr Hutton asked.

Not all African countries have viable elephant populations. A case in point is that of east African countries which are not in favour of unbanning the trade because their elephants were heavily poached in the early 1980s. They believe the re-opening of the ivory trade might start large scale poaching again.

The chairman of Zimbabwe's Council for Tourism, David Chapman, says: "We are well aware of the Cites conference and are sensitising the tourism industry on the importance of Cites and how it affects Zimbabwe in general, and the tourism industry. We will be doing a lot of public relations work before the conference, informing people what Cites is all about."

Asmal targets 15 firms

(56) CF 28/5/96

WATER AFFAIRS and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal is seeking more legal powers to go after Water Act offenders himself, reports Political Writer **HENRY LUDSKI**.

A WESTERN CAPE winery is among 15 major companies being prosecuted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry for allegedly contaminating the water supply.

But the minister, Mr Kader Asmal — who is pursuing the prosecutions with the same fervour that he brought to supplying water to millions of people who were not getting it — is far from satisfied. He wants the judicial muscle to go after offenders himself.

Asmal, whose budget vote will be debated in the National Assembly today, told the Cape Times he planned to approach Justice Minister Dullah Omar to ask for the judicial authority to pursue his department's investigations through to the end.

Among the major companies

and many of them will even have been investigating the cases," he said. "The whole point about prosecution is the impact you make immediately and the sense of public satisfaction that is derived."

Saying that prosecutions are necessary "to focus attention on large-scale negligent or criminal behaviour", Asmal added that his department wanted to inculcate a sense of responsibility in large industrial companies and get them to realise that the provision of drinking water was the paramount concern.

"Water is a national resource and the first call on this water reserve is domestic human needs — drinking water, clean washing water and then the environment. Everything else comes afterwards. There is a general acceptance now that there can't be industrial and economic development and irrigation and farming unless there is a guarantee of drinking water."

Asmal said that people who

believed the environment was important for future generations would have to conserve it now.

"And if people with vested interests don't like it and if they will not take the measures appropriate to the situation, they must be persuaded or prosecuted."

On the question of job losses that could result from the prosecution of offenders, Asmal said: "Nobody wants to be placed in a situation where jobs may be in peril. But then you should never be placed in a position where you have to choose between people's health and their jobs."

Today's budget vote will focus on regional co-operation, the recasting of the Water Act, the devolution of power and resources to local authorities to allow them to respond to the constitutional references on the right of access to water, and on the greater involvement of communities in the national function of water management.

Toxic material: Gauteng 'has little control'

(56)
By TROYE LUND

Ston 28/5/96
About 10 million litres of hazardous chemicals and waste are transported on Gauteng's roads everyday and traffic and transport authorities admit they have "dangerously little" control over the situation.

The survey that revealed this was carried out by a team from the Natal Provincial Administration (NPA) after the N3 was blocked several times this year by tankers carrying poisonous materials.

Head of the NPA Traffic John Snell, who co-ordinated the survey, confirmed yesterday that more than 90% of the 10 million litres of hazardous material being transported on the N3 every day travel to or through Gauteng.

But none of Gauteng's provincial departments has any idea what volumes of toxic chemicals are travelling their roads.

Spokesman for the province's transport department, Max Steinberg said: "It is absolutely worrying. A tanker carrying 20 tons of arsenic could drive through the middle of Johannesburg and no one would know".

Deputy director of Gauteng traffic Wim van Zyl said his department did not have the manpower to carry out regular checks specifically for trucks carrying hazardous waste.

"But in the case of a spill, traffic officers know exactly what to do," said Van Zyl.

Gauteng Road Freight Association (RFA), Earthlife Africa and Polyfin are adamant the legislation regulating loads of hazardous material is "completely inadequate".

Keith McMurray of the RFA said: "It is not how many litres on the road that counts as much as the controls provided by the Hazardous Substance Act.

"The law needs a huge revamp and needs to be strictly enforced," he said.

Grootvlei mine ponds are going well

(56) (284)
STAFF REPORTER
R.OW 28/5/96

The construction of temporary settling ponds to remove the bulk of iron oxide from mine water at Grootvlei gold mine, Springs, is progressing "satisfactorily", the mine said yesterday.

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal granted the mine a temporary permit on Friday to pump the contaminated water into the Blesbokspruit on condition that the settling ponds are operational by May 31.

The temporary permit expires in September, when a permanent settling facility is expected to be completed. Mine manager Peter Noble said yesterday that at least three of the eventual five ponds would be ready by the end of the month, when pumping must resume to prevent the mine flooding.

IFP RESISTS TRANSFERRING CONTROL

KwaZulu defies govt on forests

TRIBES are burning trees in protest as the central government turns to the Constitutional Court to gain control of Kwa-Zulu's forests. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

THE KwaZulu-Natal cabinet faces a Constitutional Court challenge from the central government which is seeking to gain control over forests in the Inkatha-dominated territory.

The province's MEC for Agriculture, George Bartlett, confirmed yesterday that the provincial cabinet, at the initiative of the IFP majority, had decided to defy the central government by refusing to condone the transfer of indigenous forests to the central government. It is understood that this decision was taken on February 7.

Speaking in his budget vote in the National Assembly yesterday, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal said

his department was determined to bring the nation's forests — particularly those in the former homeland areas — "up to standard" so they were not a drain on the exchequer.

Asmal said he would also put to the court the question of which level of government should control the water supply.

"Under the constitution, at my initiative, the administration of indigenous forests will be vested in the province, but the functions must first be transferred to central government," Asmal said.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose's cabinet is determined to defend its right to control the forests, rather

than merely administer national policies.

The province has 307 proclaimed indigenous forests with an area of 101 155 hectares.

Some of these make up a large part of the conservation areas built up by the old KwaZulu Department of Nature Conservation and former Natal Parks Board.

Many of the forested areas — such as Ongoye, Nkandla and Hlatikulu — have a close connection with Zulu history. It is this that most arouses Inkatha ministers' passions. In some cases, millions of rand have been spent on tourist facilities.

Bartlett said the central government did not take into account the Inkatha Freedom Party's view that forestry should be a provincial concern. He acknowledged that Asmal held "all the cards" as, under the constitution, forestry was a

national competence.

However, in many cases, tribal communities had leased their land to the old KwaZulu administration which had processed timber for construction and fencing.

"The people's will is being ignored," said Bartlett, the only NP member of the provincial legislature.

Tribespeople were opposed to the central government's gaining control over forests on their land and some had taken to burning forests in defiance, he said.

Asmal's argument, however, is that the central department's policy, outlined in its White Paper, is to work towards sustainable forest development. There is a need to highlight community participation in the forestry programme while focusing on commercial and conservation aspects.

Funding is determined by the allocation of functions — whether this is at provincial or national level as set down by the constitution.

If the forests are not transferred to the central government, the province will have to fund them.

Bartlett said that although the administration of the forests should not be his department's responsibility, it was costing it R3 million a month.

The battle over the forests is the latest in a series that have led to court clashes between the central and KwaZulu-Natal governments.

Last week the provincial government agreed to repeal legislation giving it control over the Ingonyama tribal lands. It backed down when it became clear it was headed for defeat in a court action spearheaded by the ANC, NP and DP.

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STREEK
of 29/5/96

Milnerton lagoon plan gets go-ahead in council U-turn

ARG 29/5/96

CHENE BLIGNAUT

Staff Reporter

CONSTRUCTION is to begin soon on the R200 million Milnerton lagoon mouth development, after the local council overturned its decision to put the controversial project on hold.

The dramatic about-turn, by eight votes to one, during a special council meeting, was the result of a last-minute appeal from a prominent conservationist, and behind-the-scenes lobbying by a local African National Congress strongman.

The development was put on hold last week after campaigning by a powerful environmental lobby which argued that the hotel, retail and residential project would destroy the last piece of West Coast strandveld and would impede the lagoon mouth dynamics.

However, last-minute reassurances from renowned conservationist Allan Heydorn, specialist consultant for the World Wide Fund (WWF) For Nature, prompted councillors to change their minds.

Dr Heydorn said the development would be an example of a good balance between development and environmental concerns.

Another factor instrumental in swinging the council around, was lobbying by prominent ANC member Noel Williams, who apparently persuaded fellow party members on the council to reconsider. (Most of the councillors who supported deferring the pro-

(56)
ject last week were ANC supporters.)

This followed accusations by the developer that the ANC was paying lip service to the promotion of economic growth, by delaying an economic injection to the area which would be to the benefit of all.

It is estimated that about 800 jobs will be created during the construction stage and 700 permanent positions on completion of the project. The council had agreed to channel half of the R12 million revenue from sale of the land to RDP projects.

Johan Coetsee, managing director of the Milnerton Lagoon Mouth Development Company, denied previous reports of stiff public opposition to the project, saying only about four organisations were not happy about the concessions proposed by the company.

"You can never have everyone on board, but we are committed to making this an environment-friendly concern," he said.

But Lee Jones, prominent environmentalist at the National Botanical Institute, slammed the decision as "irresponsible" and a "grave pity".

The go-ahead was also lamented by Joachim Fassman of the local residents' association, who believed this "important piece of land" was sold out by the council.

Some environmentalists questioned Dr Heydorn's bona fides and wondered if Dr Heydorn was speaking on behalf of the WWF.

Asmal demands 16 cases of pollution be prosecuted

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has taken aim at industrialists polluting SA's water supply with an announcement that he has asked attorneys-general to prosecute 16 cases of pollution.

Delivering his budget speech in the National Assembly yesterday, Asmal said the co-operative approach of the past, often mistaken for weakness, was at an end and he expected organisations to observe their constitutional responsibilities to the environment.

Promising "more bite and less bark" in protecting water resources, he said if organisations were prepared to accept their responsibilities with regard to the environment they could expect co-operation and support from government — "but I am not prepared to stand back and watch the wilful abuse of the environment and indeed the water resources on which our future depends".

"I have already asked the attorneys-general to prosecute in 16 cases where I believe the law has been contravened and I will follow up these cases vigorously."

Asmal also announced that he is to bring a Constitutional Court action against the KwaZulu-Natal government to force the handover of forestry functions to the central government as well as to clarify control of water in the province.

He said while the new constitution vested control of indigenous forests in the provinces, these functions had to first be transferred to central government.

Asmal also warned unless there was regional co-operation among southern African countries on issues to do with water it would become the focus of conflict rather than a medium for collaboration and common benefit.

He reported to Parliament that he had held numerous meetings with his counterparts in the Southern African Development Community and this had led to the

signing of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems.

It was also announced that the Japanese government had agreed to provide R175m for the provision of water in KwaNdebele and they were also looking at the funding of the Mooi River to the Mgeni River augmentation scheme.

He said the enormous task of handing over water schemes under the control of his department to local authorities would begin this year.

This was, Asmal said, a huge task involving 6 100 boreholes and 4 355km of pipeline linking 77 waterworks, all serving more than 10-million people.

He suggested that the privatisation of these functions could be considered because many of the schemes would collapse in the hands of new district councils which had few funds.

Before this could be done clear regulations and legislation to protect both consumer and provider would have to be formulated.

KwaZulu finance group takes swipe at government

Farouk Chothia

MARITZBURG — The KwaZulu-Natal legislature's finance committee lashed out yesterday at government departments for failing to involve corresponding legislature committees in drafting budgets, and to supply them with monthly expenditure and revenue statements.

Committee chairman Dumisane Makhaye (ANC) said in a unanimous report tabled in the legislature that a resolution had been taken during the past financial year that committees would play a vital role in drafting budgets for the new financial year.

Yet all departments had failed to heed this resolution. This was of concern as committees could not be expected to be rubber stamp bodies for departments, Makhaye said.

Makhaye said the finance committee had been unable to scrutinise the education and culture budget as department officials failed to answer crucial questions adequately. The committee was to meet education and culture MEC Vincent Zulu (IFP) on Friday to discuss concerns.

Makhaye said the committee was disturbed to learn also that the

provincial government still did not have an asset register. However, the committee had been informed that a register would be available in the next four months.

Makhaye said the committee felt the RDP provincial directorate had played an "apparently ineffective" role in facilitating delivery. The committee wanted the directorate to table in the provincial cabinet, within a month, proposals to improve its capabilities.

Makhaye said the committee believed that the developmental role of the Kwa-Zulu Finance and Investment Corporation, which was given R72m seed capital, did not seem to be well "articulated" either. Economic affairs and tourism MEC Jacob Zuma (ANC) should give a report to the legislature within two months on steps taken to restructure the corporation. Observers said the committee's stance was likely to renew tension between the legislature and the corporation. Corporation chairman Marius Spies said last week that a transformation programme was under way and "outside interference" was not needed.

Malan trial has cost R1,2m

CAPE TOWN — So far the SANDF had spent R1,2m defending former defence minister Gen Magnus Malan and co-accused on trial in KwaZulu-Natal, Defence Minister Joe Modise said yesterday.

This was the largest portion of the R1,69m that had been spent on defending 207 defence force members in court, mainly on negligent driving charges, since 1993, he said in a written reply to Douglas Gibson (DP).

Other large amounts had been R215 370 spent defending K Gwenzi who had been found guilty of murder.

In 1993/94 the defence force had spent R69 253 defending 42 cases, in 1994/95 R94 187 defending 62 cases and in 1995/96, R1 527 183 defending 103 cases — including the Malan trial.

"When a member of the SANDF is criminally charged as a result of his/her action in the course and scope of his/her duty, said member is entitled to legal representation at State expense as prescribed by treasury instruction W5," he said. — Sapa.

IFP RESISTS TRANSFERRING CONTROL

KwaZulu defies govt on forests

ct 29/5/96

TRIBES are burning trees in protest as the central government turns to the Constitutional Court to gain control of Kwa-Zulu's forests. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

THE KwaZulu-Natal cabinet faces a Constitutional Court challenge from the central government which is seeking to gain control over forests in the Inkatha-dominated territory.

The province's MEC for Agriculture, George Bartlett, confirmed yesterday that the provincial cabinet, at the initiative of the IFP majority, had decided to defy the central government by refusing to condone the transfer of indigenous forests to the central government. It is understood that this decision was taken on February 7.

Speaking in his budget vote in the National Assembly yesterday, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal said

his department was determined to bring the nation's forests — particularly those in the former homeland areas — "up to standard" so they were not a drain on the exchequer.

Asmal said he would also put to the court the question of which level of government should control the water supply.

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conservation aspect. However, in many cases, tribal communities had leased their land to the old KwaZulu administration which had processed timber for construction and fencing.

"The people's will is being ignored," said Bartlett, the only NP member of the provincial legislature.

Tribespeople were opposed to the central government's gaining control over forests on their land and some had taken to burning forests in defiance, he said.

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Asmal plans clean-up campaign

(56)

POLITICAL STAFF

29/5/96

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal yesterday announced a Clean Up South Africa Campaign and said he would take a tougher line against Water Act offenders.

"My department has in the past taken a co-operative approach, with prosecution under the Water Act a last, and seldom used, resort," he told the National Assembly on the occasion of his department's budget vote.

"This has sometimes been mistaken for weakness, I think understandably so. I want to make it clear that we expect organisations with power and responsibilities to accept that they also have obligations under the constitution. They must share the responsibility of keeping our environment fit to live in.

"If they do so, we will indeed support and co-operate with them. But I am not prepared to stand back and watch the wilful abuse of the environment, and in particular of the water resources on which our future depends. I have already asked the attorneys-general to prosecute in 16 cases where I believe the law has been contravened and I will follow up these cases vigorously.

"My approach, in cases where people transgress the law or permit and other requirements, will be: More bite, less bark."

Asmal said the clean-up campaign would be launched this year.

He hoped to produce a White Paper and draft water legislation before the end of next year.

"This will enshrine in the statute book one of the most thorough and significant reviews of people's rights to water, anywhere in the world, as a beacon of hope and equity for the whole nation."

Forestry legislation would also be redrafted and a new draft Forestry Act could be expected by the end of next year.

He urged a sub-continental approach to water matters.

A regional workshop will be held later in the year to promote co-operation.

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COMPANIES

BMW and Mercedes first to fit catalytic converters

Edward West

LUXURY car companies BMW and Mercedes-Benz have become the first in SA to fit catalytic converters on certain of their models — even though the clean-air components have not yet been mandated through legislation.

A Mercedes-Benz SA spokesman said yesterday that catalytic converters would be standard with the new E-Class range of vehicles launched last month, while a BMW SA spokesman said the components would be fitted to its 323 and 318is ranges, a new 5-series model to be launched in July and its 7-series models.

"In time catalytic converters will become the norm in SA. Our customers are environment conscious and installing the converters now will contribute to the resale value of the cars," the BMW spokesman said.

Unleaded fuel, without which the converter is inoperable, was introduced locally early this year. Worldwide, catalytic converters

(56) (F32) BD 30/5/96
accounted for demand for 38,6% of 1,85-million oz of platinum last year out of a total world demand of 4,79-million oz.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA said an eighteen-month vehicle emission project had been launched last month to determine whether additional emission controls, like the fitting of catalytic converters, were required.

The study, being undertaken by the Energy Research Institute in Cape Town, was being funded by the motor industry, oil industry and the departments of health and mineral and energy affairs.

Engelhard Technologies MD Herman Fischer said the introduction of catalytic converters to the local market was inevitable as SA's motor industry and environmental regulations had to keep up with the rest of the world.

The Southern African Stainless Steel Development Association has estimated that producers of catalytic converters in SA, which manufacture 1,3-million

converters a year, could generate over R2,5bn annually in foreign exchange earnings, with the country becoming a manufacturing hub for the world supply of the converters.

Engelhard announced plans yesterday to expand its Port Elizabeth catalytic converter plant to a production rate of 1-million converters from 500 000 a year.

Fischer said Engelhard, a 32% Minorco associate which is a leader in the provision of environmental technology worldwide, had opened its Port Elizabeth factory early last year after BMW indicated that it needed catalytic converters for its vehicles.

The plant — its sole investment in SA — now supplied converters for export to car manufacturers BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Ford as well as Volkswagen.

Engelhard's next investment in SA could involve the provision of catalysts for heavy duty diesel engines using new technology. Negotiations for this were still under way, he said.

What is the current (a) cost and (b) income per patient per day in respect of each hospital falling under the control of each of the provinces? N492E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

- (a) Average cost per patient per day ranges from R117,29 at community hospitals in Gauteng to R550,28 at academic hospitals in the Western Cape. We cannot provide more detailed information in this regard.
- (b) Due to lack of capacity in the various hospitals, the information required above is not collected in the format requested. The Department of Health is implementing an information system that will make such information available.

Spillage of radioactive material at Pelindaba

318. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs: *56*

- (1) Whether any incident involving the spillage of radioactive material took place at Pelindaba in March and April 1995; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether there was a delay in the reporting of the incident by the Atomic Energy Corporation; if so, (a) what was the delay and (b) why did the delay occur;
- (3) whether the delay violated any provisions of nuclear licence 27; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether there were any other licence violations in connection with the incident; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what were these violations and (b) in what manner were these violations reported;
- (5) whether any contamination was present in the area following the incident; if so, (a) what was the extent of the contamination and (b) what has been or is likely to be the effect of this contamination on the surrounding environment?

N552E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

- (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) This matter was dealt with extensively in my answers to questions

nos 2 and 22 in the National Assembly on 20 March 1996.

National Sports Council

342. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:†

- (1) Whether he is in a position to state how many members of (a) Parliament and (b) provincial legislatures currently serve on (i) structures of the National Sports Council (NSC) on national and regional level and/or (ii) other sports bodies that are currently affiliated to the NSC; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether he will furnish further details in this regard on such members; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are their names, (b) what positions do they hold and (c) what affiliations do they have?

N591E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

- (1) The number of members of Parliament and of the provincial legislatures who serve on NSC structures and/or other sports bodies affiliated to the NSC are as follows:
- (a) Members of Parliament:
- (i) Two serve on national and regional NSC structures.
- (ii) Three serve on other sports bodies affiliated to the NSC.
- (b) Members of provincial legislatures:
- (i) Three serve on national and regional NSC structures.
- (ii) One serves on other sports bodies affiliated to the NSC.

- (2) The details regarding such members are:

(a) Names:

Mr Mjuleki George
Mr Greg Fredericks
Mr Danny Jordaan
Mr Bill Jardine
Mr John Ncinane

(b) Positions:

National NSC:

Mr George: President
Mr Jordaan: Executive Member

Regional NSC:

Mr Jordaan: Eastern Province
Mr Jardine: Gauteng

(c) Affiliations:

- Mr Fredericks is President of the United School Sports Association of South Africa (USSASA).
- Mr George is Vice-President of the South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU) and the President of the Border Rugby Union.
- Mr Jordaan is Vice-President of the South African Football Association (SAFA).
- Mr Ncinane is Vice-President of Athletics South Africa (ASA).

How many children (a) died and (b) were injured in road accidents in (i) 1993, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 1995?

N663E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(a) and (b) for (i), (ii) and (iii) please see the table below:

Year	Deaths	Injuries
1993	1 099	11 738
1994	1 130	11 883
1995	1 163	12 606

Please note that the figures used for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary figures.

For the purpose of this question "children" were defined as young persons up to the age of 18 years.

Children killed/injured in road accidents

369. Mr D M STREICHER asked the Minister of Transport:†

Otters threatened by wetlands plan

(56) ST(CM) 2/6/96

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A MAJOR row is brewing over a Gauteng businessman's plans to develop plots in a sensitive wetland within the proposed Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

Dr Allan Heydorn, specialist consultant to the Worldwide Fund for Nature, this week urged provincial planners to conduct a thorough impact assessment before considering any rezoning or sub-division applications on the land at Rooi Els.

"Any intrusions into wetlands should be strenuously discouraged. Nothing should happen without an authoritative environmental impact assessment and IEM," he said.

And according to UCT botanist Jaana Ball, the developer's plans would have an "irreversibly destructive impact" on plant and animal resources in the area.

While Johannesburg businessman Christo Nel also wanted to cut plots against the mountainside above Porter Drive, a natural seepage populated by Cape clawless otters was most at risk, she said.

And as Cape Nature Conservation officials this week expressed serious concern about the proposed sub-division of erf 324, the Department of

Agriculture's directorate of resource conservation has also been asked to investigate earthworks in the Rooi Els river flood-plain near the Kogelberg reserve's boundary.

Land owner Allan Baldwin said he was digging a pond and would rehabilitate any scarring. He said he was not aware that the feature was below the 50-year floodline.

Mr Nel's rezoning and sub-division application at the other end of Rooi Els is currently being processed by the provincial planning department following at least nine appeals against the former Hangklip Municipality's approval in 1994 for 16 plots on a three-hectare site.

His planning consultant, Coen Hanekom, told Cape Metro he had not seen Ms Ball's report. His client had, however, offered the local council 20 ha.

At least 70 objections had been lodged against an earlier application for 24 erven, but most of these objectors had not been notified of the revised bid to cut new plots when Mr Nel bought the land for about R1,2-million, Rooi Els Ratepayers Association secretary Frank Raymond said this week.

"We can't allow the sort of development which destroyed Gordon's

Bay, and particularly in an area earmarked as a biosphere reserve because of its sensitivity," Rooi Els councillor Julia Aalbers said.

Ms Ball said otters were threatened throughout the world. "The impact of the development of erf 324 at Rooi Els will be most dramatic with respect to the (seepage) area," she said in a report to the Rooi Els Ratepayers Association in March.

But Cape Metro's inquiries found that local authorities and conservationists have little, if any, say in influencing activities on private land without a structure plan and legislation which gives effect to biosphere management principles.

CNC director Niel van Wyk said this would first require amending the Environment Conservation Act, but a Department of Environment Affairs spokesman said new regulations governing limited development areas could be considered in deserving areas.

The 30 000ha Kogelberg reserve, home to the only known populations of Marsh Roses and regarded as the nucleus of the fynbos biome, forms the centrepiece of Cape Nature Conservation's bid to have it and the surrounding areas declared a biosphere reserve by the United Nations.

World's largest wilderness on our doorstep

When the reserves are melded, an international park rivalling the size of Tanzania's famed Selous will come into being

By WINNIE GRAHAM

The eastern side of southern Africa, comprising millions of hectares, will be converted into the world's largest wilderness area when some of the top game parks of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique are joined together through a series of "wild land" corridors.

A concept design has already been approved by the SA Nature Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The executive director of the National Parks Board, Dr Gilbert "Robbie" Robinson, has confirmed the existence of an "international vision" for southern Africa - but stressed it would take time to implement.

Plans to "mirror" the Kruger Park on the Mozambican side of the Kruger Park are on track. Now details of a scheme to link Zimbabwe's Gona-re-Zhou national park to both South Africa and Mozambique have been released.

When the reserves are finally melded together, an international park rivalling in size even the famed Selous Reserve of Tanzania will come into being.

A map of the south-eastern part of southern Africa reveals existing national parks as "core areas" to which "wild land" or natural resources areas are linked for multipurpose use.

The map shows game reserves as far south as the St Lucia and Mkuze joined to the Kruger Park through a wilderness corridor in Swaziland. The wilderness continues through both Mozambique and South Africa to the Limpopo River, where wilderness areas in Zimbabwe become part of the giant nature reserve.

A joint committee representing the interested countries has agreed that a complete survey of the area be carried out to determine exactly where the boundaries of the transfrontier parks should be.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm for the project but the Mozambicans are understandably cautious," Robinson said. "They realise that ecotourism could bring tourists but they want to be sure they are doing the right thing for their country."

South Africa, on the other hand, is also not ready to "cut its fence and chase its animals into new territory" until their safety can be assured, and in Mozambique this means all possible dan-

ger from landmines must have been eliminated.

Zimbabwe's enthusiasm was also apparent when Minister of Tourism Dawie de Villiers met his Zimbabwean counterpart last November.

Robinson does not believe finance will be an impediment in the creation of a giant reserve. The WWF, the World Bank and a number of international agencies have shown interest in assisting with the project. In Mozambique, money has already been provided for the creation of dams.

Yet, before the park comes into being, a major stumbling block will have to be overcome. The National Parks Board is totally opposed to diamond mining in the Limpopo River valley adjacent to the Kruger Park.

“**Finance for the giant park will not be a problem**”

"Prospecting permits were issued to an Australian-based company which has since changed its name," Robinson said. "The area is very sensitive in terms of riverine vegetation. Only a very few pockets of forest remain. In addition, alluvial diamond mining could affect the water runoff into the Kruger National Park."

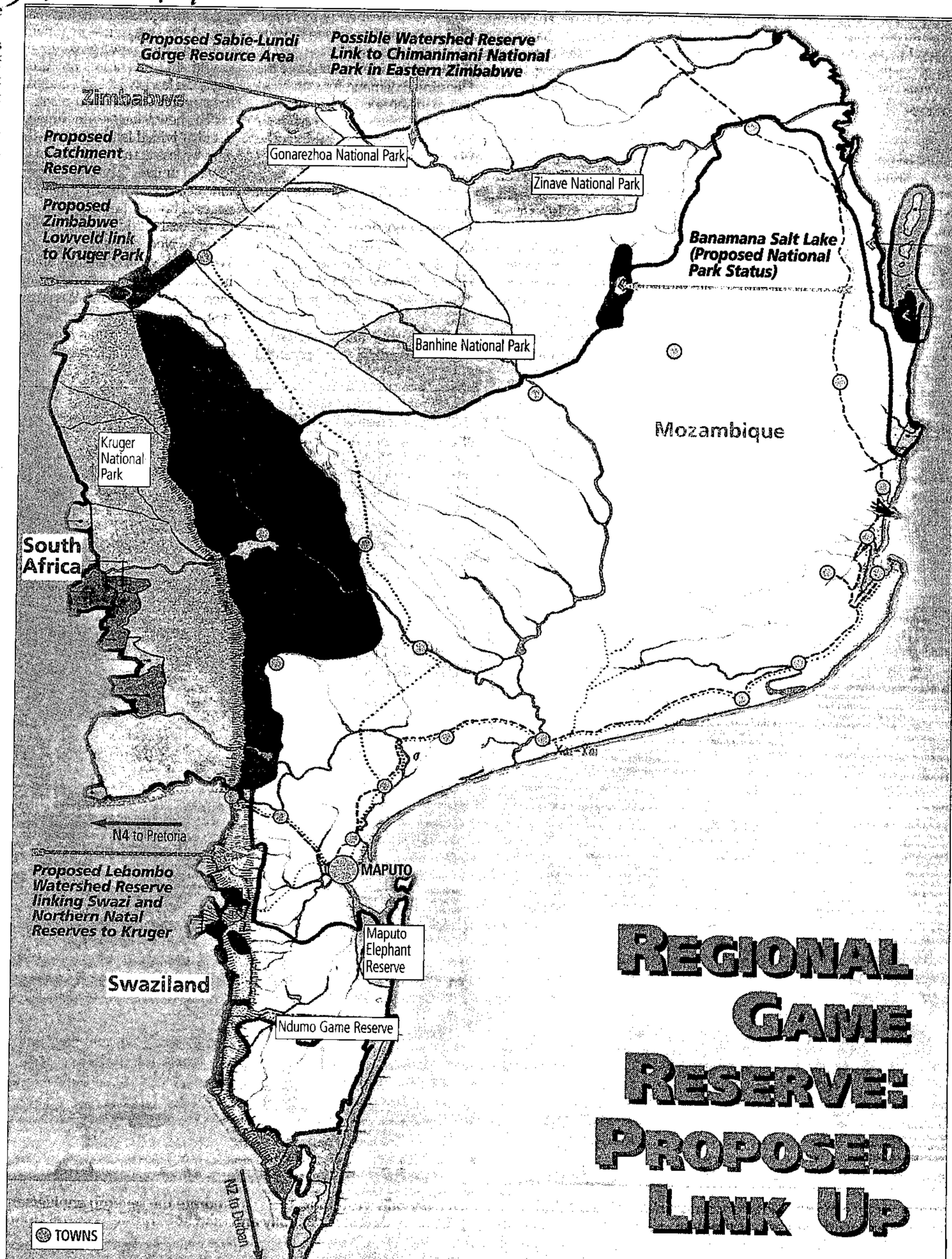
Botswana was also co-operating with South Africa in the creation of an international game park along the Limpopo River which could eventually include one of the country's newest parks - Madikwe in North West Province, he said.

At the same time an array of smaller game reserves funded by the private sector are coming into being in many parts of Mpumalanga, Northern Province and North West.

But, while the enlarged parks will open huge next tracts of unexplored terrain to tourism, the Kruger Park's hutted camps are unlikely to be duplicated within these reserves as the trend was now to leave wilderness areas untouched with facilities provided on the periphery, said Robinson.

"Tented camps will be easier to erect," he added.

(56) Stav 3/6/96



Eco-tourism a top earner for SA

(56) (288) CT 3/6/96

SPEAKING AT the opening of the Bushmans Kloof Private Nature Reserve in the Cedarberg, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers said the SA tourist industry had the potential to generate up to R40-billion annually. **EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN** reports.

THE government is expecting an 18% growth in international tourism which will contribute up to R40-billion to the Gross National Product (GNP) by the turn of the century, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers said at the weekend.

De Villiers was speaking at the opening of the exclusive Bushmans Kloof private nature reserve and conference centre in the Cedarberg, near Clanwilliam.

He disclosed that a government White Paper on tourism, which is expected to be tabled in parliament soon, envisioned an 18% annual growth in international tourism to South Africa.

"Based on a conservative projection of South Africa's tourism potential, it is estimated that the industry can triple its contribution to the GNP from just over 3% to 10% by 2000.

"That would double our foreign exchange earnings from R10-billion to R20-billion," De Villiers said.

"Growth of this order would generate some R40-billion annually and would require innovative tourism development and marketing strategies.

"This implies a pro-active approach by tourism industry partners to develop, market and manage the tourism industry in a

responsible manner.

"A national tourism strategy has been developed and will be tabled as a White Paper in parliament shortly," he added.

Dr De Villiers praised Bushmans Kloof — the first private nature reserve of its kind in the Cape — as an excellent example of an environmentally sensitive development which could make a vital contribution towards eco-tourism in the Cape.

"It is a prime eco-tourism destination, where not only flora and fauna of the region will receive priority, but so will the unique heritage of the Bushmen who lived in this area for thousands of years."

There are more than 125 sites of Bushman rock art — some among the best preserved in South Africa — in the reserve.

"Bushmans Kloof matches the best reserves of this kind in the country. The people of the Cape can now boast that we have our own Mala Mala — only better," De Villiers said.

He added that tourism could be the single most powerful catalyst for substantial growth, development and job creation in South Africa.

Bushmans Kloof is a South African Natural Heritage Site in the foothills of the Cedarberg mountains, bordering on the

Cedarberg wilderness area.

It was developed by Bill McAdam, last year's Cape Times Businessman of the Year and the Board of Executors chairman.

At the opening, McAdam said eco-tourism was not just about developing a tourist destination, but about the restoration of the land, the re-introduction of game species and the involvement of the local community.

He said it had been policy from the outset to use local contractors in the development of the reserve and conference centre and he intended developing this.

"Just as sport has united our country, tourism, by involving local communities and creating a spirit of unity, can play a major role in uplifting people who become proud of their heritage and willing to preserve it," he said.

The fenced 5 000-hectare game farm has been stocked with a wide variety of game which once roamed the area, including eland, zebra, gemsbok, black wildebeest, bontebok, klipspringer, duiker and grey rhebuck.

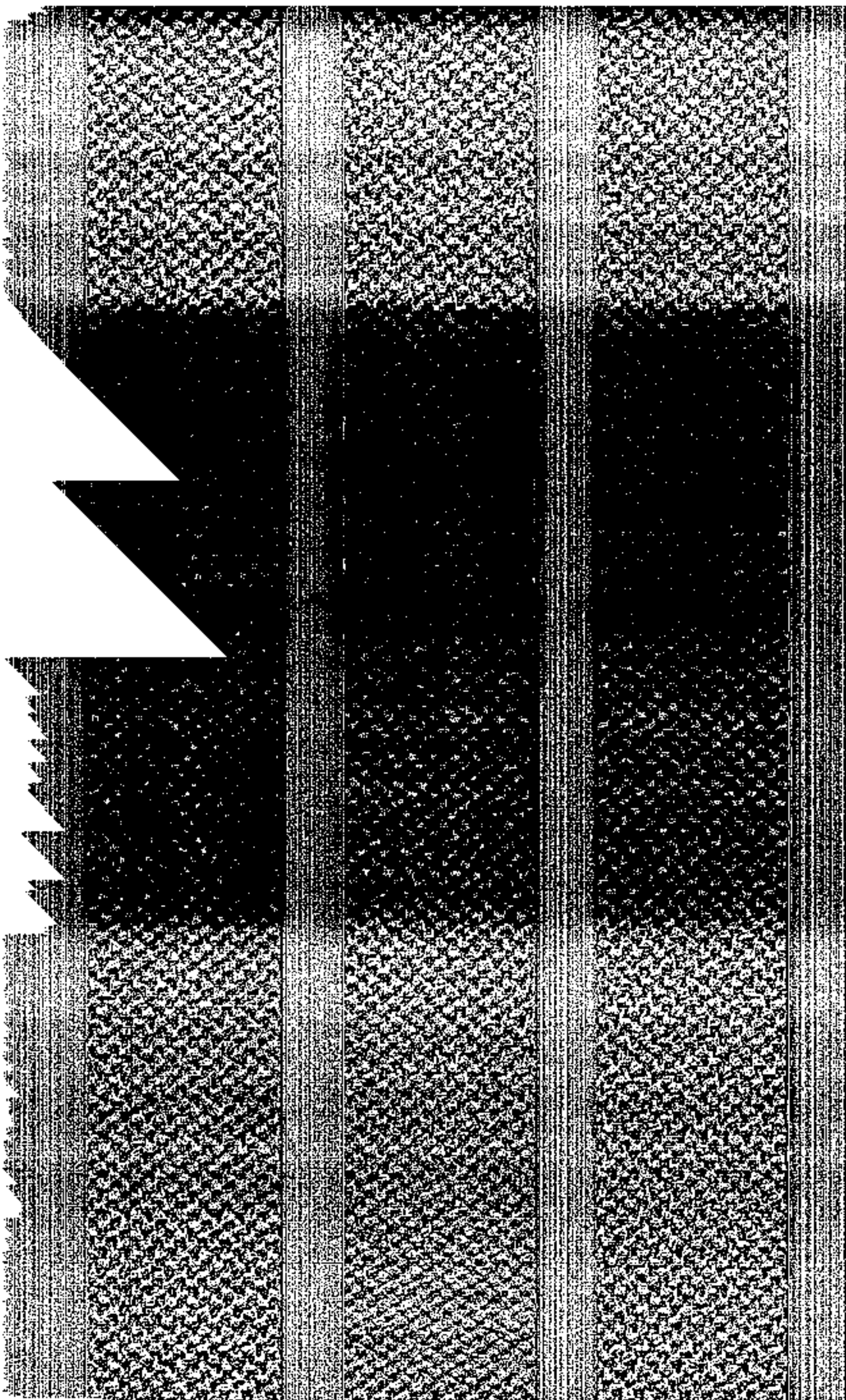
There is also a breeding herd of rare Cape mountain zebra and a breeding programme for Cape hunting dogs.

Lion and black rhino will be introduced later this year.

"Bushmans Kloof is a unique, Cape experience, ideally poised to act as a magnet, drawing tourists to visit the region for its natural wealth — from carpets of glorious spring wild flowers to Bushman rock art and the rugged, breathtaking beauty of the landscape," said McAdam.



NEW RESERVE: Mr Bill McAdam, Board of Executors chairman and developer of Bushmans Kloof private nature reserve, with his wife Mrs Penny McAdam. The reserve is located in the foothills of the Cedarberg and has been stocked with a wide variety of game.



Money in scrap ... reclaimers at Boipatong Landfill site look for metals which can be recycled. About 250 people earn up to R200 a day by being allowed access to the dumpsite.

Where democracy is 'scavenging' a dumpsite

(56) Star 5/6/96

The essence of democracy is to accord everyone the dignity of having his say. This is what is happening at the Boipatong Landfill Remediation project, and in the process new directions in waste management are being pioneered.

The project funded by the Lekoa Vaal Metropolitan Council involves rehabilitating a 20ha illegal dumpsite into a recreation and sports open space.

In a notable first, about 250 recyclers are allowed to scour the dump for reusable metals. "Scavenging" as it has been called, is a no-no for waste managers and policy makers, because of the health hazards.

At Boipatong, allowing reclaimers, as they are called, on to the site was a request from the community.

"The average recycler makes about R200 to R250 a day," said Abel Senokoene, the community supervisor who manages informal recycling. "They pick out the metals, and then pay entrepreneurs who have transport to take it to

factories where they are paid for the scrap."

Allowing recyclers on dumpsites is a logistical nightmare for landfill managers. At Boipatong the health risks are being aggravated by the fact that illegal dumping of waste, including toxic waste is continuing at the site. Acid sludge, iron hydroxide filter cake and thinners were three hazardous wastes dumped on the eve of the official launch of the rehabilitation project last month.

The disposal site was established in the early Seventies for domestic and industrial waste. However, management deteriorated to the point where dumping was haphazard and uncontrolled. This, together with its location adjoining the township is an unacceptable health risk and led to clean-up being prioritised.

The Remediation Project, under project managers and consultants Jarrod Ball and Associates, involves managing the site with a view to closing it as a dumpsite and its rejuvenation as a fully fledged urban open space.

A Community Landfill Committee has been formed and discussions are ongoing about the eventual end-use of the site.

The blood and tears of June 17 1992 when 45 people, mostly women and children, were killed in Boipatong, were not in vain, said community leader Kate Ngwenya. "In a way it made us one big family. We work as one now, with everyone having their say," she said at the launch last month.

Waste management company, Wastetech has been appointed to manage the site for closure and employs as many local residents as possible.

Wastetech is also providing ongoing screening of reclaimers to monitor possible exposure to hazardous materials.

Reclaimers will also be provided with safety clothing, education and toilet and shower facilities, said Jarrod Ball.

The previously unsightly dumpsite is in the process of being landscaped and waste is being covered. Eventually the site will be capped and grass and trees

planted. Because the site is polluting ground water, a drainage system has been constructed which will lead polluted water to a collection dam.

From there the water will be pumped to a nearby sewage works for purification.

"It is an example of how disadvantages can be turned into advantages," Yunus Chamda, mayor of Lekoa Vaal said at the launch. "We had a runaway train out of control and we are going to emerge with something beneficial to all."

The most crucial part in turning the situation around was gaining the respect and collaboration of the community, Ball said.

"Environmentally, it's a no-no, and to turn it around into a positive has been challenging. The most rewarding side has been our collaboration with the community and what we have achieved together."

At present estimates, it will take three to five years to close the site and turn it into some sort of asset, Ball said.

Environmental 58 awards for Eskom

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Eskom walked away with the top Eppic award of the combined professional bodies of SA at the World Environment Day symposium in Midrand yesterday.

The environmental team at Eskom took a second bow, with their 1994 Environment Report judged the best South African environmental technical paper.

Former Star reporter Julianne du Toit, now editor of Keeping Track, was also among the award winners yesterday. Four editions of her magazine in 1995, when it was published under the title On Track, were named as the best South African environmental journal.

Star 6/6/96
The national student award went to Andrea Spitz for her dissertation "Crossing Over" for an M Phil degree in environmental management from the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences at UCT.

The Eppic awards are made annually as part of the week-long celebrations surrounding World Environment Day on June 5.

■ Innovation in environmental education has earned North West teachers Bridget Sefanyetso and Mary Mahube a nomination for this year's Audi Terra Nova award. At a ceremony this week, they received R5 000 in recognition of their Community Upliftment Through Education project.

Klawer: Registered 13 February 1996
Kleinmond: Correspondence on crime
Knyvna: Registered 26 January 1996 (Linked with Sedgfield)
Kraaifontein: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996
Kuilsriver: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Ladysmith: Registered 12 December 1995
Lainsburg: Approved—to Commissioner 28 May 1996
Lamberts Bay: Registered 1 February 1996
Langebaan: Registered 1 May 1996
Lansdowne: Registered 7 November 1995
Lingeletu West: Dispute over membership
Macassar: Registered 11 April 1996
Malmesbury: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Manenberg: To be registered at AGM in May 1996
Melkbosstrand: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996
Maitland: Correspondence on open day
McGregor: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Mfuleni: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Mitchells Plain: Registered 28 November 1995
Merweville: Application for funding, letter sent 11 July 1995 providing information for registration
Milnerton: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996
Montagu: Registered 27 February 1996
Moorreesburg: Registered 14 February 1996
Mossel Bay: Approved—to Commissioner 14 March 1996
Mowbray: Registered 7 November 1995
Muizenberg: Approved—to Commissioner 20 May 1996
Murraysburg: Approved—to Commissioner 28 May 1996
Napier: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996
Nyanga: Constitution awaited
Ocean View: Copy criteria sent 3 April 1996
Oudtshoorn: Registered 11 October 1995
Paarl East: Registered 19 February 1996
Paarl: Registered 25 October 1995
Pacaltsdorp: Approved—to Commissioner 20 May 1996
Parow: Registered 14 September 1995 (No 1)
Philippi East: Letter requesting constitution sent 30 November 1995
Philadelphis: Registered 19 February 1996
Piketberg: Registered 27 March 1996
Pimelands: Registered 28 March 1996
Plettenberg Bay: Registered 12 October 1995
Prince Albert: Registered 6 May 1996
Ravensmead: Registered 16 January 1996
Rawsonville: Registered 28 February 1996
Riebeeck Kasteel: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996
Riebeeck West: Registered 23 April 1996
Riviersonderend: Approved—to Commissioner 28 May 1996
Robertson: Registered 13 February 1996
Rondebosch: Registered 29 November 1995
Saron: Ready for approval
Saldanha: Registered 18 April 1996
Sea Point: Registered 10 October 1995 (No 2)
Sedgfield: Registered 26 January 1996
Somerset West: Registered 26 October 1995
Stellenbosch: Constitutional awaited 1 March 1996
St Helena Bay: Approved—to Commissioner 20 May 1996
Stanford: Approved—to Commissioner 20 May 1996
Strand: Registered 27 February 1996
Strandfontein: Registered 17 November 1995

Stilbaai: Registered 14 October 1995
Tableview: Registered 10 April 1996
Table Bay: Approved—to Commissioner 14 March 1996
Touws River: Registered 4 March 1996
Tulbagh: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Uniondale: Registered 12 October 1995
Van Wyksdorp: Registered 12 December 1995
Villiersdorp: Difficulty over membership; Forum visited 15 February 1996
Vredendal: Approved—to Commissioner 2 April 1996
Wellington: Approved—to Commissioner 20 May 1996
Wolseley: Registered 18 March 1996
Woodstock: Registered 5 December 1995
Worcester: Workshop arranged for 14 May 1996 (No correspondence)
Wynberg: Registered 30 November 1995
Zoar: Approved—to Commissioner 3 May 1996

Hansard

The Council for Nuclear Safety is formulating such a policy in collaboration with the mining industry, the AEC and Eskom and within the context of the broader Energy Policy Process.

With the specific purpose to initiate the drafting process, an exploratory meeting took place in Pretoria on 21 February 1996. Present were the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, the Council for Nuclear Safety, NUM, NUMSA, the Chamber of Mines, SANCO, The Group for Environmental Monitoring, Eskom, The Atomic Energy Corporation, Richards Bay Minerals and representatives from Koeberg power station.

All were in agreement that such a policy needed to be drafted and implemented as soon as possible and, under chairmanship of the Council for Nuclear Safety, the drafting should be well under way by the last quarter of 1996 and a draft document will be produced before the end of this year. A final policy document, approved by all the stakeholders, is expected to be in place during the first quarter of 1997.

Senator M W MOOSA: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, since the question is related to a strategy for nuclear waste disposal, has a study been done to assess how much nuclear waste we have in this country and where it is located?

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: The question will be conveyed to the hon the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and his department.

Initiation ceremonies: deaths of boys

*14. Sen N L DALE asked the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology:

(1) Whether his Department has any statistics on the number of deaths of boys who are forced to attend initiation ceremonies in the name of custom and culture in rural areas; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether his Department will consider regulating such ceremonies in conjunction with the Department of Health; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: S351E

(1) Mr President, my department does not deal with the registration of deaths, or births.

Senator J SELPE: Mr President, arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, I wonder whether he could give us some sort of indication as to when such a decision on the funding will be made and, furthermore, what the implications would be were funding not to be made available for such community police forums?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr President, I have no idea.

National strategy on nuclear waste disposal

*13. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

Whether his Department has a national strategy on nuclear waste disposal; if not, why not; if so, what is this strategy? S349E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (for the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs): S351E

In my Budget Vote speech in the National Assembly on 31 May 1996, I stated that, at the moment, South Africa still lacks a comprehensive radio-active waste management policy.

letters of complaint and a similar number of telephone calls.

(2) No, my Department has not investigated the matter, since the SABC's response was deemed adequate.

Viewers who complained by telephone were given a detailed explanation of the SABC's Policy on Religious Broadcasting and the reasons for discontinuation of the CTV programmes. In addition, each letter of complaint was responded to with a written résumé setting out the reasons and pointing out that, despite the removal of the CTV programmes, a total of more than seven hours of religious broadcasting a week was being retained on the SABC's television channels, and more than 90 hours on the eleven cultural or full-spec-trum radio services.

(3) For the sake of clarity and general information, I should like to give a brief outline of the situation.

The religious broadcasters Christian Television (CTV) and Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN)—grouping together the Rhema Bible Church, the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa and the Hatfield Baptist Congregation—had initially signed a contract for paid air-time on TV1 (now SABC2). In 1993, when the SABC found it necessary to move their broadcasts to NNTV (now SABC3), they accepted this channel swap—provided that air-time was made available to them free of charge.

The CTV/TBN air-time consisted of three hours on Sunday mornings plus half an hour on weekdays, making a total of about six hours (360 minutes) a week. These broadcasts were in addition to the seven hours and five minutes (425 minutes) a week of religious air-time that the SABC made available, free of charge, to the mainstream Christian churches in the old South Africa as part of its public service obligations. (Until late 1994, no religion other than Christianity was given any air-time on SABC TV).

Long before the SABC's TV channels were relaunched in February this year, CTV and TBN were informed that their contracts would not be renewed when they

expired on 4 February 1996. Requests for extension of their contracts until such time as CTV and TBN could obtain their own broadcasting licences from the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) were refused, since this would have made it impossible to start with a clean slate in revamping the TV channels. In addition, the new SABC3 would be profiled as an entertainment channel on which religious programming would not sit comfortably and, for the first time, provision would have to be made for broadcasts in all eleven official languages. Therefore, free surplus air-time would not be available any longer.

This refusal to extend the contracts gave rise to the concerted campaign mentioned above, with Pastor Ray McCauley of the Rhema Bible Church making on-air appeals to supporters to phone or write in to complain to the SABC.

About 18 months ago, the SABC Board appointed a Religious Broadcasting Panel (RBP), representative of all the major religions to advise it on how religious broadcasting should be dealt with in a fair, professional, comprehensible and interesting manner in the new democratic dispensation. The panel (chaired by then Anglican Bishop of Kimberley and now newly-appointed Archbishop of the Anglican Church of South Africa, Archbishop Winston Ndungane) recommended that air-time for the major religions be apportioned more or less in accordance with the support they enjoyed among the population, as reflected in the census figures.

Accordingly, the 425 minutes of air-time allocated to religious broadcasts (which were previously all taken up by Christianity) have now been reworked as follows:

	%	minutes
Christianity	70	297
Hinduism	5	21
Islam	5	21
Judaism	3	13
African Traditional Religions and Culture	5	21
Free allocation (Interfaith Programmes)	12	52

There has, then, been no reduction in the free air-time made available for religious broadcasts, but the allocation to Christianity has been cut by about 100 minutes or 25% to make room for the other major faiths.

It should be clear that once this proportional allocation had been accepted as fair, any additional air-time granted to a particular religion (such as the six hours that CTV and TBN previously enjoyed) would completely skew this fair and equitable apportionment. Therefore, the Religious Broadcasting Panel recommended (and this recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the SABC Board) that additional free air-time NOT be allocated to religions that were already enjoying such air-time, since this would be unfair to other groups. Selling extra air-time to faiths or groups that could afford it is also not allowed in terms of the SABC's Policy on Religious Broadcasting, since this would create the additional problem of discriminating against less affluent religious groups that lacked the financial resources to supplement their allocated air-time.

The SABC has not become anti-Christian—nor anti any other religion, for that matter. It accepts that religious broadcasts form part of the needs and wants of the population, and will continue to provide these on radio and television. It is also of the opinion that the more than seven hours of air-time allowed for religious broadcasts is sufficient—in fact, despite the non-renewal of the CTV and TBN contracts, the SABC still devotes more time to religion than just about any other public-service broadcaster anywhere in the world. However, it cannot be more for Christians, or for any other religious or special-interest group, than its obligations as a public service broadcaster allow. The SABC is satisfied that its basis of air-time allocation is fair, and that putting additional time at the disposal of groups such as CTV and TBN would nullify its sincere attempt to treat all religions equitably.

- (1) What are the key elements in the Government's programmes to restructure State-owned enterprises;
- (2) whether such programme provides for (a) the integration of such enterprises into relevant government departments and (b) corporate governance; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any steps are envisaged to guide this process of restructuring the said enterprises; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether a time-frame has been determined for the achievement of these objectives; if so, what are the relevant details?

S395E

THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) The objectives, principles and process relating to the restructuring of state assets are outlined in guidelines issued by Cabinet during August 1995. These objectives and principles are also included in the National Framework Agreement (NFA) between Government and Labour, signed in February 1996.

One of the key objectives is the provisions of affordable, good quality basic services to all South Africans.

Also, the restructuring must enhance the economic growth, long-term job creation and more efficient and competitive public enterprises. We need to finance the RDP and reduce state debt as far as possible. Equally we want to broaden ownership within the economy and to meet the basic needs of the poor and the disadvantaged.

Government believes these benefits can only come about if we give our public enterprises access to necessary resources, skills and capital to grow and flourish. We recognise the vital role of Labour in achieving these goals and every effort will be made to retain employment. Where this is not possible, social plans will be put in place to assist workers who may be negatively affected.

(2) (a) No, all the public enterprises operate as commercial entities. Where appropriate, the Ministry for Public Enterprises liaises with line Ministries e.g.

Handwritten signature

*11. Sen H G MAKGOTHI asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

Restructuring of State-owned enterprises

R8.5-m govt boost for Grootvlei mine

56
BY PATRICK BULOEN
AND TAMSEN DE BEER

Staw 6/6/96
Cape Town - The Government will make R8,5-million available for the operating costs of settling ponds at the Grootvlei gold mine on the East Rand, the Cabinet decided at its fortnightly meeting yesterday.

The mine is operating under a temporary permit from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry after its permit was withdrawn by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal last month.

The mine had been pumping contaminated mine water into the Blesbokspruit, causing damage to the water table and bird and aquatic life.

It is now operating under a temporary permit until the end of September. The Cabinet said it had taken into account the need to protect 6 500 jobs, the estimated annual turnover of R250-million and the fact that 25 000 people are directly dependent on the income generated by the mines.

The mine yesterday started pumping contaminated mine water into temporary water purifiers to halt rising underground water levels.

By yesterday, one of its two underground access shafts was under 1m of water, and pumping into the first of four settling ponds had begun, mine management said.

Waste disposal a headache 'that's likely to increase'

(56)
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE problems of managing waste generated by Cape Town's estimated 2,8 million residents are already acute and will be much worse in 20 years when the population may be as high as 4,2 million, Fairest Cape Association chief executive Jenny de Tolly has warned.

Speaking at a World Environment Day breakfast yesterday, Mrs De Tolly appealed to authorities and environmentalists to take waste problems "very seriously".

Although some people survived as "waste pickers" by recovering items from the waste stream which still had value, much more could be recycled, she said.

"We are wasting a huge potential resource by not realising the value of waste."

ARCT 6/6/96
One of the major shortcomings was the lack of integrated waste management in the metropolitan area - "both policy and practice", Mrs De Tolly said.

Fortunately, there was a group which was lobbying and pushing hard for such an integrated scheme, which was "absolutely crucial" for Cape Town.

There was also a landfill crisis in the metropolitan area, as most landfill sites were either full or close to capacity.

This problem was worsened by the region's sandy soils, which allowed leachate - polluted run-off draining from the landfills - to filter down and poison vital underground water supplies.

Problem areas relating to waste management included garbage-strewn conditions, particularly in townships, which

aided the spread of disease.

Also, there was still a disparity in the level of waste collection in different areas.

The incidence of illegal dumping was increasing, leading to pollution, particularly water pollution, she said.

"This (illegal dumping) includes some fairly established Cape Town companies who are just dumping on the side of the road."

Many people appeared uncaring and unconcerned about dumping and pollution - "It's always someone else's problem."

The Fairest Cape's successful projects included the Community Waste Training Programme, Mrs De Tolly said.

"More and more communities are coming to us and saying 'Help! We're living in disgusting conditions and we want to do something about it'."

Court told parks board has no say in hotel dispute

Negotiations not making progress

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

THE head of Western Cape Environmental Affairs Department has told the Supreme Court that the National Parks Board has no legal standing to contest the proposed Oudekraal Hotel development on the former White House site between Bakoven and Llandudno.

Johan Neethling also told the court in an affidavit that negotiations between the parks board and the Western Cape government over the proposed national park in the Cape Peninsula had made "no progress at all".

Last month the National Parks Board went to the court to apply for an urgent interdict preventing further development of the proposed Oudekraal Hotel pending a legal review of the validity of the Western Cape provisional structure plan. Also sought was a review of the rezoning of the White House property.

In terms of an agreement with the developer, Hottentots Huisie (Pty) Ltd - made an order of the court - no further clearing, demolition, earthmoving, excavation or work would be done at the site pending the outcome of a trial to begin on June 18.

One of the respondents in the National Parks Board's application was Western Cape Development and Tourism Minister Lampie Fick.

In its application to the Supreme Court, the National Parks Board said that in December last year Western Cape Environmental Affairs minister Kobus Meiring had publicly announced that the board had been appointed the authority to control and manage the Cape Peninsula nature area as a contractual national park, to be established subject to conditions.

On the same day Mr Meiring had issued a Press release confirming that the board would

(288) (56)
ARG 7/6/96
"henceforth be the official management authority of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment" (CPPNE).

But this was contested in a nine-page replying affidavit filed in the Supreme Court this week by Dr Neethling, head of the Western Cape's Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs (formerly Cape Nature Conservation).

He said that in terms of the Constitution, nature conservation - excluding national parks - and the environment were a provincial responsibility.

Dr Neethling conceded that the so-called Huntley committee had been appointed in June last year to advise on an appropriate legal framework for a single statutory authority for the CPPNE.

"It should be pointed out that the Huntley Committee exceeded its mandate by recommending that land outside the CPPNE should be included in the protected area," he stated.

Mr Meiring had announced that the Western Cape cabinet had agreed - subject to specific conditions - that the CPPNE should be declared a national park and that the National Parks Board should be appointed its management authority, Dr Neethling said.

"I respectfully point out that the decision of the cabinet did not constitute the appointment of the National Parks Board as the management body for the CPPNE, but merely accepted the principle that the National Parks Board be appointed if certain conditions could be met.

"I deny the allegation that the MEC (Mr Meiring) announced that the National Parks Board had been appointed as the authority to control and manage the CPPNE."

Dr Neethling "specifically" denied that the national parks board's submission that it anticipated a national park would be formally proclaimed in part of the Cape Peninsula's natural area this year.

Mercury monitoring 'inadequate'

Arend Hoogervorst

(56) (22) 60 10/6/96

DURBAN — Local health department inspectors had monitored the Thor Chemicals' site inadequately and had not communicated the build up of mercury waste, a senior health department official told the reconvened Thor Chemicals commission of inquiry on Friday.

The commission, appointed by President Nelson Mandela, is examining ways of disposing of mercury waste and sludge stockpiled at Thor's Cato Ridge chemical factory. It will also recommend ways in which workers and the environment can be protected against mercury waste and sludge.

The department's director of food control, Dr T F Venter, the department's director of hazardous substances at the time, said the strict licence conditions laid down by various government departments (including his own) for Thor operations as a supplier of Group 1A hazardous substances were supposed to be monitored by the local offices of his department.

Commission chairman Dennis Davis questioned Venter about why his officials had not reported the build up of mercury waste on the site. Davis also asked why breaches of conditions had not come to Venter's notice until the Environmental Justice Networking Forum told him about them.

Davis said: "If regional officers had done their job, this problem (the disposal of 10 000 barrels of mercury waste) might have been avoided" to which Venter replied, "one can make that assumption, yes."

Environmental Justice Networking Forum national co-ordinator Chris Albertyn, speaking on behalf of the Pietermaritzburg branch of Earthlife Africa, gave detailed evidence of his seven year opposition to Thor Chemicals. He told the commission of his organisation's concerns regarding the build up of hazardous waste.

Albertyn recommended that a multi-pronged treatment and disposal strategy be employed. This included negotiating with the governments of the original waste generators for repatriation of the mercury waste, a recommendation that AECI take back all its waste and treat it internally and that all existing waste be stored in environmentally secure warehousing until a solution could be found.

The commission adjourned until June 28, when Davis said he would hear final evidence from Thor Chemicals and the Chemical and Allied Workers Union. He gave advance notice that he would accept any additional written submissions and evidence up to 10 days after the final verbal hearing.

Rare sanctuary

RETIRED engineer Mike Harrison is one of those handful of lucky people who are wealthy beyond money.

Two weeks ago, he sat at the window of his seaside house on a smallholding just outside the coastal village of Rooi Els, looking out across majestic fynbos to the sea where a family of Cape clawless otters was frolicking in the shallows.

"I watched four of them. One dived down and brought up a crayfish, and then it took it out onto the rocks and ate it," he recalled this week.

Mr Harrison - like most other property owners at Rooi Els - is also passionate about the pair of Black Eagles which nest in the high cliffs of Klein Hangklip behind his property, and about the rich, pristine fynbos which thrives on the slopes between.

Now, many of them are desperately concerned that a proposed rezoning and subdivision of a 23,7ha smallholding along the mountain slopes and down into the coastal seepage zone will cause irreparable environmental damage.

The property - on the southwestern edge of the village - includes a natural seepage area down to the rocks, and any development there will almost certainly spell the end for the otters. It will also destroy fynbos, and may force

A controversial development proposal at the seaside village of Rooi Els will threaten a Cape clawless otter population, may chase away a pair of breeding Black Eagles and will destroy an area of pristine fynbos, say objectors. The proposal is being processed by the Western Cape government's planning department and will soon go to minister Lampie Fick for a decision. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the issue.

the Black Eagles to move elsewhere.

The Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association, led by local councillor Julia Aalbers, has asked for an urgent meeting with Western Cape Planning Minister Lampie Fick to put their objections to this controversial proposal directly to him.

"The Rooi Els community has fought this for 20 years, and we're determined to use whatever means we can to ensure this (rezoning and subdivision) doesn't occur," Mrs Aalbers said.

The property - in formal terms Erf 324 (Rooi Els) - has a long history.

The first subdivision efforts date back to 1974, when the then owner of the property, Mr H Forrer, proposed that 43 plots be allowed.

In return, he offered to donate "nearly 65 percent" to any nature association to preserve the mountain from fur-

ther destruction and subdivision.

He also agreed to donate a piece of land for the construction of a reservoir for Rooi Els. Despite strong objections from the community, the then Administrator of the Cape, Lapa Munnik, allowed the property, zoned agricultural, to be incorporated into Rooi Els township in 1976.

In May 1977, Mr Forrer was given approval for subdivision into four plots, but this approval lapsed in 1979.

In 1993, a new owner, Mr D R Reineke, applied to subdivide the property into 24 residential plots and also offered to cede the remainder to the council as public open space.

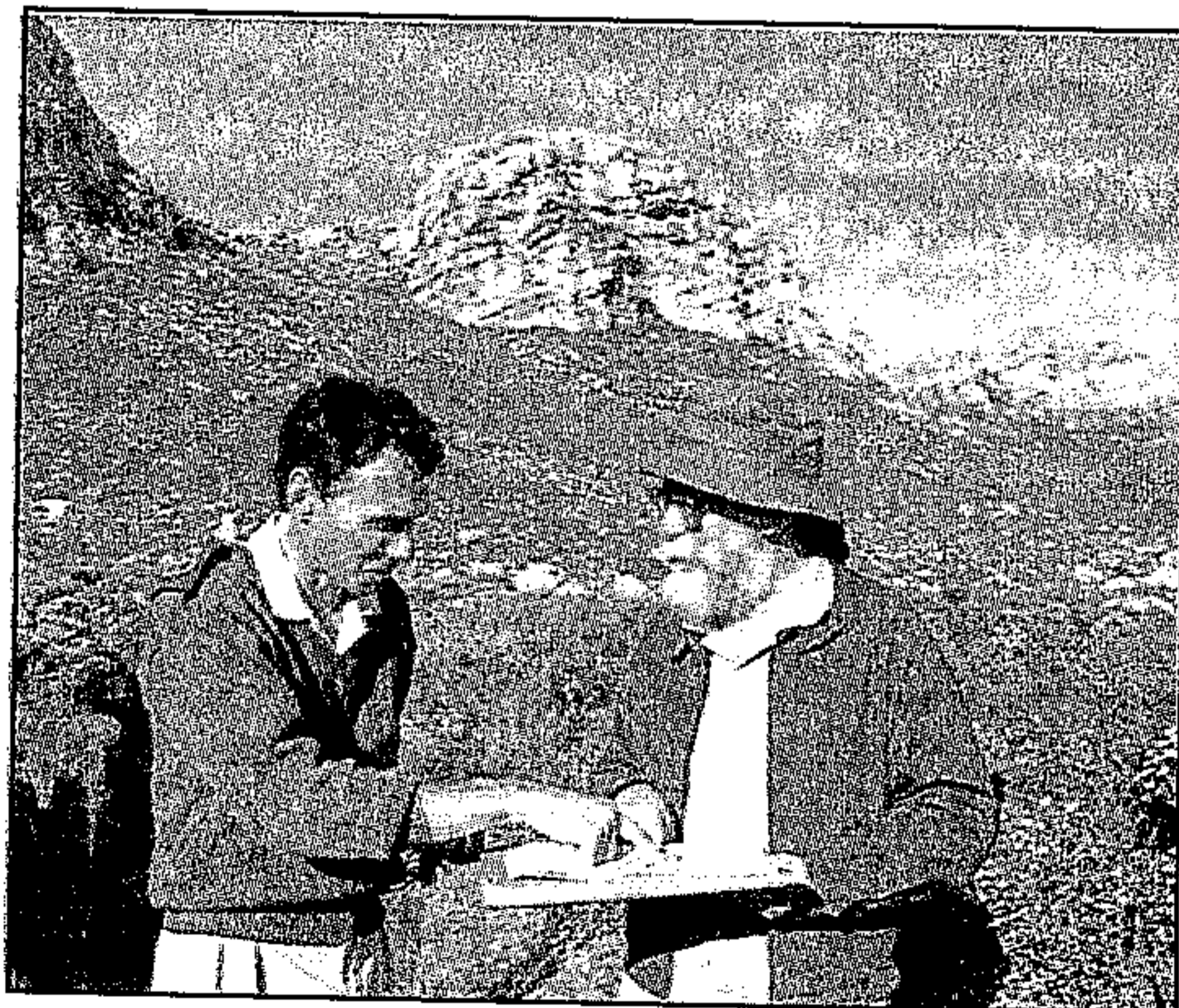
This application drew 71 objections from Rooi Els residents and from Cape Nature Conservation. The Department of Environmental Affairs also expressed concern. Cape Nature Conservation raised 10 key issues which it said needed to be addressed in a more detailed proposal so that more meaningful comment could be given.

"The site should be regarded as a transitional zone between the Rooi Els township and the Hangklip smallholding area which has a wilderness/nature character. In such an area, low intensity development should be allowed," they said.

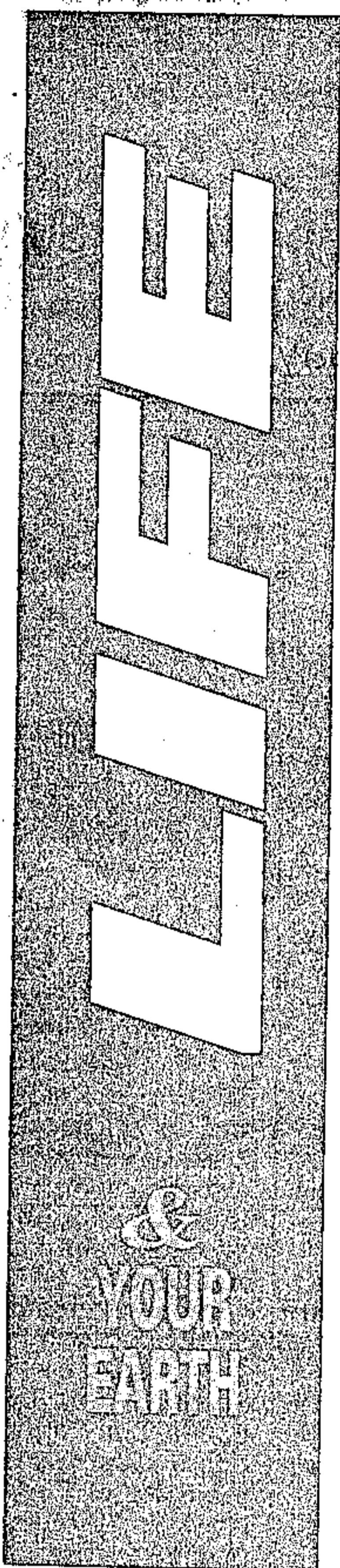
In 1994, the Hangklip municipality approved the rezoning and subdivision of the land into 16 plots, but before this approval was granted, the property had been sold again - this time to businessman Christo Nel.

He is now proposing to subdivide it into 14 plots, with a public car park at the southern end.

His application is being processed by the Western Cape government's planning depart-

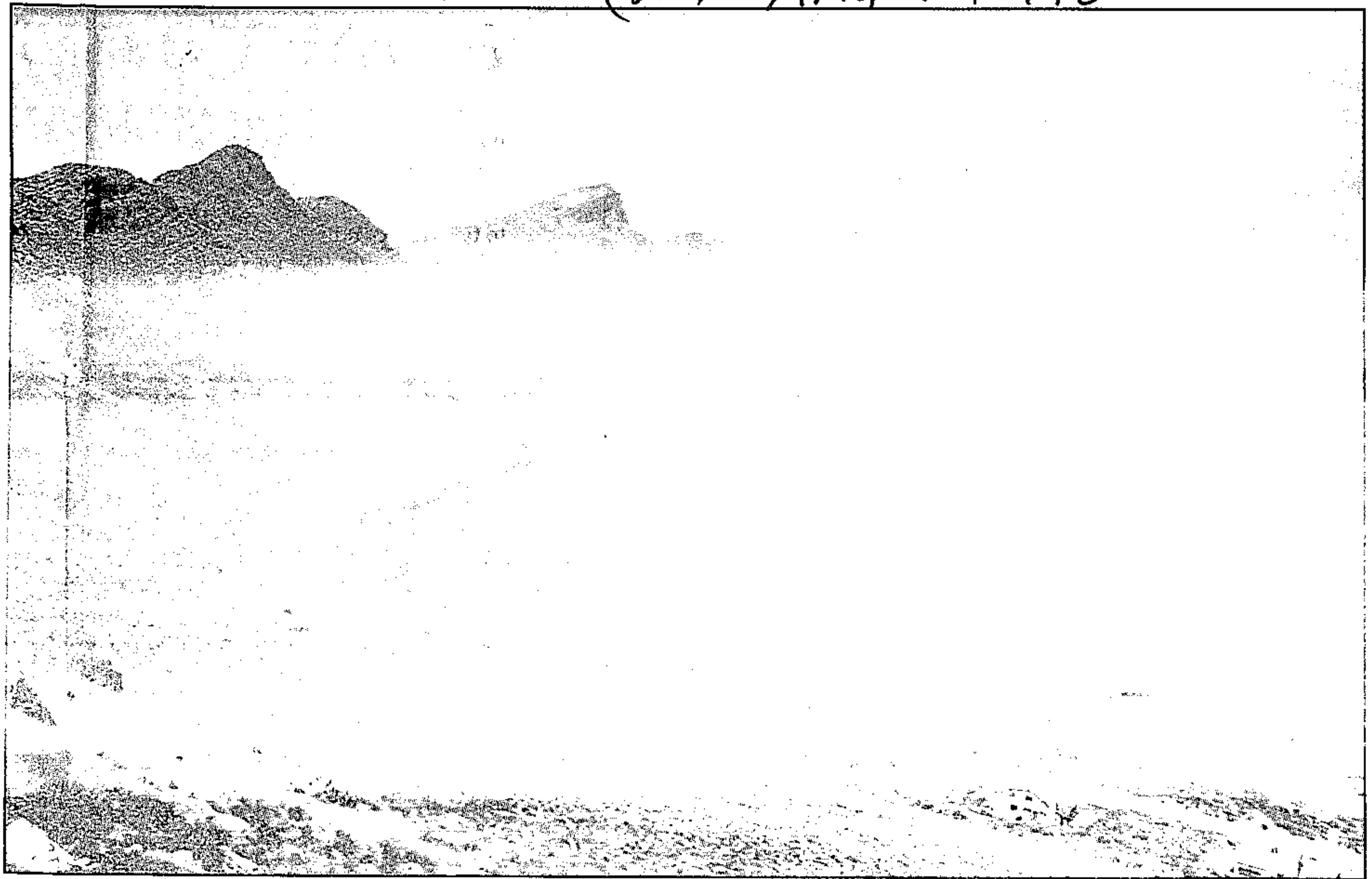
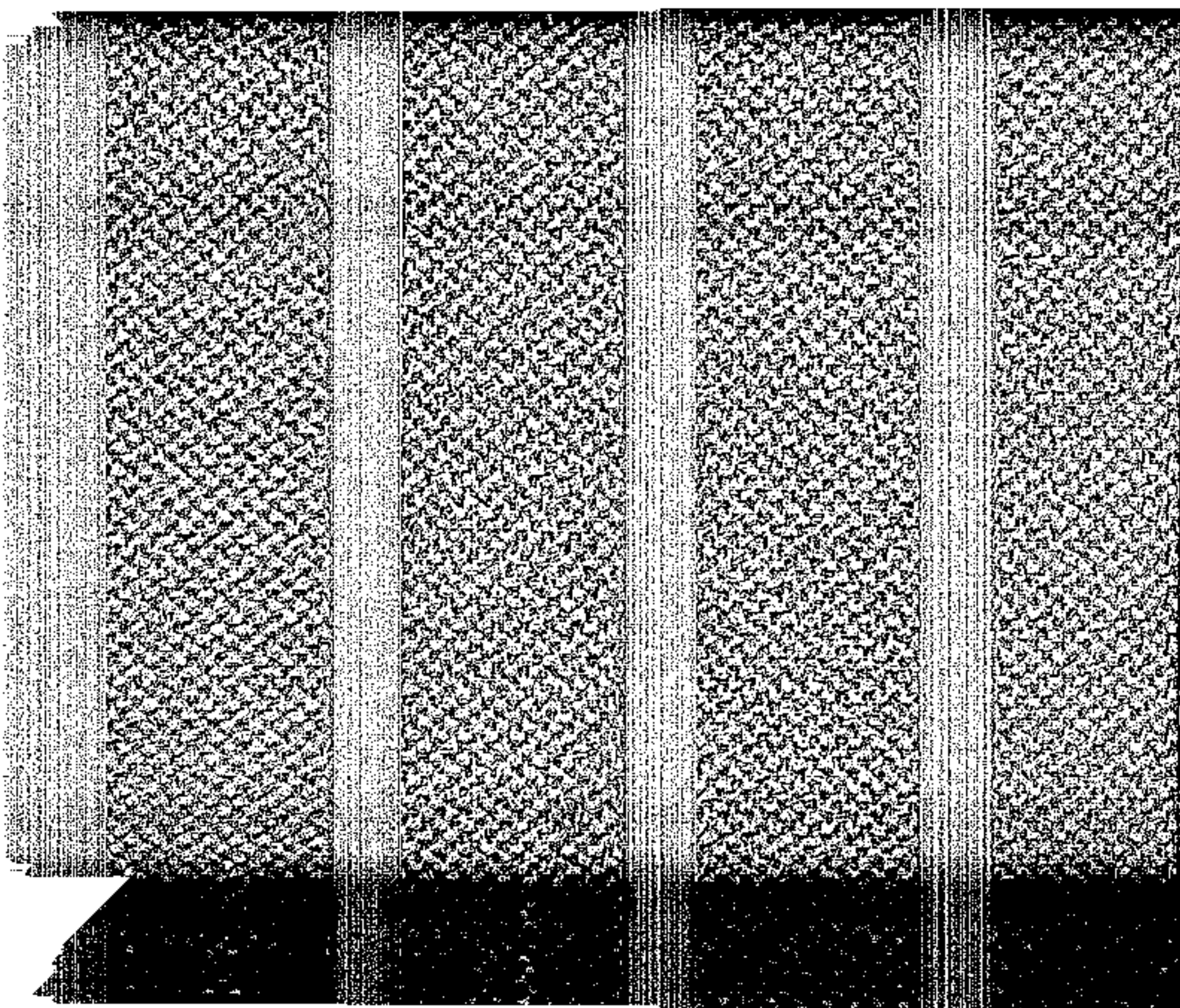


CRITICAL EYES: Cape Nature Conservation's Mark Johns, left, and Rooi Els smallholder Mike Harrison, standing on site, examine the controversial subdivision proposal.



y faces destruction

(56) ARG 10/6/96



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

CONTESTED AREA: A developer who has his eye on a corner of this lovely rural area between Rooi Els and Pringle Bay wants to subdivide a property in the foreground of this picture. If approved, houses would be built along the top section of the gravel road, from a point opposite the L-shaped house back towards the bottom right corner of the picture. His plan also includes a public car park and five erven around the house.

ment, and a spokesman for Mr Fick said it was likely to be put before the minister for a decision within the next few weeks.

Because of its deep concern, the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association in March commissioned Jaana-Maria Ball of the University of Cape Town to undertake an environmental impact assessment of the property.

Because of time constraints, Ms Ball was only able to complete a preliminary investigation, but her conclusions were unequivocal. "Apart from an existing derelict building and the existing road (a portion of Porter Drive), the property is undeveloped and in a pristine condition," she reported.

"The area under consideration is considered to have a high conservation value in its present state."

Referring to a section of wet seepage habitat close to the coast, Ms Ball said: "The rarity

of this habitat type, below Porter Road, gives this vegetation type a very high conservation priority."

The presence of the otters indicated that the wetland system was still of a good quality.

"World-wide, otter populations are under threat and the destruction of their natural habitats has had a drastic effect on the suitability of many wetlands for otters. The impact of the development of Erf 324 at Rooi Els will be most dramatic with respect to this area."

Development above Porter Drive was also undesirable, although the mountain slopes were of a slightly lower conservation value than the wetlands, Ms Ball said.

"Development on the scale proposed would severely reduce the attractive aesthetic quality by having a negative visual impact on the miniature

natural landscape ...

"It is clear that the envisaged subdivision and development of Erf 324 would have an irreversible destructive impact on both the plant and animal resources of the area.

"On the basis of the environmental evaluation, it would be a great loss of a natural area of considerable conservation value.

"I also strongly recommend that before rezoning, subdivision and development of this property is further considered, a full vegetation study and environmental impact assessment is made."

Mr Harrison said he was "absolutely disgusted" by the proposed rezoning and subdivision.

"There are two questions I want to ask: Who will use this parking area, and what for?"

"I believe it will be used solely by outsiders, and their

sole aim is poaching (crayfish and perlemoen). The sole effect of this parking area will be to make life easier for the poachers and the trespassers."

Mr Harrison argued that the proposed development would scar the south-western slopes of Klein Hangklip in the same way that the northern face had been "ruined" by development.

"If they're allowed to develop here, this side of the mountain will end up exactly the same - destroyed.

"Scarring from the excavation will always be a problem, as will the soakaways and septic tanks."

The existing properties had been bought by their owners to enjoy the superb mountain background, Mr Harrison said.

"Effectively, they're trying to take that away from us. It's like the reverse of Robin Hood - they want to rob the poor to give to the rich."

Row over hotel ends in court

A LEGAL row has broken out between the Western Cape's Department of Environment and the National Parks Board over the proposed Table Mountain national park.

In papers before the Cape Supreme Court the department's head Dr Johan Neethling says the Parks Board has no legal standing to bring a court action to halt the Oudekraal hotel development on the site of the White House at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

The matter goes to trial on June 18. — Environment Writer

(56) CT 10/6/96

Grootvlei purification hitches delay pumping

(56) Star 12/6/96

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Grootvlei gold mine near Springs is treading a thin line between worker safety and environmental caution, as underground water levels in the mine continue to rise.

The mine cannot pump water out of its No 3 shaft until temporary water purification measures, which have been plagued by minor technical hitches for almost two weeks, are complete.

The mine was expected this week to resume its daily pumping of 100 million litres of contaminated mine water, pending the completion of temporary settling ponds. The ponds are expected to remove about 90% of the ferrous oxide contamination that resulted in the withdrawal of the mine's original pumping permit.

Mine manager Peter Noble said this week that pumping would be a "stop-start operation" until all the problems had been sorted out.

Meanwhile, mineworkers said concern over job security would ease only after September, when a cost-benefit analysis of the future of the East Rand's marginal mines would be completed.

Stiff fines proposed for developers

Linda Enso

(56)

BO 12/6/96

CAPE TOWN — A R500 000 fine would be imposed on Western Cape developers who violated conditions of approval of plans, agriculture, planning and tourism MEC Lampie Fick said in the provincial legislature yesterday.

The proposed initial fine would be followed by a further penalty of R10 000 for every day the developer continued to violate the conditions.

This meant fines could be imposed in cases relating to improper land use or transgression of zoning regulations,

reneging on agreements providing environmental protection, and the violation of specific building regulations.

The draft Western Cape Bill on Planning and Development also recommended that local and provincial authorities should have the power to shut down a development if the developer did not rectify the situation.

Any person who suspected that the conditions had been broken could request an investigation at a magistrate's court.

Continued on Page 2

Developers

(56)

Continued from Page 1

BO 12/6/96

The Bill would replace and incorporate the National Development Facilitation Act, which the Western Cape government has rejected.

Fick said the proposed provisions for environmental conservation and development were among the most stringent in the world.

On Saldanha's Steel's alleged violation of the undertakings on environ-

mental protection it gave to the Saldanha commission, Fick said his department would create an environmental monitoring committee to take the place of the environmental trust proposed by Saldanha Steel.

The monitoring committee, with the back-up of the proposed legislation, would be far more effective than a trust, he said.

Fick said the conditions of approval for the Saldanha project had been the most stringent, and the management process the most comprehensive yet demanded by the province.

NUM backs drives to increase productivity

Renee Grawitzky

THE National Union of Mineworkers was not opposed to measures to improve productivity, provided the benefits were shared equitably, the union's president James Motlatsi told the sub-Saharan Oil and Mineral conference yesterday.

Motlatsi said the union had been involved in a number of initiatives at mine and industry level which contributed to promoting increased productivity.

"The union had always promoted an increase in worker participation in the industry, he said.

This had been reflected in the participation in forums at various levels to discuss and co-ordinate change process.

"While labour relations remain cast in their traditional antagonistic form, particularly where wages are concerned, forums have tackled issues that have not been at the centre of collective bargaining in the past," he said.

These had included affirmative action, profit share, adult basic education and hostel democratisation.

Motlatsi said that workers were not going to participate enthusiastically in productivity drives that "mean they will lose their livelihood".

Measures were needed to protect the interests and futures of workers who lost their jobs as a result of changes needed to improve productivity and the viability of the mine in the long term.

In this regard the union promoted the development of an industrial development policy for all mining towns; the promotion of human resource development to facilitate increased training and a social plan, Motlatsi said.

90 12/6/96

See Page 17

Pollution control costs govt R60m

(56) 90 12/6/96

THE government was spending more than R60m a year on controlling the pollution emanating from abandoned collieries, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said.

Asmal told delegates at the oil and minerals conference in Johannesburg yesterday that his department was spending more than R60m a year on the construction of pollution-control facilities for collieries that closed before mine closures procedures were introduced in 1956.

In addition, immediate-term control projects could cost SA between R200m and R300m for coal mining water control projects, Asmal said.

"Mines are by nature damaging to the environment and, with historically poor regulation, the country is now footing the bill and having to count the cost when it most needs all the resources it can muster for social and economic renewal," he said.

Asmal said before the introduction of the Water Act of 1956, there was no statutory requirement for environmental management by mines.

The state was now responsible for the management of the mines that closed down before the Act.

He said damage to the environment, caused by acid mine drainage, persisted indefinitely

and manifested itself over long periods of time.

The pollution presented a problem of national proportions, as the bulk of the major coal and gold mining areas were situated in the upper reaches of the country's major rivers. Asmal said there was a "critical need for disciplined environmental practices" within the mining industry.

All countries in sub-Saharan Africa should "appreciate that mature environmental and water policies must be developed and implemented before mining permissions are granted, and as far as is possible imposed on existing operations". However, a balance had to exist between environmental protection and sustained economic development.

"Overregulation and unreasonable standards on the one hand will deter desperately needed foreign investment in our minerals industry."

All activities affected the environment in one way or another, and one had to work out the financial costs of each aspect. He said there had to be regulation that was balanced with other economic and social strategies.

"A co-operative relationship between a responsible industry and an understanding government is the only solution," Asmal said. — Sapa.

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Jordan sends staff packing

(56) ET 9/16/96

STAFF OF outgoing NP ministers are having to re-apply for their jobs or in many cases take severance packages or face "redeployment". **HENRY LUDSKI** reports.

MINISTERIAL staff of outgoing Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism and National Party Western Cape leader Dr Dawie de Villiers have been sent a clear message by his successor, Dr Pallo Jordan — clear out your desks by July 1.

"It's every minister's prerogative to bring his own people. I've got my own personal staff and I don't require their services," said Jordan, who takes up his position at the end of the month when the NP withdrawal from the government of national unity takes effect.

"It's not as if they are going to

be fired. They are going to be redeployed," said Jordan. The departure of the NP ministers and deputy ministers who are busy preparing to vacate ministerial offices in Pretoria and Parliament have left their staff exploring a range of options — severance packages, careers in the private sector and "redeployment".

The anxiety and uncertainty created by the NP's decision to leave the GNU is reflected in the corridors and offices of the Parliamentary Towers housing the government ministries — from the first floor offices of outgoing NP

Minister of Agriculture Kraai van Niekirk to Deputy President FW de Klerk's plush offices on the top floor. De Villiers' staff have been particularly taken aback by Jordan's action. Although it is not uncommon for ministerial changes to be accompanied by a changeover of staff, they were unprepared for his blunt refusal to consider keeping any old staff.

Said De Villiers' secretary, Miss Phillippi Bothma: "When Dr Jordan requested a list of the staff in the office it gave us hope that some of us would be allowed to stay."

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Water just as valuable as gold

LESLE HATTINGH reports from Johannesburg.

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal took a sip of treated water being pumped from the Grootvlei gold mine on the East Rand into the Blesbokspruit wetland, and declared it "remarkable".

Asmal's visit to Grootvlei followed a long-standing controversy surrounding the pumping of iron oxide-polluted water into the wetland, which came to a head on May 15 when the mine's permit to discharge water was withdrawn.

The presence of vast quantities of underground water means mining is only possible at Grootvlei and other East Rand mines with continuous pumping.

But pumping is causing fish in the Blesbokspruit wetland to die and farmers are complaining the water is unsuitable for irrigation. Blesbokspruit is one of only 12 protected wetlands in the world.

The mine at first said it would defy the withdrawal of its permit, which threatened about 2 300 jobs at Grootvlei and more than 6 500 jobs at mines linked to it. Then the government and mine owner Randgold agreed to split the bill for constructing huge water settlement ponds to

remove pollutants before discharge. Six R1.3-million temporary settlement ponds were built within three weeks, and the mine started pumping water again last Tuesday.

Construction of permanent ponds is underway, with the total cost estimated at R18 million.

After an aerial inspection of the wetland and settlement ponds on Thursday, Mr Asmal met Grootvlei mine general manager Peter Noble and other officials.

"I would like to return in a week or so, but this is remarkable," Mr Asmal said after taking a sip of the clarified water.

Mr Asmal said he had not intended to close the mine by retracting the permit, but was prompted by the immediate health danger. The wetland was also in danger of being destroyed within six to nine months if the pollution continued, he added.

He said his department had stepped in and gathered mine officials, the National Union of Mineworkers, farmers and environmentalists around the negotiating table to avert a crisis.

"It could not be a choice between jobs and the environment," he said. The cabinet has made just over R10 million available to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to fund half the pond construction costs.

Mr Asmal said South Africa needed more mines, but that new operations would be subject to strict water purity controls.

"For the first time we are trying to regulate pollution," he said.

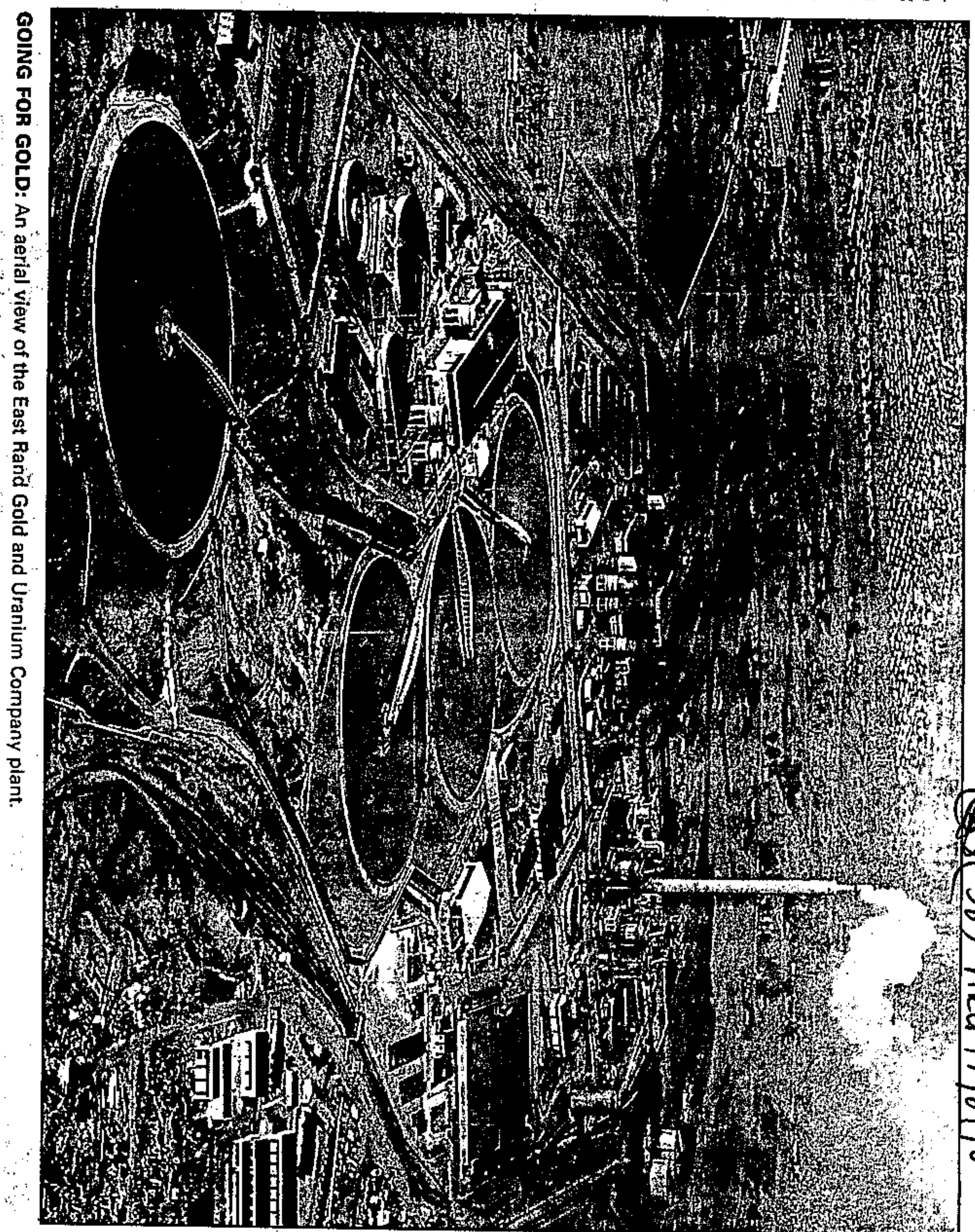
Mr Noble said construction on the permanent settlement ponds started at the same time as work on temporary ponds and would be completed when the mine's temporary pumping permit expires in September. In view of the measures, the mine expects a new permit then.

Mr Noble said: "We are glad we are working in the spirit of co-operation to come up with a permanent solution. If we are looking at water as a natural resource, the mine's lifespan is irrelevant."

Grootvlei's estimated lifespan is 20 years, but Mr Noble believes it has potential for a significantly longer life.

The water pumped into the wetland is continuously monitored. On Thursday, suspended particle and iron

55) Aug 19/6/96



GOING FOR GOLD: An aerial view of the East Rand Gold and Uranium Company plant.

oxide content was significantly below the temporary permit's specifications.

Mr Noble said the process was still difficult to control and impurities might appear, but that every effort would be made to maintain standards.

The temporary ponds have a daily capacity of 100 megalitres, while the permanent clarifier can handle 120 megalitres a day.

The polluted water is first oxidised and lime is added at the overflow of the first of three settlement ponds in use. Another two settlement ponds, which are not being used yet, have been constructed and could be lined with plastic within a day if the water

quality deteriorates, and further settlement is required.

Plastic lining is the biggest expense of the project - R187 500 a dam.

Mr Asmal later told the Springs Chamber of Commerce that Grootvlei was an example of what would have to be dealt with in the rest of the mining industry.

Leachate from mine tailings put 50 000 tons of salts into the Vaal bar-rage annually, while acid mine drainage was a problem in most base mineral operations.

Most large coal and gold mining areas were situated on the upper reaches of major river systems.

Mr Asmal said the crisis illustrated the need for clear decision making and co-operation between stakeholders, which included workers and relevant government departments.

Mining, especially gold mining, was based on a limited and non-renewable resource, and operations depended on the availability of water. Gold mining was also a mature industry which would face decline and reduction over the next few decades.

The government would increasingly have to deal with the rehabilitation of closed and marginalised mines. The lack of past legislation was one reason why it cost the government

R25 million a year in environmental control to manage mines that closed before 1967, said Mr Asmal. This was necessary to protect underground water resources.

"Our past was not based on the principle of sustainable development, but on the unprincipled exploitation of natural resources," he said.

The country also had limited water resources, a growing population and frequent droughts and floods, he added. "We need to build environmental and ecological considerations into every economic decision we make. That is sustainable development." - Sapa.

LIFE



UNDER SCRUTINY: Kader Asmal, Minister of Water and Forestry Affairs, Asmal's visit to Grootvlei followed a long-standing controversy over the pumping of iron oxide-polluted water into the wetland, which came to a head when the mine's permit to discharge water was withdrawn.

Parliament to probe bank rate rise

ARLT 19/6/96 #

(58)

PATRICK BULGER
Political Staff

THE recent one percent unilateral prime interest rate increase has prompted parliament to set up a sub-committee to investigate possible changes to banking and competition laws.

The decision was taken yesterday at a joint meeting of the standing committee on finance and the portfolio committee on housing and trade and industry.

The sub-committee will report back as soon as possible after parliament resumes in early August.

The joint committees took the decision after Competition Board chairman Pierre Brooks made a submission, saying he was suspicious that the banks had colluded.

They increased the prime rate before the Reserve Bank did so, citing liquidity problems and pressure on their margins from overseas lenders as reasons for the increase.

Mr Brooks told the committees that the board did not have "prima facie evidence" of collusion.

It had therefore not referred the matter to the police and the Attorney-General.

He said it was not correct that he had not decided there had been collusion. Instead he had not been able to prove collusion.

ANC MP Rob Davies argued that the actions of the other banks in following the increase announced by Standard Bank might constitute collusion.

Parks battle to stop White House plan unfolds in court (56)

Supreme Court Reporter

ARG 19/6/96
THE National Parks Board's application for a review of the Llandudno-Hout Bay local authority's approval of the controversial Oudekraal hotel development is being heard in the Cape Supreme Court this week.

The National Parks Board last month obtained an interdict suspending development of the proposed multi-million-rand complex at the foot of the Twelve Apostles between Bakoven and Llandudno, pending the outcome of the hearing.

The application is being brought by the Parks Board against developer Hottentots

Huisie, the transitional authority of Llandudno-Hout Bay, and the Minister for Development in the Western Cape.

The application is for the court to review and set aside of the validity of the Western Cape provisional structure plan, and to review the rezoning of the former White House property, site of the proposed development.

In papers, the National Parks Board argued that the Llandudno-Hout Bay authority had not implemented an integrated environmental management approach.

If the authorities had adopted this approach they would not have reached the decision they had, to allow the development.

Landowners get assurance on plans to mine along Vaal

BY JAMES CLARKE

(56)
Sasol, whose Sigma Colliery wants to strip-mine the Free State side of the Vaal River opposite Millionaire's Row, where many Gauteng people have mansions and boathouses, has ordered a full-scale environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the proposal.

Landowners complained to The Star that Sasol was going ahead behind their backs. They have now been assured that nothing will be done without their full knowledge and input.

The Star, in an editorial, criticised Sasol for donating R50 000 to a crane breeding programme while planning to wipe out a large area of flood plain upstream of the Barrage.

Andrew Duthie, of the

Star 20/6/96
firm Walmsley Environmental Consultants, which is conducting the EIA, says 600 information packages have been posted to "interested and affected parties", including the press.

Those who might not have received them can request information and attend a special information event this Saturday, which will have displays of various aspects of the proposed mine. This will be at the Wonderwater Mine lapa from 8.30am-4pm. Tours of the area will be organised and details discussed.

Duthie, former manager of the Wildlife Society and a respected figure in conservation, said: "I am saddened that people are undermining an honest effort to do an EIA correctly."

Streams contaminated with radioactivity

(76) Star 21/6/96
BY TAMSEN DE BEER
AND SAPA

Several streams are contaminated with high levels of radioactivity and pose health risks where they come in contact with gold mining activities, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has said.

It warned that water from the streams should not be used for drinking or in the preparation of food.

About a third of water samples taken from streams around Johannesburg, the Free State and North West exceeded current water quality standards, said the leader of a survey, Dr Phillip Kempster.

"(The result of) one-off drinking is negligible, but continuous consumption over many years could cause kidney problems."

He said health risks could be compared with

those posed by garden pesticides. The water was not generally used for drinking and often inaccessible.

The survey involved sampling raw water sources expected to contain traces of uranium, radium and thorium. Uranium was found to cause the biggest problem.

The department was expected to assess the study and evaluate steps to reduce contamination.

Contaminated water was found at Russel Stream south of Johannesburg, Deelkraal Recreation Club dam near Klerksdorp, Koekemoerspruit near Orkney, and the stream below Peter Wright dam between Soweto and Carletonville.

Water from Freddie's mine near Odendaalsrus and Mahemspruit below Rheeders dam, both in the Free State, was also not fit for continuous consumption.

(5b) ~~SECRET~~
GREENS BLOCK DAM ~~SECRET~~

FM 21/6/96
 The environmental lobby has managed to put a hold on a R2bn dam building project that would have made Namibia independent of SA for its power needs.

Plans to build a dam on the Kunene River have now been delayed until an environmental impact assessment has been conducted. Results are expected only by July next year.

The dam would have fed a hydro-electric power station 140 km below the Ruacana Falls at Epupa. The output, combined with that of the Ruacana power station, would have added 50% capacity to the Namibian power grid, making the country's electricity utility, Swawek, self-sufficient.

Objections to the scheme originated in Namibia and spread to Sweden. The influential London-based Wildlife Fund joined the chorus, providing the signal for environmentalists around the world to voice objections. They claim the scheme will flood some of the Himba tribe's ground and threaten their livelihood.

Their outcry forced Swawek to back off and start the feasibility study. "We hope to get a final report on July 1 1997," says Swawek technical services GM Imker Hoogenhout. "We are looking at other schemes in the same area, but we also want to reassess the conceptual design and viability of the original scheme. We guess — now that's all it is, a guess — it will produce 400 MW and cost R2bn. But that depends on the final design."

Namibia, which has a wealth of minerals but no developed coal mines, must rely on hydro-electric power if it is to become self-sufficient. It will not be able to finance the project on its own. But Hoogenhout says: "It shouldn't be hard to find the money if we prove it's worth-

while. If Angola joins us as equal partners, it will have to find half the money."

Ruacana Falls power station is operating at half of capacity. Originally designed to supply all Namibia's power needs, Ruacana cannot step up production because the Gove Dam, built 300 km upstream to regulate the water flow to the "run-of-the-river" station, was sabotaged by Unita during Angola's civil war. ■

Bird rescue was world's best

CT 21/6/96

(56)

THE RESCUE of penguins oiled in the Apollo Sea spill was the world's most successful, reports Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING**.

CAPE Town's massive African penguin rescue operation after the Apollo Sea shipping disaster two years ago, has proved to be the biggest and most successful oiled seabird rescue in the world — far outstripping that which followed the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska.

Scientists who have been monitoring the penguins after their release, say 68% of the 2 700 penguins rescued from Dassen Island have returned to the island and 46% of these are breeding successfully.

Cape Nature Conservation ornithologist Dr Tony Williams said yesterday: "What this shows is that we are way ahead of anyone else — world leaders in this field. Sanccob has an

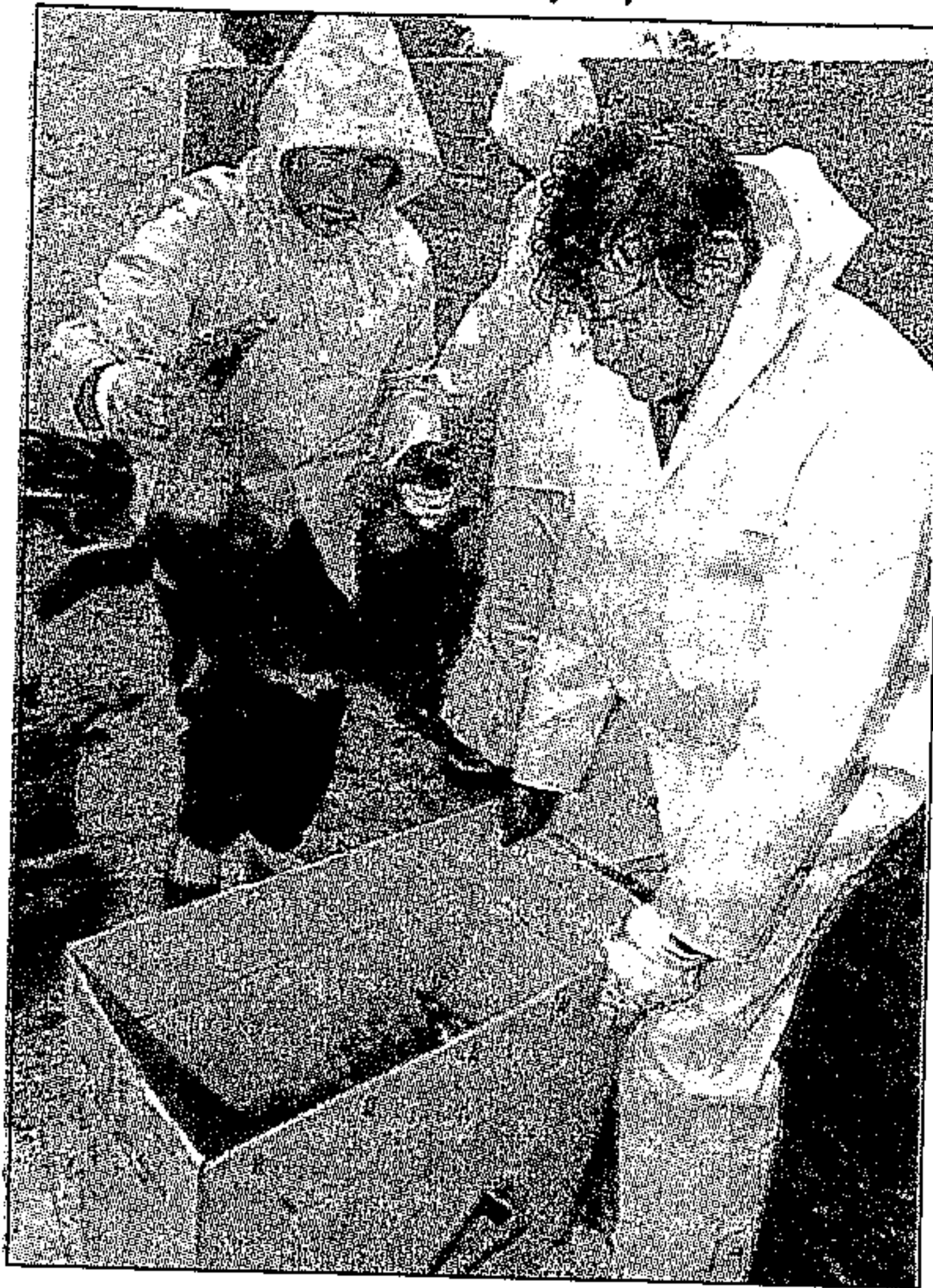
incredible track record on a global scale. They've rescued more live oiled birds than any organisation in other countries, released more and done it more cheaply than anyone else.

"We also have the best record of rehabilitated birds going back to breed."

The release of this information comes just after Sanccob, the Milnerton-based sea bird rehabilitation organisation which co-ordinated and handled the bulk of the rescued birds, learned they have lost a R9 000 annual provincial grant and a R6 000 annual donation from Britain. They rely entirely on donations.

Altogether 7 000 oiled penguins were rescued from what was the worst oil slick ever to hit the Western Cape. Many were airlifted by air force helicopters to Sanccob and other emergency facilities on the mainland. Of these, 4 000 survived, were ringed and released.

Williams said a scientific paper published in the United States put the average survival time of oiled seabirds after cleaning at just 10 days. The average



FLASHBACK: Workers load some of the 7 000 rescued birds into boxes to be airlifted from Dassen Island to Sanccob for cleaning.

cost of cleaning the oiled seabirds from the Exxon Valdez was \$2 000 (about R8 700) a bird. Sanccob did it for around R1 000 a bird.

About 500 of the penguin chicks that were orphaned when their oiled parents were taken to the mainland for cleaning were collected in a corral and

hand-fed.

Just two months after their release, one of these orphaned chicks was found on the Namibian coast — having completed a swim of about 1 200km.

Studies done on oiled seabirds in other countries found that when they had swallowed as little as 0,2ml

of oil, they did not breed the following year.

"We found that for the first year after release many of the penguins didn't breed. It's difficult to say what the key factor was, but it was probably a result of a suppression of hormones. The effects of oil toxins can be delayed," Williams said.

Back on the island the formerly oiled penguins usually mated with unoiled birds. Scientists compared the growth rates of these chicks with those from unoiled parent birds, and found them to be the same.

But the survival rate of chicks from parents where one of the pair had been oiled was lower.

Although their survival rate was the same during summer and spring, it fell in autumn and winter.

"This was not so much an effect of the oil, but because they were new mates. Penguins mate for life and it's rather like old married couples being able to survive the bad times better than newly married couples," said Williams.

● The Apollo Sea bulk ore carrier sank off the Western Cape in June 1994 after leaving Saldanha Bay, and with all 36 crew on board, depositing tons of fuel oil on the west coast.

Oudekraal: Parks Board may face ruin

ARLT 22/6/96 (56)

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

THE National Parks Board may face financial disaster in its bid to halt the Oudekraal hotel development near Camps Bay.

In an interview with SATURDAY Argus, Western Cape Environmental Minister Kobus Meiring said vetoing developments outside the borders of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment could potentially cost the Parks Board billions of rands.

The National Parks Board was appointed to control and manage the Cape Peninsula area earlier this year but this appointment is subject to contractual stipulations which effectively mean that the Parks Board has to reach agreement with the relevant local authorities and the 170 or so private landowners in the designated area.

Mr Meiring said he was not prepared to comment on the Oudekraal issue as the development was the subject of a court case instituted by the Parks Board in an attempt to halt the development.

But Mr Meiring said the Oudekraal development fell outside the area to be run and controlled by the National Parks Board.

"It must be understood that owners of private land outside the Parks Board area have certain rights.

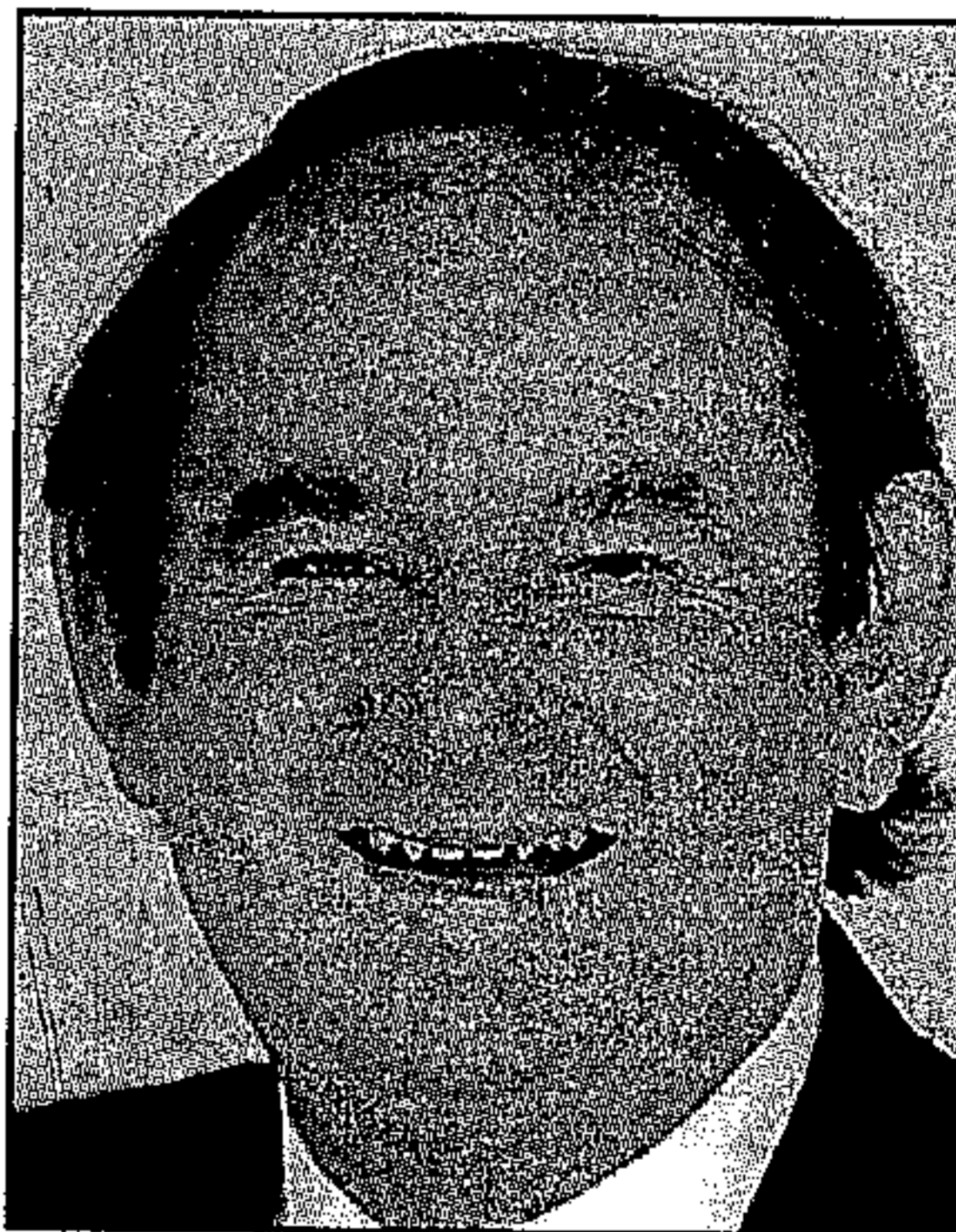
"If a body like the National Parks Board wants to stop such developments on their borders, then the Parks Board would have to buy out the owners.

"The area between Camps Bay and Llandudno, for instance, is also in private hands and that area does have certain rights coupled to it.

"Should the private owners want to develop that land and the National Parks Board wants to halt such developments, it may ultimately have to buy out that land. It is a vast piece of land and could potentially cost billions. I do not believe that the Parks Board has those funds."

Mr Meiring said the line had to be drawn somewhere. "Clearly there must be a balance between conser-

■ Moves by the National Parks Board to halt developments on the coast near Oudekraal could ultimately cost the conservation body billions of rands as it would have to buy out vast tracts of prime land which are currently privately owned.



□ **CONCERNED:** Kobus Meiring says an attempt to buy out land owners could cost billions.

vation and development. If one took it to the extreme, one could argue that the view from Table Mountain should also be protected. If an unsightly development was, for example, undertaken at Milnerton, could one then halt such a development because it could spoil the view from Table Mountain?"

Referring to the upgrading of the Table Mountain cable way, Mr Meiring said he believed the necessary checks and balances had been incorporated to protect the environment.

He said he hoped that an amicable agreement could be reached by the end of July so that the project could go ahead.

White House defender steps in

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

IN A dramatic last-minute bid to prevent the legal campaign against the R40-million "White House" hotel development at Oudekraal from being thrown out of the Supreme Court, Table Mountain warden David Daitz has stepped in to confront the developers personally.

Both Mr Daitz and the National Parks Board argue the development would compromise the integrity of the future Cape Peninsula national park.

They also say it would go against the recommendations of two public investigations into environmental management policies and control of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

After four days of intense legal parrying before two judges in Cape Town this week, the attempt by the NPB to stop the development was in danger of being dismissed because of doubts over the board's legal standing.

Mr Daitz's personal entry to the case followed an all-out onslaught on the NPB's *locus standi* by the developer's legal team.

In reply, parks board lawyer Dawid de Villiers Q C said the attack on its legal standing was being used as a shield to prevent it from getting to the substantive issues surrounding the disputed development.

The parks board had taken up the cudgels for people who had an interest in the preservation of the environment. "If this

could not happen, who could be expected to take up the cudgels with enormous costs if actions like this do not succeed?"

Shortly before 4pm on Friday, Mr de Villiers announced that a second applicant would join the NPB's application. The White House lawyers told Judge Fagan and Mr Justice Brand that their client could not afford a postponement, or risk a fresh application by the parks board.

They said Mr Daitz would have to show that the development interfered with his constitutional rights. The NPB wants the court to overturn a local authority decision which lifted restrictive conditions on the White House property.

It says the rezoning decision should have followed integrated environmental management principles and also argued that the local council had not been authorised to make its decision. It also had ignored the provisions of the Removal of Restrictions Act.

Lawyers for the developer, Mr Steve Jones, said the parks board was trying to turn back the clock to before the White House was built in 1926.

They said Mr Jones had lawfully set about to achieve a sensitive balance between environmental conservation and a necessary development which met the requirements of the most detailed scientific study available.

The developers and the NPB have been given till Monday to respond.

(56)

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ST(CM) 23/6/96

Controversial oil storage deal under scrutiny

(56) (14)

AN INDEPENDENT legal review of the roles and responsibilities of environmental authorities will be one of 12 specialist studies commissioned as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposal to lease crude oil storage tanks at Saldanha Bay to Iran.

The government's Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) has signed an agreement with Iran to store approximately 15 million barrels of crude oil in two of the six vast underground tanks at Saldanha Bay, with an option to lease a third tank - also with a 7.5-million barrel capacity.

However, there is a suspensive clause in the contract and the SFF has stated that it will not proceed with the controversial venture before an informed assessment can be made of the possible environmental consequences - including the potential increase in the risk of oil pollution in the sensitive Langebaan wetland system.

The CSIR has been commissioned to do a comprehensive environmental impact assessment of the proposal, and one of the first steps in this assessment is a "scoping" phase.

The purpose of this phase is to ensure that broadly agreed key objectives are identified early in the EIA process, so that the EIA can be guided and managed effectively in its later stages.

The objectives of the scoping exercise are to ensure that:

- The overall EIA is sound;
- Appropriate alternatives - such as scrapping the oil storage facility entirely or putting in an offshore mooring point - to be assessed by the EIA are identified beforehand;

The Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) has signed an agreement with Iran to store approximately 15 million barrels of crude oil in two of the six vast underground tanks at Saldanha Bay. But there is a clause in the contract allowing the SFF to pull out if the environmental risk of the proposal is too great - such as the risk of oil pollution in the sensitive Langebaan wetland system. A scoping exercise has been done during the past 10 months to set agreed parameters for a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposal, and a final scoping report has now been released for comment. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at some of the findings of the report.

- Key issues about these alternatives are defined as early as possible; and

- Specialist studies which will look at these issues are well defined.

The scoping phase has lasted 10 months and involved contact with 340 groups or individuals identified as "interested and affected parties", of which 16 were deemed to be key players.

They were asked for their comments on both the EIA process and specific concerns and issues relating to the oil storage proposal.

These were then given to the CSIR for comment and compiled into a draft scoping document. A final scoping document has now been produced, incorporating further comments and concerns.

One such concern relates to the extent of authorities' legal responsibilities and powers about a final decision for the project on environmental grounds.

A concern was expressed in the scoping stage that the SFF should

not have the final say on whether the go-ahead for the oil storage contract would be environmentally acceptable.

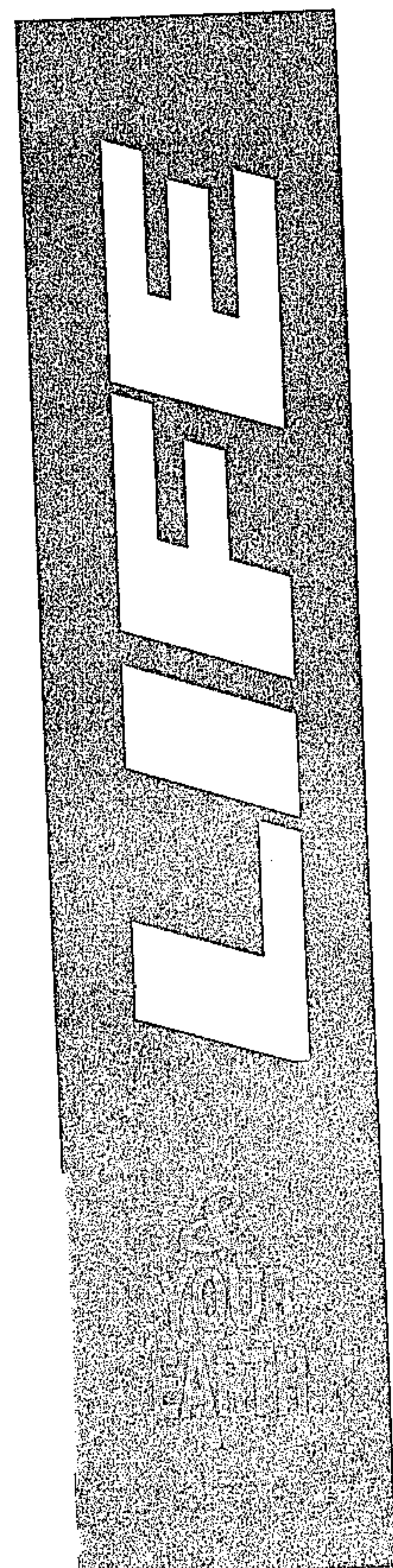
According to the final scoping document, the Ministry of Environmental Affairs initially indicated that the SFF did not have the authority to decide what might constitute an acceptable or unacceptable risk to the environment, and that such authority was vested with the Western Cape government.

But the regional government contested this, and was proved correct.

At present, it does not have the legal power to intervene in advance.

"SFF therefore does not require permission in terms of the Environment Conservation Act for this project," the final scoping document states.

However, both the national and regional environment departments and Western Cape Premier Herens Kriel were entitled to intervene after the project started, should it



Drage

iny

ARG 24/6/96
cause "significant" environmental damage.

The other 11 specialist studies are:

- Identifying potential single buoy mooring (SBM) sites offshore of Saldanha Bay, as an alternative oil loading arrangement;

- Establishing the mooring and underkeel clearance requirements of VLCC (very large crude carriers) entering and berthing at the Saldanha port;

- The impact of dredging activities;

- Modelling oil spill scenarios for the various project options;

- Assessing the existing and required oil spill contingency control at Saldanha;

- Assessing the SFF's oil transfer and storage technology;

- The impact of oil transfer and storage on groundwater and water quality;

- The potential effect of oil spills on Langebaan and the coastal ecosystem;

- A cost-benefit analysis of various project options;

- An environmental risk assessment, particularly of oil spills, of these various options; and

- An assessment of ballast water disposal.

These 12 studies are already underway, and a draft environmental impact report will probably be available for comment towards the end of next month or in August.

- Copies of the final scoping document are in public libraries at Saldanha Bay, Vredenburg, Langebaan and Cape Town, at the CSIR offices in Pretoria and Durban, and at the offices of the scoping consultants, Crowther Campbell & Partners, telephone 461 1118/9.

Discarded fishing gear
and plastic...



A SLOW DEATH FOR PENGUINS

Help to conserve the endangered African penguin - this poster shows the impact of discarded plastic in the sea on the birds
CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION TEL: 021 481 4051

DOOMED TO DIE: African penguins, once called jackass penguins and found in number along the Cape coast, are now a threatened species. Plastic waste and discarded fishing tackle are a major hazard for these birds, as this new Cape Nature Conservation poster illustrates only too well. Fortunately, there is also good news. Conservation officials have been monitoring the breeding of the African penguin on Dassen Island since the Apollo Sea shipping disaster in June, 1994, when about 7 000 oiled birds were taken from the island to rehabilitation centres on the mainland. About 4 000 adult penguins were banded before they were released, 2 700 of them from Dassen Island. Monitoring has shown that 69 percent of these birds returned to Dassen Island by January this year, and that 46 percent tried to breed. Compared with other major oil spills around the world, like the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, the Apollo Sea rescue operation was the world's most effective, and the cleaning and rehabilitation operation the world's biggest. Returning the birds to their breeding ground was also a success story. Copies of the poster are available from Cape Nature Conservation, telephone 483 4051.

Heated debate expected at world talks on whaling

ET 24/6/96 (56)

SIBERIAN tribespeople have been using anti-tank weapons and Kalashnikov rifles to kill whales, Russia admitted this week.

And Greenland's Inuit, or Eskimos, are using conventional fishing boats armed with state-of-the-art explosive harpoons.

This "aboriginal" or "subsistence" whaling — which kills hundreds of the mammals every year — will be the subject of heated debate at the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) 48th annual conference, which starts in Scotland today.

The Arctic peoples are exempt from the IWC's nine-year moratorium on commercial whaling because it is deemed to be an essential part of ancient tribal culture.

South Africa's possible withdrawal from the commission and possible resumption of commercial whaling will also come under the spotlight.

Local Save the Whales Campaigners are shocked at the suggestion contained in a mandate document for the South African delegation attending the conference this week that South Africa should "consider its options, including possibly withdrawing", before the

next IWC meeting in 1997.

Their concern was heightened by parliamentary environmental portfolio committee chairman Mr Peter Mokaba's statement that South Africa should keep its options open for a return to commercial whaling.

Save The Whales Campaign secretary Mrs Nan Rice said yesterday: "Something's going on behind the scenes: One minute they're talking about benign use of whales in this country like whale-watching and the next thing they're talking sustainable use.

"The whole thing is dreadful and I don't think the public is aware of what might happen if we pull out of the IWC.

"There is no humane way to kill a whale. The whole of South Africa was outraged recently when a man put a firecracker up a dog's anus. Can they imagine what agony a whale goes through when it has an explosive harpoon fired into it?"

An American Indian tribe, the Makah of Washington, wants to go back to whaling after ceasing 70 years ago. The US, a fierce opponent of commercial whaling, is applying to the IWC for a quota of five grey whales a year.

The tribe is invoking an 1855 treaty with the US government, which gave it "the right of taking fish and of whaling or sealing at usual and accustomed grounds".

An IWC sub-committee will review all aboriginal whaling today.

Norway and Japan, which have found ways of legally defying the moratorium and catching hundreds of minke whales each year, resent the special status of aboriginal whaling. They argue it is difficult to distinguish it from the kind of whaling they want to do.

The tribespeople say whaling dominates their threatened cultures, strengthens social bonds and is a vital food source.

Japan has repeatedly asked for a quota of 50 minkes for four villages with a tradition of coastal whaling, but the IWC has always rejected the request.

Norway says its whaling, which is coastal, is almost identical to what the Inuit are allowed to do. It says it poses no threat to its healthy minke whale populations.

In 1994 the IWC adopted a resolution urging a ban on all forms of whaling. — The Independent, Environment Writer

Insurers 'helped foot penguin bill'

(56)
STAFF WRITER

ET 24/6/96

SANCCOB, Cape Town's seabird rehabilitation centre, says it cost it only R190 to clean each penguin coated in oil in the Apollo Sea shipping disaster two years ago.

Sanccob's treasurer, Mr Mike Purcell, said the figure of R1 000 cited in reports had included costs for which Sanccob did not pay.

"We don't want the public to think Sanccob itself spent R1 000 on each bird," Purcell said.

"The other R800 for each bird was borne mainly by the SA National Defence Force for costs like transporting penguins by helicopter and keeping many of them at emergency centres at Wingfield. Most of the costs were covered by the Apollo Sea's insurers."

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New approach necessary to tackle problem of waste

Michelle Nel

SA FACES major problems in dealing with waste — both hazardous and non-hazardous — and government cannot tackle them alone.

If solutions are to be found, both the corporate world and individual communities have to become major players. And involvement is, in fact, likely to be their own advantage.

So says water affairs and forestry department waste management deputy director Leon Bredenhann, who is part of the management team of a new national waste management and integrated pollution control strategy.

This is an initiative jointly launched by the water affairs and forestry and the environmental affairs and tourism departments. "The first step in managing the waste problem is to quantify and characterise it," says Bredenhann.

He points out that SA does not know enough about how much waste — hazardous, domestic, agricultural or industrial — it produces, or where it goes. The country also needs to assess its landfills, both ordinary Class H for hazardous waste, and other waste management facilities, and then devise ways to improve the whole system — practical and achievable ways.

"Everybody from business to grassroots level must form partnerships with government to deal with waste effectively," Bredenhann says. "For example, waste minimisation must become part of our corporate culture in

line with a new ethic of environmental responsibility. The beauty of waste minimisation is that it can save — and even earn — companies large amounts of money."

Industry is not the only producer of problematic waste. Vast quantities of domestic waste lie uncollected in urban and rural areas of the country.

How is the national waste management strategy going to address this? Does SA have the money to get everyone's waste into the formal stream?

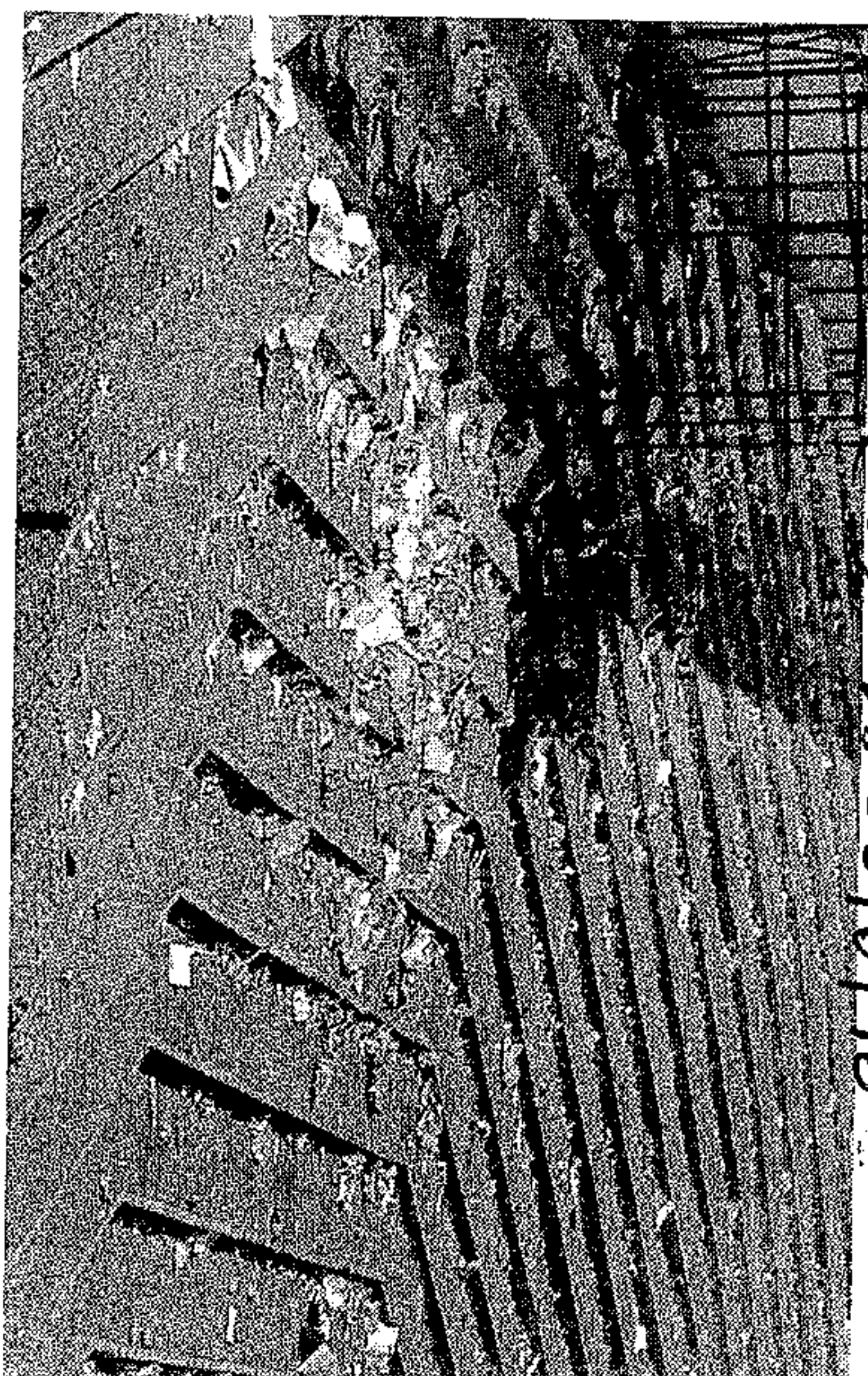
"Not if we use the current, conventional methods," said Bredenhann. "Instead, we need to empower communities without adequate waste services by educating them on the hazards of waste and suggesting how they can organise their own systems of collection.

"Waste can be taken to 'waste stations' from where it can later be collected for formal disposal. This system has worked elsewhere in the world and, with the necessary political and social will, it can work in SA too."

An example is the Clean and Green initiative, launched by Keep SA Beautiful, in conjunction with the public works department and SA Breweries' beer division, which is pioneering a community waste management system with 20 communities nationwide.

People will be appointed within the communities to collect waste and litter on a weekly basis. There will also be an educational drive to explain why waste is a problem.

When initial funding of R11m has



Sports fans leave their mark on a stadium.

been used up, it is hoped local authorities will take over the project's financial obligations, so waste management can continue to be community-run.

The national waste management strategy will not be a "top down" process. There will be broad-based consultation, so that the strategy is created by using the collective wisdom of all stakeholders in waste management.

"We can only tackle our waste efficiently if we have the support of the public, the local and provincial author-

ities, business and central government," says Bredenhann.

To obtain discussion documents on the national waste management strategy, or for further information, please contact Gondile Vilakazi, phone (012) 346-1517 or fax (012) 46-7909.

For technical management, water affairs and forestry department, phone (012) 299-2908 or fax (012) 323-0321.

— Nel is a freelance environmental journalist.

(52) RD 26/6/96

New environmental policy on the way

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

(56)
Star 26/6/96
"Never before in South Africa has there been such an emphasis on protecting the environmental rights of our citizens," said Gauteng MEC for conservation and environment Aboo Khan at a workshop on the draft document for South African environmental policy yesterday.

The workshop, attended by about 50 local government officials, was described as a success by director of Gauteng conservation and environment Chris Warner.

It forms part of a series of workshops and forums for public input into the new document that, according to Warner, was imperative to ensure Gauteng successfully handled its economic, development and environmental needs.

Khan said the new constitution gave more "clout" to environmental protection. He added it was only through a well thought-out document that problems such as the impacts of mining waste on our environment, could be solved.

"Gauteng ... sits with some of the worst environmental problems in the country," said Khan.

Board nets Sandy Bay for Table Mountain reserve

ARG 26/6/96 (56)

TASLIMA VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

THE National Parks Board (NPB) has acquired 136 ha of land, including nudist paradise Sandy Bay, to extend the Table Mountain national park which now falls under the board's jurisdiction.

The land in the south Peninsula will be proclaimed shortly a Schedule One national park.

Sandy Bay was donated to the park by Absa Bank. Together, this land and several other portions which the NPB plans to buy, will be part of the new national park.

The NPB presented its progress in achieving a new national park at a meeting yesterday at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

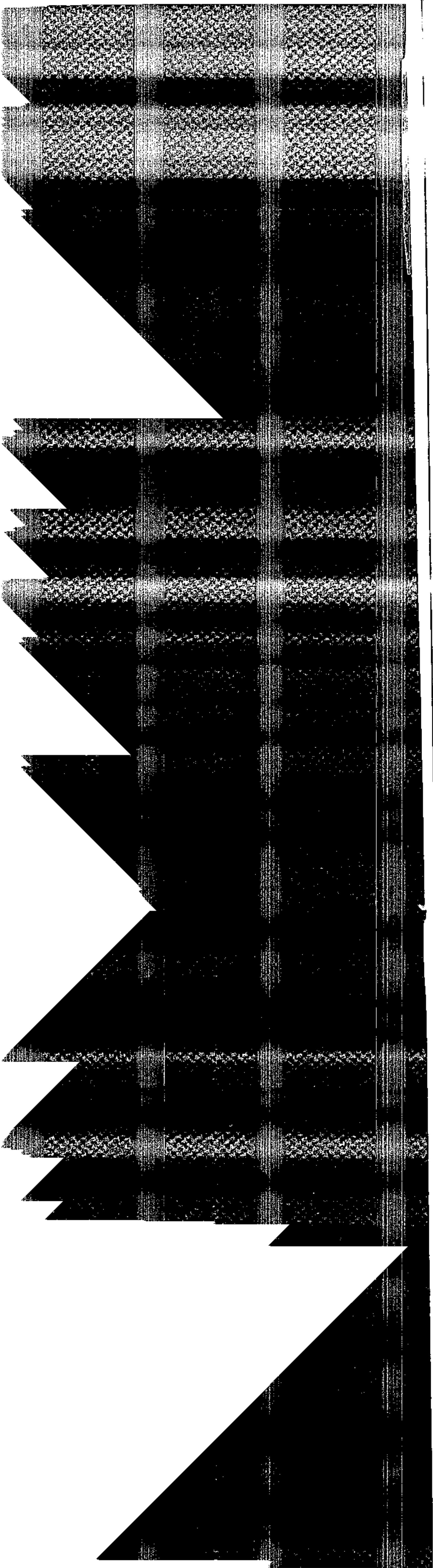
The purchase of land by the NPB comes after Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom decided that all conservation-worthy, state-owned land in the Peninsula should be vested in the NPB for conservation purposes.

The Cape Of Good Hope Nature Reserve's advisory committee also has agreed that the reserve should fall under the NPB which will be taking over the Boulders Management Committee which controls the beach outside Simon's Town.

Project co-ordinator David Daitz said that, in order to create a national park, the NPB had to acquire more land. The project had been in progress for the past six months and communities had been consulted on all issues.



AFTERNOON NAP:
These white rhino found the Natal game auction at Hiltop camp in Hluhluwe at the weekend a rather tiresome affair. Buyers snapped up more than 130 white rhino at the annual game sale, which brought in a record revenue of nearly R9 million for the Natal Parks Board.



Parks paradox: Hunting boosts rhino numbers

While one may be aghast at the fact that treasured specimens of rhino – and other fauna – are sold for hunting purposes, statistics show that, paradoxically, controlled sale and hunting tend to assist in the preservation of endangered species.

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56

TAKE an ordinary rhino crashing through the bush, dart it, pen it, then sell it to some rich big-game hunter to take the pleasure of killing it. Result: Conservation.

South Africa is the only country in the world where you can legally go out and shoot the highly-prized rhinoceros, a species reduced to just 11 500 members worldwide.

Hunters with big bucks can also kill elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo, which along with white rhino make up the "Big Five" trophy animals whose stuffed heads are destined to hang on the panelled walls of mansions.

Paradoxical as it may seem, South Africa treasures its wildlife and is proud of its bold approach to conservation, in some of the world's most famous game reserves and, increasingly, in private parks which also offer hunting.

"There's no difference between a rhino trophy or a red deer trophy," says Natal Parks Board chief executive George Hughes.

"In the past 15 years about 850 white rhino have been legally shot."

South Africa is home to 63 percent of the world's total rhino population and the fact that numbers are rising here is seen as ample vindication of the methods used.

In some neighbouring countries, poachers machinegun rhinos in the wild and chainsaw their horns off for sale as traditional medicine in the Far East or dagger handles in the Middle East.

"We regard hunting as a perfectly legitimate form of conservation. It has proved very successful for our rhino population," Mr Hughes said at the annual Natal Game Auction, which claims to be the world's biggest wildlife sale.

"Terms are cash," said auctioneer Willie Roux before bidding got under way before a capacity crowd under a marquee at Hilltop camp in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi game park, amid the vast rolling bush country of northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The park, one of 185 conservation areas in the province, is home to an estimated 1 988 rhinos, selected numbers of which are regularly removed and

sold for ecological reasons.

At the end of a five-hour nonstop harangue Mr Roux was wiping sweat from his brow and beaming at his record total sale of R9 million.

"When I started back in 1972, game had no value," he said.

"And look at it now. This is absolutely the best I have ever done."

Mr Roux knocked down scores of zebra, kudu, impala, giraffe, waterbuck, springbok and wildebeest to some 200 buyers with lines like "Buy 11 nyala, get one free. There's a calf".

But, rhinos were the undisputed stars of the show.

Captured on the reserve over the previous months by ranger teams using tranquilliser darts and helicopter transport for the three-tonne animals, more than 30 of the best examples were penned and on view for the weekend sale.

Others still to be caught were sold unseen for an average of R50 000 a head.

Rhinos do not require description. Their armoured, horned, dangerous and prehistoric appearance, their odd tip-toe running style and fearsome, battering-ram charge is probably the closest we can get to Jurassic Park thrills.

Mr Roux sold a total of 139 for the reserve, including the prize catch of six black rhinos – three males and three females – which went to private South African game reserve owner John Hume for R900 000.

"Why? To breed more," Mr Hume said.

The black rhino, on the endangered species list, may not be shot and its sale is very carefully controlled. But, Mr Hume said it was a worthwhile investment for his Mauricedale park, where visitors pay well to see the rare creatures.

Evidently, he plans to be selling calves of his own soon.

Breeding was clearly not the first thing on the minds of other rhino buyers who focused on adult white bulls with big horns, catalogued as "minimum 22 inch or 70 points Safari Club international rating".

"It's easy to spot the big-game buyers," said Ratna Kumar of Malaysia who

bought five white rhinos for Kuala Lumpur's zoo.

"When there's a big horn and the bidding goes very high, it's all those guys."

Brusque and burly as they tend to be, these men are nevertheless wary of reporters.

"I never talk to the Press," stonewalled Hans Heuser, a major bidder at this year's auction, flanked by deferential staff dressed in khaki and olive green.

One proud young Gauteng rancher and his wife paid R82 000 for a white rhino bull with a head of trophy dimensions.

Asked why, he raised an imaginary rifle to his shoulder and wiggled his trigger-finger. But, he declined to give his name.

Explaining the display of discretion, auctioneer Mr Roux said: "You have to understand. They're rare animals and this business is still sensitive. They don't want to advertise."

As for the hunters, they can probably afford guaranteed anonymity. They are unlikely to pay a cent less than R150 000 for the privilege of bringing down such an animal, not including the cost of the safari, and perhaps much more.

Rhinos singled out for death at this sale were outnumbered by those bought for breeding in game parks and zoos.

"We wouldn't like to see all our animals hunted. That would be a bit distressing," said Mr Hughes.

"This year we're selling in pairs. If a man wants a trophy he has to buy a female to put on his property."

In the past decade, the Natal game auction has caught, translocated and sold 150 000 wild animals, stocking game reserves elsewhere in South Africa and overseas and earning money for the upkeep of its thriving inhabitants, which include vultures, hippos and crocodiles.

"Hunting is really a small price to pay for the enormous spread of wildlife in South Africa," Mr Hughes said.

"Today it is a very well-regulated and responsible industry. That's not to say that you don't get the odd slob as a hunter, but it cannot be equated with the kill-everything-that-moves mentality of the 19th century." – Reuter.

Parks board set for new look, new name

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - With more than 1000 suggestions sent in for a new title, the name of the National Parks Board is headed the way of the dodo.

A new name for the custodian of South Africa's natural heritage was identified as essential to the repositioning of the board in the new South Africa, said Rams Rammutla, marketing and communications director.

A national media campaign and the involvement of parks board staff drew more specific ideas on a new corporate identity for the body entrusted by parliament to protect and develop South Africa's 18 national parks.

The organisation has operated as the National Parks Board since 1926.

Mr Rammutla was unwilling to

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make public any of the suggested new names before senior parks board personnel had looked at them, along with the advertising agency specially appointed to handle the name and corporate identity change.

Following evaluation, the August meeting of the parks board will hear two or three presentations based on suggestions received.

Depending on whether or not a decision is taken by the board at this meeting, implementation of the new name and identity will get underway as soon as possible.

"The size of the organisation, geographic location all over South Africa and magnitude of work involved make it impossible to implement a new corporate identity in one go.

"We'll be working in phases, once board approval has

been given, and I'm confident the new name and first phase of new identity development will be up and running by mid-1997," said Mr Rammutla.

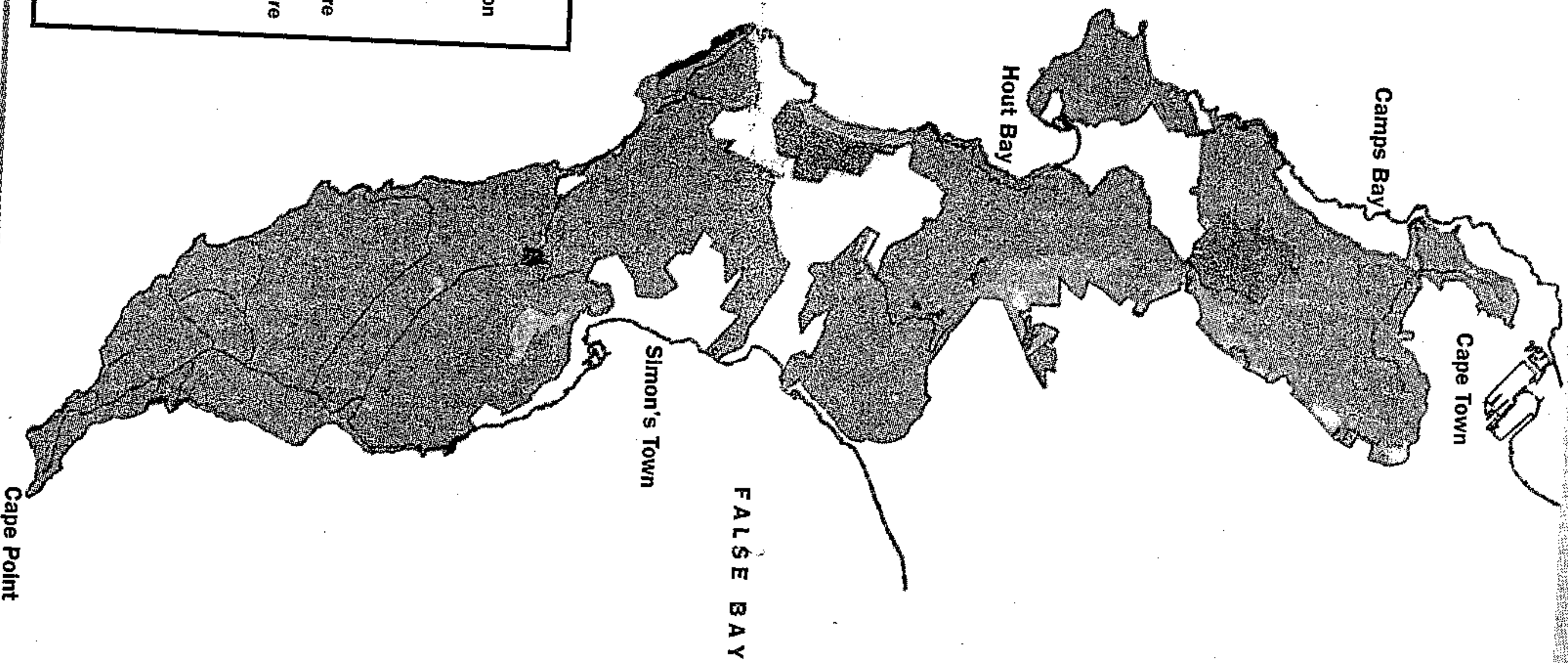
The Kruger National Park, the parks board's internationally-acclaimed showcase, would be the first to use the new corporate identity, with other national parks and the Groenkloof head office to follow.

Mr Rammutla could not give any estimate of the cost involved but said that - with probable changes to corporate colours, stationery, vehicle identification and the board's kudu logo, as well as the replacement of thousands of towels, linen and other marked items used daily by tourists and visitors to the national parks and rest camps in them - it would take quite a while before any new corporate identity was implemented fully.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WELCOME DONATION

Sandy Bay part of nature park

Table Mountain National Park: Use-Zone Map



D: The first land-use zone map for the proposed Table Mountain national park was released yesterday. All areas have been graded and will only be allowed in specified areas of the park. Some activities, like hunting and 4x4 vehicles, have been banned.

MAP: CSIR

(56) CT 26/6/96

ENVIRONMENTALISTS and green organisations have welcomed the donation of Sandy Bay to the National Parks Board. The beach will become part of the new Table Mountain and Peninsula national park, reports Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING**.



walking with dogs, braaiing, horse-riding, mountain-biking, fishing and orienteering. Guidelines have been drafted, but areas not mapped, for walking, rock-climbing, target-shooting, picnicking, caving, cultural events and organised activities.

The primary objectives of each zone and activities allowed in each are:

- **Special preservation zone:** To ensure preservation of unique flora and fauna in areas like Orangekloof, Noordhoek wetlands and Tokai forest east of Orpen Road. Low impact uses only.
- **Remote:** Areas that will be managed to preserve the sense of remoteness. Activities will be non-mechanical, like walking and climbing.
- **Quiet:** To act as a buffer for the remote areas and to take some pressure off these areas. Activities will include mountain-biking, horse-riding, orienteering.
- **Low intensity leisure:** A focus for recreation with appropriate infrastructure that will be primarily on altered landscapes like plantations.
- **High intensity leisure:** Formal and built recreational facilities which can be reached by car.
- **Sites of special interest:** Sites that have historic or cultural interest like kramats.

The land near Scarborough, bought by the National Parks Trust — a fund established 10 years ago by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) — will become one of the core conservation areas. WWF spokesman Dr Ian Macdonald said that although it was a thin wedge of land it reached across more than half the Peninsula. It stretched from the coast at Misty Cliffs, into the upper reaches of the Peninsula to the road between Red Hill and Scarborough. Daitz said the board had also bought 136ha of land from Paulina Cottages in the southern peninsula.

One of the toughest challenges facing the establishment of the national park was controlling the urban fringe surrounding the conservation area. It was impossible to present proposals for legislation to control the urban fringe until the area was clearly defined, Daitz said.

"What happens within a few hundred metres of the boundary is clearly of concern to the conservation managers. Until the regime for the urban fringe is resolved, the parks board has little option other than recourse to the law when it believes that its legitimate interests, even though they lie beyond the boundary, are threatened," he said.

The board is currently involved in Supreme Court action to halt the "White House" hotel development at Oudekraal at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

SANDY Bay, the gem of undeveloped coastline which environmental organisations and nature lovers have fought to protect from development for decades, will become part of the proposed Table Mountain and Peninsula national park, it was announced yesterday.

Negotiations with Absa Bank, owners of Sandy Bay, are being finalised to have the land transferred to the National Parks Board as a donation.

Co-ordinator of the proposed national park Mr David Daitz also announced the purchase of 139 hectares of key private property near Scarborough. The property will also become part of the future park — a major step forward in protecting the Peninsula's unique and seriously threatened biodiversity.

The National Parks Board also announced that the first land-use zone map for the Peninsula park had been drawn up. The map defines what human activities can take place in different areas.

The zone map strikes a balance between accommodating the needs of people using the mountain chain and conserving the Peninsula's natural environment — which has the highest density of threatened plant and invertebrate species of any similar sized area on earth.

Activities the zone map has banned in the conservation areas are hunting, falconry, the driving of four-wheeled drive vehicles in the veld and any motor vehicles off the hard topped roads.

The maps were drawn up after extensive input from the public. Over 700 individuals and organisations were canvassed and 15 public meetings held from Khayelitsha to Constantia.

The parks board announced it would embark on another extensive public participation programme to decide on the name for the new park, which will incorporate Signal Hill, Table Mountain and the mountain chain down to Cape Point.

Until a new name is found it would be known — mainly for legal reasons — as the Cape Peninsula and Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) National Park.

Areas in the future parks have been mapped and guidelines drawn up for hang-gilding and parasailing, beach use,

Nudists need not fear cover-up as Sandy Bay joins Parks Board

(58) CT 27/6/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

SANDY BAY nudists relax — the National Parks Board is not going to make you don bathing costumes when this internationally famous nudist beach becomes part of the proposed Peninsula national park.

It'll probably be the one national park where the only khaki you'll require is your skin.

Parks Board's head of planning Mr Paul Britten said yesterday: "If the national park is going to work, it has to have the support of the people. If the majority of people want it to stay a nudist colony, then it will."

Sandy Bay is likely to become something of a "people's beach", as National Parks Board is on record as saying that an urban park must be managed together with the people around it.

Mr David Daitz, co-ordinator of the future park, said at a public

meeting this week: "A national park embedded in the urban fabric of a metropolitan city must be managed in a participatory and cooperative way with the people around it."

A management plan has been drawn up for Sandy Bay and the Karbonkelberg — the product of years of negotiation between Absa Bank and local organisations.

Absa, owners of Sandy Bay, will donate the land to the World Wide Fund for Nature. The land will be contracted into the national park and managed by the Parks Board.

This ends decades of uncertainty when the future of the famous beach hung in the balance. It also ends years of wrangling between land owners and environmental organisations to keep the land free of development.

When the Cape Times asked Absa staff to pose on the beach (fully clothed, of course) to record the event in celluloid, they de-

clined. After several telephone calls to their local and Johannesburg offices yesterday, we were eventually told: "I'm sorry, but there is no one in the Cape Town office senior enough to be in the photograph."

In the 1970s and early 80s police regularly raided the beach — with up to four police Landrovers at a time — and arrested sunlovers who dared to bare it.

Mr Tony Barbour of Earthlife Africa said yesterday: "It's great that it will be incorporated into the park. It's about time the whole area was co-ordinated by one body. There is no reason why nudism should stop."

"This is a historical land use and historical land uses have to be recognised in the new park."

Wildlife Society spokesperson Ms Marlene Laros said she was delighted with the donation of the land and "pleased that it will be in the custodianship of a national conservation body".

Cosmetics company launches rescue project to save endangered national bird

BY XOLISA VAPI

A project to save South Africa's national bird, the blue crane, was launched during a ceremony at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens yesterday.

The crane, depicted on postage stamps and coins, has suffered a 90% decline over the past two decades as result of serious environmental deterioration caused by population growth and economic and industrial development.

Wattled cranes have been listed as one of the five most endangered species, with only 60 pairs left.

"It is thus fitting that as part of the company's long-standing commitment to our environment, we will be donating part of the profits of this product to saving our national bird," Avroy Shlain Cosmetics chairman Avroy Shlain said.

(56) STAN 28/6/96
He was awarded the Cheetah Award by the Endangered Wildlife Trust in acknowledgement of his ongoing commitment to salvage the environment.

Gauteng MEC for Conservation and Environment Aboo Kahn said he was encouraged by the company's commitment to conservation and had no doubt other companies would follow suit.

Kahn said his department had all the ingredients to tackle problems relating to conservation, including the support of

NGOs and the private sector.
"We are world leaders in the field of conservation, although we are still decision-makers who believe that conservation will only stay if it pays," he said.

He therefore appealed to nature lovers to join hands in making life easier for blue cranes and all other species.

New hope for the blue crane

Navy tackles dockyard pollution

(56) ARG 28/6/96

Resident's concerns investigated

FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape has to look to the sea for its economic well-being and Simon's Town is ideally placed to explore economic opportunities offered by the local and foreign maritime industry.

This is the view of Commodore Jack Nel, Officer Commanding Simon's Town Dockyard.

He and other members of the South African Navy (SAN) spoke to about 200 Simon's Town residents at a meeting on industrial activity in the dockyard and the navy's environmental conservation programme.

The meeting was in response to residents' complaints of noise and air pollution from "unacceptable" activities, including loud broadcast systems, generators running through the night, air-conditioning with faulty bearings, security lights shining in residents' eyes and late-night party noise from messes.

Commodore Nel said that of late there had been an increase in industrial activity in Simon's Town Naval Dockyard's East Yard.

He said that Cape Town could not cope with the demand for services and Simon's Town helped by handling the overflow of work.

"If we can't supply services, the currency goes elsewhere.

"We want to make better use of the existing infrastructure and ensure that potential income and economic well-being isn't lost to the Western Cape – and, more specifically, to the residents

of Simon's Town," he said.

He said the navy viewed residents' concerns in a serious light and would address them through coastal, harbour and noise-pollution programmes.

In its coastal pollution programme the navy intended to confirm its areas of responsibility, identify all possible pollutants, monitor beaches, regularly sample coastal water and beach sands – and determine the source of pollution if unacceptable levels were discovered.

The harbour pollution programme would look at industrial processes, regularly analyse samples of the seabed and check on visible and invisible gasses, dust and water in the harbour.

Action against noise pollution would include summarising and individually addressing all possible sources of disturbing noises, measuring noise levels in terms of regulations and restricting noisy activities to contractual times (7.30am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday).

Professional advice would be sought and progress would be made known to Simon's Town residents through brochures and newsletters.

The navy generated its own electrical power and had enough to make it independent of the municipal supplier in case of a power failure.

Dry abrasive blasting was the most cost-effective way of removing coats of paint from ships. Work on the SAS Outeniqua superstructure had now been completed.

Commodore Nel said the navy welcomed any proposals, suggestions or advice.

Vaal home-owners up in arms over wetlands threat

By BENITA VAN EYSEN

Home-owners along the southern bank of the Vaal River remain sceptical about a new mining operation in the area despite Sasol's environmental impact assessment consultants having gone to great lengths to assure them that minimum damage will be done to the area.

Three privately owned farms in the Sasolburg district where Sasol has mineral rights have been earmarked by mining subsidiary Sigma Colliery for the extraction of low-quality coal. The owner has declared one of the farms a private nature conservation area.

Pollution

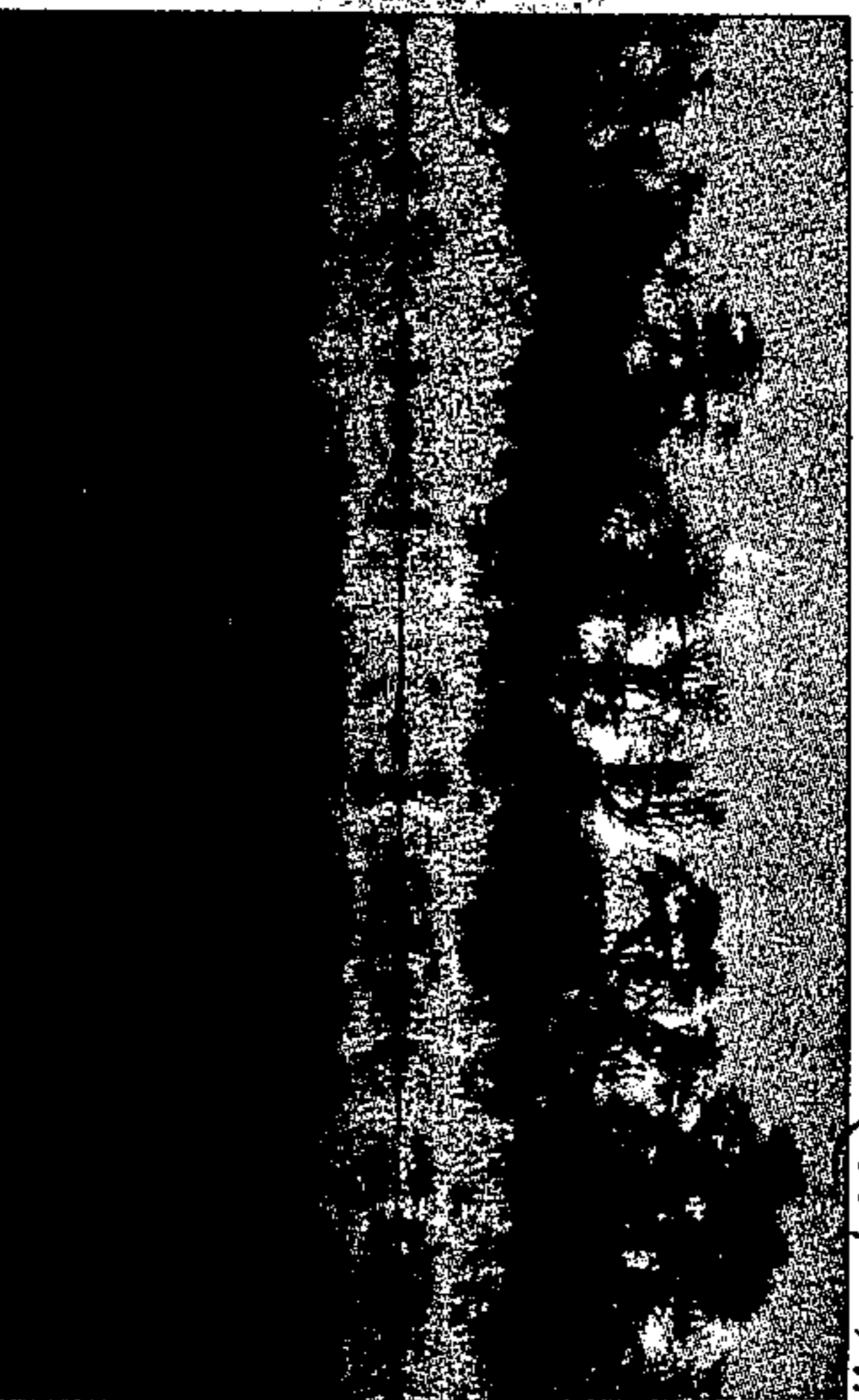
Land owners, some of whom have owned properties since the mid-1940s, are opposed to the venture, citing an expected drop in property values as the mere mention of a mining operation.

Another major concern is that because the proposed mine will redirect the Rietstroom River it will cut off the flow of water, causing damage to the wetlands and wiping out certain animal species in the area. Landowners also claim that mining will cause water pollution.

As part of the scoping phase, Walmsley Environmental Consultants, contracted by Sasol to conduct the environmental impact assessment (EIA), sent a briefing document to residents



BOLD PLAN: Sigma Colliery's Wonderwater opencast mine will gradually phase out production when the new Sigma north-west mine becomes fully operational



NATURAL FILTERS: Wetlands sift out impurities, and disturbing the hydrology will adversely affect the ecology, says independent environmental consultant Paul Dutton

Sasol consultants maintain minimum damage will occur

and the media. It stated that several alternative coal supply options had been evaluated on technical grounds and that the north-west strip mine was considered the most viable option for further investigation.

Alternatives which have been discarded are:
■ A new mine in the southern Sigma reserves, not viable because of the depth of the mine and because possibly poor geological conditions would make

mining difficult.
■ The purchase and transport of coal from external sources such as the Witbank/Middelburg area would prove too expensive.
■ Increased production at the Wonderwater mine would shorten the mine's life. Almost 800 jobs will be created.

The new Sigma north-west reserve, with an estimated production potential of 4.2 million tons of coal a year, is the last viable piece of land in the region

According to Sigma Colliery, production at the Wonderwater strip mine will end when the strip is fully operational within the next three years.

The Sasolburg district has been mined since the early 50s.

Because its first Sigma underground mine could not produce enough coal, another Wonderwater strip-mine south of Millionaire's Bend - the first mine on the riverbank - was established four years ago.

At the time it was estimated

that the Wonderwater mine would have a lifespan of at least 20 years.

Three years down the line, however, miners have been hit by unforeseen geographical difficulties and mining has become virtually impossible, even dangerous, according to a Sasol spokesman.

Sasol's researchers have again put the new mine's lifespan at 20 years. A resident expressed concern that, as with the Wonderwater mine, the new mine will result in destruction of nature "for only a few years"

Paul Dutton, an independent environmental consultant and ecologist who was involved in research on the St Lucia mining project and the Richards Bay mining operations, has warned of the dangers of the proposed operation.

Negative change
"Wetlands act as nature's filters for various forms of pollution. Disturbing the soil and hydrology in a region will adversely affect the ecology."
"Digging into wetlands will bring about a negative change in the subtle water table and soil profiles," says Dutton, who also lives along the Vaal River.
Duthe says it will be another year before the EIA is completed. On final approval by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs and other departments, mining will begin.
Residents, however, plan to intensify their campaign against the proposed development.

(56) New 29/6/96

Oudekraal hotel gets the green light – for now

(56)
DENNIS CAVERNELIS
Supreme Court Reporter

ARG 29/6/96
THE controversial Oudekraal Hotel Development is set to go ahead following the Cape Supreme Court dismissal of an application by the National Parks Board for a review of the decision allowing the development.

The Parks Board and David Daitz, the manager appointed to co-ordinate the establishment of a National Park on the Cape Peninsula, brought the application for a review of the validity of the Western Cape provisional structure plan and of the rezoning of the Oudekraal property in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance.

The respondents were the owners of the Oudekraal property Hottentots Huisie, the Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay and the Western Cape MEC for Development and Tourism.

"The decision is not whether this court believes that the hotel development should proceed or not. That decision was and remains the prerogative and the responsibility of the Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay," the judges said.

They said their decision related to the correctness of the process, rather than the correctness of the decision to allow the development.

They added they had to decide on the reasonableness, and not the rightness of the decisions of the Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay.

The White House advertising agency was located on a section of the farm Oudekraal from 1988, when the land was rezoned for commercial use. The agency moved from the farm in 1991.

In 1993 an application was made to the then Western Cape Regional Services Council for an amendment to the rezoning conditions, to allow for a hotel development.

The development plan is for a hotel with 70 accommodation units, a restaurant, bar, conference room and parking facilities.

In 1994 the council said the development "as proposed was totally unacceptable", but decided not to refuse the application for the hotel development and instead said the matter should be negotiated further.

When the regional services council was dissolved in 1995 it was succeeded by the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC).

Subsequently the authority to decide the application for the amendment of the rezoning conditions was transferred to the Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay.

In 1995 permission was granted for the hotel development, subject to certain conditions. The

■ Turn to page 3

rgus, June 29/30 1996

3

Court gives Oudekraal green light – for now

(56)
From page 1
ARG 29/6/96

Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay had to approve the overall development plan; an environmental consultant had to be appointed; and acceptable environmental conditions had to be adhered to.

In May this year the developers and the Transitional Metropolitan substructure of Llandudno/Hout Bay entered into an environmental contract.

The Parks Board argued that this substructure did not have the authority to amend the rezoning conditions, and that the regional services council should have refused the rezoning application.

The Parks Board also argued that the transitional substructure should have refused the application in the interests of conservation and the natural environment.

Mr Justice F D J Brand and Mr Justice J J Fagan said in their judgement that they could not find that the council's decision to allow further negotiations before allowing the development was unreasonable.

The application was dismissed, with costs.

SA still in the waste business

MTG 26/7 - 1/8/96 (56)

Eddie Koch

A COALITION of environmental organisations will launch a supreme court challenge to force the Department of Trade and Industries (DTI) to divulge details about hazardous waste still coming into South Africa, despite repeated assurances from the government that it will ban all toxic imports.

Last month Green Party politicians in the Europe Union told the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) — a coalition of more than 180 labour, green and civic organisations — that South Africa was conducting an ongoing trade in hazardous materials from other countries in the region.

"We have been trying to communicate with the DTI to obtain details about what kinds of materials are coming into the country but have failed to obtain any response. Should they continue to be unco-operative and withhold information, we will go to court to enforce our rights under the new Constitution," EJNF co-ordinator Chris Albertyn said.

The EJNF and affiliates of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Coastu) this week staged a protest in Brits outside a United Nations workshop being held in the town for delegates from various African countries to discuss the Basle Convention, which imposes controls on the international toxic waste trade, and other issues relating to the handling of hazardous materials.

The alliance of green organisations and trade unions accused the government of "double-speak" by stating it was opposed to the trade in industrial waste while, in fact, allowing hazardous materials to come into the country for processing.

"We want the Cabinet to commit to an immediate ban on importation and exportation of toxic waste.

Workers and the environment are being sacrificed for profit. The Thor Commission of Inquiry (set up to investigate how massive amounts of mercury waste imported into South Africa in the 1980s can now be disposed of) has uncovered corruption and incompetence in government and we cannot trust officials to tell the truth to the rest of Africa about our own situation," said Richard Worthington from the Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa.

"South Africa has a waste crisis and government is misrepresenting our capacity to handle even our own waste. Workers have died and groundwater has been poisoned at both Thor in KwaZulu-Natal and Vametco near Brits. There are 1 200 known waste dumps, of which 200 operate without any permit or government control."

Albertyn said his organisation was frustrated by lack of response from senior DTI officials to demands for full details about the kinds of waste coming into South Africa for treatment and processing at unknown plants in various parts of the country. "We don't want to be unnecessarily confrontational but will escalate the challenge by going to the supreme court and arranging further protests around this matter unless we get the details we want from the department."

The *Mail & Guardian* has also struggled to obtain information about the ongoing hazardous waste trade despite repeated requests to officials in the office of Trade and Industry Minister Alec Irwin. More than two weeks after the paper asked for the details, the following response arrived from the DTI:

"With regard to the importation of

hazardous waste for recycling, your attention is drawn to the South African Revenue Services who collate South Africa's import data. Your inquiry will be greatly expedited if you could supply the HS Code (eight digits) of the goods with which you are concerned, or a reference from the descriptions in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Basle Convention."

Albertyn said the court action would aim at breaking this kind of "bureaucratic stranglehold" on information about a trade that could have a serious impact on the country's environment.

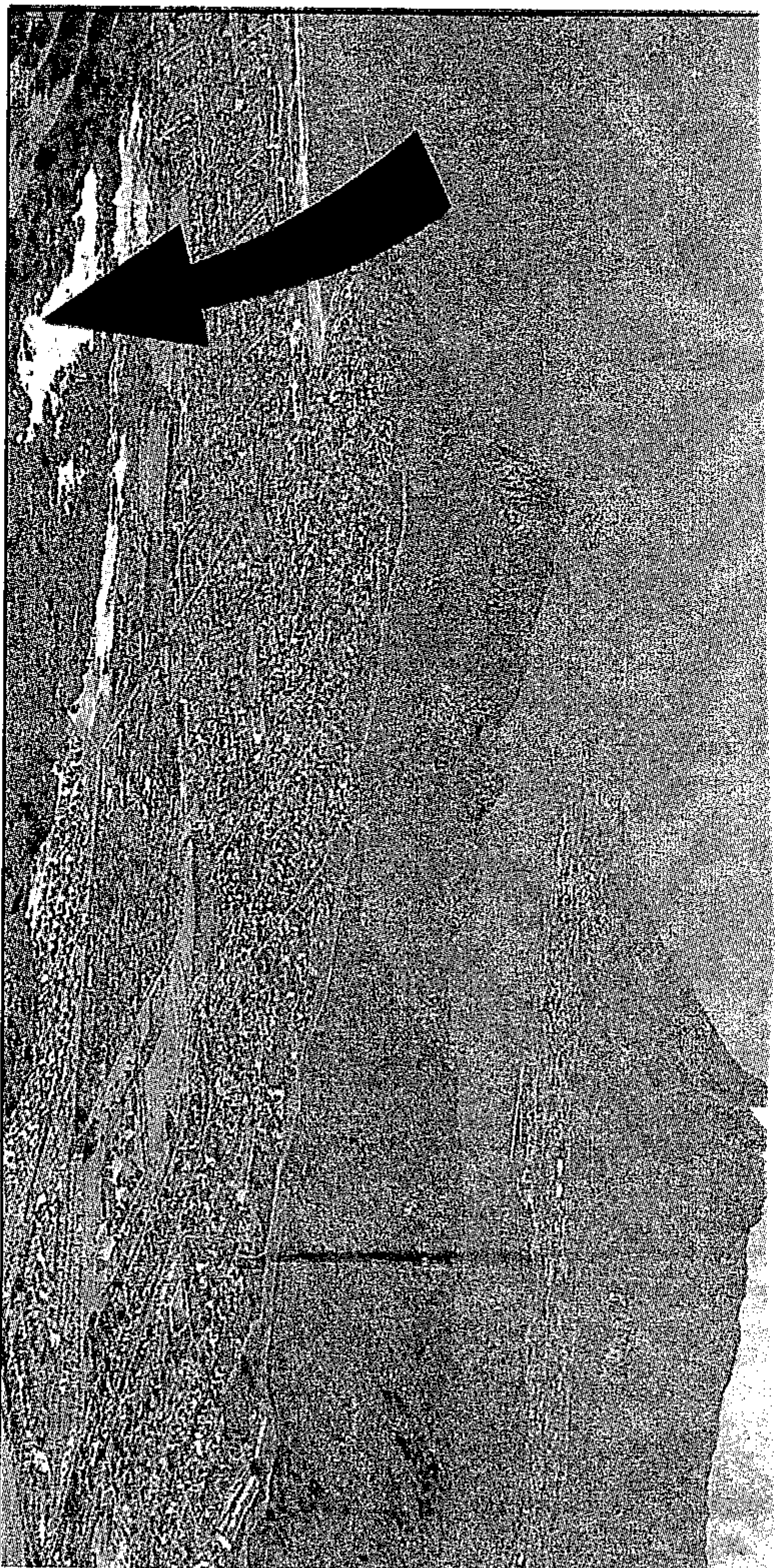
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, this week denied South African negotiators were refusing to endorse clause 39 of the Lome Convention, which bans the movement of hazardous materials between Europe and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and is much tougher than the Basle Convention. "South

Africa is committed to sound environment policies. We are a signatory country to the Basle Convention, a multi-lateral agreement which involves numerous countries including member states of the European Union, which prohibits and regulates the international flow of hazardous and dangerous waste," said Mlambo-Ngcuka.

"South Africa is presently engaged in a series of broad complex negotiations with the EU, including negotiations on South Africa's access to the Lome Convention. The EU has insisted on "linkages" between various trade-related issues and consequently our position on Article 39 is part of ongoing negotiations which have not been finalised as yet."



Chris Albertyn:
Demanding details



THE SPOT: An arrow marks the area of Fish Hoek where a housing project on the sand dunes, within the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), is to be developed. A coalition of concerned groups has launched a Supreme Court action to stop the development.

Coalition asks court to probe Fish Hoek sand dunes housing plans

ARLT 17/7/96

(56)

A COALITION representing 18 concerned environmental and community organisations has launched a Supreme Court action in an attempt to prevent a housing development on the Fish Hoek sand dunes, within the protected Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

The Silvermine Coalition has filed papers asking for a judicial review of the official approval for the development on the sand dunes, known as Extension 7 Zone C. This controversial development proposal has been on the cards since at least 1986, when it was rejected by then Minister of Environmental Affairs, the late John Wiley.

The coalition includes the Silvermine River Society, Wildlife Society, Clovelly-Kalk Bay-St James Residents' Association, Fairest Cape Association, Friends of the Silvermine Nature Reserve, Fish Hoek Alien Vegetation Control Group and the Fish Hoek Historical

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have headed for the Supreme Court again in an attempt to stop development within the unspoiled natural area of the Cape Peninsula. Hard on the heels of the National Parks Board's efforts to stop development of the former White House site at Oudekraal, environmentalists and civic groups are asking the Supreme Court to reverse a rezoning decision that will allow a housing development on the Fish Hoek sand dunes. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the issue.

Society, among others.

The respondents are the Premier of the Western Cape, the developers who own the property (Fish Hoek Land and Estate (Pty) Ltd), the Southern Municipality (formerly Fish Hoek Municipality), and the National Parks Board.

According to papers filed by the coalition's attorneys, the developers and the National Parks Board have only been named because they have a direct interest in the subject matter of the application.

The coalition is asking for the decisions of the Western Cape government and the Fish Hoek municipality in granting the required rezoning to permit

the housing development to be reviewed, corrected and/or set aside.

All the respondents except the National Parks Board, have indicated that they intend defending the action.

According to a supporting affidavit to the application, signed by Silvermine Valley Coalition chairperson Sandra Barnes, the coalition has been in existence for a number of years as an umbrella body consisting of non-government organisations opposed to the development of the nature area at Zone C.

The 37-ha property is bounded to the north and east by the Silvermine River and the

Clovelly Country Club, and to the south and west by the proclaimed road reserve for a future "Fish Hoek By-pass".

"Zone C lies within the Peers Hill and Skiddersgatkop sand dune area along the Silvermine River - a unique and ecologically important area with abundant bird and animal life, sand dunes, rocky formations and archaeological sites with relics of the original Strandloper inhabitants of the Cape Peninsula," Ms Barnes's affidavit states.

"This area is especially important as an ecological buffer between the Fish Hoek urban area, the Silvermine River and the Silvermine nature reserve."

In 1986, Mr Wiley rejected an application by the developers to build on any part of the property within the protected nature area (CPPNE), although he allowed the development of the southern part of the property.

He stated at the time: "I have no hesitation in rejecting any proposals for development in the Nature Area at Fish Hoek on the sand dune (north) of the Fish Hoek by-pass road."

This was generally accepted by the public of Fish Hoek as a just solution, Ms Barnes said in her affidavit.

"I wish to state at this stage that the public opposition, and specifically that of the Applicant (Silvermine Valley Coalition) and its constituent members, to the rezoning and development of the remainder of Zone C has been consistent and active throughout the last decade, and has the overwhelming support of the residents as well as environmentally-conscious NGOs, both locally and regionally."

Table Mountain developers get Supreme Court approval

Linda Ensor (56)

CAPE TOWN — Developers of a hotel complex on the slopes of Table Mountain won court approval for their plans on Friday when the National Parks Board's application to have it stopped was dismissed in the Cape Town Supreme Court.

The property, owned by a company called Hot-tentots Huisie, is situated on the scenic, undeveloped coastline between Camps Bay and Llandudno.

There used to be a house, built in 1929, on the land but this was pulled down to make way for a two-storey hotel with 70 accommodation units, a restaurant, conference facility, bar

and parking facilities which would be one of the only tourist attractions along this beautiful stretch of coast.

The land, about the size of a rugby field, was originally zoned for rural use and in 1987 was rezoned for commercial use to accommodate plans by advertising agency, The White House, to use the house for offices.

In 1993 the Western Cape regional services council amended the conditions of the rezoning to allow for a hotel development.

The parks board asserted that these rezonings were granted without the proper authority and were not in the interests of environmental conservation.

BD 1/7/96

Oudekraal: Parks Board 'won't give in'

CT 2/7/96

THE National Parks Board will go to court "time and time again" to stop development on the borders of the proposed Table Mountain National Park.

Commenting on the Supreme Court's dismissal on Friday of the board's application to review the decision allowing development of the controversial Oudekraal Hotel, Dr Robbie Robinson, NPB chief executive, said the board would go to court repeatedly to protect the environmentally sensitive borders of the park.

The multi-million rand hotel, restaurant and conference centre is to be built on the site of the White House, on the pristine strip of coastline between Bakoven and Llandudno.

"We will never give in. We are trying to stop the tremendous onslaught on the environment and are going to have to protect the area between the high water mark

and the national park, even if it means amending the National Parks Act or asking the Minister of Environment to limit development," Robinson said.

He said the urban fringe was of vital importance to the value of Table Mountain as a national park, in visual impact and environmental sensitivity.

He did not believe the developers had shown sufficient sensitivity to the environment or the scenic beauty of the site in their hotel proposals.

Ms Marlene Laros, a Wildlife Society of South Africa conservation ecologist, said buffer zones between the national park and high density urban areas were vital to protect the pristine natural area.

Her biggest concern was looming future development proposals in the Twelve Apostles area.

Developers cancelled a meeting with the Cape Times yesterday.

TOKAI, CECILIA FORESTS TO GET NEW OWNERS

Development fears for state reserves

LT 2/7/96
ENVIRONMENTALISTS fear that the government-owned firm Safcol, which will soon be the new owners of the Tokai and Cecilia forests, will sell this land for development once it is privatised. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

TOKAI and Cecilia state forests are being transferred to Safcol amid fears from environmentalists that these huge tracts of land on the slopes of the Table Mountain chain may be sold for development once Safcol is privatised.

They say Tokai forest is "red hot real estate" and it is only a matter of time before Cecilia forest above Constantia becomes too valuable to remain under pine plantation.

They fear that once the land is privatised it will be sold for huge housing or hotel developments that will abut on the future CPPNE National Park.

The park will incorporate Table Mountain and the Peninsula chain down to Cape Point.

The chairman of the Cape Town region of the Mountain Club of SA, Mr Lester Coelen, said yesterday: "It is critical that the land becomes part of the national park. If it is handed over to Safcol, the public no longer has any control over its use. What happens when forestry on that land becomes uneconomical?"

"Safcol will then own very valuable land in an urban environment — which used to belong to the public and which they got for nothing — and which they can sell for development."

Safcol was created to take over the commercial arm of state forests and is owned by the government.

An environmentalist, who did not want to be named, said: "It's government-owned now, but with the move towards privatisation Safcol will have to stand on its own feet, and we don't know what shareholders will be like."

"If a foreign firm buys Safcol and decides in a few years' time it doesn't make economic sense to practise forestry any more, they will say 'to hell with what Capetonians think, we're developing it for housing and hotels'. The only way to protect that land is to have it incorporated into the national park."

The co-ordinator of the CPPNE National Park, Mr David Daitz, said the parks board had held discussions with Safcol on the future of the state forests.

"We would like it in the national park. It has a lot of recreational potential. We're looking at entering into a contractual agreement with Safcol so they can continue forestry, but be part of the park."

UCT botanist Professor Richard Cowling said that because the plantations had been there for many decades, most of the natural fynbos had disappeared.

"The restoration potential is therefore quite low. It should become part of the park, if only to absorb the picnickers. Parts of Tokai forest are already red-hot real estate," Cowling said.

Safcol spokesman Mr Piet Odendaal said they did not foresee any "conflicts of interest" with the future park.

"Cecilia and Tokai are being transferred to Safcol. We are negotiating with the parks board to become part of the park, but we will remain the owners. I don't think it would ever happen that Safcol sells the land for development."

"We're still 100% owned by the government and the land must first be offered to the Department of Public Works. Any development we do will be subjected to an environmental impact assessment with public support. We are very conservation-minded," Odendaal said.

Environmental forum for city's bid

ARG 2/7/96 (56)

Tygerberg's new mayor asked to convene a commission

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

THE new mayor of Tygerberg, Lukas Olivier, has been asked to convene an environmental commission for Cape Town's Olympic bid.

Mr Olivier will be one of three interim co-ordinators for the Environmental, Audit and RDP commissions which will report directly to the newly formed Olympic Bid Convocation.

The names of the other two co-ordinators will be released once the individuals in question have been informed.

These decisions were made at the inaugural meeting of the Olympic Bid Convocation at the Waterfront yesterday

The meeting was attended by dignitaries from around

South Africa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was unanimously elected president of the convocation which will function as an honorary national and pan-African advisory body to the bid.

None of the convocation's members will be remunerated for their services.

Archbishop Tutu said the developmental aspect of the bid had motivated all the convocation members.

The Olympics would be important for the country both socially and economically, and could be used to secure jobs, homes and sporting facilities.

Mayor Theresa Solomon said the bid was not only for the city of Cape Town but for Africa, particularly for its youth.

Bid chief executive officer Chris Ball said the convocation

had also expressed concern around South Africa's crime situation and it hoped the authorities would take further action to bring down the crime rate.

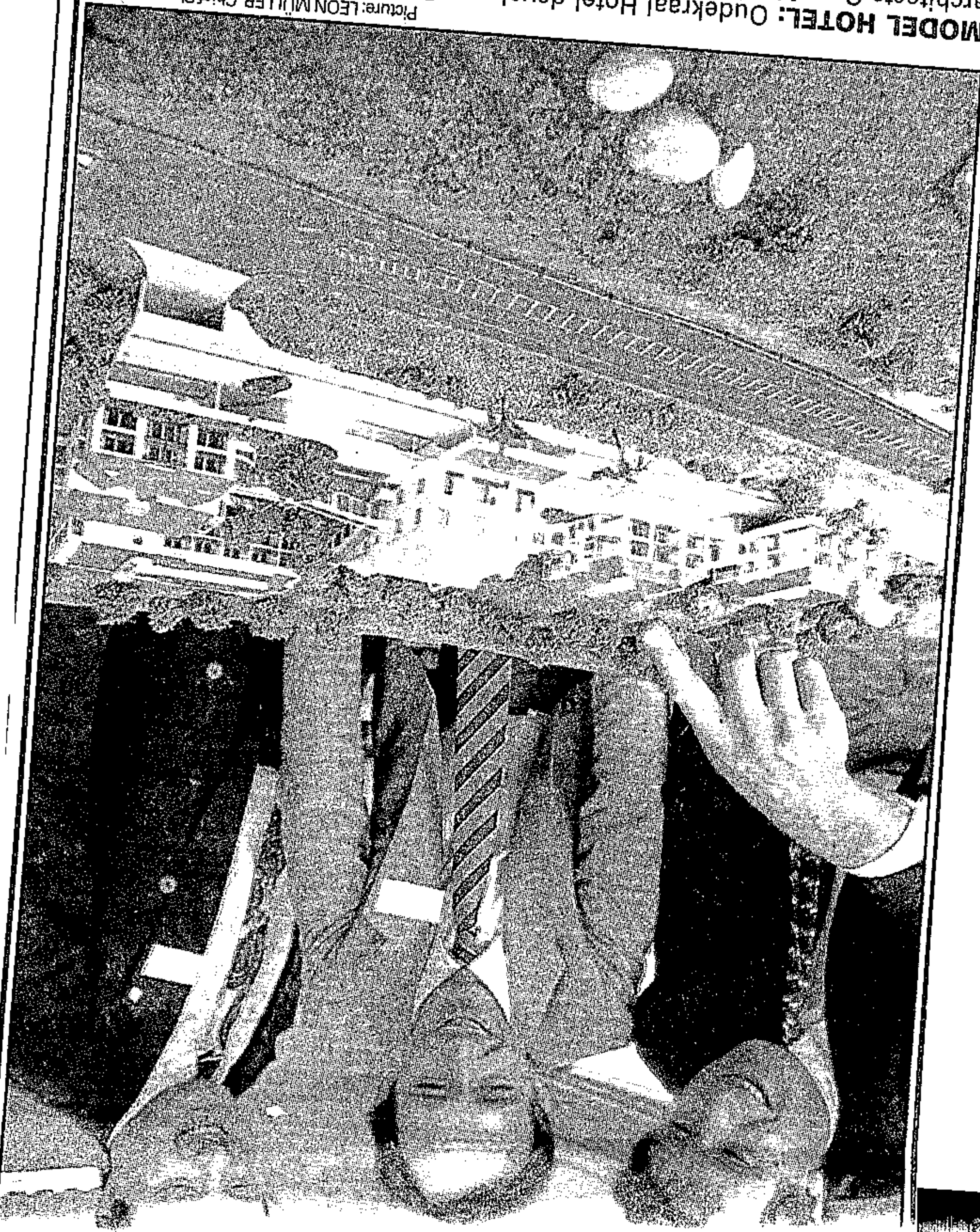
Specialist chairs will be appointed to the three commissions, whose members will also serve in an honorary and consultative capacity only. None of the bid's board of directors will be allowed to serve on any of the commissions.

Invitations to membership of the convocation were extended to African sports leaders, mayors of major African cities, leading South African personalities, all provincial premiers, previous and existing patrons of the bid, chairmen and mayors of all metropolitan councils in South Africa and the mayors

of towns expected to host Olympic facilities.

Other members will be drawn from sports federations, the private sector, labour leaders, rectors of universities, arts and culture representatives, sponsors of the Olympic bid company and its board of directors.

● Confirmed members of the Olympic Bid Convocation include Adelaide Tambo, Colin Eglin, Mamphela Ramphele, Theresa Solomon, Michael Lapsley, Leon Beech, Denver Hendricks, Kader Asmal, Andre Brink, Aviva Pelham, Felicia Mabuza-Suttle, H J K Muller, Itumelang Mosala, Marilyn Martin, John Hanks, Hanief Tisseker, William Bantom, Nomaindia Mfeketo, Gordon Oliver, Lukas Olivier, John Marshall and Tokyo Sexwale.



MODEL HOTEL: Oudekraal Hotel developer Steve Jones, left, and Charl Steytler, architects Gary Martin, left, and Charl Steytler.

Luxury Oudekraal hotel

to open doors next year

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

THE proposed hotel at the White House site in Oudekraal between Camps Bay and Llandudno, which has been dogged by controversy since the developer applied for rezoning in 1993, is set to open its doors during the spring next year.

Work on the site is expected to begin in the next few weeks. Developer Steve Jones said that the R45 million development had met all legal and environmental requirements and he was thrilled that the tourist facility had finally been given the go-ahead. The Cape Supreme Court last week dismissed an application by the National Parks Board for a review of the decision.

Mr Jones said the Oudekraal coastal area was one of outstanding natural beauty and he wanted to assure Capetonians that this had played a major role in the design of the small country-style hotel. "The development of the 70-room, five-

star luxury hotel with a tea garden, conference facilities and ample parking is much needed in the Southern Suburbs and will be a boost to Cape Town's chances of hosting the 2004 Olympic Games."

He said that contrary to general belief, the 6 000 sq m hotel site was not on the national parks boundary and was in fact surrounded by privately owned land. "From an environmental perspective, we have complied with all the conditions set out in the Victoria Road coastal structural plan and an independent environmental consultant has been appointed to advise on and monitor the development. "If the city wants tourists and foreign investment, it must make way for some development as long as it is controlled and environmentally sensitive."

Mr Jones said the operator of the hotel, Romcor Hospitality, trading as Relais Hotels of the Cape, was a signatory to the international environmental charter for hotels, which set out clear guidelines on environmental management.

Plastic litter the fault of all, says recycler

'Collective will' to stop pollution is lacking

JILYAN PITMAN
Staff Reporter

THE lack of commitment by the entire plastics industry and businessmen is to blame for plastic litter lying on freeways and elsewhere, said a spokesman for the Cape's second largest recycling organisation employing mentally handicapped adults.

The Plastics Federation, the Cape Town City Council and supermarkets are the biggest culprits because they lack a collective will to do something about the ever-growing mounds of plastic, said manager of the Oasis Protective Workshop for the Mentally Handicapped, Sandy McAllister.

"We are starting to drown in plastic. The shocking state of the plastics recycling industry needs to be investigated," said Ms McAllister.

"The Cape Town City Council doesn't assist us in any way financially and before we found a company to take some plastic from us they made us dump it at

our expense at the Vissershok landfill on the West Coast. We pick up recyclables on their behalf and turn it into money to help our organisation survive. They say they are committed to recycling but they aren't.

"Pick'n Pay still takes in plastic shopping bags but we suspect they just eventually land up on the municipal dumps as we know of no market for used bags. The Plastics Federation puts the recyclable logo on their products but there is no way of recycling it in this country. Nobody, it seems, knows how much a plastic bag costs to produce."

The public, she said, would like to buy products made from recycled plastic but they can't find the items. "The marketing of recycled items is more than questionable," she added.

Ms McAllister said the public was confused and furious about what was going on because they were led to believe there was a market for their recyclable material but there actually wasn't.

(56)
ARG 4/8/96
Spokesmen for Pick'n Pay in Claremont Anna Dewhurst and Trixie Krumm were not available for comment at the time of going to press.

Bruce Black, chief engineer of cleansing at the Cape Town City Council, said the council was not responsible for recycling. "Our function is to remove waste for the city and to deposit it in a sanitary landfill.

"Litter is put there by people. The city does not litter. Responsibility for keeping the city free of litter is the responsibility of the public. Through our support and efforts in the Fairest Cape and other ventures we are supporting recycling."

A Plastics Federation and Institute of Packaging spokesman was not available for comment as the office was closed until August 5.

The Oasis Workshop for the mentally handicapped in Claremont employs 108 mentally handicapped adults. Paper, cans, glass and clear plastic are collected.

A NEW book is being written in environmental management in SA — particularly in the previously muddled realm of this country's water quality management.

The recent withdrawal by the water affairs and forestry department of Grootvlei Mine's permit to pump water into the Blesbokspruit sent a clear signal to SA industry: government will no longer tolerate the pollution of one of our scarcest and most precious resources, water.

The withdrawal of the permit changed, overnight, the relationship between government and industry, and mining companies in particular. Companies can no longer pollute and get away with it.

Companies can also no longer seek to escape responsibility by claiming a lack of funds for environmental protection while relying on the argument that they contribute significantly to the economic development of the country.

Even the most substantial contributions to the country's economic development can be rendered meaningless in the long run by the costs associated with the destruction of the environment.

The action against Grootvlei, and the Grootvlei saga is by no means over, is the strongest signal yet that government views development and environmental protection not as opposing forces, but two elements in a symbiotic relationship.

It was most gratifying that, in the difficult negotiations that led to the resumption of pumping at Grootvlei, the National Union of Mineworkers adopted a similar progressive position, laying heavy stress on the protection of both the environment and jobs.

The inclusion of the NUM in the negotiations with the mine management was a unique approach to dealing with issues of environmental enforcement and compliance.

This approach was taken one step further when interested and affected parties from divergent groups were brought under one roof and exposed to the difficult choices facing the decision makers on this matter.

Grootvlei action signals that govt will not tolerate pollution

KADER ASMAL and TAMI SOKUTU

(56)
204796

Everyone was being offered the chance to contribute to finding a solution. But the effects of the Grootvlei drama reach beyond our shores. It resolutely refutes any claim by local or foreign commentators that, in its quest for rapid economic development, government will overlook environmental concerns.

We refuse to make the environmental mistakes of other countries, and that includes some in the Far East, who must trumpet loudly about economic success in order to muffle the growing drumbeats of environmental disaster.

The sad lesson from Grootvlei is the increased financial, ecological, and human resource costs arising from procrastination and reluctance to act on the part of the mine.

The Grootvlei issue took more than five years to come to crisis point. Part of this can, in all likelihood, be attributed to the fact that the mine, admittedly under different ownership, probably never believed that the department (which has a history of conciliation rather than confrontation) would take action against them.

Departmental staff were therefore involved in a frustrating battle of seeking to prevent the pollution, which they knew was imminent, without any reciprocal action on the part of the mine.

The withdrawal of the permit and the subsequent negotiations have reassured officials from the water affairs and forestry department, however, that in future, when they deal with companies on pollution matters, they will be powerfully supported at political and departmental level.

Certain industries in the past few years believed the emphasis on environmental management would diminish under a new government.

This was partly a consequence of the perception that many state departments are experiencing internal problems as they are in a process of transformation and restructuring, and that government would be focused largely on the RDP. This, and the past legacy of the state's protective attitude towards the mining industry, combined to produce a false sense of security.

This sense of security has now been challenged, and the message being sent to industry is that environmental issues should be taken seriously by the most senior management levels of companies.

If environmental issues are not factored into all economic and development decisions taken, senior executives could find themselves

fighting a losing battle against the state's determination to protect our natural resources both now and for future generations.

It is time now that environmental issues be considered simply one of a routine set of management functions of any business of industry, such as quality control or risk management. It is unacceptable that companies that can afford to make considerable investments elsewhere, do not make an investment in water quality or environmental management locally.

The Grootvlei saga also reinforced government's commitment to make the polluter pay. It reinforced the notion that wholesale subsidisation of the mining industry can no longer be taken for granted. Under considerable pressure, Grootvlei's contribution towards the settling facilities rose by a factor of 10.

Delaying management techniques have been, and are, practised by many other industries in the country. The action taken against Grootvlei has shown that this route is no longer viable.

It has shown that the best route forward is co-operation from industry with the water affairs and forestry department and a prompt, proactive response to the issues.

But it has also highlighted the fact that industries need a fund,

similar to the rehabilitation fund required under the Minerals Act, that can be used when large sums of money are necessary to mitigate impacts on the environment.

Industries that have been operating for many years today find that they have to comply with stricter environmental standards but lack the funding to do so. This often contributes to the so-called "playing-for-time" syndrome. The existence of an environmental fund would, to a great extent, solve this problem.

The Grootvlei issue, and particularly the existence of defunct and abandoned mines, also raises the question of whether we should be moving towards a substantial environmental fund — a "superfund" — administered by the state.

This could be used to address environmental problems inherited from the past for which no responsible or accountable parties exist, and for cases where companies demonstrably do not have the financial means to address their environmental impacts, should such assistance be found to be in the national interest.

The future for water quality management in SA is bright and the awareness created by the Grootvlei incident places pressure on individual industries and representative bodies to practice sound environmental management, and to become actively involved with participatory catchment management forums.

It also places emphasis on the need to resolve matters such as provisions for funding and how to achieve integrated pollution control. In future, if companies wish to avoid negative publicity — such as that received by Grootvlei — they will have to integrate environmental concerns into all of their decision making.

On that basis, companies will be worthy partners of an environmentally conscious government and the trade unions.

□ Kader Asmal is water affairs and forestry minister and Tami Sokutu is manager: scientific services in his department.

'Developers are ruining the Garden Route'

■ From page 1

ARG 6/7/96

(56)

scientist at Cape Nature Conservation, Gavin Hellström, was that conservation officials in the past supported controversial developments which were having disastrous results now.

These included the development at Dorfling in the Wilderness and the high-density development at Cola Beach between Sedgefield and Knysna.

Mr Schneier said developments could be stopped by invoking Section 31 of the Environment Act, but that Section 34 made provision for compensation to the developer.

"It's unlikely any local authority or even the state would want to use this statute as it could prove to be very expensive," he said.

It was therefore generally left to individuals to fight developers in expensive court battles.

Conservation officials and National Parks Board staff complained they were understaffed and ill-equipped to take on developers, who could afford top legal advisers and environmental consultants.

An official who did not want to be named said his department's legal team were "third rate" compared to legal advisers employed by wealthy developers.

Mr Hellström said the local authority had the delegated power so that decisions on rezoning were consistent with the local structure and guide plan.

But if another government department such as Nature Conservation objected, then the matter had to be referred to the Department of Local Government Housing and Planning.

"This is where the problem lies as the Directorate of Planning could overturn a decision and an inappropriate development could be given the go-ahead."

There was a furore when Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick overturned a local authority and Nature Conservation decision to prevent a development at Keurboomstrand. The decision set a precedent for the development of houses on a dune.

Mr Fick was unavailable for comment.

Mr Hellström said: "There are a lot of flaws all the way down the line. At the local authority level there are the municipalities and clerks who want nothing else but to develop or die, and they are scoring."

"In the past we have objected and they have ignored us. Plans were approved by exploiting loopholes."

The 'historical mistake of the Garden Route

(56) ARLT 6/7/90

Work has begun on two Garden Route developments, one the Wilderness and the other on a beach near Sedgefield. But never have happened, say conservation officials. ADELE B...



WORK on two controversial developments on the Garden Route which have been condemned as "historical mistakes" has started.

One of the developments, called Constantia Kloof or otherwise known as the Dorfling development, is on the hill overlooking the Wilderness. The other is Cola Beach, situated on pristine beach area near Sedgefield, and neither should have happened, conservation officials say.

Both developments were passed despite objections from conservation departments. But now everyone is having to live with the developments approved years ago and they are having to face the fact that they cannot undo what they call "bad decision making".

A visit to the Constantia Kloof site by SATURDAY Argus revealed extensive clearing of vegetation and a steep road was in the process of being constructed for the first phase of the development. There are reportedly three phases still to come on the hills flanking the one now being developed.

Recently an investigation was launched into blasts at the site that damaged two houses in the area and sent people scurrying for safety. The development has drawn criticism from the community who are concerned about the impact the residential development, which comprises 129 erven and an extensive road network, will have in

the future. There are concerns that may contribute to the ins which is under constructi who lives about 1 km aw opment, told SATURDAY he was when the blasts at home.

"We could have been 1 fying. It was even wors who missed being hit by

Bulldozers are curren. tion at the high-density opment consisting of 218 the beach and stretching environmentalists say is most unique dune areas.

The Department for E. opposed the amendmen which the development n overruled by the then a Cape, Kobus Meiring.

The community have locals have not been use but instead that work "imported" from other pa do the job. Attempts h ensure the developer goe the area as sensitively employed a private enviro to mitigate environmental the development proces.

FYNBOS KLOOF: An aerial view of the extensive clearing of fynbos and coastal thicket to make way for the Constantia Kloof development.

DRIVE THROUGH: The driver of a front-end loader makes his way home after a day clearing indigenous vegetation to make way for the Cola Beach Development.



'Conservation officials

'Developers are destroying the Garden Route'

ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

ARG 6/7/96

(56)

CORRUPTION, vested interests and overworked conservation officials without the muscle to meet developers head-on are leading to the desecration of the Garden Route.

Officials of Nature Conservation, Environmental Affairs and the National Parks Board have warned that unless the situation is taken seriously the delicate coastal ecosystem could be irreparably damaged.

Shaun Schneier, principal environmental officer for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said the area was already scarred with historical "mistakes" - the results of bad planning and bad decision-making.

Very little could be done about it and attempts at preventing further damage was left up to the goodwill of the developer, he added.

More reports, pictures on page 19

"Only between two and five percent of the beach between Mossel Bay and Nature's Valley is undeveloped. Eighty percent of the dune area has already been covered with homes and 15 to 18 percent is in the process of being developed," he said.

Officials said dune systems unique to the area and 4 000-year-old milkwood forest systems were in danger, adding that only two out of 12 large estuarine systems were in pristine condition.

Mr Schneier said much of the existing development on the Garden Route was environmentally insensitive. This neither served the international or local tourist or generated employment opportunities for the local disadvantaged communities, he added.

"Much of the development is an urban sprawl of holiday homes which stand empty for 11 months of the year."

Mr Schneier said that in response to conservationists' concerns about development in the area, the provincial department of local government and housing had convened a working group comprising all the relevant authorities.

This group had recently agreed that future development applications would be subject to more rigorous environmental requirements. "It's vital for this agreement to be effectively implemented," he said.

Meanwhile bulldozers recently began clearing an environmentally sensitive site at Sedgefield in defiance of recommendations by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Part of the tragedy, said a principal environmental

■ Turn to page 3

While the gang unit were in the area yesterday... (58) AKT 6/9/96

Hunting mooted as whales prosper

JEANIE MAY
Staff Reporter

THE Southern Right whales arriving to the delight of whale-watchers in Walker Bay, Hermanus, and at other places along the southern Cape coast, are safe for another year.

However, there was an uproar in the conservation lobby at the meeting when scientists reported that whale stocks had increased so substantially that commercial whaling could be justified in future, under certain conditions.

Mr De Villiers said it was decided that the moratorium would stand until scientific estimates of a total allowable catch had been completed.

Japan and Norway were the only countries which still had whaling fleets, he said. Scientists reported to the commission that they estimated there were 118 000 mink

whales in Norwegian waters, substantially more than last year's estimate of 80 000 and six times more than when the moratorium was declared in 1986.

Mr De Villiers said there was "no question" of doing away with the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary, which covers most of the Indian Ocean and extends to the Antarctic.



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Pawmark of success for breeding plan

(56) ARG 8/7/96

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - The future of wild dogs is looking much brighter following successes with a breeding programme at De Wildt.

Late last month, nine pups were born in a specially constructed den, which allows

underground viewing of mother and pups.

Taken with the eight born two months ago to another female at the centre, the 17 new births this year are already well on target to beat the 36 wild dog births recorded at the centre last year.

Figures taken from the

recently issued international 1994 wild dog studbook showed that in 1994, 51 pups were born to 15 females, an average of 3,04 per litter.

When the De Wildt 1995 births are recorded in the next edition of the studbook they should cause a stir, said Ann van Dyk of De Wildt.

Two major factors which influenced the good breeding results at De Wildt were the provision of enlarged enclosures and improved diets.

Kruger National Park wild dog specialist Gus Mills said, on seeing the pups: "If you continue like this they won't be an endangered species anymore."



BOTANICAL GEM: Part of the magnificent fynbos area near Cape Agulhas, a botanical 'hot spot' with a high number of threatened plant species that occur nowhere else in the world, which may become a new national park.

PICTURE: RICHARD COWLING

VITAL CONSERVATION 'HOT SPOT'

National park planned for Agulhas region

(56)

CT9/7/96

IN AN AREA which carries plant species found nowhere else in the world, botanists say their top priority is saving the Agulhas region from encroaching alien vegetation and runaway coastal development. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

A NEW national park is planned for the Agulhas region to protect one of the most important botanical "hot spots" in the country, the National Parks Board announced yesterday.

Botanists say the area is probably South Africa's number one priority for plant conservation in a region which is seriously threatened by alien vegetation and runaway coastal development.

The boundaries of the proposed park have not yet been determined but will stretch roughly from east of Pearly Beach to Cape Agulhas and inland to include the historic Moravian mission station of Elim.

Parks Board director for research and development Dr Anthony Hall-Martin said yesterday they had consulted most of the stakeholders in the Agulhas region about the possibility of establishing a park which they believe will also benefit local communities.

"We intend to establish a steering committee which includes the local communities and role players to deal with public consultation," Hall-Martin said.

Professor Richard Cowling of UCT's Institute for Plant Conservation, who has done extensive research in the Agulhas area over the past 10 years, said many of the plants in this region occurred nowhere else in the world.

"This is probably the most important priority for flora conservation in South Africa. It has all the characteristics to qualify internationally as a 'hot-spot' — enormous biodiversity coupled with tremendous threats.

"There are over 1 800 plant species in the area and a great diversity of habitats. Over 100 species that grow here are found nowhere else in the world. There are also some very rare habitats, like the Elim fynbos, which occur nowhere else."

The region also has some of the

most important wetlands in the southern Cape with a high diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrates.

The idea for the park came about after the National Parks Board did a review in 1993 and 1994 of all areas in South Africa which were not adequately represented in the existing system of national parks. They found that the protection of the Agulhas area was vital for the conservation of lowland fynbos and also for the wetland systems of South Africa.

Because the proposed park is made up of private and public land, the parks board will have to negotiate with the landowners regarding the management of the land.

Hall-Martin said they aimed to establish a core conservation area, either by acquiring the land or by co-management.

Cowling said the park had the potential for the "right kind of development".

"It would be promoting sustainable development based on natural resources. This is in keeping with the structure plan for the area which recommends that ecotourism should be the major economic activity for the area," he said.

European pressure on SA to stop trade in toxic waste

(56) Star 11/7/96
Brussels – South Africa is being urged to agree to a total ban on trade in toxic waste, as part of a new treaty with Europe.

As well as the highly controversial negotiations on a new trade accord, SA officials are discussing partial membership of the Lomé Convention – the European

Union's main development treaty with around 70 nations, most of them in Africa. Article 39 of the treaty would involve an undertaking to end all trade in toxic waste.

The environmentally active Green Group in the European Parliament is urging SA to agree to an end to the trade in hazardous

waste, and has expressed alarm at suggestions that SA negotiators don't want to do so.

SA officials in Brussels admitted there was a "debate" on whether or not the country should close the door to all imports of hazardous waste from neighbouring countries. – Star Foreign Service.

SA still taking others' toxic waste

(56) M&G 12-18/7/96

Eddie Koch

REVELATIONS that South Africa continues to import hazardous chemical material — even though the Cabinet has assured the public it will ban such consignments — appears to have thrown government policy on the international toxic waste trade into confusion.

Green Party politicians in the European Parliament this week informed local environmentalists that Pretoria's embassy in Brussels had acknowledged South Africa still imports "hazardous waste for recycling from a number of countries in the region" and that its government was reluctant to endorse clauses in the Lomé Convention that would outlaw this.

If true, this would fly in the face of repeated commitments by former environment minister Dawie de Villiers that the government would not allow industrial waste from other countries into this country. The African National Congress, along with its labour allies in the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), have also adopted official policy against the import of industrial waste.

Yet officials in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were this week unable to supply the *Mail & Guardian* with a coherent explanation for their recent reluctance to accept a ban on movement of wastes between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Nor were they

willing to provide details about the trade in industrial waste that appears to be continuing in Southern Africa.

A South African negotiating team has recently been in Brussels to negotiate the terms of this country's access to the Lomé Convention, which governs trade and development relations between European states and ACP countries, and the Green Party politicians say it was these talks that revealed South Africa is involved in an ongoing trade in industrial poisons.

Officials were unable to say what kinds of dangerous materials were coming into the country and where they were being recycled

Diplomats from the South African embassy in Brussels reportedly told European officials they were disturbed by sections of Article 39 of the Lomé Convention, which stipulates "the ACP states shall prohibit the direct or indirect import into their territory of such waste ... from any other country".

They added that South Africa currently imports waste for recycling from a number of countries in Africa and that a viable industry would be destroyed if Pretoria endorsed this article of the Lomé Convention.

John Maré, counsellor at the

South African embassy in Brussels, told the M&G the negotiating team had, indeed, been reluctant to endorse the anti-toxic trade clauses of Lomé but that this was not a final position. "We are still negotiating the terms of South Africa's entry into the convention and this stance could change. It is a negotiating position and not fixed policy."

But the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) — made up of civic, trade union and green organisations in South Africa — is outraged by the revelations made during the trade talks. The organisation is especially angry because a recent commission of inquiry into the activities of British-owned multinational Thor Chemicals has revealed shipments of overseas toxins into South Africa have caused massive environmental and health damage to the country.

"The South African officials are arguing that we have the facilities here to recycle and handle hazardous wastes in a responsible manner," said Shirley Miller from the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union. "If that is true, then they must show us where that facility exists because we have been looking for some way of dealing with all the toxins that are still stored at Thor."

The EJNF has approached Cosatu's executive to take up the issue in a move that could further complicate relations between the labour federation and its old allies now in government — including Trade and Industry Minister Alec

Irwin — over the Cabinet's new liberal economic policies.

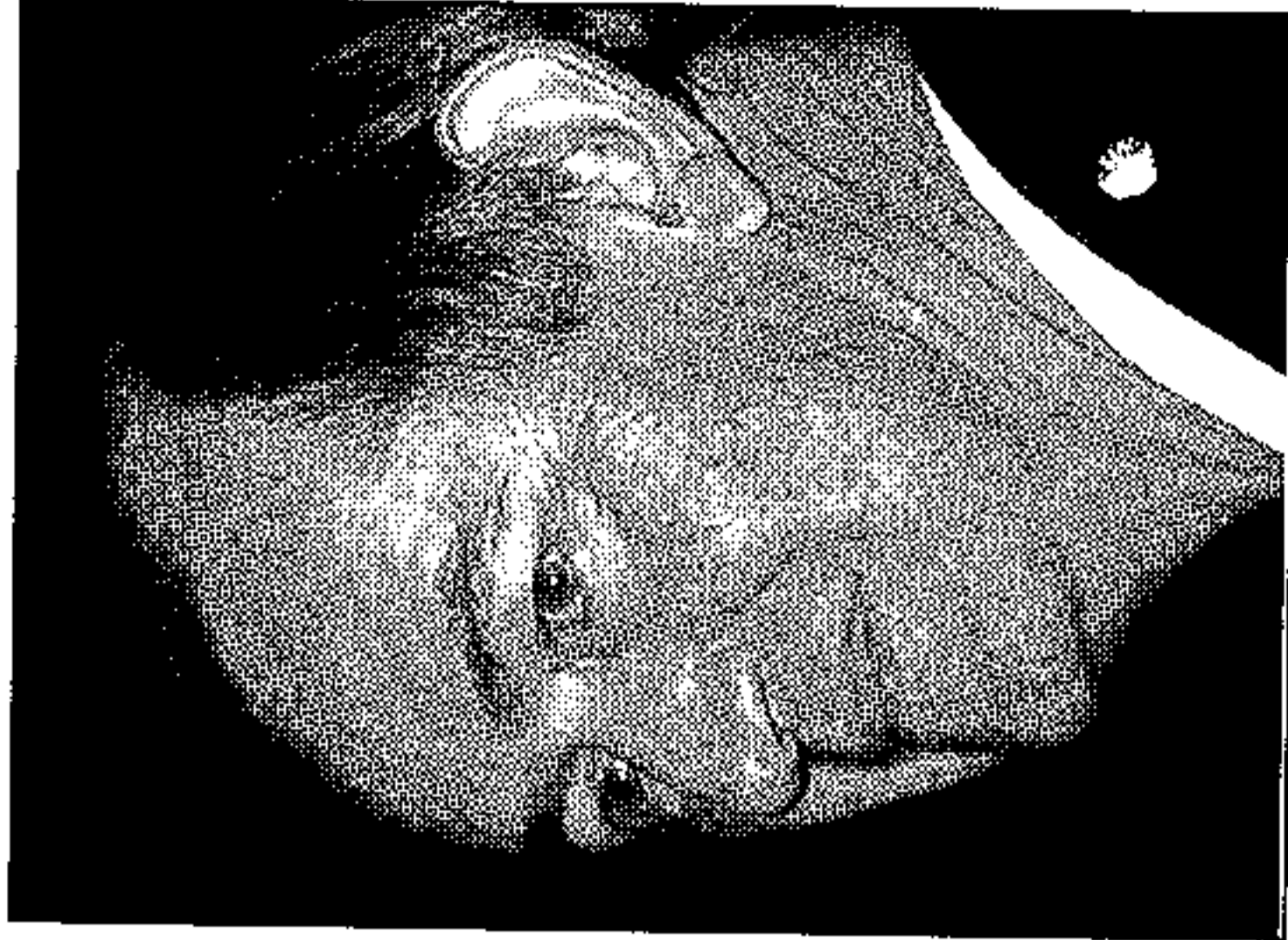
Officials in Irwin's ministry and the DTI showed signs of confusion over the issue of importing hazardous materials this week. Repeated requests from the M&G for clarity on the revelations that trade in industrial poisons was still taking place were left unanswered during the last two weeks.

DTI officials were also unable to say what kinds of dangerous materials were coming into the country or where they were being recycled or disposed of. The department appears to have inherited the previous government's insistence on bringing dangerous materials into the country while stating publicly it is opposed in principle to these measures.

South Africa has signed the Basel Convention, which will ban all movements of toxic waste from industrial to developing countries from January 1998 but this international agreement does not prohibit trade in toxins between countries in Southern Africa.

EJNF officials fear overseas waste is being routed into South Africa via neighbouring states and that DTI officials are reluctant to accept the Lomé clauses because they would close this backdoor route for bringing in the lucrative materials.

Meanwhile the Green Party in the European Parliament is preparing a resolution that will demand Spanish and British firms who exported tons of mercury toxins still stockpiled at the Thor Chemicals plant in



Alec Irwin: What's the policy?

KwaZulu-Natal take the material back and dispose of them in their own country.

Contamination from this waste is suspected to have killed three workers and seriously damaged the health of at least 20 others. Soil covering the entire hill where the drums of mercury have been stored is now permeated, to a depth of some 50m, with mercury and underground aquifers show toxic readings that oscillate between 200 and 1700 times the safety levels laid down by the World Health Organisation.

EJNF co-ordinator Chris Albertyn said: "The Thor tragedy shows that government officials never checked their facts and allowed such material into the country simply because industrialists told them that it would be safely recycled and disposed of. It appears that government officials are still simply the ventriloquist voices of big business."

'HISTORIC' DECISION

Court halts development on Wild Coast

THE ENVIRONMENT ministry had shown a "remarkable and disturbing reluctance" to halt environmental pillage on the Transkei coast, said a judge in ordering the new minister to take action to prevent further damage.

THE greens have won the first round in the "holiday cottage for a bottle of brandy" furore on the ecologically sensitive Wild Coast.

In a watershed case for South Africa, the Wildlife Society won a Supreme Court action against the Minister of Environment over the dispute of illegal holiday cottages and shacks on the Transkei coast.

Mr Justice J D Pickering granted a court interdict in Umtata last week that prevents construction of cottages along the coast.

He ruled that several chiefs and headmen who had been accepting bribes of cash and alcohol had no authority to allocate cottage sites to developers. There are about 300 illegal cottages on the coast.

The society sought court action after the authorities failed to stop tribal chiefs from selling the land to developers for as little as a R50 "registration fee", a bottle of brandy and a few sheep. It is one of the last undeveloped stretches of coastline in South Africa.

The judge said the environment ministry had shown a "remarkable and disturbing reluctance" to halt environmental pillage on the Wild Coast.

He also urged the government to change the laws of locus standi (legal standing) to enable private citizens to protect the environment from abuse.

The judge said considerable and irreversible damage was being caused to the Transkei coastline because of illegal cottages and shacks, pathways, roads and the

destruction of natural vegetation.

He found that instead of taking action immediately to protect the coast, the former minister had set up a task group. He took this action — with "kid gloves" — only when he was forced to do so under threat of legal action by the Wildlife Society and two private citizens, Mr Don MacRobert and Mr Ray Taylor.

The action was "ineffective and totally inappropriate".

The minister also seemed to be deeply concerned about assessing the political risks before acting, he said.

The judge said he deplored the "slow and inexorable grinding of wheels cross a bureaucratic landscape regardless of the urgency of the situation".

Although he has ordered the new Environment Minister, Dr Pallo Jordan, to take action to prevent further damage, it remains to be seen what will happen on the ground. Dr Jordan was not available for comment yesterday.

Wildlife Society conservation director Mr Keith Cooper — who was instrumental in forcing the government to take action — said the case was historic for the society and the environment.

Wildlife Society attorney Mr Shaun Horby said the minister, in opposing the court case, had chosen to "hide behind technical niceties in the law" rather than use the full might of his powers to protect the natural heritage of the country's citizens. — Environment Writer and Own Correspondent

ET 12/7/96

(5b)

Private land can remain out of park

(56) CT 12/17/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE provincial government has written to all private landowners within the proposed Table Mountain and Peninsula national park saying they will not be forced to include their land in the future park.

The province said any landowners wanting to stay outside the park would remain part of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) and be managed by the province.

This comes at a time when the National Parks Board is attempting to become established as the single controlling authority of the mountain chain.

Dr. Johan Neethling, head of province's Department of Environment, wrote to all 174 private landowners in the CPPNE saying that the Western Cape cabinet would decide late next month if the parks board would become the controlling body of the Peninsula.

If the decision was positive, he said, the National Parks Board would begin to create the park by entering into contracts with individual landowners.

"This is a totally voluntary decision by a landowner and nobody will be forced into accepting National Parks Board control over their land," Neethling said in the letter.

The letter is a response to letters to the provincial authorities from landowners who did not want to become part of the future park.

Mr David Daitz, co-ordinator of the future park, agreed that no one would be forced to become part of the park. He did not see this as a major issue.

"What we do not agree with is the last paragraph of province's letter which says they will continue to manage the private land within the CPPNE but outside the park. I don't think that is a good solution," Daitz said.

Private landowners constituted about 20% of the CPPNE. The remaining 80% was in public ownership.

Coastline threatened by lack of legislation

By ADELE BALETA

(56) *Staw 13/7/96*

Policy to protect South Africa's ecologically sensitive coastline "is being stalled" and there are fears that runaway and inappropriate developments will consume what's left of the country's precious coastal zone.

The concerns have been raised by the members of a government-initiated coastal zone management policy committee, which is steering the policy formulation process.

They say, although the British government gave R10-million specifically for the formulation of policy seven months ago, nothing has been achieved, because of bureaucratic snarl-ups and disagreements over who will manage the funds.

Some members are feeling so demoralised by the delays that they are questioning their continued involvement. At present there are provisions under the Environment Conservation Act of 1989 to control coastal development, but there is no national

policy dedicated to the preservation of the coastal area.

The nine-member committee was democratically elected by at least 30 interested sectors. They represent NGOs, labour, business and environmental departments.

Wildlife Society spokesman Andy Gubb feels that unless the money is handled independently of the Government, the process will be jeopardised.

The chairman of the coastal zone policy committee, Professor Jeff McCarthy, says: "We do not want deals going out in our name that we do not know about." He says project managers have done extensive work already for no compensation but do not have the authority to act.

"We are being hamstrung by red tape and a lack of clarity as to our function." McCarthy says he wrote to the former environment minister but did not receive a reply, and is now writing to the new Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Pallo Jordan.

THE Wildlife Society has lashed out at environmental officials for dragging their feet in rehabilitating the damaged Wild Coast of the former Transkei.

The society said the continued "procrastination" of the officials was "deplorable" in the light of a landmark judgment in Umtata, in which the national environment ministry was grilled for its "remarkable and disturbing reluctance" to halt environmental pillage of the Transkei Coast.

Supreme Court Judge J D Pickering ruled in favour of the Wildlife Society and against former Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers and his advisers. Mr Justice Pickering said virtually nothing had been done to stop the construction of inappropriate and illegal cottages, roads, pathways and the ripping out of indigenous vegetation in the ecologically sensitive area.

■ In spite of a scathing judgment against the department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, nothing is being done to rehabilitate the damaged ecologically sensitive Transkei Wild Coast, says the Wildlife Society.

Areas hardest hit according to the Wildlife Society were the regions south of Port St Johns and to the north of the resorts Manteku, Ntufufu and Mngazana. The judge ruled that several chiefs and headmen had accepted bribes of cash and alcohol and had with no authority allocated about 300 cottage sites to developers.

He granted a court interdict that prevented construction of cottages along the coast and ordered the new Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan to act to prevent further damage.

Wildlife Society conservation director Keith Cooper, who was instrumental in bringing the case against the national ministry and the Eastern Cape

Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Agriculture, said he was concerned that the judgment was being ignored by the authorities.

"The Eastern Cape ministry, which capitulated earlier on in the trial, keeps on changing the dates for meetings to discuss rehabilitation. We want to know what is going to happen on the ground. The government has the right to demolish the illegal cottages," he said.

"If government cannot force the owners to do it, then the army should be called in to do the job. We are fed up with talk shops and endless paper pushing. The time has come to act," he said.

He said he had received reports that cottages were still being erected and warned that the society would resort again to legal action if necessary.

In his written judgment on June 27 Mr Justice Pickering urged the government to change the laws of *locus standi* (legal standing) to enable private citizens to protect the environment from abuse.

He found that instead of taking action immediately to protect the coast, the former minister had set up a task group. Mr De Villiers took this action with "kid gloves", and only when forced to do so under threat of legal action, he said.

"When something was done it was "ineffective and totally inappropriate", he said, adding that the minister seemed more concerned about assessing the political risks before acting.

Referring to the ministry's "lack of will" to stop inappropriate development, he said he loathed the "slow and inexorable grinding of wheels across a bureaucratic landscape regardless of the urgency of the situation".

Repeated attempts to contact the national environment ministry and the Eastern Cape ministry proved fruitless.

Chief director of the ministry's Envi-

ronmental Management Sydney Gerber said he and the director general had not yet received the judgment, but that they believed there were "good grounds" to dispute the judge's ruling that the former minister had not taken enough action. He said certain laws would have prevented the minister from taking action.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa said he welcomed the outcome of the protracted proceedings, because of the "degradation" of the area by "people who had taken chances after we handed over power to South Africa in 1994".

But he was not prepared to comment on the judge's findings with regard to his former boss, Mr De Villiers. "I do not want to be drawn into the blame laid against the ministry," he said.

Mr Holomisa said he had told the Heath Commission, appointed by the Eastern Cape government to investigate property issues and transactions under the apartheid government, that he believed the cottage developments were illegal.

"I said there should be no pussy footing on the issue and that further damage should be prevented. I asked that the bribery and corruption be stopped."

"But as a deputy minister I have limited powers," he added.

Meanwhile Heath Commission investigator Steve Barkhuizen, who has returned from a trip to Coffee Bay in the Transkei to investigate damage to the coastline, said 100 illegal homes were identified.

He reported that the commission's blanket interdict on the construction of cottages, transfer of sales, subdivision of properties and other deals had prevented an influx of developers to the area.

"But there will always be someone involved in building illegally," he added.

The commission had not finished its investigation, but Mr Barkhuizen said more illegal cottages had been found in the area between Tshani and Hole in the Wall.

NO action' after rulings on Wild Coast 'pillage'

(56) ARCT 13/9/96

Red tape bogs down green plan

ARG 13/7/96 (56)

ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

A POLICY to protect South Africa's ecologically sensitive coastline is being drawn up amid fears that runaway and inappropriate development will consume what is left of the country's precious coastal zone.

The concerns have been raised by members of a government-initiated Coastal Zone Management Policy Committee, which is steering the policy-formulation process.

The committee says that although the British government donated R10 million specifically for the formulation of a policy seven months ago, nothing much had been achieved - mainly because of bureaucratic snarl-ups and disagreement over who would manage the funds.

Some committee members are feeling so demoralised by the delays they are questioning their continued involvement.

At present there are provisions under the Environment Conservation Act of 1989 to control coastal development, but there is no national policy dedicated to the preservation of coastal areas.

Significantly, there is a key element

QUOTE

We are being hamstrung by red tape and a lack of clarity

Jeff McCarthy
Coastal zone committee

of the committee's policy programme that would allow the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to take action against invasive development before the completion of the process, which is likely to take up to two years.

The nine-member committee was democratically elected by at least 30 interested sectors.

They represent environmental NGOs, labour, business and environmental departments.

Western Cape manager of the Wildlife Society and committee member Andy Gubb, said unless the money was handled independent of government, the process would be jeopardised.

"If government controls the funds, we lose our independence and effectively become an extension of the state."

He believes the committee should be given the power to handle the money instead.

"We need to know that what we are spending the money on is a public participatory programme.

"We do not want to be caught in a situation in which the process is not publicly driven."

He said he had considerable experience with problems associated with government control of funds through the Fisheries Policy Development Committee.

■ A much needed policy to shield the country's vulnerable coastline is being bogged down in red tape and infighting as to who should control foreign aid donated for the policy process.

"To say that it was a nightmare would be understating the problems," he said in a letter to the chairman of the coastal zone policy committee, Jeff McCarthy.

"The government dictated to us how funds were to be allocated and this was often in conflict with our needs," he added.

Mr Gubb told SATURDAY Argus he was angry the Department of Environmental Affairs was reluctant to let go of the funds.

Professor McCarthy of Durban Westville's Institute for Social and Economic Research, said several committee members had indicated to him they were losing faith in the process and were questioning their continued involvement.

Committee member Thandi Bosman said: "There is so much red tape to contend with - we need action to save the coastal zones before it's too late."

Acceptance of the British grant had to be approved by an interdepartmental committee, of which the RDP office was a major role-player. Approval for acceptance of the money came through only in March.

The Environmental Department was called on to prepare a business plan acceptable to the RDP officials.

Professor McCarthy said: "In the meantime, as a policy committee, we put out tenders for a project management team to implement and manage the process on a day-to-day basis.

"This would include arranging workshops in coastal areas, but their appointment has been bogged down by government tender board procedures.

"Differences of outlook and style have developed between the Department of Environmental Affairs and the RDP officials on how the matter should proceed.

"We do not want deals going out in our name that we do not know about."

He said project managers had done extensive work already for no compensation and did not have the authority to act.

"We are being hamstrung by red tape and a lack of clarity as to our function."

He had written to the former environmental ministry and had not received a reply and now he was in the process of writing to the new Environment Minister, Pallo Jordan.

Roy Page-Ship, manager of programme management services in the Ministry of Finance, said all government aid passed through the RDP fund, as government departments did not have the mechanism to deal with foreign aid. The money would be then passed on to the relevant department. In this case it would be the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Repeated attempts to get comment from the Environmental Department have failed to get a response.

■ See page 10

Take your factory and poison away, say angry farmers

Community prepared to go to court to halt activity they say is polluting water, crowding the roads and setting a precedent

Jul 16 | 7 | 96
ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Residents in the Hekpoort region of the Magaliesberg have united to take legal action against the Government and the operator of a factory on the banks of the Magaliesberg River.

The heart of the problem for residents is that the operation of the sorghum enrichment factory is not an appropriate or desired land use in what is essentially a farm area.

"Our objections include the noise which continues through the night and the risk of pollution, heavy vehicle traffic on our dirt roads which are not designed for this kind of transport, as well as the precedent that it creates for further industrial activity," said Trevor Hawley, secretary of the Hekpoort Landowners' Association.

His organisation and the Hekpoort Environmental Protection Society have united through attorney Chris Bean and have

begun a Supreme Court action to halt all operations at the factory. The case has been set for July 30 in Pretoria.

Bean highlighted the fact that formalin, a hazardous chemical, is used in the enrichment process, and a Department of Water Affairs and Forestry report had shown that underground water resources contained traces of it.

He said he had evidence of continuing formalin poisoning. Objections to the factory date back to 1988, when production began illegally. The factory was sold in 1992 and an application by the new owners, Hekpoort Foods CC, for continued operation was turned down by the old Townships Board. Despite this, a permit to operate was issued by the Department of Land Affairs in January this year.

The permit was issued subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) being completed. This is now in the process of being conducted by consultants Wates, Meiring and Barnard and the con-

tinued operation of the plant will depend on the findings.

This is the second time that Hekpoort residents have had to resort to court proceedings to stop the factory from operating, Hawley said. The first interdict resulted in 1994 in hearings by the Townships Board, which found that the factory had to cease operations within one year, by September 1995.

"It should have closed but never did," Hawley said.

The objections are also being backed by the Magaliesberg Protection Association and the Mountain Club of South Africa which have retained environmental attorney Duard Barnard to take additional action because the factory adjoins a nature reserve.

Wates, Meiring and Barnard project manager Andrew Brown, who is handling the EIA, said that for him the main issue was the land use question. "This has to be settled by all stakeholders and government departments in terms of the Physical

Planning Act."

Bean and Hawley confirmed they were taking part in the EIA.

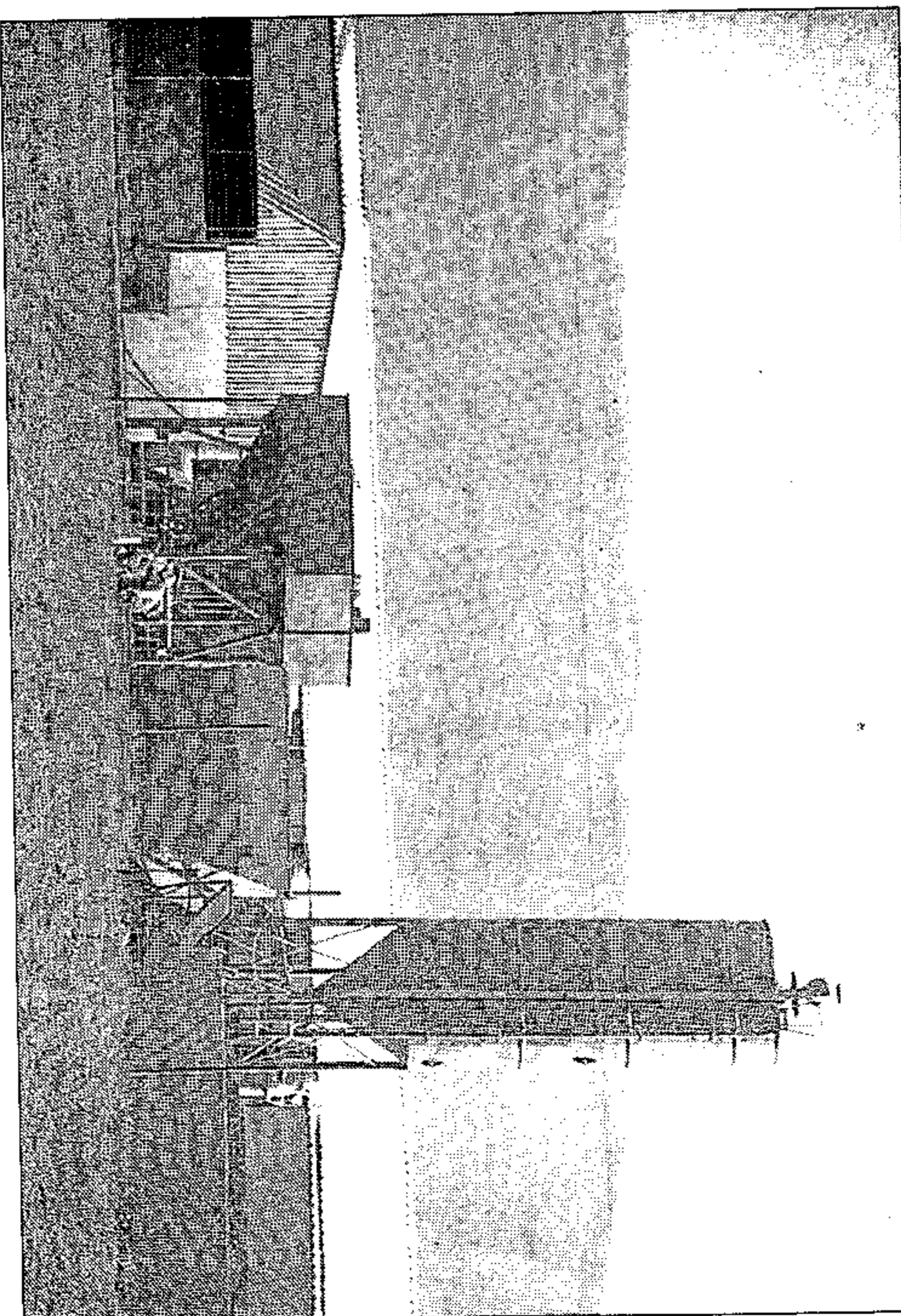
"But everything is in reverse. We should not be asked to participate after the fact - we should have been consulted, as is our democratic right, before any permit was issued. The way it now operates, we are being asked to rubber-stamp decisions taken undemocratically," Hawley said.

Another cause for great concern was the welfare of factory workers and their families, said Johan Oosthuizen whose farms adjoin the 165ha factory property.

Workers were currently housed in a squatter camp a few hundred metres from the factory, with inadequate access to water and sanitation, Oosthuizen said.

"We don't want people to lose jobs, we just want the factory to move to an area which is more suitable," Hawley said.

Ken Barnard, owner of Hekpoort Foods CC, was approached for comment but was not available.



Kicking up a stink ... the sorghum enrichment factory on the banks of the Magaliesberg River at Hekpoort, which residents want closed down.

Death prompts calls for fire probe haste

ARG 16/7/96

JENNY VIAL (56) Health Reporter

THE death of a Macassar man has led to calls for speeding up the inquiry into last year's sulphur fire at the nearby AECI site.

Neville Organsie, a pastor at the Algemene Pinkster Church, died in hospital last week after two heart attacks, which his widow believes were the result of his weakened condition following smoke inhalation during the sulphur fire.

The Macassar Disaster Action Committee has expressed concern at Mr Organsie's death, and has asked that the commission of inquiry appointed by the cabinet on July 3 begin its investigation and "not waste any more time" in protecting the community's rights.

Freda Organsie said her husband had heart problems for many years, but was able to live



Neville Organsie

normally until after the fire last December. He was admitted to hospital on December 17 after inhaling sulphur dioxide fumes from the fire, which led to the evacuation of the Macassar community. Two brothers with asthma died after the fumes engulfed Macassar.

Mr Organsie was discharged

from hospital, but was never the same, said Mrs Organsie. He was short of breath, couldn't sleep at night and had a continuous cough. He had a lot of mucous on his chest and had to have an asthma pump, she says.

Mrs Organsie believed that her husband's heart was weakened by the strain of constant coughing and struggling for breath.

A doctor at Grootte Schuur's respiratory clinic who treated victims of the fire said that, although he had seen Mr Organsie and had written a report for AECI insurance purposes, he did not know he had died and could not comment.

AECI general manager Bertie Humphries said that his company, although not approached formally by Mr Organsie's family, would do all it could to help.

"We're trying to establish what happened and will do what is necessary," he said.

Cableway company bids to bring in black investors

Top UCT expert to deliver report on environmental study of R61 million upgrade this month
 ARG 17/7/96 (56)

JOHN YELD
 Environment Reporter

THE COMPANY that operates the Table Mountain cableway has been making presentations to groups of black investors with a view to making its shareholders more representative of South African society.

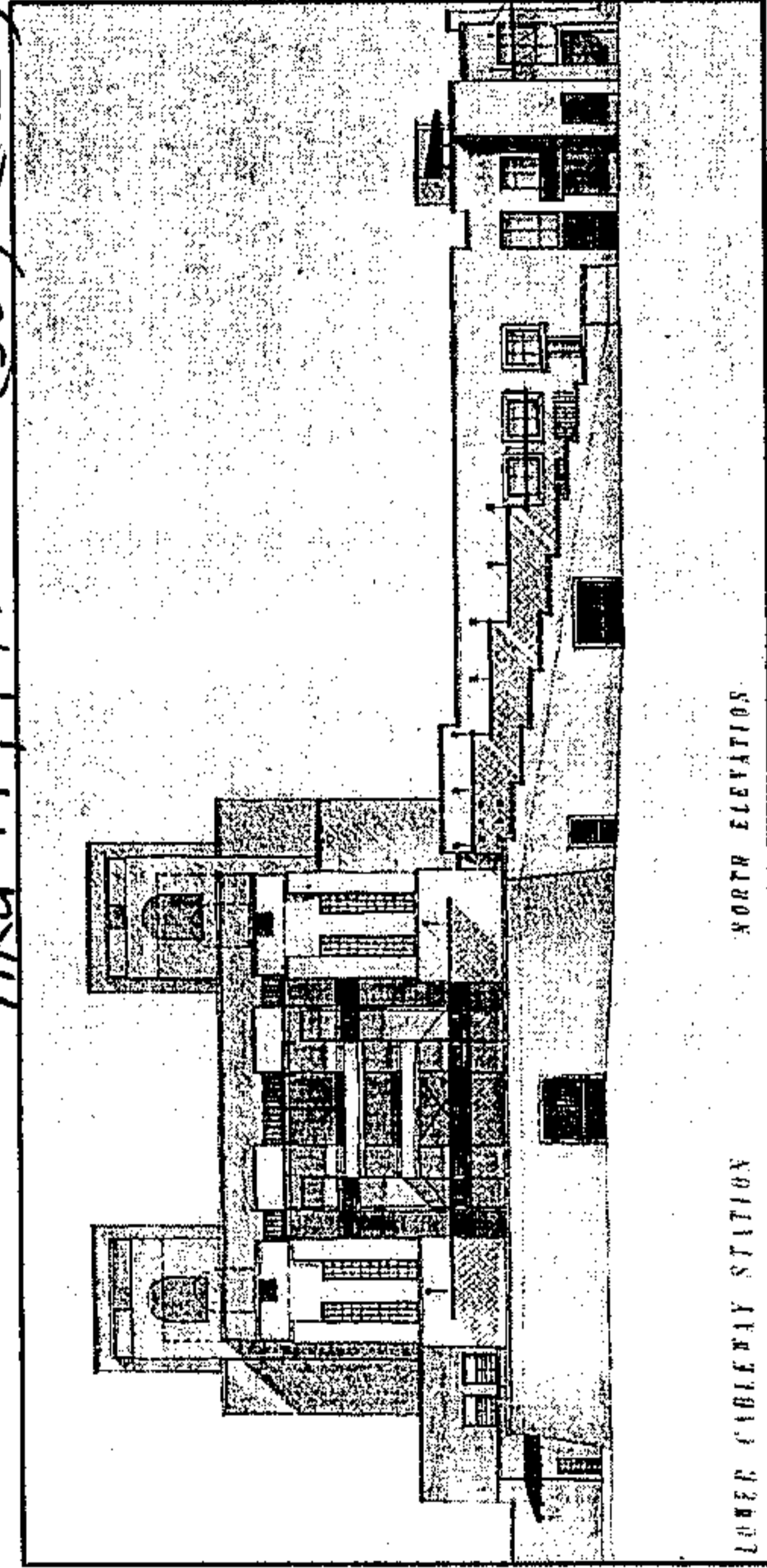
This was in line with the company's agreement with the former Cape Town city council, which leases the upper cable station area to the company, said chairman Louis de Waal.

He was speaking at a meeting of about 120 people at the Civic Centre last night, when representatives of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company and its consultants made a presentation on the status of the cableway upgrade.

The company has conditional approval from the former city council and the Western Cape provincial government for a controversial R61 million upgrade of the cableway.

This includes new, bigger cars capable of taking up to 890 people an hour to the summit of the Western Table - more than three times the present capacity of 230 an hour.

But the mountain is a declared national monument, and the National Monuments Council refused to issue a permit for the upgrade before a full Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process into the upgrade, initiated last year, had been completed.



NEW DESIGN: An architect's drawing of the proposed new lower cable station on Table Mountain, incorporating changes recommended by a review committee headed by architect Revel Fox.

This decision was strongly supported by many conservationists, who accused the cableway company of breaking its commitment to the process by wanting to start the upgrade before completing all the environmental studies.

In response to an appeal by the cableway company against the monuments council's decision, Ben Ngubane, the Minister of Arts, Science, Culture and Technology, in April appointed prominent University of Cape Town environmentalist, Richard Fuggle to head a committee to investigate the entire upgrading proposal.

Professor Fuggle is due to

send a report - which must not be longer than five pages - to Dr Ngubane by the end of the month for a decision, and has said he will ask the minister to make his recommendations public.

At last night's meeting, leading members of the Mountain Club and Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Marlene Laros pointed out that outstanding environmental issues, such as sewerage and solid waste disposal, and water and power supplies at the upper cableway station, would have been much closer to being resolved had the IEM process been followed as agreed.

But most members of the audience, who appeared to be involved in the region's tourism industry, supported speakers who urged the cableway company to complete the upgrade as soon as possible.

These included Nick Malherbe of the Cape Town Chamber of Business, who claimed 30 people walking up the mountain caused more environmental damage than 3 000 taken up by cableway.

"Tourism is going to be the greatest industry in the Western Cape. We want this (upgrade) project to go ahead without delay, with the proviso that there is full (environmental)

monitoring at all times," he said to applause.

A speaker in the audience suggested that when considering whether to approve the upgrade, Dr Ngubane and the cabinet would take into account the fact that the cableway operators were "an old, traditional, white-owned company" and that Table Mountain was a public asset.

The company should be held to a commitment to black economic empowerment, he said.

Mr De Waal said in response that the cableway company was a public company, although not listed on the stock exchange.

"We have discussed the shareholding with several investment groups that are not my colour," he said.

He told The Argus after the meeting that the company was worth between "R40 million and R50 million".

"There are some shares becoming available. Our agreement with the city was to make the company more accessible to South Africans and that is taking place.

"We have made presentations to groups so that they can see whether to invest, but there is no giveaway," he said.

Earlier this year, the company appointed its first black director - Cape Town civil engineer Monde Skade.

Mr De Waal said the directors were considering a possible listing on the stock exchange "in due course".

Policies to protect SA waters

Sowetan 18/7/96

(56) ~~SPRINT~~

Sowetan Correspondent

SOUTHERN African maritime nations are to meet in Durban next month in an attempt to formulate policies of mutual defence.

Decisions taken at the meeting under the chairmanship of the Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson, will be discussed at the annual Southern African Development Council's Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) conference, which takes place in Malawi in September.

It is expected that South Africa's proposed purchase of corvettes or light frigate naval vessels will come under discussion in view of concerns expressed by neighbouring countries such as Tanzania, Namibia and Mozambique regarding their ability to secure territorial waters.

Tanzania has requested South Africa to help police its waters because of large-scale contraventions by fishing trawlers from foreign countries. However, Simpson-Anderson has told parliament it would be impossible to do so without the acquisition by the navy of capable vessels.

No decision has yet been taken by the government on whether or not the navy should acquire the ships. Informed sources believe that a decision to purchase either Spanish or British-built light frigates may be made next months or in September.

Airports Company in row with fuel firms

BD 18/7/96 (18) (56)

Reinie Booysen

FUEL suppliers at Johannesburg International Airport could be kicked off the premises next month over a dispute concerning liability for potentially massive environmental damage.

Oil industry executives said yesterday they feared there could be as much as 1-million litres of spilled jet fuel lying beneath the airport's concrete apron, which has accumulated over several years.

The Airports Company, which operates all SA's major airports and is included in government's privatisation drive, wants the suppliers to take responsibility for future spills. But the suppliers said this could also leave them responsible for existing damage, which is difficult to identify accurately.

The Airports Company has terminated the oil companies' land leases, covering their jet fuel storage depots, in a bid to pressure them into accepting

its terms. When the six months' notice period expires at the end of August, the companies' operations could effectively come to an end, unless a new agreement is reached.

The oil companies have also been told their leases will be renewed on a monthly basis, and the Airports Company is investigating bringing in new fuel suppliers, possibly from overseas.

"If the oil companies don't want to come to the party, we'll find someone else who is able to supply fuel in a responsible way," Airports Company GM of airport services Piet de Jager said. "We've had approaches from overseas people. We could bring in a new operator, or even keep one or two of the existing operators."

The oil companies are also resisting an attempt by the Airports Company to increase land rentals, on top of a new "right to trade" fee of 1,72c/l of fuel

Continued on Page 2

Fuel

(18)

Continued from Page 1

BD 18/7/96
sales by oil companies. This is also being challenged by the major airlines operating at the airport, in a complaint to the transport department's airports regulator. The oil companies have given notice that the fee will be passed on to the airlines.

But the Airports Company says the companies make such good profit out of jet fuel sales that they should be able to absorb the new and increased imposts

without affecting charges paid by the airlines for fuel. The oil companies dispute this, and argue that it is standard in other parts of the world to pass the "right to trade" fee on to airlines.

"We do think we can come to some agreement; the only question is on what terms," a source said yesterday.

Airports Company group manager of airport services Andy Kamfer said yesterday that he had no comment to make on the claims.

However, he said: "We believe a new dispensation will be agreed to which will allow greater competition and benefit all stakeholders at the airport."

Base Games city choice on environment, IOC urged

(56)  ET 78/7/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THIRTY South African environmental and community-based organisations have called on the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland to make environmental impact assessments (EIA) the basis on which a bid city is chosen to host the Games.

In a letter to IOC president Mr Juan Samaranch, the organisations

said it was accepted practice in South Africa that any large-scale or high impact development first be subjected to an EIA.

"Our sector is committed to ensuring ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development. We have agreed to be involved in a process of environmental evaluation after submission of the bid.

"However, we are extremely concerned that the decision to bid

to host the Olympics in 2004 in Cape Town was not based on any environmental impact assessment," the organisations said.

They said that according to the Bid Manual for cities to host the Games in 2004, cities must follow accepted environmental practices of the host country.

"Our question to you is what type of consideration will a bidding city receive if it has not followed accepted environmental practice of

its country?"

Some of the organisations who have signed the letter are the Wildlife Society of SA, Earthlife Africa, Botanical Society, Habitat Council, Khayelitsha Environmental and Tourism Forum, Coalition of Sustainable Cities, Energy and Development Research Centre, Mountain Club of SA, National Council of Women, Peninsula Mountain Forum and Western Cape Civic Organisation.

Financial lifeline should help make Langa clean and green

Municipal Staff

56
AN environmental resource centre which aims to keep the streets and open spaces in Langa clean and green has been thrown a lifeline by the Cape Town municipality executive committee.

The Tsoga resource centre signed a contract with the provincial government to run the "Clean and Green Campaign" in Langa and the provincial department of public works agreed to pay 50 percent of the costs - R548 000 - from the reconstruction and development programme fund.

Ikapa was part of the original agreement, but because it has now been integrated into the reconstituted City of Cape Town, the city council must now take responsibility for the other 50 percent of the cost.

The council's financial coordinator, Peter Lever, told

the committee the provincial government had paid only R109 000 to the project, which had been operating for the past three years, and would agree to its financial obligations only if the municipality committed itself to the other half.

Councillor Chris Joubert said he was not opposed to the council giving that undertaking, but said it was also giving a grant to the Fairest Cape Association, which was involved in similar projects in other areas.

The committee agreed to commit to the project, but also told officials to devise ways of getting the Tsoga centre and the Fairest Cape Association to work together.

Executive committee deputy chairman Saliem Mowser said it was time organisations with similar aims, operating in the council's area, joined forces to tackle the relevant issues.

ARG 19/7/96

Rare blue swallows threatened by mine

(56) ST (BT) 21/9/96

PROPOSALS to prospect and mine for gold at Kaapschehoop in Mpumalanga are a direct threat to the largest breeding colony of South Africa's most endangered bird, the Blue Swallow.

The Blue Swallow Exploration and Mining cc has announced plans to reopen an underground gold mine which was closed in 1952 after just two years of operation because of metallurgical difficulties in treating the ore.

The surface and mineral rights to the 500ha site belong to the government and are held by forestry parastatal Safcol. Kaapschehoop was declared a Natural Heritage site in February 1994. There are only 60 breeding pairs of Blue Swallow in South Africa — and between nine and 12 of them breed at Kaapschehoop.

Partners Paul Czajowski and John Joubert have compiled a "pre-feasibility study" for the mine which they intend using to raise R2-million for development.

The study, based on only four underground ore samples, claims the mine could produce gold worth R232-million.

By BRENDAN RYAN

If granted a prospecting permit, the company proposes an initial 10 boreholes and to carry out limited underground mining to extract a 300-ton bulk ore sample.

At a meeting earlier this month, representatives from Safcol, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Mpumalanga Parks Board opposed the application. They said the drilling programme would cause serious disruption to the Blue Swallow colony, as would the blasting to get the ore sample. The mine workings are only 50m deep while the birds nest about 3m below the surface in ground holes.

Czajowski acknowledged the high-risk nature of his proposed mining venture, but felt he should be allowed to prospect the ground in a manner acceptable to all parties. He had already dropped proposals for a surface gold mining operation.

Affected parties have until the end of the month to submit objections to Mpumalanga's regional mining directorate.

Row brewing over pollution in Magalies (56)

Star 22/7/96

Hekpoort residents in court action over
contamination of river, allegedly caused
by formalin from local factory

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

The presence of toxic waste pollution in the Magalies River and underground water at Hekpoort in Gauteng's most important wilderness area has been confirmed by three independent reports.

Water tests conducted by AECl, the CSIR and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in the possession of The Star, reveal the presence of formalin in the vicinity of a sorghum enrichment factory.

The factory, operated by Hekpoort Foods CC, has a permit to continue operations while an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is conducted. Residents in the area have launched a court action to halt operations pending the outcome of the EIA.

Formalin has been identified as a possible carcinogenic, with corrosive properties. It sterilises the soil and is extremely toxic to aquatic organisms. In solution in water as formaldehyde it oxidises to form formic acid, which can cause severe irritation and even permanent damage on contact or if inhaled. Long-term exposure can lead to hypersensitivity and can cause cancer cells in human and animal tissues.

Hekpoort Foods owner Ken Barnard confirmed that formalin was used in his factory. However, he was adamant that no evidence existed that formalin was poisoning water resources. He declined to comment on how formalin was disposed of at his factory or how

workers were protected. Instead, he said, "all the evidence" would be placed before a judge to decide the matter.

This was a reference to the fact that Hekpoort Foods is one of four respondents named in a Supreme Court action which is being brought by the Hekpoort Environmental Preservation Society. The other respondents are Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom, Gauteng MEC for Development Planning, Environment and Works Sicelo Shiceka, and Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal.

The case will be heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court on July 30.

Under proper conditions, formalin can break down to carbon dioxide and other components. However, leading the formalin into evaporation ponds, as has been tried by Hekpoort Foods, is problematic, according to Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, chairman of the Poison Working Group.

"Pumping formalin into an ordinary dam with no proper lining on a continuous basis would definitely result in leaching. Under these conditions formalin would cause contamination of ground water resources," he said.

He also said that using formalin-contaminated water to irrigate land, which has also been tried at Hekpoort Foods, could also be problematic.

"The idea is that normal sun will evaporate the compound. That can happen under controlled circumstances, but, equally, formic acid could be formed if not properly handled," Verdoorn said.

Varsity's degrees scrutinised

(56)

Criminal charges could follow University of Zululand investigation

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban

Criminal charges could flow from investigations into the alleged issuing of fraudulent degrees and diplomas from the University of Zululand.

And in another shock disclosure yesterday, it was learned that forged matric certificates were abundant in South Africa. Universities in KwaZulu Natal yesterday reported that forged matric certificates were "an ongoing problem".

Already at one university this year, six forged certificates had been uncovered. South African Certification Council spokesman Katy Cilliers said an average of 15

forged documents were found each year. The council handled at least 10 complaints every month. Meanwhile, the investigation at the University of Zululand is in full swing.

Every section of the university involved in the processing of students' marks - with the exception of the computer department - was being thoroughly scrutinised, according to Dirk Rezelman, director of Unizul's Bureau for Development and Public Relations.

Allegations which have begun to emerge from the investigations have sent shock waves through the 36-year-old institution and the broader university community.

It seems most of the fraudu-

lent degrees involve the disciplines of arts, law, commerce and education.

"It's too early to say what the position was in science, agriculture, home economics and theology, although to date there has been no hard evidence of any discrepancies there," Rezelman said.

Commenting on the public service training role which the university plays, he said there were indications that degrees had been granted without the necessary academic credits having been earned.

"We are launching a special investigation into this particular area and if we find any people who have been appointed or pro-

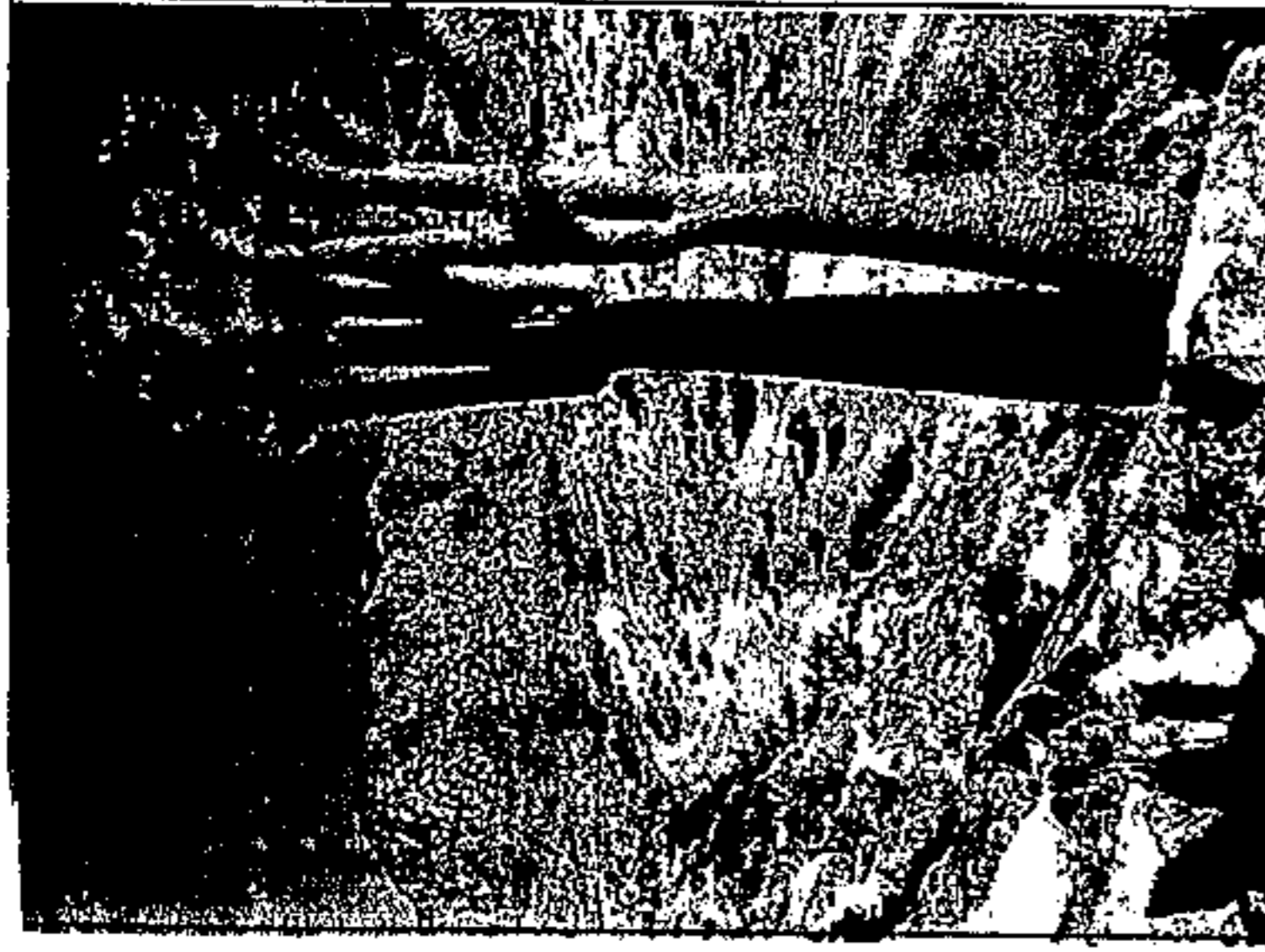
Rstan 23/7/96
moted or have increased their status as a result of fraudulent degrees, we will withdraw their degrees and make public who they are," he said.

The public relations department at the main KwaDlangezwa campus near Empangeni has been swamped with calls from as far as Nelspruit, Johannesburg and Pretoria from prospective and current employers asking about the status of their workers who graduated from the university.

"We are getting other calls from part-time students working for parastatals and are busy completing certain degrees who are asking us to handle this thing delicately."



STARK BEAUTY: A lone aloe on the sweeping plains near the start of the Leliesberg-Oernsberg hiking trail which was opened during the fifth birthday celebrations of the Richtersveld National Park at the weekend.



UNIQUE: The halimens plant has become the symbol of the Richtersveld's unusual plant life.



TRANQUILLITY: Dawn over the Orange River at Pootjiespramborg, one of the camping sites in the Richtersveld National Park.

PARK MARKS FIVE YEARS OF CO-OPERATION

From protests to parties: Richtersvelders celebrate

(56) Star 23/7/96

THE PEOPLE of the Richtersveld at the weekend celebrated the fifth birthday of the region's national park — and the culmination of a protest that turned into a co-operative venture. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports. Pictures by **ANNE LAING.**

AN outsider may not have appreciated the irony. On the surface, it was just a normal celebration. The people of the Richtersveld, the remote desert region in northern Namaqualand, joined staff of the National Parks Board at the weekend to celebrate the fifth birthday of the Richtersveld National Park. The festivities were spread over three days and four villages — Lekkersing, Eksteenfontein, Sanddrift and Kuboes. There was singing and dancing, speeches and marches, food and balloons. Children tucked into cakes, men played guitars, tiny drum majorettes went through their paces, choirs sang.

In the dusty village square of Kuboes, where some of the residents speak the Nama language of their pastoralist ancestors, women prepared *kop en bobbies* and carried them in his black ox



FESTIVE: Oom Paul de Wet, chairman of the park's management committee, trips the light fantastic in a traditional Nama dance — part of the park's fifth anniversary celebrations in Kuboes at the weekend.



VELD KITCHEN: Maria Rooi of Eksteenfontein in a skerm, a temporary kitchen set up next to a *manfischrite* the dwellings of nomadic herders in the Richtersveld.

From protests to parties: Richtersvelders celebrate

(56) (247) Star 23/7/96

THE PEOPLE of the Richtersveld at the weekend celebrated the fifth birthday of the region's national park — and the culmination of a protest that turned into a co-operative venture. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports. Pictures by **ANNE LAING**.

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In the dusty village square of Kuboes, where some of the residents speak the Nama language of their pastoralist ancestors, women prepared *kop en pootjies* and curried tripe in big black pots over open fires, and *asbrood* under a heap of coals to feed the crowd.

On impulse, National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson joined in a Nama dance with a woman in a traditional *kappie*, swirling in the dust, doing what looked like a cross between a *toyi-toyi* and a *tiekiedraai*.

If you had never met the Richtersveld community before, the irony might have been lost on you. For the very people celebrating the Richtersveld National Park's fifth birthday, were the people who once fiercely opposed the park.

The master of ceremonies at Kuboes, Mr Willem de Wet — standing on a petrol drum to address the crowd — was the same man who six years ago got a Supreme Court interdict prevent-



VELD KITCHEN: Maria Rooi of Eksteenfontein in a *skerm*, a temporary kitchen set up next to a *matjieshuis*, the dwellings of nomadic stock farmers in the Richtersveld.

ing the then local authority from signing a lease for the land with the Parks Board — the first step in establishing the national park.

The community even formed the PWB — the Parke Weerstandsbeweging — to stonewall the establishment of the park.

Although the Parks Board would have paid to lease the land from the Richtersvelders, who would still have been the owners, they would have lost the land for grazing. What the court interdict did do was force all the stakeholders back to the negotiating table to thrash out a solution.

Out of this a management committee was formed, consisting of four Parks Board members and five representatives from the local Richtersveld communities, which now decides on how the park should be managed.

And some of the former PWB's strongest supporters beamed proudly as they received certificates from the board for completing training as guides to take visitors on the three hiking trails which opened in the park at the weekend.

It's been an uphill battle for both parties and the Richtersveld National Park is still not without its problems. But it's working. It is the first contractual national park jointly managed by the Parks Board and the com-

munity.

Said Mr J J Links of Kuboes, holding the birthday cake in the form of a huge figure five: "We believed these people were coming to take our land. But now these same people are planning the management of the park with us."

The community still owns the land, which the Parks Board leases from it for R80 000 a year and the nomadic stock farmers are allowed to graze their sheep and goats in the park.

If you drive through the park, you will come across little *matjieshuise* scattered in the veld, the temporary homes of the nomadic farmers.

Robinson had long dreamed of having the Richtersveld, in the great loop of the Orange River about 100km from the coast, protected in a national park. Apart from its dramatic beauty, the Richtersveld is the only mountain desert in South Africa, home to many plants — like the famous and weird halfmens — that occur nowhere else in the country, and some plants which occur nowhere else in the world.

It's a harsh land, where temperatures can soar to 52° in summer, and plunge to freezing on winter nights; where rainfall can be as low as 50mm a year. But with the Orange River close by, it's supported Nama Khoi-Khoi pastoralists for thousands of years. Today their descendants maintain, in part, a nomadic herding lifestyle.

Together with the Parks Board, they will ensure that the unique Richtersveld will be there for future generations.

Environment centre opens new wing

(56)

23/7/96

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

ENVIRONMENTAL education in the Western Cape was given a boost yesterday with the official opening of a new wing at the Geelbek Gold Fields Environmental Centre in the West Coast National Park near Langebaan.

The homestead's stables have been converted into a lecture hall and accommodation for 106 people to meet the growing demand for environmental education.

The centre, run by the National Parks Board and funded by the Gold Fields/World Wide Fund for Nature environment programme, has established itself as one of the most important in environmental education in the Western Cape.

WWF's director of conservation in South Africa, Dr Ian Macdonald, said at the opening: "Enabling as many people as possible to experience first-hand the wonders of the natural world is one of the best investments we can make at this stage of the Earth's history."

New conservation college an example to Africa

A college for middle managers in conservation is one of the most exciting projects currently on the WWF SA agenda.

Construction of the first phase of the Southern African Wildlife College began in September last year, following a DM10-million (R25 million) grant from the German government.

"The project is setting a new benchmark for conservation training facilities world-

wide. When German government representatives came to check up on our progress recently, they asked to have first refusal to fund the next phase," said WWF SA chief executive Dr John Hanks.

"There is a huge need, all over Africa, for people with effective training and experience in conservation. This college is seen as setting an example to the rest of Africa, as well as providing a training resource the

entire continent can draw on.

The college, which will become fully operational at the beginning of next year, is located in the Tumbavati Game Reserve.

The project has already had significant spin-off benefits to the 11 neighbouring villages. For example, Welverdiend, a village of some 3 000 people, has acquired electricity thanks to the new Eskom line running to the college site.

All the unskilled labour was recruited locally, and local artisans and builders are doing most of the skilled labour.

The college will offer a two-year training programme, consisting of six three-month modules, for senior and middle-level wardens and rangers. Subjects will include neighbour relations, community development, fire management, control of invasive alien plant species, and tourism.

ET (Bar) 24/7/96 (56)

Learning how to live the best way

(56)A(BN) 24/7/96

Environmental education must lie at the core of every other facet of education if it is to impact on the way children view the world.

"There is far more to educating children about their environment than standing in front of the classroom imparting facts about wild animals," said Lesley Richardson, the environmental education coordinator of WWF SA.

"Environmental education today aims to give people an holistic view of how they fit into the system, and how to manage natural resources. Its primary goal is to show people the best way to sustain life over the long term."

This approach is designed to help children, and adults, approach situations from a more critical perspective.

"The goal is to teach them to find solutions to problems, rather than merely feeding them a lot of irrelevant facts. For instance, we can't just tell children in poor rural communities it's wrong to chop down trees," said Richardson.



LESLEY RICHARDSON
aims for an holistic view

"We have to recognise their need for fuel and houses, and help them resolve the conflict of short-term and long-term needs."

A problem-solving approach to environmental education involves encouraging people to explore their world as part of finding the most effective way to use the resources it contains.

And in the classroom, it involves integrating the pupils' living environment into everything

else they learn.

"Getting environmental education accepted recently as part of the National Education Framework has been a pivotal success.

"Now we must begin the process of retraining teachers – and this will demand time and creative thinking.

"Different children and different living environments demand different teaching methods.

"All people have aspirations. The challenge of environmental education is to meet them at the point where they stand and help them aspire to and achieve a sustainable lifestyle," she said.

At its most basic level, integrated environmental education involves using the materials already present in the environment to teach children. Rural children learning basic arithmetic may count stones or trees; urban children would use cars and bricks.

Working with adults, the challenge is to meet them at their point of need. WWF has joined forces

with Gold Fields of SA on a number of programmes designed to help people work with their environment to improve the quality of their lives.

Sustainable farming methods, population dynamics and education of women are only a few of the issues both WWF and GFSA tackle, primarily in rural areas.

Preventative health care is one of the most obvious points of intersection between environmental issues and quality of life. Instead of merely treating people for diarrhoea, various projects are aimed at helping them keep their water supplies clean; while sustainable farming of mixed indigenous crops improves standards of nutrition.

The massive Faith and Earthkeeping Project, put together by GFSA, WWF and Unisa, aims to help people identify what their faith has to tell them about their responsibilities as custodians of the earth – and then to translate those responsibilities into a practical outworking through lifestyle.

Campaign to preserve Table Mountain paying off

One of the biggest campaigns in the history of WWFSA is the fundraising drive to preserve Table Mountain and other environmentally sensitive areas on the Cape Peninsula.

Launched three years ago, the fund has raised R6 million to date. More than 70 companies and indi-

(56) CT (BR) 24/7/96
viduals have, in the past year, joined WWF's Custodians of Table Mountain fundraising scheme.

Last year an exhibition of international natural history paintings and sculpture at the Everard Read Gallery, in Johannesburg, raised R130 000, and Sappi has committed

R1 million to the fund - the biggest capital donation to date.

"We want to raise R10 million locally. The whole area will be declared a national park, and seems set to be awarded World Heritage status," said chief executive Dr John Hanks.

Table View noise levels

above SABS limit — expert

CMC official's finding after resident lays charge against refinery

Staff Reporter

NOISE levels at night in the Table View area near the Caltex refinery are above those laid down by the South African Bureau of Standards, an expert from the Cape Metropolitan Council has found.

On Monday, Table View resident Trevor Knutsen laid a charge of noise pollution with the police, blaming the Caltex refinery in Milnerton for keeping him awake at night with a noise that "sounds like a jet propul-

sion engine."

CMC air pollution control officer Elbrecht Oswald, who is also responsible for measuring noise levels in Cape Town, found earlier yesterday that noise levels in the area where Mr Knutsen lived were well within the standards laid down by the SABS for a "rural residential" area like Table View during daytime.

The daytime reading registered an average of 49 decibels, while the standard laid down by the SABS is 55 decibels during the day and 45 at

night.

Mr Oswald said the fairly strong wind at the time, as well as the sound apparently being bounced from the nearby Tygerberg Hills, did influence the reading and that it was too soon to dismiss residents' claims.

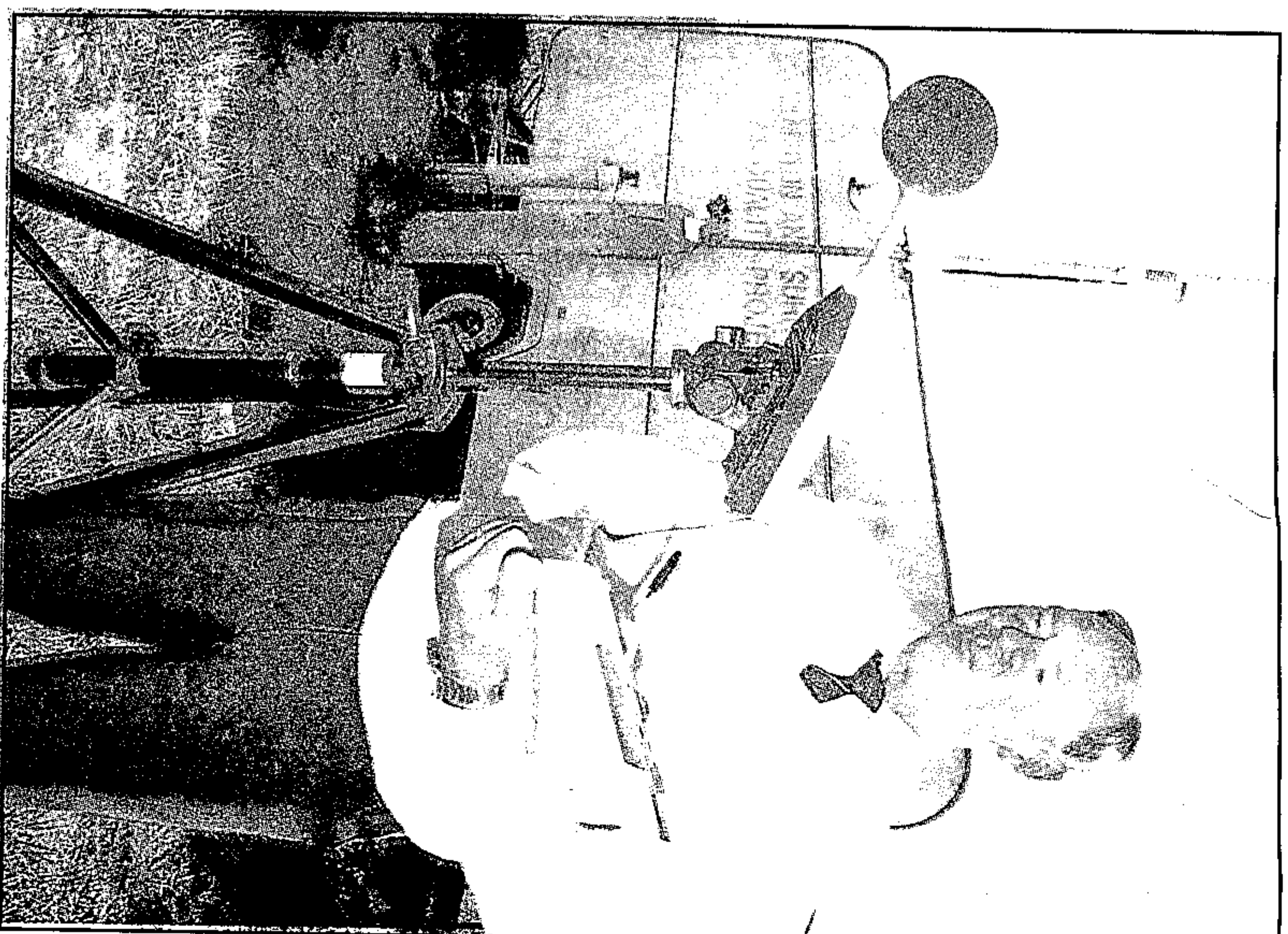
But when he returned after dark the noise was much more discernible with the registered reading varying between 44 and 48 decibels.

"Although it is still impossible for me to state unequivocally that the

noise is coming from Caltex, it is higher than the minimum level (45 decibels) laid down for night-time," he said.

Caltex acknowledged that noise pollution was a problem, blaming the noise on an adjustment made to a vital section of the plant during the recent six-week shutdown.

Ironically, the adjustment led to a dramatic decrease in air pollution levels in the area, which was Table View residents' other major gripe with the oil refinery.



NOT TOO LOUD: Pollution expert Elbrecht Oswald takes noise pollution readings in Table View.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

New environmental centre opens

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

New standards in environmental education in South Africa have been set with the opening earlier this week of the Gold Fields Environmental Centre at Geelbek in the West Coast National Park.

Adding to the significance of the occasion, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan attended the opening in his first official engagement since being appointed to his new portfolio.

What is significant about the centre is that for the first time in a national park in South Africa, environmental education courses and accompanying accommodation can be offered to groups of up to 100 people at a time, with a primary focus on school groups.

Tuition is supplied by Parks Board officials free of charge on courses of up to one week's duration. Rates start at R5 per person per day for groups that cater for themselves and bring their own bedding. An additional R2 will be charged if bedding must be provided, and R15 per person per day for groups wanting fully

catered accommodation.

Included in the courses are hiking trails, marine biology and visits to four islands in the Langebaan Lagoon which are all important breeding habitats for numerous birds. Malgas Island is home to about 80 000 gannets as well as black billed gulls, black oyster catchers and jackass penguins.

The development at Geelbek was funded by the Gold Fields

Education courses for up to 100

Foundation, through its Environmental Programme with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). The Foundation, which is the social investment arm of the mining house Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd, has committed R10-million over a five-year period to the WWF for the promotion of environmental programmes countrywide.

The Gold Fields/WWF development at Geelbek included the refurbishment of a historic farmhouse complex and the conver-

(56) 21/7/96
sion of stables into self-catering units ranging from four to 16-bunk dormitories, as well as ablution blocks, offices and a dining room/lecture hall.

Gold Fields' involvement at Geelbek started six years ago when the old farmhouse was renovated as an environmental centre.

"The centre was half functional," said Gold Fields Foundation chairman Michael Tagg. "It was a lovely facility but it was not fully used."

As a result, a workshop was held in 1992 between environmental education experts, Parks Board officials and local communities to explore ways of best promoting a national conservation ethic in South Africa.

"Out of that workshop plans to renovate existing stables to accommodate up to 100 children were accepted," Tagg said. "As a result the centre has gone from being slightly elitist to affordable to most."

He paid tribute to the NPB for moving in the direction of drawing in the local community into environmental education and making it part of their daily lives.

Mandela fires Holomisa

Aug 26/9/96

(56)

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

PRESIDENT Mandela today fired Bantu Holomisa as Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, replacing him with Peter Mokaba.

The dismissal of Mr Holomisa follows two written charges against him last month of bringing the African National Congress into disrepute by reiterating statements, first made by him to the Truth Commission, that former Transkeian leader Stella Sigcau, now a cabinet minister, had been involved in corruption.

Mr Mandela told Mr Holomisa of his decision at a meeting in Pretoria today.

Also appointed today was ANC MP Essop Pahad as Deputy Minister in the Office of the Deputy President.

The changes will take effect on August 1. Dr Pahad, a member of the national



Bantu Holomisa

Peter Mokaba to take over deputy environment portfolio

assembly who serves as Thabo Mbeki's parliamentary counsellor, is known to be a key adviser to Mr Mbeki.

Presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe said it was not customary for the president to give reasons for appointments to or dismissals from the cabinet or the ranks of deputy ministers.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said it was the prerogative of the president to bring about changes in the executive in the best interests of the country.

"We welcome the new appointments ... we are convinced they will add impetus to

current efforts by colleagues to create a better life for all our people," he said.

Mr Mamoepa said that the ANC's disciplinary action against Mr Holomisa was still proceeding.

This action has caused tension within the ANC alliance, with the Women's League supporting Mr Holomisa and the Youth League backing the leadership.

Mr Mokaba, who will vacate his post as head of the national assembly committee on environmental affairs and tourism, rose through the ranks of the Youth League and is generally seen as a militant.

Ironically, shortly before his firing, Mr Holomisa was among a delegation to the United States accompanying Mr Mbeki for talks with US Vice-President Al Gore on the binational commission.
Mr Holomisa was not available for comment today.
NP spokesman Patrick McKenzie said Mr Holomisa's dismissal came as no surprise to the party in the light of his clashes with the ANC hierarchy.
However, it would be regrettable if Mr Holomisa had been dropped because of his evidence to the Truth Commission. It was the right of every citizen to appear before the commission without clearing it with their political party first.
The appointment of Mr Mokaba was "going from the frying pan into the fire," said Mr McKenzie, because Mr Mokaba's political style was the same as that of Mr Holomisa.

Lack of Gauteng landfill sites poses problem in battle against waste

(56)

8/27/96

The setting up of effective management systems and the identifying of new landfill sites have been identified as crucial strategies in Gauteng's fight against waste.

At yesterday's launch of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment's waste workshop, MEC Nomvula Mokonyane said waste management, despite being a provincial competency, needed co-operation from all levels of government.

"It is clear that local government would like to see the province facilitating and co-ordinating the implementation of the new constitution. This workshop will assist local government in its quest for a more efficient, consistent and acceptable management system for

domestic waste in Gauteng," she said.

The lack of landfill sites is one of the more serious problems to be discussed at the workshop, because of the extra costs it could entail for ratepayers.

In a report compiled by the department's waste task team, the Lekoa/Vaal area has been identified as needing the most assistance in capacity building, to help authorities set up waste management systems.

Despite the many useful observations made in the report, Mokonyane said an important element had been excluded. "The report makes no mention of stand-alone towns and only cursory mention of rural areas. There is a possibility no one in these areas could attend the meetings." - Staff Reporter

Staff cuts a threat to fynbos reserves

(56) CT 29/7/96

CHRIS BATEMAN

THE Western Cape's world famous fynbos heritage faces a management crisis as nearly half of its nature reserve managers and nine of the province's 12 top conservation officials opt for the generous state severance package.

Vast tracts of fynbos stand to go unprotected or at best poorly managed, vulnerable to alien invasion and runaway fires because of the dearth of experienced fynbos specialists available to replace the outgoing management echelon.

The Cape Times revealed last week that the top three Western Cape Environmental Affairs managers, Dr Johan Neethling (chief director), Mr Niel van Wyk (Director, Support Services), and Mr Kobus Jooste (Director of Nature Conservation), had taken severance packages worth a total of R5,1 million.

It now emerges that the department will also be gutted of "on the ground" specialist experience.

Among those identified as having already taken the package or contemplating it are: Mr Rudolf Andrag (Deputy Director, Nature Conservation), Mr Greville Rudock (overall fynbos and water catchment management including alien plant and fire control), his deputy, Mr Duncan Herd, Mr Jan Vlok, (chief botanist and the depart-

ment's top fynbos expert), Mr S W van der Merwe, chief nature conservation officer for the Cedarberg; his counterparts in the Southern Cape, Karoo and Overberg, Mr Ken Coetzee, Mr Gert Lombard and Mr Mike Scott; De Hoop Nature Reserve manager Mr Rory Allerdice, Mr Johannes Hartnick, (law enforcement and environmental education, Oudtshoorn region), Mr Dave Osborne, central player in the Atlas Protea project and fynbos water catchment expert, (Towerkop, Ladysmith).

The Karoo alone has 25 staffers "from top to bottom" who are taking the package.

In terms of the package — aimed at reducing the civil service and allowing "corrective action" — no one who takes it can work in the civil service again.

Chief botanist Jan Vlok, who is to set up his own consultancy, asked: "Where on earth are they going to get experienced staff who know about our unique fynbos systems? Certainly not in the Free State or Ciskei — they may get researchers but not experienced managers."

Professor Richard Cowling, of UCT's Institute for Plant Conservation, said nature reserves were in danger of "going down the tubes" unless a Western Cape Parks Board was formed which could legally rehire all the lost expertise.

Planned wildlife hospital threatened

(56)
ARG 29/7/96

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

DEVELOPERS of a proposed wildlife hospital planned for near Koeberg - the first such institution in the Western Cape - might be forced to shelve their plans if the development guide plan for the area is not changed.

Developer David McDonald and his wife Tina are holding thumbs that at a meeting scheduled for today, they can persuade officials from the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) to relent and agree that further development can take place in the area.

Although the McDonald's plan for a wildlife hospital has been welcomed by conservationists, who say they would provide a much-needed service, their plans may have to be shelved because of opposition from the CNS.

A five-kilometre area around Koeberg is zoned as "rural area" with no developments allowed there for reasons of nuclear safety. Although this zoning classification was decided on in the early 1970s, the area now falls within the municipal boundary of the Northern substructure.

The McDonald's plan includes a wildlife hospital and compounds where injured and recuperating animals can be kept. Although the animal hospital is not expected to be financially viable, they hope to cross-subsidise their project by opening a petrol station on the West Coast Road and opening the facility to tourists.

Central to their plans is also subdividing part of the 60 hectares and selling it off as residential plots to finance the hospital. It is this plan, it would seem, that constitutes the major obstacle in the eyes of the CNS, as it would mean an influx of people into the safety area.

Council spokesman Tiemie Fourie said although they could not legally enforce the exclusion zone, they would advise the Cape Metropolitan Council that the guide plan for the area should be upheld and no new development allowed.

"When it comes to matters regarding nuclear safety, the council tends to be a bit conservative," Mr Fourie said.

Chief planner for the Cape Metropolitan Council, Charles Rudman, said the present guide plan allowed for no further development within this zone.

He said that as one of the major roleplayers, the CNS should give its blessing to any changes to the guide plan.

One of the major considerations was the evacuation of residents from the area during a nuclear disaster, Mr Rudman said.

This meant placing a ceiling on the number of people who could live within the five-kilometre zone. Mr Fourie said this ceiling was not based on an actual number of people who could live in that area and who could be safely evacuated in case of an emergency, but that it was simply decided that no further development would take place.

Landfill site closure means end of junk trade

(58) Star 30/3/96

Men who relied on the dump for their daily bread are far from happy with the council's decision

By NIKKI WHITFIELD

The Waterval landfill site in Albertville is to close – to the delight of residents in the area but the despair of men who have made a living from the dump for the past three years.

The landfill will be closed at the end of this month to lie dormant for about 30 years before being developed. This is the length of time required for the land to become solid enough for foundations to be laid and also for the methane gas produced by rubbish to evaporate.

Methane gas was one of the bones of contention among residents of the north-western Johannesburg suburbs bordering the dump. They claim fires the unemployed men lit at the dump regularly ignited the gas, causing acrid black smoke to hang over the neighbourhood.

The dump will be down-scaled to become one used solely for the dumping of garden refuse. But, while there are smiles on the faces of residents, the men who have relied on the site for their daily bread are far from happy.

The men – who said they had battled “boers” and security guards and their dogs for the past three years – claimed they made between R20 and R70 a day from selling discarded items on the side of the road.

“How will we get money for food when this closes down?” said Patrick Morabane. “What now – must I start to steal? I don’t want to. I don’t want to go to work. But what else can I do? There are just no jobs.”

Morabane was one of a large group of men huddled around a fire when The Star visited the bleak site yesterday.

Each time a bakkie or trailer turned into the dump, they raced each other for the contents, pinching items of furniture and bits of copper or wiring.

This is exactly what incensed residents.

“

How will we get money for food when this closes?

How will we get money for food when this closes?

”

“These people would charge out into the traffic to get to the bakkie or trailer,” said Henry Dahms, chairman of the Triomf Residents’ Association. “They

had no consideration – they didn’t care whether they caused accidents or if they damaged vehicles.

“And the security men the council put on the site were useless,” Dahms said.

“They wouldn’t stop people from taking stuff out of the dump, which is actually illegal. Once something is dumped on council land, it is council property.”

“It is only once we put pressure on the council to impose their bylaws that they started doing something about it.”

But the men still managed to remove bulky items – couches, chairs, tables, trinkets, fridges and stoves – and set up fairly viable shops.

Among the buyers were antique shopowners, second-hand storekeepers, home-owners and collectors.

“One woman painted her whole house from the bits of paint she bought here,” one buyer said yesterday. “She got most of her light fittings and several pieces of furniture.”

The man said he dealt in collectables and believed the dump had its place. “It’s just been badly managed. According to the law, anything which is taken out of here is stolen. But this does not apply to everybody.”

“There’s one bakkie which drives in every day and loads up steel and copper. But if these men come in they are chased away.”

“Why can’t they sell the stuff? How different is that to the street hawkers who crowd the pavements all over the place?”

National Party councillor for the area, Hendrik Schmidt, said it was “unfortunate” that the men would lose their livelihoods “but the place is an eyesore and has



Watch out ... a security guard at the Waterval landfill site in Albertville wields his stick in warning as unemployed men try to remove items from the back of a bakkie. The site is to shut down at the end of this month.

People who had builders’ rubbish would have to visit the landfill sites in Eloff Street Extension, Goudkoppies in Devland or the Linborough tip near Alexandra.

A statement from the technical services department of the Northern Metropolitan Substructure said the site was to close because the landfill was completed.

“The methane gas used to be set alight regularly. It’s just plain dangerous.”

200 residents face losing homes

(11/10) (56)

Sowetan 30/7/96

By Dan Fuphe

MORE than 200 residents of Wattville, near Benoni on the East Rand, will find themselves homeless if Hulett Metals demolishes their homes in keeping with Government safety regulations.

The more than 40 families built the informal houses on an empty lot adjacent to Hulett three years ago with the permission of the old Daveyton City Council.

But Hulett Metal insists that the residents are risking their health because the metals produced by the company emit powerful gases that pollute the air around the area.

The law requires that there be a buffer area between the factory and the surrounding residential areas.

The company's technical manager, Mr John Askeland, said since 1993 the company had made representations to the now defunct Wattville town council not to allow the building of informal housing in the area.

"Hulett Metals is the largest secondary aluminium operation in Africa and its products include aluminium casting ingots, powder, master alloys and deoxidants," Askeland said.

"As with many heavy industries there are risks associated with the production process. The adjacent site is therefore important as a buffer area."

The Wattville Civic Association argues that if the company complies with Government regulations many people will lose their homes.

Eskom vision of 'clean' cars

BD 31/7/96
Ronny Ishabalala

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ESKOM has started a multimillion-rand programme to promote electrically driven cars, and claimed an early success on a small locally manufactured bakkie which was fitted with a US-developed clean air motor.

Eskom said yesterday it had installed a 100kW motor and control system in a Nissan B 140 bakkie as a pilot project.

The bakkie used 28 batteries, weighing up to 20kg each. Acceleration was 0-100km/h in nine seconds and top speed was 140km/h, depending on the gear ratio.

The gear, preselected, could not be changed while driving. The bakkie cost R3 to "refill".

The programme could save SA millions of rands in foreign exchange — spent annually on imports of crude oil and fuel products, Eskom spokesman Carl Snyman said.

Eskom was interested in talks with local vehicle manufacturers to design electric vehicles.

The utility was also negotiating with potential overseas partners.

ENVIRONMENT

1996

AUGUST — DEC,

Kruger Park claim backed

Louise Cook

THE National Parks Board decision yesterday to support land claims from communities seeking land restitution could see widespread changes to the Kruger National Park in the next few years, including rest camps in remote areas.

The decision, fully supported by management at a board meeting in Pretoria yesterday, followed months of talks between the National Parks Board and a community who had been moved from land in the Kruger Park during the era of forced removals. They were now claiming 20 000ha of land in the Pafuri area, far north in the reserve between the Limpopo and Levuvhu Rivers.

Land restitution committee spokesman Thys Human confirmed the Makuleke community, the only people to stake a claim so far, had also lodged the claim with the restitution commission. However, the claim had not been gazetted and would not halt development by the National Parks

Board in the meantime.

If the claim succeeded, the community of about 2 000 families would reportedly put up and run a rest camp. Beeld said yesterday an undisclosed amount of support money from the German government was made available for the project.

National Parks Board chairman Robbie Robinson said the affected area was noted especially for diverse bird life with an abundance of big game, including elephant, as well. However, the place was not visited by many tourists owing to a lack of rest camps.

To preserve the environmental balance, any camps would have to be built on the periphery of land claimed. "We hope to be able to accommodate land claims without having to go the court route." No other claims have been lodged in the Park but Robinson said others could still be made.

Other game reserves — Richtersveld, Kalahari Gemsbok and Augrabies Park in the Northern Cape — have reportedly also been targeted for land claims.

BD 2/8/96

(56)

Parks Board set to fight Oudekraal CT 2/8/96 hotel ruling

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NATIONAL Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson arrives in the city today to raise R1 million to fight the controversial Oudekraal hotel development in the Appeal Court.

At a meeting in Pretoria yesterday the National Parks Board's board of trustees gave Robinson the go-ahead to launch an appeal — if he can raise R1m by next Friday to cover legal costs.

Robinson said: "It's going to be hard work. I've had some commitments from individuals, but obviously not for the whole amount. I'll be meeting people today to try to get as much financial support as we can."

The board aims to appeal against the Supreme Court decision last month that gave the green light to the luxury hotel development on the White House site at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

The board brought an action against the developers, Hottentots Huisie, the Llandudno/Hout Bay local authority and the Western Cape MEC for Planning.

They sought a review of the processes whereby rezoning of the property and the Oudekraal Hotel complex development plans were approved.

In their judgment, Mr Justice J J Fagan and Mr Justice Fritz Brand said their decision related to the correctness of the process, rather than the correctness of the decision to allow the development, which was the prerogative of the Llandudno/Hout Bay council.

The court found that the processes followed had been correct.

The board's move has been welcomed by the green lobby, which has slammed the development as "inappropriate and undesirable".

Mountain Club spokesman Mr Lester Coelen said yesterday: "We admire the board for having the guts to have a go at court action again. If it can be legally reversed, we would like to see it happen."

ECOTOURISM

56
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THE WAY TO GO
FM 2/8/96

The Natal Parks Board is flirting with the concept of entering into development partnerships with the private sector — hitherto unthinkable.

The first such project could be the development of ecotourism facilities at Lake St Lucia.

Now that the threat of dune mining has subsided, the board is almost obliged to get more involved. The campaign against mining maintained that tourism was a bigger and more sustainable resource in the long term. Now it has to prove it or lose it.

Board director George Hughes says the board is investigating mobilising private capital for the development of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. "There are several possible routes," he says "of which one could be the establishment of a development company to raise funds."

Huges says the board is also meeting representatives of Virgin Airways, which starts its service to SA in October. The airline has a policy of investing in the tourist destinations to which it flies.

As developer and manager of KwaZulu-Natal's parks — the board has always argued that it is best able to judge the right balance of conservation and development without being overwhelmed by the profit motive. "We'd become nothing more than traffic cops if we relinquished this control," he says.

With about 750 000 ha under its jurisdiction (just under 8,4% of the province) the board is one of the province's largest landowners.

Clearly, game camp operations pay much of the running costs. Visitors contributed most of the R60m which the board generated in 1995-1996. And pressure to make more to meet costs came after the provincial government last year pruned R6m from its budget.

Other pressures include 90% of the parklands being subject to land claims.

Hughes says successful claimants can, by law, be rewarded through monetary compensation, the provision of other land or restoration of the claimed land.

"The parks are potentially vulnerable because they are public property and there are always constituency and party pressures which could make government consider passing its compensation burden on to us. It could have a crippling impact if nature conservation is burdened with the payment in perpetuity of small sums to a large number of successful claimants," he says.

This possibility could diminish if the board develops a successful conservation industry generating benefits to all, especially those who live near the parks. ■

'Conditions safe at Radiation Hill'

A cleanup of nuclear waste at Thabana, or "Radiation Hill", near Pelindaba has started in earnest after the completion of preparatory work, the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) said yesterday.

Drums storing low and medium-level nuclear waste were damaged last year when workers at Thabana searched for a uranium-filled condenser.

The collection and temporary storage of the spilt waste was expected to be completed by the

end of October.

The AEC said Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) officials, who regularly inspected the site, were satisfied that licence conditions had been adhered to and working conditions were safe.

A licence change would be requested from the CNS to allow for a drilling programme additional to the cleaning operation.

Three empty contaminated condensers excavated last year were covered with plastic pending a decision. - Sapa

(56)

Star 3/8/96

Tougher controls for a sensitive region

(56) ARQ 3/8/96

■ Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick says his department is doing everything possible to promote sensible development in the light of concerns that developers are abusing the vulnerable coastal regions. **ADELE BALETIA** reports.



□ **GETTING TOUGH:** Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Tourism and Planning, Lampie Fick.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, Staff Photographer.

INAPPROPRIATE development on the ecologically vulnerable West and Southern Cape coastal regions is part of the past and developers have been warned it will be tougher to get approval for plans.

Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick who gave the warning, said he was concerned that with the extent of development in the Southern Cape coastal region "we are losing the very reason for why people want to go there".

Mr Fick agreed there was a "notion" that development was out of control but he added: "There is no need for everyone to jump on the bandwagon because there is the perception that the government is unable to deal with or control developments.

"There is only one issue in the final analysis, and that is that the Western Cape government will take the final decision on developments."

Referring to an article in SATURDAY Argus last month that listed inappropriate developments that were approved years ago he said:

"I can give you the absolute assurance that if the standards, the conditions and the guidelines in terms of which new applications are being considered where available then, those applications for development would never have been approved."

There was a strong onus on the community and government departments, including the National Parks Board and Cape Nature Conservation, to lodge appeals against applications passed by the local authority if they were unhappy with the decision.

Although Mr Fick has the final say on developments, unless appeals are sent to his office there is little he can do to override decisions.

However, soon there will be new cheques and balances at local authority level to protect the vulnerable Southern Cape coastline and the same sensitivity and degree of care would apply to the West Coast. A new user-friendly policy document entitled the *Southern Cape Sub-Regional Structure Plan* is being approved. The document will arm local authorities with the ability to evaluate applications at the initial stage of development.

The new policy is in addition to three guide plans for the region from Riversdale to Plettenberg Bay.

The guide plans have all been "refined" because of the ecological sensitivity of the region.

Mr Fick said the new plan was an "all inclusive document" which had resulted from three years of workshops and submissions from members of the public.

He is prepared to have the new document, which he will approve, subjected to an international audit if there is any unhappiness or allegations that it is not a properly documented piece of policy.

"If you look at what is on the table then people should be more restful that things are not out of control. Our best conscience is the public. They are the best security system. But the public must remain aware and be on the look out for applications."

Mr Fick said he and his department would use planning legislation to implement the policy.

The main objective of the policy document is to propose guidelines for the integrated development of all rural areas in the substructure plan area with specific recognition of the conservation of the areas environmental resources and the overall planning of tourism infrastructure.

He denied that appeals had not been given enough consideration.

"We get complaints that it takes too

long for appeals to be passed. We go through them rigorously. It's a long process. When it comes to my table and there are still doubts, the stakeholders are called in."

"We have a full-time directorate of planning which deals with these issues, and we are constantly under scrutiny from the public."

Because of concerns about the Southern Cape his department had set up quarterly meetings with the chief executive officers of all the municipalities of Cape Nature Conservation and the National Parks Board to discuss the new policy.

"So the contents of this policy document will be discussed on an ongoing basis by the heads of all the authorities in the region."

There was good co-operation between the departments, and conservation and national parks officials were asked to make recommendations on all applications. If this was not happening then something was wrong. This is also true for amendments to applications, he said.

"There is no doubt over our legislation on procedure. It's clear. It's on the table. Any amendments to a development plan must be re-submitted for approval and that cannot be deviated from. If on appeal to us, we do it."

"I cannot issue you a guarantee that we won't get an insensitive development. This is as far as I could possibly go. The only other thing is to say no development at all."

There was also a coastal development plan for the province approved in 1991.

Asked how eco-tourist developments could be encouraged, he said: "I cannot direct an investor. We are a free market economy so I cannot determine what kind of development there should be. We have cheques and balance in place."

"I am in a position to implement the policy document in terms of our legislation - the Land Use Planning Ordinance which has been in place since 1985 - which will by the end of the year be our provincial law on Planning and Development."

He said there were 11 pieces of legislation covering development and this would be consolidated into a single piece of legislation by the end of the year. There would be changes and improvements to existing legislation including increased penalties for contraventions.

There was also a structure plan and similar policy for the West Coast although the area did not have a working policy document.

A biosphere region was being planned for the West Coast that incorporated the total guide plan for an area that stretches from the Koeberg Power Station to Saldanha Bay.

Mr Fick commented on reports that he had overturned a local authority and Nature Conservation decision to prevent a development at Keurboomstrand, thus setting a precedent for the development of houses on a dune.

He said: "There is no law that says you cannot develop on a dune as long as its not a frontal dune. There was an approved development on the dune. The owner transgressed the height restriction for the building and the development was stopped and then there was an appeal."

"I went to see it and I was unhappy. The owner co-operated and stopped building. He had put a room on top of his garage. It was a *de facto* situation and I approved that transgression of the building plan. I asked the local authority to make sure people did not transgress building plans and that they ensure that houses were built slightly lower so that the horizon was not disturbed", said Mr Fick.

QUOTE

I cannot issue you a guarantee that we won't get an insensitive development. This is as far as I could possibly go. The only other thing is to say no development at all.

Conservation body at the crossroads

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE next five months will be critical for Cape Nature Conservation as it sets out to overcome daunting cash and staffing problems while securing its position as the custodians of the world's most threatened plant kingdom.

Prospective consultants have been given till Wednesday to explain how they believe the organisation must be transformed into a statutory board and what it will cost, CNC support services director Niel van Wyk confirmed this week.

A fundamental issue was whether the new board would take on broader environmental responsibilities or just be limited to nature conservation and ecotourism, he said.

CNC's attempted transformation comes amid one of the most trying periods in its 44-year history as at least 132 conservation staffers have opted for severance packages.

It also coincides with remorseless budget cuts and a shock report by the National Botanical Institute which warned that the Western Cape's internationally-rated fynbos kingdom topped the list of threatened plant species in Southern Africa.

"This project is urgent. It was approved by the provincial cabinet last December and we want the investigation done by the end of the year," Van Wyk said.

He said R200 000 had been set aside for the phased project which would be carried out by a team of consultants and included wide consultation.

"Greater independence will allow us to unlock the financial benefits of tourism, and to plough these proceeds back into nature conservation instead of income being absorbed by the provincial fiscus," he said.

Senior officials say budget cuts and a host of new constitutionally-prescribed environmental responsibilities are placing unbearable pressure on CNC's already strained staff who directly manage more

than 1,25-million hectares of reserves, wilderness areas and mountain catchments.

The move towards a statutory board has been welcomed by some of the region's most prominent biological scientists and fynbos experts, with UCT's Prof Richard Cowling saying it was "tragic" that this process had not taken place already.

"CNC has outstandingly competent people in the field of fynbos management. It's bleeding quite badly, but it's absolutely essential that we support those who stay behind," he said.

Dr Douglas Hey, who was founder and head of the department for 28 years, said it was most distressing to witness the departure of experienced staff.

"If there are not experienced people to replace them, I'm rather pessimistic. Conservation has always been a Cinderella department and any system which offers better funding possibilities is to be welcomed," he said.

Both Hey and Cowling said CNC and the National Parks Board, which is taking on a growing presence in the Western Cape, should co-operate and complement each other.

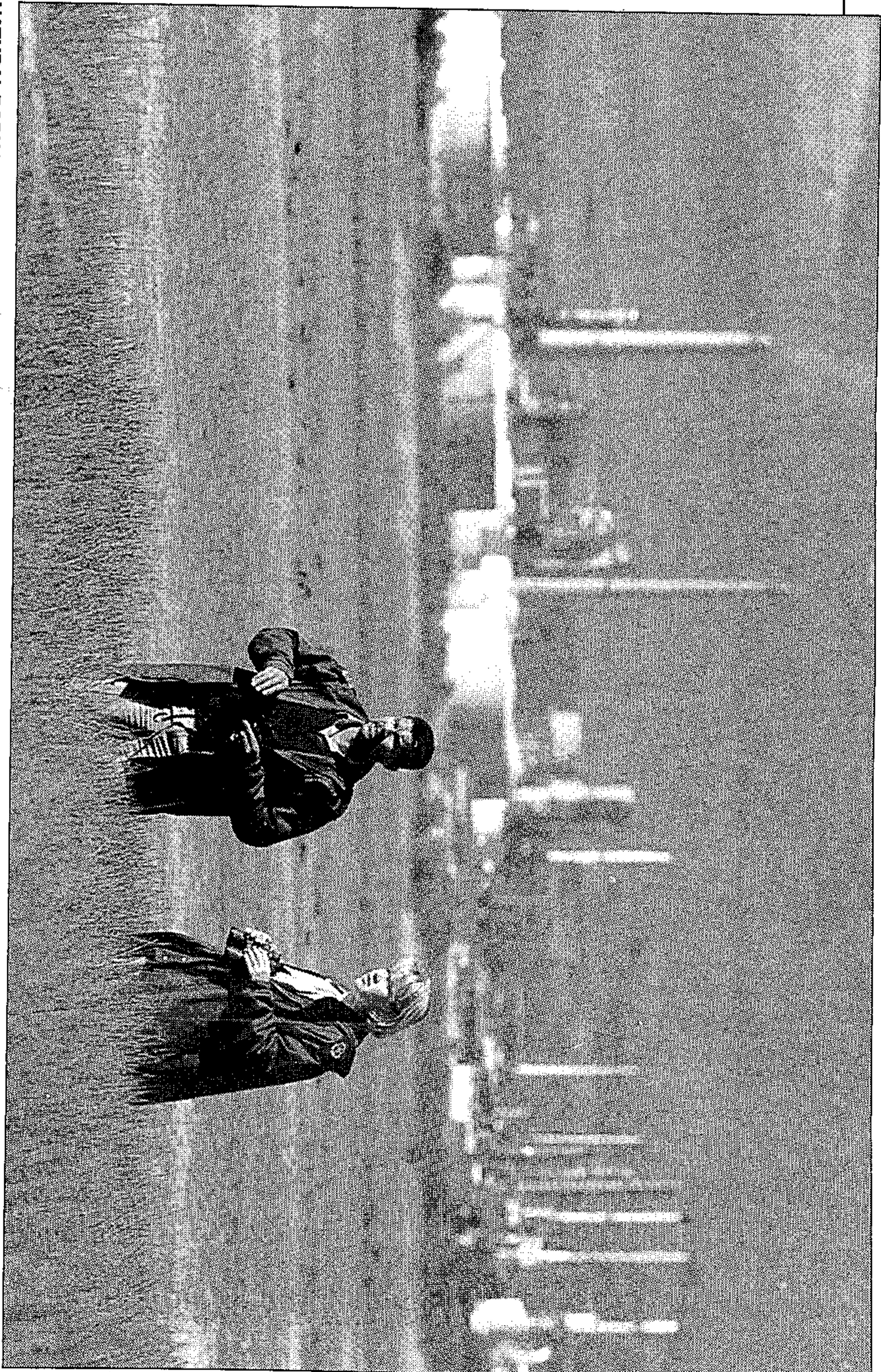
Cautioning against undue pessimism, acclaimed UCT ecologist Prof Roy Siegfried said it would be premature to describe the situation as a crisis until CNC had carefully assessed its functions and capacity to carry them out.

Senior conservation botanist Jan Vlok said fynbos was a unique natural asset and economic resource which was being threatened by an exodus of experienced and "replaceable" reserve managers.

"The public should be very worried. Well-managed mountain catchments are essential for a clean and steady supply of water.

"You can't replace fynbos, and what else do we have to sell to tourists, except our fynbos heritage?"

"People aren't going to fly 10 000 km to the Western Cape to view mountains covered in alien plants."



NATURAL BORN RANGERS . . . As Cape Nature Conservation stands at the crossroads, staffers Cyril Payle and Louise Alonso keep an eagle eye on Rietvlei's priceless treasures

Picture: Terry Shean

(56) ST (COM) 4/18/96
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

CAPETONIANS have been challenged to help raise R1-million by Friday so the National Parks Board can appeal against a Supreme Court go-ahead for Oudekraal's White House hotel.

In a dramatic plea to the public, park board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said his board of trustees had authorised an appeal as long as the NPB could raise R1-million by Friday.

"There has been a lot of interest and support from the general public for our stand on development in conservation-worthy areas around Table Mountain.

"I'm now testing public sincerity on the issue," Robinson told Cape Metro. A coalition of hippies and mystics

R1m needed in battle against White House

who tried to stop the development with a short-lived sit-in earlier this year say they will hold a "diggeridoo marathon" at the bulldozed building site today to raise money and awareness.

They have also considered blitzing Cape Town's streets to get one million people to each pay R1 towards the parks board court case.

If the fund-raising bid succeeds, the National Parks Board could be back in court by next week to apply for leave to appeal against a ruling in late June

which gave developer Steve Jones permission to build a 70-bedroom upmarket hotel between Bakoven and Llandudno.

Contributions can be sent to "Save the Mountain", Worldwide Fund for Nature (SA), Box 456, Stellenbosch, 7599 (Fund-raising number 08-800262-008-8).

Meanwhile, time is running out for the National Parks Board's bid to take control of the 290 km² Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

It is due to meet the Western Cape cabinet on August 28 to prove that it has

made "significant progress" towards national park status for the area.

In terms of a cabinet decision, failure to do so will clear the way for a renewed provincial bid to manage the Peninsula mountain chain.

While relations between the parks board and CNC chief Dr Johan Neethling hit an all-time low with the NPB's foiled court bid against the White House development, CNC conservation director Kobus Jooste said he did not doubt the feasibility of a contractual park in

the Peninsula. The parks board and the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee are also still waiting for the disbanded CPPNE management advisory committee's functions to be transferred to the National Parks Board.

Dr Collin Cameron, director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, said the Oudekraal court case "and other ripples have affected the entire milieu in which this drama is unfolding."

He added: "The national park is still on track." A Department of Environment Affairs spokesman confirmed that the Table Mountain park process had entered "an extremely delicate stage."

Friday is D-day for mountain fund drive

(56)
MELANIE GOSLING

ET 5/8/96
HELP save the mountain!

This was the message from campaigners who gathered at Oudekraal yesterday to spread the word that the National Parks Board has to raise R1 million by Friday for an Appeal Court action to halt the White House hotel development at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

Carrying a "Save the Mountain" banner, the group appealed to Capetonians to contribute to the cause.

Save the Mountain Campaigner Ms Melissa Holloway said: "If a million people in Cape Town each gave the fund one rand, we could do it."

Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson has received permission from his board of trustees to launch an appeal against the Supreme Court ruling last month which gave the Oudekraal hotel development the green light — provided he first comes up with the cash to foot the legal bill.

At a news conference, Robinson said the public's fears were real that the strip of coastline between Bakoven and the White House — which is privately owned — may become another Monte Carlo jammed with buildings.

Those who wish to pledge money or campaign support should phone (021) 762-9620 or 22-2816 or write to Save the Mountain, WWF-SA, Box 456, Stellenbosch 7599.

Animal welfare groups concerned about ivory

(56) BD 6/8/96
Own Correspondent

LONDON — A massive stockpile of elephant tusks is slowly growing in a vault in SA and storing up problems for those concerned for the future of the world's largest land mammal.

The thousands of tusks come from elephants in the Kruger National Park, mainly the result of an official culling policy. Animal welfare groups opposed to culling now have new cause for alarm after hints that SA might one day put the ivory on the market.

SA escaped the rampant poaching that depleted elephant populations across the continent before the ivory trade was banned in 1989. It has culled elephants where their numbers have been deemed to be dangerously high, but this has been attacked by animal welfare groups. They want the authorities to move the animals to other areas rather than kill them — a policy now, tentatively, being tried.

Meanwhile, the country's stockpile of tusks has been mounting, with those from elephants that die naturally adding to those culled or others killed by poachers. It is now thought to contain between 15 and 20 tons of ivory worth between \$5bn and \$10bn.

Kruger Park research and development director Anthony Hall-Martin has admitted that the ivory could be kept "until such time as perhaps one day it can be sold". The idea alarms animal welfare groups fiercely opposed to any resumption of the ivory trade. They would like SA to destroy the stockpile, as Kenya did in 1989, when it burned about 12 tons of tusks. — © Telegraph plc.

Tired tyres 'can be used to enhance environment'

ARL 7/8/96 (56)

Metro Reporter

SMOKE from the illegal burning of old tyres is sometimes so thick that pilots landing at Cape Town International Airport have to use instruments to ensure a safe landing.

This was reported to the annual symposium of the National Association for Clean Air by Hans Linde, assistant-director of environmental health with the Cape Town municipality.

The symposium focused on air pollution in the Western Cape.

Indicative of the levels of poverty in the Cape Town area, tyres are burned to retrieve the scrap metal valued at about 50c.

The tyre glut in the Western Cape is part of a world-wide phenomenon, with billions of used tyres piling up in industrialised countries.

Mr Linde said smoke from the mounds of burning tyres sometimes entered the air-conditioning system of the control tower at the airport, causing the staff on duty discomfort.

Firefighters working for the Cape Metropolitan Council, sometimes called out by the police helicopter, also had difficulty extinguishing tyre fires because of the intense heat they generated.

He said the indiscriminate burning of tyres was of great concern to the authorities, but they were having difficulty enforcing the existing legislation.

Although the city had a by-law which specifically cites the burning of tyres as an offence, he said it was difficult to enforce the by-law because the person who set the fire had to be positively identified.

This was virtually impossible, espe-

cially considering that some families subsisted on the money earned from the scrap metal.

In court, offenders might also argue that they were not burning waste material, but recovering a scrap material - an activity which falls under the jurisdiction of the Chief Air Pollution Control Officer.

Mr Linde said the council had tried virtually every channel available to it to address the problem, including writing a letter to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

He said an incentive was needed to break the cycle and suggested that if disused tyres could be bought for more than the sum paid for the recovered scrap metal, the problem might be solved.

Another possible solution would be to lobby for government legislation which would ensure that the tyre manufacturing industry would take responsibility for their products "from the cradle to the grave".

The symposium also heard that potential uses for old tyres could include the creation of artificial marine reefs, as is happening off the coasts of the United States, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. Tyres do not negatively affect marine life and can create a habitat for ocean flora and fauna.

Tyres are also sometimes used to control soil erosion and as crash barriers on freeways.

Hannes Meyer of PPC Cement said world tyre production was estimated at 15 million tons a year.

He suggested that tyres could be disposed of through burning in cement kilns. This would leave no residue and would use, as fuel, all the energy released by the burning tyre.

AECI reports 14% drop in net earnings to R134m

Reinie Booysen

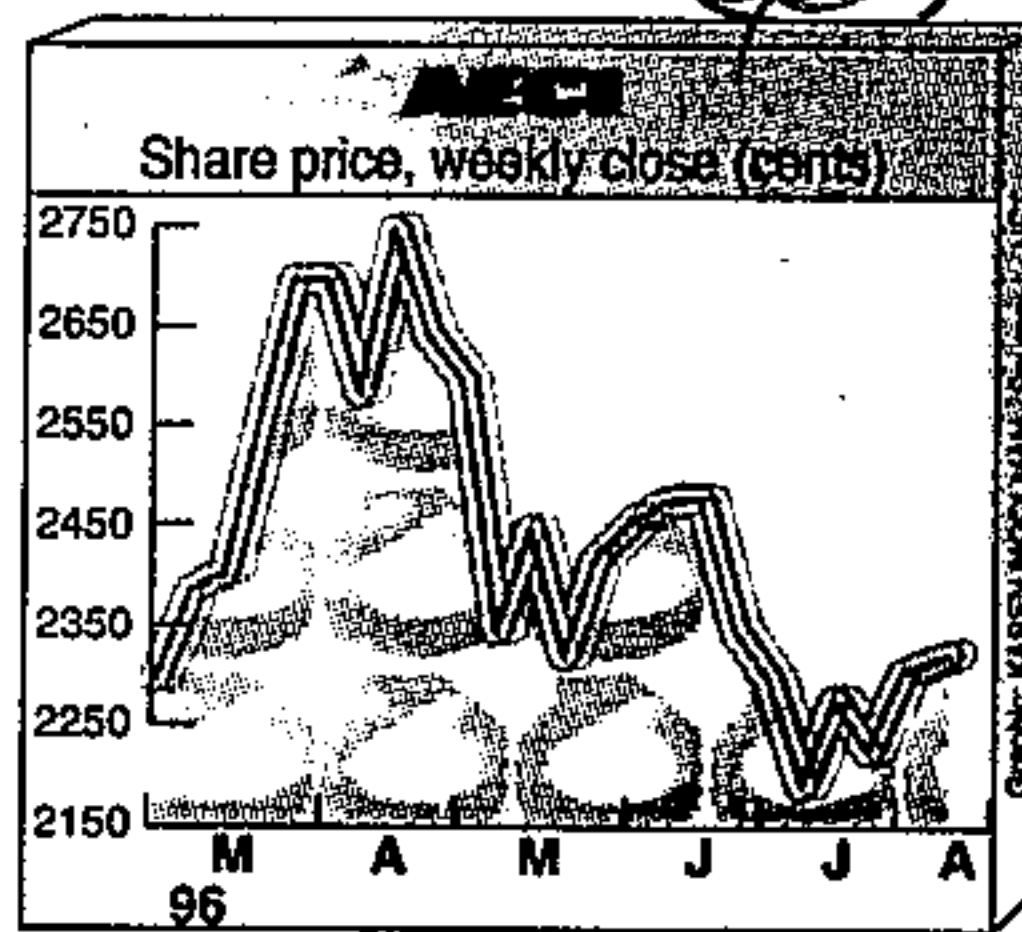
AECI posted a 14% drop in net earnings to R134m in the half year to June, after sharply lower first-quarter demand in most sectors subdued trading income, with increased interest charges taking a further toll.

The explosives-to-chemicals company controlled by Anglo American said trading conditions had improved considerably in the second quarter, and this continued through July. Full-year earnings were expected to show further improvements after the previous year's resurgent earnings growth. AECI said second-half earnings should be higher than last year's, "barring serious disruptions to the economy".

Earnings were 79c a share (94c), and the dividend of 25c was unchanged. The share price closed unchanged yesterday at R23,20.

With net interest-bearing debt rising R312m to R1 714m, MD Mike Smith said efforts to dispose of AECI's effective 25% stake in AECI's own shares, via an international placing, were continuing.

Since the share peaked at R28,45 in April, the value of this



stake had dropped R203m, to about R899m yesterday. Some analysts doubt whether the second half could bring about a large enough improvement in the share price to recover this notional loss.

AECI said the key factors behind the interim results were inventory reductions in customer industries, higher levels of illegal imports in some areas and protracted late summer rainfall which hit the beverage and construction sectors in particular.

The second-quarter improvement boosted margins as local demand revived and international prices for certain key raw materials dropped. But continued

7/8/96 BD

weakness in the building and construction industry constrained performance in businesses such as acrylic products, industrial urethanes and paints.

"With Kynoch recording strong growth, group trading profit rebounded in the quarter and substantially exceeded that achieved in 1995," the company said.

The second-quarter improvement was insufficient to prevent total group trading income shedding R6m to R254m. As financing costs rose R51m to R133m, and tax dropped by R36m to R27m, group earnings, before accounting for investments and associates, shed 18% to R94m.

Net trading profit from AECI's agricultural businesses rose sharply from R5m to R51m, with improvements also recorded by the explosives, speciality chemicals and property sectors. Setbacks affected the "fibres" sector, including Nylon Spinners, which shed R42m to R24m; "other businesses", including Dulux, which shed R20m to R2m; and monomers, polymers and related products, largely representing AECI's 40% share in Polifin, which shed R33m to R145m.

Engen could face environmental damages claim

Samantha Sharpe (51)

CAPE TOWN — Oil company Engen could face an expensive damages claim following allegations in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday that the company had failed to complete a thorough environmental clean-up at a former petrol storage site in Knysna.

Legal sources said that the case could have far-reaching implications for the closure of other petrol storage sites and for the owners of land which were formerly used as garages.

Property developers Berns Knysna Holdings claimed that Engen had been negligent in its responsibility to rehabilitate land

previously used to house petrol storage tanks.

Also at issue was the removal of soil contaminated by petroleum products at the site — adjacent to a water concourse leading into the Knysna lagoon — Berns Knysna said.

The matter continues in the Cape Town Supreme Court today.

SMOKE FORCES INSTRUMENT LANDINGS

Burning tyres hinder air traffic

CT 7/8/96

(56)



AIR POLLUTION from burning tyres is becoming a major problem and health hazard in the Western Cape. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

BURNING tyres on the Cape Flats produce such dense smoke that aircraft pilots have to use their instruments to land at Cape Town airport.

The smoke is also drawn into the air traffic control tower at the airport, causing indoor pollution.

Mr Hans Linde, assistant director of environmental health at Cape Town municipality, said this yesterday at a symposium on air pollution in the Western Cape.

Linde said tyres were burnt all over the Cape Flats to extract the metal in them.

"Some families make a living by burning tyres to recover the scrap

metal — although they get only about 50 cents worth of metal from each tyre.

"The fire department is called out regularly to extinguish these fires," Linde said.

The police helicopter was sometimes called in to pinpoint the site of burning tyres, but it was often difficult to identify culprits.

"One can see the clouds of black smoke over the Cape Flats from any vantage point in the Peninsula. The smoke causes health problems," he said.

Linde said some families or communities also burnt tyres for warmth in winter.

"We even had a complaint from a farmer in Montagu about a neighbour who burns tyres to keep the frost off his tomato plants. This had been reported to the chief air pollution control officer," Linde said.

Although smoke control regulations prohibited the burning of waste products, including tyres, the legislation was difficult to enforce. Much of the burning took place at night in areas that were inaccessible and unsafe. When officials arrived on the scene, they could not find the offenders.

Linde said they had "explored every possible avenue" in trying to implement the legislation.

"We propose that tyre manufacturers or importers should accept responsibility for their product. An incentive is needed for the tyres to be returned to a central collection point for safe disposal or to be recycled. If people were paid

more for an old tyre than the 50c they can get from the scrap metal in it, the problem would be self-regulating," Linde said.

Mr Hannes Meyer of PPC Cement said at the symposium that experiments showed that tyres could be burnt in the kilns during cement-making.

Because of the extremely high temperatures in the kiln, all the materials in the tyres were burnt and no black smoke was produced. This was one way of using old tyres.

Mr Mike Greenhalge of the Cape Town municipality cleansing department said only about 10% of all old tyres in the metropolitan area reached their landfill sites.

"Where are the other 90%? Many are illegally dumped all over the province. The cost of collecting them increases the disposal cost of tyres six to 10 times.

"It is the ratepayers who foot the bill," he said.

Trust pledges R100 000 to opposing hotel plans

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — A trust representing groups including scratch card operators Ithuba and Viva has pledged R100 000 to help scupper plans for a hotel development at the foot of Cape Town's Twelve Apostles.

National Parks Board trustees have agreed to appeal against last month's Supreme Court ruling which gave the R45m White House development the go-ahead — providing the public comes up with R.1m to foot the legal bill.

The National Ubuntu Welfare and Development Trust said yesterday that its members — Ithuba, Viva, Kagiso, the World Wildlife Fund and the SA National Sports Council — had decided to

back the appeal due to the importance of SA's natural heritage.

"We appeal now to members of the public, corporates and government to do what they can," trust spokesman Jacques Verster said.

National Parks Board spokesman David Daitz said it was still too early to determine how much the public had committed to appeal costs.

The board was, though, in talks which could raise a guarantee for the R.1m by the end of the week.

Hotel developer Stephen Jones said the National Parks Board had overstepped the mark with its fund-raising campaign.

"This action, against a private land owner who has undertaken a legal and authorised action, is beyond comprehension," he said.

SD 8/8/96 (76) (28)

Save mountain appeal fund gets pledge for R1-m

ANDREW SMITH
Staff Reporter

56) (458)
AR 8/8/96

THE National Parks Board's campaign to raise R1 million by tomorrow to finance an appeal court challenge to the Oudekraal hotel development has been saved by eco-tourism promoters Conservation Corporation Africa, which has agreed to underwrite the campaign.

David Daitz, project co-ordinator of the Table Mountain Project, said the public response to the campaign "was disappointing". Less than a quarter of the amount needed had been raised.

Mr Daitz said the Parks Board was looking into a prolonged and more organised campaign to raise the funds.

Mr Daitz said the guarantor, Conservation Corporation Africa, would be liable only if the extended campaign to raise R1 million was unsuccessful.

Chief executive of Conservation Corporation Africa Dave Varty said in support of the campaign that the National Parks Board "has a duty to prevent a precedent from being set for a ring of developments around the slopes of Table Mountain".

He appealed to business and industry to follow his company's pledge.

South Africa's booming eco-tourism industry would continue to thrive only if it was underscored by ecologically sustained practices.

Contributions could be sent to: Save the Mountain, WWF-SA, Box 456, Stellenbosch, 7599.

R1-m pledge to save Table Mountain

Star 8/8/96 (56)
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town – The National Parks Board has received its war chest of R1-million to bring Appeal Court action to stop the Oudekraal hotel development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

Conservation Corporation Africa announced yesterday it had agreed to underwrite the R1-million in the interests of promoting "sensitive ecotourism development" in South Africa.

Dave Varty, chief executive of the company, which runs 20 game lodges including Londolozi, called on business leaders to support its R1-million endeavour.

Varty said the Oudekraal development would not only impair one of Africa's most important natural habitats, but could set a development precedent that would detract from South Africa as a world tourism destination.

"As an ecotourism developer, we oppose insensitive development of our natural resource base and we are prepared to put our money where our mouth is.

"We support the National Parks Board in opposing the degradation of Table Mountain.

"As custodian of the mountain, which is a proposed World Heritage Site, the parks board has a duty to prevent a precedent being set for a ring of development around the slopes of the mountain," Varty said. He called on business leaders to support their endeavour.

Parks board chief Dr Robbie Robinson had been given permission by his board of trustees to launch an appeal against the Supreme Court action which gave the controversial development the go-ahead provided he raised the R1-million in a week to pay for legal costs.

Parks Board raise R1m for court case

(56) CT 8/8/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE National Parks Board have obtained their war chest of R1 million to fight an Appeal Court action, which they hope will stop the Oudekraal hotel development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

Conservation Corporation Africa announced yesterday that they had agreed to underwrite the R1m, in the interests of promoting "sensitive eco-tourism development"

in South Africa.

Mr Dave Varty, chief executive of the company — which runs 20 game lodges, including Londolozi — called on business leaders to support their R1m endeavour.

Varty said the Oudekraal development would not only impair one of Africa's most important natural habitats, but could set a development precedent that would detract from South Africa as a world tourism destination.

"We support the National Parks Board in

opposing the degradation of Table Mountain.

"As custodian of the mountain, which is a proposed World Heritage Site, the Parks Board has a duty to prevent a precedent being set for a ring of development around the slopes of the mountain," said Varty.

Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson had been given permission by his board of trustees to launch an appeal against the Supreme Court action, which gave the controversial development the go-ahead — provided he raised the R1m to pay for legal costs.

Pallo Jordan

saves Cape Star 9/8/96 butterfly (56)

Durban - Newly-appointed Environment Minister Pallo Jordan has acted to save a rare species of butterfly in the Cape - but has not made a peep about the politically controversial subject of illegal Wild Coast cottages.

Jordan said yesterday he had intervened to prevent property developers from destroying the last-known population of the endangered Brenton Blue butterfly. He had asked the Western Cape finance and environment minister to suspend property development in Brenton-on-Sea. His action follows earlier calls to his predecessor, Dr Dawie de Villiers, by the Wildlife Society and the Lepidopterists Society of SA.

However no comment about the environmental damage being caused to several parts of the Wild Coast has been issued by the Minister.

This follows a supreme court judgment last month criticising de Villiers for failing to curb the development of illegal cottages and shacks.

Jordan is expected to sign a joint statement by his ministry, the Wildlife Society and officials in the Eastern Cape soon. - Own Correspondent.

X

Reprieve for blue Cape butterfly

(56)

CT 9/8/96

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE rare Brenton Blue butterfly, threatened with extinction by a development at Knysna, has been granted a reprieve.

In response to calls from the green lobby to save the last known population of this butterfly, Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has suspended the controversial development on the Brenton hills beside the Knysna lagoon.

In a statement yesterday, Jordan said he had asked Western Cape Minister of Finance and Environment Mr Kobus Meiring to "take the necessary steps to suspend property development at Brenton-on-Sea", pending the outcome of an investigation into the possible existence of another population of the butterfly in the southern Cape.

The statement said: "This small area is inhabited by the Brenton Blue butterfly, currently threatened with extinction. This butterfly, which holds the same status as the white rhino, was listed in the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Red Data Book of endangered species."

R1m guarantee for Parks Board

Pearl Sebolao

56
501218196
CONSERVATION Corporation Africa announced at the weekend that it would underwrite the R1m needed to help save Table Mountain from development on its slopes.

The money that is raised will go towards the National Parks Board's Supreme Court appeal against the proposed development of the 70-room Oudekraal Hotel between Bakoven and Llandudno. The board's first application to stop the development was "thrown out on a technicality", a spokesman for the group said.

The company's CE Dave Varty said the group was opposed to insensitive development and that the hotel would not only impair one of Africa's most important natural habitats, but could set a development precedent that would detract from SA's attraction as a tourism destination.

"As custodian of the mountain, which is a proposed World Heritage Site, the National Parks Board has a duty to prevent a precedent being set for a ring of development around the slopes of the mountain," Varty said.

He said that the country's booming ecotourism industry would continue to thrive only if underscored by ecologically sustainable practices.

Varty called on all business leaders to support the endeavour to raise R1m.

The World Wide Fund for Nature would be co-ordinating the fundraising drive for the Save Table Mountain Campaign.

Bankruptcies/liquidations

605. Dr F J VAN HEERDEN asked the Minister of Justice:

- (a) How many persons were declared bankrupt in each division of the Supreme Court in (i) 1992, (ii) 1993, (iii) 1994 and (iv) 1995 and (b) how many companies were placed under compulsory liquidation in the area of each Master of the Supreme Court in (i) 1992, (ii) 1993, (iii) 1994 and (iv) 1995?

N1057E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(a)

Masters of the Supreme Court	(i) 1992	(ii) 1993	(iii) 1994	(iv) 1995
Pretoria	1 872	1 894	1 544	1 977
Bloemfontein	506	343	248	193
Pietermaritzburg	351	358	274	163
Kimberley	84	67	31	43
Grahamstown	240	253	184	120
Cape Town	580	603	418	348
Bisho	0	1	3	4
Mmabatho	2	9	7	6
Umtata	5	5	6	3
Thohoyandou	0	0	1	0

(b)

Masters of the Supreme Court	(i) 1992	(ii) 1993	(iii) 1994	(iv) 1995
Pretoria	750	601	768	616
Bloemfontein	161	30	82	53
Pietermaritzburg	141	133	125	71
Kimberley	18	9	3	22
Grahamstown	26	49	60	14
Cape Town	199	219	386	152
Bisho	12	12	15	10
Mmabatho	23	38	27	20
Umtata	12	13	7	3
Thohoyandou	4	0	1	0

KwaZulu-Natal: deaths as a result of political violence

608. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

How many persons have been killed in KwaZulu-Natal as a result of political violence in each month since 1 January 1992?

N1060E

HANSARD

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

[1 January 1992 till 24 June 1996]

Month	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
January	48	65	155	85	49
February	72	56	128	82	34
March	140	103	92	57	28
April	59	49	89	66	45
May	55	91	111	59	26
June	56	96	99	47	*6
July	92	77	87	51	
August	158	102	67	69	
September	116	85	58	30	
October	80	70	56	70	
November	68	139	44	32	
December	65	121	92	75	

Note: *Statistics until 24 June 1996.

Cape Peninsula: level of pollution in sea

609. Mr C A WYNGAARD asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any tests have been done in the past two years to ascertain the level of pollution in the sea around the Cape Peninsula; if not, why not; if so, (a) how often, (b) where were these tests conducted and (c) what were the findings emanating from these tests;

- (2) whether any pollution was found to be present; if so,

- (3) whether such pollution at any stage constituted a hazard to human and marine life; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1061E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) There are a variety of different sources and types of pollutants entering the sea around the Cape Peninsula (municipal and industrial discharges, shipping, stormwater drains, etc.) Pollutants of particular concern are monitored on a regular basis. In addition, environmental surveys are undertaken periodically to assess the ecological effects of particular discharges.

- (a) and (b) For example: The levels of bacteria in the inshore waters are measured on a two-weekly basis at some 65 points around the Peninsula

covering both the False Bay and Atlantic seaboard.

The levels of heavy metals in mussels from around 40 stations around the Peninsula are measured on a six-monthly basis.

- (c) In general, the levels of pollution are relatively low, but there are some areas which are of more concern than others. Sites closer to municipal (sewage) discharges and stormwater drains tend to have higher bacterial counts, while those in the vicinity of industrial areas have higher levels of metals.

- (2) It is inevitable that there is some pollution of the sea adjacent to major city such as Cape Town, however, as outlined above, it is monitored as closely as possible so as to keep it at acceptable levels by taking remedial action when necessary, and when possible.

So, for example, a rise in bacterial levels at several of the stations in False Bay recently was linked to the malfunctioning of one of the sewage treatment works, and the relevant authority was requested to rectify the situation.

Stormwater is a more difficult problem to address as it is contaminated by uncontrolled discharges and is particularly bad when it drains from informal settlements.

- (3) There are some occasions—such as that of a malfunctioning treatment works mentioned above—when levels of bacteria have risen to levels above recommended guidelines. However, these are generally temporary and/or very localised (generally limited to within a 50 metre radius of the source). There has, however, never been any recorded outbreak of disease which could be attributed to marine pollution around the Peninsula.

Levels of metals from mussels around the Peninsula are well within recommended guidelines.

Provinces: bank robberies

610. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (a) How many bank robberies took place in each province in 1994 and 1995, respectively, (b) what was the total value of the money and valuables stolen in such robberies and (c) how many (i) bank employees, (ii) innocent bystanders, (iii) security guards and (iv) police officers were (aa) injured and (bb) killed as a result of such robberies?

N1062E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a)

Provinces	1994	1995
Eastern Cape	2	24
Free State	3	5
Gauteng	71	55
Mpumalanga	0	2
KwaZulu-Natal	17	44
Northern Cape	0	1
Northern Province	0	0
North West	0	4
Western Cape	4	2
Total	97	137

Note: The crime code list previously in use, did not provide for a specific category of robbery related to bank robberies, but only for robbery with aggravating circumstances in general. According to the Daily Crime Review, which contains cases of a more prominent nature, 97 bank robberies had been reported during 1994, and 137 cases had been reported during 1995. However, this figure is almost certainly incomplete.

- (b) For the reasons mentioned above, as well as the fact that amounts are not in all cases reported, the correct figure cannot be provided. The institutions concerned are furthermore reluctant to divulge such information, for fear, of stimulating this type of crime and harming their professional image.

- (c) (i), (ii) and (iii) Research has indicated that violence is more prevalent during robberies of cash in transit and that such robberies are accompanied by a higher mortality rate than bank robberies. As a result of the factors mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b), no figures portraying a true reflection of the mortality rate are available.

Training plan for advocates set up

Susan Russell

THE General Council of the Bar, which represents the SA advocates' profession, has launched an initiative to develop a practical training programme aimed at improving the advocacy skills of prospective members of the bar.

Since 1973, an applicant admitted to the Bar as an advocate of the Supreme Court must serve a four-month pupillage during which they work in the chambers of a member of the Bar, picking up practical skills, and then take the national Bar examination.

An editorial in the latest issue of the SA Bar journal *Consultus* said the proposed training programme would follow similar trends in foreign jurisdictions over the past 20 years.

Britain is one of the foreign jurisdictions with an advocacy training programme, and the English Bar had already co-operated with its SA counterpart in getting the local initiative under way, the article said.

The *Consultus* editorial said the traditional view that the ability to be an advocate could not be taught was no longer acceptable.

While hidden qualities and talent determined the difference between mere competence and being truly great, there was no doubt that the basic skills of advocacy, like any other skills, could be taught.

"It has long been accepted by other professions that skills training is beneficial for new entrants and also for the public," *Consultus* said.

"It therefore follows that advo-

cacy training will enhance the standards of advocacy."

The Bar Council had already established a national advocacy training committee under the leadership of advocate Johan Ploos van Amstel SC, which in turn was planning workshops and an extension of its teacher training base, *Consultus* said.

General Bar Council chairman Malcolm Wallis SC told *Consultus* that under the training programme every prospective advocate who entered pupillage in SA would be required to undergo basic advocacy training using the methods developed internationally over the past 20 years.

Regulated

In addition to the existing components of teaching they received from their "master" at the Bar during pupillage, pupils would be given the opportunity to learn and exercise the skill of advocacy in a regulated training environment.

Wallis said he did not foresee that this addition to a pupil's training would displace the other important components of the existing pupillage training process of the national Bar examination.

He said that continuing legal education would enable the profession to serve the public efficiently and successfully in the overall interests of justice.

"If the advocacy profession is to survive, those are the goals which it must set itself and the General Bar Council must commit itself to advocacy training in order to enable its members to achieve those goals," Wallis said.

R1m guarantee for Parks Board

Pearl Sebolao

CONSERVATION Corporation Africa announced at the weekend that it would underwrite the R1m needed to help save Table Mountain from development on its slopes.

The money that is raised will go towards the National Parks Board's Supreme Court appeal against the proposed development of the 70-room Oudekraal Hotel between Bakoven and Llandudno. The board's first application to stop the development was "thrown out on a technicality", a spokesman for the group said.

The company's CE Dave Varty said the group was opposed to insensitive development and that the hotel would not only impair one of Africa's most important natural habitats, but could set a development precedent that would detract from SA's attraction as a tourism destination.

"As custodian of the mountain, which is a proposed World Heritage Site, the National Parks Board has a duty to prevent a precedent being set for a ring of development around the slopes of the mountain," Varty said.

He said that the country's booming ecotourism industry would continue to thrive only if underscored by ecologically sustainable practices.

Varty called on all business leaders to support the endeavour to raise R1m.

The World Wide Fund for Nature would be co-ordinating the fundraising drive for the Save Table Mountain Campaign.

Tough steps against sea pollution tabled

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Tough new measures providing for the control of marine pollution — including fines of up to R500 000 for an offence — were tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships Amendment Bill is intended to bring SA into line with international practice in terms of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

All SA vessels, regardless of where they are operating in the world, and all vessels in SA territorial waters are af-

BD 13/8/96 (56)
fected by the measures.

Prescribed minimum amounts of oil and harmful substances may be discharged into the sea provided they do not come from the bilges or engine of the ship, and do not exceed a concentration of 15 parts in a million.

In the sensitive marine environment of the Antarctic, no discharge of any substance is allowed.

The legislation will effectively allow for the impounding of ships where "there are clear grounds for believing that the master or the crew are not familiar with essential shipboard procedures relating to the prevention of pollution by oil".

Appeal against White House ruling on hold

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE National Parks Board has put on hold its appeal against a court ruling on the White House hotel development at Oudekraal while it seeks solutions with the MEC for Environmental Affairs, Mr Kobus Meiring, and MEC for Planning, Mr Lampie Fick.

Parks Board chief Dr Robbie

CF 14/8/96 (56)
Robinson said yesterday more than R1 million had been raised from the public to pay for the appeal.

However, the board would delay the appeal until August 22 to allow Robinson and the MECs to explore "acceptable alternatives".

The Peninsula Mountain Forum has called an urgent public meeting for today to discuss the problems the National Parks Board

faces in establishing the Table Mountain park.

It says there are "strong indications" that the Western Cape executive committee will not favour the National Parks Board's controlling the proposed park.

Dr Ian Macdonald of the World Wide Fund for Nature is to address the 7pm meeting at The Barn, 31 The Sanctuary, Kirstenhof.

RUFUS MARUMA

NOT A MOMENT WASTED

(Eb) Km 16/8/96

In what constitutes a small, transformation-linked shake-up in the sensitive and not exactly sexy arena of waste management, environmental expert Rufus Maruma has become executive chairman of Waste-tech, the largest division of JSE-listed Fraser Alexander.

This follows an exchange of shares between Maruma's consulting company, Bohlweki Enviro-Waste, and Waste-tech, giving the 37-year-old former acting head of Environmental Affairs & Tourism in the Northern Province a 20% stake in Waste-tech. Waste-tech, in turn, acquires 33% of Bohlweki Enviro-Waste, as well as its operational contracts.

The forthright Maruma, who also joins the board of Fraser Alexander, claims the deal is a culmination of an environmental career which began with a BSc and teacher's diploma at the University of Zululand and an honours in geography and environmental science at the University of the North.

"I started out as an environmental activist — they used to call me a 'green communist' in the Seventies — and then, having won a scholarship to study for an MSc at Scotland's University of Aberdeen, moved into constructive policy development with the ANC."

He also took on the mantle of chief environmental consultant to Eskom.

As chairman of Waste-tech, Maruma says he has come full circle: "I have moved from government to the actual application of its policies. I'm at last playing the practical role for which I've been preparing all these years."

He adds that he now has "to comply with the standards I helped set in government in the process of restructuring and refocusing the waste industry — and I can't afford to make a mistake."

Waste-tech, which is expected to even-

tually seek a separate listing from Fraser Alexander, is the largest waste management company in SA with a turnover of more than R150m.

Fraser Alexander marketing director Kevin Eborall, who played an important part in the negotiations with Maruma, notes that Waste-tech's new chief "has an excellent academic and practical track record in environmental management.

"He is a man of intelligence and has strong convictions — and his manner when chairing meetings is firm, focused and decisive."

Maruma, whose sense of humour is as keen as his ambition, notes that, in the final analysis, his task is to ensure that Waste-tech continues to grow profitably for the benefit of all stakeholders — "including myself."

A soccer and boxing fan whose other love — travelling — hasn't waned, even though he has visited more than 50 countries, Maruma and wife Pauline have an eight-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. ■

MARTIN SMULLEN

BUILDING A FUTURE

An insatiable curiosity led Buildmax chairman and CEO Martin Smullen to accumulate several degrees before he bowed to fate and entered the private sector. After obtaining an MSc in nuclear physics and an LLB concurrently, he "had every intention of practising law, with a focus on scientific applications."

But an urge to discover how business worked — and to earn a better salary — took him into Anglo American. After a stint there and an MBA at UCT, he worked as a merchant banker before being headhunted to be the "hatchet man"

for an ailing business. At 28, he was the youngest CE of a public company.

This gave him, he says, a taste for leadership and he decided he needed a company of his own. By begging and borrowing, with wife Diana, they raised the capital to buy S Burde, a small company manufacturing galvanised steel rain water goods. In 21 years, the company has grown from 18 employees to a couple of hundred. "What we turned over in our first year we now make before afternoon tea on an average day," says Smullen.

Earlier this year, S Burde joined forces with two family owned timber companies to form Buildmax, listed in July.

Smullen is touched by the enthusiasm with which his long-time employees handed over their life savings in return for shares in "their company," seeing their faith as a vindication of his people-centred management practices. He believes in giving his staff authority with responsibility and in delegating as far as possible. "We accept mistakes, but people must learn from them."

He looks for motivation in his workers and tries to create "an exciting atmosphere" in the workplace.

Headquartered in Germiston South, the company has a southern African clientele and distribution network. The share price has risen steadily since listing and Malaysian group Mycom has acquired a stake to allow Buildmax to retire its remaining debt and give it a war chest for expansion.

Smullen's interests include classical music, the bush and maths games. He is a karate black belt and is a keen cyclist, with six Argus Tours to his credit.

A former member of the international Young Presidents' Organisation, he now belongs to its alumnus body, the Chief Executives' Organisation. ■



Rufus Maruma



Martin Smullen



AT RISK: Chemical-laden dust from nearby mine dumps threatens many people with respiratory diseases and irritation of the eyes

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTON HAMMERL

Dust more than a nuisance for Sowetans

By TOMMY MAKOE

Unusually strong winds have led to complaints that mine dump dust is seriously affecting the health of Soweto residents.

The continued inhalation of mine dump dust can lead to chronic chest disease. According to Dr Solly Ntseke, constant exposure to the dust can lead to irritation of the eyes and nasal tract, and result in serious breathing problems.

A spokesman for Gauteng's mineral and energy affairs department, Hendrik de Villiers, says: "Direct contact with such dust poses a health risk. Even prolonged exposure to normal dust can cause a health problem." Dust from mine dumps contains cyanide, used in the process of extracting gold.

The worst-affected areas are Dobsonville, Meadowlands zones 1, 7, 8 and 9, Doornkop, Roodepoort, Florida and Fleurhof.

However, Kevin Renton, principal medical natural scientist for the National Centre for Occupational Health, says the level of cyanide in mine dump dust is not life-threatening. "It is highly unlikely you would get a limit that your body couldn't metabolise, but it could still result in

discomfort levels." (56)

The dust contains many other harmful chemicals such as arsenic, aluminium and silica, he says.

Miriam Monnakgotla (46), whose family has lived for more than 16 years across a road from mine dumps in Meadowlands Zone 7, says her family suffers from respiratory, eye and skin problems.

This week most of her family were home with health problems she attributes to dump dust. Two granddaughters were home because they had chest problems; her daughter did not go to work because her eyes were sore and her body itched, and her 18-year-old son, an asthmatic, was at a nearby hospital because he was having difficulty breathing.

"This always happens to my family, especially during the windy month of August. It is not only my family but other people in this street too," says Monnakgotla.

The dust is also a nuisance. "You must clean every 20 minutes because the dust accumulates. It is everywhere - in the blankets, curtains and pots. We eat and breathe it."

She says residents have asked the mine to deal with the dust, but the problem has not been contained. "They recently installed hosepipes

around the dumps which do not work," she says.

Businesses in the Roodepoort area are also affected.

Panelbeating firm managing director Frans Olivier says 75% of his staff suffer from sinusitis. Thousands of rands are lost during dusty periods because paint jobs have to be redone, and computers and photocopying machines need servicing about every two weeks.

Durban Deep mine manager Anton Lubbe says the mine has been discussing the problem with local communities, "but the progress has been slow. We could not agree on what to use to deal with the dust. Last year we used a chemical to minimise the dust, but it broke up in strong winds.

"This year we started planting grass on top of the dump. It has not grown because of the cold weather, but in spring the grass will grow."

Western Metropolitan Substructure technical services department head Ika Magasa says the pollution is a serious matter. "We will be meeting the mine owners soon to get them to solve this problem." He says his council will not use its own funds to deal with the dumps because they are Durban Deep's property.

May 17/18/96

Ancestral land claim fits in with the Kruger

ST 18/8/96

By ANDREW UNSWORTH

THE National Parks Board believes it can accommodate a tribe's claim for access to ancestral lands in the Kruger National Park.

The Makuleke tribe is seeking a slice of the Northern Province which includes 20 000ha of the northern end of the park between the Limpopo and Levhuvhu rivers, as well as a military base and a part of the former Venda homeland in adjoining areas.

The claim has been gazetted by the Land Restitution Commission, which, after allowing a month for comment, will begin seeking a negotiated agreement between interested parties, failing which the claim will be argued in a protracted court case.

But the National Parks Board is optimistic that an amicable arrangement can be made to allow the tribe to reap economic benefit from the land while retaining its status as a conservation area.

Dr Robbie Robinson, chief of the board, says a policy is already in place to provide benefits to communities living next to the country's game reserves.

"We have created about 4 000 jobs for people living adjacent to the Kruger National Park, which provides an injection into the local economy."

In this instance, the Makuleke tribe is claiming a bit more, and their case revolves around the loss of customary rights to the land and their rights as beneficiaries in terms of the SA Development Trust Act — ironically, a piece of apartheid era legislation.

Lawyers at the Legal Resources Centre describe the case as a legal nightmare, and have assembled a formidable team on behalf of the tribe.

If agreement is not reached by all parties — including the Department of Land Affairs, which must approve the use of the land — the case will go

to the Land Claims Court.

Robinson says the board believes the area must be preserved within the park in as natural a state as possible, but has no desire to get entangled in disputes.

"We believe we can settle it, but just handing over the ground would benefit nobody. We would like any tourist development to be on the periphery of the park, not in the middle of pristine areas.

"We certainly believe we can soon reach a win-win situation where everybody is happy."

The tribe's spokesman, Lamson Makuleke, says the Makuleke's motives are not in conflict with the aims of conservation.

"Our people were moved off the land in 1969 and some went as far as Zimbabwe and Mozambique. We have lodged our claim to land which we formerly occupied, but we do not want to resettle it. We want to be involved in decisions about it and the right to benefit from it."

Peter John Massyn, an environmentalist in Johannesburg who has been advising the tribe, says the aim is to use the land for non-consumptive, high-value tourism.

"They are in agreement about preserving the land and there is no rational reason why it should leave the Kruger park."

A German aid agency, GTZ, has also been involved, with the funding of young members of the tribe to study conservation and business management at Technikon SA.

Although the claim involves only a small area of the park, it sets an important precedent for other reserves as South Africa has a below-average percentage of land set aside for conservation.

According to Robinson, the particular area is also important because of the proposals being discussed at international level to link adjoining reserves in Zimbabwe and Mozambique to the Kruger park.

Project on invader plant boosts water supplies

Star 19/8/96

56

The programme is 'on time, on budget and efficient'

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

The Working for Water programme, in which invader plants are being cleared from water courses throughout South Africa, has increased the run-off of water by an estimated 17,5 million kilolitres in 1995/96.

Since the approximately R28-million programme was launched last September, more than 33 000ha of land infested with alien invader plants have been cleared and 6 686 direct jobs have been created, according to the annual report released by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Water Minister Kader Asmal has already announced a further grant of R50-million for 1996/97, and Rand Water and Umgeni

Water have announced funding of R10-million each for projects in partnership with the programme.

"Calculations indicate that clearing invading alien plants is a very competitive way to yield water," Asmal said.

Only 14% of the cost of a new dam

"For example, estimations are that clearing invading aliens will yield water at just 14% of the cost of water yielded through building the Skuifraam Dam - one of the most financially attractive dam options in the Western Cape."

Programme leader Dr Guy Preston said Working for Water

had been successful. "It is on time, on budget, efficient, and initial audits have not revealed any corruption."

In its first year, the programme consisted of 12 projects in six provinces, with a focus on the Eastern Cape, where five projects cost about R13-million.

"Much needs to be done to understand the extent of the problem of invasive plants in each province and the most affordable schedule to bring it under control," Preston said.

"Detailed studies will ensure the priorities of future spending are understood."

He said that the programme had all the ingredients of becoming a model development programme and his project team were working to make certain that it fulfilled its promise.

Forum drums up support for National Parks Board

(56) CT 19/8/96

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Peninsula Mountain Forum has launched a public awareness campaign in favour of the National Parks Board being chosen to control the proposed Table Mountain and Peninsula National Park.

The provincial executive committee is to decide on August 28, but there are fears in the green lobby that it will reject the Parks Board.

The Forum has sent the authorities letters signed by 25 environmental, political and tourist organisations and naming the Parks Board as the most suitable body to control the park. The letters also call on all local authorities and state organisations to cede land worth conserving for inclusion in the park.

Wildlife Society spokesman Mr Andy Gubb said: "How can the executive committee decide without knowing what society thinks? There is a broad groundswell of support for the National Parks Board ... and it needs to know that."

1,35 MILLION TYRES DUMPED EVERY YEAR

City's rubbish could fill 16 cooling towers

(56) CT 19/8/96

LIKE MOST CITIES, Cape Town generates more rubbish each year than it can dispose of. Old vehicle tyres, which are virtually indestructible, are major offenders, writes Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING.**



IF you compacted all the rubbish Capetonians generated in the last year, it would fill both cooling towers at Athlone power station — with enough left over to fill two more the same size. Uncompacted, it would fill 16 cooling towers.

Some people say future generations will call us the Space Age. My bet is they'll call us the Waste Age.

The bulk of our waste ends up in landfill sites — huge hollows around our cities — and it doesn't disintegrate. Americans have uncovered, and were able to read, 30-year-old newspapers in landfill sites. They even found a 30-year-old carrot.

Another thing that just won't go away is scrap vehicle tyres. Because of their complex chemical make-up, tyres are virtually indestructible and have become a major problem in our waste age.

In North America and Europe there are three billion scrap tyres in huge "tyre mountains" and a further 4,8 million tons are added every year.

In Canada, when a dump of 14 million tyres caught fire, it burnt for three weeks, polluting the air and resulting in 500 000 litres of oil seeping out.

In South Africa we generate six million scrap tyres every year. If you took all these and placed them

end to end, they would stretch from Cape Town to Cairo.

Cape Town municipality says only 10% of used tyres are legally disposed of at their Vissershok site. The other 90% are illegally dumped. If one extends this to the whole province, which generates 1,5 million used tyres a year, about 1,35 million tyres are dumped in the Western Cape. Collecting them increases their disposal cost between six and ten times — paid for by ratepayers.

A major problem on the Cape Flats is the burning of tyres to recover the 50c worth of scrap metal in them. This results in huge palls of black smoke that is sometimes so thick that pilots coming in at Cape Town airport have to use their instruments to land.

City officials say the smoke, which contains trace levels of toxic products like carbon monoxide, causes health problems. The visual impact on a city that sells its scenery, is appalling.

Although legislation prohibits the burning and dumping of tyres, city council officials say it is difficult to enforce.

They have explored every avenue. The move to apply for a Supreme Court interdict failed. They have called in the help of the police, but this has been fruitless because they could not identify the

guilty persons. They have had discussions with the state prosecutor, but got nowhere.

They called on the Tyre and Recycling Committee for help, suggesting the tyre industry take responsibility for their product "from the cradle to the grave", but have not had a reply.

Last year they took their concerns to the Minister of the Environment (then Dr Dawie de Villiers) who promised to look into the matter, but who has since left office — and the problem is still there.

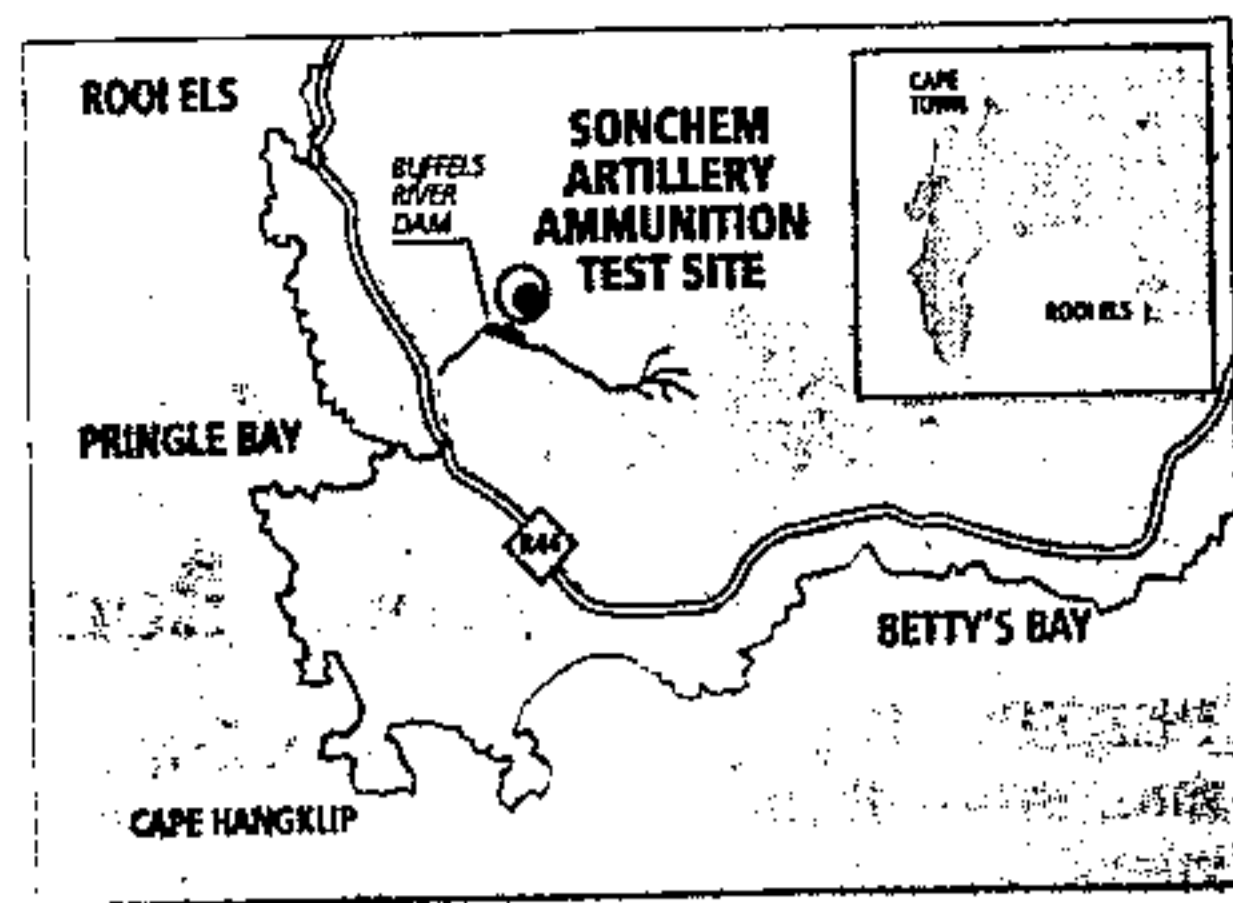
So what's the solution? Clearly someone needs to take the initiative. The city has tried but seems to have bumped its head against a scrap tyre wall.

Industry says "give us incentives then we'll do something about it". The unemployed say unless we can make more money out of them some other way, we will continue to burn them. And consumers probably don't even give disposal of old tyres a thought.

In California a tyre-fired power station burns 4,5 million tyres a year and generates enough energy to supply 14 000 homes.

The problem won't go away — it can only get worse. Perhaps it is time for the government to take the initiative, to get all the role-players together and try to sort out some innovative way to meet the challenge of the growing scrap tyre mountain.

Or are we simply going to live with it, turn a blind eye to the toxic smoke and oil seeping out from burning tyres, and to the piles dumped in rivers and bushes.



Poison fears as chemical giant pollutes vital river

ARG 20/8/96

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

TESTS show chemical giant Somchem is slowly poisoning the Buffels River at its controversial ammunition test facility near Hangklip.

The Buffels River dam - sole water supply source for Pringle Bay and Rooi Els - is about 200m downstream from Somchem's facility, where artillery ammunition is tested.

Traces of the toxic elements beryllium and antimony have already been found in samples from streams flowing into Buffels River and experts fear other toxins, including cyanide, may also be washing down the river from the test site.

Beryllium and antimony are metallic elements believed to be present in the hardened copper used during tests of artillery ammunition.

Antimony is highly toxic and, if taken, give rise to symptoms similar to those produced by arsenic.

In 1993, after a marathon court battle with the Rooi Els council, Somchem agreed in an order of court that it would cease all testing should it be found it had polluted water supplies to a degree making them unfit for human consumption.

A statement yesterday by Somchem and six other organisations, which include local municipalities and pressure groups, conceded that lead in the soil around the test site exceeded official guideline limits.

Somchem, for the first time last week, also acknowledged that two cyanide compounds were among the ingredients of the artillery propellants tested on the site.

Somchem directed queries to Charlie Boucher, chairman of the test range working group, but he was unavailable.

Arms giant denies subsidiary is responsible for Buffels River poison

ARG 21/8/96

(201) (56)

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

ARMS manufacturer Denel has emphatically denied reports that its subsidiary Somchem may be responsible for poisoning the Buffels River, the only source of water for the holiday towns of Rooi Els and Pringle Bay.

Yesterday The Argus reported that traces of the toxic elements beryllium and antimony were found in two streams flowing into the river.

The Buffels River dam is about 200 metres downstream from Somchem's facility where artillery ammunition is tested.

But Denel spokesman Paul Holtzhausen said tests carried out by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had found no trace of beryllium and antimony in the water.

The Argus, however, has in its possession the results of two tests - one of which was carried out by the CSIR - which show that traces of both elements were found in samples taken

from two of the streams that feed the Buffels River.

Beryllium and antimony are highly toxic. Antimony, if taken, gives rise to symptoms similar to those produced by arsenic. It affects the heartbeat, respiration and nervous systems.

At this stage it is not sure exactly where the toxins come from, but experts said they might have been brought with sand used for construction of the bunker at the test site.

Beryllium and antimony are also used to harden copper and it could be present in hardened copper used during tests of artillery ammunition, but Somchem denies this.

The tests performed by the CSIR found that the antimony levels in the two streams were less than 30 parts per billion.

Another test, carried out by the Consulting Testing Laboratories, an independent laboratory appointed by a Rooi Els resident group - the Monitoring Committee for the Buffels River Dam - found the antimony levels for the same streams ranging between 440 and 450 parts per billion.

The "maximum limit for low risk" laid down by the Department of Water Affairs for drinking water is 200 parts per billion.

The department's guideline states that in drinking water these toxic levels should not occur for more than two consecutive days or for a total of more than 12 days a year.

The CSIR found that the beryllium levels in the two streams tested ranged between 729 parts per billion and 739 parts per billion. The independent analysts found the beryllium levels to be between three and 29 parts per billion.

The maximum levels laid down by water affairs for beryllium in drinking water is 10 parts per billion.

Industrial chemist Nino Costa, who was involved in monitoring Somchem's activities, said the discrepancies between the tests meant that new tests were needed.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal yesterday ordered an urgent departmental investigation into the matter.

Asmal probes river 'toxins'

(56)

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

CT 21/8/96

THE possible poisoning of the Buffels River by chemical company Somchem is to be investigated.

Minister of Water Affairs Mr Kader Asmal said yesterday he had been shocked by reports alleging that traces of toxins — beryllium and antimony — had been found in streams flowing into the Buffels River.

Experts also fear cyanide may be washing down the river from the arms testing site at Rooi Els.

Asmal has called for independent tests for pollution levels.

Previous tests have indicated no traces of beryllium and antimony in the river, but if there is the slightest indication of a pollution risk appropriate action will be taken, Asmal said.

Somchem spokesman Mr Paul Holtzhausen said: "Tests show none of these statements (reported in the press) is true ... There is no evidence at all that Somchem is poisoning the river."

Contaminated water not yet on tap

Traces of toxic elements beryllium and antimony have been found in a stream that flows into the Buffels River dam, the only source of drinking water for the holiday towns of Rooi Els and Pringle Bay.

ANDREA WEISS reports.

(56)

Aug 22/8/96

SOME are blissfully unaware of the risk lurking in their taps, some have already switched to bottled water and others think that if you boil it you'll be okay.

But the baboon we saw loping off into the fynbos clutching food stolen from a holiday cottage to its chest and the leopard and its cub spotted in the vicinity have little choice but to slake their thirst at the waters of the Buffels River, which have shown signs of chemical contamination.

Traces of toxic elements beryllium and antimony have been found in a stream that flows into the Buffels River dam, the only source of drinking water for the holiday towns of Rooi Els and Pringle Bay along one of the Cape's most scenic stretches of coastline.

The source is believed to be the controversial Somchem ammunition test facility, which has long been a bone of contention in the area.

Sandwiched between an azure, whale-dotted sea and the fynbos-clad slopes of the rugged mountains, residents of these town may be forgiven for thinking they had escaped the worst horrors of the late 20th century. But their bubble may have been burst with the latest news of potential contamination of their drinking water.

Rooi Els ward councillor Julia Albers believes the bottom line is that the Somchem test facility does not belong in a water catchment area.

Mrs Albers said that while tests had shown some contamination in the stream that runs past the facility into the dam, these had not yet shown up in the drinking water.

"Nonetheless, nobody would wish to have a source of contamination in a water catchment area," she said. "The position of the Rooi Els community over the years implies that having a test site there is that you're not treating the area with respect."

Many of the Pringle Bay residents approached did not wish to express an opinion on the grounds that they did not know enough about the issue, but there were others who admitted they were already taking precautions.

Members of the Vrba family of Pretoria, who have been visiting Pringle Bay for 11 years, said they brought their own supply of bottled water with them when they came on holiday.

They even had a bottle of water on hand to show us as we talked at the mouth of the Buffels River.

Another permanent resident, who was strolling along the beach, was Barry Moss, who lives in Pringle Bay when he is not at sea working as an electro-technical officer.

"I don't like the test site up there," he commented.

"Obviously I wouldn't want to drink poisoned water. This is a very natural area. It would obviously detract from the beauty if we had to put up poisoned water signs."

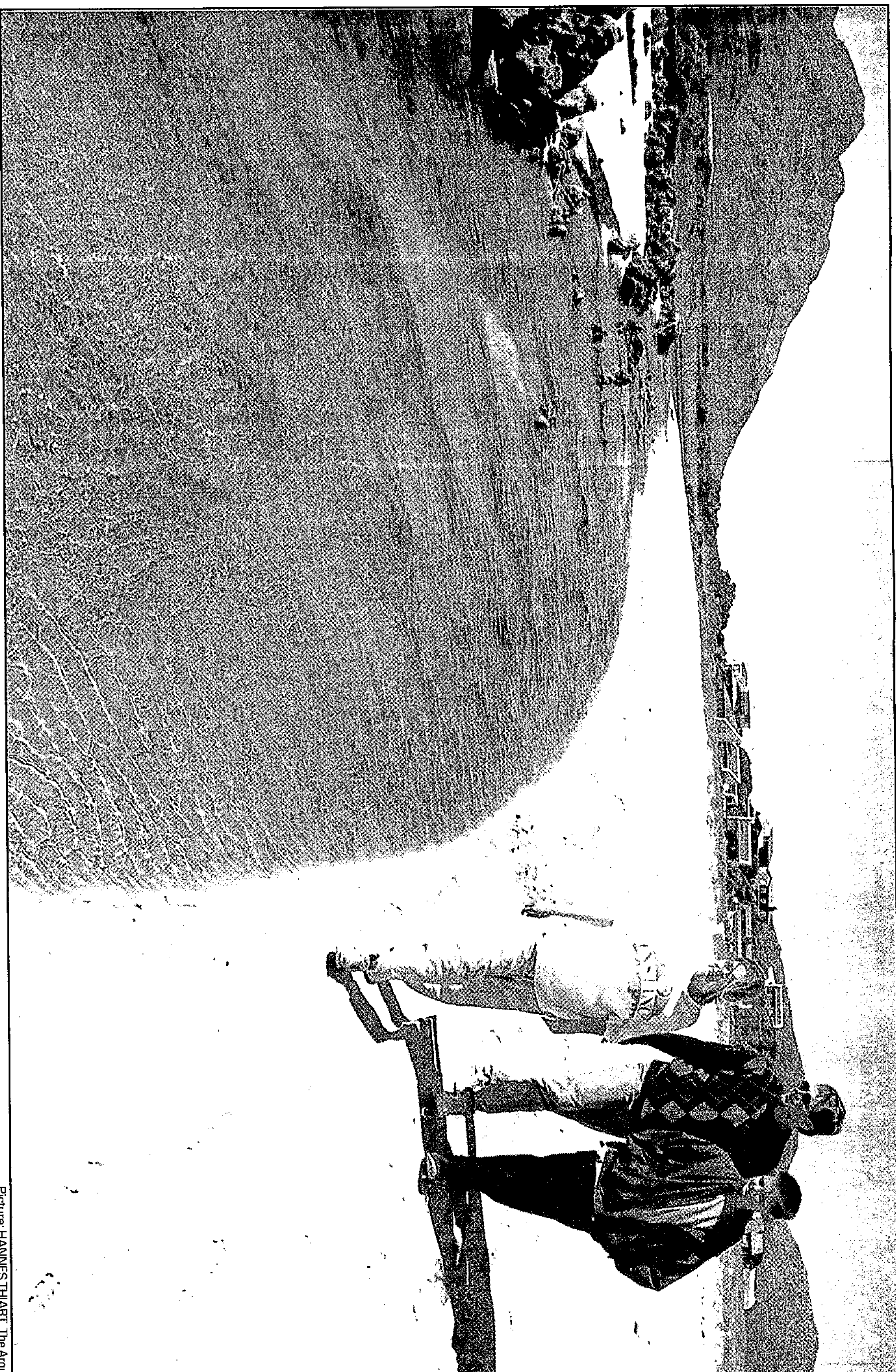
Mr Moss said the tests at the site during the week were sometimes so intense that the windows of his home shook.

"For the military to be testing equipment in a residential area is a bit of a cheek."

And while the controversy is bound to grow, a Cape-based company is already cashing in on the problem and plans to distribute pamphlets in the area this week advertising the water filter it manufactures.

Managing director of H2O International Tony Marchesini said that his company was planning to distribute the pamphlet this week.

He concedes that his water filter will not protect the Buffels River or the wildlife that depends on it, but it might offer a short-term alternative for residents of the area.



SUSPECT STREAM: Stefan Vrba, centre, strolls alongside the Buffels River with his daughter Minka and son Sep at Pringle Bay. The Pretoria-based family bring bottled water with them when they holiday in the area because of the risk of contamination from the Somchem test site.

Picture: HANNES THIAFT, The Argus

Controversial Table Mountain cableway upgrade to go ahead

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — The controversial R65m upgrade of the Table Mountain cableway would go ahead following the recommendations of a government-commissioned investigation, outgoing Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane said yesterday.

Ngubane said the Cabinet had accepted a report by University of Cape Town environmental studies professor Richard Fuggle calling for Table Mountain to be declared a national park under the authority of the National Parks Board.

This had paved the way for the upgrade, which was put on hold after the National Monuments Council refused to issue a permit to Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company to improve facilities at the foot and summit.

Fuggle said in his report that the best protection for Table

Mountain flowing from improvements to the cableway would be through its effective continuing management as a national resource and not from "rigid adherence to predetermined environmental standards".

"Undue delays in proclamation of a national park, renegotiation of lease and usufruct agreements, and therefore in initiating the modernisation and upgrading of the cableway must be avoided."

National Monuments Council director George Hofmeyr welcomed the decision to place the mountain under the protection of the National Parks Board.

"While we will obviously comply with Minister Ngubane's expected directive to award the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company a permit to continue with the upgrade, we hope that there will be further consultation and discussion in terms of work on the buildings," Hofmeyr said.

BD 22/8/96 (56)

Table Mountain to become a park

Star 22/8/96 (56)

Best way of 'ensuring integrity', says

committee in wake of cableway controversy

SAPA
Cape Town

Table Mountain is to become a national park, under the control of the National Parks Board, the Cabinet decided yesterday.

This follows a report by a committee of experts which said this would be the best way of ensuring the "long-term integrity" of the mountain in the face of the proposed upgrading of its cableway.

Arts and Culture Minister Ben Ngubane said he had directed the National Monuments Council to

permit the cableway company to improve its facilities.

The mountain is a national monument.

The committee, headed by University of Cape Town environmentalist Professor Richard Fuggle, was appointed earlier this year to help Ngubane decide whether to overrule a council decision blocking the cableway's extension and upgrading.

Its report, made public yesterday, said the park should be declared immediately. Other areas of the Cape Peninsula could be added to the park later.

Once the board had taken over responsibility for the mountain, the agreement with the cableway company is to be renegotiated.

The outcome of these negotiations should allow modernisation of the cableway and its infrastructure to start "as a matter of urgency".

The report said the best way to protect the mountain would not be through rigid adherence to environmental standards, but through a legal framework that would manage it as a national resource.

Joint parks planned

(56)

TRANS-FRONTIER national parks between South Africa and four of its neighbours are in the pipeline, Environment Affairs Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

These "friendship" parks would be shared with Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

"The aim is to maximise our ecotourism resources and to create facilities to uplift the communities in those areas," Jordan said.

The park between Mozambique and Kruger would become a reality "as soon as possible".

Mozambique is run-down as a result of war. To rehabilitate its economy, it needs some projects to kick-start it. The friendship park is one of them, he said.

It also meant habitats and ecosystems could be managed as one unit, and not be cut off by political borders. — Staff Writer

BD 22/8/96

Mountain gets Park's protection

(56)
CT 22/8/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE cabinet ruled yesterday that Table Mountain should be proclaimed a national park immediately and be controlled by the National Parks Board.

It also said the R60 million upgrading of the Table Mountain cableway could go ahead — but only after the Parks Board was legally in place as the controlling body.

This is the first concrete step to having the entire Peninsula mountain chain become a national park.

The announcement also ends months of wrangling over whether or not the cableway upgrading could go ahead, or wait until all the environmental studies on the impacts of the development had been completed.

Once Table Mountain is proclaimed a national park, activities on the mountain will be controlled according to a series of zones which define what activities can take place in different parts of the mountain chain.

The zones, which have been worked out after extensive public participation, aim to strike a balance between accommodating the needs of people using the mountain and conserving the Peninsula's natural environment — one of the botanical gems of the world.

Table Mountain has been zoned "remote" and will be managed by the Parks Board to maintain the sense of remoteness. Activities that will be permitted will be non-mechanical, like walking and climbing.

Minister of Arts and Science Dr Ben Ngubane, who released a statement on the cabinet decision yesterday, said delays to implement the proclamation of the park should be avoided.

After a meeting between provincial Environmental Affairs MEC Mr Kobus Meiring and National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson yesterday, they released a joint statement saying they had "taken note" of the cabinet's ruling.

"It was agreed that every possible action should be taken to give effect to this decision as soon as possible," the statement said.

It also said they agreed that the upgrading of the cableway should go ahead as proposed by the cabinet.

A further meeting would be held between the Parks Board and the cableway company before the end of the month to resolve all issues of concern.

In April the National Monuments Council refused the cableway company permission to go ahead with the upgrading until further environmental impact studies had been

□ Turn to Page 3

Cableway upgrade okayed

(56) CT 22/8/96

□ From Page 1

about the impact of increased numbers of visitors to the top of the mountain, how the increased sewage would be dealt with and the provision of water and power.

The company appealed to Ngubane who appointed UCT environmental scientist Professor Richard Fuggle to chair a committee to investigate the matter.

The Fuggle report, which the cabinet endorsed yesterday, recommended that:

- Table Mountain be proclaimed a national park immediately.

- The National Parks Board be instituted as the controlling authority for Table Mountain.

- The Cableway company urgently renegotiate its lease with the Parks Board, which will allow upgrading to begin. The existing lease is with the city council.

- Delays should be avoided.

Fuggle said in the report that the best protection of Table Mountain would not be from rigid adherence to environmental standards, but rather from establishing a legal framework to provide for effective management of the mountain.

He said much of the debate around the cableway had arisen because there was no accountable authority to balance and resolve the competing interests of tourism and environmental protection.

Cableway company director Mr Louis de Waal said yesterday: "There are lots of negotiations still to go, but there is goodwill. I can't comment further at this stage."

Yesterday Fuggle said he was pleased that the cabinet had shown the political will to carry out the recommendations in the report, and had acted decisively.

The move was welcomed last night by the Wildlife Society and Earthlife Africa.

Wildlife Society spokesman Mr Andy Gubb said: "Table Mountain will now be guaranteed proper protection and management. We hope the initiative will be supported by the Western Cape cabinet and the city council."

Regulations 'only a guideline for the import of waste'

(58)
Susan Russell

BD 23/8/96

DOMESTIC legal controls for importing chemical waste into SA were virtually non-existent at present although proposed new regulations would bring the country more into line with the Basel Convention's requirement, environmental lawyers Des Williams and Andrew Cadman said.

In 1994 SA became a signatory to the Basel Convention, which is a multilateral treaty regulating the cross-border movement of hazardous waste.

Williams, head of environmental law at Johannesburg firm of attorneys' Werksmans, and colleague Cadman say that SA is moving towards a more regulatory regime, especially since the environmental affairs and tourism department published proposed regulations for the import and export of hazardous waste last year.

The lawyers say that although the proposed regulations are still open for comment, they will give hazardous waste importers and exporters some idea of the regulatory regime that will soon affect their businesses. They do point out that while the proposed regulations are a useful forewarning of the nature and extent of future controls, they do not fully comply with the requirements of the Basel Convention.

Waste is hazardous only if listed in the schedules to the draft regulations or if it is defined as hazardous by the national law of the state of import, export or transit. The schedules list categories of waste that must be controlled, waste which requires special consideration and waste described as having "hazardous characteristics". Williams and Cadman say that in an apparent departure from the requirements of the convention, an extensive list of recoverable waste has been excluded from the scope of the proposed regulations. Also, in terms of its obligations under the convention, SA is required to make the illegal traffic in hazardous waste a criminal offence, but the proposed regulations do not do this.

According to the attorneys the underlying purpose of the proposed regulations was the control and not the prohibition of trade in hazardous waste. However the draft regulations did contemplate a possible prohibition on importing hazardous waste in the country, they said.

The proposed general rule was that importing hazardous waste into SA for final disposal would not be permitted with exceptions subject to certain conditions. Conditions included the proviso that the importation of the waste in question was not prohibited under SA law, that the country of export was a party to the Basel Convention and that the importer was also the disposer of the hazardous waste in SA.

A significant feature of the draft regulations was an emphasis on the environment and in particular on environmentally sound management practices. With this in mind one of the requirements stipulated before hazardous waste would be allowed into SA was that it was needed as a raw material for recycling or the country's recovery industries.

The importer would be compelled to take all practicable steps to ensure the waste would be transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound way.

Sappi at centre of waste furore

By Shirley Jones

(56) (1994) KWAZULU NATAL EDITOR

CT(BR) 23/8/96

Durban — Sappi, the pulp and paper company, is at the centre of a scandal which could shut down its industrial cellulose plant along the south coast of KwaZulu Natal.

The Sappi Saiccor plant, which is the world's largest producer of dissolving-pulp for the textile industry, earns billions of rands in foreign exchange and employs more than 1 400 people.

The company had been singled out by incensed parties attempting to rid beaches of knee-deep foam and offshore pollution, known as "purple death", which is believed to be undermining tourism and subsistence industries in the area.

Investigations by members of the Pipeline Forum have unearthed a number of irregularities relating to the Saiccor plant.

The Pipeline Forum is an association of main stakeholders in the region, and other industries such as Tioxide and AECI, which want to reduce pollution in the area.

The irregularities include the alleged omission of a R40 million

effluent treatment plant during Saiccor's recent R1 billion upgrade. An environmental impact assessment study, required by the water affairs department, was also not carried out before the project started.

At a meeting held yesterday by the Pipeline Forum, water affairs department confirmed that an environmental assessment impact study was a basic requirement, even during 1993 when the expansion was announced.

Sappi said the colour problem, which affected divers' visibility along beaches near Umkomaas, had no negative effect on marine life. However, it said the matter was being addressed. It said Saiccor was investigating several options to solve the problem, all of which required large amounts of capital.

"As agreed with the minister of water affairs and forestry, a formal submission will be presented on October 15. An EIA (environmental impact assessment) of the various options available to the company will form part of the submission," the company said.

Sappi said Saiccor's renewal

application for its effluent disposal permit by the water affairs department would be presented to the department at the same time.

Judy Pitts, who represents Tioxide on the Pipeline Forum, said the problems were also likely to affect AECI and Tioxide's permits, which come up for renewal in July next year. It has been decided that all three permits have to be signed by Kader Asmal, the water affairs minister, because of the pollution furore in the area.

Pitts said Tioxide, a producer of titanium dioxide, had taken an active stand and reduced effluent levels. However, without discharging some waste into the sea, it would also have to close down, creating unemployment and the loss of more than R100 million a year to the regional economy.

Other Pipeline Forum members say Tioxide and AECI have cooperated with the forum's anti-pollution requests, but Sappi Saiccor has become aggressive, withholding information and allegedly circulating a memorandum telling its employees the local community was trying to destroy their jobs.

Ivory agreement sets pace for ⁽⁵⁶⁾~~(57)~~ SADC meeting

CT 23/8/96

MASERU: Southern African countries have agreed to take a common position on ivory at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Harare in June next year.

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) council of ministers, meeting here to prepare for the heads of state summit tomorrow, agreed to hold a special meeting on the Cites ban on trade in ivory.

The ministers emphasised the importance of taking part in the special meeting of local community wildlife programme operators and private operators in the wildlife sector.

SADC countries, particularly Zimbabwe, have for years been lobbying for the downgrading of the African elephant from the Cites Appendix I to II, which allows for controlled trade.

As a way of fighting the ivory trade ban, SADC countries established a Southern African Centre for Ivory Marketing in 1994 and the ministers have decided to change the project and name it the Southern African Convention for Wildlife Management. — Sapa

● See Page 21

SA baboons are used in French nuclear tests

(56)

Environmentalists say the export of primates contravenes an international treaty, reports **Eddie Koch**

MTG 23-29/8/96

SOUTH AFRICAN baboons are being exported to the French military so that they can be exposed to radioactivity in experiments designed to test the safety of nuclear plants in France.

Earthlife Africa this week released official documents to show the French Ministry of Defence has applied to South African authorities for at least 20 baboons captured in the wild to be exported to France so that they can be used in tests to "evaluate the subclinical effects of irradiation doses experienced by people during an accident in a nuclear power plant".

The documents show the baboons will be exported by the Centre Africain de Primatologie (Cape), a research unit in the Hazzyview area of Mpumalanga that has previously been implicated in cruel treatment of animals.

The export application states the research will be conducted in conjunction with the University of California Los Angeles, at a laboratory in Grenoble owned by the French army's health services. The application says the "general conditions of experimentation" have been approved by the Ethics Committee of the French Medical Service Research Centre.

But a local animal rights organisation, South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (Saav), says it has evidence that animals used in military laboratories are often subjected to experiments involving tests on chemical weapons and explosions. The organisation also questions why research regarding civilian nuclear power stations is being

conducted by the military.

"Although the stated goals of the experiments are to try to develop ways to protect soldiers/people from radiation effects or to improve treatments, the programmes mainly demonstrate in animals what has already been known from human exposures. Furthermore, such experiments are not carried out to advance the treatment of human injuries but to test the efficiency of weapons of war — in this case nuclear weapons," says Michelle Pickover from Saav's research committee.

Earthlife Africa's Johannesburg branch has written letters to Environment Minister Pello Jordan and Colin Cameron, director general of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, demanding that South Africa's involvement in the international trade in primates be banned. Warwick Humphries, co-ordinator of the Johannesburg Earthlife branch, says baboons are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), of which South Africa is a member.

"One of the provisions of Cites is that the capture and trade in primates not be permitted if the population of wild primates is not known. As this population has not been determined, the permitting of the exportation of baboons is a flagrant violation of Cites," he said.

Cameron was not available to comment, while Jordan said he would consider action after a report-back by his department.

Cape was the subject of controversy in 1990 when investigators from the



Military subject: Baboons are exported by Cape, a research unit in Hazzyview

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) discovered 122 wild baboons and two vervet monkeys in cages on its premises. The premises appeared to be abandoned and the animals were starving. Some had been kept in cramped cages for more than a year and could no longer extend their limbs. The baboons had to be killed.

Documentation in the possession of the *Mail & Guardian* refers to the export of "six large male baboons" to French army research laboratories already in 1993, and to visits to Cape by French military personnel — as well as members of South Africa's Roodeplaat covert chemical warfare laboratory — in 1992.

Controversy around the capture and translocation of wild animals is set to escalate in conservation circles as SABC-TV news this week uncovered evidence of high mortality rates involved in the capture and transport

of rare suni antelope and zebra herds in the Kruger National Park.

Kruger's chief warden, Harold Braak, told the *M&G* a large number of zebras had died during a recent capture operation in the park because sedatives given to the animals were incorrectly mixed. A number of suni antelope which had been rounded up so that they could be moved to the northern parts of the park also died because their feed had been watered and a toxic weed grew in it.

Braak rejected accusations that these incidents were the result of "calculus" behaviour on the part of park officials. He said translocation was necessary to manage game effectively and to ensure that rare or endangered species could be reintroduced to wilderness areas where they had vanished. In the case of elephants, capture and transport of herds has become an alternative to culling.

"These operations are warranted, but it does happen that there are

losses. I have strong feelings about the way animals are treated, and we have veterinary officers monitoring operations to ensure that problems are minimised. We have nothing to hide."

He added that outside organisations — including Earthlife, Saav and the SPCA — would be welcome to monitor game-capture operations in the park.

Braak also confirmed reports that trainee game rangers at Kruger were required to shoot a charging elephant as part of the course.

"The elephants are chosen and then chased with a helicopter towards the aspirant ranger. The stress on the elephants is immense," says an anonymous letter from a Kruger Park official.

"Some wounded elephants are chased for kilometres by the chopper before they are put out of their misery."

Braak said only rogue elephants which break out of the park and harass surrounding farmers are chosen for this purpose. He noted that the practice had been terminated earlier this year — apparently after the SPCA had contacted the park authorities to query evidence of undue animal mortality in Kruger.

Neil Fraser, manager of the Wildlife Division of the National SPCA, said his organisation was already monitoring game-capture operations in KwaZulu-Natal, the North-West and the Free State, and would now extend these activities to the Kruger National Park.

South Africa has a huge game-transport industry because of the large number of new state and private reserves that are growing in various parts of the country — and is probably a world leader in this field.

Andrew Mckenzie, chairman of the Wildlife Translocation Association of South Africa, says the National Parks Board generally has a good record with capture and transport of game, mainly because properly trained vets are involved in the operations.

He says the greatest problems and mortality — usually caused by a condition called "capture myopathy" that sends animals into severe shock — take place when private companies get involved in unregulated capture.

The SPCA and the Wildlife Translocation Association are serving on a committee, along with a number of other agencies, to devise a code of conduct to regulate the industry.

SA plans cross-border game reserve

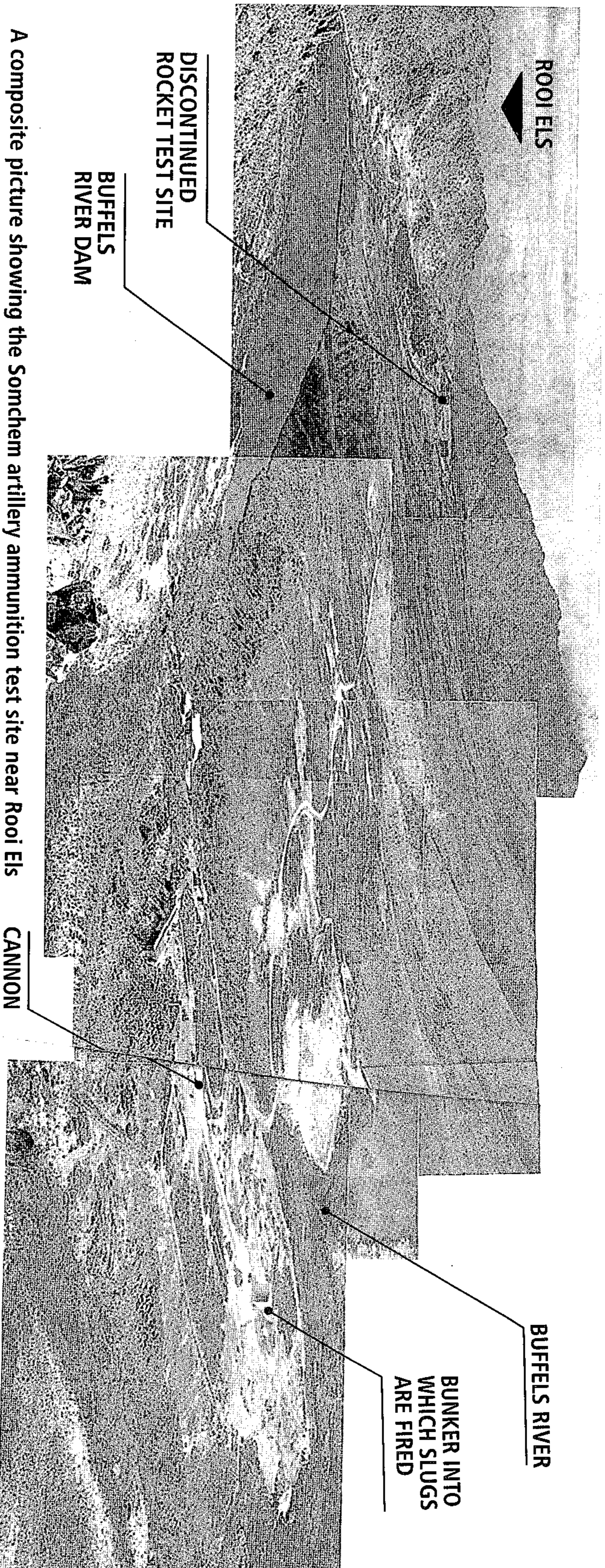
NELSPRUIT. - Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa are to create a joint game reserve straddling their borders.

Jacob Mabena, Mpumalanga's MEC for economic affairs, made the announcement yesterday, a week after the province's premier Mathews Phosa said negotiations had begun to extend the Kruger National Park into Mozambique's Gaza province.

Meanwhile, Mr Mabena said his

department hoped to establish a film industry by December 1998. (56)

"Mpumalanga and California are similar in many respects, climate and scenery being just two, and it will be possible to develop a film industry in the province," he said. Several films have been made in Mpumalanga, including Hollywood's *The Ghost and the Darkness*, starring Michael Douglas and Val Kilmer. - Sapa.



ROOI ELS



DISCONTINUED
ROCKET TEST SITE

BUFFELS
RIVER DAM

BUFFELS RIVER

BUNKER INTO
WHICH SLUGS
ARE FIRED

A composite picture showing the Somchem artillery ammunition test site near Rooi Els

CANNON

What's Your Poison, Rooi Els?

PIETERMALAN

Staff Reporter

RESIDENTS of the picturesque holiday towns of Rooi Els and Pringle Bay are up in arms, after discovering their water source has not been fully tested for traces of the poisonous chemicals used at the Somchem artillery test facility in the mountains above their homes.

The Buffels River dam, situated about 200 metres downstream from Denel's artillery test facility, is the only source of water for the holiday towns of Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. Some houses in Betty's Bay also receive water from the dam.

Earlier this week, The Argus reported that traces of the highly toxic elements beryllium and antimony had been found in two streams that flow into the Buffels River.

Somchem, a subsidiary of Denel, has denied these reports, even though SATURDAY Argus has in its possession copies of two independent test results that show these chemicals are present in the water.

■ Rooi Els and Pringle Bay residents fear the water of the Buffels River could be poisoned by more than just the traces of three poisonous elements, found in their drinking water during tests this month.

The company has conceded that lead in the ground around the test site exceeds the official guideline limits and has agreed to take steps to remove the lead from the terrain.

In a joint statement by Somchem and six other organisations they said that "at this stage", the levels of aluminium and six other organisa-

Umlazi waste site must close within six months - Asmal

DURBAN - Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal has given the firm Waste-Tech six months to close a liquid waste disposal site at Umlazi, which has been a thorn in the side of residents for nearly two decades.

Prof Asmal said the waste disposal facility should never have been built where it was. Waste-Tech would have to find an alternative site that complied with Government environmental and public consultation policies.

Waste-Tech workers last week clashed with pupils from an adjoining school who were demonstrating against the site. Prof Asmal said the waste disposal facility should never have been built where it was.

Asked what would happen if an alternative site could not be found, Prof Asmal replied that it would be "hard cheese" for Waste-Tech.

The people of Umlazi could not be expected to continue bearing the burden of a waste disposal site on their doorstep.

Prof Asmal said closing the site was in Waste-Tech's interests.

been done for all the poisonous substances brought onto the site by the arms manufacturer.

Residents fear cyanide, one of the products of combustion when a cannon is fired, might be present in their drinking water.

Industrial chemist Nino Costa, an advisor to the Rooi Els Water Monitoring Committee, said that until last week Somchem had refused to give interested parties information about the products of combustion.

It was only when these products were made known on August 14 that residents learned potassium cyanide was among the elements which could end up in the drinking water.

Cyanide is highly toxic. Dr Costa said until now scientists from Somchem had maintained combustion products were not of any importance to the water monitoring committee because these "went up into the air" when the cannon was fired.

During water tests by the CSIR, however, samples were taken from a water puddle that had formed near the cannon.

Although no test for cyanide was done on this sample, it showed a much higher potassium count than any of the other water samples.

"As potassium is one of the products of combustion, it therefore stands to reason that not all the products of combustion go up in the air as Somchem wants us to believe," said Dr Costa.

As the test site drains straight into the Buffels River, residents fear that any poisonous chemicals will eventually end up in their drinking water.

(56) ARG 24/8/96

They also point out that there had formed near the cannon.

Prof Asmal said a task force would explore alternatives to the Umlazi site and report back within two weeks.

He thanked the residents of Umlazi for their patience and for understanding the dilemma faced by the authorities.

Durban's mayor Obad Mlaba said the rights of industry and the public had to be put in balance. - Sapa.

He said that until now the department had relied on tests done by the CSIR for Somchem, but as part of the monitoring programme promised by Mr Asmal more regular tests would be done and closer attention would be given to the products brought on the site by Somchem.

Somchem referred enquiries to Denel spokesman Paul Holtzhausen. He was not available for comment

Protecting our treasure

ARU 26/8/96

(56)

Moves to establish a new Cape Peninsula National Park, centred on the Table Mountain chain and the Peninsula's proclaimed nature area, are rapidly approaching finality. Last week, the central cabinet approved such a plan and said the National Parks Board should assume responsibility as soon as possible. On Wednesday, the Western Cape cabinet is due to decide whether tough conditions it set in December for approving the national park have been met.

GAUTENG may have gold underground, but here in the Cape Peninsula it's in abundance all around us - in the form of a breathtaking natural environment that is also an internationally-acknowledged biological treasure chest.

That's the message in a joint briefing document from the Peninsula Mountain Forum, Wildlife Society, Red Hill Landowners' Conservation Group and Save the Mountain organisation.

The document is being used as the basis for briefings of local authorities by Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society, in the run-up to Wednesday's crucial meeting of the Western Cape cabinet.

The cabinet is due to decide whether tough conditions it set for its "in principle" approval of a Cape Peninsula National Park have been met.

Mr Gubb's coalition is lobbying support for the entire Peninsula mountain chain to become a national park and to be managed by the National Parks Board, and for all state and local authority land to be transferred soon to the board for this purpose.

Last week, the central cabinet approved a recommendation that Table Mountain should be proclaimed a national park as soon as possible and that the Parks Board should become its controlling authority.

Soon afterwards, Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring announced that he and cabinet colleague Lampie Fick had met National Parks Board chief executive Robbie Robinson, and had agreed that "every possible action should be taken to give effect to this (the cabinet's) decision as soon as possible".

Saying their meeting had been "extremely cordial", Mr Meiring added: "I'm confident all the parties can work together for the future conservation and harmonious development of this invaluable part of South Africa's national heritage".

But the coalition is taking nothing for granted, and is lobbying hard in the run-up to Wednesday's Western Cape cabinet meeting.

According to the coalition's briefing document, the natural area of the Cape Peninsula is an "Aladdin's cave" of indigenous plants, and should be proclaimed a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

"But we run the risk of never getting World Heritage Site status for this area if we ourselves do not accord it the highest national conservation status.

"Inescapably, this means that the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) must become a National Park with a single authority, namely the National Parks Board."



The document hits out at the previous management of the CPPNE, listing scores of failures by the authorities to adequately manage and protect this area.

It also assesses the activities of the National Parks Board in the Peninsula during the past seven months, and concludes that it has been "open, direct and transparent - qualities rarely displayed by various other authorities in their dealings with those of us who reside in the CPPNE".

"The board has clearly demonstrated its commitment to act as a worthy custodian that genuinely seeks the involvement of the people of the Cape Peninsula in securing the long-term conservation of this potential World Heritage Site."

Further support for the national park option has come from Brian Huntley, chairperson of the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory

Committee which last year advised then Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers that the best future management option for the mountain chain was such a park.

Last week Professor Huntley said his committee was anxious to have the interests of conservation served when final decisions were made about the mountain's future conservation status.

It believed the time had arrived for the Western Cape government to support "unequivocally" the establishment of a national park.

It also believed the parks board had made "very significant progress", especially in the light of the difficult time of change in all local government structures during the first half of the year.

"The need for conservation protection at the highest level possible, is beyond dispute," Professor Huntley said.

ECOLOGICAL JEWEL: Table Mountain, seen here in its full early evening glory, is to be proclaimed a national park and managed by the National Parks Board, the central cabinet has decided in a move that has delighted most environmentalists.

Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus

In another development surrounding the new national park, Safecol - the state-owned forestry company - has had discussions with the National Parks Board about the possible inclusion of Cecilia and Tokai plantations as part of the new park.

Recently environmentalists expressed concern that Safecol might try to sell-off some of the valuable but conservation-worthy sections of the two former state forests.

But this fear was dispelled by Safecol spokesperson Musa Mapisa, who said the company "whole-heartedly" supported the concept of a single conservation authority to co-ordinate land-use on the Table Mountain chain.

"We are discussing various possibilities with the parks board to bring this into being without transferring our commercial responsibilities in respect of the land to the board," he said.

Pollution control at crisis point - engineer

Staff Reporter

ARG 26/8/96 (56)

WASTE management in the Western Cape faces critical problems, an engineering specialist says.

John Wates, managing director of a firm of consulting civil, structural, process and geotechnical engineers, was speaking at a recent workshop on pollution control and waste management.

Mr Wates said there was a desperate need for integration and rationalisation of pollution control in South Africa. "Laws on their own are not going to do the job," he said.

The workshop was convened by the Fairest Cape Association (FCA) at Valkenberg Estate, and included representatives of various interest groups.

FCA consultant James Nowicki said waste management in the Cape was treated as a low priority at a time when it had become "a major issue".

"The landfill situation in the Western Cape is heading for a crisis," Mr Nowicki said.

Finding suitable landfill sites was one of the most pressing problems facing the region.

He said the association was concerned at the lack of vision and co-

ordination of different sectors in recycling and waste management.

Mr Wates said regulatory authorities and commerce needed to co-operate in solving the problem and the various authorities had to have their obligations clearly defined by regulations.

He said that too often "laws are aimed at treating symptoms rather than the root causes".

As an example, Mr Wates said requiring catalytic converters on vehicles would not on its own solve the air pollution problem.

Mr Wates said co-ordination was needed between sectors such as mining, industry, urban solid waste and agriculture.

A sectoral approach also required pollution control and waste management policy to distinguish between those communities which had "already accepted their moral obligation" to control waste, and those which had not, he said.

Integration and co-ordination was merely a means to achieve effective pollution and waste control.

Mr Wates said self-regulation by industry could not work alone, but that a system of regulations with checks and balances was necessary.

San claim national park land

EUNICE RIDER

ABOUT 300 remaining Khomani San people, who are scattered across the Northern Cape, have lodged a claim for about half of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in terms of the Land Restitution Act.

The San claim the land on which the park is situated is the land of their birthright and want to be established either in the park or on its perimeters.

Mr Roger Chennells, a Stellenbosch attorney who is representing the group in their claim, said his clients — the only remaining indigenous San people in South Africa — wanted to make it very clear that they did not wish to "take over the park just for themselves".

He said they were descended

from the estimated 100 000 San people who appear to have been the first people to arrive on the sub-continent.

He said he viewed the claim as historically and symbolically very important, not only to the individuals involved, but also because land might be returned to a people who were "dispossessed and destroyed on a vast scale, more than any others (people)".

Chennells said the land claim included about half of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and a portion of the Mier Coloured Reserve.

He pointed out that programmes with indigenous peoples, living in or very near national parks, had been very successful in various countries, such as Australia and Kenya.

He said he had been working on the claim with the San for about two years and hoped they would receive clarity on the direction of their claim — as well as on the negotiations to be undertaken — before the end of this year.

Park warden Mr Dries Engelbrecht and his wife Henriette, the national park's resident social ecologist, said yesterday they accepted the San had a claim to land in the Kalahari, but believed "they would not necessarily be settled in the park".

Engelbrecht said he would be "happy for the San people to be helped, along with anyone else who has legal land claims".

But he said that the decision lay with the Minister of Land Affairs and Agriculture, Mr Derek Hanekom.

(56)  ET 26/8/96

'Agreements violated' by baboon exports for tests

OWN CORRESPONDENT

PORT ELIZABETH: Baboons are being exported from South Africa to be used for military experiments in a shocking violation of international wildlife trade laws, says Earthlife Africa.

Earthlife's co-ordinator Mr Warwick Humphris said some of the animals were being sent to France to be used for irradiation research in the nuclear industry.

In an open letter to Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Pwale Jordan and provincial conservation directorates, Mr Humphris said the primate trade was morally and environmentally indefensible.

Documents in Earthlife's possession included permit applications from the Centre Africain de Primatologie Experimentation for

(56) CT 27/8/96
the export of 80 chacma baboons to France.

There were also letters from the Sanofi research laboratory in Montpellier and the French defence ministry to the chief directorate of nature and environmental conservation in Pretoria.

"The documentation confirms reports that non-human primates are exported for the purpose of in vivo experimentation including military experimentation."

Cites stipulated that the capture and trade of primates was prohibited if the wild population of that species was not known, he said, as was the case with the chacma baboon.

South Africans Against Vivisection spokeswoman Ms Michelle Pickover said the problem was that some SA conservation officials, despite this stipulation, were issu-

ing Cites permits to foreign laboratory representatives. "In this sense it's not illegal, that's the problem."

Humphris said there were enough human victims of the nuclear industry to provide irradiation symptoms for accurate species specific study.

Earthlife was calling for state conservation departments to adhere to Cites and other international agreements.

It was specifically calling on South Africa's nature conservation directorate to implement a moratorium on trapping and trade in primates pending the resolution of the process which was begun in a Pretoria workshop last year to determine a legal status for primates.

Comment was not immediately forthcoming from the chief directorate in Pretoria.

Peninsula national park gets go-ahead

ARG

29/8/96

(56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Western Cape cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a national park in the Peninsula and will make all its land and assets in this area available to the National Parks Board.

Announcing this yesterday, an "extremely pleased" Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring said while the details of the move had yet to be negotiated - the province's assets could be made available as a straight transfer or on a contractual basis - the park would definitely go ahead.

The new park will stretch from Signal Hill to Cape Point and includes most of the proclaimed nature area on the Peninsula

mountain chain.

"We're on the threshold of a new era. I'm very positive and we'll give our fullest cooperation (to the National Parks Board) and will help as far as we can," Mr Meiring said.

The cabinet had agreed to the creation of the new park after conditions set in December for its approval "in principle" had been met.

A delighted Robbie Robinson, National Parks Board's chief executive, described yesterday as "a day we are going to remember" and thanked local people, the cabinet and Mr Meiring for their support for the new park.

While some environmentalists were enthusiastic about the decision, others were cautious, notably the Wildlife Society.

Western Cape branch manager Andy

Gubb and conservation ecologist Marlene Laros said the society did not want to react until more details were available.

"It would be inadvisable to comment until clarity is forthcoming on several issues. Many of the (cabinet's) resolutions are ambiguous and vague," they said.

Mountain Club spokesman Lester Coelen said it was "basically the right decision".

"The club has always argued for a single management authority and was supportive of recommendations that the National Parks Board be this authority. We will do whatever we can to help the board in its management," Mr Coelen said.

"At least now we can put all our efforts into solving the practical problems, instead of the political ones."

● See page 35

Table Mountain park is on the way at last

After years of political wrangling, intense debate and sometimes acrimonious exchanges, all the political decision-makers have now agreed that the Peninsula mountain chain should be declared an official national park, managed by the National Parks Board. The outstanding player — the Western Cape cabinet — announced its final approval after a meeting yesterday. Although parts of the new park may initially be managed on a contractual basis, politicians and senior parks board officials are delighted, writes Environment Reporter JOHN YELD.

(58) ARG 29/8/96

IT'S all systems go for a Table Mountain national park, and the public could see official signs on the mountain by about April next year.

This follows a decision from the Western Cape cabinet after a presentation to it yesterday by National Parks Board chief executive, Robbie Robinson, and his senior official, David Daitz.

The "nuts and bolts" agreements of land transfers from the province to the Parks Board still have to be negotiated and parts of the new park may initially be included on a contractual basis, instead of being transferred directly to the Parks Board as a "schedule one" national park.

Dr Robinson said a schedule one park would be "first prize" for his board, but that both he and Mr Daitz were highly enthusiastic about the cabinet decision.

"This is a day we are all going to remember and for which future generations are probably going to thank us," Dr Robinson said.

Jokingly proposing that he and Dr Robinson take a bottle of champagne to the top of the mountain to celebrate, Kobus Meiring, Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister, said the cabinet's decision was unambiguous and that it was "an historic day". "I'm extremely pleased that we have reached this point — we're on the threshold of a new era and I'm very positive... As I read it, it's like a blank cheque to the Parks Board to go forward."

Mr Daitz described the cabinet decision as "a giant step forward. "No-one should be under any illusions. This is definitely going to be a national park. It's on its way, without doubt."

Today, Dr Robinson and Mr Daitz are meeting representatives of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company to attempt to negotiate a new lease for the oper-

ation of the cableway.

"We hope we will be able to finalise outstanding problems," Dr Robinson said.

Any new lease would include satisfactory solutions to problems such as the removal of sewage from the mountain which have been of major concern to environmentalists, he confirmed.

Also, the Parks Board would ensure that as much of the profit from the sale of cableway tickets as possible would go towards the conservation of the mountain.

There was a willingness from the cableway company's side to substantially increase the proportion of the ticket price that was donated to conservation, Dr Robinson said.

The Western Cape cabinet agreed that the Parks Board had made sufficient progress towards the creation of the new park during the past eight months.

This was one of the conditions it had set in December for its "in principle" approval of the proposed park.

Some environmentalists and commentators had suggested the cabinet could have been acting in bad faith by deliberately setting tough conditions that were unlikely to be met, so as to spike moves to create the new national park.

But this was strongly denied by Mr Meiring at a media conference yesterday at which he announced the cabinet's final stamp of approval.

He said Dr Robinson and Mr Daitz had presented the cabinet with a comprehensive summary of what had been achieved.

"The cabinet agreed what they heard was very good and that significant progress has been made. It felt the Parks Board had in fact fulfilled the conditions that were put."

Land and assets under the control of the Western Cape govern-

ment in the area of the proposed park would be made available to the National Parks Board, although the details of this still had to be negotiated between all the parties, Mr Meiring said.

Dr Robinson said the past eight months had been "a gruelling and very trying experience", and that creating a national park from the mosaic of property in public and private ownership in the Cape Peninsula was a "complex" task.

"We took up this challenge in the faith that Capetonians would rally and support the idea, and this is exactly what happened.

"The public did support the idea and has remained very supportive."

Mr Meiring announced that the new park would be managed by a committee of 15, appointed for a three-year term of office by the central Minister of Environmental Affairs, in consultation with the Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister, the central Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, and the chairman of the National Parks Board.

Six members — one each — would be nominated by the provincial administration, Cape Metropolitan Council, Central substructure, Southern substructure, National Monuments Council and the National Parks Board, while the other nine members would be nominated by the public.

This committee would recommend a name for the new park, but Mr Meiring said he hoped it would be the Table Mountain National Park.

Privately-owned land within the existing Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), where owners did not want to become part of the new national park, would be managed by the province on the advice of this committee.



A NATIONAL PARK: A Table Mountain national park should be a reality by next year after the Western Cape cabinet announced its approval of the move yesterday.

Updated register of SA's protected areas will help in land-use planning

(56) Mar 29/8/96

SCIENCE WRITER

An updated register of protected areas in South Africa as a tool to be used in all land-use planning is available from the Department of Environmental Affairs and

Tourism (DEAT).

The publication provides information on the country's 422 permanently protected areas and their management authorities, as part of a national data bank for national conservation planning.

"The register is not aimed at providing any strategy or policy, but to serve as an executive summary of the status quo in the country. For this reason no proposed or priority area, or any area that is not specifically protected

by law, is included in the register," the DEAT said.

Published for the first time in 1994, the register has been updated. Copies can be obtained from Belinda Weyers at telephone (012) 310-3426.

Peninsula national park gets the provincial green light



THE ESTABLISHMENT of the Table Mountain and Peninsula National Park is imminent. MELANIE GOSLING Environment Writer reports.

THE Western Cape cabinet has given the green light to the Table Mountain and Peninsula National Park — and will make their land available to the National Parks Board for inclusion in the future park.

MEC for the Environment Mr Kobus Meiring said yesterday: "We've basically given a blank cheque to (the) National Parks Board to go ahead with the park."

Informed sources say this is a major change of heart on the part of the provincial government, as

there were strong indications that the province was likely to derail the process of getting a national park established and were against parks board control over their land.

At a press conference yesterday, Meiring said the provincial cabinet had resolved that:

- They welcomed the establishment of a national park in the Peninsula, under the management of the National Parks Board.

- Land and fixed assets under control of the Western Cape government, in the area of the pro-

posed Peninsula park, would be made available to the parks board on a basis to be mutually agreed by the two parties.

- The status quo on management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Area (CPPNE) — the area to become a future park — be maintained, pending further discussions with the parks board on the proposed National Parks Committee.

This committee will be the driving force for the new park and will propose policies to the parks board after wide public consultation.

Meiring said the province still had to decide whether it would transfer its land to the parks board, or whether it would enter into a contract with the board.

National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson said yesterday: "This is a day we are all going to

remember and future generations will thank us."

Robinson said he would be meeting the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company today to negotiate a new contract.

The parks board will now have control over the proposed R60-million upgrading of the cableway.

The co-ordinator of the future park, Mr David Daitz, said yesterday: "This is a milestone, a giant step forward — now we have the support of all the political role-players, there is definitely going to be a national park, without a doubt."

The chairman of the Cape branch of the Mountain Club of SA, Mr Lester Coelen, said: "It is tremendous that province has finally done it and everyone can put their energy into supporting a single authority."

Policy to end export of apes

CAPE TOWN — Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan expressed support yesterday for a recommendation that a national policy be drafted to suspend the export of primates from SA for biomedical experiments.

The recommendation was made by the Gauteng Environmental Authority which suspended all such exports. (56)

This came in the wake of media reports that SA baboons were exported to the French military for use in nuclear experiments. Animal rights organisations requested Jordan to place a moratorium on the export of primates for research.

"The capture, translocation and rehabilitation of the animals and their use in biomedical research have been major points of environmental and ethical controversy," Jordan said. This had caused the failure of earlier attempts to discuss the matter with all stakeholders. — Sapa

BD 30/8/96

Chemical waste dumped in Midrand

(56)

By **BOBBY BROWN**

Star 30/8/96
Police are investigating the origins of about 200 containers of chemical waste which were found dumped next to a deserted road in Midrand yesterday.

Yolanda Young, a spokesman for Enviroserve, said the chemicals were dumped about 100m from the Olifantsfontein Road on Wednesday night. She said the Midrand Town Council had called Enviroserve to analyse the chemicals and clean up the site.

A preliminary analysis had found copper, silver, zinc, traces of cobalt, phosphates, ammonia, hydrogen peroxide and fluoroboric acid, she said.

The 25l plastic containers appear to have been offloaded in a hurry, since most of them rolled down an embankment, spilling some of their contents.

The containers were filled with a blue-green liquid. A number of empty bottles had "sulphuric acid, 98%" written on them.

Young said the mixture of metals identified so far were generally used in the electroplating industry. She added that the waste was potentially dangerous and could kill plantlife or children who might have swallowed it.

MILNERTON LIME WORKS SHUT DOWN

Government acts on residents' complaints

CT 30/8/96

(56)

COMPLAINTS about pollution from a Milnerton factory has led to its closure. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has ordered the Kilson Lime works in the Milnerton area to halt production until they clean up their act.

He said the lime works had been notified "on numerous occasions" since October to bring its emissions within legal limits.

"They have failed to do so and have been notified by the department to stop production until suitable air cleaning equipment has been installed. It is a matter of grave concern that this order has been ignored," he said.

The lime works, just beyond Blouberg, extracts lime by burning seashells. Residents in Bloubergstrand and Bloubergstrand have long complained about the smoke emissions and the acrid smell from the lime works.

The stench is caused by the burning of the organic matter — like bits of mussels and seaweed — which is attached to the shells.

Jordan said: "Industry is under obligation to prevent damage being done to the environment."

Cape Metropolitan Council

Sewage in sea 'not a threat'

BARRY STREEK

LEVELS of bacteria in the sea had occasionally risen to unacceptable levels off Mitchells Plain and at Millers Point last year, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

These incidents were localised, generally to within a 50-metre radius of the source, usually sewage outlets, he said in reply to a question tabled by Senator E K Moorcroft (DP).

"In general, the levels of pol-

lution are relatively low, they do not exceed the guidelines and do not constitute a major threat to marine life or bathers.

"However, there were some occasions when levels of bacteria, for instance, had risen temporarily to unacceptable levels as a result of, for example, malfunctioning treatment works."

Some of the highest bacterial counts were around the outfall from the Mitchells Plain waste water treatment works and the Millers Point outfall where the plant was being replaced.

health officer Mr Len Bremer said: "Over the past 18 months the complaints about the Kilson lime works have increased ... Some people say it affects their health, too, particularly asthma sufferers."

Chief air pollution officer for the Department of Environment Affairs, Mr Martin Lloyd, said the emission was more of a nuisance value than a health hazard.

The owners had installed new equipment on the department's instructions, but it had not been effective in removing the smoke and odour. The department then

notified the factory that they should stop production until effective equipment had been installed.

Kilson owner Mr John Killa said it was unfair that his factory should be shut down as there were other industries much closer to Milnerton and Blouberg which were polluting a lot more than his factory.

"The factory has been there since 1950. Surely it is up to the people who buy houses in new areas to ask themselves whether they want to live near a factory before they buy, not go ahead and buy and afterwards complain."

Council to hand over mountain land

METRO WRITER

THE Cape Town City Council agreed in principle yesterday to hand its land on Table Mountain over to the National Parks Board.

The section to be handed over includes the cableway.

Among the issues yet to be resolved, according to legal adviser Mr Howard Firth, is whether the contract will include a clause that outlines the circumstances under which the land should revert to council ownership. (56)

Councillor Mr Leon Markovitz said he was worried that the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company might start renegotiating its proposed R70 million upgrade of the cableway.

The company has been in dispute with the council for years. The council has tried to evict it, but failed because no agreement could be reached on the amount of compensation the council must pay for ending the lease early.

Now a well-respected legal source has told the council the old

lease has fallen away. Meanwhile, the cableway company has submitted plans for an upgrade that would enable the number of visitors to the top of the mountain to double.

When the council was asked to approve the upgrade plans, it took the opportunity to impose a number of environmental and financial conditions. It is feared that these conditions may now fall away.

Professor Richard Fuggle of UCT said the central issue was proper long-term management of the mountain. He recommended

that the cableway company's agreements should be renegotiated once the Parks Board was responsible for the control and management of the mountain.

● The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company and the Parks Board met yesterday to thrash out a way forward for the controversial upgrading project.

Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson said he would discuss a new lease agreement with the TMACC, an increase in the share of profits and environmental impact.

BB CT 30/12/196

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Tests show Rooi Els water safe, but fears remain

(56) ARG 31/8/96

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A NEW analysis of water in the Buffels River Dam above Rooi Els – the major water source for the communities of Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay – has failed to show any "potentially toxic concentrations" of dangerous chemicals.

The analysis was done immediately after The Argus disclosed last week that traces of the toxic elements beryllium and antimony had been found in samples of streams flowing into the Buffels River above the dam, which is surrounded by the Somchem artillery test site.

Somchem is a subsidiary of arms manufacturer Denel, and beryllium and antimony are believed to be present in hardened copper during tests of artillery ammunition.

Beryllium levels in two water samples in the area ranged between 729 and 739 parts per billion.

The maximum levels laid down by health authorities for safe drinking is 10 parts per billion.

There were fears that other toxins, including cyanide, could be washing down the river from the test site.

The new water test results from the dam, which are below the maximum safety level, have not completely satisfied Denis Cowen, chairman of the Rooi Els Court Order Water Monitoring Committee.

He said various initiatives were now in place to have the water tested by independent bodies and that it was important "not to compare apples with pears".

Also, the time when tests were done was important as much depended on seasonal rainfall, he said.

Dr Cowen praised The Argus for spurring the authorities to take the "serious problem" seriously.

"All (the new monitoring initiatives) are good.

"It will be even better if, when the results become progressively known, we have the genuine assurance that the water – not only in the dam itself, but also in the catch-

■ Amid calls for more independent tests, the CSIR says the high levels of poisonous substances that The Argus reported on were found in puddles on the Somchem test site, not in the Buffels River dam itself.

ment area and in the relevant streams – is safe.

At this stage it is important that the correct measures be compared. The results from the water in the dam should not be compared to results from the streams in the catchment area.

Dr Cowen asked when the "excessively high deposits of lead" on the test site – the result of Somchem's cannon-firing – were to be removed.

But not everyone holds Dr Cowen's view of the situation.

Allan Heydorn, one of South Africa's most prominent ecologists who has worked on the Somchem test site over a number of years, is adamant that water in the Buffels River dam is safe.

"There is no pollution of that dam at all – it is probably healthier than the other dams," he said.

Dr Heydorn pointed out that he had a holiday house at Betty's Bay and therefore frequently drank water originating from the dam.

He said lead, beryllium, aluminium, antimony and "to an extent" cyanide occurred naturally in the rock strata of the area, especially in the shales.

There had never been toxic concentrations of chemicals in the dam.

The chances were "zero" that chemicals found in the muddy puddles around the test site accumulated in the sediments of the dam, Dr Heydorn said.

Noting that Somchem was looking for alternative premises for its test site and that it expected to be off the Rooi Els site by 1999, he added: "I have no reason whatsoever to protect (Somchem), but I think

they've done as much as they can reasonably be expected to do."

In a statement yesterday the Hangklip-Kleinmond municipality said extensive independent analyses of water in the Buffels River dam had shown that the water was safe and fit for human consumption.

"Following recent speculation in some Cape newspapers that the purported contamination of the Buffels River dam water posed a threat to water consumers, Somchem commissioned the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to do special analyses of water in the Buffels River dam.

"The CSIR analyses did not detect any potentially toxic concentrations of beryllium, antimony or cyanide in the dam water."

The water quality in the dam would be tested and monitored independently, the municipality's statement said.

It continued: "Denel-Somchem appreciates the involvement of community leaders who have contributed constructively towards public participation in the environmental management of the test facility."

The findings of the water analysis – done on the same day as The Argus report appeared – were confirmed by Gideon Tredoux, the CSIR's research manager for water quality and resources.

He said the earlier beryllium findings had been taken "a bit out of context" as these samples had been from "puddles" on the site which could not be considered to be water flowing into the dam.

The CSIR had been testing the water in the dam since 1991 and, apart from aluminium, had never found chemicals at toxic levels above health standards.

The problem of excess aluminium had been resolved in the water treatment process.

Dr Tredoux said he agreed that the lead-contaminated soil at the site should be removed.

The CSIR considered itself independent and would not condone any pollution it found in its tests.

"We're definitely not going to sweep anything under the carpet," he said.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Total production of waste

393. Mr C M GEORGE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

What was the total production, in tonnes, of waste generated by the (a) mining, (b) metallurgical and metal, (c) non-metallurgical manufacturing and (d) service industries in each of the provinces during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available?

N704E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

The information as requested by the hon- member is not available. The latest data available for the waste streams in South Africa is that of 1991 and 1992.

The report "The situation of waste management and pollution control in South Africa", 1991, was compiled by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and contains the following data:

Industrial sector groups	Tonnes per annum
Non-metallurgical manufacturing industries	14,448 million
Metallurgical and metal industries	4,872 million
Service industries	20,275 million
Mining	375,056 million

Regional distribution of total waste generation (tonnes/annum) in the four groups of industrial sectors:

Group	Transvaal	Natal	W Cape	Rest
Non-metallurgical manufacturing industries	13,200 million	1,344 million	51 985	776 403
Metallurgical and metal industries	4,146 million	752 899	1 038	1 250
Service industries	21 212 million	270 296	260 307	149 240
Mining	292,634 million	3,055 million	12,1 million	68,850 million

These surveys were carried out during 1990 and 1991 and only for the mentioned provinces.

No current date exists about the generation of waste in South Africa. The reasons for the unavailability of data are:

- the fact that none of the government departments responsible for waste management are mandated to gather data of this kind;
- logging of waste generation is not enforced by any existing legislation;
- the relevant government departments are understaffed; and
- the government departments have a limited budget with little funds available for studies concerning waste generation.

Setswana	70 000	isiNdebele	200
siSwati	37 000	Tshivenda	60
isiNdebele	76 000	<i>Free State</i>	
Tshivenda	600 000	isiZulu	133 000
<i>North West</i>		Afrikaans	385 000
isiZulu	16 000	Sepedi	24 000
Afrikaans	266 000	English	40 000
Sepedi	25 000	isiXhosa	240 000
English	31 000	Sesotho	1 500 000
isiXhosa	120 000	Xitsonga	16 000
Sesotho	88 000	Setswana	125 000
Xitsonga	24 000	siSwati	5 200
Setswana	2 660 000	isiNdebele	6 300
siSwati	78 000	Tshivenda	1 100
isiNdebele	2 000	<i>KwaZulu-Natal</i>	
Tshivenda	3 700	isiZulu	6 300 000
<i>Gauteng</i>		Afrikaans	150 000
isiZulu	1 200	Sepedi	5 000
Afrikaans	1 350 000	English	1 280 000
Sepedi	570 000	isiXhosa	94 000
English	1 050 000	Sesotho	26 000
isiXhosa	400 000	Xitsonga	270
Sesotho	725 000	Setswana	1 000
Xitsonga	250 000	siSwati	2 600
Setswana	470 000	isiNdebele	500
siSwati	82 000	Tshivenda	300
isiNdebele	89 000	<i>Eastern Cape</i>	
Tshivenda	70 000	isiZulu	3 500
<i>Mpumalanga</i>		Afrikaans	560 000
isiZulu	650 000	Sepedi	600
Afrikaans	250 000	English	231 000
Sepedi	260 000	isiXhosa	5 180 000
English	54 000	Sesotho	13 000
isiXhosa	42 000	Xitsonga	60
Sesotho	58 000	Setswana	400
Xitsonga	96 000	siSwati	200
Setswana	23 000	isiNdebele	100
siSwati	820 000	Tshivenda	30
isiNdebele	304 000	<i>Western Cape</i>	
Tshivenda	3 400	isiZulu	2 600
<i>Northern Cape</i>		Afrikaans	2 140 000
isiZulu	2 000	Sepedi	2 200
Afrikaans	480 000	English	690 000
Sepedi	1 300	isiXhosa	523 000
English	20 000	Sesotho	9 000
isiXhosa	45 000	Xitsonga	700
Sesotho	4 800	Setswana	1 600
Xitsonga	1 000	siSwati	300
Setswana	137 000	isiNdebele	200
siSwati	60	Tshivenda	140

ment to be tested. Those who are HIV positive among this group are, in the strange logic of the answer, apparently able to perform their duties in order to ensure the safe custody of prisoners.

Using these kinds of contradictory arguments in order to justify pre-employment HIV testing reinforces the unjustifiable and unreasonable assumption that persons with HIV are unhealthy and incapacitated. A person with HIV can live a productive life for many years after infection. It is totally wrong to disqualify people from employment on the grounds that they will become ill at some point in the future.

Pre-employment and in-job HIV testing is entirely undesirable, and I sincerely hope that the Cabinet committee will come to the same conclusion. It is counterproductive in the struggle to contain the spread of the HIV virus and ought to be stopped immediately. It affronts the spirit of the Bill of Rights in our Constitution. It is in breach of the provisions of the National Aids Plan and the Labour Relations Act of 1995. Internationally the World Health Organisation, the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation all agree that pre-employment testing for HIV and Aids is unacceptable and indeed irrational.

Any decision to have an HIV test must be voluntary. In the context of a job application, to insist on an HIV test is therefore totally unacceptable, because an applicant who refuses to accede to an HIV test will not be employed, and there are a number of examples of people who have applied to the Department of Correctional Services and who have not been employed because they refused to take the test.

HIV affects millions of people. [Time expired.]
*Mr W A BOTHA: Madam Speaker, the FF has great compassion for any person who suffers from an incurable disease. We also have sympathy and feel sorry for persons who are HIV positive. We realise that there are a lot of people who have contracted the deadly virus through factors beyond their control. We grant them good treatment and the best medical care available.

The FF, however, fully supports the department's policy of not employing people who are HIV positive. It would be irresponsible of the Department of Correctional Services—or, for argument's sake, any other department—to employ a person who has such a sword hanging over his

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The provincial administrations were asked to furnish the information sought. The following information was received from them:

Gauteng	R2 414 948 896,00 (as on 31 May 1996)
Northern Province	R32 087 616,80 (as on 30 April 1996)
Free State	R124 462 557,00 (as on 31 May 1996)
Western Cape	R275 235 960,00 (as on 31 March 1996)
Northern Cape	R81 067 313,00 (as on 31 January 1996)
KwaZulu-Natal	R877 985 314,88 (as on 31 January 1996)
Mpumalanga	No information could be obtained.
North West Province	No information could be obtained.
Eastern Cape	No information could be obtained.

Olympic Games: Minister's visit to Atlanta
701. Dr A P JANSE VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology:

- Whether he went on an overseas trip to Atlanta, USA, during the duration of the Olympic Games; if so, (a) who invited him, (b) who funded the trip, (c) what was the purpose of his visit, (d) what was the duration of the trip and (e) what was the total cost of the trip, including accommodation;
- whether any members of his (a) staff and/or (b) family accompanied him; if so, what are the names of these persons;
- whether he attended any official appointments; if so, what appointments?

The MINISTER OF ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:
N1274E

- No
- (a)-(e) Not applicable
- No
- (a)-(b) Not applicable
- Not applicable

The relevant waste management departments should attain some of the data through the National Waste Strategy project which is scheduled to start during 1997.

Serious crime investigated by criminal investigation department

649. Mr H A SMIT asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

(a) How many cases of serious crime were investigated in each province by the criminal investigation department of the South African Police Service in (i) 1994 and (ii) 1995 and (b) how many detectives were involved in these investigations?

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(i) Province	(ii)
Natal	309 513 324 151
Northern Cape	60 589 65 751
Eastern Cape	183 765 194 824
Eastern Transvaal	96 980 102 171
Orange Free State	148 847 162 142
Far Northern Transvaal	32 891 43 989
Western Cape	330 208 338 691
Western Transvaal	73 735 85 472
Witwatersrand and Northern Transvaal	638 891 666 283

(b) Province

Natal	2 556
Northern Cape	557
Eastern Cape	1 613
Eastern Transvaal	1 315
Orange Free State	1 474
Far Northern Transvaal	550
Western Cape	4 514
Western Transvaal	712
Witwatersrand and Northern Transvaal	*

Note: TBVC states and self-governing territories are excluded.
*Not available.

Local governments: arrear rentals/service fees

658. Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:†

What did the total amount in arrear rentals and service fees owed to local governments amount to in respect of each province as at the latest specified date for which information is available?
N1169E

Also, the appointment and nomination of this person was made by the Senate committee which independently, without any influence from the department, nominated this person. As far as I am concerned there is no conflict of interest. I think that his will merely serve to strengthen the effectiveness of the PanSALB.

SA Revenue Services: unpaid taxes
*2. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain particulars which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, the South African Revenue Services expect to be successful in collecting the amount of R9 billion in unpaid taxes; if not, why not; if so, how;
- (2) whether any control measures have been or are to be implemented to prevent the movement of illegal goods; if not, why not; if so, when?

N1185E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes. The South African Revenue Service (SARS) expects to be successful in collecting that portion of the R9 billion unpaid tax that is still recoverable and at this stage is confident that the target of R1,5 billion arrears tax set in the Budget for this year will be met.

The South African Revenue Service is being reformed in totality and its operational systems are being upgraded to ensure greater efficiency. Some of the aspects which have an immediate and direct influence on collection of arrears taxes are:

- appointment of staff to vacant posts;
- reprioritisation of functions to concentrate on areas which will result in the greatest benefits;
- the seconding of personnel to the Johannesburg and Sandton area, where the greatest shortage of personnel is experienced;
- improvement of computer technology.

- (2) Improved controls concerning goods removed in transit through the RSA were introduced during March 1996 and have

proved to be effective. These controls are being monitored on a continuing basis and further refinements were introduced during July and August 1996.

Furthermore, 11 experienced British customs officers have arrived to assist in customs investigations of high risk goods as well as the specialised training of staff. It is also planned to increase the number of consignments stopped for physical examination from the present $\pm 3,2\%$ to the internationally accepted norm of 5% in the near future.

Soldiers involved in politics

*3. Mr R S MOLEKANE asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) What is the policy on the involvement of soldiers in politics;
- (2) whether his attention has been drawn to media reports concerning certain senior military officers, some of whom are officers in the citizen force, allegedly being involved in demonstrations to secure the release of a certain criminal from prison; if so, who are these officers;
- (3) whether these officers are currently serving in the South African National Defence Force; if so,
- (4) whether any action has been or is to be taken against these officers; if not, why not; if so, what action?

N1186E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(Reply partially laid upon Table with Leave of House):

- (1) The involvement of soldiers in politics is governed by the following laws:

(a) *The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*

- (i) Section 21 grants every citizen of the Republic of South Africa the right to participate in political activities.
- (ii) Section 33 makes provision for the rights entrenched by section 21 of the Constitution to be

limited by law of general application. Such limitations are contained in the Defence Act (Act 44 of 1957).

- (iii) Section 179(5)(e) states: "No person shall qualify to become or remain a member of a local government if he or she is disqualified in terms of other law". Such disqualification is contained in the Defence Act.

- (iv) Section 226(6) states: "No member of the permanent force shall hold office in any political organisation".

- (v) Section 227(2)(c) states: "The National Defence Force shall refrain from furthering or prejudicing party-political interests".

(b) *The Defence Act, Act No 44 of 1957 as amended*

- (i) Section 14 states: "No member of the Permanent Force may be elected as a member of Parliament or any prescribed public body".

- (ii) Section 126B places a prohibition on members subject to the Military Discipline Code from participating in strikes or performing any act of public protest.

- (iii) Section 2 of the First Schedule to the Defence Act determines that the Military Discipline Code is applicable to members in service or performing duty in the South African National Defence Force.

In the White Paper on Defence accepted by Parliament on 14 May 1996, paragraph 46 states: "Military personnel shall not attend political meetings in uniform save where they are on official duty".

- (2) and (3) The SA National Defence Force is unable to establish whom the media report was referring to. It has been ascertained that no serving members, i.e. Permanent Force members, were involved in the reported demonstration. If the media reports were correct it is possible that officers referred to could be members of

the part-time forces and as such are entitled to participate in political activity such as demonstrations as long as they are out of uniform and not in service. It is also possible that those referred to could have been former members of the SA National Defence Force.

- (4) No action has been taken because no serving Permanent Force members were involved in the demonstration.

The Minister of Defence wishes to assure this House that he will not tolerate the participation of any member in uniform in political demonstrations.

Dr B E NZIMANDE: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I want to request that you make a ruling as to whether it is acceptable for a member of the DP, the hon member Douglas Gibson, to wear an SACP tie in this House. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

Mr D H M GIBSON: Madam Speaker, on a further point of order: I understand that the SACP has been taken over by the neo-Liberals. I therefore feel quite comfortable wearing the tie that Dr Nzimande gave me! [Laughter.]

SA: signatory to conventions

*4. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether South Africa is a signatory to and active participant in the (a) London Dumping Convention, (b) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and (c) International Convention for the Intervention on the High Seas in cases of oil pollution casualties; if not, why not; if so, in each case, (i) from what date and (ii) with what result?

N1187E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Yes. South Africa is a signatory to all three of these Conventions.

- (a) South Africa was a signatory to the 1972 Convention, but only ratified it in 1978. The convention is brought into force locally in terms of the Dumping at Sea Control Act, Act 73 of 1980, which came into force on 23 April 1982.

We participate actively in the bi-annual meetings of the Contracting Parties to the

Convention (Scientific Group and Consultative meetings); and have established a regulatory system for the control of dumping activities.

- (b) This Convention came into force (with the 1978 amendments) in October 1983. The Marine Pollution Convention (MARPOL) applies to ships flying the flag of states and companies party to the convention and essentially lays down technical standards and requirements (for example segregated ballast tanks, waste reception facilities in ports etc.), and designates special areas where oil discharge is prohibited. It includes five different Annexes, namely Annex I—oil; Annex II—noxious liquid substances; Annex III—packaged substances; Annex IV—sewage; and Annex V—garbage.

South Africa acceded to MARPOL in November 1984, and the convention is enacted into local legislation in the form of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships Act, Act 2 of 1986. The Act is currently being revised (by the Department of Transport, which administers it), and substantial amendments are included in a draft Bill scheduled to go before Parliament in 1996. This legislation has allowed us to provide for controls over shipping and offshore activities in our coastal waters.

Pollution and safety issues related to shipping are discussed at a variety of committees (for example the Marine Environment Protection Committee) set up under the auspices of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) which provides the Secretariat for this and other relevant conventions. Since our admission as members of IMO in 1994, we have participated in these committees.

- (c) (i) Came into force internationally on 6 May 1975—allows parties to take measures to prevent or alleviate potential damage to their coastal resources.
- (ii) South Africa acceded to the Convention on July 1986, and it was enacted as a Schedule to the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties Act, Act 64 of 1987.

Diplomatic corps: incidents of robbery

*5. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any incidents of robbery perpetrated against members of the diplomatic corps to the Republic have been reported to him or his Department during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

N1188E
The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Yes, the latest specified period being 1 August 1995 till 31 July 1996.

Three incidents were reported in Gauteng:

— On 19 April 1996 the driver of an Ivory Coast diplomat was robbed of his kombi in Brooklyn, Pretoria by two suspects. The driver, also a citizen of the Ivory Coast, escaped without injuries.

— A housebreaking occurred at the Lebanese Embassy in Houghton between 9 and 10 May 1996.

— Mr Charbel Stephan, Diplomat from Lebanon, was attacked and robbed at the Lebanese Embassy in Houghton on 19 May 1996. The five unknown males ransacked the house and removed goods to the value of R122 468,26.

One incident was reported in KwaZulu-Natal:

— The Mercedes-Benz of the Vice Consul at the Greek Consulate in Durban, M Heronikias, was hijacked at Buckingham Terrace, Westville, Durban on 3 May 1996. The vehicle was recovered on 6 May 1996, and no arrest has been made.

One incident was reported in the Eastern Cape:

— A servant was shot and killed and a Mercedes-Benz car hijacked at the house of a member of the German Consulate in Port Elizabeth on 19 October 1995. Although the vehicle has since been recovered, no arrest has been made as yet.

Taxi violence

*6. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) How many people were killed as a result of taxi violence and/or related activities (a) in 1995 and (b) during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available;

- (2) whether he or the South African Police Service have taken or intend taking any steps to end such violence and murders; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

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

N1189E
The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) (a) 222

- (b) 148 (latest specified date: 31 July 1996)

- (2) Yes. Owing to the nature, impact and high profile of taxi violence, various state and private initiatives have been launched to deal with the problem. Mr Justice Goldstone's report on taxi violence and his recommendations served as a starting point for many of these initiatives. Peace initiatives have been hampered by the distrust among the warring taxi associations. Meetings which are arranged fail because not all the parties attend and subsequent resolutions become futile. It has also become clear that these initiatives must involve all those party to the violence — not only taxi owners and executives of taxi associations.

For instance, in the Eastern Cape attempts were made to resolve the taxi conflict by establishing inclusive forums representing local transitional local councils, political organisations, security forces, civics and community bodies. Intensified policing in conjunction with the SANDF is being conducted. This, however, is a measure that cannot be maintained permanently, and only addresses the security dimension of the problem. In the Northern Province region, the SAPS has embarked on a crime prevention strategy at the taxi ranks.

Community Police Forums and the taxi associations meet on a regular basis. There is also a taxi liaison forum between the SAPS, traffic department and taxi drivers.

which meets once a month to discuss problems.

The SAPS has also formed a new unit, the Taxi Violence Investigation Unit, which is involved in investigating incidents of taxi violence. An intelligence capability was added to this Unit to proactively help combat taxi violence. In a further significant development, Police Commissioner George Fivaz instructed that all members of the SAPS are prohibited from being directly or indirectly involved in the taxi industry. Members who are already involved in the taxi industry have to declare their interests and have to cease their involvement forthwith. A significant decrease in violence was experienced, due to arrests made by this Unit.

(3) No.

Mr J CHIOLÉ: Madam Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, and as taxi violence has very serious implications for South Africa, does the figure up to 31 July 1996 represent an increase in relation to the coinciding period in 1995? Since the Deputy Minister has indicated that some arrests have been made, can he indicate in what percentage of these murder case arrests were or could be made.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, could you converse at a much lower level so that we can hear the speakers.

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Speaker, I will have to have notice of that question.

Attacks on persons in magistrates' offices

*7. Mr J C N WAUGH asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

Whether any attacks on persons in magistrates' offices were brought to the attention of the South African Police Service in the past financial year; if so, (a) how many and (b) how many people were injured in such attacks? N1190E
The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Yes. (a) 9; (b) 7.

Inquest: Transkeian policeman

*8. Mr R K SIZANI asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

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(e) No. No provision is made for car allowances.

(f) No. No provision is made for entertainment allowances.

(g) No. No provision is made for any other fringe benefits.

(3) No. (a), (b) and (c) fall away.

SABC: broadcasting time for political parties

586. Mr P I BIKITSHA asked the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:†

How much broadcasting time did the SABC apportion to (a) all and (b) each of the political parties during the period 1 May 1994 to 24 May 1996?

N1038E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

The Chairperson of the SABC has informed me as follows:

The SABC did not apportion any time to political parties in the said period.

It is not the policy of the Corporation to apportion time to political parties. News events involving political parties, or any other institutions are covered and broadcast on the basis of their news worthiness.

The decision as to the news worthiness of news articles are determined by a collective of editors based on the SABC's editorial code of conduct.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Green Papers

587. Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

(1) Whether his Department has released any Green Papers since 27 April 1994, if so, when, in each case;

(2) whether any comments have been received on these Green Papers; if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) extent of such comments in each case;

(3) whether any steps are envisaged with regard to such comments; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N1039E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) A Tourism Green Paper (TGP) was announced on 7 September 1995 by my predecessor.

(2) (a) Submission of comments were promoted through countrywide workshops arranged and facilitated by the Department. Stakeholders, interested parties and role-players were invited in order to present their views, opinions and sentiments. Over and above the countrywide workshops, a national plenary was arranged and held (chaired by my predecessor) where representatives of the tourism industry, role-players, all Directors-General of Government Departments and provinces again had the opportunity to submit observations, opinions and comments.

In addition, everybody with any interest in tourism received the opportunity to submit written inputs with regard to the qualitative nature of the TGP to the Department.

(b) The comments were comprehensive and virtually addressed every subject contained in the TGP. Subjects which incited comment included the proposed organisational structures and appropriate roles and functions, participation and involvement of all interested parties in tourism activity and ways according to which tourism and activity can be ignited rapidly over the short term to strengthen the national socio-economic development process.

(3) All inputs were submitted to the responsible consultant (Dr Poon, an expert appointed by the European Union) who had to attend to the aggregation of all comments and the integration thereof into the anticipated Tourism White Paper, which was subsequently completed and thereafter approved by Cabinet.

Olympic Games: Minister's visit to Atlanta

683. Mrs S M CAMERER asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether he went on an overseas trip to Atlanta, USA, during the duration of the Olympic Games; if so, (a) who invited

him, (b) who funded the trip, (c) what was the purpose of his visit, (d) what was the duration of the trip and (e) what was the total cost of the trip, including accommodation;

(2) whether any members of his (a) staff and/or (b) family accompanied him; if so, what are the names of these persons;

(3) Whether he attended any official appointments; if so, what appointments?

N1255E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) No

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Olympic Games: Minister's visit to Atlanta
685. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1) Whether he went on an overseas trip to Atlanta, USA, during the duration of the Olympic Games; if so, (a) who invited him, (b) who funded the trip, (c) what was the purpose of his visit, (d) what was the duration of the trip and (e) what was the total cost of the trip, including accommodation;

(2) whether any members of his (a) staff and/or (b) family accompanied him; if so, what are the names of these persons;

(3) whether he attended any official appointments; if so, what appointments?

N1257E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) No

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) Not applicable.

(2) (a) and (b) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

Olympic Games: Minister's visit to Atlanta

703. Mr D DE V GRAAF asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(1) Whether he went on an overseas trip to Atlanta, USA, during the duration of the Olympic Games; if so, (a) who invited him, (b) who funded the trip, (c) what was the purpose of his visit, (d) what was the

duration of the trip and (e) what was the total cost of the trip, including accommodation;

(2) whether any members of his (a) staff and/or (b) family accompanied him; if so, what are the names of these persons;

(3) whether he attended any official appointments; if so, what appointments?

N1276E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

(1) No

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Trade and Industry: staff

727. Mr D DE V GRAAFF asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(a) How many staff members were employed by his Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by his Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N1301E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

(a) On 1 August 1996 the following staff members were employed in the Ministry of Trade and Industry:

Office of the Minister of Trade and Industry

Special Advisers	2
Administrative Secretary	1
Private Secretary	1
Assistant Private Secretary	1
Ministerial Typist	2
Registry Clerk	1
Total	8

Office of the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry

Private Secretary	1
Assistant Private Secretary	1
Ministerial Typist	1
Registry Clerk	1
Total	4

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President of the Court were taken into account and the location of the Court was ultimately decided on the basis of their recommendations, which was in the district of Randburg. Supreme Court buildings, including that in Pretoria were not considered because the judges wanted to establish a separate identity for the Land Claims Court.

Amongst the reasons for locating the Court in Randburg are the following:

- the premises are easily accessible;
- the premises were suitable for conversion into court rooms;
- the premises are located close to various facilities;
- parking facilities are adequate;
- suitable entrance for judges exist;
- security is adequate.

Charges laid against certain person

*2. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any charges have been laid against a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police Service for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) what charges, (b) how many and (c) what is the current status of the investigation concerning the said person?

S498E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE (for the Minister for Safety and Security):

No.

The South African Police Service has no record that any charges have been laid against the person whose name has been submitted to the SAPS for the purpose of this answer.

- (a), (b) and (c) Not applicable.

Price of aeroplane fuel in SA

*3. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- Whether the Airlines Association of South Africa has presented his Department with evidence that aeroplane fuel in South Africa is more expensive than at typical

airports abroad; if so, what was his Department's reaction thereto;

- whether he or his Department intends taking any action on the basis of this evidence; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when?

S499E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (for the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs):

- Yes. The Airlines Association has on several occasions submitted information to the Department on the comparative cost of aviation turbine fuel (jet fuel) at the Johannesburg International Airport (JIA) and other airports abroad. This process culminated in a meeting between the former Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, representatives of the Airlines Association of South Africa, the International Association of Air Transport (IATA), the South African liquid fuels industry and Transnet, where additional information was conveyed. It was agreed that further information would be submitted by IATA through the Airlines Association of South Africa. This information is still being awaited.

- The price of jet fuel is not controlled by Government.

Pollution levels in sea-water: EC guidelines exceeded (56)

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

- Whether European Community guidelines in regard to pollution levels in sea-water were exceeded at any points along the South African coast in 1995; if so, (a) where, (b) what pollutants were found to be present and (c) in what quantities were they found;

- whether pollution levels in South African waters in that year posed any dangers to (a) marine life and/or (b) bathers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

S500E

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Hon Deputy Minister Mkhathshwa, I believe this is your

first appearance in the Senate. You are most welcome.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism): Thank you very much, Mr President.

- Yes.

(a), (b) and (c) Because of limited national monitoring (as a result of fragmented responsibility and restricted manpower and resources) only sources of discharge of particular concern are being monitored regularly, consequently no complete record exists.

- In general, the levels of pollution are relatively low; they do not exceed the guidelines and do not constitute a major threat to marine life or bathers. However, there were some occasions when levels of bacteria, for instance have risen temporarily to unacceptable levels as a result of, for example, malfunctioning treatment works. Such incidents are also very localised, generally limited to within a 50 metre radius of the source.

Some of the highest levels recorded include the following examples:

Bacterial counts in the vicinity of the outfall from the Mitchell's Plain waste water treatment works exceeded acceptable levels reaching values of 15 000 on occasions. However, the treatment plants there have subsequently been extended to alleviate an overloaded condition and improvements can be expected.

Similarly the guideline value was exceeded at Millers Point where the waste water treatment plants are currently being replaced.

Senator J SELFE: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I wonder whether he could inform us, or at least communicate my question to his colleague in order for him to inform us, precisely what steps the Government intends to take to overcome the limited national capacity that the department has at the moment and the fragmented control over this particular area of Government responsibility.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Mr President, I shall duly communicate the question to the Minister concerned.

Fraud/corruption: losses incurred

*5. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Education:

Whether his Department incurred any losses as a result of fraud and corruption in the 1995/96 financial year; if so, what was the total cost to his Department incurred as a result of such fraud and corruption?

S501E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

No.

Fraud/corruption: losses incurred

*6. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Health:

Whether her Department incurred any losses as a result of fraud and corruption in the 1995/96 financial year; if so, what was the total cost to her Department incurred as a result of such fraud and corruption?

S502E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

The Department of Health did not experience any losses due to fraud and corruption. Losses have however been incurred due to the following:

- Warrant vouchers (cheques) to the total amount of R110 111,70 that were sent by post to suppliers for the payment of services rendered to the Department were fraudulently negotiated by persons outside the Public Service.

R84 000 was lost at BUREAU NUMERALS, which is an office supervised by the Department of State Expenditure to print and process cheques for the entire State and update the Financial Management System. From this office cheques were stolen about three years ago and Mr Hart deposited a cheque in the name of O G Holmes. A blank cheque was stolen and cashed; the case was reported to the Police. He was charged but released by the courts on technical grounds.

R26 111 was lost in the post. The Department of Health sent a cheque to Abbot Laboratories by post. The cheque did not reach its destination. This was subsequently fraudulently cashed. The case was also reported to the Police. A warrant

City to contribute R20m to clearing alien bush

(56) CT 2/9/96

METRO WRITER

TWENTY MILLION rand from greater Cape Town's water undertaking will be used for clearing non-indigenous bushes from the catchment areas of council dams, the Cape Town City Council decided late last week.

Cape Town manages the "bulk" supply of water for the whole of metropolitan Cape Town, but Water Affairs Minister Mr Kader Asmal has already told the city council its management is on the way out.

Asmal has said his expert advisers have estimated that the eradication programme would result in an average 30% improvement in water flow.

Kruger policy open for debate

56

Public urged to participate, to help establish
new management strategy for national park

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

The future management policy of the Kruger National Park, particularly the management of elephants, has been thrown open for public debate and comment, chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson announced yesterday.

To facilitate the process, the National Parks Board (NPB) has released a discussion document which reviews shortcomings in present policies, raises various issues that have to be addressed and suggests some possible options.

Robinson stressed that all aspects of policy, including a mission statement, were up for discussion, with final approval resting with the now democratically-elected board of the NPB.

The major catalyst for the review of policy was the May 1995 public

debate on elephant culling, he said.

"But elephants are only one component that the NPB is trying to manage in Kruger. Our endeavour is to preserve the integrity of the park, biodiversity and visual aspects.

"We are moving into an era of being open and transparent so we are asking for public participation, opinions of South Africans across as wide a spectrum as possible."

The discussion document was drawn up by a specialist group and none of the options it contained was cast in stone, Robinson emphasised.

A core proposal is the design of an experiment to establish the need for elephant culling and to test various hypotheses on the preservation of biodiversity, fire regimes and water availability.

As outlined in the discussion document, this would involve zoning the park into blocks which would receive different treatments

from removal to non-removal of elephants, planned burning versus a natural fire cycle and removal of artificial water points versus their retention.

The experiment, like everything else in the discussion document, should not be considered as "a best method", Robinson said.

"Our best shot will be what South Africans come up with together, given the limitations," he said.

The document is available on request and will be open for comment until November 12, when a conference will be held, where issues raised will be debated in an open forum.

Following this, a final policy document will be passed to the board for its approval, possibly by early next year.

Inquiries to public relations manager Tsale Makam at telephone (012) 343-9770, fax (012) 343-4605.

new 4/9/96

Whiter shade of pale

By Rafiq Rohan (56)
Political Correspondent

IF South Africans want to get a fair picture of the racial make-up of the "Rainbow Nation" there is not much chance they will see it reflected in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

What they will discover is that practically one in every three staff members is white.

Newly-appointed Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has a task on his hands to get the department more representative of the new order rather than, as it looks now, the old.

Jordan revealed to Parliament that

830 of the staff at the department are white, 265 are coloured, 182 are black and 14 are Indian.

He explained: "The total number of staff members employed in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, excluding the research personnel and members of visiting teams that are appointed on a temporary contract basis for the duration of expeditions to the Antarctic and Gough and Marion Islands, is 1 291."

Jordan was responding to a question by Senator William Mnisi of the Democratic Party.

He said his information was based on statistics for the period ending in July this year.

'Spare our jobs' plea to council

Metro Reporter

(56) (250)
ARL 4/9/96

MUNICIPAL workers want an assurance they will not lose their jobs when city council land on the slopes of Table Mountain is transferred to the National Parks Board.

Cape Town municipality's executive committee will consider a demand from council unions that their members be given "100 percent assurance" that they will not lose their jobs.

The parks and forests department has 148 staff members who will be affected by the transfer of land, which has yet to be finalised.

The council believes it will be able to absorb them without creating an additional burden because of normal attrition in the workforce.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply: (56)

Illegal hazardous dumping sites

*1. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether his attention has been drawn to the existence of any hazardous waste dumping sites which are currently operating without the necessary permits; if so, what is the extent of this problem;
- (2) whether illegal hazardous dumping sites are posing any danger to public health; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action?

S513E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Mr President, this is an important question, so my reply is fairly extensive.

- (1) Two types of formal hazardous waste sites are found in the country, namely sites available for general use by companies and municipalities and sites where only hazardous waste from specific companies is handled and I will deal with them separately.

I am sure hon senators are wondering why there are two types of hazardous sites in the country. The reason is simply that certain companies generate enough volumes of waste to warrant their own waste sites. In addition, some may generate a certain type of hazardous waste that requires special designs to eliminate or minimise risk to the environment.

Waste sites for general use

Seven of the nine hazardous waste sites available for general use, have received permits. The remaining two without permits are:

The Umlazi site in KwaZulu-Natal Province, operated by Waste-tech (Pty) Ltd. The decision has been made that the site

will be closed by February 1997. A permit for closure will be issued for the site in the next few days; and

the Vissershok site in Western Cape Province, operated by City Council of Cape Town. The Council is at present involving the public as part of their permit application process.

Waste sites for specific companies

The 17 known hazardous waste sites of this kind, where only waste from specific companies is handled, have been issued with permits. These include sites at Mossgas, various power stations and a paper mill.

It is suspected, however, that up to 50% of all non-mining hazardous wastes are illegally disposed of onto general (domestic) waste sites, into sewers or onto uncontrolled land. A major problem in this regard is that dumping can take place without the culprits being seen or identified. It is therefore very difficult to identify transgressors, but where this happens prosecutions are instituted.

- (2) As far as the two hazardous waste sites presently operating without permits are concerned, scientific studies have already indicated that the Umlazi site does not pose a public health hazard. However, the Umlazi waste site has been a source of intolerable smells affecting the nearby communities and therefore causing illnesses. Students and teachers of the Isipingo Secondary School have fallen sick as a result of the smell. The site itself should never have been situated where it is in the middle of a residential area in Umlazi. It is part of our inheritance.

It is for these reasons that, after consultation with the MEC for Traditional Affairs and Environment in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, iNkosi Ngubane, and the mayor of Durban, Mr Obed Mlaba, I decided that the site must close by 28 February 1997. The City Council of Cape Town is in the process of finalising similar studies for their Vissershok site, but studies conducted at the adjacent Vissershok Waste-tech site indicated that no public health

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Yes, the one R5 rifle which was discovered on the farm has been identified as the property of the South African Air Force, Waterkloof.

Investigation is in a very sensitive stage, therefore no further details can be revealed.

Senator J SELFE: Mr President, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, when this arms cache was found, mention was made of a very considerable discovery of arms and ammunition. The Deputy Minister referred only to one particular weapon that was the subject of this investigation. I wonder whether he would be in a position to be a little bit more candid about the other aspects of the arms cache that was discovered.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr President, I am sorry, but I cannot satisfy the hon senator. My information is that only the one RF rifle was discovered on the farm. It is possible that reference is being made to news reports, and, of course, news reports are not admissible as evidence in any court in this country. [Laughter.]

Tenders for accommodation for SAPS in Jeffreys Bay

*3. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain particulars which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, he or his Department has received any complaints in regard to the process involved in accepting tenders for accommodation for the South African Police Service in Jeffreys Bay; if so (a) what was the nature of the complaints and (b) what was his Department's response thereto;

- (2) whether any action has been taken on the basis of these complaints; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action?

S515E

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- (1) Yes

(a) and (b) One of the tenderers alleged that the accommodation offered by the successful tenderer was situated on four erven and that the land was not zoned for

hazard is posed by that site. As the situations are very similar at the two Vissershok sites, it is not foreseen that any adverse health effects will be found at the unpermitted site.

The illegal dumping on domestic waste sites, or anywhere else for that matter, could cause danger to public health and the environment and each case has to be dealt with individually. It should be noted, as I have said, that it is very difficult to police illegal dumping, as this is done deliberately.

- (3) The Department is closely involved with the permitting process of the Umlazi and Vissershok sites and it is foreseen that the permit application process will be concluded in the near future.

Regarding illegal dumping, the position is that the Department is developing a national waste management strategy in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. This strategy will include an approach to separate hazardous waste from the general waste stream at source and to establish control over hazardous waste generators and transporters to ensure legitimate disposal. Draft regulations for the registration of the generators and transporters have already been drawn up by the Department for publication and comment. An urgent decision has to be taken by the Department in consultation with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on which department is going to be responsible for the administration of these regulations. Earlier this morning I had the first of a series of discussions with the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on this issue and I see this only as a beginning of a long road that still lies ahead.

Arms cache on farm in Bronkhorstspuit

*2. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any progress has been made in identifying the owners of the arms cache discovered on a farm in Bronkhorstspuit in April 1995; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what progress?

S514E



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW: The prison on Robben Island is to be converted into a Museum of the Freedom Struggle.

Cabinet approves plan for Robben Island

BARRY STREEK

THE prison on Robben Island will be converted into a Museum of the Freedom Struggle in South Africa, the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Mr Lionel Mtshali, said yesterday.

The cabinet had also approved a recommendation to incorporate the Mayibuye Centre and the University of

the Western Cape-initiated Robben Island Gateway project into the new museum.

In a statement, Mtshali said the cabinet approved the recommendations — by the Future of Robben Island Committee — that Robben Island should be developed as a World Heritage Site, national monument and national museum, which could become a cultural and

conservation showcase for the new South African democracy, while at the same time maximising the economic, tourism and educational potential of the island.

* The Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology would become the new controlling authority for the island, taking over from the Department of Correctional Services on January 1 next year.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ANGRY

Monument status (56) (2002) for mountain site?

CT 6/8/96

THE proposed housing development at Oudekraal drew heavy criticism yesterday, but there are no legal grounds on which to challenge it unless the National Monuments Council steps in, says Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING**.

IN a last-ditch attempt to stop the controversial multi-million rand Oudekraal township development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, the National Monuments Council (NMC) may have the land provisionally declared a national monument.

Director Mr George Hofmeyr said yesterday the NMC had already provisionally declared most of the privately owned Oudekraal land a national monument under the National Monuments Act. This excludes portion 7 of Oudekraal, the site of the proposed township, but includes portions 4, 5 and 6, stretching from the southern edge of the new township to the old White House site and beyond.

There have been howls of protest from Capetonians and environmental organisations after the announcement of the development.

Save the Mountain Campaign spokesperson Ms Cecelia Assad said: "We are demanding answers as to why the Cape councillors are allowing greedy developers to destroy this sensitive area so precious to our environment and to future generations. How is it possible that the Twelve Apostles are threatened because of laws that date back to 1957 during the apartheid regime?"

Green Coalition spokesperson Ms Liz Linsell said the entire development proposal was out of date and the permission granted needed to be

revisited. "A lot has happened since 1957. Circumstances have changed and this development is completely inappropriate."

Ms Alide Croudace of the Redhill Landowners Conservation Group said the authorities should protect the peninsula's fast-growing tourist industry by turning down developments in pristine areas.

"They should revisit the legality of the development and accept that certain principles like long-term conservation take priority over short-term financial gain for a handful of developers," she said.

The Cape Times was inundated with calls from Capetonians who objected to the development. Mr Piers Buckle said he and colleagues had started a petition to have the development vetoed.

"This land should be part of the future national park. If the authorities let this beautiful piece go, when will they say 'no'?"

A World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) statement said they were in principle against the development of untransformed land on the peninsula. The way forward was to densify, not expand.

"Any major development which predates modern land-use planning principles is viewed with great anxiety. The time is right for the government to urgently and comprehensively revisit land use on the whole Cape Peninsula."

National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson said yesterday he was "devastated" by the announcement.

"It's definitely going to have a major visual impact on the future national park. But the owner had rights and there is nothing the parks board can do about it."

Co-ordinator of the future park, Mr David Daitz, said: "We have thoroughly researched it from a legal point of view and can find no grounds legally to overturn the permission granted in 1957. The NMC is the only organisation with the legal capacity to do anything. It will be a sad day for Cape Town if the development goes ahead, but unfortunately no one has enough money to buy out their rights. It is with a very heavy heart that I say if we fight them, we will probably lose."

TODAY'S WEATHER

FORECAST

WESTERN CAPE: Partly cloudy and cold with isolated showers along the south coast but cloudy in the west with rain. The wind over the interior will be strong north-westerly. The wind along the coast will be strong to gale force north-westerly.

WATER TEMPS

Sea Point:	10°C
Sea Point Pool:	Closed
Muizenberg:	13°C
Muizenberg Pool:	Closed
Newlands Pool:	9°C
Long St Pool:	25°C

LOCAL TEMPS Min/Max

Gauteng	04 25
Durban	13 28
Port Elizabeth	06 24
Bloemfontein	03 24

**Weekend weather report
in Top of the Times**

Parks Board to acquire stake in Table Mountain cableway

Transaction viewed as an 'extremely shrewd business move'

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

The decision by the cableway company to sell off some of its shares to the National Parks Board is seen as a shrewd move to pave the way for the smooth future running of the city's second biggest tourist attraction.

Yesterday company chairman Louis de Waal announced that the NPB would acquire a large share in the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC).

At least two consortiums of black businessmen have also been waiting in the wings to take up shares in the cableway company, just months before it starts on one of the most ambitious upgrades in its 60-year history.

The R70-million upgrade should start before the end of the year and will increase the carrying capacity of the cableway system by almost four times, with two bigger and faster cable cars.

Managing director John Harrison said although the deal was still being negotiated, the Parks Board would have more than just a token share in TMACC Holding, the mother company of which he, Mr De Waal and business partner Ron Reid are the main shareholders.

"We are talking about a double percentage figure," he said. The company is worth between R40- and R50-million.

The deal has been described as an extremely shrewd business move, as the company will have to re-negotiate their lease agreement with the NPB, who will have control of the Western Table where the upper cable station is situated.

Should they become shareholders and board members of the company operating the cableway, these negotiations should be no more than a formality.

The acquisition of shares in the cable-

way has been criticised by the Mountain Club's Lester Coelen, who said their might be a conflict of interest if the NPB, as custodian of the mountain, also had a share in a business operating on the mountain.

"This decision could have tremendous ramifications ... (and) should have been discussed with other interested parties before it went ahead," he said.

Legal experts said a lot depended upon the lease agreement or concession signed between the custodians of the Western Table and the cableway company.

Under the existing agreement with the city council, the lease could be terminated every 10 years. As this timespan is too

short to validate a multi-million rand upgrade, the agreement would need to be renegotiated with the new custodians.

Last month the city council made a decision in principle that the Western Table would be transferred to the new proposed national park.

Mr Harrison said the NPB will have to pay a market related price for the shares offered to

them, although the company had offered to help them finance the transaction.

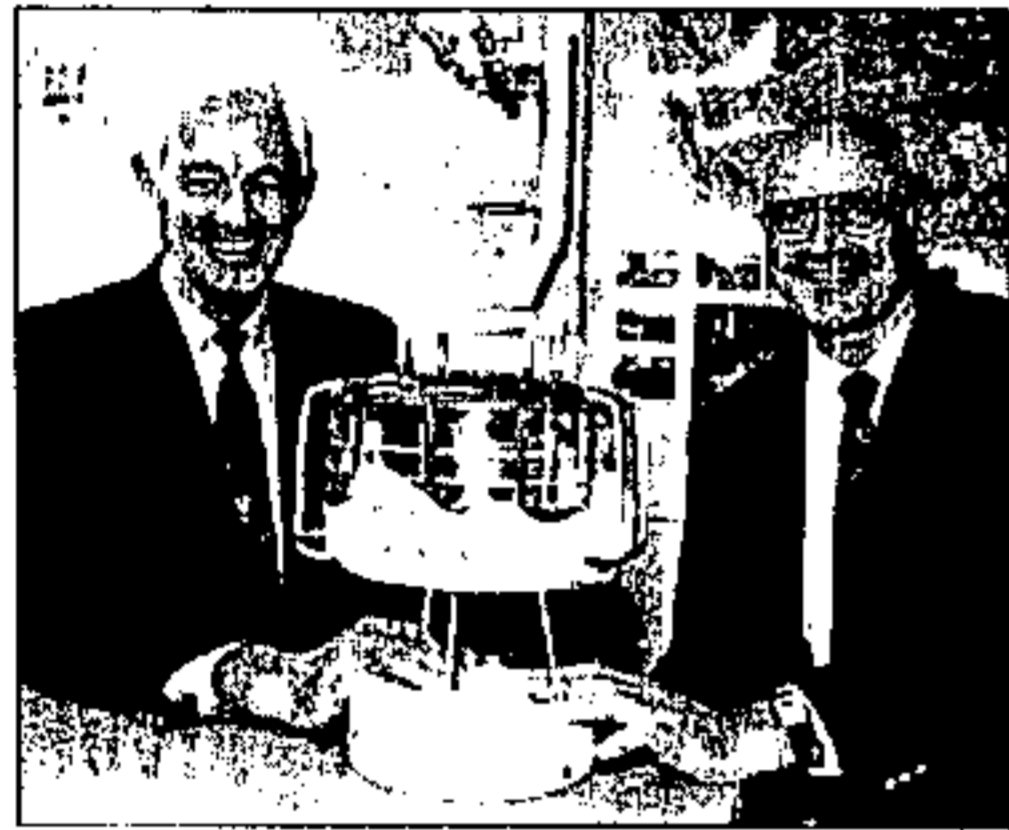
Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson said the board would use its trust fund to buy the shares.

Apart from the stake offered to the NPB, shares have also been offered to at least two black investment companies.

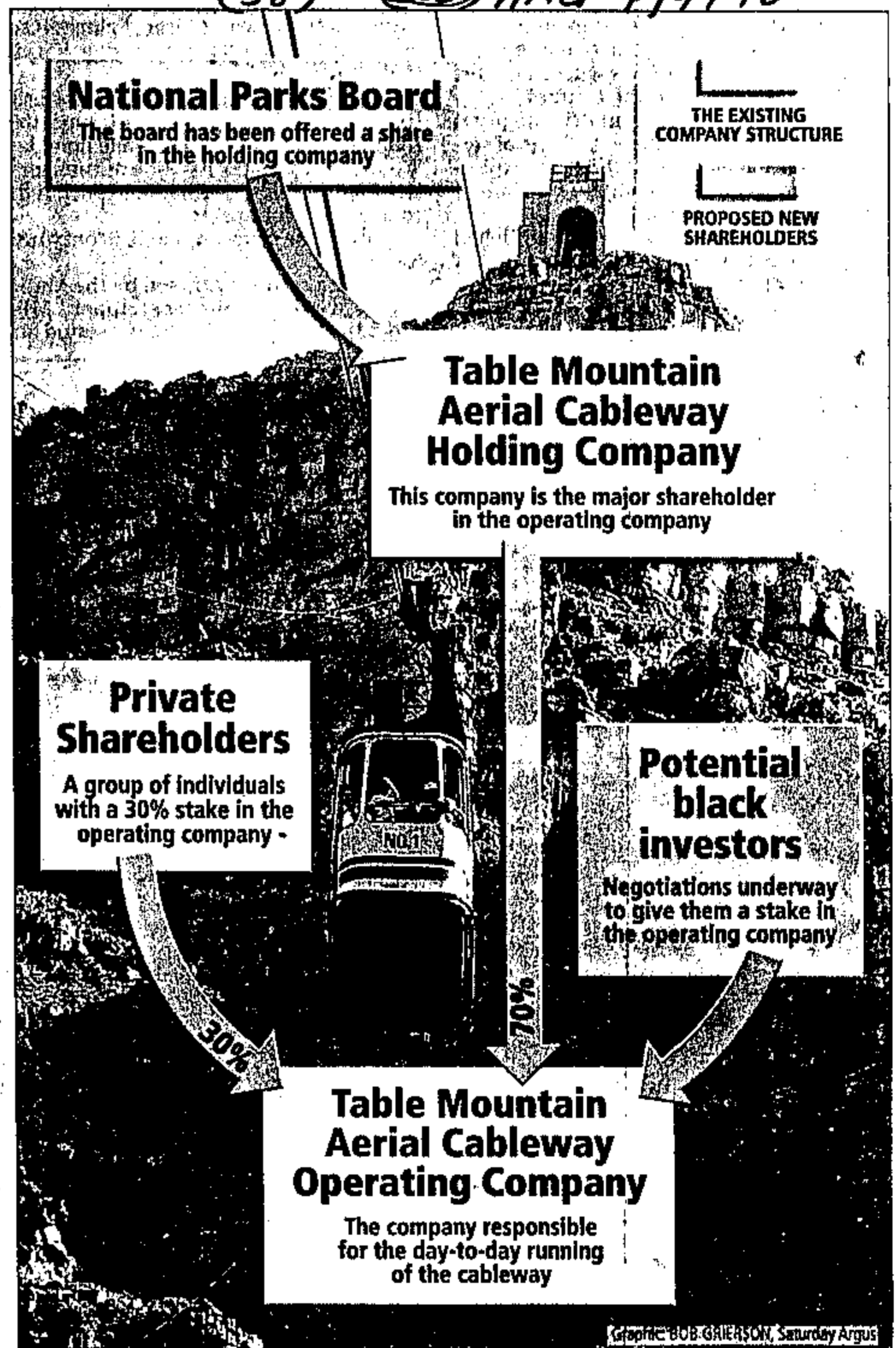
These shares would be offered in TMACC Ltd, the company responsible for the day-to-day operation of the cableway, Mr Harrison said.

It is understood that black investors would have at least a 20 percent stake in the operating company.

Although the company has up till now refused to name the groups, spokesmen for two Western Cape companies, Ukhozi Investments and Mnyama Holdings, confirmed their involvement in negotiations.



New partners: Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson and cable way company chairman Louis de Waal



Muslims given Oudekraal sop

ST (EM) 8/9/96

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

(56)



IT'S A DEAL . . . Cape Mazar Society chairman Ismail Dalvie and Oudekraal developer Neill Bernstein share a relaxed moment, while two Muslim leaders look on
Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

ONE of Cape Town's most flamboyant developers has swept away expected Muslim resistance to his elite Oudekraal development with a multi-million rand undertaking to preserve hallowed Islamic graves and shrines on the mountainside property.

While despondent environmentalists this week admitted they had no legal grounds on which to stop the R750-million Oudekraal Estate development, Devland Holdings' Neill Bernstein this week told Cape Metro he feared strong resistance if he did not take Muslim sensitivities into account.

Earlier this week Bernstein disclosed plans to build 240 luxury homes on land next to Rontree Estate which was approved for township development in 1957. The development will considerably extend Camps Bay and Bakoven.

The land, which is co-owned by city tycoon Cassie Wiehahn, is dotted with at least 40 Muslim graves and shrines which date back over 200 years when fugitive slaves and Muslims escaped to Table Mountain to flee religious persecution.

In a major coup for his development, Bernstein yesterday had a meeting with board members of the Cape Mazaar Society (CMS) at which he guaranteed the integrity of all known graves and nine kramats or shrines on the estate. These include the Sayed Jaffer (RA) and Sjeik Nurul Mubeen (RA). Bernstein undertook to buy the nine plots on which the kramats were located for R1-million each to secure them for the CMS.

The proposals must still be ratified by an Ummah or general meeting of Muslims at the Ghosia Munzil in Rylands Estate on Wednesday, CMS chairman Ismail Dalvie said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Oudekraal Estate project engineer Wouter Engelbrecht this week ruled out an integrated environmental management process for the development, which has been greeted with dismay by the National Parks Board, Worldwide Fund for Nature (SA) and the Save the Mountain Campaign.

"We cannot go through a complicated public participation programme because we already have rights. We can't allow these kind of issues to hold up the project," he said on Friday.

All contractors would be bound to an environmental management plan, indigenous vegetation would be rehabilitated and there would be no visible scarring, he said.

But a senior city landscape architect, who asked not to be named, said: "Something is wrong with modern planning laws if totally outdated plans can be carried through without official or public review."

Meeting CMS members on Friday, Bernstein said he was concerned that the society had no occupation or access rights to the Oudekraal estate.

Bernstein said he had also warned of a backlash if he did not agree to the kramat land being bought for its security.

Bernstein's R9-million proposal to the Cape Mazaar Society overtook an earlier proposal by Engelbrecht that the kramats be moved into Slangolie Ravine to make way for the elite township next to Rontree Estate.

Confirming this yesterday, Dalvie said this would have been totally unacceptable to Muslims, who attach immense religious status to the graves of forebears and exiled Batavians who are buried on the slopes.

(56) ARG 9/9/96

Let's talk, Oudekraal site developer tells his critics

Greens urged to face 'reality' of estate

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Come to talk about environmental safeguards for the new housing estate to be developed on the slopes of Twelve Apostles next to Camps Bay – but accept its legally approved status.

That's the word to environmentalists from developer Neill Bernstein of Devland Group, who plans to build about 240 luxury houses on Oudekraal Estate, a township approved by the then administrator of the Cape in 1957 and gazetted in 1962.

The section to be developed – within two months, says Mr Bernstein – is the only part which has existing township rights. The estate stretches beyond the White House property towards Llandudno.

Other sections of the estate owned by the same trust are zoned single residential, but have not been formally approved as a township and may be developed only after a lengthy legal planning process.

The development move has evoked shock and concern in conservation circles,

although the township's approved status was never a secret. Mr Bernstein said although he understood the concern, he believed it was based on a misunderstanding of the vision of an environmentally sensitive development, which he shared with the property owner, Kasper Wiehahn.

There had been a huge and enthusiastic response from potential buyers – about 500 on the day after the announcement, who probably far outnumbered those opposed to the development, he said.

Mr Bernstein said he had been involved in big property developments in New York, London and Germany and had returned to work in Cape Town because of its unique environment.

"If I genuinely believed this development was going to ruin the mountain, I wouldn't do it. I've never done a development for money in my life," he said.

Asked how he could justify developing a township that had been planned and approved nearly four decades ago, before environmental protection was of serious concern, Mr Bernstein said approved den-

sity and use of space were the same as in Camps Bay – although the actual development there would be "totally different".

"The planners weren't stupid in the '60s," he said.

His group had got involved in planning the township five years ago, and had consistently discussed it with the authorities since then, but had not been able to reach agreement. However, they were still prepared to negotiate about the development.

Developers also planned a public participation process, whereby concerned people could get involved to help develop stringent design parameters that would be written into the title deeds of each plot, and an environmental management plan for the township that would be based on exacting overseas standards, Mr Bernstein said.

"We would welcome them to come to talk to us – we wish they would, as long as we can start off from a position of reality. I'm prepared to talk to people but they must be prepared to listen to the facts and to face reality. Then, I believe, we can achieve a win-win situation."

Damage, illegal work claims stream in

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Further controversy has erupted over the new hotel development at the White House site at Oudekraal – with conservationists alleging environmental damage to the Lekkerwater stream flowing off Table Mountain and "illegal" off-site work.

But developer Steve Jones and his landscape architect, Johan van Papendorp, who is also the Cape Metropolitan Council's official environmental officer for the site, deny the charges, saying they have permission to stockpile soil and stones on the adjoining property for future landscaping.

Also, they say all landscaping work is being done in terms of a comprehensive landscaping plan approved by the council.

Mr Van Papendorp conceded that small stones and a small amount of soil had slipped down the steep slope towards – but not into – the course of the stream during rehabilitation work to stabilise the sides of the ravine.

"Everyone working there is very aware of public pressure and we are being very careful, but you are dealing with big machinery and bulk work and there are some constraints to it," he said.

"There has been some disturbance but ultimately it is for the benefit of the area."

In a letter to the Cape Metropolitan Council, Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Marlene Laros said she believed the earthworks at the site were illegal as no plans had been approved and that they were having an impact on the Lekkerwater stream.

The council had a duty in terms of the Environment Conservation Act to ensure

that all development in its area of jurisdiction was environmentally acceptable. "We trust that this council will accept the responsibilities delegated to it through this legislation and seek to rectify this environmental damage caused and prevent such irresponsible development in the future," said Ms Laros.

Mountain Club environment committee spokesman Tim Price urged that the council investigate and take any steps necessary to prevent further environmental harm to the "sensitive area".

Dave Wildman of the Llandudno environmental committee said several residents had been so concerned about the earthworks that they had contacted Mr Jones to discuss the issue.

Mr Jones said none of the work on the site was illegal. "It is all under the control of the environmentalist – and he can stop it whenever he wants to."

No more plans to develop Oudekraal

EUNICE RIDER

ET 9/9/96 township.

(76)

ABOUT 300 hectares of privately owned land adjoining the new Oudekraal development and stretching beyond the White House is already zoned for single residential buildings, but the owners do not intend to develop it yet.

This was said by Mr Neill Bernstein, who is heading the R750-million Oudekraal Estate development.

Bernstein said Oudekraal Properties and Oudekraal Investments, which bought the land next to his development in 1962, had "no plans whatsoever" to develop it in the near future.

The land, which stretches beyond the controversial White House development, had already been zoned for single residential properties and would have to be sub-divided into erven before it could be developed.

The owners were, however, entitled to a return on their investment and had the right to build on the land.

Bernstein said the land he was developing had been planned as a continuation of Camps Bay when the area was planned, with existing Camps Bay streets intended to link up with the streets of the new

It was "unfortunate" that the public did not yet understand his plans for the Oudekraal Estate, but he felt sure that once the public and environmentalists had been able to examine the plans they would be "satisfied that it is environmentally very acceptable".

"I respect the environmentalists' scepticism but we are not taking any short cuts with this development," he said.

A Sunday newspaper reported yesterday he had offered R9 million to the Cape Mazaar Society and had promised to preserve the Muslim kramats and shrines on the mountain slope.

The National Parks Board could not be reached for comment.

Govt task group to assess pollution control policy

(156)
CT 10/9/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dr Pallo Jordan and Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal have joined forces to fight the looming crisis of waste management and pollution control facing South Africa.

At a joint meeting Jordan and Asmal resolved to establish, as a matter of urgency, a task group to look into the unco-ordinated and fragmented way in which waste and pollution control is managed.

In a statement yesterday they said: "Past experience has shown, unfortunately, that industry and individuals cannot be relied on to manage pollution control voluntarily in a responsible and sustainable manner. The strategy aims to inject a sense of urgency and importance."

Jordan and Asmal said government commitment and initiative was needed to formulate a binding waste management policy to avert potential environment disasters.

There was a critical need for a waste management policy and a need to improve the country's capacity to minimise waste production through reduction, re-use and recycling. There was also a need to deal with the daily waste problems facing most South Africans, especially the poorest.

Earthlife Africa spokeswoman Ms Liz McDaid welcomed the move.

"I hope the ministers will tackle the Department of Trade and Industry and address the issue of their wanting to import toxic waste.

"We hope hazardous chemicals, like the sulphur dump at AECI in Somerset West, will also be looked into and the findings of the current inquiry into the fire there will be fed into the policy.

"Industry has been pushing for self-regulation for a long time and we are highly critical of that. We hope management of pollution and waste will not be left up to them," she said.

MOVES AFOOT TO CRACK RINGS

Poaching syndicates 'could make perlemoen endangered'

et 11/9/96

(56)

FISHERMEN AND POACHERS aired their grievances and made suggestions about protecting perlemoen stocks when they met Minister of the Environment Dr Pallo Jordan yesterday. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

CRIME syndicates are poaching perlemoen at such a rate that the resource might become endangered, according to Minister of the Environment Dr Pallo Jordan.

He was speaking after meeting roleplayers in the perlemoen industry — including poachers — in Hermanus yesterday to thrash out solutions to the problem of access to the resource.

He said there were two types of perlemoen poachers: those who poached to feed their families and make a living and those who were members of major crime syndicates. "These crime syndicates operate on a large scale with no

regard for the natural resource — and that is dangerous. This is what we need to knock on the head," Jordan said.

"The abalone industry in South Africa earns R300 million a year and we need to protect this resource."

A number of suggestions about cracking the big-time poachers had been made at the meeting, he said.

"We won't put them on guard by revealing what we have in mind — but we have some solid and sound ways."

Perlemoen were slow-growing and took a long time to reach maturity.

"In Hawston, they are getting



SECRET STRATEGY: Dr Pallo Jordan

close to the borderline of being endangered," Jordan said.

"One good thing about the meeting was that everyone here realised the need to protect the abalone resource. No one here wants to see it depleted. Everyone said what was in their hearts and it was a

very open discussion with no holds barred. There was a lot of heat and emotion — it was good that they got things off their chests. Then we got down to serious discussions."

It had emerged that the best method of policing poaching was to use the community living near the resource.

"The community will be the first line of defence against its being depleted."

Mr Andy Johnson, chairman of the Association of Informal Fishermen representing subsistence poachers, said the poachers had told Jordan they wanted an amnesty.

"We said we wanted the corruption in the fishing industry sorted out and a moratorium on quotas issued by the quota board. We want this done before September 23 as the board meets on the 25th. If not, we will be take mass action."

ET 12/9/96

Parker tells Pagad to fight Oudekraal plan ⁽⁵⁶⁾

STAFF WRITER

PEOPLE Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) leader Mr Muhammed Ali "Phantom" Parker last night exhorted more than 800 Pagad members to show their disapproval of the R750-million luxury development project at Oudekraal.

On the site to be developed is a kramat, a Muslim shrine, and Parker warned of "desecration" of graves above the kramat.

He appealed to the meeting, at the Gatesville Mosque, to go later last night to another meeting, where the kramat issue was to be discussed.

"I urge you to give your full support (to the other meeting). We must go there and very strongly voice our disapproval of this thing," said Parker, who claimed also that "the authorities are trying to break up the Muslim community".

Last night's meeting was called to allow drug dealers to "repent", but none were forthcoming.

A speaker, identified only as "AK", told the gathering that a Bo-Kaap dealer who had been confronted by Pagad last weekend and who was supposed to be present at

last night's meeting had said he "is in no state to come here to the masjid (mosque) tonight".

• It was hoped this man and another drug merchant would repent at a meeting there on Saturday.

AK said that "the director" of the SA Police Service had written to Pagad to request a meeting, but the group had written back to invite him to Saturday's gathering.

"We will allow him to come here on Saturday, and the people must decide what to do (then)," AK said.

After that meeting "we are going to visit a drug dealer or two again", he added.

A Strand man said Strand was experiencing problems with gangsters and drugs similar to those in Cape Town.

AK said reports had also been received from Atlantis.

Pagad was investigating the possibility of taking action in these areas, he said, adding, to laughter: "Perhaps we should have our 'aways' on Saturdays."

●Another Pagad leader, Mr Farouk Jaffer, announced that his wife had given birth to a son, who would be called Abdul Fatah.

Now Pagad joins battle over Oudekraal

ANDREW SMITH AND ANDREA WEISS
STAFF REPORTERS

Pagad and its leader, Ali "Phantom" Parker, have joined the fight to stop the controversial luxury Table Mountain property development near Camps Bay on a site dotted with Muslim graves.

Mr Parker has been elected to the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee formed last night to oppose the development. The committee is to be convened by Bo-Kaap historian Achmat Davids and also has Marlene Laros of the Wildlife Society of South Africa on board.

There are about 40 Muslim graves and shrines on the Oudekraal site, some of which date back more than 200 years. These sites are looked after by the Cape Mazaar Society, which met developer Neill Bernstein last week to discuss his plan to build 240 luxury houses on the land.

Mr Bernstein offered to spend R9-million securing the plots where graves lie, but the proposal was rejected outright at a meeting of about 2 000 Muslims last night.



HANNES THART

Ali 'Phantom' Parker: vow to halt development

Other actions proposed at the meeting included a protest march "of more than a million people" to the site.

Mr Parker and hundreds of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs support-

ers turned their attention to the Oudekraal development last night after a meeting at the Gatesville mosque in Rylands Estate.

Afterwards, they moved to the Ghosia Munzil, also in Rylands Estate, where the Cape Mazaar Society had convened a public meeting to discuss Mr Bernstein's offer.

The meeting, which swelled to about 2 000 after the arrival of Pagad, gave the committee a mandate to "prevent a single brick being laid on Table Mountain".

Dr Davids said today the committee would explore legal avenues to look at prescriptive rights which might be conferred on Muslims, who have visited the sites for more than 100 years.

He said they would also ask the National Monuments Council, of which he is a member, to protect the grave sites. He dismissed earlier reports that the Cape Mazaar Society had given its approval to Mr Bernstein's R9-million offer. "There was no deal, just discussions," he said.

Mr Parker said Pagad would stand behind the campaign, because the development was another "attempt to break up the Muslim community".

(56) ART 12/9/96



DOUG PITHEY

Health hazard: Khayelitsha's garbage problem could jeopardise a proposed Olympic boxing venue in the area

Khayelitsha refuse just keeps piling up

Clean-up is top priority for council

CHENÉ BLIGNAUT
STAFF REPORTER

(56)

ARL 12/9/96

Finding a speedy and cost-effective solution to Khayelitsha's growing refuse problem has shot to the top of the Tygerberg council's list of priorities.

The clean-up has become a necessity because of the virtual collapse of the township's refuse removal system, which is one of the costliest in the metropolitan area.

The piling up of refuse, including human excrement, around the shacks not only posed a serious health risk to residents but could also jeopardise a proposed Olympic venue for boxing in Mew Ways in Khayelitsha, said Tygerberg engineer Francois Fourie.

The waste also compounded the flooding threat by clogging the few stormwater drains there were in the area.

Mr Fourie said poor infrastructure, labour problems and a "totally inefficient" waste management system were at the root of the serious garbage problem.

"Theoretically, it should be cheaper to remove

refuse in the townships because the people produce far less refuse per household than residents in some of the more privileged areas," Mr Fourie said.

But if compared with Bellville, for example, where the cost of refuse removal was R206 a ton, the cost of the collection of waste in Khayelitsha was much higher at R592 a ton.

This translated to a cost of about R21 a household in both areas, in spite of a vast difference in the quality of service rendered.

Mr Fourie could not say how many Khayelitsha residents actually paid for the service, but said he did not blame them for refusing to pay for such an inferior service.

The system of tractors and two compactor vehicles was being hampered by problems of absenteeism and union demands.

"The unions are demanding more sophisticated vehicles but want to retain the same number of jobs. You cannot have the best of both worlds," said Mr Fourie.

The council is to consider sub-contracting waste management to entrepreneurs who will involve the local community in the clean-up procedure in a cost-effective and empowering way.

'AREA HAS IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE'

Muslims join Oudekraal fight

(56) CT 13/9/96

ENVIRONMENTALISTS opposing the luxury township development at Oudekraal have been joined by Muslims concerned over the fate of kramats on the site. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

MUSLIMS have joined forces with the green lobby in a bid to stop the controversial luxury housing development at Oudekraal below the Twelve Apostles.

The two groups, who formed the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee (EMAC) on Wednesday night at a meeting in Rylands Estate attended by 2 500 people, plan to stage a mass protest rally at Oudekraal on Sunday. Dr Achmat Davids, convener of the action committee, said yesterday the whole Oudekraal area had been regarded as sacred by Muslims for centuries.

"Historically, mountain ranges were a refuge for runaway slaves and political exiles. The whole of Oudekraal is something of a slave cemetery and Muslims have been using it for sacred purposes since about 1716.

"The current township development was approved in 1957 by the apartheid regime and we were not consulted. To use that approval is immoral. Why should a vast tract of unspoilt land be claimed by a rich minority who would deny ordinary people access rights," Davids said. In a statement yesterday, EMAC

said there had been no deal between the Cape Mazaar Society and the developers over the kramats (shrines) on the site.

EMAC said it "vehemently opposed any development on the Oudekraal site and surrounding areas. Development of these areas should not even be considered, now or in the future, as the area has important historical, cultural, religious, spiritual and environmental significance".

Ms Desre Butirski of the Save the Mountain Campaign and Ms Marlene Laros of the Wildlife Society are on the EMAC committee. Said Butirski: "We're delighted that such a large section of the community has joined forces to stop the development. We have been writing and talking and begging with offi-

cials but this has fallen on deaf ears."

A statement issued on behalf of the Oudekraal landowners and consultants last night said there had been several discussions with the Muslim community.

"At all times the owner has expressed the wish that every consideration be given to respect the kramat and shines on the Oudekraal property. It was also expressed that even those graves not affected by the development should receive attention to enable visitors to the kramats and graves in the ravine area to have better and easier access."

"It is important that all parties concerned understand the legal rights for development which the landowner is entitled to," the statement said.

CEMENTING RELATIONS

FM 13/9/96 (56)
The latest project to rouse the ire of the environmental lobby in the Western Cape is Anglo Alpha's proposed R745m cement factory at Saldanha Bay.

Actions by the lobby have beleaguered industrial development in billion-rand projects — including Iscor's Saldanha Steel. In the case of Saldanha Steel, the environmentalists' actions forced Iscor to resite the plant nearly 2 km from the original plan — which resulted in costly delays. Also affected is the proposed Iran-SA oil storage facility for 15m barrels of crude oil.

In the latest campaign against the cement plant, the "greens" have called for an environmental survey looking at 13 specialist studies.

But a new development in the saga may yet save the day.

Though initially opposed to the greens lobby, the village of Vredenburg now says the matter can be negotiated. Town clerk John de Klerk says: "Until recently, we had no time for them — they were stopping desperately needed development and job creation in this area." But, he says, the town has now realised the need to come to terms with the environmentalists for the sake of progress in the community.

This has led to the establishment of a committee of experts to evaluate all developments in what is accepted as an environmentally sensitive area. De Klerk now finds that this committee is working so well that he is prepared to advocate the model for the rest of the country.

"I think that every province should have an eco-evaluation committee. In this way, important industrial development need not be hampered by ecological considerations. Nor will progress be impeded."

Vredenburg may just be the catalyst Anglo Alpha needs. ■

MPs face grilling on toxic waste

MTC 13-19/9/96
Despite Cabinet assurances of a ban, there is evidence South Africa is still trading in industrial poisons. Why asks **Eddie Koch**

A HIGH-POWERED team of parliamentarians was this week set to probe disclosures that South Africa continues to import toxic material for recycling — even though the Cabinet has assured the public it will ban such consignments.

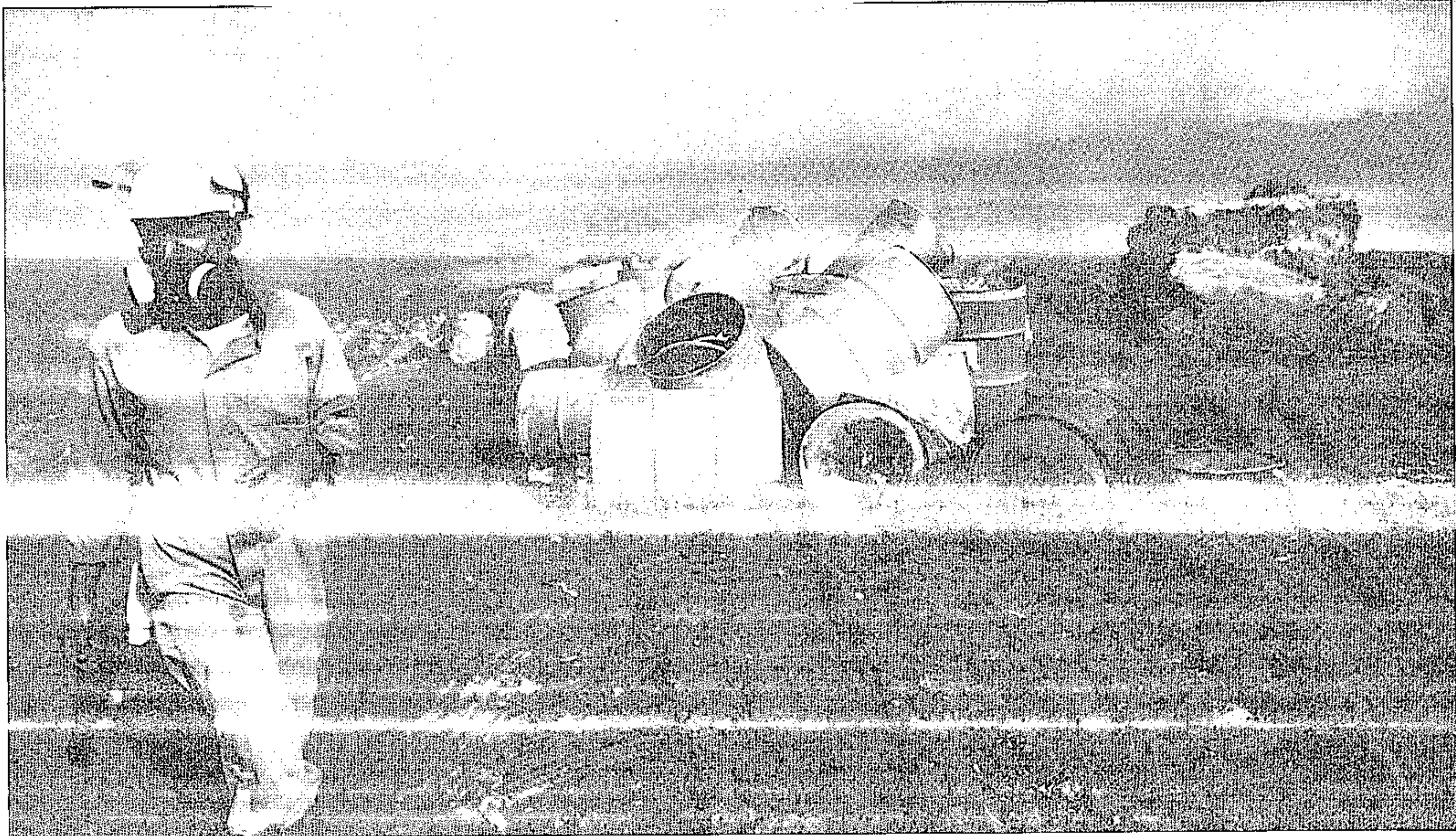
A joint meeting of Parliament's portfolio committees dealing with health, trade and industry, and the environment was this week planning to hear evidence that South Africa is still trading in toxic waste with other countries in Africa.

Chris Albertyn, national co-ordinator of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), was due to brief the team of MPs about information his organisation has collected to show that the government is still allowing shipments of hazardous materials to come into the country.

After the briefing, African National Congress parliamentarians will quiz Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin in Parliament about his department's policy regarding toxic imports. They will also demand details about the kind of poisons that have been brought into the country since the new government took office in 1994.

"South Africa has told the European Union [EU] that it intends to continue importing toxic wastes from non-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [industrialised] countries, particularly via its African neighbours. This controversial position was communicated in July this year in a seven-page written statement from the South African embassy to various parties in the EU," said an EJNF statement.

"By adopting a policy of permitting the importation of hazardous wastes, South African negotiators with the EU are contra-



Danger zone: Contrary to expectations, business at toxic waste disposal sites has not come to an end since 1994

PHOTO: BRETT ELOFF

dicting the public position of this government, as well as the policy of the ANC and the Congress of South African Trade Unions."

The EJNF made this information public after Green Party politicians in the European Parliament informed local environmentalists that Pretoria's embassy in Brussels had acknowledged South Africa still imports "hazardous waste for recycling from a number of countries in the region", and that its government was reluctant to endorse clauses in the Lomé Convention that would outlaw this.

A South African negotiating team recently visited Brussels to negotiate the terms of the country's access to the Lomé Convention, which governs trade and development relations between European states and ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. The Green Party politicians say it was these talks that revealed South Africa is involved in an ongoing trade in industrial poisons.

Diplomats from the South African embassy in Brussels reportedly told European officials they were disturbed by sections of Article 39 of the convention which stipulate "the ACP states shall prohibit the direct or indirect import into their territory of such waste ..."

They added that South Africa currently imports waste for recycling from a number of countries in Africa, and that a viable industry would be destroyed if Pretoria endorsed this article of the Lomé Convention.

After the portfolio committees have been briefed on the growing controversy, ANC parliamentarians will demand that Erwin answer a series of tough questions in Parliament about

the nature and extent of this country's involvement in the international toxic waste trade since 1994. They will also quiz Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo and Environment Minister Pallo Jordan about whether officials in their departments knew of or approved such shipments.

South Africa has signed the Basel Convention, which will ban all movements of toxic waste between industrial and developing countries from January 1998. But this international agreement does not prohibit trade in toxins between countries in Southern Africa.

EJNF officials fear overseas waste is being routed into South Africa via neighbouring states and that Department of Trade and Industry officials are reluctant to accept the Lomé clauses because they would close this backdoor route for bringing in the dangerous but lucrative materials.

Said the EJNF: "The argument of Trade and Industry negotiators to the EU is that South Africa needs to do our Southern African and African neighbours a favour by importing their wastes. They argue that if South Africa accepted Article 39 of the Lomé Convention, 'unscrupulous concerns' dumping toxic waste in neighbouring countries would have no option but to continue doing so."

The statement notes, however, that South Africa does not have waste-processing facilities to handle its own waste. "If South Africa was serious about assisting its neighbours with their toxic waste problems, we would engage in activities that build our mutual capacity to handle our own problems."

No green light yet for Oudekraal

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

DEVELOPMENT of the controversial R720-million luxury township at Oudekraal will not be given the go-ahead until it has been approved by the new political leaders of Cape Town.

This was confirmed on Friday by Cape Metropolitan Council engineer Rod Mitchell.

The developer — Neill Bernstein's Devland Holdings — submitted services plans for approval by the CMC engineering department on August 29, but a decision would be deferred until the Central Sub-structures' councillors had decided on this "sensitive" issue, metropolitan council planner

Charles Rudman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, opposition to the R720-million Oudekraal Estate development took an unexpected turn this week as Cape Town's controversial anti-gang and drug organisation, Pagad, sided with Muslim and environmental critics of the project in a new alliance, the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee.

The National Monuments Council was also exploring having the land declared a provisional national monument when it meets on Tuesday, NMC spokeswoman Laura Robinson said.

A senior member of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Wynand Fourie, called

ST(CM)15/9/96 (56) (ESS)
for a proper integrated environmental management study by the developers even though it was not mandatory.

"We don't want more ribbon development along the coast, but in this case history is against us," he added.

Besides Muslim graves and shrines on the site, other issues which need further investigation include the stability of the mountain slope, the impact of extra sewage outfall at Camps Bay and the sensitivity of vegetation in the area, informed sources said.

The Environment and Mazaar Action Committee says it is completely opposed to further development of the mountainside be-

tween Bakoven and Llandudno and will be holding a protest rally at the Nurul Mubeen (RA) shrine off Victoria Drive at 2pm today.

The committee — and the Wildlife Society and the "Save the Mountain" campaign — want Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan to invoke S31(a) of the Environment Conservation Act and stop the development.

ANC MP Ben Turok reportedly wants to draw up a multi-party petition against Bernstein's plans and an ANC member of the Western Cape parliament, Russell McGregor, would also be calling for a snap debate on the issue this coming week, Green Coalition co-ordinator Liz Linsell said.

Oudekraal developers assess protest

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The protest by an estimated 20 000 people against the proposed Oudekraal development adjoining Camps Bay may be causing the developers to re-think some of their plans for the new luxury housing estate.

Today, Devland Group chief Neill Bernstein declined to answer directly when asked whether the development of 250 luxury houses, reportedly due to start within two months, would continue as scheduled after yesterday's protest.

Earlier, a joint statement by property

owner Kasper Wiehahn and the developers said no Muslim kramats or graves would be desecrated during development of the proposed Oudekraal township.

They had discussed the issue "over a lengthy period" with kramat authorities and religious leaders. The impression had been created that kramats and graves would be desecrated, the statement said.

"This impression is untrue, mischievous and designed to inflame religious animosity." They had held discussions during past months with the Cape Mazaar Society, which had set up a special committee.

(56)

ARG 16/9/96

More reports, pictures on page 5

Protesters block road to Victoria

people to a protest rally on Victoria Road below the two sites.

The colourful gathering yesterday brought traffic to a halt between Clifton and Llandudno. The hotel on the site of the old White House is already under construction and 240 houses are planned on the mountain slope next to Camps Bay.

The protest was organised by the newly formed Environmental Mazaar Action Committee and those taking part included the Wildlife Society, the Muslim Judicial Council, the Islamic Council of South Africa, the Islamic Unity Convention and People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad).

The concerned environmentalists included some of the original Oudekraal protesters arrested earlier this year when they refused to leave the White House site.

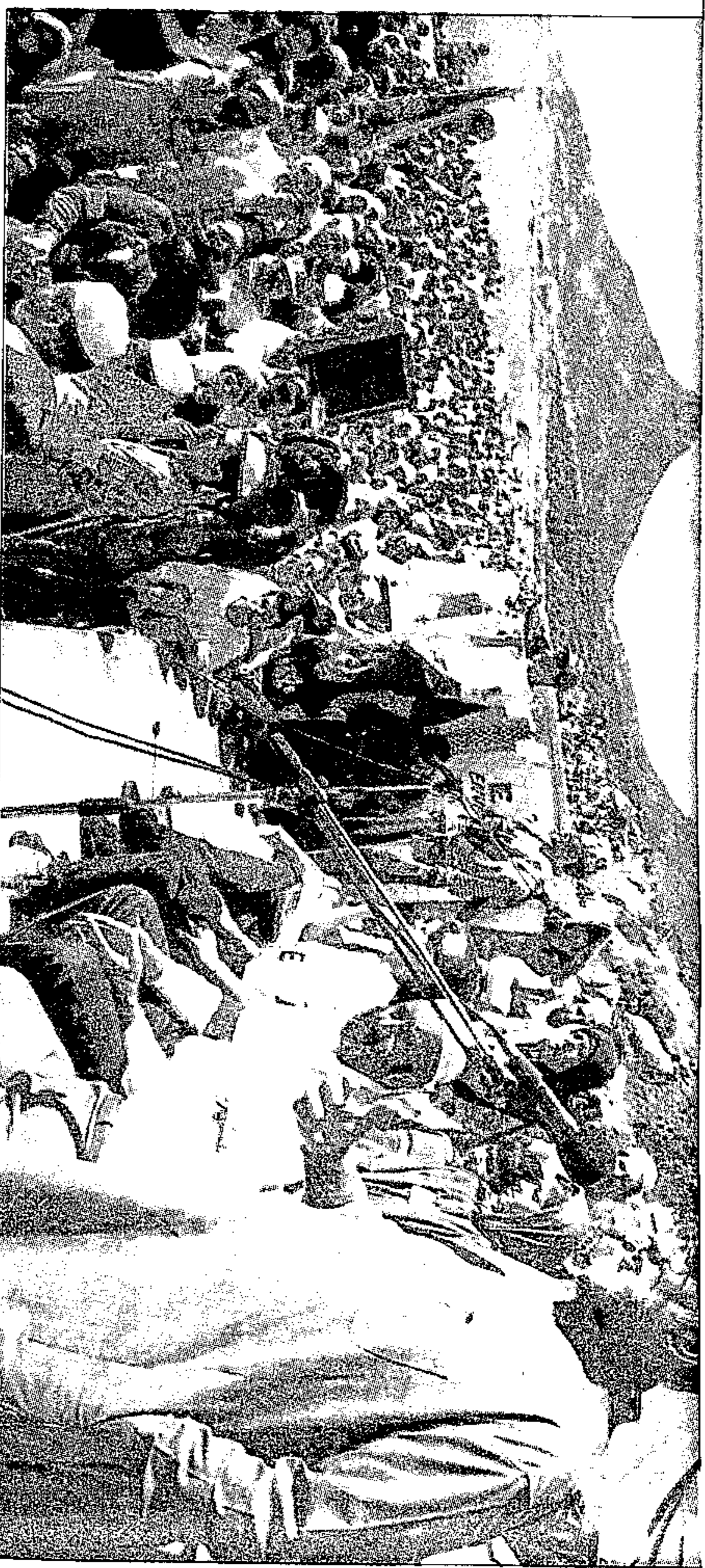
The strong Muslim contingent said they were fighting to save the mountain as well as the Muslim graves and the kramat (shrine) on the site of the proposed housing development.

Farouk Jaffer, a member of the Pagad executive council, said that Pagad would "stand like pillars of salt" below the Twelve Apostles should the proposed developments go ahead.

Achmat Davids, co-ordinator of the Mazaar action committee, said the shrines were "incidental to our commitment to saving our mountain".

Dr Davids challenged the developers' right to the land saying they got it from an illegitimate government "which had no right to give it away". "We don't believe a few people with the means have the right to appropriate what belongs to our whole community," he said.

Marlene Lerros, a member of the committee and a representative of the Wildlife Society, said the government had ignored the National General Environmental Policy, which stated that any large scale development had to be subject to planned analysis involving the public.



Stem words: Sheik Nazeem Mohamed, president of the Muslim Judicial Council, addresses the thousands of protesters at the Oudekraal rally

LEON MÜLLER



Prayers of protest: Muslims pray before the rally



Concerned citizens: green activists joined Muslims in voicing their protest



THOUSANDS Protest at Oudekraal

CT 16/9/96
(58)

OUDEKRAAL was the site of a protest by thousands of people yesterday against a proposed housing development there. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THOUSANDS of Muslims and environmentalists converged on Oudekraal yesterday in the biggest public demonstration against a development in the history of Cape Town.

Victoria Road was closed and traffic backed up as far as Clifton and Llandudno as thousands of people gathered to protest against the proposed luxury housing development to be built at Oudekraal on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

Hundreds walked kilometres from their parked vehicles to join the centre of the protest beneath one of the Oudekraal kramats — a grave of former Muslim leaders.

Speakers from Muslim and environmental groups appealed to the crowd, estimated by a marshal to be 20 000, to unite against the development, which they opposed on religious, cultural and environ-

mental grounds.

The protest was called by the Environmental Mazarar Action Committee (EMAC), a body representing environmental and Muslim groups and formed last week when six organisations joined forces in a bid to halt the development.

They are the Wildlife Society of SA, the Muslim Judicial Council, the Islamic Council of SA, Save the Mountain Campaign, the Islamic Unity Convention and Pagad.

Tomorrow the National Monuments Council — the only organisation which may have the legal clout to halt the development — will meet to discuss the possibility of provisionally designating Oudekraal a national monument.

Placards and banners hung behind a makeshift stage on the roadside.

Slogans included "Down with

greedy developers", "Hands off our kramats", "Save the 12 Apostles" and "Stop this unholy mess". One woman's T-shirt read "Hallo Pallo, this is your mountain too".

Speaker Mr Achmat Kamali said: "We came here to express our love for our heritage and the environment and to express our opposition to this development."

A masked Pagad member, who led the Muslims in prayers, said: "It is only with the weapon of unity that we will be able to protect our past and our future."

EMAC convener Dr Achmat David said there were 23 kramats on the privately owned Oudekraal property, which stretches from Camps Bay to beyond the old White House. He estimated there might also be hundreds of unmarked Muslim graves on the slopes of the mountain. There were 20 graves on the site on which the township is to be developed. Wildlife Society spokesman Ms Marlene Laros said: "This is the largest environmental protest the

P.T.O

Turn to Page 3

Maharaj's plan to restructure rail commuter service

(56)

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Political Correspondent

Star 17/9/96

Transport Minister Mac Maharaj has put forward a plan to restructure the rail commuter services in South Africa by suggesting that services be provided on the basis of concessions which would allow private consortiums to operate and maintain specific routes.

The initiative has been brought about by the railways' loss of market share, growing deficits and mushrooming demands for state funding. Maharaj said the South African Rail Commuter Corporation currently had 25% of the commuter passenger transport market and required about R1,4-billion a year in deficit subsidy from the state to provide its services.

"The national transport authority will own the commuter rail infrastructure, rolling stock and land associated with rail reserves until the provincial and metropolitan authorities are in a position to take over this responsibility. Concessioneering the operation of rail services on a competitive basis, whether to the public or private sector, will help cut fare evasion and improve services, because the money made or lost will impact directly on the operator," Maharaj said.

The Government would retain its responsibilities, which included setting policy framework for the provision of support services where communities could not afford to pay the full cost.

KHAYELITSHA TRASH PROBLEM GOES ON

'Pay residents for their rubbish'

ET 17/9/96

(56)

"YOU DON'T see scrap metal or even drain covers lying around, because they have a monetary value," says MEC Peter Marais. **CHRIS BATEMAN** writes.

LOCAL Government MEC Mr Peter Marais believes he has the answer to Khayelitsha's rubbish removal problem — pay residents R2 for each black plastic rubbish bag handed in and pool the resources of all six substructures to remove the trash.

Responding to reports that the rubbish problem was as bad as ever — in spite of promises three months ago by the new Tygerberg substructure to "send in more trucks" — Marais said that attaching a monetary value to the rubbish was the most cost-effective answer.

"You don't see scrap metal or even drain covers lying around, because they have a monetary value," he said.

The reason there had been no progress in the clean-up promised during a Cape Times probe three months ago was that non-governmental organisations and the SA Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) could never "all get to the same meeting and agree".

So far "master plans", "clean and green" campaigns and several million rands have had no lasting effect in helping Khayelitsha's ageing vehicle fleet and 240



PAY DIRT: Local Government MEC Peter Marais demonstrates his "rands for rubbish" idea to clean up Khayelitsha.

PICTURE: GUY ADAMS

rubbish removers service 40 000 plots occupied by 55 000 families.

"The problem is municipalities are not geared to handle squatter situations — the actual answer lies in giving people decent homes to live in," Marais said.

He has promised, within two weeks, to assemble top officials from all six substructures to form a "capacity-sharing forum" across municipal boundaries to attack the problem.

Residents would then be told that they could begin collecting

"rubbish for rands". Marais emphasised that he did not want to "dictate" to local authorities, but five of the six substructures were NP-controlled, which would "aid consensus".

He said the old NP had "enough plans to solve the white poverty

problem," and it was the new NP's turn to show blacks and coloureds it could do the same for them.

The Cape Metropolitan Council and province intend spending R4,115 million improving sewage systems, roads, stormwater drainage and water supply this year.

'15 000 graves in Oudekraal area'

(56) ARG 17/9/96

There could be as many as 15 000 Muslim graves in the area of the proposed Oudekraal housing estate and the developers' promise not to touch any of them is likely to jeopardise plans to build 250 houses.

This emerged after about 20 000 people protested at the site on Sunday.

Thousands of Muslim slaves are believed to have been buried on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

Ismail Dalvie, president of the Cape Mazaar Society, which is responsible for all Muslim shrines in the Peninsula, said developer Neill Bernstein of the Devland Group had assured him that if any graves were exposed during excavations for houses they would be cordoned off and nothing would be built on those spots.

Achmat Davids, Muslim historian and convener of the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee, confirmed there could be "up to 15 000 unmarked graves" on the site. - Staff Reporter

Spotter planes donated to parks board to combat poaching

(56) Star 18/9/96

JODI BIEBER

By **BOBBY BROWN**

Taiwan, long the subject of world-wide criticism for its slaughter of wildlife, has donated a spotter plane to the National Parks Board to help anti-poaching drives.

The aircraft – a two-seater US-made Scout worth about R450 000 – was one of two spotters received yesterday by National Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson.

They will be used mainly in the Kruger National Park.

The Taiwanese ambassador to South Africa, I-cheng Loh, defended his country's reputation, saying the world had been falsely accusing his country of providing a market for poachers who slaughtered endangered species for use as aphrodisiacs and for medicinal properties.

“
**Strict laws
 on imports
 to Taiwan**
 ”

“We are a small Chinese community in east Asia. Red China, Singapore and Japan also use traditional herbs and medicines and these are much bigger communities. We used to use rhino horn as a medicine to bring down high fevers, not as an aphrodisiac,” I-cheng said.

“But modern Chinese go to modern hospitals, and herbs, when used, are dispensed in minute quantities,” he said, adding that one rhino horn could last a shopowner for two generations.

He said Taiwan did not use ivory for anything, and strict laws guarded the legal import of horns, tusks and endangered species.

I-cheng, together with Dr Robert Cleaves, the president of the US-based Wilderness Conservancy (WildCon), handed the aircraft over at Waterkloof air force base near Pretoria yesterday.



Fighting back ... Waterkloof air force base staff share a joke in front of a spotter plane donated to the National Parks Board. Two of the aircraft were donated to the board by Taiwan and the Wilderness Conservancy to help game wardens combat poaching.

Hunters' role in conservation 'indispensable'

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Tourist safari hunting is the most effective, efficient and immediate means to conserve wildlife and provide benefits to rural people of Africa, delegates at the Ecoworld '96 congress were told yesterday.

Speaking during the opening plenary, John Jackson, former president of Safari Club International, was unequivocal in his assessment of the crucial role that hunters played in wildlife conservation and he urged African states to follow the North American sport hunting example.

Star 18/9/96
The more than 80 million hunters and fishermen in the US were the principal motivating force and financial means for conservation, and their contribution was indispensable, Jackson said.

As a result of hunting, white-tail deer in North America had been restored from 350 000 at the turn of the century to more than 28 million today, wild turkey had gone from near extinction to more than 4.5 million, pronghorn antelope had gone from 5 000 to over 1 million, and elk from 41 000 to more than 1 million, he said.

American hunters were now spilling over into Africa and the

booming growth in big game hunting could provide the means and motive for additional wildlife conservation on the continent.

"It is an exceptional form of sustainable use because it is low in volume, costs and risks, yet it is the highest revenue producer per tourist and per animal," Jackson said.

Thousands of tourist hunters were injecting hundreds of millions of dollars into African economies in the remotest of locations - where it was needed most.

The Ecoworld '96 International Environmental, Wildlife and Ecotourism Congress is being held at Gallagher Estate until Friday.

Hunting 'crucial for conservation'

56

ET 18/9/96

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Tourist safari hunting is the most effective, efficient and immediate means to conserve wildlife and provide benefits to rural people of Africa, delegates at the Ecoworld '96 International Environmental, Wildlife and Eco-tourism Congress heard yesterday.

Speaking during the opening meeting, Mr John Jackson, former president of Safari Club International (SCI), was unequivocal in his assessment of the crucial role hunters played in wildlife conservation and he urged African states

to follow the North American sport hunting example.

"The total economic impact of sportsmen in the US alone is over \$117 billion (R532,4bn) a year, which is responsible for 1,3 million jobs," he said.

The over 80m hunters and fishermen in the US were the principle motivating force and financial means for conservation, and their contribution was indispensable, Jackson said.

American hunters were now spilling over into Africa and the booming growth in big game hunting could provide the means and

motive for additional wildlife conservation on the continent.

There were tens of thousands of tourist hunters injecting hundreds of millions of dollars into African economies in the remotest of locations — where it was needed most, Jackson said.

The congress was opened yesterday by Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan, who said that provided the right formula was applied and local communities were involved, eco-tourism held the promise of alleviating the alarming poverty in many rural areas of South Africa.

NMCC AIMS TO DECLARE SITE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Oudekraal may be halted

(56) CT 18/96/96

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS and the Muslim community welcomed the decision by the National Monuments Council yesterday to provisionally declare the Oudekraal site a national monument. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE controversial R750-million luxury Oudekraal township may be halted.

At a full council meeting in the city yesterday, the National Monuments Council (NMC) decided that it would consider giving the owners, Oudekraal Estates, notice of its intention to provisionally declare the proposed township site a national monument.

This is a holding mechanism that, once it is served, puts a halt to any development on the site for six months. It can be extended to five years.

In a statement yesterday, the NMC said: "Given the site of the development — Table Mountain is a national monument and it is

hoped it will be declared a World Heritage Site — and the cultural, historic, aesthetic and scientific significance of the site, the NMC believes that steps should be taken to preserve the site."

The council said that before it could proceed with the provisional declaration, "legal opinion on certain issues must be obtained, which will be done immediately".

It would not elaborate on the nature of the legal issues.

Oudekraal Estates did not comment, but their legal representative said the owners had "noted" the statement by the NMC, although they had not had an opportunity to consider it fully.

"The landowners wish to

emphasise that in terms of their existing legal rights, no conclusion can be reached until the consultative process initiated by the landowners some considerable time ago has been concluded.

"The landowners initiated the consultations with a view to accommodating the interests of all parties," he said.

The NMC move was welcomed yesterday by the green lobby and the Muslim community, who joined forces in a bid to halt the development under the umbrella of the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee (EMAC).

EMAC chairman Dr Achmat Davids said: "It's given us some leeway to take the battle forward. It could be a stepping stone for the minister to make a declaration to give the site full national monument status. EMAC won't let the issue die."

National Parks Board chief Dr

Robbie Robinson said he was "very pleased" with the decision by the NMC.

"I was devastated when the development was announced. I think a township planned nearly 40 years ago should no longer be valid, and the rights should have lapsed," Robinson said.

Save the Mountain campaign spokesman Ms Cecelia Assad said: "It's really good news. We are expecting the NMC to put a provisional declaration on the Oudekraal site to allow legalities to be sorted out."

Earthlife Africa's Ms Liz McDaid said the move gave them a breathing space.

"We hope this pushes the authorities to run a properly integrated environmental process, with full public participation. This procedure would hopefully result in the whole of Oudekraal being ceded to the National Parks Board."

A battle to save the mountain of Muslim



LEON MILLER

Reverence: Muslims show their respect inside the shrine of Sheik Tuang Noorul Mubeen in the Oudekraal area



HOT WIGLEY

Rest in peace: the grave of a Muslim leader surrounded by trees and bushes on Muslim holy land which could face development

'Islam's roots in SA ARE AT OULDEKRAAL' ARTIST PAGE (56)

ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporter

According to Moganat Abrahams, caretaker of the four marked kramats (Muslim shrines) and other graves on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, the spirits of the dead - he calls them the "friends of Allah" - still dwell here.

The birth of Islam in South Africa more than 300 years ago has its roots in the fertile soil of the Oudekraal area, he says.

He echoes the belief of South Africa's Muslim people that their history and culture are inextricably linked to the Twelve Apostles graves and shrines, which include the resting places of some of their most respected leaders.

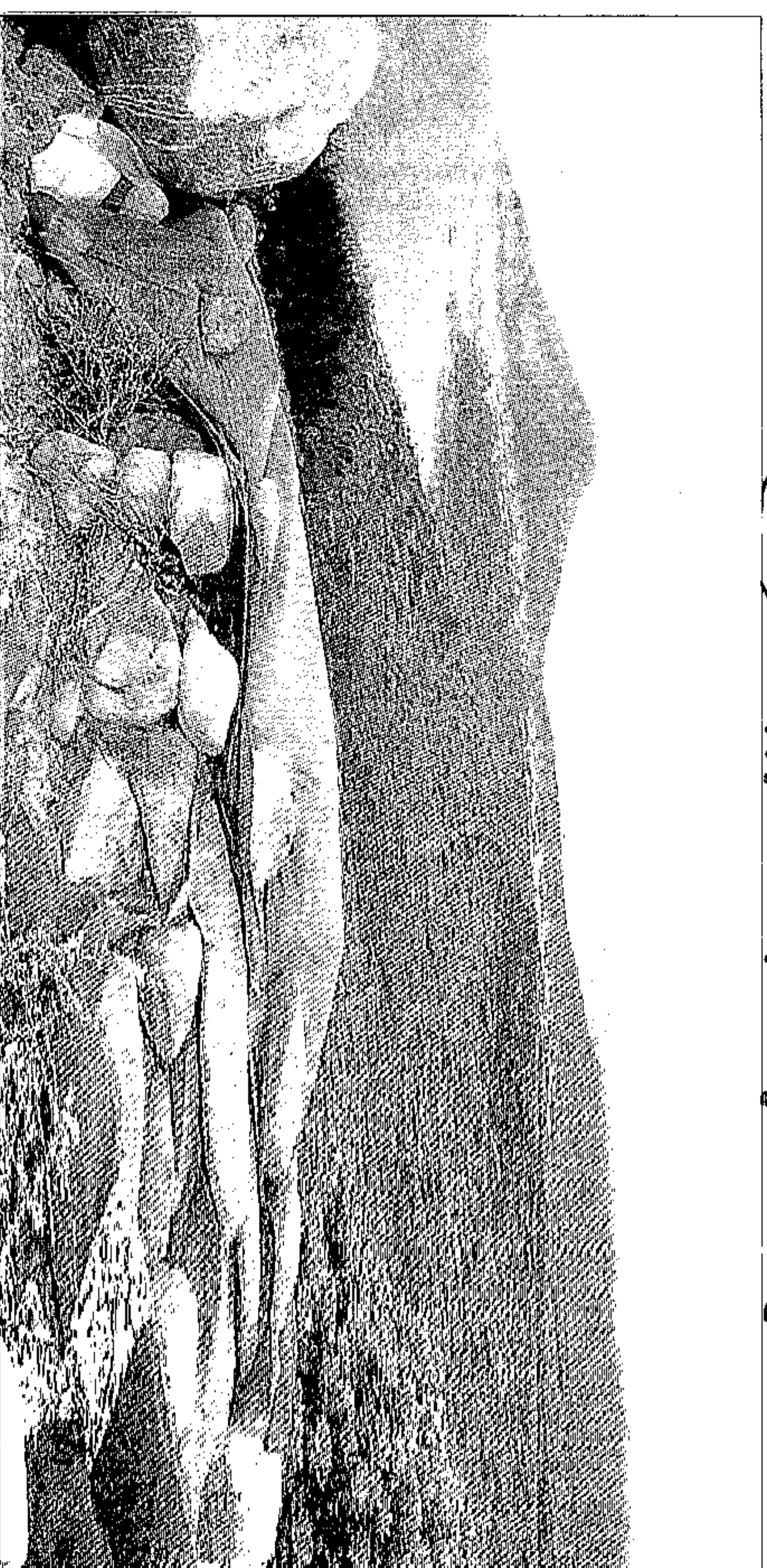
It is against this backdrop that People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) have joined the fight to stop the development of a luxury housing estate in the area. Mr Abrahams has looked after the shrines and unmarked graves for nearly a decade and lives in a cabin near the kramat of Sheik Tuang Noorul Mubeen, who died in 1713. Mr Abrahams said Sheik Noorul Mubeen, who escaped from Robben Island and came to Cape Town in the late 1600s, was widely respected in Muslim circles.

"The people buried here came to the Cape with the Holy Book in their hearts. It is because of them that we can now claim to be Muslims.

"They lived the Suni way, which means they lived strictly according to the letter and law of the Quran, which is the holy book of Islam."

The kramats were still an inspiration and source of strength for thousands of Muslims, said Mr Abrahams.

"In Islam we believe that the living and the dead exist together and therefore the property still belongs to Sheik Noorul



Spiritual foundations: Moganat Abrahams, caretaker of the Muslim graves on the Mubeen," he said.

The area is reportedly the burial site of more than 15 000 Muslim slaves and exiled Batavians who fled to the mountains to escape religious persecution during the Dutch occupation of the Cape in 1652.

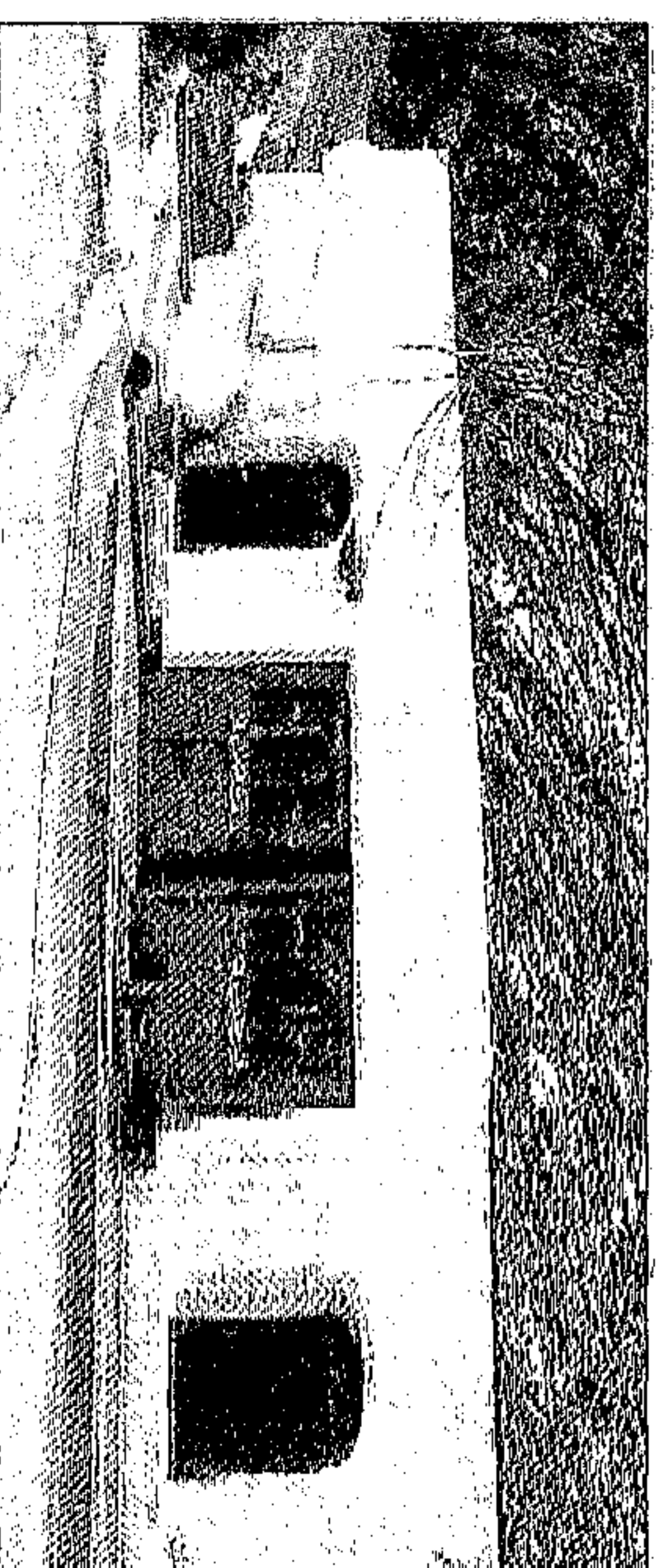
Agmat Davids, Bo-Kaap historian and convener of the Environmental Mazaar Action Committee, said: "The area we are concerned about, on the Atlantic seaboard, offered a convenient hiding place for runaway slaves."

At the time, Islam could not prosper in homes in the city because of religious persecution, but it prospered on the mountain, Dr Davids said.

"However, the slaves lived a harsh life and many of them died very young."

Dr Davids said that according to the Quran, the mountain was alive. Throughout the Holy Book, mountains held a supernatural significance for the Muslim nation. He explained that the entire religion of

Holy shrine: the kramat of Muslim leader



Holy shrine: the kramat of Muslim leader

Islam, with the holy scriptures, was given to the prophet Mohammed on a mountain. The prophet Moses received the 10 commandments on top of Mount Sinai.

Dr Davids said the mountain had also played a vital part in pre-colonial times in the western Cape, with the Khoi people calling it "hallow land" and the dwelling place of the "Divine Spirit". He rejected

Monument plan wins favour

AR 4/18/19/96
(56)

Oudekraal protest group calls for support

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

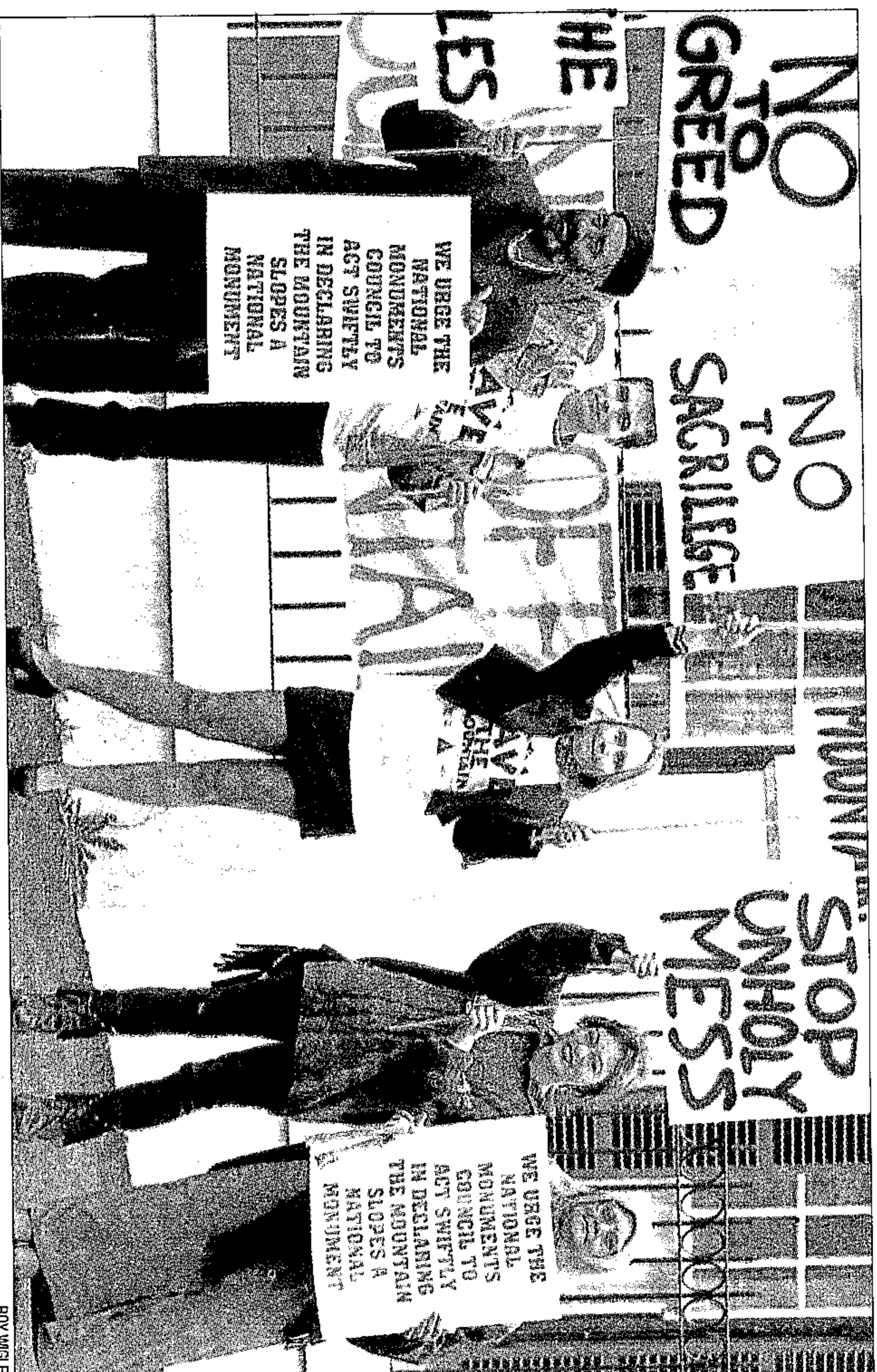
The site of the proposed Oudekraal housing estate on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles fulfils all the criteria for a national monument and all the people of Cape Town should work together to ensure it is declared as such.

This was the reaction of the umbrella organisation, the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee, to the decision yesterday by the National Monuments Council to consider giving the owners of the property notice of its intention to provisionally declare the site a national monument.

National Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson echoed the committee, saying he was disappointed more Capetonians had not joined protests against the development.

The legal representatives of the owner, Oudekraal Estates, said they had noted the monuments council's decision although they had not yet had an opportunity to study it fully.

"The landowners wish to emphasise that in terms of their existing legal rights, no conclusion can be reached until the consultative process initiated by the landowners some considerable time ago has been concluded."



ROY WIGLEY

Save the mountain: protesters picket the National Monuments Council building in Cape Town to oppose the proposed housing estate at Oudekraal

In a statement after its meeting, the National Monuments Council said it believed steps should be taken to preserve the site as far as possible, given its

"cultural, historic, aesthetic and scientific significance".

But it was getting urgent legal opinion "on certain issues" before giving notice of

its intention to provisionally declare the site a national monument - a holding mechanism which prevents any development of the site for six months.

This can be extended to five years, but the owner has a right to appeal on any such decision.

See page 14

Fraud/corruption: losses incurred

*5. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether his Department incurred any losses as a result of fraud and corruption in the 1995/96 financial year; if so, what was the total cost to his Department incurred as a result of such fraud and corruption? S614E

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT (for the Minister of Transport):

Nil.

Note: During the 1995/96 financial year the Department dealt with two cases (emanating from maladministration which occurred in the preceding year).

In the one instance (failure to submit reconciled financial statements in respect of cash advances) the official voluntarily resigned after it became apparent that the Department was proceeding with disciplinary action. The amount involved was ± R34 000 which was recovered in full.

The other case also involved serious maladministration where non-compliance with procedures led to adverse financial implications (subsidised vehicles). After a comprehensive investigation the official involved was charged with 10 counts of misconduct. A formal disciplinary hearing was conducted and the official was found guilty as charged. The amount involved was ± R20 000. The official was directed to resign but appealed to the Public Service Commission (PSC) against the conviction and disciplinary action. The PSC turned down the appeal and the official's services will be terminated and the ± R20 000 involved will be recovered in full.

Two further cases of theft were dealt with and subsequently resulted in the termination of the services of the officials involved. (The cases involved *inter alia* theft and unauthorised use of a government vehicle and in the other instance theft of a purse from another member of staff.)

Negotiations with government of Zimbabwe for release of prisoners

*6. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Government has been involved in any negotiations with the gov-

ernment of Zimbabwe in regard to the possible release of Barry Bawden, Kevin Woods, Philip Coujwayo, Michael Smith and Denis Beaubau, who are currently serving terms of imprisonment; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether any of these persons have applied for amnesty in terms of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, 1995 (Act 34 of 1995); if so, what is the status of these applications;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? S615E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs has on numerous occasions since 1989, and most recently during August 1996, submitted both written and oral requests to the Government of Zimbabwe in this regard. Politicians, the attorney of the prisoners and the prisoners themselves have made similar appeals to the Zimbabwean Government.

- (2) The Department of Foreign Affairs is not aware of any official applications. Family members of the men did, however, approach the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with requests to secure the release of the men in order for them to testify before the Amnesty Committee of the TRC.

- (3) The Department of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with other government departments and legal counsel for the prisoners is looking into alternative approaches to address the problem relating to these prisoners. It must be kept in mind that the five were tried and convicted under Zimbabwean law and the ultimate decision to release or transfer them rests with the Zimbabwean Government.

Senator J SELFE: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to inquire what the response of the Zimbabwean government has been to the representations made by the South African Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr President, the reply has been simply that they will look into the matter.

Burning of rubber tyres causing pollution

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

- (1) Whether his attention has been drawn to any air pollution problems caused by the burning of rubber tyres; if so,
- (2) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when will these steps be implemented? S616E

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, local authorities already have powers to control smoke pollution and the burning of refuse in terms of part III of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (Act 45 of 1965).

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, could he tell me whether his department is addressing the mountains of second-hand tyres that exist in this country with a view to making some sort of use of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr President, as we know, the department is only now engaged in a policy process dealing with all environmental issues, and that the policy has not yet reached completion.

Among other things, integrated pollution-control legislation and policy is envisaged. As of now, the department is not empowered; it is the local authorities that are empowered in that regard.

Trapping of/trade in primates: moratorium

*8. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether he or his Department intends placing a moratorium on the trapping of and trade in primates pending the outcome of the process aimed at determining the legal status of primates; if not, why not; if so, when? S617E

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

No, the Department does not intend placing a moratorium on the trapping of and trade in

primates. Incidents of damage to crops and livestock caused by primates occur from time to time. Animals causing such damage unfortunately have to be eliminated. The legal status of primates is determined in the provincial ordinances and not by the Department. This issue is currently being addressed by the provincial authorities. However, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in consultation with the relevant role-players is presently developing a national policy which will, amongst others, address trade in primates. Once this policy has been finalised, a sound decision on a possible trade moratorium can be taken.

Inspectors of interpreters employed

*9. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Justice:

(a) How many inspectors of interpreters are employed by his Department in respect of each official language and (b) what is the mother tongue of the inspectors in each of these language groups? S618E

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (a) Inspectors of Interpreters are not appointed in respect of a particular language. There are three inspectors and eight chief inspectors of Interpreters.

- (b) The home language of these inspectors are isiXhosa, Sesotho saLeboa, Xitsonga and Sesotho.

Senator W F MNISI: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, do I understand him correctly that they are not appointed according to their mother tongue? The information I have is that of 17 of them, all of them, with the exception of one, actually . . .

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! The hon senator should ask this House a question and not make a statement. [Laughter.]

Senator W F MNISI: Mr President, here is my question. Is it correct that of the 17, 16 are Xhosa-speaking and only one speaks Northern Sotho as a mother tongue? [Laughter.]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! I do not interpret that as a follow-up question, but the hon the Minister is at liberty to respond.

R20-m Danish aid for pollution fight

ZUBEIDA JAFFER

(56)

POLITICAL STAFF

ARG 19/9/96

The Danish government has given South Africa R20 million to improve the management of waste and the quality of water.

The Danish Minister for Environment and Energy, Svend Auken, signed three agreements with the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kader Asmal, and the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pallo Jordan, in Cape Town yesterday.

It was the first time two government departments had jointly co-operated with an overseas partner.

"Denmark will give South Africa financial and technical assistance," said Professor Asmal.

The agreements focused on three projects in the fields of water quality and waste management.

Funds would be allocated to the National Waste Management project which was expected to reduce

the generation of waste and the associated negative environmental impact of all forms of waste.

Hazardous waste management relied heavily on disposal at landfills and there were only a few, if any facilities providing for safe treatment, Professor Asmal said.

The Danish aid would help remove about 20 000 tons a year from the waste stream being land filled. This waste would substitute up to 30 percent of the energy required at Pretoria Portland Cement's Jupiter Factory in Johannesburg.

The Danish aid would also help the Government respond to the inadequate or non-existent waste and sanitation services in many dense settlements, both rural and urban, which often led to the pollution of ground and surface water resources.

Mr Auken said: "This is a major step towards promoting environmental co-operation between South Africa and Denmark."

Cape assembly called to snap Oudekraal debate

ARG 19/9/96 (56)

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The Western Cape parliament is to have a special debate tomorrow on the controversial plans for an Oudekraal township development adjoining Camps Bay.

This follows a request to provincial assembly Speaker Willem Doman by Russell McGregor, African National Congress provincial legislature member and vice-chairman of the province's standing committee on agriculture, environmental affairs and tourism.

The regional parliament, which is not in session, will also debate the "crisis in education" in the province, with special reference to finance.

This debate was requested by National Party MP Nick Isaacs.

Mr McGregor asked Mr Doman to call the legislature together to discuss "a matter of public importance: the environmental impact of the proposed development of

Farm 902 (known as Oudekraal), the area below the Twelve Apostles stretching from Bakoven to Llandudno".

Mr McGregor said proof of the importance of the issue was that 20 000 people had taken part in the protest march at the weekend and a petition against the development had been signed by 14 000 people.

Mr Doman said Mr Isaacs's request for a debate had reached his office just before that of Mr McGregor and he had therefore decided to call the legislature together for a snap session tomorrow, starting at 2.15pm.

The education debate will take place first, with Western Cape Minister of Finance and Environmental Affairs Kobus Meiring responding because education minister Martha Olckers is overseas.

The Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism, Lampie Fick, will reply to the debate on the proposed Oudekraal development.

Each of the debates was expected to last between an hour and an hour-and-a-half, Mr Doman said.

Oudekraal: The

(56) ET 20/9/96

THE NATIONAL PARKS Board may have to cough up R1,1 billion for loss of development rights if it wants the site for the proposed luxury township at Oudekraal and three extra erven next to this site included in the proposed Table Mountain National Park. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

A ONE BILLION rand battle is looming over Oudekraal. The owner of the land, which is the site for a controversial plan to build a township, claims to have development rights on three extra erven along the Peninsula's Victoria Road — and says if the National Parks Board wants the land to be included in the proposed Table Mountain national park, it must pay him R1,1 billion.

The erven — Oudekraal township extensions 1, 2 and 3, also known as Oudekraal portions 6, 5 and 4 respectively — stretch from the boundary of the proposed luxury township bordering Camps Bay to just beyond the site of the old White House.

The three erven and the township cover 156ha of pristine coastline.

Oudekraal owner Mr Kasper Wiehahn said yesterday: "Yes, we've got rights. But we're not planning to develop them (extensions 1, 2 & 3) at this stage. We're concentrating on Oudekraal township now. You have got to cut the cheese when it is ripe."

If developed into housing estates, this could mean a stretch of buildings beneath the Twelve Apostles from Camps Bay to the controversial new hotel and conference centre being built at the old White House site.

In discussions with the National Parks Board, Wiehahn has said if the board wants to incorporate the erven into the proposed park, it will have to pay R1,1bn as compensation for loss of development rights.

Asked to confirm this, Wiehahn said: "I suppose we will be looking at R1bn. It would be about that figure."

A document dated December 24, 1957, seems to confirm that development rights exist. The document states that the then administrator of

the Cape resolved that when 20% of the Oudekraal township had been built — the one over which there is an outcry — the adjacent property, extension 1, could then be developed.

Extension 2 could be developed once 40% of the original township and 20% of extension 1 had been built. Extension 3 could be developed once 40% of extension 1 and 20% of extension 2 had been built.

However, unlike Oudekraal township, the other three erven are still zoned rural and no general plan has been submitted to the surveyor-general. A general plan, showing the plots, roads and land uses, is a prerequisite for development.

The owner would have to apply for rezoning and the public could object. If the rezoning was turned down, the owner could appeal to the premier.

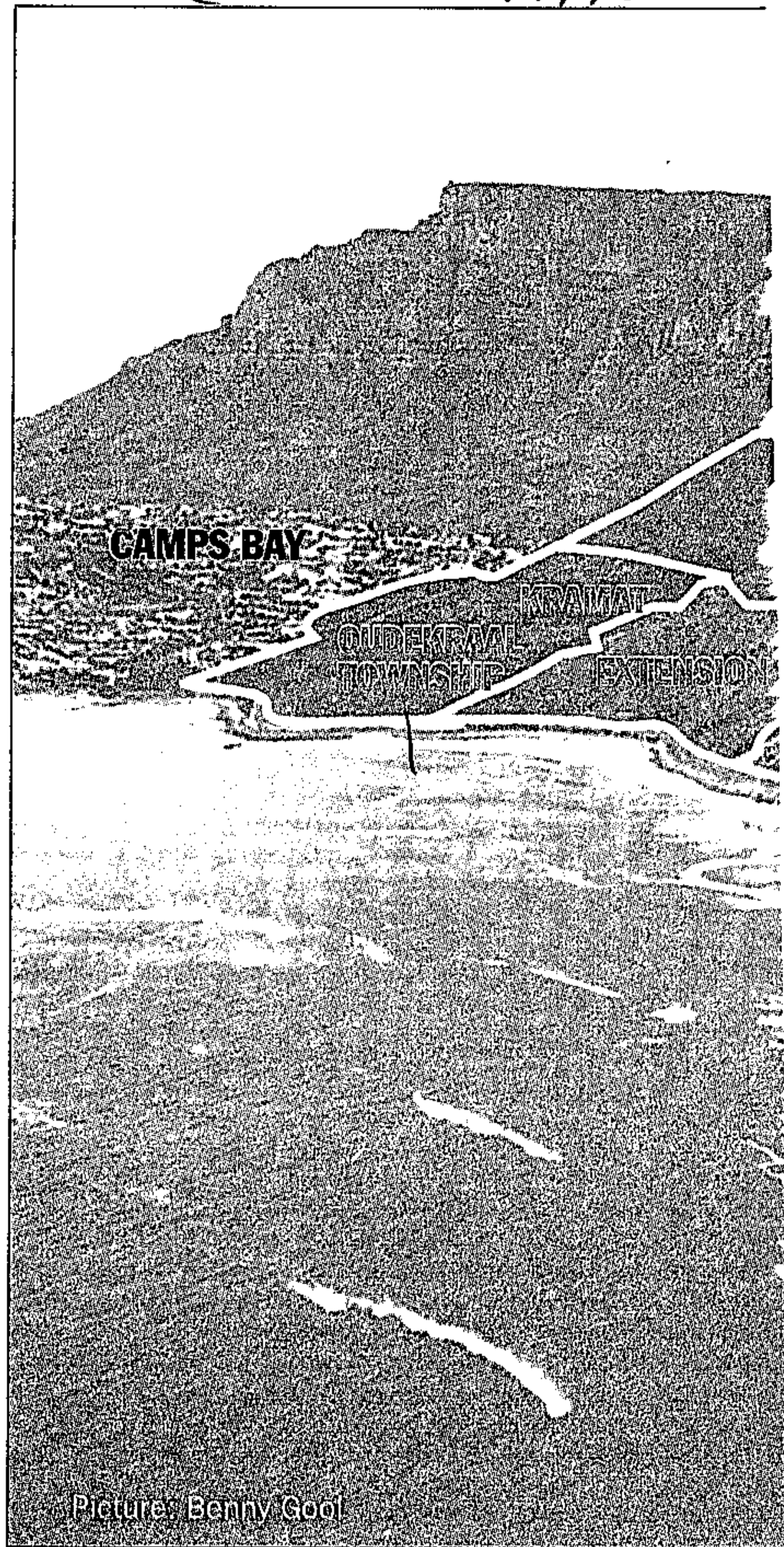
The rest of the land, which is owned by Wiehahn but lies within the CPPNE — the area to become part of the future Table Mountain national park — is marked "commonage". It apparently will be ceded to the authorities, in this case the National Parks Board, once extension 3 has been developed.

There is debate over whether development rights exist — both on the extensions and on the site of the proposed Oudekraal township.

A spokesman for the Cape Metropolitan Council said yesterday they were waiting for legal opinion on the status of all the privately owned land at Oudekraal.

"There are two issues: What rights exist on the township and what rights exist on the remaining land. We still have to establish what rights exist on the proposed township and on the extensions," he said.

The National Monuments Council has provisionally declared the extensions national monuments. This means no development can take place there for six months. The provisional declaration



Picture: Benny Gool

ALL PRIVATE LAND: All the land within the white lines is privately owned, in addition to the controversial multi-million rand Oudekraal township. Cc

could be extended to five years.

The monuments council is considering provisionally declaring the site for the Oudekraal township a national monument, which would halt the R750-million development.

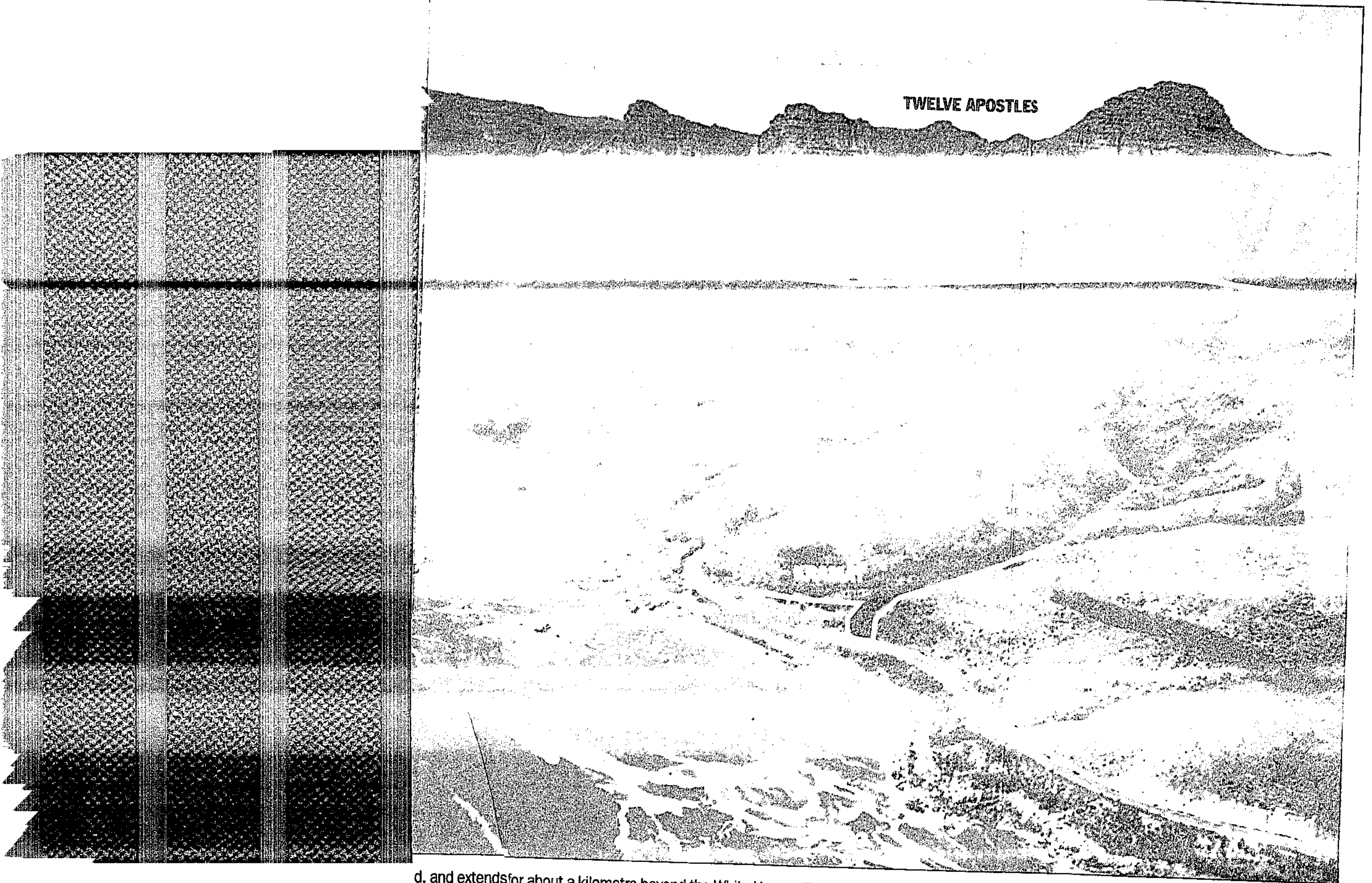
Mr Neill Bernstein, developer of the Oudekraal township, says the development rights for the township, granted in 1957, are indisputable.

Asked what action he would take if the monuments council carried out

their intention, Bernstein said the landowner will obviously be liable to a damages claim for his financial losses. This would be millions.

National Parks Board chief executive Robynson said: "I don't think we have rights that were granted 40 years ago. The government should seriously look into these rights people are claiming so long ago. Both the Oudekraal township and the White House

R1bn battle lines



d, and extends for about a kilometre beyond the White House. The owner claims he has development rights on the township extensions 1, 2 & 3, in
ld all this land have wall-to-wall houses on it in future?

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opmen are completely inappropriate for that piece of coastline."

Robison said R1,1 billion for the land was "unheard of", and no one could pay that.

A legal expert said the property clause in the new constitution had never been tested in court. It distinguished between expropriation and deprivation of property rights.

"If property is expropriated, the owner has to be paid compensation.

If he is deprived of property rights — say through restrictions on what he can do on the land — he does not have to be paid compensation.

"The question, which may have to be tested in court, is if the state precludes the Oudekraal owner from developing his property, whether it would be considered expropriation or deprivation. That would determine whether he would have to be paid out or not," he said.

Court battle looming over plan to declare a national monument at Oudekraal

(56) AKLT 20/9/96

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Top legal minds are pondering the status of the Oudekraal housing development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles and the issue may end up in the Constitutional Court.

This emerged this week as the National Monuments Council waits for legal opinion on whether to declare portion seven of Oudekraal Farm - the area bordering Camps Bay where developers have announced plans to build 240 luxury houses - a provisional national monument.

Three other sections of the farm, now known as Oudekraal Estates and which extends to the Llandudno side of the White House property at Oudekraal, have already been provisionally declared a national monument.

The owners, Oudekraal Estates (Pty)

Ltd, have objected to the provisional declaration. Legal sources said the debate now raging in legal circles was how the declaration of a national monument without the owner's consent would be interpreted in terms of the property clause in the interim Bill of Rights.

Namaqualand's 'squatters' by the sea claim rights

AKG 21/9/96

(5)

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

Adriaan Nieuwoudt looks out from his holiday shack at the Groen River mouth on the Namaqualand coast.

Just metres away the cold Atlantic swells break over the rocks. About 50m from his shack is the start of a small sandy beach - beyond that, in the middle distance, the rocky coastline, such a feature of this part of the world, starts again and disappears in the salty mist.

"I will tell you why they want us to break down our holiday shacks," said Mr Nieuwoudt, the man who won national fame with his Kubus money-from-vrot-melk scheme about 10 years ago. "They want this spot for the hotel they want to build here," and with a wave of the hand he indicates the magnificent view one would supposedly get from your hotel window.

Until recently all debate surrounding the proposed park on this stretch of coast centred on what many called the illegal occupation of state land by Mr Nieuwoudt and other locals.

Called squatters by some, they erected holiday shacks and even pegged out seaside plots on 100 hectares of state land near the Groen River mouth.

But a group of about 30 families, represented by Mr Nieuwoudt, believe they had established a right of use, because they or their families had camped there for more than 30 years.

The dispute first made headlines last year, when land affairs minister Derek

Hanekom ordered those who had put up illegal structures there after the April 1994 elections to take them down.

Although Mr Nieuwoudt's claim that the National Parks Board wants to build a hotel is perhaps a bit far-fetched, he has some very emotional and - some would concede - good arguments why they have the right to camp at Groen River without paying anybody a cent.

He said that since the beginning of the century there had always been a member of his family camping there at Christmas. "The farmers of Namaqualand camp here because it means being close to their farms."

Also, Groen River mouth is one of the few parts of the Northern Cape coastline still accessible to the general public.

Most of the coastal land was bought up by De Beers Consolidated Mines in the 1920s after the discovery of diamonds and it has been a restricted area ever since.

Although the locals were not against the establishment of the park in principle, they believed it was premature, he said.

"It will take years before the necessary amenities are in place. Why must we give up our holiday homes now for a development we will not see in our lifetime?"

But Mr Nieuwoudt also agreed that a proper campsite, which would be accessible to all, was badly needed in the area.

Referring to some of the coloured communities in the area, he said: "We can't escape the fact that not far from here live children who haven't even seen the sea - it is an absolute shame."



Disputed land: Namaqualand farmer Adriaan Nieuwoudt and his wife Vios at the Groen River mouth, where locals or their families have spent the Christmas holidays for most of

Unknown 'wasteland' now a major conservation area in near-pristine condition

STAFF REPORTER

For many people the Namaqualand coastline north of the Olifants River is just another unknown wasteland – a place where nobody in their right mind would want to go.

For others it is the place where generations have camped around Christmas-time, a place they love and are not prepared to lose.

Yet the Namaqualand coast also falls in what botanists call the succulent Karoo biome – one of the most under-protected of South Africa's natural areas.

But soon this area could be added to a growing list of national parks.

Talks with all interest groups to conserve the area properly are well under way.

The proposed park will be about 60km long and will stretch from Island Point about 80km south-west of Garries to a point just north of Rooival Bay, a small sandy bay which lies about 15 km south of Hondeklip Bay.

The core conservation area should be a coastal strip about 3km wide.

Three rivers flow through this area – the Groen River close to the proposed park's southern border, the Bitter River, roughly through the middle of the park, and the Spoeg River close to the northern border.

These rivers flow only rarely and are generally closed to the sea. They are, however, characteristic of the Namaqualand area and provide important wetlands for birds and saltmarsh plants.

They are important conservation areas, especially the highly sensitive Groen River estuary, which contains a relatively large body of water.

The Bitter River is also important, as most of its catchment area will fall within the park.

According to a framework document drawn up by the National Parks Board, the main features worth conserving in this area include the intertidal zone, the Groen River estuary, the dunes between the Bit-

ter and Spoeg rivers, as well as a number of archaeological sites and several endemic and threatened animal species.

The succulent Karoo is also one of the most specie-rich arid zones in the world.

Most of the land in the area is owned by De Beers Consolidated Mines, although the State also owns a farm at the Spoeg River mouth and an area of about 100ha around the Groen River mouth.

The coastal strip or Admiralty Zone is also State land.

Because of the aridity of the area and general scarcity of grass, only a few large animals occur, of which gemsbok, springbok, steenbok and ostrich are the most common.

The discussion document said that although the area historically also carried other species such as elephant, black rhino, red hartebeest, eland, mountain zebra and even giraffe, their survival probably depended on having access to the larger Namaqualand area.

It also said that in view of the generally

infertile soil and lack of grass, the proposed park would not carry much game. Instead the emphasis would be placed on conserving the endemic and threatened smaller animals.

The report noted that about 25 percent of the vertebrate animals of the succulent Karoo occurred nowhere else.

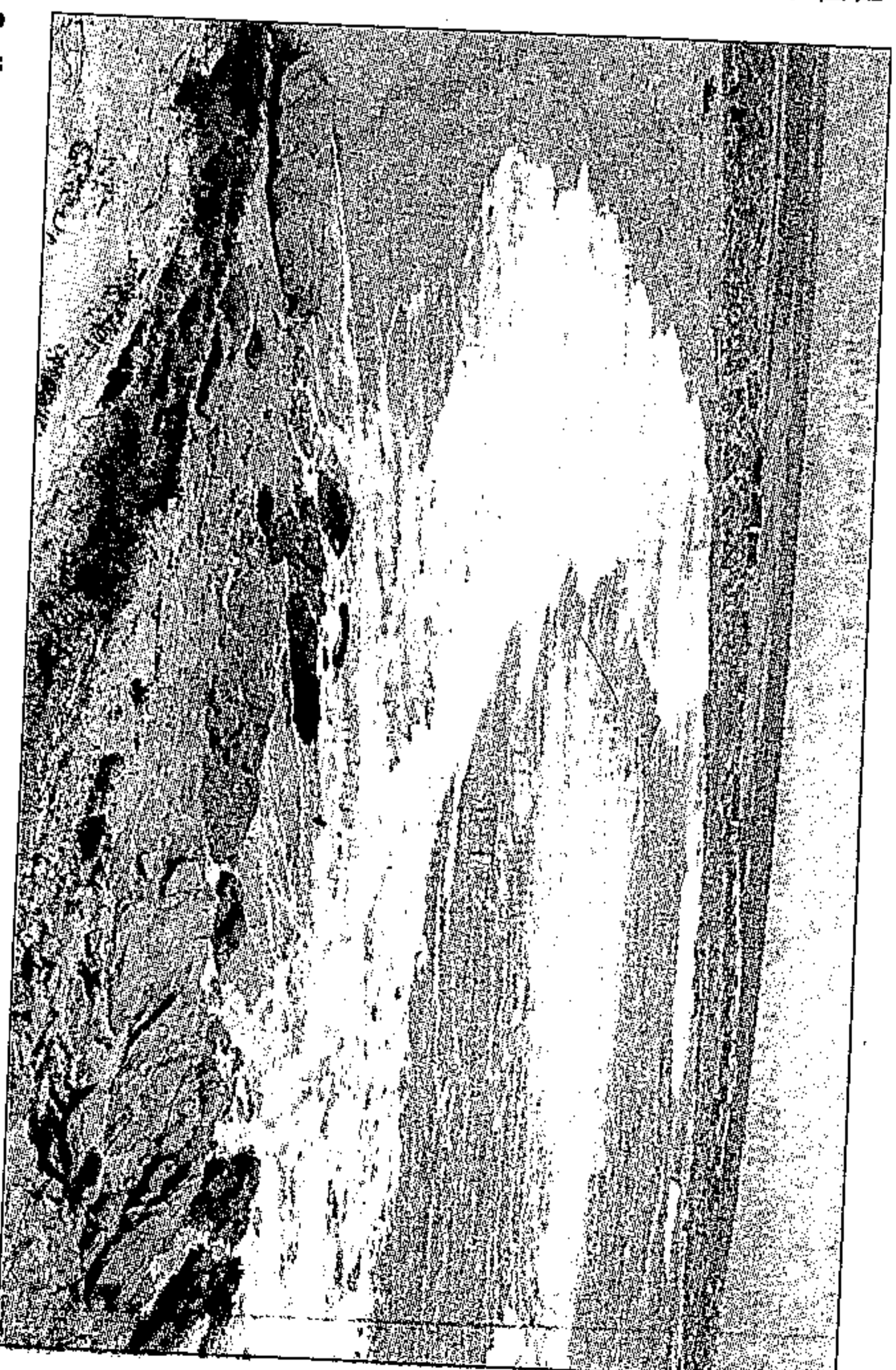
These include the Namaqua rain frog, the desert frog, the Namaqua dwarf adder, a number of mole species and at least five legless skinks.

Most of the species are not protected in any publicly owned conservation area.

Seventy bird species, including five threatened species, have been recorded in the area.

The coastline is near-pristine, mainly because the diamond mining activities of De Beers have helped keep people out of the area.

A park in the area should also play a significant role in protecting exploited fish stocks and provide a recruitment source for surrounding areas.



God's country: the Groen River mouth beach, where locals are claiming occupation rights on state land

Fick calls for Oudekraal talks

Enviro-friendly project urged

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Western Cape Planning Minister Lampie Fick is to invite the owner and developers of the controversial Oudekraal township on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles and community representatives to a "round-table" discussion on Monday.

The discussion will try to persuade landowner Kasper Wiehahn of Oudekraal Estates to accept a more environment-friendly development plan for the luxury township, which was approved in 1957.

Mr Fick has also initiated a move to get local authorities and conservation agencies to agree on a unified development plan for all land bordering on the new national park being established.

The new park is centred on the Table Mountain chain, and the first session towards achieving a united development plan is scheduled for next month.

It will be guided by an independent facilitator.

This was announced yesterday by Mr Fick during a rowdy debate in the provincial legislature.

A small group of protesters stood outside in Wale Street during the debate, holding "Save the mountain" placards.

Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan has also expressed his concern about the proposed development.

The entire Table Mountain range was of global environmental significance because of its biological diversity. The impact of the planned development needed to be thoroughly investigated and an environmental impact assessment should be conducted, Dr Jordan said.

The snap provincial debate was called in response to a request by ANC MP Russell McGregor, vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

In the debate, which was marked by frequent interjections, Mr McGregor called on Mr Fick and Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring to place a moratorium on the proposed development of 240 luxury houses on this site, in terms of Section 31a of the Environment Conservation Act.

Mr Russell also called for the whole area to be declared a national monument.

No environmental impact assessment had been done when this township had been declared in 1957 "under the old apartheid township ordinance", he noted.

"Also, there has been no com-

munity consultation or involvement prior to the granting of development rights. There is definitely strong opposition."

In response, Mr Fick said the "ultimate ideal" of no development on the mountain was impossible because the land did not belong to the state.

"Also, there are very real rights of private ownership, which is the most fundamental cornerstone of our economic system. We are dealing with a situation where private ownership and rights cannot be nullified by orchestrated mass action, as we were seeing on Sunday.

"However much we would have wanted to see no development, there will be a disastrous loss of confidence in this country should a government capitulate on a constitutional right of an owner, in favour of populism and mass action."

Both Mr Fick and Hennie Bester, DP leader in the regional parliament, hit out at the role of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) in the protests against the development.

They said the alleged involvement of Pagad members in the murder of Rashaad Staggie had done greater damage to the Western Cape tourism industry than any development on Table Mountain could.

(56)

AA9 21/9/96

Oudekraal 'peace' snubbed

(56) ST (CM) 22/9/96
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A TOP-LEVEL bid to defuse the Oudekraal development row has been snubbed by environmentalists and Muslim critics who say any negotiations about the R750-million luxury project should include the option of no development at all.

Reacting to Friday's peace offering by provincial Planning Minister Lampie Fick, Environment and Mazaar Action Committee (EMAC) chairman Dr Achmat Davids yesterday said he had no mandate to discuss development of the site.

"We'll only go into an open meeting which has no hidden agenda," Davids said in response to Fick's offer for round-table talks tomorrow which would involve all parties — and set out to soften the impact of the proposed project.

Fick's efforts to resolve the row which has pitted environmentalists and Muslims against developer Neill Bernstein and land owner Kassie Wiehahn also coincided with appeals for extreme caution by national Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan.

Commenting on EMAC's stance, Fick yesterday said it was a great pity they had already adopted a position before "a sincere attempt to

find the best possible compromise" had even started.

This was echoed by Oudekraal Estate developer Bernstein, who said EMAC should at least attend the talks even if it did not want to negotiate.

Fick said the planning process could not be reinitiated from scratch. "All we can do is to try to mitigate the impacts of the development."

Davids said EMAC would only be prepared to talk about the disputed land if negotiations included the option of non-development.

Asked to comment on Fick's olive branch to critics, Davids said: "I'm not against talks. I am against prescriptive talks which maintain that development is a priority."

"The priority is preserving the Oudekraal land and Table Mountain in perpetuity as part of the cultural heritage of the people of South Africa."

Bernstein said he had been "been begging EMAC to sit down and talk".

"We're proposing environmental conditions on title deeds which no statutory mechanism can enforce."

The whole hysteria about IEM and impact assessments is about laws which cannot force us to do things which we are already doing."

Fick said development rights on the three other privately-owned portions between the Bakoven Township and Llandudno had lapsed, however, and it was unlikely that the authorities would allow development.

Speaking on Friday in a snap debate called by African National Congress MPL Russell McGregor, Fick said it would have been preferable to have no development on the Oudekraal site.

However, the landowner had rights to the land and the government would stand by his right.

Tomorrow's talks would include the National Parks Board, landowner Wiehahn, the developer and community representatives and would be aimed at attempting to redesign a township plan which had been approved 36 years ago.

Fick also repeated warnings of a major legal battle to protect the landowner if organisations such as the National Monuments Council and National Parks Board tried to halt the development in court.

"If that's the way we go, the only guys who are going to get rich are the advocates. But if we can amicably resolve the Bakoven Township issue, it'll make future plans about the remaining Oudekraal land much easier to resolve," he said.



In future polluters are likely to have to pay up.

New approach may be of help to

The era of carefree pollution in SA may be drawing to a close, writes John Louw

(56)

AT PRESENT pollution regulations are often breached with little or no fear of prosecution. This is likely to change with the ratification of SA's constitution and a new approach to the issue of locus standi exemplified in the recent judgment (27 June) handed down in the matter of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa & Others vs The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Others. One of the major problems individuals and associations suffered in the past, when seeking through legal channels to prevent environmental degradation, is that unless the individual or body concerned could show direct personal harm the courts held that such person or body lacked standing — locus standi — and had no right to be before the court. The interim and new constitution address this issue and provide for interested groups or persons to take action in the public interest, where a right, including an environmental right, is threatened. In addition, Judge Pheko expressed certain

views on locus standi in terms of common law in the case in which The Wild Life Society of Southern Africa and Others sought an order against The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Others to enforce the provisions of an environmental conservation decree promulgated by the former government of Transkei, and for various other orders and interdicts relating to prevention of the destruction of the ecological integrity of the Wild Coast by unregulated development, in conflict with existing Transkeian legislation. The respondents argued that the first two applicants lacked locus standi but abandoned this argument in view of the constitutional provisions. Notwithstanding this, the judge went on to say that in such a case he thought that a body such as The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, with its main object being to promote environmental conservation in SA, should have locus standi at common law to apply for an order compelling that state to comply with its

BD 23/9/96

obligations in terms of such a statute. He then quoted with approval from an article by the late Prof Barend van Niekerk who had said that the most obvious solution to the problem of locus standi was "to regard the environment as being peculiarly of interest to every member of society" and that "it did not seem misplaced in terms of existing legal principles to give every member of society the right to protect what amounts to his own interest". One of the principal objections raised against a more flexible approach was that "the flood gates will thereby be opened, giving rise to an uncontrollable torrent of litigation". It is well to bear in mind a remark made by Judge Kirby, president of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, in an address to the Legal Resources Centre, that "it may sometimes be necessary to open the floodgates in order to irrigate the arid ground below them". The judge concluded this section of the judgment,

which is clearly an expression of opinion and not a finding of law by saying: "Twenty one years having passed since Prof Van Niekerk's clarion call for an adaptation of the law relating to locus standi in environmental matters. It may well be that the submissions made by him have come of age and that the time has arrived for a re-examination of the law rules of standing in environmental matters involving the state and for an adaptation of the common law to meet the ever-changing needs of society." If this view finds favour in other courts it will, together with the constitutional rights, remove what was once an insuperable difficulty for citizens and bodies concerned with environmental degradation. The court ordered the minister to enforce the provisions of the environmental decree promulgated by the government of the Transkei. In the light of this new approach to locus standi is the possibility of watchdog groups being able to approach the court to enforce existing legislation.

□ Louw is a partner with attorneys Webber Wentzel Bowers.

Watchdog groups

LEGAL THREAT TO OUDERKRAAL Development rights could be found to be invalid

ANDREA WESS AND JOHN YEU
STAFF REPORTERS

A bombshell legal opinion for the Cape Metropolitan Council has thrown doubt on whether the owner of Ouderkraal Estates has development rights to the controversial R750 million luxury township proposed on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

The council has been advised that the developer does not in fact have the legal right to proceed with the multi-million-

Rand "Riviera-style" extension to Camps Bay.

The opinion is based on the way in which extensions were granted to the then owner of the land between 1957, when it was approved by the administrator of the Cape, Otto du Plessis, and 1962, when the Township plan was published in the Provincial Gazette under the then administrator, Nico Malan.

But developer Neill Bernstein today described the opinion as "clutching at straws".

He had heard of the opinion last week but had not sought a counter-opinion. In his view "once they stamp and approve the plan, that is official approval. To try and go back before that is laughable."

The present owners, who bought the property from a deceased estate in 1964, have claimed from the outset that they have inviolable rights to proceed with the development. In the face of intense opposition from environmental and religious groups.

The legal advice is likely to be presented to the Cape Town municipality's urban planning committee on October 1 and the committee may seek further legal opinion.

The metropolitan council is acting as an agent for the Cape Town council, which will be the political body to decide whether to approve an application for bulk engineering services on the site.

According to the legal opinion, the then owners applied after 1957 to the administrator for a six-month extension to the required period in which the township development plan had to be lodged with the surveyor general.

This was granted in terms of the Townships Ordinance of 1934, but the extension

lapsed before the plan had been lodged with the surveyor-general.

The administrator granted a further extension to lodge the plan, but this action was ultra vires (unlawful) because it was granted only after the township approval had, technically, already lapsed.

In terms of the ordinance, this meant the developer had to resubmit an application, starting from scratch.

Further extensions were subsequently granted, compounding the unlawful nature of the approval, according to the legal opinion.

A second question mark hangs over plans to build an upmarket health spa and tennis club, combined with an educational facility, on land earmarked for a primary school in the original 1957 plan.

Mr. Bernstein said the developers were considering building a private club and an environmental school or school for gifted children on the site.

But Cape Town councillor Brian Warkyns said this indicated that the developer had "no intention of complying with

(56) ARG 24/9/96

Legal bombshell in dispute over Oudekraal plan

From page 1

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all the conditions governing the approval of the Oudekraal township", because the entire stand had been reserved for educational purposes.

"The sooner the developer starts a public participation programme, the better it will be for all. Provincial planning minister Lampie Fick's call for talks looking for a compromise is not a substitute for full public participation, as it does not acknowledge the option of non-development.

"I believe the right to develop needs closer legal examination," Mr Watkyns said.

During a snap debate in the Western Cape parliament on Friday, Mr Fick said that according to information at his disposal, the development rights to Portion 7 of Oudekraal Estates - the proposed township - had been granted legally and he would oppose any court application against the development, which involved the provincial government.

"Any legal action against this government will therefore be defended in the highest court in the land," he said.

Informed sources said Mr Fick was told about the contrary legal opinion to the metropolitan council before his speech in the provincial parliament.

But this was denied by Mr Fick's spokesman, Armand le Roux. He said no one had spoken to Mr Fick between the writing of the speech and its delivery.

During the debate, Mr Fick did not respond directly to the challenge by African National Congress member Russell McGregor, who called on him to invoke Section 31A of the Environment Conservation Act.

In terms of this, any competent authority - the national or regional government or a local authority - can order a person to stop activity which may result in the environment being "seriously damaged, endangered or detrimentally affected".

There is also legal opinion to the effect that the Oudekraal township may fall under the Land Use Planning Ordinance.

In terms of this ordinance, the Administrator - and now Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel - can cancel totally or partially any approved township development before work on it starts. In his speech, Mr Fick did not refer to this ordinance.

addfvv

World Bank unveils plan to link game parks

(56) *Star 25/9/96*

R36-m transfrontier conservation project will join SA, Zimbabwean and Mozambican reserves

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Durban

The World Bank has unveiled a bold multimillion-dollar proposal to revitalise Mozambique's rundown wildlife areas and link some of them with parks in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The R36-million transfrontier conservation plan involves link-ups between Tembe elephant park and Ndumo game reserve in KwaZulu Natal, the Kruger National Park and Zimbabwe's Chimanimani National Park.

The World Bank, which has been preparing the plan for the past five years in consultation with Mozambican officials, the Swiss Development Corporation and conservation bodies, has stressed that the community-based ecotourism project is a long-term initiative, intended to set the stage for more significant private sector investments.

There would be no forced removals of people, and a central

feature of the plan is to create wealth for rural Mozambicans, who are among the poorest people in the world.

Apart from the removal of artificial boundaries separating international conservation areas, the plan aims to restore a measure of control in parks which have suffered from uncontrolled poaching

Proposal to establish game pathway

and indigenous tree cutting because of the Freimo/Renamo civil war.

The bank's Mozambique project leader, Rod de Vletter, notes that the wildlife and forestry department is critically understaffed and underfunded. The department receives less than 0.2% of the national budget, with 95% of this

money swallowed up by salaries alone. Most staff have not been trained for 20 years. But under a new capacity-building/training scheme it is hoped to employ more skilled staff and game guards.

Other features include several hundred kilometres of new roads, and extra waterholes, guard posts and anti-poaching measures.

The report points out that more than 400 000 hectares of private cattle ranches in the Zimbabwe lowveld have been converted to wildlife management areas in recent years, demonstrating that wildlife can represent a more sustainable and economically viable proposition than cattle ranching. Tourism and safari hunting also provided up to 10 times more jobs than cattle ranching.

The World Bank also suggests that a variety of land uses be considered, combining traditional ecotourism and safari hunting with other activities such as animal husbandry and bee-keeping. Although the boundaries of the

KwaZulu Natal-Mozambique link-up have not been demarcated, a proposal has been made to establish a game pathway joining the Maputo Elephant Reserve with the Tembe and Ndumo reserves. This could involve gazetiting a new conservation zone along the Futi Corridor and building a veterinary cordon and a game fence to prevent crop damage.

If the proposal is accepted by the Mozambican government, local people and conservation authorities in KwaZulu Natal, it would be possible for elephant populations to move freely between both countries after being separated by an electric fence since 1989.

The report notes that KwaZulu Natal nature conservation authorities may have to consider culling unless more habitat can be found. The southern Mozambican elephant population is relatively small and consists mainly of cows and calves. This population has dropped to about 100 animals.

The second transfrontier area includes the contiguous Kruger National Park and Coutada-16 hunting concession area in Gaza province. Both wildlife areas are close to the Gona-re-Zhou national park in Zimbabwe and the Zinave and Banhine national parks.

Although wildlife populations on the Mozambican side have

Large diversity of vegetation and animals

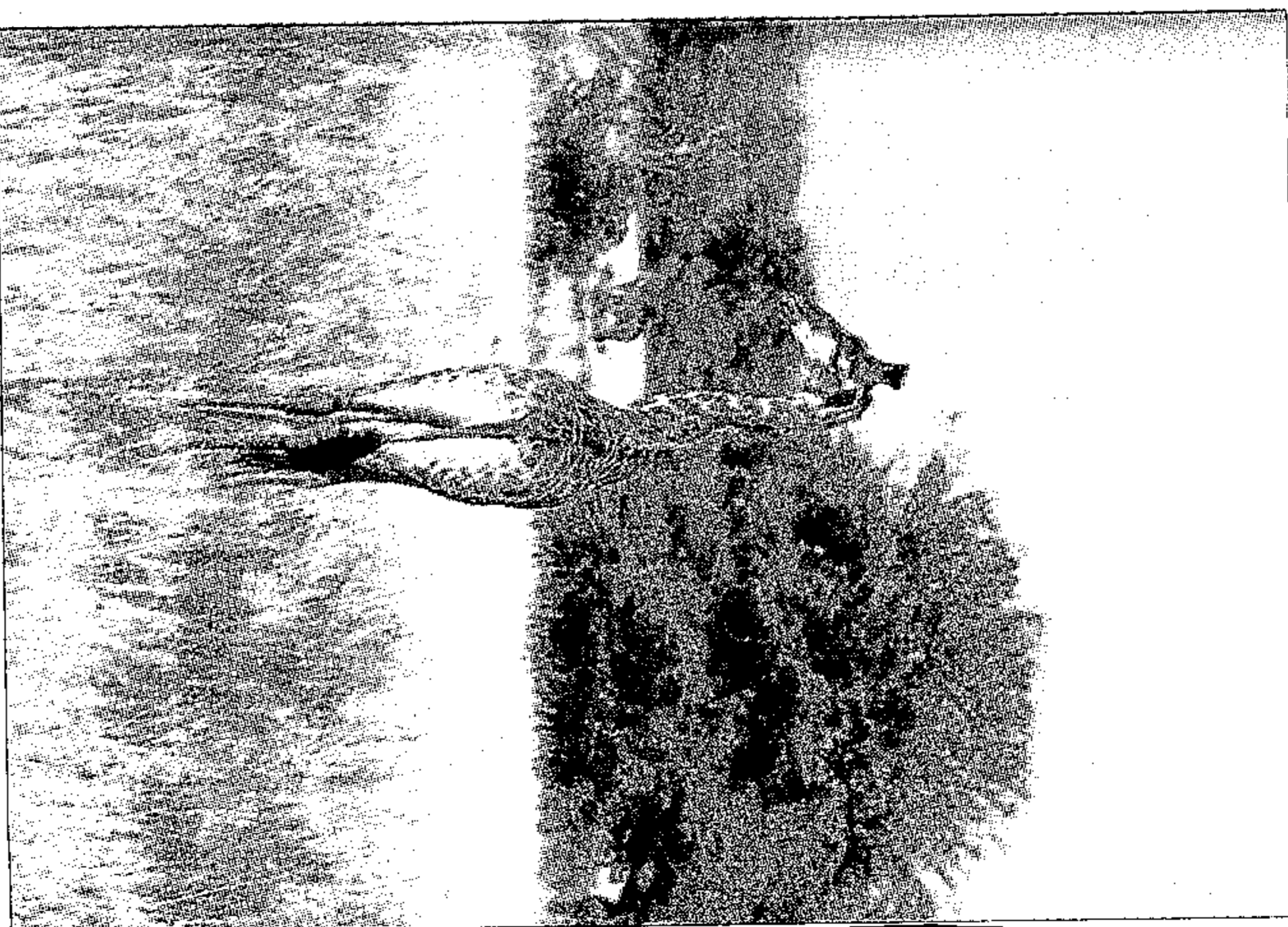
been devastated by drought, tsetse-fly campaigns and wholesale slaughter, animals in this region have migrated traditionally towards the Limpopo River. But the state of the habitat is very good and there is potential for natural and artificial game restocking.

Kruger, on the other hand, has occupancy rates of more than 70%

and the park itself is reaching saturation point - providing excellent opportunities for the Gazare serves to soak up excess demand.

The third major linkup involves the Chimanimani National Park in Zimbabwe and an adjoining mountain area of 1 740sq km on the Mozambican side. The Mozambican land, which is better preserved than in Zimbabwe, has a large diversity of vegetation and animals, spectacular landscapes, and rich historical and archaeological sites. Negotiations have already begun to establish community-based botanical and bird-watching reserves.

Joint working groups have or are about to be formed involving the KwaZulu Natal Conservation Service and the National Parks Board, but conservation authorities have made it clear that the removal of fences between the two countries would be considered only once Mozambique could guarantee the protection of valuable wildlife species against poaching.



Sticking out ... Kruger National Park is included in a plan to link Mozambique's wildlife areas with parks in SA and Zimbabwe.

Oudekraal township may be scrapped

CF 25/9/96

(58)

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE controversial multi-million rand Oudekraal township development may be scrapped. A tough new look at the validity of the development plans has revealed that the rights to develop the township have lapsed.

Because of the public outcry over the proposed development, and because of the long time lapse since the township was approved in 1957, the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) commissioned an in-depth legal look at whether the plans for the development were legally valid.

After going through the old documentation with a fine-tooth comb, senior legal counsel has advised the CMC that the

rights to develop the township have lapsed. This is apparently due to a technical slip-up made decades ago — which the authorities seem to have overlooked.

The Oudekraal development was approved by the then Administrator of the Cape under Ordinance 33 of 1934. The ordinance is specific that once the township has been approved, a general plan, which shows the plots, roads and land uses, must be lodged with the surveyor-general within 12 months.

If this is not done, the rights to develop lapse and cannot be restored.

The Oudekraal township, on portion 7 of Oudekraal farm, now adjacent to Camps Bay, was approved on September 17, 1957. The plans were submitted on behalf of the owner of Oudekraal at that time, the late Sir

Henry Price.

Price was legally obliged to submit a general plan to the surveyor-general before September 17, 1958 — within 12 months of township approval.

Documentation shows that on November 22, 1958 the administrator extended the time for the lodging of the general plan.

However, legal opinion now states that the administrator's action was technically too late. The application for a time extension and the granting of it, should have happened before September 17, 1958.

No one, Price nor the authorities, seemed to be aware of the slip-up, as the approval of the Oudekraal General Plan appeared in the Provincial Notice on January 19, 1962. Price died in 1964. The Wiehahn family bought Oudekraal,

which extends from Camps Bay to beyond the old White House, from his deceased estate in 1964. The development "rights" passed to the new owners.

No moves were made to develop the land until last month, when service plans dealing with roads, sewage, electricity etc, were submitted for approval to the CMC on behalf of Mr Kasper Wiehahn.

The legal slip-up might have gone unnoticed, if there had not been a public outcry, which led to the CMC deciding to put approval of the service plans on hold until they had sought senior legal counsel.

However, the legal counsel's opinion was made on available documentation — there may be missing correspondence that shows the extension granted by the administrator was legitimate.

Plan to link-up southern African reserves

(56) 25/9/96

DURBAN: Wildlife populations in Mozambique have been devastated by drought, tree-felling and uncontrolled poaching. But a World Bank eco-tourism plan could change all this, with long-term benefits for neighbouring South Africa and Zimbabwe and the stage set for private sector investments.

THE World Bank has unveiled a bold multi-million dollar proposal to revitalise Mozambique's rundown wildlife areas and to link some of them with parks in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The \$8,1 million (R36,4m) transfrontier conservation plan involves link-ups between Tembe elephant park and Nduvo game reserve in KwaZulu, Natal, and the Kruger National Park and Zimbabwe's Chimanimani National Park.

The bank — which has been preparing the plan for the past five years in consultation with Mozambican officials, the Swiss Development Corporation, and conservation bodies — has stressed that the community-based, eco-tourism plan is a long-term initiative, intended to set the stage for more significant private sector investments.

There would be no forced removals of people, and a central feature of the plan is to create wealth for rural Mozambicans, who are among the poorest people in the world.

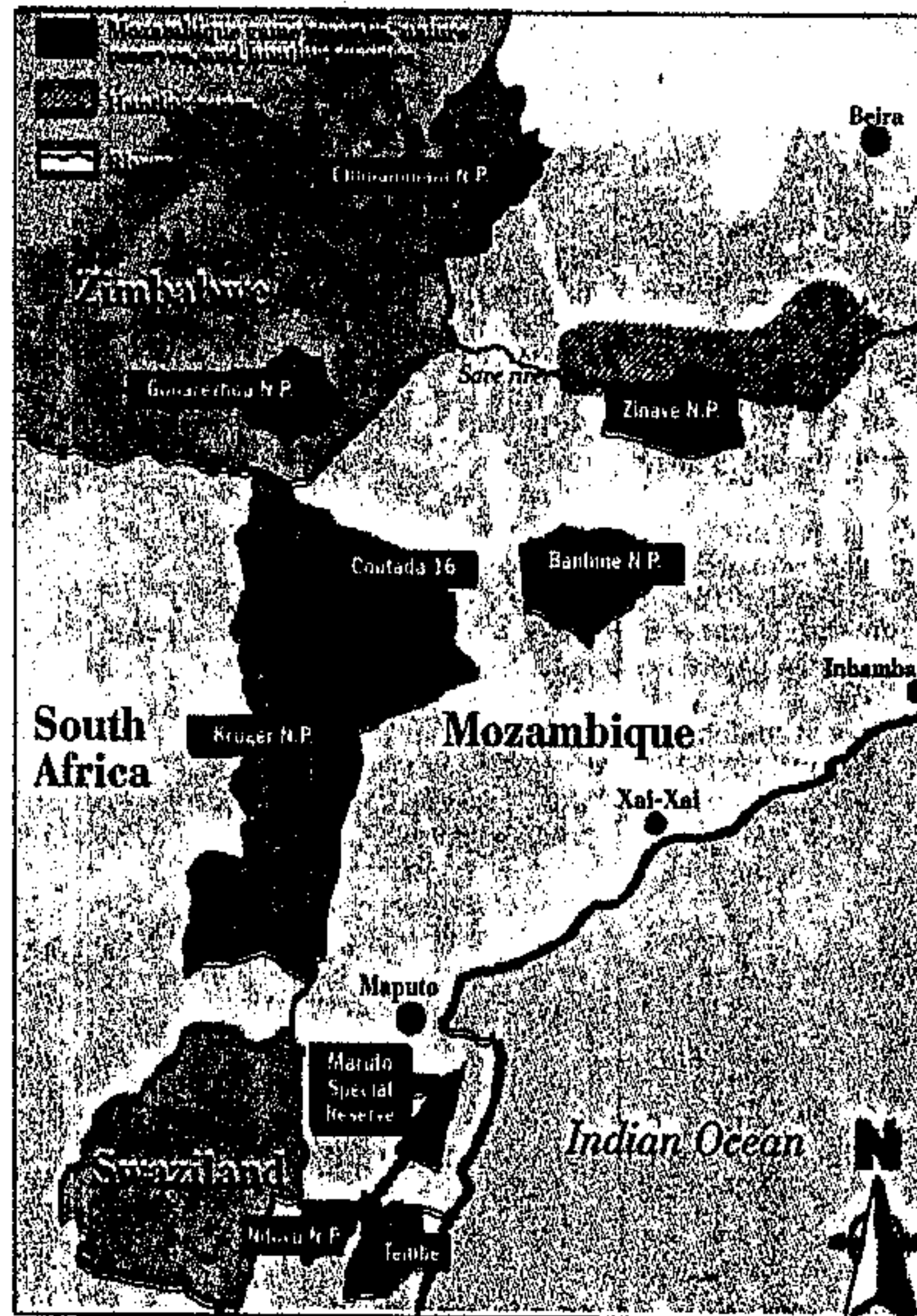
Apart from the removal of artificial boundaries separating international conservation areas, the plan aims to restore a measure of control in parks that have suffered from uncontrolled poaching and indigenous tree-cutting because of the Frelimo-Renamo civil war.

The bank's Mozambique project leader, Mr Rod de Vletter, said the wildlife and forestry department was critically understaffed and underfunded. Most staff had not been trained for 20 years.

But, under a new capacity-building training scheme, it was hoped to employ more skilled staff and game guards, and to offer wildlife management training in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the African Wildlife College at Kruger park.

Other features included several hundred kilometres of new roads, extra water holes, guard posts and anti-poaching measures.

And instead of forming a centralised blueprint, the overall emphasis would be on flexibility and gaining popular community acceptance and support for the



transfrontier initiative.

The report points out that more than 400 000 ha of private cattle ranches in the Zimbabwe lowveld have been converted to wildlife management areas in recent years, demonstrating that wildlife can represent a more sustainable and economically viable proposition than cattle ranching. Tourism and safari hunting also provide up to 10 times more jobs than cattle ranching.

The bank also suggests that a variety of land-uses be considered, combining traditional eco-tourism and safari hunting with other activities, such as animal

husbandry and bee-keeping.

While the boundaries of the KwaZulu Natal-Mozambique link-up have not been demarcated, a proposal has been made to establish a game pathway joining the Maruto elephant reserve with the Tembe and Nduvo reserves.

This could involve gazettement of a new conservation zone along the Futi Corridor, and building a veterinary cordon and a game fence to prevent crop damage by elephants.

If the proposal is accepted by the Mozambican government — and by local people and the conservation authorities in KwaZulu Natal — it would be possible for elephant populations to move freely between both countries, after being separated by an electric fence since 1989.

Although the herds are territorial, the Tembe elephant park has a heavy concentration of bulls. The population in this park has put great pressure on the vegetation and there is an unusually high incidence of fights between elephant bulls.

The southern Mozambican elephant population, however, is relatively small and consists mainly of cows and calves. This population has dropped from around 350 elephants in 1970 to about 100 animals.

The second transfrontier area includes the contiguous Kruger National Park and the Coutada 16 hunting concession area, in Gaza province.

Both wildlife areas are close to the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe and the Zinave and Banline parks.

Although wildlife populations on the Mozambique side have been devastated by drought, tsetse-fly campaigns and wholesale slaughter during the civil war, the state of the habitat is very good and there is potential for natural and artificial game restocking.

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Zoo-born white rhino's release makes history

WINDHOEK: History will be made in Namibia today when a young white rhino, born in captivity in a German zoo, is released into the wild, a Windhoek news report said.

The Afrikaans daily Die Republikein said the young bull, named Kal, was born at Serengeti Safari Park south of Hamburg six years ago and now weighs 1,8 tons.

The Save the Rhino Trust in Namibia confirmed that Kal arrived safely in Johannesburg on Monday.

This was the first time a

rhino born in a zoo would be released into the wild, the news report said.

Kal is due to be freed today in the Etosha National Park, where he will be kept in an enclosure until he acclimatises.

White rhinos were extinct in Namibia for more than 70 years until 20 years ago when 12 animals from Natal were introduced to the Waterberg Plateau Park in central Namibia.

The operation is being funded by a private German company, Berolina Schrifthild. — Sapa

Mountains of rubbish threaten disaster in Spain

MADRID: An environmental disaster is threatening the north-western Spanish city of La Coruna, where mountains of refuse are slowly rolling towards the sea, it was reported here yesterday.

Some 100 000 tons of refuse have already taken off from the rubbish dump of Bens near La Coruna, submerged part of the port of the village of O Portino and spread in the sea.

The avalanche buried several houses and cars as well as a 58-year-old man who has not been found. Some people have had to be evacuated from their homes.

"There is a stench all over the city," said La Coruna's mayor,

Mr Francisco Vazquez.

Another 100 000 tons of refuse could come loose at any time, say experts, who are struggling to solidify the refuse with machines and to build barriers to contain it.

The dump has about 800 000 tons of unclassified refuse, and experts consider it possible that all of it could thunder to the sea.

The Ministry of the Environment has sent a technician to La Coruna, but Environment Minister Mr Isabel Tocino said yesterday that the problem was the responsibility of the municipality.

Vazquez doubted whether the city could deal with the situation financially. — Sapa-DPA

Cape Po

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

CAPE POINT Nature Reserve is set to become part of the Peninsula's future national park — by far the largest chunk of conservation-worthy land in the region.

The Nature Reserves Advisory Board to the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) — which owns the reserve — has given approval that the world-renowned area become part of the future park.

The CMC's full council will make the final decision, probably in November.

A National Parks Board spokesman said yesterday they welcomed the board's decision.

The future park, which it is

n African reserves

(56) CT 25/9/96

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tion point — providing excellent opportunities for the Gaza reserves to soak up excess demand.

The third major link-up involves the Chimanimani National Park in Zimbabwe and an adjoining mountain area on the Mozambique side.

The Mozambican land, which is better preserved than Zimbabwe's, has a large diversity of vegetation and animals, spectacular landscapes, and rich historical and archaeological sites.

While joint working groups have been formed involving the KwaZulu Natal Conservation Service and the National Parks Board, conservation authorities have made it clear from the outset that the removal of fences between the two countries will only be considered once Mozambique can guarantee the protection of wildlife species against poaching.

Where the money for the proposal will come from:

Five-year grant to rehabilitate Mozambican parks and pursue link-ups with South African and Zimbabwe game parks.

Funding sources:

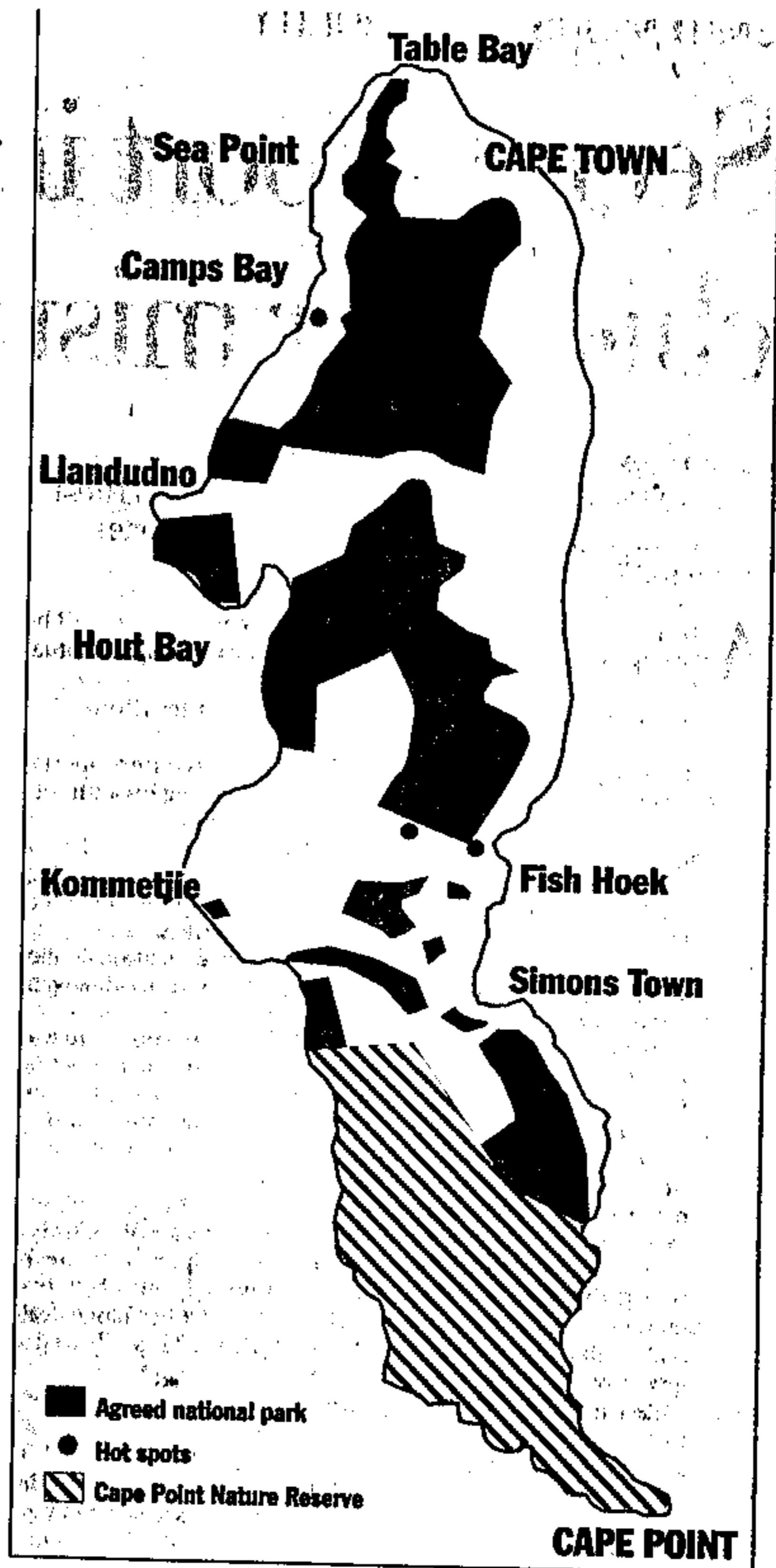
World Bank — \$5 million (R22,5 million).

Swiss Development Corporation — \$2,6 million (R11,7 million).

Mozambique government — \$0,5 million (R2,25 million).

Tourism is one of the world's fastest-growing industries, second only to oil in revenue generation. At the moment, Africa's share of world tourism is under 2%.

Mozambique budgets less than 0,2% of its national budget to wildlife and forestry.



SHAPING UP: The Peninsula's future national park is rapidly taking shape with all authorities, bar the Cape Metropolitan Council which owns Cape Point, having agreed to have their land incorporated into the future national park. But development "hotspots" on the fringes are worrying conservationists.

GRAPHIC: MUGAMAD JACOBS

ish Spain

Cape Point set for national park

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

CAPE POINT Nature Reserve is set to become part of the Peninsula's future national park — by far the largest chunk of conservation-worthy land in the region.

The Nature Reserves Advisory Board to the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) — which owns the reserve — has given approval that the world-renowned area become part of the future park.

The CMC's full council will make the final decision, probably in November.

A National Parks Board spokesman said yesterday they welcomed the board's decision.

The future park, which it is

hoped will eventually incorporate the mountain chain from Table Mountain down to Cape Point, is rapidly taking shape, although no single portion of land has yet been proclaimed part of it.

There are several "hot spots" around the perimeter of the future park, where development proposals are seen as a threat to the park's integrity.

These include, on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, the controversial White House hotel and conference centre development and the proposed Oudekraal township. Another is the housing development on Zone C on the Fish Hoek dunes and Elsies Peak development above Clovelly.

Much legal and administrative

work will go into proclaiming the national park, including decisions about what will happen to the staff, buildings and assets of the various authorities.

Authorities who have already agreed to have their land incorporated into the park are:

- Cape Town municipality, whose land includes Signal Hill, Lion's Head, Silvermine Nature Reserve, Newlands Forest and Table Mountain, stretching over the back table to include the dams and Orange Kloof.

- Safcol, which owns Cecilia and Tokai plantations.

- Cape Nature Conservation, whose land includes Devil's Peak and the eastern slopes of Table Mountain to Constantia Nek, the

Twelve Apostles, Constantiaberg (above Hout Bay) and along Chapman's Peak the Noordhoek wetlands, Simonsberg (above Simon's Town) and a section of Red Hill.

- SA Navy, which owns part of the mountain between Miller's Point and Simon's Town and another between Kommetjie and Simon's Town.

- The Department of Public Works, which owns the Boulders, land around Scarborough and inland from Misty Cliffs, the Sentinel and land west of Hout Bay harbour, land between Oudekraal and Llandudno, and Groote Schuur Estate.

There are 174 private landowners whose land falls within the proposed park.

City's environment blow to Oudekraal development (56)

ARG 27/9/96

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town municipality has endorsed an environmental policy framework which could preclude development at Oudekraal.

The council has expressed concern about the proposed luxury housing development on religious grounds and in the light of the newly endorsed environmental framework.

The council yesterday referred the Oudekraal development to its urban planning committee, which meets on October 1, when it will consider an application by the developer, Neill

Bernstein of Devland, for the approval of a bulk engineering services plan.

All councillors have been invited to attend the meeting because of intense public interest in the issue.

It is expected the committee will be given a full report on the legal position on whether or not there are development rights on the site, which is also a historic Muslim burial ground.

The environmental framework includes a policy to conserve "where possible" areas of social, spiritual, historical and cultural importance. It mentions Table Mountain, Signal Hill, the Atlantic and False Bay coastlines, Robben Island, cemeteries and parks.

Oudekraal services plan approval likely to wait on legal opinion

ET 27/9/96

(56)

PETER DENNEHY

THE Cape Town City Council looks set to stall its approval of the engineering services plan for the proposed Oudekraal village until further legal opinion has been obtained.

Its urban planning committee will debate the services plan next Tuesday. All councillors were urged at yesterday's monthly full council meeting to attend the Tuesday meeting.

The agenda contains the following recommendation: "The decision on the approval of engineering services plans (should) be held in abeyance until legal opinion... has been obtained upon (i) the current validity of the township approval and (ii) the manner in which other legislation may require the developer to undertake archaeological, cultural, historical and environmental analyses to permit a re-assessment of the township".

Developer Mr Neill Bernstein of Devland could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The then Administrator granted permission for the establishment of a township at Oudekraal in 1957. The right to develop there was confirmed in 1962, when a provincial notice appeared that the general plan for the township had been approved. No period was stipulated in which these rights had to be exercised lest they fall away.

Now, however, it appears the rights may nonetheless have lapsed many years ago, before an official renewal of the rights.

There is another area of doubt. The old Townships Ordinance of 1934, under which the original development rights were granted was replaced by the Land Use Planning Ordinance of 1985, in terms of which rezonings lapse unless acted upon, in a case like this, within five years.

Mr Peter Tomalin, deputy chief

director of planning for the Cape Metropolitan Council, said: "In view of the developer's expectations and the public concern over the proposed Oudekraal Township it is of vital importance that the legal situation is clarified."

Until then it would not be in the best interests of the council to approve the engineering services plans, which he said were of "a very high standard".

Yesterday's council meeting unanimously passed a motion, proposed by ANC councillor Mr Saleem Mowzer, which said: "We wish to express our concern about the proposed development at Oudekraal on both environmental and religious grounds, particularly in the light of the approved environmental policy framework for council. We refer this matter to the urban planning committee for full information."

This replaced an earlier motion that the council felt the development was "not in the best interests

of Cape Town". City administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr had warned that the urban planning committee could not go against a full council decision and should not be pre-empted.

The environmental policy framework to which the final motion referred was passed earlier in the day.

Mowzer said during that debate that the International Olympic Committee required that a bidding city should have such a policy in place. "We have been confronted with environmental issues recently," he said. "Policies Two and Four are crucial to us as a municipality."

Policy Two makes reference to the need to conserve scenically important areas like Table Mountain and "socially, spiritually, historically and culturally important resources". Policy Four says, among other things, that urban development should be directed to "areas of low resource".

Lampie (56) probes 'green' buffer

ST(CM) 29/9/96

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE parks board and provincial government have started exploring a conservation buffer in the Cape Peninsula as key players in the Oudekraal row continue manoeuvring towards a legal showdown.

Parks board Table Mountain co-ordinator David Daitz this week disclosed that he and Provincial Planning Minister Lampie Fick had started multi-stakeholder negotiations towards a 20-year conservation vision for the Peninsula.

"All local and provincial authorities and statutory bodies who attended last Friday's talks agreed that the Peninsula park must have the highest conservation status, and that we must workshop a common vision on what happens around the park," he told Cape Metro.

Meanwhile, Fick and Oudekraal developer Neill Bernstein confirmed they had met on Friday to discuss Bernstein's controversial plans for a R750-million luxury township next to Rontree Estate.

While both men assured that other interested and affected parties would be involved in negotiations to settle the row, ANC Western Cape MP Russell McGregor yesterday urged the Central Sub-structure to halt the development.

The Central Sub-structure's urban planning committee will meet on Tuesday to consider the Cape Metropolitan Council's request to get "senior legal opinion" on the dispute. Bernstein insisted he was within his rights on the development.

● See Page 4

Oudekraal legal opinion 'asks more questions than it answers'

PETER DENNEHY

A JUNIOR counsel's preliminary legal opinion on whether the proposed Oudekraal developer had the right to build there "asks more questions than it answers", urban planning chairman Mr Leon Markovitz said yesterday.

The opinion was not tabled at yesterday's meeting and Ms Faldiela de Vries (ANC) bemoaned this omission. "I find it strange that there is no legal opinion yet. This has been in the (news)papers for some time. I think there is a legal opinion. There is no reason why it should not be on the table today."

Markovitz said he had mentioned that the Cape Metropolitan

(56) CT 2/10/96
Council officials had obtained a legal opinion from a junior counsel, but this had not been satisfactory to the CMC.

Later, deputy city administrator Mr Peter Alston said it was not customary for legal opinions to be tabled in full, as part of the report on an agenda item. Instead, officials report in writing, in their own words, on a legal opinion.

It is understood, from a variety of sources, that the junior counsel who wrote the initial opinion based on documents available to him was Mr Eduardo Fagan, a UCT academic. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

It has been reported that Fagan believes there is a chance that the

development rights may not exist any more, because they were apparently allowed to lapse decades ago, and their renewal may have been invalid.

The committee agreed it would be wise to seek the opinion of a senior counsel. A special urban planning committee meeting will be held when it is available.

● The Peninsula Mountain Forum has called on any organisations and individuals opposed to development on Table Mountain to attend a meeting tonight at 6 at the Education Centre in Valkenberg. They hope to form a coalition to halt inappropriate development on the mountain. For more information, phone (021) 448-6435.

BOOST FOR ASMAL'S WATER PROJECT

City gives R20m for fight against alien trees

(56) CT 2/10/96

RESEARCH shows that removing alien plants from catchment areas results in a 30% improvement in water flow, reports **MELANIE GOSLING** Environment Writer.

CAPE Town City Council handed over a cheque for R20 million to Water Affairs Minister Mr Kader Asmal yesterday — a major boost for his department's Working for Water programme, which aims to eradicate alien vegetation from the nation's water catchment areas.

The money, which came from the bulk water reserve fund, will be matched rand-for-rand by the government and be used to clear thirsty alien plants from water catchments, river banks and water bodies in the vicinity of Cape Town.

"This heralds a new chapter in water management for greater Cape Town, and a new chapter in inter-governmental partnerships," said Asmal yesterday.

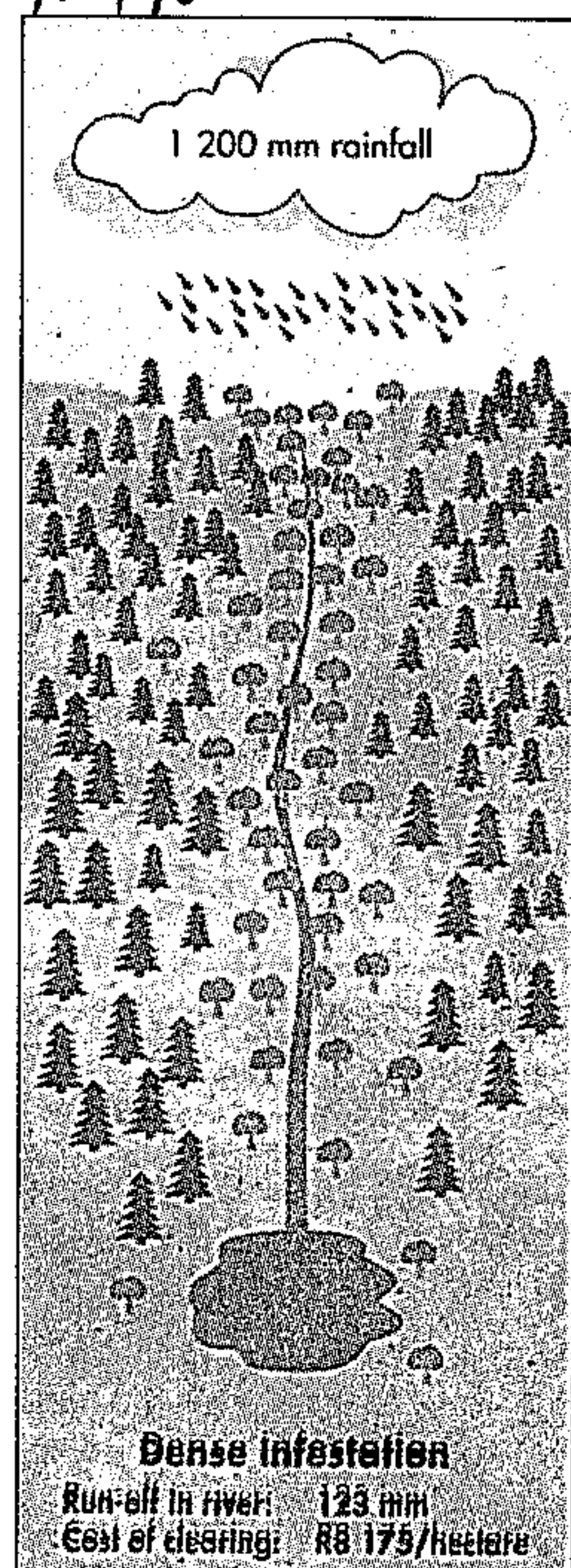
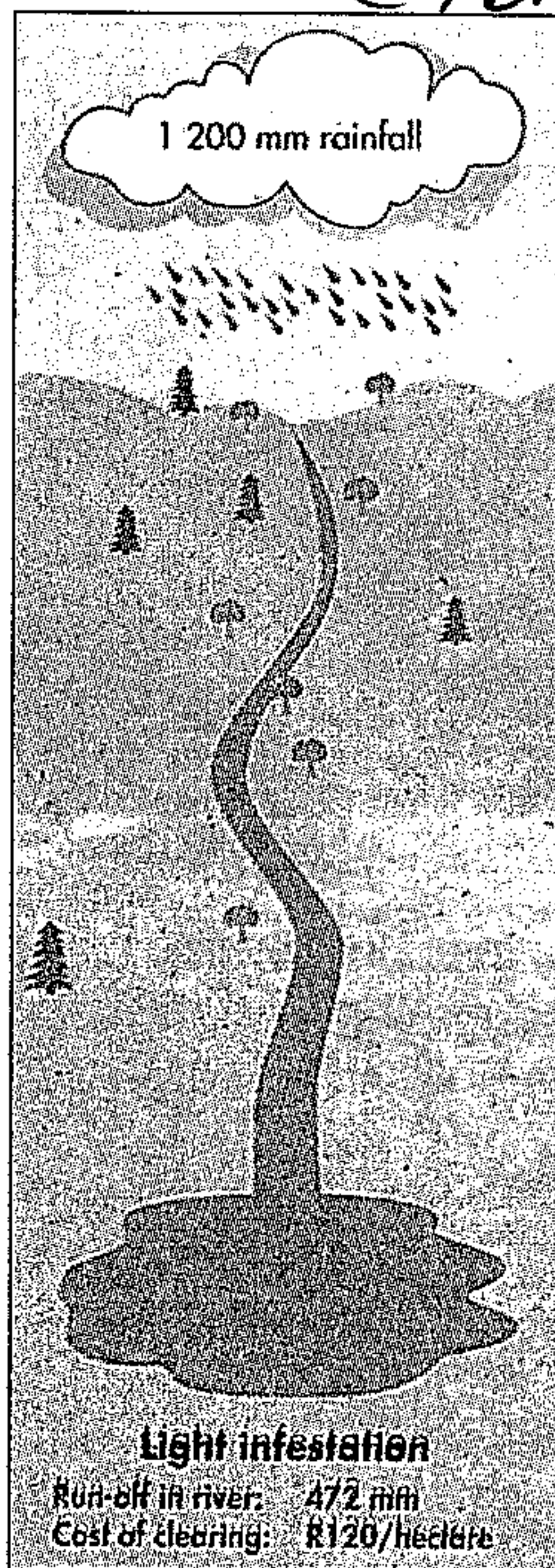
"Cape Town has a water problem. It has a rapidly growing population and a considerable backlog in meeting the water needs of all its citizens. Its supply of water will decrease significantly if the alien plants are allowed to invade its catchments," he said.

Since Water Affairs launched the project in October last year, 33 000ha of alien trees — particularly pines, wattles and gums — have been hacked down. This has increased the country's water supply by 17 million cubic metres so far — roughly half the capacity of the Steenbras Dam.

Asmal said that because the work was labour-intensive, the R20m was an investment in job-creation in greater Cape Town. The project had provided jobs countrywide for about 6 700 previously unemployed people — over half of them women.

In the Western Cape, 28 800ha of aliens have been cleared and over 3 000 people employed.

Alien plants act as "windmills", pumping water up from the soil, and use far more than indigenous vegetation. In this way they prevent water



THIRSTY ALIENS: This example of a valley in the Western Cape shows the effect that invading alien plants can have on run-off in rivers, and the cost of dealing with the problem.

from reaching rivers and in many areas streams and springs have dried up because of alien trees.

Research has shown that removing the alien plants will result in a 30% improvement of water flow from Cape Town's water catchment areas.

"Clearing alien plants can yield water at just 14% of the financial cost of the proposed Skuifraam Dam. But there are other benefits," said Asmal.

"Besides significant decreases in unemployment where the programme is active, we have had

reports of related decreases in crime rates and increases in the payment of services."

He said the programme had been a marriage of conservation and social upliftment. In the Western Cape 100 of the workers had received first aid certificates, 14 received heavy duty driver's licences, and seven crèches had been established at the sites to care for workers' children.

The project was launched with R25m from RDP funds, R4m from Sappi, R3m from the Forest Owners' Association and R1m from Safcol.

Body up in arms (56) sawetan 3/10/96 over mine

By Russel Molefe

SAVE The Vaal Environment (Save), a concerned citizens' organisation, is up in arms over proposals by Sasol to establish an open-cast coal mine around the banks of the Rietspruit in the Free State.

Rietspruit is a tributary of the Vaal River and supplies about two million cubic metres of water to the Vaal's flow a year.

The organisation has already indicated to Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal that the area is "sensitive" and the mine would cause irreversible damage to the environment.

Save submits that the negative impact on the environment resulting from the proposed mine will exceed the cost Sasol will incur to open another mine elsewhere.

"The mine's life expectancy is only about 20 years. The most expensive alternative source of coal for Sasol would reduce its after-tax profits by a mere R55 million – a small amount in comparison with the expected after-tax profits that exceed R2 billion," Save said.

The organisation also claims that a decision to mine the area will result in the retrenchment of 1 300 workers in the recreational and tourism sector.

Although Sasol could not be reached for comment, it is believed to have already submitted all the necessary information to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL BODY FORMED

March planned to 'save' Oudekraal

(56) CT 3/10/96

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are planning a mass protest march to fight the proposed development at Oudekraal, writes **CYNTHIA VONGAI**.

THE Save the Mountain Coalition, formed last night by leading environmental organisations, needed to stop "the feeding frenzy by developers happening on the Peninsula mountain chain".

This was said by Ms Marlene Laros of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa at the launch of the coalition at the Environment Centre in Observatory.

Environmental groups are mobilising to fight the proposed Oudekraal development and are planning a protest march on October 20.

The coalition hopes to highlight the need to halt any proposed development on Table Mountain and the 12 Apostles and wants to

preserve the mountain's natural environment. Development on the mountain would have a detrimental impact on Table Mountain, a national monument, and to the Western Cape's growing eco-tourism industry.

They further argued that the 60-year laws covering development on the mountain needed to be reviewed as development legislation benefited a small minority of the population and ignored previously disadvantaged communities, who could not enjoy the mountain because of the past regime.

Laros said the coalition would, later this month, deliver memorandums to the mayor's office and to Parliament to highlight their grievances.

Laros said the coalition will be marching on Parliament on October 16 at lunchtime and will hold a mass march organised by the Environmental Mazaar Action Committee on October 20. The Save the Mountain Coalition can be reached at 701-1397, 448-0144 or 448-6435.

ANC senator bungles chance to rid SA of waste

(56) M+G 4-10/10/96

Eddie Koch

AN African National Congress senator acting as an official observer in the European Parliament (EP) last week persuaded African and Caribbean countries not to support a resolution from the Green Party demanding that large amounts of toxic mercury waste dumped in KwaZulu-Natal be returned to Europe for disposal there.

The Green Party managed to steer a resolution through the EP in Brussels last week calling on its members states — especially the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain — to take back consignments of more than 500 tons of mercury waste sent by these countries to the Thor Chemicals plant in South Africa.

But ANC observer Cheryl Gillwald convinced African countries not to support adoption of the resolution in a joint assembly of European and ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, according to sources in Brussels.

"It appears Cheryl Gillwald was not feeling too comfortable with the subject and maybe does not know what the South African government's position [on the question of importing toxic wastes] is at the moment," said an EP official who deals with North-South relations.

"She convinced the other ACP states to take a negative attitude towards the resolution. In order not to have the resolution voted down, the Greens withdrew the proposal (from the joint ACP-European Union assembly)."

But the resolution pushed through the EP notes that more than 20 workers have either been killed or disabled at Thor's Cato Ridge plant where the imported toxins were simply stored instead of being properly reprocessed.

"The case is classified by Greenpeace as the worst incident in the waste trade yet discovered, as no other case investigated by that organisation showed such abuse of an economically dependent, under-educated workforce."

Apart from demanding that the material be sent back to Europe, the motion calls on all European countries to help provide South Africa with the technology needed to "cope with its present toxic waste crisis".

It also calls on South Africa to support Article 39 of the Lomé Convention, which imposes a tight embargo on movement of hazardous wastes between ACP and European countries.

Green organisations in South Africa are up in arms because South African negotiators in Brussels have been reluctant to endorse this article during talks with European countries about becoming members of the convention, which governs terms of trade between Europe and developing countries.

Green Party politicians in the EP say that Pretoria's embassy in Brussels had

acknowledged South Africa still imports "hazardous waste for recycling from a number of countries in the region".

Chris Albertyn, national coordinator of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), says his organisation is disappointed by Gillwald's apparent effort to block support from developing countries for the resolution.

Albertyn says Minister of Trade and Industry Alec

Erwin has not responded to repeated requests to meet with the EJNF — an umbrella body that represents more than 280 environmental, union and civic organisations — to discuss his ministry's reluctance to end imports of hazardous waste from the rest of Southern Africa.

"The minister appears to be giving us the run around and is being extremely elusive. Despite months of effort trying to obtain clarity from Trade and Industry about its policy on the issue of toxic imports and the Lomé Convention, we have to date still not got a satisfactory response."

The EJNF will make presentations on the issue after parliamentary hearings on South Africa's entry into Lomé begin on Monday.



Alec Erwin: Elusive about waste policy

Oudekraal: Fick on the retreat

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

PROVINCIAL Planning Minister Lampie Fick wants the dispute over development rights at Oudekraal to be settled in the Supreme Court, his spokesman said this week.

This comes as a major retreat from Fick's earlier headline defence of the developer's rights and follows a flurry of legal briefs by key players.

According to Fick's press secretary, Armand le Roux, the Supreme Court would probably be approached for a declaratory order on the status of 39-year-old development rights on the Oudekraal Township at Bakoven. "There's a good chance that this

will happen, and we'll welcome it. A declaratory order is the only solution," he said.

Le Roux confirmed that Fick had also sought outside legal opinion in the midst of a major public outcry against the development.

While developer Neill Bernstein and Fick contend that the rights are still intact, this has been disputed by an advocate briefed by the Cape Metropolitan Council — which is now seeking a Senior Counsel's opinion before approving engineering services for the R750-million project.

National Monuments Council official David Hart confirmed that the NMC was also in contact with its lawyers.

Fick recently told the provin-

cial legislature that he would have preferred no development at Oudekraal, but the landowner had government would defend these rights in court.

The ANC has joined the fray with an appeal to Western Cape Premier Hermus Kriel and provincial Environment Minister Kobus Meiring to stop the development by invoking section 31A of the Environment Conservation Act.

It is reliably understood, however, that the provincial authorities fear that this could result in the landowner claiming compensation, sources said this week.

The project's opponents this week formed the "Save the Mountain Coalition" and vowed to step

up public pressure — including a rally at Parliament on October 16 — for a "national vision" for sensitive areas in the Peninsula.

The coalition had, however, ruled out the legal route as a "red herring", coalition spokesman Ed Tlhanus said on Friday.

"Even if the development is stopped in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, the state will simply call for impact assessments and the development will go ahead. This is a political matter which needs a policy decision that doesn't just apply to Oudekraal."

The Cape Metropolitan Council is seeking legal opinion because of the long lapse since the township's approval in 1957 and as a result of the heated public interest.

(56) ST (cm) 6/10/96

God's view may be marred by clay plant

Edward West

THE view from God's Window in Mpumalanga could be marred by clay extraction operations if government parastatals Foskor and the Industrial Development Corporation proceed with their plans to build a R4bn phlogopite plant in Phalaborwa in the Northern Province.

The visibility of the clay extraction site from the mountaintop tourist site was one of the concerns expressed in an initial scoping report for the environmental impact assessment of the project — the first report to provide some

(56) BD 7/10/96
detail on sites and infrastructure required by the project.

The R4bn project aims to produce magnesia, alumina and potassium sulphate, which presently have to be imported, from 1,5-million tons of phlogopite a year. Beneficiation processes for mica mineral phlogopite has recently been developed by the corporation.

The report envisages the phlogopite being derived from a clay source near Marite, in the Sabie River catchment in Mpumalanga, upstream of the Kruger National Park and 135km from

Continued on Page 2

God's Window

(56)
Continued from Page 1

BD 7/10/96
the proposed phlogopite processing plant in Phalaborwa.

Two of three possible sites for the Phalaborwa plant are next to the Selati River and situated close to private game reserves. A decision to proceed with the project — expected to create about 900 new jobs — is not anticipated before December 1998.

The report identified a number of possible major effects on the environment, and recommended a host of further studies for the assessment.

Air pollution studies were also recommended. "During scoping it became apparent that all three components of the project, clay sourcing, transport of the clay and the processing plant, have the potential to adversely affect air

quality," the report said.

Possible air pollutants are organic compounds such as octanol, sulphur and ammonia, particulate matter such as energy-related gas emissions, dust, phlogopite, clay, sulphur, lime and products such as alumina, magnesia and potassium sulphate.

Specialist studies recommended included an assessment of radiation levels at the plant, waste identification and disposal, soil degradation and rehabilitation, ground and river water pollution, noise pollution and the visual impact of the plant and clay source sites. The report also identified the risk of fire as particularly high due to materials on the plant site.

Energy sources for baking clay at the Marite site — either from a gas pipeline through the Kruger National Park from the Pande gas field in Mozambique, or from burning coal — still had to be identified, the report said.

Ousted Pagad men at meeting

(56) ARC 8/10/96

Only a handful of people attended a meeting in Rylands of the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee which is campaigning against developments on Table Mountain.

The meeting last night was a report back on the march on Oudekraal by 25 000 people last month.

Members of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, who contributed to the crowd at the Oudekraal rally, were not present but ousted leaders Ali "Phantom" Parker and Farouk Jaffer were there.

Committee chairman Achmat Davids was not present but in his report, read to the meeting, he said he and Mr Parker had seen tree-cutting equipment and a 50 sq m clearing on the mountainside near the kra-mats (Muslim shrines).

Sheikh Thafier Najjaar said there would be a "make or break march" to the Oudekraal site on October 20. - Staff Reporter

Human-waste pollution threatens town's fishing and tourism

Kariba's sewage system fouls up

(56) ET(BE) 9/10/96

JOHNSON SIAMACHIRA

Kariba — The northern resort town of Kariba is under severe threat from human waste pollution.

Environmentalists wanted the town declared a disaster area, but the government refused, saying this would kill the town's industry and tourist attractions.

But citizens said if urgent action is not taken, the environmental problem would destroy Kariba's economy.

Brent Hudson, a businessman, said a cholera outbreak would most certainly kill off the tourist industry. It would also have a drastic effect on the kapenta fishing industry. No one would be allowed to sell the fish for an extended period.

Hudson also said workers were afraid of contracting bil-

harzia. Boat workers making repairs in the contaminated water complain of stomach ailments.

The town was built in the 1950s, when the Zambezi River was dammed, creating a 282 km-long lake. The hydroelectric installation created a centre for tourism, boat manufacturing and fishing. The problem has hurt the local fishing industry. One company says fish catches are dwindling and it had to destroy more than 50 tons of contaminated fish last year.

Kariba's sewage system was designed for a town of 5 000 people. Now 25 000 live here and the population growth rate stands at 6 percent a year.

In recent years, the town has achieved growth in industry, commerce and recreational facilities. The sewage contains heavy concentrations of iron and

phosphates harmful to the lake's ecosystem. It is rich in nutrients, which speed the growth of hyacinth and Kariba weed (Salvinia moesta), choking the lake and harbours and posing a risk to boat navigation.

Other lake vegetation has declined because of the pollution, according to James Nethersole, the chairman of the local wildlife society. The lake's faecal coliform levels are unacceptably high. That can cause the spread of diseases such as cholera.

Dr Ella Masvosva, the medical officer for Kariba, said the council has been warned several times to upgrade the sewage works, but little action has been taken.

"The sewage is supposed to be treated and discharged into the Zambezi River below the dam wall," said James Gumpo, the chairman of Kariba Town Coun-

cil. "But now, engine breakdowns and recurrent sewer pipe bursts are forcing us to release all the waste into the lake."

Last year, the health and child welfare ministry wanted to take the council to court to force it to deal with the sewage problem, but backed off to give the council more time to seek funding for the improvements. The council needs \$4 million to upgrade the system; the government has contributed \$1 million. Gumpo said the World Bank has promised money to complete the improvements by the end of next year.

Dick McCowan-Hill, the chairman of Kariba Ratepayers' Association, questions the council's financial excuses. He said the authority collects more than \$30 000 yearly in sewage charges. —Independent Foreign Service/AIA

Ball, Oliver to fight Oudekraal plan

CYNTHIA YONGAI

LEADING business people including Captour chief executive Mr Gordon Oliver and Olympic Bid Company chief executive officer Mr Chris Ball have thrown their weight behind the Environment Mazaar Action Committee (Emac) in the fight against the developers who wish to build a multi-million rand township on the slopes of Table Mountain.

Emac announced that Oliver and Ball and other business people were expected to become actively involved in the "save the mountain" campaign.

The convener of Emac, Dr Achmat Davids, said they would hold a meeting today to announce names of other community leaders who were against the Oudekraal development.

"On the agenda is the protest march to Oudekraal on October 20 and (to) discuss our future plans to make sure that any development plans are halted."

He said the march would be larger than the last march and he expected about 100 000 people to attend. "It will be the biggest environmental protest this country has ever seen," he said.

Oliver yesterday said he was

"enormously worried" about the future of the mountain.

"We are worried that development on the mountain might kill tourism. What will happen in 10 to 20 years to tourism if the development takes place?"

"We need to safeguard our tourism resources and we are saying to the authorities they must be sensitive to what Cape Town has to offer, after all tourists come to Cape Town for the mountain."

Ball said he was against development of Oudekraal as "the area concerned should not be developed but maintained".

He stressed this was his person-

al stand and not the Olympic Bid Company's. "As far as the Bid Company is concerned proper processes should be developed when tackling this issue," Ball said.

In a statement yesterday, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan said he was "committed to sustainable ecotourism development" and to attracting tourists to the region.

"Table Mountain is one of the top four tourist destinations in Africa. If we destroy our natural assets for the short-term benefits we will be cutting off our nose to spite our face," he said.

(57) ET 10/10/96

Tyres still a burning issue

AKT/10/1996 (56)

No action till pollution probe complete

JOHN YED
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The practice of burning tyres to recover small amounts of scrap metal inside them is continuing in the Peninsula, in spite of concern about pollution and health risks from the dense black smoke released.

An air pollution seminar in August heard that aircraft pilots sometimes had to make instrument landings at Cape Town airport because of the blanket of tyre smoke.

But concerted action against tyre-burners appears unlikely before the results of a comprehensive assessment of Cape Town's infamous "brown smog" are released, probably about March next year.

The study, being done by the Energy Research Institute, is "fingerprinting" all the sources of air pollution in the metropolitan area, with a view to understanding how much each contributes to the smog and what can be done about the problem.

Institute spokesman Mark de Villiers said an inventory had been made of all

main pollution sources known before the start of the study.

"We did include an estimate of emissions from tyre-burning but this was very sketchy information, just to get a perspective," he said.

"Tyre-burning is not one of the major sources of emissions - it's not in the top three, you could say - but it is a problem in that it's a very concentrated source of pollution and it is also very visible."

There was speculation that much of the tyre-burning could be taking place at night, Mr De Villiers said.

"This would be picked up in the study. 'Not all the analyses have been done yet and we're aiming for about March (to complete the study),' he said.

At the August air pollution symposium, Cape Town municipality's assistant director of environmental health, Hans Lindé, said the city's smoke control regulations prohibited the burning of waste products, including tyres. However, the legislation was difficult to enforce.

Municipal officials had "explored every possible avenue" in trying to implement

the law, Mr Lindé was quoted as saying.

"We propose that tyre manufacturers or importers should accept responsibility for their product. An incentive is needed for the tyres to be returned to a central collection point for safe disposal or to be recycled. If people were paid more for an old tyre than the 50c they can get for the scrap metal in it, the problem would be self-regulating."

The deputy director in the pollution division of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Flip Buys, agreed that law enforcement concerning tyre-burning was a serious problem.

Although the department was not actively involved in any programmes to address this issue, it was aware of industries - such as cement manufacturers - which were able to use old tyres as a supplementary source of fuel in their kilns.

The department faced a similar problem with people burning the insulation off cables to extract the copper wire inside.

Education and community policing were probably the most effective solution to the problem, Mr Buys said.



Cape of smog: at Phillippi on the Cape Flats tyres are burnt to recover their small amount of scrap metal. This practice adds to the 'brown smog' problem.

LENN MULLER

ANC supports protest action over Oudekraal

ARG 10/10/96
JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)

The African National Congress is backing the campaign against the proposed luxury township development at Oudekraal.

Protests are continuing with a rally on October 20 which is expected to attract at least 100 000 people.

At a press conference today called by the Environmental Mazaar Action Committee – the coalition group formed last month to oppose the development – Western Cape ANC leader and justice minister Dullah Omar said he supported the call to stop development on the mountainside.

The ANC believed in the development of the Western Cape and would do all it could to support the economic, social, religious and cultural development of the region.

“But when we talk about development, we are talking about much more than bricks and mortar and luxury buildings for a few people,” Mr Omar said.

He added: “Development does not

Turn to page 3

ANC supports protests over Oudekraal

From page 1

require despoliation. Development is for people and cannot take place by trampling on the sensitivities of our communities or by the destruction of the environment."

Captour chief executive and former mayor of Cape Town Gordon Oliver also supported the protest.

He said there was "enormous concern" in the tourism industry about the proposed Oudekraal development.

"Tourism can kill tourism," he warned. "If we randomly and irresponsibly proceed

to develop every open space, that will be the end of tourism."

Russell McGregor, the ANC member of the provincial legislature who successfully appealed for a special debate on the Oudekraal issue three weeks ago, said the National Party-led provincial government was taking "a very legalistic approach" to the proposed development but that it had powers to act against it if it wanted to.

"We will endeavour to ensure that the legislature becomes much more sensitised to environmental issues."

The convener of the rally, Sheikh

(56) ARG 10/10/96
Thafier Najjaar, said the Cape Town municipality had refused the organisers permission to use the Green Point stadium and there was "no alternative" but to meet at Oudekraal.

"We envisage not fewer than 100 000 people and we are even looking beyond that," he said.

Mr McGregor undertook to discuss urgently with the municipality its refusal to allow the stadium to be used for the rally.

■ The rally starts at Oudekraal at 2pm on Sunday, October 20.

CMC offers deal on reserve

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

(56) ARG 10/10/96

The Cape Metropolitan Council is offering to enter into a contract with the National Parks Board for the future management of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

In terms of the arrangement, the CMC would remain owners of the southern tip of the proposed Table Mountain National

Park in the foreseeable future.

At a meeting of the CMC's engineering services committee yesterday it was recommended that negotiations be opened with the board to enter into a five-year management contract. It was also resolved that a decision-making committee be established.

The CMC has been asked by the board to express support formally for the creation of a Table Mountain National Park.

FRIDAY
★ OCTOBER 11, 1996

Omar's no to Oudekraal

2710/10/96 (56)
CYNTHIA VONGAI

ANC Western Cape chairman and Justice Minister, Mr Dullah Omar, has joined Captour chief executive Mr Gordon Oliver and Olympic Bid Company chief executive officer Mr Chris Ball in the fight against development at Oudekraal.

Speaking at a press conference called yesterday by the Environmental Mazaar Action Committee (Emac), Omar said: "We fully support the objectives of Emac's campaign and we call for all people throughout the country to join it.

"There seems to be a notion in the development industry which is anti-people and anti-environment ... When we are talking about development we are talking about much more than luxury buildings for a few people."

Emac convener Dr Achmat Davids said he believed the mountain should become a national monument. About 50 000 slaves had been buried on its slopes and it was time it was recognised as an important aspect of cultural and religious beliefs.

Missiles litter coastal park

Live warheads on former Armscor site

DONNA GIBSON
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - About 20 powerful surface-to-surface missiles, at least six of which are still live, have been discovered in the pristine Sodwana Bay area in northern Zululand on what was once a top-secret Armscor testing site.

A team of South African National Defence Force explosives specialists, as well as experts from Armscor subsidiary Kentron, were in the area this week to examine the missiles, which were found scattered over an area of about ten hectares. The land is now a nature reserve managed by the Natal Parks Board, but is unfenced and is used by local residents who have been given permission to graze their cattle there.

A SANDF source involved in the clean-up operation said that six live 127mm missiles, each over a metre and a half long, had been found so far. These would be destroyed by remote detonation using plastic explosives. A number of 155mm ammunition shells from G5 guns had also been discovered.

The source, who did not want to be named, said the first ones had been discovered about two weeks ago, but that the SANDF had been "trying to keep it quiet" because Sodwana was a sensitive conservation area. The most recent discoveries were made on Wednesday this week.

"When Kentron pulled out of the area around 1992 they gave the assurance that it was clear of mis-

siles. The ones we found are sticking out of the ground like darts. They could be set off by someone tampering with them or lighting them.

"They are so heavy we are having to use Casspirs to pull them out."

He said the area had been chosen by Armscor for missile testing because it was isolated and the coastline didn't allow ships to come in too close, making it "safer" to launch test missiles out to sea.

Sodwana conservator Mike Bouwer said Natal Parks Board rangers had discovered "at least 20" of the missiles after a routine burning in the area which had left them "sticking about a foot out of the ground like metal tubes". He said the warheads were buried about two metres underground.

"We were not aware they were here although the Natal Parks Board bought the land from the Department of Forestry about six years ago. They only became visible when the grass was burnt. The game reserve covers an area of about 44 000 hectares and there is a lot of game and cattle here," he said.

Mr Bouwer said none of the missiles had exploded when the grass and undergrowth was burnt because the warheads were buried. He said he was not "overly concerned" about their presence.

He said a meeting had been held with the local tribal authority to warn inhabitants, particularly herd boys guarding cattle, about the presence of the missiles and the parks board and the army were "working well" together. There had been no reports of incidents or injuries so far.

(51) ARTS 12/10/96

Western Shores conservator Ian Porter said the missile testing site operated by Kentron had stretched over a large area from Cape Vidal to Sodwana. "They used to shoot the missiles near Charter's Creek and the impact zone was at Sodwana. Some were also fired out to sea," he said.

Parks board liaison officer Jeff Gaisford confirmed that the Kentron missile base had been on the Ndholozi peninsula in the southern St Lucia area and that point missiles had been fired northwards into the Sodwana State Forest, an area now known as Ozabeni.

"They would close that area when the tests were on and ourselves and the Department of Forestry had to stay out. I remember it well because I was living in the area at the time," he said.

"The idea was that they would recover the missiles after firing them so that they could be examined, but occasionally the guidance system would go wrong. Kentron did a clean-up before they handed over the land and it has been about four years since anything was found there."

SANDF media liaison officer Merle Meyer, who is based at army headquarters in Pretoria, was tight-lipped about the find. She said a sweep team would begin a clean-up operation "within the next few weeks", but the SANDF had very little information about the testing site as "it had been an Armscor project". Major Meyer said the terrain in question had been handed back to the Natal Parks Board by Armscor in May 1991.

(56)

Mountain resort: lawyers

step in

ST(BT) 13/10/96
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A CRUCIAL legal opinion on the controversial Oudekraal development will be tabled at Wednesday's Central Substructure planning committee meeting.

This was confirmed by committee official Gus Kingma, who said the legal report would be considered behind closed doors before the committee made a further decision on Oudekraal's future.

The report was requested by the Cape Metropolitan Council in response to doubts about the validity of development rights at the site and a tide of public objection which has included ANC Western Cape leader Dullah Omar.

The Save the Mountain Coalition plans to march to Parliament on Wednesday, and the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee has scheduled another protest rally at Oudekraal this coming Sunday.

Protesters plan anti-Oudekraal march

66 CT 15/10/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Environmental Mazaar Action Committee, a body representing the green lobby and Muslims opposed to the controversial R750-million luxury housing development at Oudekraal, will march on Parliament tomorrow.

The group will hand over a memorandum outlining their opposition to the development

to Deputy Minister of the Environment Mr Peter Mokaba. They will then march to the provincial buildings in Wale Street, where they hope to hand over a memorandum to Premier Mr Her-nus Kriel.

But Save the Mountain campaign spokesperson Ms Cecelia Assad said they had received a fax from Kriel's office to say that he would not receive the document as it was the policy of his office "not to receive any memorandum from

any organisation in this manner".

Mr Kriel said he would arrange to have an official from the office of MEC for Planning, Mr Lampie Fick, receive the memorandum.

● A report commissioned from senior counsel on whether or not the developer has rights to develop Oudekraal township will be tabled at the city council's urban planning committee meeting tomorrow.

The rights were granted in 1957.

Magaliesberg residents go to court over factory

(5)
BY ANITA ALLEN

Nov 15/10/96
Hekpoort residents, concerned about pollution of agricultural land within the Magaliesberg Nature Reserve, today attempt for a third time to get their case heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court against two ministers, a Gauteng MEC and a factory owner.

Their action stems from the granting of a rezoning permit for the operation of a sorghum enrichment factory in the middle of the nature reserve. They contend that proper procedures were not followed and no environmental impact assessment was conducted, especially into the effects of formalin, a chemical the factory will use in its enrichment process.

Today's resumption of the action comes after two frustrating postponements and a suggestion for an out of court settlement by deputy Judge President P J van der Walt was turned down by lawyers for Hekpoort Foods cc owner Ken Barnard.

The state attorney, representing Ministers of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom and Water Affairs Kader Asmal, as well as Gauteng MEC for development planning, environment and works Sicelo Shiceka, agreed to the settlement meeting provided Barnard's attorneys did the same.

At the first hearing on July 30 the entire 400-page submission by residents was missing.

At the second hearing on August 8 the presiding judge was Mr Justice H P van Dyk, and again virtually the entire 400-page court document was missing. Judge van Dyk ordered the applicants to pay attorney and client costs.

Costs are currently being worked out and could be as high as R20 000. This meant the case could not be heard until the Hekpoort residents' attorney had paid the costs.

In today's action, the presiding judge will be asked to allow a new applicant to intervene. Should the judge grant this application, Hekpoort residents will also ask that a postponement of only one week be allowed, and that the same judge hear the case to its completion.

step, then we could leave it to the SA Revenue Service to behave within the context of the provisions of the income Tax Act.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, this is noted. But one of the difficulties which does, of course, arise in that context is where one draws the line between the powers. To what extent does the Minister get involved in the nitty-gritty detail of revenue collection? Perhaps it is something that we need to resolve within the context of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts or some other institution within the parliamentary system.

Question standing over from Wednesday, 9 October 1996:

Policy on importation/exportation of hazardous wastes

*29. Ms G I MAHLANGU asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether, with reference to certain public statements made by various former environment ministers with the purport that it was South Africa's policy that there should be no importation and exportation of hazardous wastes, particulars of which statements have been furnished to his Office for the purpose of his reply, the Government is reconsidering its policy on the importation and exportation of hazardous wastes; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) what provision is to be made to enable the participation of all interested and affected stakeholders in the reformulation of such policy?

N1822E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Madam Speaker, the answer to this question is rather long. I would beg the indulgence of the hon Gwen Mahlangu and ask leave to table the answer.

(Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

No. The government's importation and exportation of hazardous waste policy is as prescribed by the Basel Convention and its amendment. The importation policy has not changed since the former Environment Minister Gert Kotzé announced a cabinet sanctioned ban on all imports of toxic waste in 1990. This announcement did not refer to the exportation of hazardous waste or the the extensive description of hazardous waste

ings; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details; (3) what is his or his Department's policy on hanging as a form of imposing the death penalty on human beings?

N1826E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) Madam Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes. I am told that the instruments were destroyed by burning.

(2) The second part of the question is rather strange. I think that perhaps the hon member should consult the Minister of Health, since I am not a medical doctor. But on a more serious note, issues which have to do with hanging are the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Therefore perhaps the Minister of Justice can answer the second part of the question.

(3) With regard to the last part of the question, the department has no policy on hanging.

Prof B TUROK: Madam Speaker, arising out of the Minister's reply, I am disappointed with the answer to the second part of the question, because the Minister of Correctional Services is responsible for the facilities and for the whole prison. Therefore this is not a matter for doctors; it is actually a matter for the Minister. I wonder whether the Minister could tell us, from the records of his department, what the physical effect of hanging is on human beings, because I think the country should know. That is my first question. Can he tell us from his records, not from the doctors' records, what the effect is on the human body of being extended in that way? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, the House has already answered. They die. [Laughter.]

Prof B TUROK: Madam Speaker, further arising out of the Minister's reply, has the Minister any information on the trauma of stays of execution and the subsequent confirmation of sentence, such as practised in the United States, on the families of people who have been subjected to execution? The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, we would have to consult either psychiatrists or psychologists, and I am neither. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Prof Turok, I would

point out that the last question was in fact a new question. It did not arise from the answer. Every supplementary question that you now put has to arise from the answer.

Prof B TUROK: Certainly, Madam Speaker. Further arising out of the Ministers' reply, is he aware of the fact that in his prisons—to which I happened to be a visitor at one time for several years—there are psychologists employed among the prison staff as warders who are very familiar with this whole process? Has the Minister any information at all—that is, information gathered from his psychologist warders—on the psychological damage done to prisoners and prison morale of hanging and that whole process? Does he have any information on this? This arises directly from my question.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, such studies have never been carried out, and therefore that information is not available.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, I am informed that the President has requested Father Mkhathwa to respond on his behalf to Question 1 on the Question Paper, addressed to the President of the Republic.

President of the Republic:

Retrenchment packages for teachers: money from other countries

*1. Mr M J ELLIS asked the President of the Republic:

Whether any countries have promised money following his appeal to foreign countries to assist in the funding of voluntary retrenchment packages for teachers; if so, (a) which countries, (b) what amount was promised by each such country and (c) what amounts had been received as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

N1935E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION (for the President of the Republic):

(Reply partially laid upon Table with leave of House):

Since 1994 the Government of National Unity has undertaken the complex task of effecting a fundamental transformation of the education system in line with the imperatives of our new democratic constitution. This requires in large measure that urgent attention be given to the

(b) Salaries of all public servants are, subject to the voting of funds by a Parliamentary Mandate Committee, determined by means of a negotiated settlement in the Central Chamber of the Public Service Bargaining Chamber between the State as collective employer and members of employee organisations who, in terms of the Constitution of the Chamber, are admitted to this Chamber and who as such represent civilian public servants. The SA National Defence Force is not represented on this forum. The new salary grading system was the result of such negotiations.

(2) I am not directly involved with salary negotiations, but support the process through the Mandate Committee which considers proposals for the improvement of service conditions.

Senator B T NGCUKA: Mr Chairperson, I am fairly busy today. [Laughter.]

Unfortunately, the hon the Minister of Finance is not available today to deal with the question, but he has requested . . . [Interjections.] The hon senator must please listen. The hon the Minister has requested that the question stand over until next week so that he can deal with it personally. Due to the nature of the question, it cannot be delegated to his deputy.

*12. Sen M G E WILEY—Finance†. [Question standing over.]

Financial support to "Drive Alive"

*13. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether his Department has given any financial support to "Drive Alive"; if so, what was the extent of this support;
- (2) whether this support is continuing; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S715E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH (for the Minister of Transport):

- (1) Yes, the National Road Traffic Act, 1972 (Act 9 of 1972) provided for the Department to give guidance and support to organisations and persons with aims and

objectives compatible with Departmental perspectives. The Drive Alive Foundation was one of the organisations the Department decided to support, and the following allocations were made:

- 1993/94: R60,000
- 1994/95: R120,000
- 1995/96: R120,000

This financial support was approved on condition that:

- an audit of income and expenditure be submitted to the Department of Transport at the end of each financial year (31 March 1994/1995/1996).

- the financial contribution of the Drive Alive Foundation be equivalent to that of the Department of Transport. The Drive Alive Foundation (registered as a non-profit making territorial organisation) is a road traffic safety awareness organisation dedicated to educating the youth of the country and changing attitudes of road users, thereby creating a climate of compliance with the law. In order to achieve this, the Foundation is involved in the following activities:

- Education and Training:
 - Targeting primary and secondary school pupils and teachers.
- Pedestrian Visibility:
 - Targeting all pedestrians, but in particular those living in underprivileged communities where lighting is poor or non-existent.

(2) No, after approving financial support to the Foundation for the 1995/96 financial year it was decided to abstain from any future financial support to the Drive Alive Foundation or any other similar organisation, for the following reasons:

- The Central Road Safety Fund, the basis for approving the requests for financial support, has been abolished. The financial instructions and regulations for the broader Government Service are therefore also applicable to the Traffic Safety Directorate of the Department of Transport.

• The Department of Transport is also, as part of the broader Government Service, a non-profit organisation. The Drive Alive Foundation should therefore rather seek sponsorship from profit-making organisations.

The Department of Transport will, however, be happy to continue providing any other appropriate support it can to the Drive Alive Foundation.

Senator A VAN BREDA: Mr Chairperson, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to know whether this programme is conducted differently than the *Saragana 2* programme which . . . [Interjections.] . . . is being run by another Minister.

The CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Order! As that a follow-up question? Does it arise from the reply to the question? I will ask the hon Minister whether she views the question as such. [Interjections.] I do not think that is a follow-up question. We will move on to the next question.

Proposed Table Mountain National Park

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

- (a) Which parts of the proposed Table Mountain National Park are under consideration for initial inclusion in the park on a contractual basis, pending direct transfer to the National Parks Board, (b) what will be the conditions of such contractual arrangement and (c) by what date is it anticipated that the details pertaining to the transfer of land currently under the control of the Western Cape government to the National Parks Board will be finalised?

S716E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism):

- (a) Two of the local authorities involved, namely the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) and the Southern Substructure have yet to reach a final decision by binding resolution of the respective councils as to the method of inclusion of the conservation assets under their control within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) in the proposed national park. Thus, it is possible that the method which these authorities find acceptable could be any one of three possi-

bilities: either long term contractual status (at least 30 year term) or short term contract leading to Schedule 1 status or Schedule 1 status directly. The National Parks Board (NPB) remains hopeful of convincing these authorities of the merits of moving to Schedule 1 status as rapidly as possible. Protecting these assets at the highest level possible in South African law is merited in terms of their national and international significance but will, furthermore, strengthen the case for World Heritage Site status immeasurably once the application is made, probably within the next 12 to 18 months.

(b) The conditions of such contractual arrangements can only begin to be negotiated once the authorities concerned have resolved which route they wish to follow.

(c) It is the National Parks Board's expectation that the Western Cape government will make an announcement on this matter before the end of October, to the effect that they wish to see the conservation land currently under their control proclaimed under Schedule 1. The National Parks Board will assume operational control possibly by 1 January 1997 but the finalisation of all the details will take somewhat longer, particularly in view of the fact that ex State Forest land must first be withdrawn from its demarcated status before it can be proclaimed a national park.

Tourist attractions: accessibility to disabled visitors

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

- Whether he intends taking any steps aimed at drafting legislation making provision for specific facilities to be provided at all tourist attractions and places of accommodation to make them more accessible to disabled visitors; if not, why not; if so, (a) when is it anticipated that such draft legislation will be published and (b) what will be the purport of this draft legislation?

S717E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism):

(Reply laid up on Table with leave of House):

The intention is definitely to attend to the needs of the disabled. Although no draft legislation exists currently, the issue already enjoys the attention of the Government of National Unity. The Ministry in the Office of the President published the Integrated National Disability Strategy (See *Government Gazette* no. 17038, Volume 369, Notice 299 of 1996) as a discussion document for public comment. This strategy focuses on a national 1970 programme for environmental accessibility to the benefit of the disabled. This action programme was designed to ensure an accessible environment, which includes access to information and communication, especially for the disabled. The following aspects form the main focus of this programme:

- Existing access monitoring;
- Community access awareness;
- Rural access problems;
- Access to communication and information;
- Current access legislation;
- The new code of practice;
- Accessibility of transport systems; and
- special parking facilities.

In addition SATOUR launched a National Accessibility Scheme in 1995 to improve the accessibility of accommodation facilities for the disabled. In this regard research is still being done but the results should be available shortly. An appropriate data base is currently being established for the purpose whilst brochures are being distributed to promote awareness of the issue.

Separate legislation is not currently envisaged. A need, however, exists for comprehensive tourism legislation to optimise the potential contribution of tourism to socio-economic development in a new South Africa. Whilst the recently approved White Paper: Development & Promotion of Tourism in South Africa provides the foundation for tourism oriented attention to the issue, environmental access for the disabled may be considered for inclusion in the envisaged legislation.

- (a) Formulation of comprehensive draft tourism legislation will be finalised over the next two to three years.
- (b) It is not yet known what the purport will be.

Warnings in cigarette advertisements: evasion of regulations

*16. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Health:

- (1) Whether any tobacco companies have been or are evading regulations concerning the inclusion of warnings in cigarette advertisements; if so, (a) to what extent are such companies evading such regulations, (b) which companies have been evading the regulations and (c) how have they been evading the regulations;
- (2) whether she intends taking any action against these companies; if not, why not; if so, what action?

\$718E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

(1) Yes;

(a) Four;

(b) The companies that have been evading the regulations are:

- the Rembrandt group of companies
- United Tobacco Company
- RJR Reynolds and
- Imperial Tobacco

(c) They have been evading regulations by:

- importing cigarettes that do not have the prescribed warnings,
- posting the billboards with warnings that are not visible at night or do not show the nicotine and tar content as per the regulations,
- advertising in newspapers and magazines with adverts that do not show warnings of the correct size and do not have the tar and nicotine content.

(2) Yes, the Department of Health is taking action against defaulting companies.

The Department of Health has submitted charges laid by individuals to the South African Police Service. The matter is therefore still receiving attention by the South African Police Service.

If they continue to violate the regulations, we will ban advertising.

Sarafina 2: winding down

*17. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Health:

Whether her Department has incurred any costs in respect of (a) the payment of claims, (b) the reconciliation and auditing of accounts and/or (c) any other specified items as a result of the winding down of *Sarafina 2*; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what costs in each case?

\$719E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

(a) Yes;

— Repossession of the bus: R51 732,17.

This amount was spent on paying repair costs for the bus which were incurred by Committed Artists. Without paying the amount the State would have lost the property to the value of R1 183 536,60.

— Repossession of the Kombi: R502,97. This amount was spent on paying repair costs for the Kombi which were incurred by Committed Artists. Without paying the amount the State would have lost the property.

(b) No; The Department of Health wanted to appoint a team of auditors to perform a forensic audit. On 12 June 1996 the Auditor-General was contacted to seek advice on the best way to appoint such a team. The Auditor-General advised the Department to approach the State Tender Board as the normal tender procedures, etc. had to be adhered to.

As this action would have been time-consuming and the Department of Health wanted to expedite the audit, the Auditor-General was once again approached by way of a written submission on 27 August 1996. As a result, the Auditor-General appointed an investigation team which commenced its investigation on 17 September 1996. The Department of Health is represented on the Steering Committee of the audit performance.

(c) Valuation on furniture: R500,00

For written reply:

Settlement of SA farmers in Mozambique: feasibility study

*322. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

Whether a feasibility study has been done in respect of the settlement of South African farmers in Mozambique; if so, (a) when was it submitted to the Government, (b) what benefits does such settlement bring about for Mozambique according to this study and (c) how much will it cost the South African Government to (i) implement, (ii) maintain and (iii) supervise such settlement scheme?

\$536E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

No feasibility study in respect of the settlement of farmers in Mozambique was done by the government. The government only play a facilitating role in this private initiative because this project is in the interest of stabilising agriculture in the neighbouring state.

Information regarding agriculture and other potential of Mozambique is readily available. This information will be used by SACADA (South African Chamber of Agricultural Development in Africa) together with the ARC, the Mozambique government, the RSA Department of Foreign Affairs as well as the Development Bank of South Africa, agriculturists of three prominent agricultural co-operatives and different private instances to do the planning of farmer settlement in Mozambique.

(a) The State President as well as the relevant ministers and departments are informed on a regular basis by SACADA regarding the progress and planning of the project which will eventually not only be restricted to Mozambique but may extend to other neighbouring states.

These stabilising actions of the neighbouring states are in the interest of the RSA because of a constant stream of people from Africa to South Africa since 1990 (previous government). It is thus clearly in the interest of South Africa to assist private initiative in, starting with agriculture, reviving the economy of the neighbouring states.

Oudekraal protest: Greens maintain pressure

STAFF REPORTER

(56)
AKU 17/10/96

Environmentalists are maintaining their pressure against the proposed Oudekraal development on the slopes of Table Mountain even though the Cape Town municipality has been advised there are no development rights on the site.

Senior advocate Milton Seligson SC told the council that the owner's rights to develop had lapsed. But protesters opposing the development did not let this deter them from their protest outside Parliament yesterday.

Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba accepted their memorandum calling for the conservation of Oudekraal and the Peninsula mountain chain.

The document said: "The government must use their powers to uphold the constitutional rights to protect the environment for past and present generations."

It also said the mountain chain should be declared a World Heritage Site and development should be avoided at all costs.



HANNES THART

Handover: environmentalist Marlene Laros and Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba

Rights battle still unresolved

(56)
Linda Ensor

8017/10/96
CAPE TOWN — It might be necessary for a declaratory order to be obtained from the Cape Supreme Court to resolve the conflicting legal opinions over whether rights still existed for the Oudekraal development, planning MEC Lampie Fick said yesterday.

The owner of the land, Kassie Wiehahn, was not available yesterday to say whether or not he intended to seek a court order after legal opinion provided to the Cape Town city council's urban planning committee by Milton Seligson, SC indicated that his rights had lapsed.

This opinion would make it possible for the city council to refuse to grant developer Neill Bernstein engineering services for the 240 stands on the site on the slopes of Table Mountain. The committee resolved to advise the council's executive and engineering committees to turn down the application for these services.

Legal opinion obtained by the provincial government was that Wiehahn still had these rights and Fick said only a court of law could decide the issue definitively. However, the Cape Metropolitan Council's legal opinion was that the rights had lapsed.

Attempt by Hekpoort residents fails

(50)
BY ANITA ALLEN

Science Writer

Nov 17/10/96
Hekpoort residents concerned about ad hoc industrial development in a farming area adjoining the Magaliesberg Nature Reserve failed in their fourth attempt yesterday to get their case heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

In addition, Mr Justice Henry Preiss ordered attorney and client costs be paid by the residents.

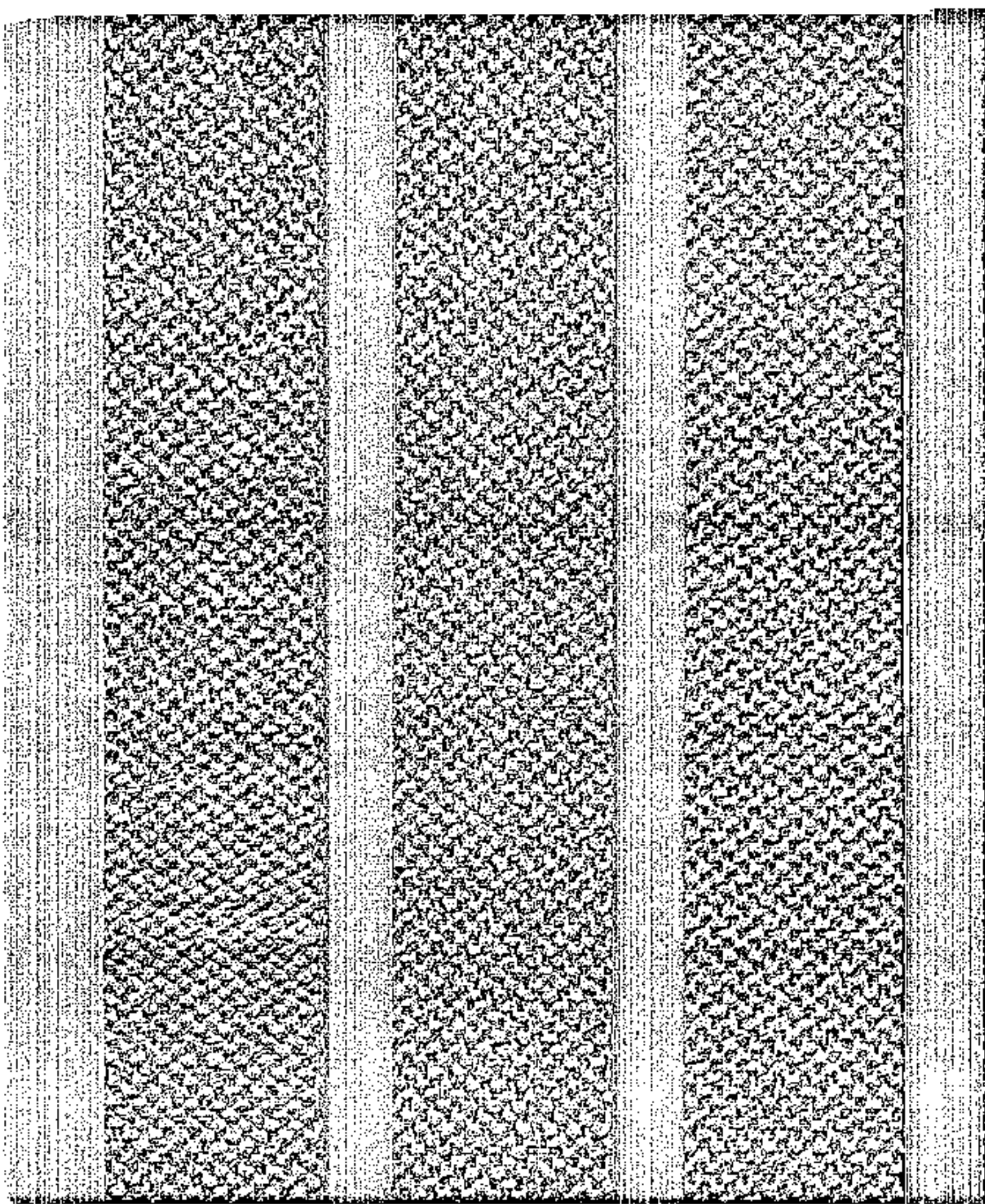
This is the second time that residents have been ordered to pay costs, which now amount to more than R20 000. In yesterday's action, the judge was asked to allow a new applicant, who would not be shackled by the previous costs order, to intervene.

Delivering judgment, Judge Preiss said the application against two national ministers, a Gauteng MEC and a factory owner was a well-meaning attempt by "David" ranging himself against the mammoth "Goliath" of state.

However, he pointed out, in order for David to succeed against Goliath, he had to have a sling.

This was a reference to the fact that the new applicant, Willem Louw, had failed to reply to an affidavit by Hekpoort Foods CC alleging he was a puppet and being used by his employer, Johan Oosthuizen, the original applicant, on behalf of the Hekpoort Environmental Preservation Society.

The action stems from the granting of a permit for a sorghum enrichment factory in the middle of agricultural land in the Magaliesberg Nature Reserve and on the Magalies River before an environmental impact assessment was conducted.



DRUMMING UP OPPOSITION: This "Greenie" beat out his opposition to the proposed Oudekraal township development at a protest meeting outside Parliament yesterday. More than 100 people from 13 environmental organisations joined in.

PICTURE: ANNE LAING

Oudekraal landowner likely to fight

CT 17/10/96 (56)

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

A MAJOR court battle is looming over the controversial Oudekraal housing development, on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, after the City Council effectively put a stop to the R750-million luxury housing development yesterday.

But it is understood the owner of the land, Mr Kassie Wiehahn, will take the matter to court and "fight it to the death".

The developer, Mr Neil Bernstein, said yesterday: "As a developer I have no legal standing so can't take legal action, but obviously the owner of the land will go to court."

The council's urban planning committee was advised by senior counsel yesterday that the development rights on the Oudekraal land had lapsed. As a result, the committee resolved it would advise its executive council to turn down

the engineering plans which Bernstein had submitted for approval.

The committee said the council could not approve the plans if the rights to develop had lapsed.

Last month the Cape Metropolitan Council was also advised that the right to develop at Oudekraal had lapsed.

However, Bernstein said yesterday Wiehahn had obtained senior counsel opinion which said the rights to develop were indisputable.

This is backed up by the MEC for Planning, Mr Lampie Fick, who said yesterday the senior counsel opinion the province had obtained was that the development rights were "beyond question".

"I expect the developer will probably go to court, in which case the province may be a respondent. If so, the position we will take is that the rights are indisputable," said Fick.

Legal opinion is not binding, and only a court judgment could settle the dispute.

The owner is likely to sue the council for withholding approval of the engineering services on the grounds that they have no legal right to do so.

But chairman of the council's urban planning committee, Mr Leon Markowitz, said legal opinion, by Mr Milton Seligson SC, was "absolutely clear".

"We made sure all our bases were covered by the type of questions we put, and gave a full brief to counsel.

"It seems quite clear from his opinion that our refusal to approve the plans is made on good legal grounds," said Markowitz.

Environmentalists opposed to the Oudekraal development have cautiously welcomed the city council's decision.

The co-ordinator of the Penin-

sula's future national park, Mr David Daitz, said yesterday: "Obviously the National Parks Board is delighted, as it is not in anybody's interests that the development goes ahead. But we know the fight is not over because without doubt the developer will take legal action."

Wildlife Society ecologist Ms Marlene Laros said yesterday they were encouraged by the council's decision, which heralded a change in the way the council made decisions about the environment.

"But we are concerned that there will be further applications for development at Oudekraal and we don't believe the political will exists in the authorities to prevent development on that land," said Laros.

More than 100 people from 13 different environmental organisations held a demonstration outside Parliament yesterday to protest about the Oudekraal development.

Anger at poor turnout for Oudekraal meeting

CYNTHIA VONGAI
STAFF WRITER

IF THE Oudekraal development is to be stopped, Capetonians will have to stop being apathetic and become actively involved in the Save the Mountain Campaign, Dr Achmat Davids, convener for the Environment Mazaar Action Committee (Emac), said at a meeting last night.

Only 30 Camps Bay residents — out of a community of 4 000 — attended the meeting which was called to discuss developments in the campaign and mobilise support for Sunday's protest march to Oudekraal.

An angry Davids said he was disappointed at the complacency of people in the city who thought "because they are comfortably well off they do not have to do anything to save the mountain. They

CT 18/10/96 (56)
don't feel it affects them," he said.

An Emac representative lashed out at the poor attendance, saying it was typical of the city's apathetic white community.

"Now you can see for yourselves how important the Muslim community is to this cause.

"We publicised this meeting through the local newspaper and we gave flyers out to at least 1 000 people and none of them bothered to come despite the fact that they practically live on the mountain," she said against a background of disgruntled moans from the 30 residents present.

Project co-ordinator for the National Parks Board Table Mountain Project, Mr David Daitz, pledged his support: "We have the same objectives to prevent development on Oudekraal and keep all the pieces of land on the Cape Peninsula, from Signal Hill to Cape Point natural."

THE meeting point for the protest march on Sunday will be at the foot of the second siren on Victoria Road about 2pm. People who would like to take part in the rally have been asked to come early. Emac said they were hoping that Minister of Environment and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan would speak at the rallying point before the march.

(ii) (aa) Special advisers to the Minister.

(ii) (bb) For the duration of Prof Kader Asmal's term of office as Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, but subject to a one month's notice period.

(iii) R288 000 per annum gross emoluments (i.e. R150 an hour; payment limited to eight hour working day, irrespective of extra time worked).

(2) (a) No.

(b) No, only for economy class air travel, except in those instances where no economy class tickets are available or where the Minister requires their presence in the business class when accompanying him on official business.

(c) No, but actual official expenses can be refunded upon submission of a certified claim. Cellular telephones are provided at the cost of the State and all official calls are paid for by the State.

(d) (i) and (ii) Yes. Reasonable actual expenses are covered by the State, when travelling on official business overseas.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) No. Except compensation and service benefits applicable to parliamentary sessional personnel in the Public Service, where the advisers are designated to perform duties during session of Parliament in Cape Town or if the Minister retains his Ministry in Cape Town after a session of Parliament.

(3) (a) The hon member is referred to reply (3) and (4) of his Question No. 57 (for written reply) in the Senate in 1995.

Cost of repairing public telephones

251. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

What was the estimated cost of repairing public telephones in each of the provinces during the latest specified period of 12 months?

SA05E

The MINISTER OF POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

The Managing Director of Telkom has informed me as follows:

It cost Telkom Ltd approximately R125 million to repair public telephones in the Republic during the period 1 April 1995 to 31 March 1996.

The total cost per region is as follows:

Eastern Region (KwaZulu-Natal)	R19 191 000
Gauteng Central (Witwatersrand)	R31 439 000
Central Regions (Free State & N Cape)	R12 046 000
North Eastern Region (Transvaal)	R22 322 000
Western Region (W Cape)	R24 059 000
Southern Region (E Cape)	R15 943 000
Total	R125 000 000

We unfortunately do not have a breakdown per political province as requested and the figures indicated are only per Telkom regional boundary available.

Department's 1995 annual report: publication 297. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether his Department has published its 1995 annual report; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it due to be published; if so, (i) how many copies were printed, (ii) what was the cost per copy and (iii) what was the total cost of (aa) printing and (bb) distribution;

(2) whether any aspects of the production and/or distribution of the report were put out to tender; if so, (a) which aspects, (b) which company or individual was granted the tender in each case and (c) what was

the value of the tender contract in each case?

S493E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) No, not yet.

(a) The report is in the process of being published. In the past the annual report of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry was published more than a year after the reporting period. This delay was not acceptable to me and the Department will be tabling its annual report for 1995/96 shortly.

(b) October 1996

(i) 1 685

(ii) R49,25 (VAT incl)

(iii) (aa) R82 992 (VAT incl)

(2) No. The report was compiled internally in its entirety by the personnel of the Department. The procedure applicable to the printing requirements of State departments must be requested to undertake the work and the Government Printer can then decide to undertake it in-house or subcontract the work. The report will also be distributed by the Department and no individual or company will be used to handle its distribution.

(2) (a) to (c) Fall away.

Legal hazardous waste dumping sites

314. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) (a) How many legal hazardous waste dumping sites are currently in operation in the Republic, (b) what is their combined capacity and (c) when is it anticipated that this capacity will be saturated;

(2) whether any plans have been finalised for the establishment of new hazardous waste dumping sites; if so, (a) where will they be located, (b) what will be their capacity and (c) when will they become operational?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) (a) Two types of hazardous waste sites are found in the Republic, namely sites available for general use by companies and municipalities, and sites where only hazardous waste from specific companies is handled.

Seven of the nine hazardous waste sites in the Republic have received permits. The Department is closely involved with the permit application process being followed for the two sites still being operated without permits.

Seventeen other hazardous waste sites, where only waste from specific companies are handled, have also been issued with permits. These include sites as Mossgas, various power stations and a paper mill.

(b) Field capacity at hazardous waste sites are subject to the following conditions:

- The modern trend is to dump hazardous waste in constructed cells which is closed off once capacity is reached. The construction of these cells takes place on a continuous basis and capacity is therefore created throughout and is never fixed;

- the technology used by industry to reduce waste production at source;
- the ratio at which hazardous waste are co-disposed with household waste; and

- the lifetime of a hazardous waste site is furthermore very much subject to public opinion.

(c) The capacity and remaining lifetime of hazardous waste sites may be determined on any of the grounds listed in paragraph (1)(b) above. An informed opinion, however, would place the remaining life times of the existing hazardous waste sites in the Republic at 10 to 15 years.

Although it does not appear as if there is an overall problem with disposal

capacity for hazardous waste, a shortage of hazardous waste disposal sites in certain geographical areas does pose a severe problem.

(2) In the past all proposals for waste disposal sites have come from private enterprises or local or regional authorities. The Department has never regarded it as its duty to commission waste disposal sites as its function is to permit waste disposal sites and to regulate and monitor the activities of waste disposal in the Republic.

Up to now, no new applications for hazardous waste sites have been received by the Department. This is a major cause for concern as it is not only the capacity of the sites that is important but also their physical location in terms of the industries which they are serving.

Applications for afforestation received

332. Sen D M MALATSI asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

(a) How many applications for afforestation did his Department receive in each province in the first six months of 1996, (b)(i) how many of these applications have been approved and (ii) in respect of what area has each such application been approved and (c)(i) how many of these applications have been turned down and (ii) for what reasons has each such application been turned down?

S546E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(a) I recently announced a major review of the procedure for processing afforestation permit applications. The new procedures embody the Department's commitment to transparency and accountability in all its activities by requiring applicants to publicise their intentions to apply for a permit, and by providing opportunities for the involvement of as wide a spectrum of interested and affected parties as possible in the process of evaluating permit applications. Applicants may also be required to undertake environmental impact assessments (EIA).
Permits applications are channelled through the Department's Regional For-

esty Offices and considered by local Afforestation Permit Review Panels, comprising a broad range of interests. The Department's Regional Director thereafter recommends to the Manager: Water Resources of the Department's Head Office whether a permit should be granted. Although the new procedures have made the process more transparent and acceptable, the required EIAs and the consultations have unfortunately made the whole process more time consuming than before. At the same time the Department is experiencing an extra-ordinary flood of applications especially in the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The Department and I have taken steps to accelerate the decision-making process where we are in a position to do so, in order to reduce the backlog and to process applications expeditiously in future. These steps include reinforcing personnel of the Department in the two regional offices in the provinces where the delays have given rise to complaints and the appointment of a Deputy Director in the Department's Head Office whose responsibility it will be to, *inter alia*, streamline the entire administrative process.

It is against the above background that I can inform you that 117 applications for afforestation permits have been received by the Department for the first six months of the year, and the list is made up as follows:

- KwaZulu-Natal Province 102
- Eastern Cape Province 7
- Mpumalanga Province 8 (one application was received before January 1996)

(b) (i) The following applications have been approved:

- KwaZulu-Natal Province 14
- Eastern Cape Province 3
- Mpumalanga Province 1

The remainder, i.e. 100 are still being processed in accordance with the new procedure, which is unfortunately time consuming as explained earlier. As a result of the remedial steps taken to which I referred earlier, there should be a considerable improvement in the finalising of

applications once the panels have made their recommendations in future.

(ii) KwaZulu-Natal Province: 117 ha, 1 295 ha, 543 ha, 537 ha, 50 ha, 23 ha, 312 ha, 207 ha, 34 ha, 142 ha, 155 ha, 12 ha, 515 ha and 50 ha.

Eastern Cape Province: 374 ha, 82 ha and 261 ha.

Mpumalanga Province: 320 ha.

(c) (i) and (ii) No application for an afforestation permit received within the first six months of this year was rejected, but in a number of cases the area applied for was reduced to protect water sources and/or the environment.

to resign, in each case, (aa) what position did he and she hold, (bb) what salary did he or she earn and (cc) what was the value of the retirement package, including all specified aspects? S575E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(a) and (b) Yes. The following particulars relate to the period 1 July 1996 to 31 August 1996:

- (a) (i) (aa) 1 050
- (b) (i) (aa) 346
- (a) (i) (bb) 3,8%
- (b) (i) (bb) 1,25%

Early retirement/resignation packages

344. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

Whether any employees of his Department (a) have applied for early retirement or resignation packages and/or (b) have been granted permission to retire early or resign in terms of the Government's programme, announced in March 1996, to reduce the size of the Public Service; if so, (i) in each case, (aa) how many and (bb) what proportion of the total number of staff does this figure constitute and (ii) in respect of those employees who have been granted early retirement or have been allowed

(ii) (aa), (bb) and (cc) See attached Schedule A in respect of those officials who have been granted early retirement. As most of them are to be discharged from a date in the future their benefits have not been calculated. The enclosed Schedule B reflects the particulars in respect of those officials listed on Schedule A whose benefits have already been calculated. These benefits do not include pension benefits.

Schedule A

Officers who have been granted early retirement

Rank	Number
Principal Forestry Scientist	2
Chief Forester	6
Senior Forester	2
Principal Forester	3
Forester	1
Control Forester	1
Forestry Service Aid	5
Groundsman	24
Labourer	31

'DON'T RAPE THE CAPE'

Oudekraal: Greens

Warn developers

THE BATTLE to halt development at Oudekraal has created some "strange bedfellows", a fact which became apparent at a protest march held yesterday. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

If an independent environmental impact assessment showed Oudekraal should not be developed, it would not be, the developers said yesterday, as a crowd of about 5 000 people marched against the planned development.

Devland Group chairman Mr Neill Bernstein, the developer who plans to extend Camps Bay into Oudekraal — using rights issued over 30 years ago — yesterday said he was no longer opposed to an environmental impact assessment being conducted by independent assessors.

He said he was waiting for the Environmental Mazaar Action Committee (Emac) to approach him with a proposal on who should undertake the assessment, but emphasised that Devland had already had environmental impact assessments done, and he was certain that an environmentally acceptable way to go ahead with the development could be found.

Bernstein said he had taken "careful" note of the concerns of the community and felt that an independent assessment, which included the option of no development, was "the only sensible way in which to give the community a transparent opportunity to understand the factual details relating to Devland's intentions".

He said an independent assessment would also go a long way

towards clearing up the "mischievous and confusing misinformation" about desecration of graves, which had been transmitted to sections of the community — especially by the Muslim community.

Bernstein said he had the utmost respect for the Muslim community's feelings and he had undertaken not to compromise Muslim cultural or religious beliefs in any way.

A source close to the development said yesterday that the owner of the development site, Mr Kassie Wiehahn, was planning to take the Cape Town City Council to court over its refusal to consider the plans for the development.

Reached at his Bloubergstrand home yesterday, Wiehahn said he was not prepared to comment on the matter on a Sunday afternoon.

At the march it was clear that the battle to halt development at Oudekraal had created some "strange bedfellows".

A throng of devout and conservative Muslims — including prominent, armed members of Pagad — who want development halted on religious grounds, joined hands with a group of self-confessed daga smoking "flower children", who began the campaign to halt development at Oudekraal with the White House, and who are fighting for the extension of Camps Bay to be stopped on

(56) 07 2116196
environmental grounds.

Several people were seen waving anti-Semitic placards with slogans such as "One (Muslim) grave, One Synagogue — One brick, One Jew", and Nazi swastikas and stars of David with the word "money" printed in the centre.

Still others carried posters saying "Don't Rape the Cape" and "Table Mountain is not for sale".

Sheikh Nazem Mohammed pleaded with developers "not to trespass" near the sites of the holy graves scattered around the Oudekraal area, as the graves were sacred to thousands of people.

He appealed to the developers to give the land back to the people who would preserve it for future generations.

Ms Desré Buirski — spokesperson for the Save the Mountain Campaign and a committee member of march organisers Emac — said the government should assist in getting the entire Table Mountain area from Signal Hill to Cape Point declared a National Monument and a World Heritage Site.

She warned that the message from "our rainbow warriors" was they would not stand by and watch as developers and Western Cape provincial government officials "try to rape our heritage".

"Hands off the 12 Apostles", she shouted to jubilant supporters.

Ousted Pagad leaders Mr Ali "Phantom" Parker and Mr Farouk Jaffer — the latter with the barrel of a firearm sticking out from under his jersey — were also present, but did not address the crowd.



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL: Abdul Kader Brink carries his six-year-old son, Abduragib, along the march from Camps Bay to Oudekraal, to protest against development along the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

Stockpile sparks sulphur time-bomb fear

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of tons of stockpiled sulphur at the AECI plant in Somerset West are to be put out on tender for sale amid mounting concern over a potential repeat of last year's disastrous fire near Macassar as the fire season approaches.

In the meantime, a commission of inquiry into the December 16 fire is to be headed by Judge Straj Desai.

Its first hearing will be in the community hall in Macassar on the evening of October 28 to allow as many community members as possible to attend. Other members of the commission are Professor Colin Jones, dean of the chemistry faculty at the

University of the Western Cape, Farieda Kahn of the Environmental Advisory Unit at the University of Cape Town and Barney de Villiers of the medical faculty at the University of Stellenbosch.

The presidential commission is to investigate the origin and establishment of the sulphur stockpile at the Somerset West site; the events leading up to and the cause of the fire; the adequacy of the emergency response to the disaster; and the impact of the fire on surrounding communities and the environment.

Two asthmatics lost their lives and the entire community of Macassar was evacuated during the disaster - which saw the smouldering sulphur send up clouds of toxic fumes when it was set alight by a runaway grass fire.

AR 5 21110/196
The sulphur is owned by the Department of Trade and Industry, which has issued a statement saying the stockpile is to be put out on tender with the view to its eventual sale soon.

"We hope this will be completed before the peak of summer, when the likelihood of wild veld fires may well arise again," said department spokesman Ismail Lagardien.

But AECI, which is storing the sulphur on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry, has expressed its concern that the 10 000 tons of uncontaminated sulphur are at the plant as summer approaches.

General manager Bertie Humphries said AECI was "apprehensive about it being here".

He said that negotiations for the removal of the sulphur had started several

years ago. Since the fire, these had intensified, but he did not fully understand why it had taken so long for the department to dispose of the stockpile.

"If it is still here when the fire season comes we will invoke stringent precautions for the whole summer," he said.

Mr Lagardien said the tender process had started after "many months of consultation" with victims and the community affected by the fire.

Mr Lagardien said an important aspect of the process had been consultation with the Macassar Crisis Committee. He said the committee had wanted to ensure that the tender, sale and transportation of the stockpile was handled "in a transparent manner and with safety as a priority".

Protest group plans to go to court over Oudekraal

ARG 21/10/96 (58)

ANDREW SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The committee opposing the proposed luxury housing development at Oudekraal plans to go to the Land Claims Court – and even to the Constitutional Court – to prevent the project.

This emerged yesterday during the second mass protest against the development. The road between Camps Bay and Llandudno was closed as 20 000 people gathered at Oudekraal for the protest against the proposed Riviera-style development on the slopes of Table Mountain.

Environment and Mazaar Action Committee chairman Achmat Davids said the committee would try to rescue the land from the developers by applying for land restitution.

He said that Muslims had been using the land for more than 300 years - the site has a large number of burial sites and holy Kramats.

Mr Davids said if the committee succeeded in the restitution claim, it would

donate the land to an organisation such as the National Parks Board which was committed to securing the area for future generations. "We are committed to go as far as the Land Claims Court or even the Constitutional Court to secure our rights to the mountain," he said.

The action committee, which combines environmentalist and Muslim opposition to the development, yesterday received support from the ANC.

Ali "Phantom" Parker, a leader of one of the two factions of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) who is also an action committee member, warned that anyone who touched the Oudekraal area would find a "full scale confrontation worse than what happened over the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem."

The proposed development will be discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Camps Bay Ratepayers' Association meeting tonight.

Consultants involved in the project will address the meeting at Camps Bay High School at 8pm. For further information contact Chris von Ummenstein on 458 3838.



OSIED ZILWA

Mass demo: thousands of people at Oudekraal protest against the proposed housing development



SA 'in throes of hazardous waste crisis'

(56) 20 21/10/86

Edward West

SA IS experiencing a hazardous waste crisis caused by a lack of controls, shortage of suitably operated disposal sites and a history of reacting to pollution crises rather than planning ahead, industry sources say.

A water affairs and forestry department spokesman said regulations controlling the issue of waste disposal site permits were being drawn up, but there was no firm figure on how many waste sites were operating in SA. Most municipalities — there are about 900 in SA — operated

waste sites, as did many industrial sites, making a total of about 1 200 sites, the spokesman said.

In addition, government departments are at odds over policy with regard to the import of toxic waste.

Water affairs and forestry, which has ultimate control over waste disposal sites because of the potential effect on groundwater and river pollution, wants an outright ban throughout southern Africa. The trade and industry department on the other hand, which determines industrial trade policies, is more flexible on the issue. Trade and industry spokesman

Henriette van der Merwe said toxic waste could be imported but only under strictly controlled conditions, one being where the substance was required as a raw material by local industry.

Van der Merwe said a ban on the import of toxic waste regionally might also not be the answer. For instance, SA had developed motor vehicle battery recycling technology and obtained many used batteries from sub-Saharan countries.

This was preferable to dumping the batteries, which were classified as toxic waste, in regions where there was very little infrastructure to ensure proper control,

Van der Merwe said. However, a spokesman for water affairs and forestry countered that it might be better to teach other countries to dispose of their own batteries in an appropriate manner.

Another problem being experienced in toxic waste disposal was a lack of manpower trained to check waste disposal sites.

Water affairs and forestry had 20 inspectors, who also performed a range of other functions. The inspection of waste disposal sites was eventually expected to be devolved to provincial and local authorities, raising the prospect of unequal standards.

~~Richard Marshall~~

~~Baroness Chappell~~

Cape development opposed (56)

Lm 21/10/96
Cape Town - Thousands of Muslims prayed at the Twelve Apostles yesterday that no development be allowed at Oudekraal, near Cape Town, where a developer wants to build townhouses.

Muslim leaders said there were many graves and shrines at Oudekraal and the community would oppose any development.

Dr Achmat Davids of the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee said organisers had expected 65 000 to turn up.

The road between Cape Town and Hout Bay was

closed for 15 minutes for prayers.

Posters along the road said: "Premier, premier of the Cape, are you guilty of environmental rape?" and "Lampie (environmental MEC) don't be fickle".

Lisa Kruger-Liptrot and her team from the Sandy Bay Conservation Trust have launched a petition and hope to obtain at least 250 000 signatures.

The campaign is supported by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan and Justice Minister Dullah Omar.
- Sapa.



Call for CMC rethink on Table Mountain land

Hand it to us, says parks board
(56) ARG 22/10/96

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

The National Parks Board has asked the Cape Metropolitan Council to reconsider its decision to maintain ownership of land destined for the Table Mountain National Park.

The CMC owns about 30 per cent of the land ultimately destined to become part of the park, including the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Slangkop.

It has been asked to consider handing it over to the NPB, with a view to giving it the highest possible conservation status. But the CMC's infrastructure, works and services committee recently decided that instead of handing the land to the NPB, it should

instead negotiate a five-year contract which would also protect the interests of CMC staff.

NPB representative David Daitz told the executive committee of the CMC yesterday that the parks board would not consider a short-term contract under any circumstances. The shortest contractual agreement the parks board had was a 30-year agreement in the Richtersveld, and this was under special conditions, but most of its contractual arrangements were for 99 years.

Mr Daitz said the board would like to see land in the Table Mountain National Park enjoy the highest possible protection, with Schedule 1 status. This would mean it could be deproclaimed only by a two-thirds majority of a joint sitting of Parliament.

If the park had such a high level of protection, it would strengthen the possibility of having the Table Mountain peninsula chain recognised as a World Heritage Site, with major potential for attracting international funding.

He said the provincial government was to decide at its last cabinet meeting of the month whether to hand over its land to the NPB.

Indications were that the cabinet's position was favourable and provincial land would become Schedule 1 land.

The defence force, Department of Public Works and Cape Town municipality had also all taken this decision, with only the CMC and the Southern municipality yet to make a decision.



HANNES THIART

Concerned: Camps Bay residents listen to speakers call for the Oudekraal plan to be scrapped

Green warning on Oudekraal plan

Protester's plea to ratepayers

ARG 22/10/96

(56)

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

South Africa must not follow other westernised countries by destroying its environmental heritage in an effort to promote tourism.

This is the plea of Desré Buirski of the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee.

It was formed to oppose the proposed luxury housing development at Oudekraal, next to Camps Bay on the slopes of Table Mountain.

She told a Camps Bay Ratepayers' and Residents' Association meeting last night that the only way to maintain tourism in South Africa was through an ecological approach.

She dismissed recent media reports that the committee was a tool in the hands of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), and condemned rumours that the anti-drug group was also anti-Jewish.

She also welcomed the support of the



Save the Cape: Desré Buirski speaks out

African National Congress for the committee's bid to stop the development of Oudekraal, which was said to contain many Muslim graves, marked and unmarked.

"It is no coincidence that these powerful groups are now joining us in this fight to save our mountain. We cannot allow the old-style tactics of the National Party to destroy our country's

environment," she said.

"We're standing with the Muslim people in this fight to save our mountain, which is important to us all," said Ms Buirski.

The meeting, attended by more than 200 residents, was called to discuss the potential impact of the proposed Oudekraal development on traffic flow in the area.

Earlier in the meeting residents voiced their disapproval of the intended development, and said there was widespread support for the committee's threat to take the matter to the Constitutional Court.

Minister gives mill six months to make a plan

Sappi told to end beach pollution

ET(BE)22/10/96
CHRISTO VOLSCHENK AND REUTER

Cape Town — Kader Asmal, the forestry and water affairs minister, has given Sappi's Saiccor mill six months to come up with a long-term plan to eradicate pollution on KwaZulu Natal's beaches by its Umkomaas mill.

After a meeting with top management yesterday, Asmal said the company had agreed to build a ligno-sulphate plant costing between R300 million and R500 million to reduce ligno-sulphate emissions by between 35 and 40 percent.

The emissions cause the discolouration of water and a thick foam on the beaches 20 km on either side of the mill, which is at the mouth of the Umkomaas river. Local communities have been campaigning for several years to stop the pollution.

Asmal said that another meeting would be held with Sappi on November 19 to consider a report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Asmal said he was "considering extending their permit, which expires on November 3, until June 21 because by that time there should be other options available".

He said the planned plant would eventually reduce pollution by about 40 percent, but he wished to have it reduced by 70 percent by 2000. Other options in reducing pollution include extending the pipeline out to sea to 7,5 km from the present 3 km.

Permits are usually issued for periods of five years or more. Asmal said the fact that he was considering granting only a six-month permit indicated he was



Kader Asmal, the forestry and water affairs minister

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

serious about getting rid of the pollution by the year 2000.

Two union representatives who were present, Martin Mahlaba and Christopher Wilson, said they were happy with the outcome of the meeting. Wilson said the new ligno-sulphate plant would employ 200 people full time once it was commissioned.

Unions have been backing anti-pollution campaigners in the issue.

Glen Jansen, the representative of the South Coast Marine Pipeline Forum, which has been campaigning against the pollution, said the solution offered by Sappi was "too little too late". He urged trade unions to apply pressure for further pollution control measures.

If a satisfactory solution could not be found by June, the forum would consider litigation against Sappi, he said.

The forum was also pushing for a full environmental impact assessment of the area.

Disaster feared as (56) mining threat to Kruger Park widens

AGT 24/10/96

Pietersburg - The dismissal by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs of a Parks Board appeal to stop diamond prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor in the Northern Province may result in an ecological disaster, Kruger National Park head Harold Braak fears.

His warning came after the department last week rejected an appeal by the National Parks Board to prevent an Australian-based mining company from prospecting for alluvial diamonds in the corridor.

Last December the Moonstone Company obtained a permit, through two South African shareholders, to mine diamonds in the area.

The corridor is an 80km strip along the banks of the Limpopo River bordering Zimbabwe.

The area is regarded as a unique eco-tourism asset, and ecologically sensitive.

Mr Braak said the board would consider all legal steps in its efforts to stop diamond prospecting, which would have an irreversible effect on the unique fauna and flora in the area.

Mining would lead to large-scale hydro-extraction from underground water resources and rivers, which would pose a threat to the Limpopo-Levubu floodplain, which had abundant water pans.

Previous research by individual scientists had proved that the dry and semi-arid corridor would not rehabilitate easily.

Mr Braak said efforts to rehabilitate areas where sisal had been planted more than 20 years ago still looked like ugly landscape scars after two decades.

He said the area formed an important migratory route for wildlife trekking from South Africa to Zimbabwe and back during seasonal changes.

These animals would be threatened with extinction by diamond prospecting, he said. - Sapa

Warning of ecological disaster (56)

THE dismissal by the mineral and energy affairs department of an appeal by the National Parks Board to stop diamond prospecting in the Madimba corridor in the Northern Province might result in a major ecological disaster, Kruger National Park head Harold Braak said.

The department dismissed last week an appeal by the board to prevent an Australian-based mining company, Moonstone, from prospecting for alluvial diamonds in the corridor.

The corridor is an 80km strip along the banks of the Limpopo River bordering Zimbabwe. The area is regarded as a rare, but highly sensitive, eco-tourist asset.

Braak said the area formed an important migratory route for wildlife trekking from SA to Zimbabwe and back during seasonal changes. These animals would be threatened with extinction.

hD 24/10/96

with as much information as possible, because it is the policy of this Government to be transparent, to go out of its way. That is what it is doing. [Laughter.]

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, I wonder if the hon the Minister could pass on to the hon the Minister of Finance that question raised by Senator Van Breda.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! I think if these questions are seriously intended, which I gather they are, they should be tabled.

New questions:

Legislature of Gauteng: sittings/legislation passed

*1. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:†

(1) (a) On how many days in each calendar year has the Legislature of Gauteng met since its inception and (b) how much legislation has been passed by this legislature in each of these years;

(2) whether any parliamentary rules in respect of proceedings (a) in general and (b) in regard to questions and interpellations in particular have been laid down in this legislature; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S755E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The information is not readily available in the Department. In an attempt to be of assistance to the hon member, the following information was obtained from the Provincial Administration of Gauteng:

(1) (a) The Legislature met on the following number of days per calendar year since its inception:
1994: 29 days
1995: 27 days
1996: 31 days (up to 26 September).

(b) The Legislature passed the following legislation per calendar year:
1994: 3 Bills
1995: 6 Bills
1996: 11 Bills

(2) (a) Yes, the rules in respect of proceedings in general are contained in the Standing Rules of the Legislature.

(b) Yes, rules 90-93 concern interpellations and rules 94-107 concern questions, while rules 86-89 are applicable to both interpellations and questions.

Senator M A SULLIMAN: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he tell us on how many days the Western Cape Province legislature sat? [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Senator Sulliman, is that a question which you would like to table?

Senator M A SULLIMAN: Mr President, it is a follow-up question. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! It sounds like a very serious question.

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr President, I am quite certain of the importance of the question to the hon senator. All I can say off the cuff is that the trend has been more or less the same in all nine provinces. I am talking about the trend in general terms. I cannot give him the exact figures, but what I have said here would, more or less, apply to any of the nine provinces. The hon senator is welcome to table a question and then we could give the details.

Senator M E SURTY: Mr President, I ask that the question stand over. The hon Minister is not available. I have informed Senator Selfe about it, and he has no objection.

*2. Sen J SELFE—Labour. [Question standing over.]

Use of unleaded petrol/catalytic converters: policy

*3. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether the Government has a policy in regard to the (a) use of unleaded petrol for and (b) installation of catalytic converters in vehicles in the Government Garage; if not, why not; if so, what is the policy?

S758E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (for the Minister of Transport):

(a) The current composition of the GG fleet is such that most of the vehicles cannot run on unleaded fuel. In cases where vehicles can run on both leaded and unleaded fuel, certain precautions have to be taken such as filling every fourth tank with leaded fuel in order to prevent serious damage to the engines. This requirement, however, cannot be met, since different drivers use the same Government vehicles. Users were therefore advised by means of a Transport Circular to use leaded fuel until further notice.

As the number of vehicles requiring unleaded fuel is increased through the purchase of new vehicles there will arise a time when unleaded petrol will become mandatory. We of course fully support all measures which contribute to curbing air pollution. At the same time there is a further practical reason for moving over to unleaded petrol, which is to keep up with developments in engine technology and engine management systems which are now all designed for the unleaded fuel environment.

(b) With the exception of vehicles where catalytic converters are standard equipment, it is policy not to install such equipment in other Government vehicles. The reason for this is that catalytic converters are very expensive items which can easily be damaged if the incorrect type of fuel is used. We therefore feel that their use in fleet cars would, for the moment, be too risky economically. This position is open to review in the light of further technological developments in the motor industry and changes in the ways Government Garage vehicles are managed.

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could the hon Minister confirm that South Africa is one of the largest producers of catalytic converters in the world?

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr President, I am well known for the breadth and depth of my general knowledge, but even I have limitations. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Does Senator Wiley understand that this is a question which he may table?

Protection of palustrine wetlands (56)

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

Whether he intends introducing legislation pertaining to the protection of palustrine wetlands; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures and (b) when?

S759E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Palustrine wetlands (which include marshes, swamps, fens and springs) are but one of a number of wetland groups considered by the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat). As a signatory, South Africa is obliged to provide for the application of the Convention by the most effective means. The Private Member's Wetlands Conservation Bill, as introduced by Senator Grové in 1995, was designed to do that. The Department is in the meantime drafting a Proposed Wetlands Bill which will, in collaboration with Senator Grové, be considered as an alternative for submission to Parliament during 1997.

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr President, the Minister for Public Enterprises is in Harare attending the Southern African Investment Summit and she begs you to hold the question over so that she will be able to deal with it personally when she is back.

*5. Sen B T NGCUKA—Public Enterprises. [Question standing over.]

Eastern Cape: upgrading of telephone facilities

*6. Sen B T NGCUKA asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

Whether his Department intends renovating and upgrading telephone facilities in (a) Middelport and (b) Kentane in the Eastern Cape; if not, why not; if so, when, in each case?

S761E

National Parks board has appeal dismissed

(56)

seweta 24/10/96

THE dismissal of an appeal by the National Parks Board to stop diamond prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor in the Northern Province by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, may result in one of the country's major ecological disasters, Kruger National Park head Harold Braak said.

This came after the department dismissed an appeal last week by the board to prevent an Australian-based mining company from prospecting for alluvial diamonds in the corridor.

The Moonstone Company in December last year obtained a permit

through two SA shareholders to mine diamonds in the area.

The corridor is an 80km strip along the banks of the Limpopo River bordering Zimbabwe. The area is regarded as one of the country's unique ecotourist assets, but also highly ecologically sensitive.

Braak said the board would review all legal steps in its efforts to stop diamond prospecting, which would have an irreversible effect on the unique fauna and flora in the area.

Mining would lead to large-scale hydro-extraction from underground water resources and rivers, which

would pose a threat to the Limpopo-Levubu flood plain which had abundant water pans.

Previous research by individual scientists proved that the dry and semi arid corridor would not rehabilitate easily. Braak said efforts to rehabilitate areas where sisal was planted more than 20 years ago still looked like ugly landscape scars today.

He said the area formed an important migratory route for wildlife trekking from South Africa to Zimbabwe and back during seasonal changes. These animals would be threatened with extinction. Sapa

240-stand site.

This will effectively stop any development of the 40-year-old township behind Camps Bay.

The committee says an opinion it sought from Milton Seligson SC is that the township's rights have lapsed. This is supported by an earlier opinion for the Cape Metropolitan Council from Eduard Fagan.

But Western Cape environmental MEC Lampie Fick says he has a counsel's opinion that the Oudekraal rights are intact. This is supported by an opinion obtained by the owner of Oudekraal, Kassie Wiehahn.

No party will release its opinions because of the almost certain litigation that is looming. So it is not possible to see a clear outcome. But it does appear that, in the Fifties, the provincial administrator may have extended the development's rights after they had lapsed.

Fick's defence of the development seems out of place given the objections to the proposals. Party politics — the Western Cape government is Nationalist and the Cape Town municipality ANC — will also play a role.

Wiehahn says the province is opening itself to damages claims of up to R250m if he is refused his rights: "We bought the property in 1964 with those rights. They were given to us by the provincial administration.

"If we win our case against Cape Town municipality, we will go ahead with the development. If we lose, the province will have to compensate us." ■

OUDEKRAAL

SEE YOU IN COURT

(56)
FM 25/10/98

The next episode of the Oudekraal saga is likely to be played out in court. Cape Town's urban planning committee last week recommended that its executive committee refuse the developers' application for engineering services to the

Hands off our hallowed ground

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

AN ALLIANCE of Muslims, environmentalists, hippies and vigilantes are locked in an all-out battle with a National Party-backed developer who has proposed a R750-million luxury housing scheme at Oudekraal on the Atlantic seaboard.

Fired by religious passions, the conflict has underscored weaknesses in the government's environmental management armory in the face of rising animosity between property developers and conservationists in the Cape Peninsula.

It has also raised difficult legal questions about the validity of development rights which have not been exercised for more than 30 years, and the status of individual rights in an area which is described as having national and international conservation value.

The Cape Town municipality's executive committee has provisionally stopped the development by refusing to approve a bulk

services plan, but landowner Kassie Wiehahn is adamant his rights are still intact — and says he will “undoubtedly” defend them in the Supreme Court.

Western Cape planning minister Lampie Fyck, a member of the NP, has vowed to defend these rights.

Locals — including Western Cape Tourism Board chief Gordon Oliver — fear that unless the development is stopped, it will unplug an uncontrollable

flood of hotels and resorts that will destroy the tourism potential of one of the Peninsula's most scenic features.

Olympic-bid chairman Chris Ball, Justice Minister Dullah Omar, as the ANC's Western Cape leader, and the Democratic Party have opposed the proposal.

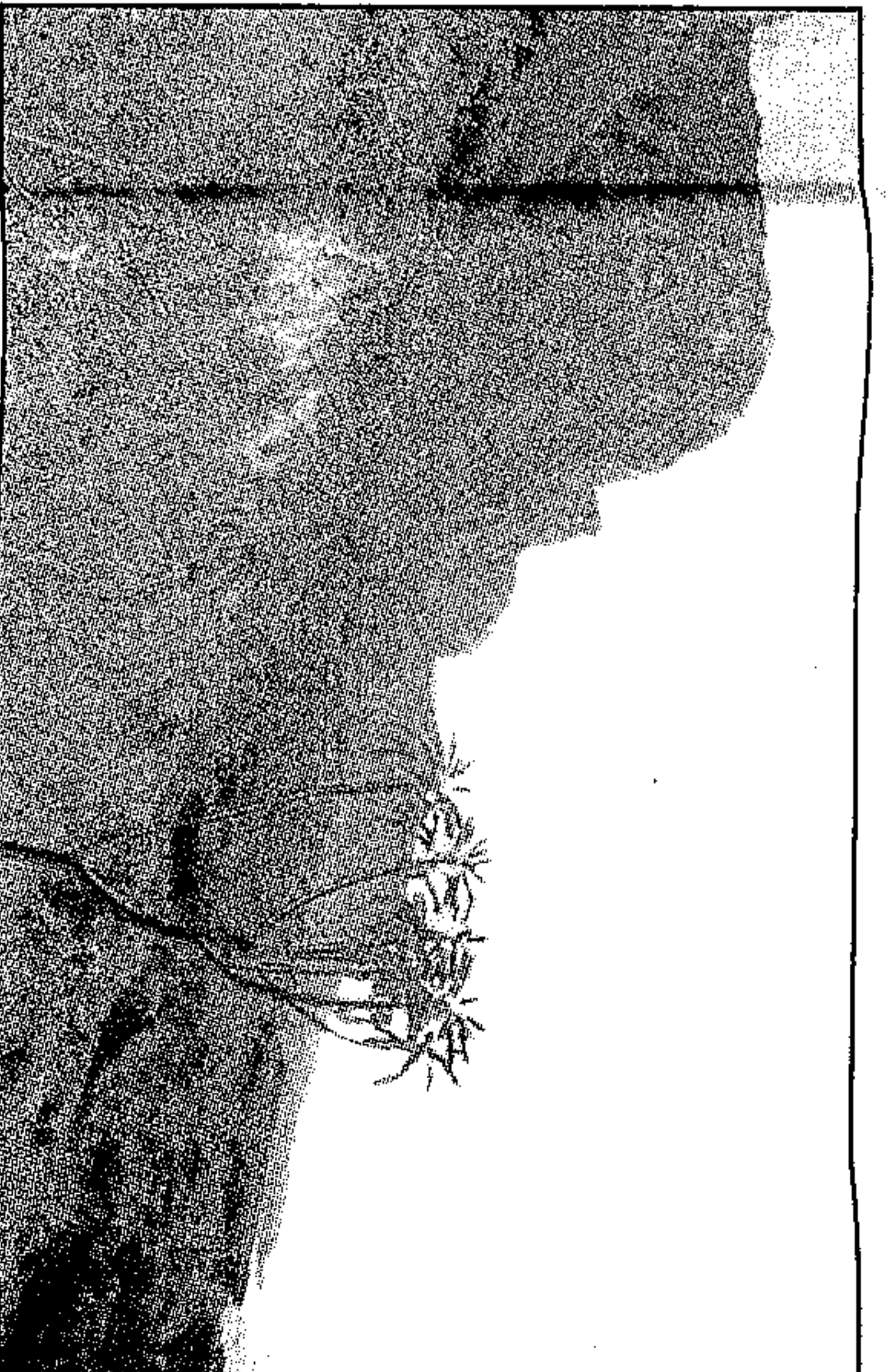
The row exploded in mid-September when developer Neill Bernstein announced plans for a millionaires' retreat on private property dotted with Muslim shrines

and slaves' graves next to Camps Bay.

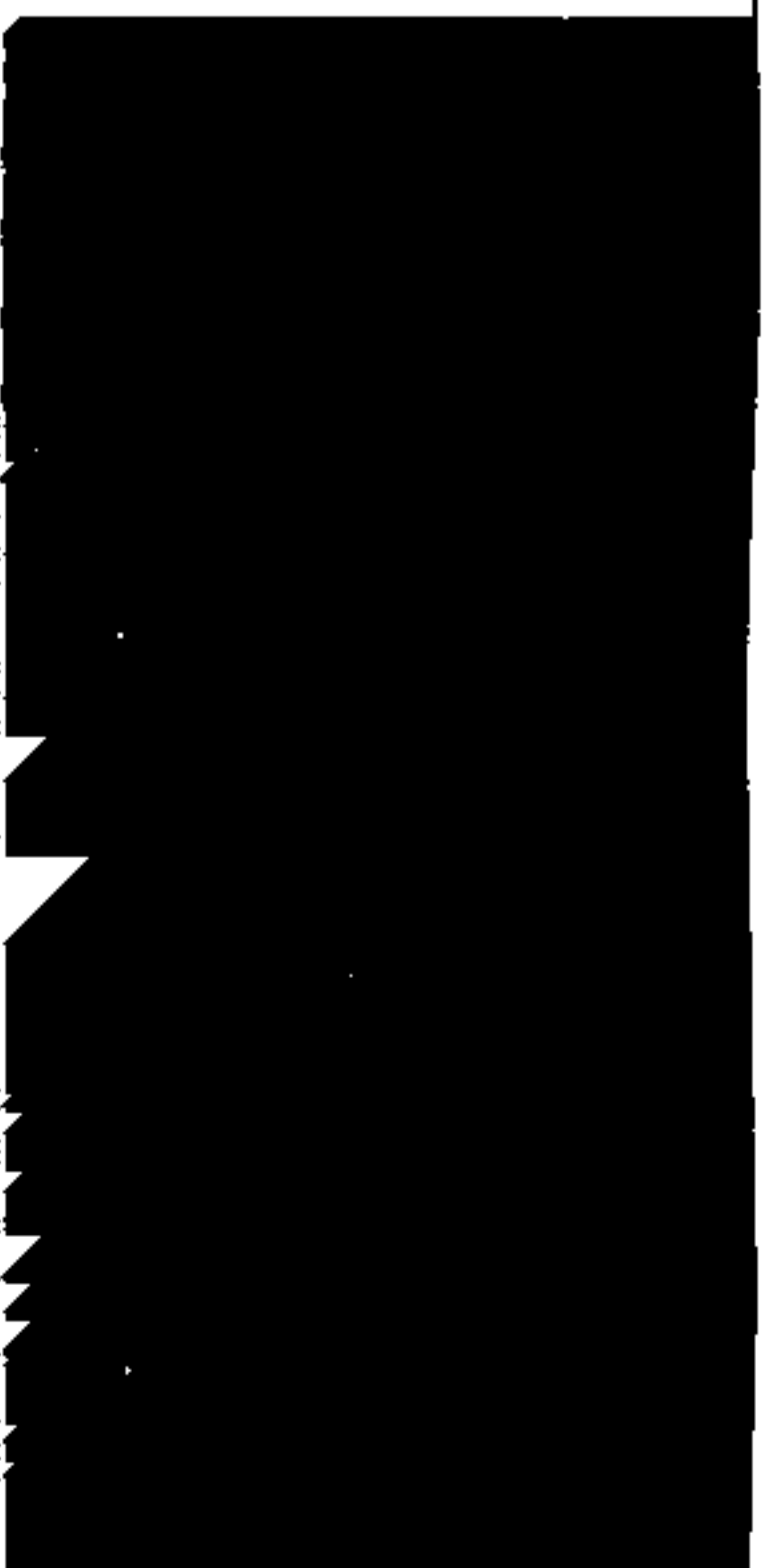
Muslims rejected his R9-million offer to buy theerven for a Muslim cultural heritage organisation as a gift and instead formed an anti-development grouping with the Wildlife Society, the controversial vigilante movement People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, and New Age hippies. More than 20 000 protesters showed their rejection of the project at two different marches.



NO GO . . . about 20 000 people marched on Parliament last week to protest the proposed development at Oudekraal Pictures: JUSTIN SHOLK



INDISPUTE . . . the land at the foot of the Twelve Apostles



8/9	S	?	Mapelane, Natal	Sea	—	Municipality
4/10	S	Road Tar	Saldanha	Beach	—	Municipality
8/10	S	?	Minerton	Beach	—	Municipality
9/10	S	?	Umanvuma	Beach	—	Municipality
18/10	S	Crude	Durban	Canal	SAPREF	
18/10	S	Bitge slops	Saldanha	Road	—	

1/95 Dunvegan, local FV, Mariettes Fishing/Sea Harvest, diesel from bilges at Mossel Bay. (K7)—No photos.

2/95 Echalar, Namibian f.v. fuel in Cape Town dry dock, fail to report—(A of G) R2 000

2/95 Iran Chamran, BC, 10t HFO in Durban Harbour—(A of G) R100 000

2/95 Depa Giulia, Nassau BC, slick at Durban anchorage—(A of G) R50 000

3/95 Runner B, Limassol cargo, 3001 bunkers in Durban harbour—(A of G) R30 000

6/95 Courage, Panamanian tanker, discharging lube oil off Cape Agulhas — (A of G) R30 000

Number of employees in Department

424. Sen CACKERMANN asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

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

S724E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) 203 employees on 30 September 1996.
- (b) (i) 176 employees on 30 June 1996.
(ii) 181 employees on 30 September 1995.
- (2) The changes resulted from transfers and promotions to and from the Department, appointments, retirements and resignations.

R161 000. The total amount spent by conservation agencies on the management of the CPPNE is not precisely known because of the difficulties of abstracting the dedicated expenditure from municipal accounts. It has been estimated as being between R15 and R30 million per annum.

Proposed Table Mountain National Park: privately owned land

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

- (1) Whether any privately owned land falls within the area of the proposed Table Mountain National Park; if so, (a) how many properties fall within this area, (b) what total area do these properties cover and (c) what percentage of the total area of the proposed park do they cover;
- (2) whether the owners concerned have been consulted in regard to the possible inclusion of their properties into the park; if not, why not; if so, what was their reaction?

S730E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

The point of departure boundaries for the new national park are the existing boundaries of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE). This area contains 258 erven in the

ownership of 170 private owners. The total area of these properties is 5 882 ha. All private owners received an invitation through the mail to attend a public meeting specifically to address the particular concerns of private landowners. The meeting in June was extremely well-attended but nevertheless represented only 65 of the private landowners. There have also been numerous other public meetings where interaction between private landowners and the National Parks Board has occurred. The reaction of this constituency has been positive in general but there are a number of owners, being between 20 and 30 strong, who are vehemently opposed to any change in the *status quo*. Their concern is misplaced since no land will be included in the national park except with the consent of its owners. It is not the intention of the National Parks Board to use the power of expropriation in the National Parks Act, not least because the cost in terms of compensation would be prohibitive. Furthermore, 90 of the 170 private owners own properties of two hectares or less. These particular properties are, in general, of no conservation significance whatsoever, being homes with associated outbuildings and landscaped gardens. The National Parks Board has no interest in seeing these properties included in the national park and has proposed that they remain within the CPPNE where they are subjected to some degree of development control.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

S729E

In terms of the existing lease agreement between Cape Town City Council (CCC) and Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, the company pays CCC 2.5% of passenger ticket sales. This is paid into the municipal coffers and cannot be said to be directed necessarily to the conservation of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment area (CPPNE). In the 1995/96 financial year this amounted to

(3) The Council has de-registered 9 contractors, the details of which are:

Name of Company	Reg No.	Reasons	Manuels Construction T/A Alby's Construction	261	Numerous large scale judgments. ±R1 million exposure.
Howz-It Property Developers	562	Company went into liquidation. There are allegations of receiving bond draws without completion of house.	Tanas Building Construction	526	Bounced cheque. No response to contacts.
			Nsele Property Developers—T/A Comfort Properties	1081	Bounced cheque. No response to contacts.
			ME Moraba Projects CC	529	Bounced cheque. Unco-operative.
			Pro Builders T/A Rand Construction	122	Fraudulent use of NHBRC registration certificate, forged to obtain bond from bank not willing to lend under his real name.
			Jan Mahlangu Builders	1895.	Bounced cheque. No response to contacts.
KK Home Improvers	n/a	Several cases of incomplete work, work not to building regulation. No supervision of site. Fraudulent use of NHBRC logo and NHBRC warranty ±R200 000 paid for incomplete work.			
JJ Viljoen Developers	1083	Cheque bounced, no response to contacts.			

A further two contractors have been given notice of our intention to cancel their registration unless they satisfy our complaints within 22 working days.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

(56)

Oil pollution of South African coastline

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

- (1) (a) How many shipwrecks or instances of the spillage of oil from ships resulting in the pollution of the South African coastline occurred during the period 1 January 1990 and 30 June 1996 and (b) in each case, (i) what was the (aa) name and (bb) nationality of the ship involved, (ii) what were the circumstances surrounding the oil spillage, (iii) what quantity of oil was spilled, (iv) what was the extent of the damage caused to the environment and (v) what was the cost of the clean-up operation involved;
- (2) whether any (a) action has been taken against and/or (b) expenses have been recovered from the ships concerned; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S690E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) For the period 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1995, the Kuswag VII (the Departmental patrol aircraft) spotted a total of 330 oil slicks. For the same period, another 319 spills were reported to us by other parties.
- (b) (i) In the majority of cases it was not possible to identify the source of the spill. Of the 330 slicks sighted by the Kuswag VII, for example, only 83 (±25%) were linked to particular vessels. Available details are provided for 1995 in the attached table.
- (ii)/(iii) In most cases, the volumes of oil involved were relatively small (less than one tonne), and were probably the result of illegal discharges of bilges. The only significant exception to this for 1995, was the spillage of some 70 tonnes of oil from the Hawaiian King into Saldanha Bay. This occurred as a result of an undetected leak into the ballast water tanks from the pipe through which oil was being loaded to the vessel. The contaminated ballast water was subsequently discharged into the bay.
- (iv) The environmental damage caused by minor slicks at sea is negligible, but where spills impact on sensitive areas of the coastline, damage can be more significant. Of greatest concern, are the cumulative effects of a series of spills. In the case of the Hawaiian King, the oil affected a number of birds, and penetrated into Langebaan Lagoon.
- (v) For the Hawaiian King, the clean-up operation cost in the order of R3 million.
- (2) (a) Where the ship is identifiable the following actions can be taken:
- (i) If the vessel is not coming into a South African port, then a notification is generally sent to the International Maritime Organisation and/or the port of registry.
- (ii) Where the vessel does enter a South African port, it is prosecuted. A list of successful prosecutions for 1995 is attached.
- (b) The costs of the clean-up for the Hawaiian King incident are currently being processed by insurers.

IDENTIFIED AND UNIDENTIFIED OIL SPILLS REPORTED FROM THE KUSWAG VII — 1995

I.D.	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Litres	Source
8/95	21/1/95	09:13	34°43S	21°55E	300	—
9/95	26/1/95	11:15	Mossel Bay		300	—
11/95	30/1/95	12:13	34°51S	19°24E	100	—
12/95	22/2/95	09:12	34°26S	24°01E	1 500	—
16/95	17/2/95	08:57	34°22S	24°24E	1 000	—
16/95	17/2/95	10:03	34°27S	24°04E	—	—
18/95	21/2/95	10:10	34°52S	19°32E	20	—
18/95	22/2/95	08:25	34°15S	25°10E	1 500	—
21/95	28/2/95	09:05	34°29S	25°30E	800	—
22/95	3/3/95	09:40	34°51S	20°29E	250	—
24/95	11/3/95	08:34	34°15S	25°14E	50	—
25/95	14/3/95	09:05	34°16S	25°10E	1 000	—
28/95	23/3/95	08:51	34°23S	24°55E	300	—
31/95	29/3/95	10:42	34°50S	19°55E	300	—
34/95	13/4/95	08:19	29°58S	31°14E	100	—
35/95	13/4/95	08:19	29°58S	31°14E	100	—
39/95	22/4/95	10:32	32°14S	29°09E	400	—
43/95	28/4/95	08:33	34°50S	19°17E	300	Nena F Bulk Carrier
44/95	3/5/95	11:40	31°54S	29°19E	800	—
48/95	18/5/95	10:23	38°49S	30°49E	200	—
48/95	18/5/95	11:10	34°00S	25°10E	10	—
48/95	19/5/95	13:25	34°52S	20°05E	900	—
51/95	1/6/95	09:52	34°47S	21°29E	500	—
52/95	8/6/95	10:47	35°00S	20°31E	800	Courage Tanker
60/95	28/6/95	11:16	34°47S	21°14E	800	Clipper Dream Tanker
60/95	28/6/95	10:25	34°45S	18°59E	200	—
60/95	29/6/95	11:04	32°04S	29°24E	300	Nuova Europa Container
61/95	3/7/95	15:10	34°41S	21°48E	5 000	Movimara Na Bulk
61/95	7/7/95	09:14	34°24S	24°52E	1 500	Maeva Container
66/95	24/7/95	09:37	30°32S	30°55E	4 000	Iran Jamal Bulk
66/95	24/7/95	10:03	30°32S	30°52E	—	—
66/95	25/7/95	09:46	34°20S	24°47E	20	—
73/95	22/8/95	11:10	34°40S	20°38E	100	Zavely Ilcha Tanker
79/95	8/9/95	09:10	34°50S	20°41E	400	—
80/95	10/9/95	07:21	33°29S	18°14E	70 000	Hawaiian King Tanker
84/95	12/9/95	10:30	34°54S	19°51E	300	—
84/95	12/9/95	10:34	34°52S	19°59E	300	—
84/95	12/9/95	09:20	34°52S	21°16E	2 000	—
84/95	13/9/95	09:43	34°57S	20°44E	3 200	Cape America Bulk
85/95	14/9/95	11:33	34°50S	19°08E	500	—
85/95	14/9/95	11:46	35°00S	19°43E	200	—
85/95	15/9/95	11:11	32°50S	20°52E	1 000	—
89/95	29/9/95	09:14	30°41S	30°35E	1 100	—

Date	Amount	Type	Position	Area	Action	
9/1/95	4/10/95	15:34	34°28S	23°59E	4 000	Emerald Venture Cargo
9/9/95	24/10/95	1240	34°45S	21°35E	500	—
9/9/95	24/10/95	1323	34°28S	24°04E	200	—
10/2/95	1/11/95	1456	34°20S	25°03E	800	Chickasaw
10/4/95	8/11/95	0835	33°17S	28°03E	500	Al Salimiah Bulk
10/6/95	16/11/95	0840	33°29S	18°05E	150	—
11/1/95	24/11/95	1025	34°44S	19°04E	20	—
11/1/95	24/11/95	1122	34°25S	21°52E	100	—
11/1/95	28/11/95	0945	34°41S	22°24E	50	—
11/5/95	4/12/95	1038	34°57S	19°58E	40	—
11/5/95	5/12/95	1035	34°59S	20°19E	60	—

1995 OIL SPILLS REPORTED FROM OTHER SOURCES

Date	Amount	Type	Position	Area	Action
12/1 SVM	S	?	Cape Infanta	Sea	—
17/1	M	?	Richards Bay	Sea	—
27/1 SVM	S	?	Kenton	Sea	—
27/1	M	Diesel	Mossel Bay	Sea	—
7/2	M	Diesel	Cape Town Harbour	Harbour	Clean
7/2	S	Diesel	Durban	Sea	K4
7/2	10t	HFO	Durban Harbour	Harbour	Clean
10/2	6t	Diesel	Sardinia Bay	Sea	—
10/2	S	Bilges	Port Nolloth	Sea	—
20/2	M	Diesel	Durban	Sea	K4
12/3	M	Fuel	Cape Town	Sea	K5
13/3 SVM	M	?	Cape Town Harbour	Harbour	Portnet
22/3	M	Blobs	Plettenberg Bay	Sea	—
23/3	S	?	Algoa Bay	Beach	Clean
25/3	S	HFO	Durban	Sea	K1
25/3	1t	Diesel	Durban	Harbour	Fine
6/4	S	Blobs	Doringbaai	Sea	—
11/4	S	?	Durban	Beach	Clean
5/5	S	?	Cape Point	Sea	—
8/5	S	Diesel	Table Bay	Sea	K1
15/5	S	?	Simon's Town	Harbour	Navy
30/6	S	?	Cape Town Harbour	Harbour	—
20/7 SVM	S	?	Gansbaai	Sea	—
24/7	S	?	Wild Coast	Sea	—
30/7	S	Crude	Saldanha	Beach	Saldanha Port
7/8 SVM	S	?	9BM Durban	Sea	K IV
9/8	S	HFO	Quoin Point	Sea	—
10/8	S	HFO	Cape Agulhas	Sea	—
20/8 SVM	S	HFO	Off Agulhas	Sea	—
	S	?	Mossel Bay	Sea	—

8/9	S	?	Mapelane, Natal	Sea	—	Municipality
4/10	S	Road Tar	Saldanha	Beach	Beach	Municipality
8/10	S	?	Milnerton	Beach	Beach	—
9/10	S	?	Umtamvuma	Beach	Beach	—
18/10	S	Crude	Durban	Canal	Canal	SAPREF
18/10	S	Bilge slops	Saldanha	Road	—	—

1/95 Dunvegan, local FV, Mariettes Fishing/Sea Harvest, diesel from bilges at Mossel Bay. (K7)—No photos.

2/95 Echalar, Namibian f.v. fuel in Cape Town dry dock, fail to report—(A of G) R2 000

2/95 Iran Chamran, BC, 10t HFO in Durban Harbour—(A of G) R100 000

2/95 Depa Giulia, Nassau BC, slick at Durban anchorage—(A of G) R50 000

3/95 Runner B, Limasol cargo, 3001 bunkers in Durban harbour—(A of G) R30 000

6/95 Courage, Panamanian tanker, discharging lube oil off Cape Agulhas — (A of G) R30 000

Number of employees in Department

424. Sen C ACKERMANN asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

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

S724E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) 203 employees on 30 September 1996.
- (b) (i) 176 employees on 30 June 1996.
(ii) 181 employees on 30 September 1995.
- (2) The changes resulted from transfers and promotions to and from the Department, appointments, retirements and resignations.

R161 000. The total amount spent by conservation agencies on the management of the CPPNE is not precisely known because of the difficulties of abstracting the dedicated expenditure from municipal accounts. It has been estimated as being between R15 and R30 million per annum.

Proposed Table Mountain National Park: privately owned land

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

- (1) Whether any privately owned land falls within the area of the proposed Table Mountain National Park; if so, (a) how many properties fall within this area, (b) what total area do these properties cover and (c) what percentage of the total area of the proposed park do they cover;
- (2) whether the owners concerned have been consulted in regard to the possible inclusion of their properties into the park; if not, why not; if so, what was their reaction?

S730E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

The point of departure boundaries for the new national park are the existing boundaries of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE). This area contains 258 erven in the

ownership of 170 private owners. The total area of these properties is 5 882 ha. All private owners received an invitation through the mail to attend a public meeting specifically to address the particular concerns of private landowners. The meeting in June was extremely well-attended but nevertheless represented only 65 of the private landowners. There have also been numerous other public meetings where interaction between private landowners and the National Parks Board has occurred. The reaction of this constituency has been positive in general but there are a number of owners, being between 20 and 30 strong, who are vehemently opposed to any change in the *status quo*. Their concern is misplaced since no land will be included in the national park except with the consent of its owners. It is not the intention of the National Parks Board to use the power of expropriation in the National Parks Act, not least because the cost in terms of compensation would be prohibitive. Furthermore, 90 of the 170 private owners own properties of two hectares or less. These particular properties are, in general, of no conservation significance whatsoever, being homes with associated outbuildings and landscaped gardens. The National Parks Board has no interest in seeing these properties included in the national park and has proposed that they remain within the CPPNE where they are subjected to some degree of development control.

HANSARD

LAWYERS PREPARE FOR BATTLE

Oudekraal development ruling could take years

(56) CT 28/10/96

DESPITE MASSIVE opposition to his plans to develop the mountainside at Oudekraal, the developer is not going to give in without a struggle. The matter seems destined for a long court battle, possibly lasting for years. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

CAN Oudekraal legally be developed or not? If you are the lawyers acting for the owners of the land, the answer is yes. If you are the lawyers acting for Cape Town City Council, the answer is no.

Clearly, both camps of legal eagles cannot be right. Either Oudekraal owner Mr Kassie Wiehahn does have the right to develop the R750-million luxury housing complex on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, or he does not.

That is how it seems to the lay person, but not to lawyers. It seems that a law can have as many interpretations as there are lawyers, and there have been grand court battles over a legal technicality.

This seems to be the path the Oudekraal saga is going to take. While protesters protest, and marchers march, a massive court case is looming.

Let's look at the situation so far. Back in the 1950s the then owner of Oudekraal, Sir Henry Price, decided to build houses on the section of Oudekraal adjoining Camps Bay. He applied for approval of the Oudekraal Township, and on September 17, 1957 the then Administrator granted approval under the Township Ordinance of 1934.

All parties agree to that. But that did not give Sir Henry the right to go ahead and build immediately. Under the law he first had to lodge a general plan of the township with the Surveyor-General, which he had to do within 12 months of the Administrator's approval — by September 17, 1958.

The law says that if he could not do it within 12 months, he could apply to have the period extended, but he had to apply

within those 12 months. This seems to be where the legal debate comes in.

A letter from the Administrator to the owner says yes, he could have a time extension to get his general plan to the Surveyor-General — but this letter is dated November 11, 1958 — nearly two months after the period for applying for an extension had ended.

The no-legal-rights camp says the law is clear: if you have not got you plans to the Surveyor-General within 12 months, or you have not applied for an extension within 12 months, your township approval lapses and that's that.

If you still want to develop, you must start again from scratch. This is what the lawyers for the city council say, and that is why the council has in effect said "no" to the Oudekraal development. Their decision had nothing to do with the long time since the plans were first approved in 1958, but to do with this legal slip-up nearly 40 years ago.

But back then no one seems to have noticed this slip-up, and in 1962 the approved Oudekraal Township general plan was gazetted anyway, as if it were all legal and hunky-dory.

And there the matter rested. Sir Henry died in 1963 before building his township, and the Wiehahn family bought Oudekraal — a stretch of land from Camps Bay to beyond the White House.

The Wiehahns bought the development plans with the land, but decades passed and not a sod was turned. As Mr Kassie Wiehahn has said, you have to cut

the cheese when it's ripe, and clearly he thought the time for cutting this particular piece of real estate was 1996.

He duly went ahead and submitted his engineering plans to the authorities for approval this year, the final piece of red tape before he could start the development.

But a lot of things had changed since 1957, particularly how people felt about open spaces and the environment. When the public heard about it, there were suddenly thousands of people shouting "no way" and turning out in the biggest public demonstrations against a development that the city — and perhaps the country — has ever seen.

This piece of mountain had been undeveloped for so long, most people took it for granted that it was a nature reserve, or at least state land.

Because of the outcry, the authorities got a little jittery and instead of rubber-stamping the engineering plans as they would normally have done (given that they met all the standards) they called in a lawyer to see if the whole deal was still legally valid. And their lawyers said no.

Now if you were the owner, sitting on a R750m development, you would be unlikely to say "OK, no sweat, I won't build". Wiehahn went off and got lawyers himself, and they concluded that his development rights were indisputable.

What we all want know is how these two legal camps arrive at opposite conclusions. Of course, they're not going to tell. They know the matter will come to court, and neither side is going to give its hand away.

With all these lawyers applying their minds to the matter, it seems a little feeble for us to haul out the 1934 ordinance fo.



DISPUTED TERRITORY: An aerial view of Oudekraal, which the developer says is his, and which the conservation lobby says belongs to the nation. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

examination. But we'll do it anyway.
Section 19 says: "If the application be granted, the owner shall within a period of 12 months from the date of notification by the Administrator, or within such further period as the Administrator may in each case determine, cause a general plan ... to be framed and submitted in duplicate to the Surveyor-General.
"Should the owner fail to submit the said general plan to the Surveyor-General within 12 months, or within such further period as may have been allowed by the Administrator, the grant of the application

should deem to have lapsed."
It seems pretty cut and dried, and one wonders how the Wiehahn camp will argue to the contrary.
Someone has pointed out a possibility — the 1974 amendment to the old township ordinance. Here section 19 is changed to do two things. First it extends the time limit from 12 to 18 months and second it spells out that the owner must lodge these plans "before the expiration of the first mentioned period or of such an extended period".
It has not really changed much, except to make things more definite.
Lawyers have said this does not

have any bearing on the issue because one has to look at the law that was in place at the time, which was the 1934 ordinance, not the 1974 amendment. But others have said the Wiehahn camp could use the amendment to argue that it shows that there was a lack of clarity on the clause, which made the amendment necessary to clear it up.
It's just a whisper of an idea, but it's a thought.
Meanwhile, the council will only officially inform Wiehahn at the end of the month that it considers his development rights to have lapsed.

Until he has this in writing, he can't take legal action. And even then, as a court case is likely to take months, and if it goes on appeal, years, it will be a long time before we know the final fate of Oudekraal.
So, can Oudekraal legally be developed or not? Only a court can decide. Until then, the cobras continue to bask on the Oudekraal rocks, the sunbirds sing on the Oudekraal proteas, and Cape Town waits.
● How do you judge this issue? Phone Teleletters tomorrow from 10am to noon on (021) 488-4722 to voice your opinion.

649 oil spills in five years off SA coast

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

CT 29/10/96

OVER the last five years 649 oil slicks were reported off the South African coast, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan reported yesterday.

In reply to a question tabled in the Senate by Senator E K Moorcroft (DP), Jordan said the departmental patrol aircraft, Kuswag VII, had spotted 330 oil slicks.

"Another 319 spills were reported to us by other parties," he said.

In most cases it was not possible to identify the source of the spill and only 83 of the 330 slicks sighted by Kuswag VII were linked to particular vessels.

"In most cases the volumes of oil involved were relatively small (less than one ton) and were probably the result of illegal discharges of bilges.

"The only significant exception to this for 1995 was the spillage of about 70 tons of oil from the Hawaiian King into Saldanah Bay.

"This occurred as a result of an undetected leak into the ballast water tanks from the pipe through which oil was being loaded on to the vessel.

"The environmental damage caused by minor slicks at sea is negligible, but where spills impact on sensitive areas of the coastline, damage can be more significant.

"Of greatest concern are the cumulative effects of a series of spills.

"In the case of the Hawaiian King, the oil affected a number of birds and penetrated into Langebaan Lagoon."

Jordan said the cost of the clean-up operation for the Hawaiian King was about R3 million, which was being handled by the insurers.

500 jeer in disbelief as AECl lawyer addresses sulphur fire

NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

ARL 29/10/96

About 500 Macassar residents jeered in disbelief when they heard that management of the AECl plant at Somerset West did not want stockpiled sulphur on the premises - and that the Department of Trade and Industry did not know what to do with it. The residents were listening to submis-

sions by AECl legal representative Gerrit van Schalkwyk at the first session of the commission of inquiry into a fire at AECl last December.

The blaze led to the deaths of two asthmatic residents and the evacuation of the entire Macassar community.

Ten thousand tons of stockpiled sulphur sent toxic fumes into the air when the stockpile was set alight by a bush fire in the

area that had gone out of control.

The sulphur is owned by the Department of Trade and Industry and stored at AECl.

The inquiry is being headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, who will hear residents' evidence from tomorrow.

The commission will investigate the origin and establishment of the sulphur stockpile at AECl, the events leading up to - and

the cause of - the fire, the adequacy of the emergency response to the disaster and the impact of the fire on surrounding communities and the environment.

Mr Van Schalkwyk, who presented the chemical company's case, read a letter from the Department of Trade and Industry addressed to AECl which stated: "We have no use for it (the sulphur)."

Mr Van Schalkwyk said neither the old

nor the new government had attended to the issue of how to remove the sulphur from the premises.

He would call witnesses to testify on various issues about the fire.

A recent department statement said tenders were to be invited for the purchase of the sulphur.

The commission was to inspect the site today.

commission

Environment green paper presented

Bonlie Ngqiyaza

THE environmental affairs and tourism ministry yesterday launched a green paper on the national environment policy which, it said, sought to achieve sustainable development and to prioritise areas of environmental management.

The ministry said the green paper was aimed at initiating a broad framework for an integrated and holistic approach to environmental management.

"Environmental concerns are not adequately taken into account in many important areas of policy and government administration."

The paper recommended improved co-ordination and communi-

cation between and across the different levels of government on environmental matters.

It called for a structured mechanism, wherein input from non-governmental parties could be solicited to guide policy implementation.

The paper also proposed that an independent mechanism be put in place to monitor and evaluate government's performance with regard to environmental policy.

It cautioned against a proliferation of institutional structures and emphasised that new structures should be introduced only where an "absolute necessity".

At the launch in Johannesburg, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said statistics

being assembled in SA's first real population census would make a substantial contribution to environmental development and protection in the country.

"Our ability to assess where a strain is placed on the environment because of the lack of adequate services and infrastructure, overcrowding and pollution caused by the use of less clean energy sources in the absence of electricity, will make for improved planning."

He said the ministry and the Consultative Conference on Environmental Policy, launched in August last year, were inviting the public to submit comments before December 16.

A second conference was planned

for the end of next month.

Jordan said the consultative process — which would involve workshops around the country — would lead to a white paper, scheduled for publication by March next year, when it would be tabled before Cabinet for approval.

He said the parliamentary process would give rise to a strategy for implementation and the national environmental action plan. New or amended legislation would follow.

At the launch, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba denied allegations that the ANC did not support the Consultative Conference on Environmental Policy and were developing their own environmental policy.

Mokaba gets prospecting next to Kruger Park reviewed

(56)

BY ANITA ALLEN

Science Writer

Star 29/10/96
Intervention by Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba has prompted a review of the decision to allow diamond prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor.

Last week the director-general of mineral and energy affairs announced that he had dismissed an appeal by the National Parks Board against the granting of a prospecting permit to Madimbu Diamond Corporation.

This will now be reviewed after consultations between Mokaba and Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna.

The Madimbo Corridor adjoining the Kruger Park has been identified as a key area in long-term ecotourism plans for a trans-frontier peace park linking four countries - Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana. The prospecting permit was granted last year, and at the time the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism raised no objections to what its director-general, Dr Colin Cameron, described as "an astonishing series of bureaucratic bungles".

Mokaba said his ministry was responsible for ensuring that sustainable development plans and decisions were taken regarding the Madimbo Corridor, and that proper mechanisms of transparency and consultation with all stakeholders were put into place as a matter of urgency.

"As deputy minister of environmental affairs and tourism, I have held discussions with Minister Maduna to request that he suspends the decision taken by his department until a thorough strategic environmental assessment and studies to determine the best land-use options in the area have been carried out.

"It has been agreed that mining in the Madimbo Corridor cannot proceed in the light of the ecological sensitivity of the corridor, land claims in the area, current proposals for developing ecotourism peace parks, and the processes and procedures by which the company obtained a mining permit," Mokaba said.

Sulphur fire inquiry told of 'flash of light'

Grass blaze after electricity cutout ARG 30/10/96
(5/6) (183)

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Two farmworkers have said an unusual flash of light near the fence at the AECI plant in Somerset West disturbed their tea-break a few days before a sulphur stockpile caught fire on December 16 last year.

They were addressing the inquiry headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai and appointed by President Mandela to investigate the fire that killed two asthmatics and led to the evacuation of Macassar near the Strand.

The commission is investigating the sulphur stockpile at African Explosives and Chemical Industries, the cause of the fire, the adequacy of emergency response to the disaster and the impact of the fire.

AECI advocate Gerrit van



Judicial view: Mr Justice Siraj Desai inspects the sulphur dump

Schalkwyk said at an inspection in loco at AECI yesterday that the commission would investigate "the flash" seen by farmworkers Chris Andries and Boy Booyse at Paardevlei next to the plant.

They said they saw the flash at

10am on Wednesday, December 13, the day a grassfire started and three days before the AECI fire.

Mr Van Schalkwyk told commission officials that an AECI electrical line had cut out at the same time the flash was seen by the farmworkers.

He said AECI power station officials had made an entry about the incident in a daily occurrence book and they would testify later.

Asked what safety measures were now in place at the plant, AECI group communications manager Michael Blizzard told the commission the entire area affected by the fire had been cleared.

The sulphur had been divided into sections to separate pure sulphur and the sulphur contaminated by the fire. Fire-fighters were on standby 24 hours a day.

The inquiry continues today.

Probe told of 'hot spots' before fire

NORMAN JOSEPH (56) (122)
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 3/1/96

AECI chemical plant fire chief Bill Guthrie has told the commission of inquiry into the Somerset West sulphur dump fire that fire-fighters found three underground "hot spots" near the dump before the disaster.

Mr Guthrie told the commission that a "hot spot" was an area where a fire burnt underground, unseen. Fire could burn underground and spread without anybody knowing it was there even after it was put out above ground.

There were four fires in the area at the time - grass fires, apparently started by sparks from an electrical cable, on December 13, 14 and 15, and the blaze at the sulphur dump on December 16 which led to the death of two brothers in Macassar who were overcome by fumes. Macassar was evacuated during the sulphur fire.

About 300 Macassar residents were at the town's community centre yesterday to hear evidence at the inquiry, led by Mr Justice Siraj Desai and appointed by President Mandela.

The commission is investigating the sulphur stockpile at African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI), the cause of the fire, the adequacy of emergency response to the disaster and the impact of the fire.

Mr Guthrie said that after the second fire on December 14 firemen saw small amounts of smoke on the ground, dug out "hot spots" and sprayed them with water.

On the night of December 16, Mr Guthrie said, he saw a blue haze in the air "and knew it was the sulphur dump".

Cross-examined by the Macassar community's legal representative, Wim Trengove, Mr Guthrie said an emergency plan known as the Somerset West Emergency Action Plan had not been implemented, but it might have been "without my knowledge".

Mr Guthrie said the plan had not been implemented because "we thought it was only a grass fire".

Mr Trengove read extracts from the plan and asked Mr Guthrie which members of the command centre group were assigned to the action plan. Mr Guthrie said he did not know and also was not sure if a duty officer was appointed in accordance with the plan.

The inquiry continues today.

Sandy Bay is ON ...

(56)

and Oudekraal OFF

CHENÉ BLIGNAULT

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 3/11/96

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

One of Cape Town's last unspoilt beaches is finally safe for future generations after the Absa banking group's formal donation of 250ha of its 266ha property above Sandy Bay to the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

Work has begun on a housing development on the remaining 16ha. Bulldozers have begun levelling the site and trenches are being dug for services.

The donation of the rest of the site, completed yesterday, will pave the way for its inclusion in the soon-to-be proclaimed Greater Table Mountain National Park.

The landmark agreement came after years of wrangling

To page 3

The controversial plan to build luxury houses on Table Mountain at Oudekraal was dealt a serious blow today when the Cape Town Council turned down an application for the provision of services on the site.

The decision, which followed a recommendation by the engineering services committee, was taken without debate.

Committee chairman Babette Bekker said senior counsel's opinion was that the development rights had lapsed and the council was not legally competent to approve the provision of the services plan.

She said legal advice was that the council's attitude should not be hostile but rather that it should take the stance that as the rights had lapsed it could not approve the plan.

Landmark agreement saves Sandy Bay for the future

(56)

From page 1

Between environmentalists and developers over the beach where Cape Town nudists have been baring it all for years.

In terms of the agreement, Absa Devco, the property development arm of Absa, will develop only 16ha of the site as a housing estate called Kronenzicht.

Once the project is complete, the public will have controlled access to Sandy Bay, an equestrian trail and a nature reserve.

Absa Devco managing director Sakkie de Klerk said the company would give R2-million towards the environmental management of the property, which would be incorporated in the Greater Table Mountain National Park. "Everyone involved,

the residents, environmentalists, authorities and we as the developers are proud of the agreement whereby the beauty of Sandy Bay will be preserved for posterity."

World Wildlife Fund chief executive John Hanks said that what made the Absa land so special was that it was one of only a few places in the Peninsula where the park would sweep down to the sea.

ARC 3/11/96

Conflict over road through Kruger Park continues

N Province premier appoints committee to look at 'sensitive issue' of route to Mozambique

SAPA
Pietersburg

Star 31/10/96
(56)

Kruger National Park chief Harold Braak yesterday reconfirmed the Parks Board's determination not to allow a proposed commercial road through the park as it would have a detrimental effect on its culture, atmosphere and eco-system.

Braak was reacting to a statement by Phalaborwa Business Chamber president Grant McLachlan that a commercial road linking the Northern Province with Mozambique's Gaza province was "inevitable" to boost tourism.

Braak said the proposed road would never be supported because of the negative impact it would have on the park as a whole. The Parks Board and Phalaborwa Business Chamber clashed on the issue earlier this year when the chamber said an engineering company had been approached to build the road.

According to the statement the chamber had also asked the governor of the Gaza province to set up a working group to investigate the viability of a commercial road through the park.

The working group would start its investigation soon.

McLachlan said yesterday the chamber was not requesting a highway

through the park, only that the existing road be extended to the Gaza province border.

Referring to the planned establishment of a Peace Park incorporating the Kruger National Park with reserves in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, McLachlan said an access road between the eastern lowveld of the Northern Province and Mozambique would develop and boost the province's vast tourism potential. Other supporters of the commercial road were members of the province's legislature.

Braak said neither the Parks Board nor the Mozambican Department of Environmental Affairs had been properly informed about the proposed road, which was in any event unacceptable because it would divide the park in two.

Even if informed, the two parties would never agree to such a venture.

The building of a road would not be conducive to "the dream of a Peace Park overlapping international borders," Braak said.

Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlodi said earlier that because the road was such a sensitive issue, a committee had been established to investigate its viability and make recommendations on it. - Sapa

Approval unlikely on Oudekraal application

(56) ET 31/10/96

PETER DENNEHY

THE Oudekraal development controversy will come up for consideration twice in the Civic Centre today — but no final resolution is expected.

Developer Mr Neill Bernstein has proposed building 240 dwellings — at more than R1 million each — on undeveloped land adjacent to Camps Bay, on the lower slopes of Table Mountain.

This has led to an outcry from environmental groups, as well as from Muslims, who do not want that part of the mountain built on because of the many Muslim graves there. Bernstein proposes to accommodate at least some of the graves in his development and preserve access to them.

The engineering services committee is due to hold a special meeting at the Civic Centre at 9am today to consider the Oudekraal matter. Then it will immediately be referred to the full monthly coun-

cil meeting, due to begin a mere half hour later.

The plans cannot be approved, the committee will say, because advocate Mr Milton Seligson SC — who was asked for a legal opinion — said he believed the development rights had lapsed.

His 70-page legal opinion has not been made public, because he advised that it would be unwise to publish it. A legal wrangle looms — and divulging the contents might undermine the council's position.

But Seligson advised the council not to adopt a hostile attitude.

"Council should adopt the stance that, as development rights have lapsed, it is not in any position to approve the provision of services," he said.

Both the engineering committee and the full council are expected to follow this advice today. After that, the owner of the Oudekraal land, Mr Kassie Wiehahn, will be free to take the council to court in the hope of getting a ruling that he does have development rights.

Bank trades Sandy Bay with nature lovers

By CHARL de VILLIERS

(56)

NUDISTS may be listed among the wildlife in the proposed Cape Peninsula National Park following a bank's multimillion-rand gift of prime conservation land at Sandy Bay to the South African branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

In a compromise hammered out between the fund, Absa and the National Parks Board, dunes above the nudist beach and Hout Bay will be protected, while Absa DevCo will keep Isha on which to build its prestigious Kronenzicht estate.

If all goes according to plan, the nudists' famous beach and the peninsula mountain chain will eventually be given international status as a world heritage site, alongside Egypt's pyramids, the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef.

Absa announced this week that it would be donating 250ha of undeveloped real estate worth R200-million to the nature fund. The land abuts hotel magnate Sol Kerzner's Leutkoppie estate and sweeps from the summit of the Karbonkelberg to Sandy Bay.

Included in the deal is a R2-million donation from Absa for a five-year conservation management plan to clear alien plants from the area.

The gift ends a five-year row with environmentalists who opposed plans for a residential development on the site.

"The final conclusion is win-win," Absa's group communications manager, Victor Nosi, said this week.

The successful settlement of the row coincides with a painful blow to another developer, who has sparked a storm of protest with plans for a R750-million development at Oudekraal, a few kilometres along the coast from Sandy Bay.

The Cape Town city council decided on Friday to reject engineering services plans for the proposed estate. The development has been virulently opposed by Muslims who say it will desecrate the graves and shrines on the land.

The Sandy Bay donation will be managed for the World Wide Fund by the National Parks Board, which is working on the final details of setting up a park stretching between Signal Hill and Cape Point.



After interviews a bronzed wildlife specimen at Sandy Bay

Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

ST 3/11/96

'Condition of sulphur victims deteriorating'

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

(56) (12/23)

AKG 5/11/96

The condition of Macassar asthmatics and residents with chest problems is deteriorating 11 months after the sulphur fire at the AECI plant, the commission of inquiry into the fire has heard.

It was told that four months after the disastrous chemical fire last December, residents were still getting treatment at clinics.

The condition of these people - now under medication from their private doctors - had since deteriorated.

This was among the findings of a study compiled by Groote Schuur Hospital respiratory clinic head Neil White. His report was handed to the presidential commission of inquiry which held its sixth session in the Macassar community centre yesterday.

The commission, headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, is probing the impact of the sulphur fire on the Macassar community.

Answering questions from the commission's advocate, Jeff Immerman, Dr White said most of the 1 141 people treated and evaluated by him and a panel of doctors had asthma or chest problems.

Their condition got worse soon after the fire, which claimed the lives of two asthmatics and led to the temporary evacuation of Macassar.

Dr White said he would do follow up examinations of residents who were under medication.

Steel mill nearer shore than agreed

Province's rulings ignored

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The Saldanha Steel Project is being built about 500m closer to the shore of Saldanha Bay than the Western Cape provincial authorities have specified, a parliamentary committee has heard.

The plant was supposed to be 4km from the shore, but was being built 3,5km from it to avoid an environmentally sensitive koppie, environmental consultant John Raimondo told parliament's committee on the environment. This was done without informing the province, he said.

University of Cape Town environmental professor Richard Fuggle told the committee yesterday that it should help implement the recommendations of the Steyn Inquiry into the steel mill to ensure a proper balance between the interests of developers and communities.

He said that a major European

investor had decided not to back the multibillion rand steel project because the board's recommendations had been ignored.

Professor Fuggle, one of three members of the board, said its specific recommendations on the project had not been followed. These included that an alternative, inland site for the plant be fully investigated before the go-ahead was given for the site close to the shores of Saldanha Bay.

Instead, the Western Cape government had approved a rezoning application for the proposed site at Saldanha. Professor Fuggle said the plant was now fait accompli and no purpose would be served trying to have it removed.

But the parliamentary committee could use its influence to ensure that the general recommendations of the board were finally implemented. These included making environmental impact assessments a legal requirement, as part of the integrated environmental manage-

ment process for development.

One of the most important advantages of this process was that it ensured technical data was translated into language ordinary people could understand. This enabled them to respond meaningfully to development proposals, Professor Fuggle said.

Dr Raimondo said building the plant 4km inland would have meant encroaching on a hill on the site - Spioenkop - which was of high conservation value.

Saldanha Steel had therefore decided to centre the plant slightly closer to the lagoon, but had not informed the Western Cape government or the monitoring committee of the decision.

"That's what I felt was wrong - they hadn't checked with anybody," Dr Raimondo said.

This was the only one of 49 issues checked during the audit which scored negatively.

But Dr Raimondo was also critical of the decision to audit only bio-physical factors.

AKU 5/11/96

(56)

Professor calls for more effective environmental laws

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Environmental legislation to regulate and balance the interests of economic development and community protection was needed to prevent overdependence on politicians' "whims", UCT environmental professor Richard Fuggle said yesterday.

He proposed a permanent tri-

BD 5/10/96
bunal to oversee major developments on a continuing basis.

He told Parliament's environmental affairs and tourism portfolio committee at a workshop on the Saldanha steel project that SA had to level the playing fields between developers and communities. It was of no use to set up commissions, as no account was taken of their findings.

(56)
Fuggle criticised the fact that environmental impact assessments for major projects with vast ramifications were not legally mandatory in SA. Nor were such plans subject to critical assessment by independent parties.

Fuggle also urged adoption of formal procedures to regulate all industrial developments around the Saldanha steel mill.

Alien wattles wasting our water

(57) *AW* 6/11/96

Exotic plants have formed a stranglehold on the river systems feeding Gauteng

By Shirley Woodgate

A new name has been added to the list of scourges - from AIDS to tuberculosis, crime to violence - earmarked for urgent elimination from the South African scene.

Now it is the "aliens", a whole range of exotic plants that have multiplied vigorously throughout the country during hundreds of years of official ignorance and neglect.

Australian invaders, black and silver wattle alone, have seriously encroached on the Vaal Dam's 38 000sq km catchment area and 12 000sq km Upper Tugela catchment area.

Their stranglehold on some of the water courses of the main water supplier to 9 million people in Gauteng, the land's economic hub, have already blocked many of its feeder streams and killed off all indigenous vegetation in their shadow.

Rand Water scientist Marc de Fontaine said a single fully grown wattle was capable of sucking up to 200 litres of water a day.

The effect on the drought-threatened 2 572-billion cubic

metre Vaal Dam is obvious.

The main initiative to eradicate the aliens came two years ago from Minister Kader Asmal's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry which launched the national "Working for Water" project with an initial R25-million grant, which was pushed up to R50-million for 1996/7.

The aim was to kill two birds with one stone.

Jobs would be provided for thousands of unemployed people, who would be paid to eliminate the plants invading territory right on their own doorstep.

But long before official intervention, the Carte family, owners of the Cavern holiday resort in the Drakensberg, had identified the problem and tackled it on their own property.

Anthony Carte was concerned at the rate at which the voracious wattle was clogging up streams feeding natural dams where he and his brothers swam as youngsters.

"We had to act. Otherwise it would wipe out not only indige-

nous plants, but the tourist potential in the valley," Carte added.

The Cartes' initiative inspired the grant Rand Water parastatal to add its muscle to launch a community-backed effort to clear up its own wattle problem.

Chief executive Vincent Bath started the ball rolling in KwaZulu Natal with an injection of R30-million over the next three years. Some of this will be used to clear the

Upper Tugela catchment area from which Rand Water draws supplies in times of need.

Members of the local community, 50% of

them women, were rounded up and an "army" of 1 000 unemployed people were equipped with pangas and herbicidal sprays to systematically hack and kill off the wattle forests in the berg foothills.

They went to the root of the problem, to the streamlets which flow down to the Upper Tugela River, thence into the Woodstock Dam, to be pumped into the Sterkfontein Dam above and finally released to the Vaal Dam in times of

The wattle industry is up in arms about it

drought.

This requires repeat spraying of new growth with generic systemic herbicides such as the apply named Mamba, until all signs of re-infestation have been totally wiped out, said project manager William Pitchford.

He said eradication of alien vegetation would provide more and better water for all, and Bath added hundreds of millions of rands could be saved by avoiding or postponing the construction of dam, pipeline and purification systems.

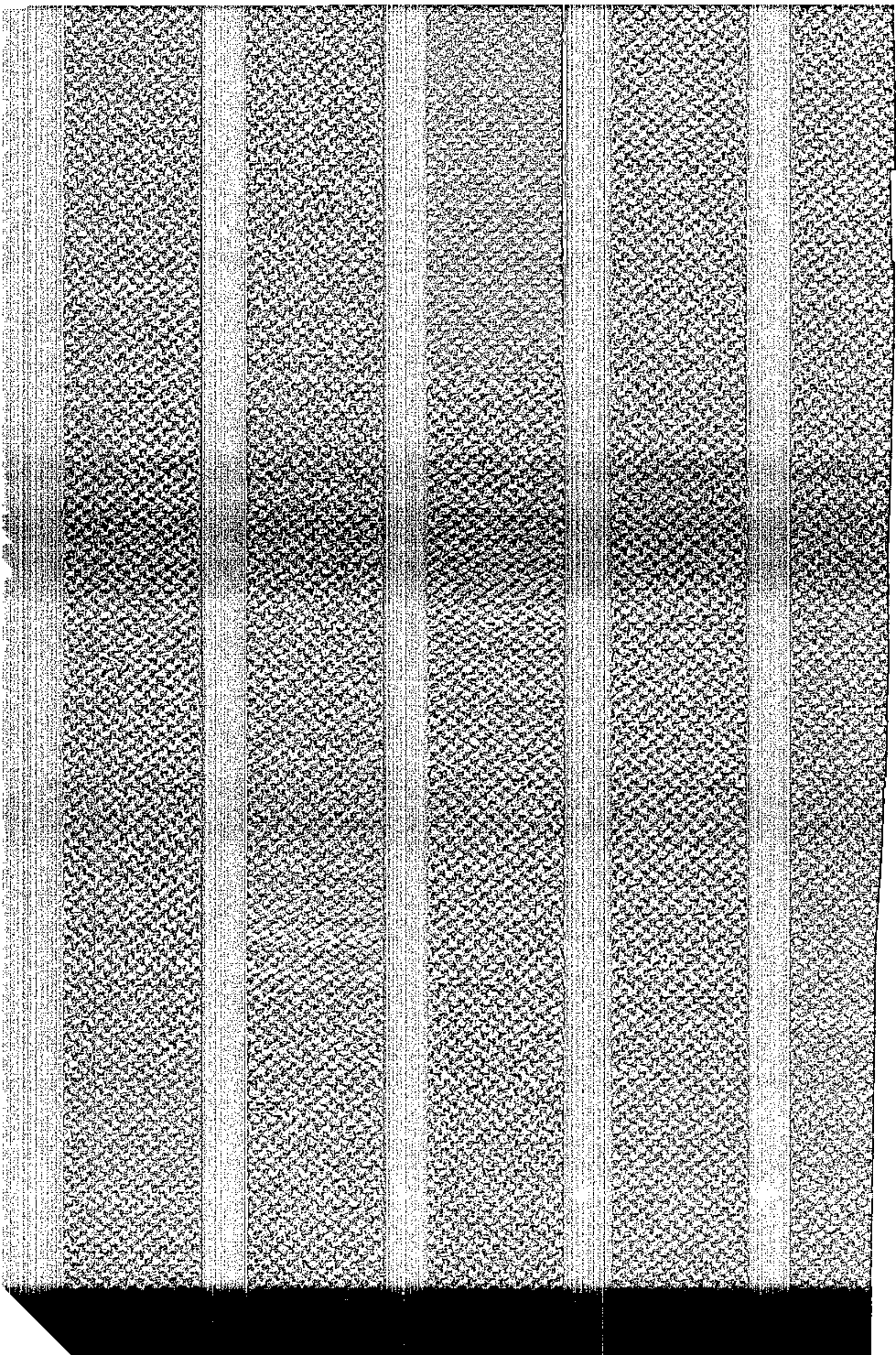
Not everyone is happy with the scheme. Understandably, the wattle industry is up in arms.

Although members of the Amangwane tribe are employed to remove wattle and improve the water supply to faraway Gauteng, their own water supply remains poor and compensation for land acquired for the Woodstock Dam inadequate, said tribal council member Patrick Maphulala.

Rand Water will soon embark on other alien plant removal schemes in the Golden Gate National Park, and at Zeekoewiel, near Mamel, where a wetland will be restored.

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AECI probe - woman tells of fire trauma

'I became asthmatic after blaze'

50 RB
AECI 6/11/96

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

A Macassar housewife has told the commission of inquiry investigating the AECI sulphur dump fire that she became an asthmatic soon after the blaze last December.

Maria Booysen of Soekmekaar Road was emotional at times while giving evidence at the Macassar community centre.

About 150 people attended yesterday's hearing of the commission, headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, which is probing the impact of the fire on the Macassar community and on the environment.

The fire claimed the lives of two asthmatics and led to the temporary evacuation of Macassar.

Mrs Booysen said that during the fire the eyes of her two foster children were smarting, they did not eat and their nappies were not changed.

Answering a question from commissioner Farida Khan, Mrs Booysen said her condition had deteriorated and, if she became anxious, she had trouble breathing.

Mrs Booysen said that on the evening of the fire her nose, throat and eyes smarted and while walking to a school for treatment she got dizzy and collapsed in the school grounds.

Ambulancemen gave her oxygen and she was

taken to hospital. She said doctors had diagnosed her as asthmatic. "Now, after this fire, I am an asthmatic under daily medication. I always pray that there will not be another fire," she said.

Mrs Booysen said AECI gave her R600 and told her she was not to ask for more money.

Another witness, Toyhirah Davids, said farmers had been paid out large amounts of money, which did not compare to what some residents had received. She said people's lives were worth more than farmers' crops.

The hearing continues today.

■ AECI's insurers may fork out more than R30-million to people who suffered losses during the fire.

Mike Cotton of CWB Adjusters told the commission yesterday this was a "gross estimate figure".

He said his company had spent R200 000 employing temporary staff and on a building and administration facilities to process claims. He said his company had already paid out R17-million in claims.

Under cross-examination by Macassar Crisis Committee legal representative Wim Trengove, Mr Cotton said he had received about 8 000 claimforms. The insurance company could not agree with some of the claims submitted in February and May.

The firm's legal representative, Ben Griesel, told the commission some agricultural claims were still outstanding.

Dangerous waste hazard for dump scavengers

(56) 60 6/11/96

Gauteng's hazardous waste disposal crisis has again been highlighted by the discovery of medical waste on a township rubbish dump, reports Josey Ballenger

IMPOVERISHED people from Sebokeng have been putting their lives in danger by hunting for items of value on a township refuse site littered with potentially hazardous medical and industrial waste.

Large quantities of medical materials have been illegally dumped at the unlicensed site situated in an old quarry south of Johannesburg. Among the more dangerous medical litter are drips, some still containing liquid, used syringes, test tubes, surgical gloves and masks.

The residents, most of them unemployed, routinely sort through the mounds of waste in search of scrap metal and refundable cold drink bottles.

Although the authorities are not sure who the culprits are, evidence seems to point to the province-run Sebokeng Hospital. But whether they are the only violators remains unknown.

The authorities said that while there were several private doctors' practices, clinics and an ambulance service in the area, the hospital seemed to be the most likely offender, because of the type and quantity of materials which were being dumped.

Officials from the hospital have admitted that some of the waste came from the hospital, and last week they sent workers to the site to remove dangerous objects and substances.

The action came after repeated complaints by the Lekoa Vaal metropolitan council's western sub-structure to hospital authorities about the dumping and the dangers posed to nearby residents.

"It looks as though there is a problem of control in the hospital in that they are not separating general and medical waste," said Lekoa Vaal western substructure community services head Jan du Preez.

"The fact that they (hospital officials) are cleaning up shows they accept that some of the refuse came from the hospital.

"But how it ended up there is the million-dollar question."

Local officials say the clean-up, while a positive development, hardly puts a dent in the overall waste disposal problem.

"There is no effective control of the dumping, and poor people can contract diseases," said Marius van Zyl of Jarrod Ball & Associates in Johannesburg, waste management consultants contracted to the Lekoa Vaal metropolitan council.

Brian Gibson, an independent consultant involved in conducting

environmental impact assessments of waste facilities, said: "The waste might have been predominantly from Sebokeng Hospital, but it is probably not a bad assumption that others are also dumping there."

Although he could not provide estimates of illegal medical dumping, Gibson said "even the smallest amount of medical waste falling outside the system is potentially very, very hazardous.

"The fact that pickers are operating on the site is nightmarish — people are being exposed to infectious material.

"It's not so much the scale of the problem, but its existence."

Gauteng's medical community generates about 320 tons of medical matter a month.

According to the minimum requirements for the handling and disposal of hazardous waste, adopted two years ago by central government's water affairs and forestry department, which is responsible for monitoring solid waste disposal, medical material is supposed to be placed in special containers, sealed and incinerated at an authorised facility.

There are four licensed incinerator plants in the province, the main one being operated by waste management company Waste-tech at Rietfontein.

Bugs Binz and National Hygiene operate commercial incinerators in Roodepoort although National Hygiene's burned down a month ago, and the Johannesburg municipality runs a facility at Natalspruit to handle "spillover" quantities.

In addition, the hazardous waste landfill site at Holfontein, on the border of Gauteng and Mpumalanga, has recently been licensed to receive medical waste.

Gibson said that while the collection of waste had improved dramatically because hospitals had closed down their own substandard incinerators since August last year, there were still violations.

"The situation has hugely improved over the past year, but there are still situations where some medical facilities are either deliberately sending small amounts of medical waste to municipal sites, or they are doing so in error," Gibson said.

"There is nothing cheaper than illegal dumping. Even if a violator is fined, the

fines are in hundreds of rands, not thousands," he said.

"Society has to rely on the conscience of the generators (to comply with environmental standards), and we need to increase the number of waste incinerators."

As was the case in Sebokeng, if a medical facility fails to dispose of its waste properly, the offence is exacerbated by the crisis of a shortage of landfill facilities.

The Sebokeng quarry, for example, is one of 11 illegal rubbish tips in the Lekoa Vaal region which are frustrating local and water affairs officials who have not had the funds or staff to monitor dumping or to close dangerous sites.

The Lekoa Vaal metropolitan council is currently trying to set up three new licensed sites for the region, but it is a long and complex process.

Officials cannot prosecute violators because there are few authorised alternatives. At present, the only site in the Lekoa Vaal area for which a permit application has been submitted to water affairs is in Boipatong.

"The illegal sites, inherited from the apartheid era, must be closed in a satisfactory manner. They are environmentally and publicly unacceptable," said Van Zyl. "Water affairs is not enforcing the permit situation because it knows the local authorities are sorting it out."

Water affairs regional assistant director Pieter van der Merwe, said: "Water affairs is putting a lot of pressure on the Lekoa Vaal authorities to sort out the dumping problem.

"But we are being a bit lenient, because you cannot just close a waste site overnight, and it is difficult and expensive to find a new site."

Water affairs water quality manager Carin Bosman said: "Currently, we do not have the ca-

capacity to check on each and every industry.

"The local authority is the eyes and ears on the ground for water affairs," she said.

But local monitoring is a problem, as a result of a lack of funds and legislation. Because the authorities cannot prove who the actual offend-

ers are at Sebokeng — or at other similar sites — no fines have been issued.

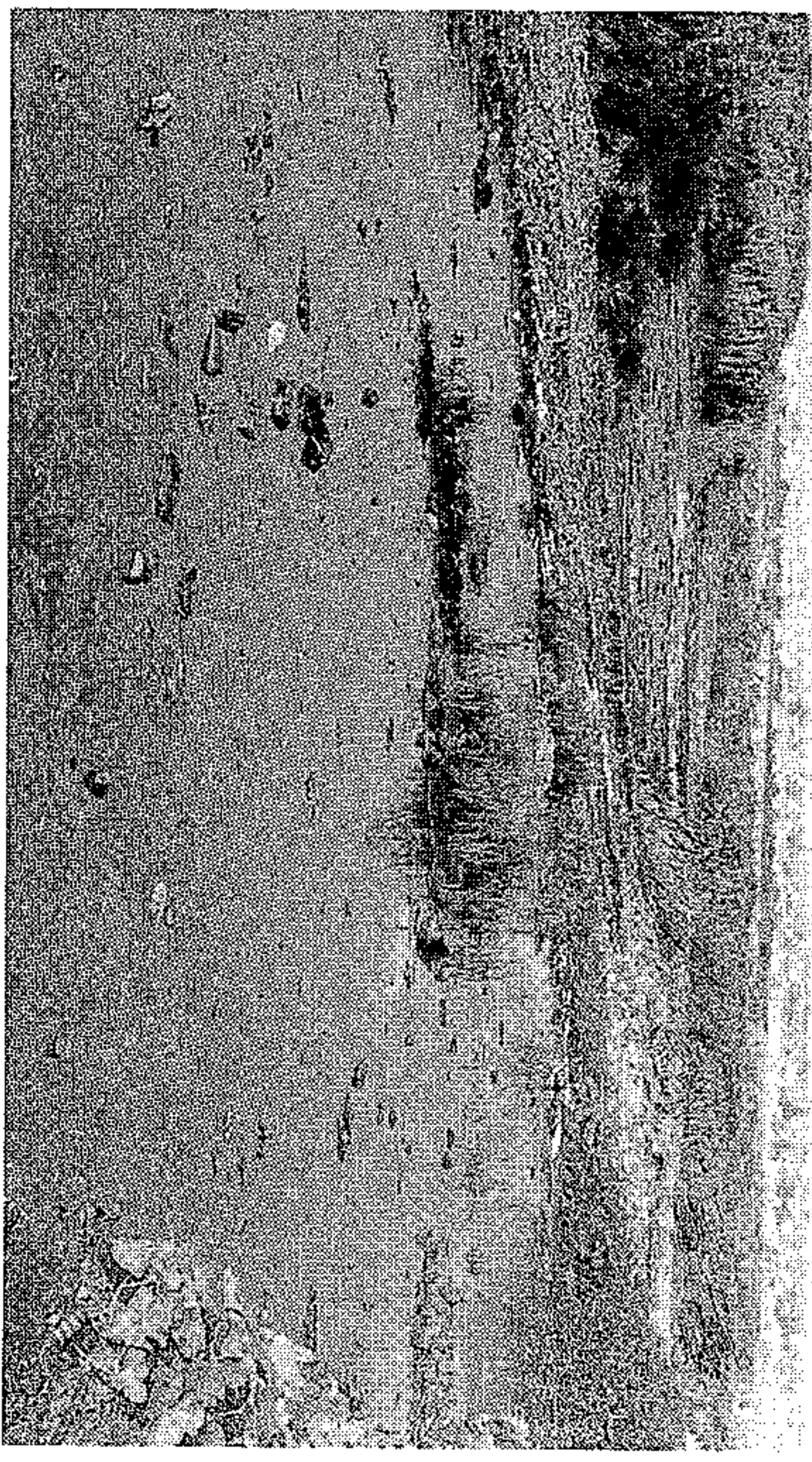
"Waste management legislation and administration in SA is very fragmented. There is no system, and that is the biggest pitfall at the moment," said Van Zyl.

Gibson agreed, but said government had already made improvements to the country's system of waste management. Initiatives were under way to consolidate existing legislation, he he said.



Medical waste, including syringes with needles and still containing fluid, litter the refuse site in Sebokeng.

Picture: JARRODBALL



Industrial waste at the rubbish dump in Sebokeng.

Picture: JARRODBALL

Jordan backs opposition to hotel project (56)

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

CT 7/11/96

THE National Parks Board's court challenge to the proposed development of a hotel on the White House site in the Oudekraal area of Table Mountain yesterday received the full support of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan.

Jordan said at an ANC briefing that he could not advise the parks board or non-governmental organisations what to do. "But I never advise people to let things go. I am an old campaigner and you have to campaign for things.

"What I can say is that the National Parks Board has our full support in fighting against that development. We will continue to give them our support.

"To the extent of our legal capacity, we will support them," Jordan said.



OBED ZILWA

Attentive: Audrey Williams, widow of sulphur fire victim Ronald Williams, and her son Bronwyn

Sulphur widow paid R15 000

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

783 56

ARC 7/11/96

The widow of a Strand asthmatic who died during the chemical fire at the AECI plant told the commission probing the disaster that soon after her husband's death the company paid her R15 000 for immediate expenses.

Audrey Williams, in the witness box with her son, Bronwyn, was called by their attorney, Peter Mopp, to testify in the Macassar community centre before about 250 residents last night.

The sulphur fire led to the the deaths of two people and the temporary evacuation

of Macassar. Mrs Williams, wife of taxi operator Ronald Williams, relived the traumatic experience when her husband died after inhaling toxic sulphur dioxide fumes.

Andrew Williams, brother of Ronald Williams, on his way to a wedding reception at the Somchem plant recreation hall in Macassar, slumped over the wheel of his car and also died the same night. Andrew was 54 and Ronald 47. Mrs Williams told the commission, appointed by President Nelson Mandela and headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, that AECI officials visited her two days after the fire.

She was paid R15 000 before the funeral to cover her immediate costs.

Project launched to halt degradation of wetlands

(56)

Mar 8/11/19b

At the heart of the campaign is a set of illustrated field guides

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Wetland fix, a national project to halt the alarming degradation of the country's wetlands, has been launched by three major conservation organisations.

In the initial phase the project will target Cauteng, the Free State, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal, according to project executive David Lindley of the Wildlife Society (WS), which has combined forces with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

The Rennie Wetlands Project is all about management without costs, says Lindley, and will be directed at provincial authorities in agriculture and conservation and landowners, farmers and managers of wetlands.

"We will try to influence their thinking first of all and then try to get

them to put wetlands on their agendas. This will be done at workshops," Lindley said. "We will then assist with the development of action plans to conserve and rehabilitate wetlands for their sustainable use."

The national campaign is based on a pilot programme which has been running for four years, mainly in KwaZulu Natal and to a lesser extent in the Free State and Mpumalanga.

The project started in 1991 after the WWF realised that something had to be done about the chronic lack of awareness about wetlands. It approached the private sector for funding, and eventually Renfright, Mazda Wildlife and South African Breweries came aboard as principal funders.

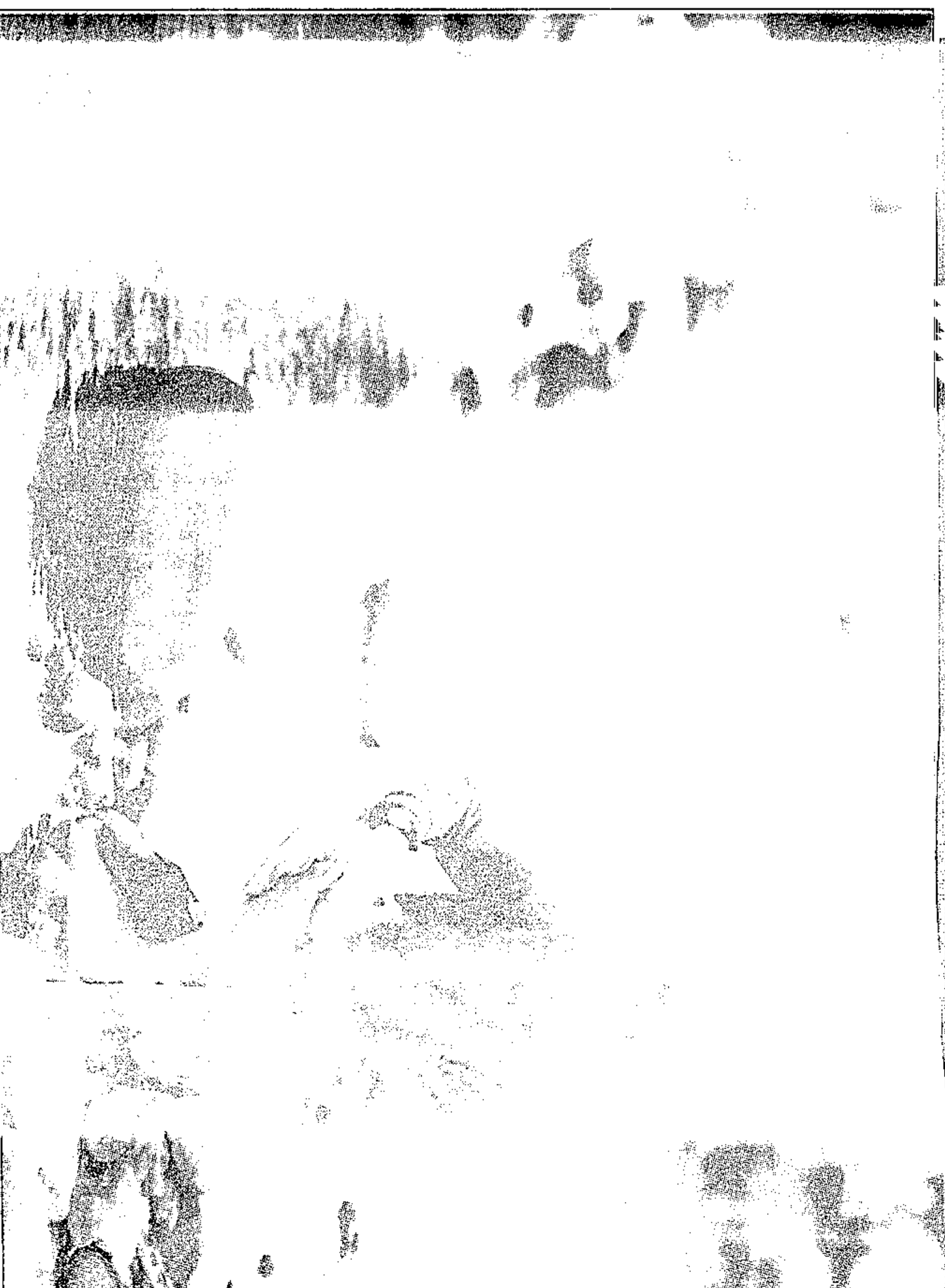
A steering committee involving the WS, NPB and WWF was set up and Jon Wyatt of the NPB was appointed to manage the programme.

The heart of the campaign is a set of "Wetlands Fix" booklets compiled by Wyatt which represent the combined wisdom of wetland experts. Together the six booklets are an illustrated field guide and work-book for practical use by landowners and managers.

"It is South Africa's first field guide specific to our wetlands, and there's probably nothing like it in the world," said Lindley.

Part 1 introduces what wetlands are, how they function and how to assess them. The different types of wetlands are illustrated from stream sources through to marine settings, and their value is quantified. Questionnaires and worksheets allow participants to identify and analyse the state of their wetlands.

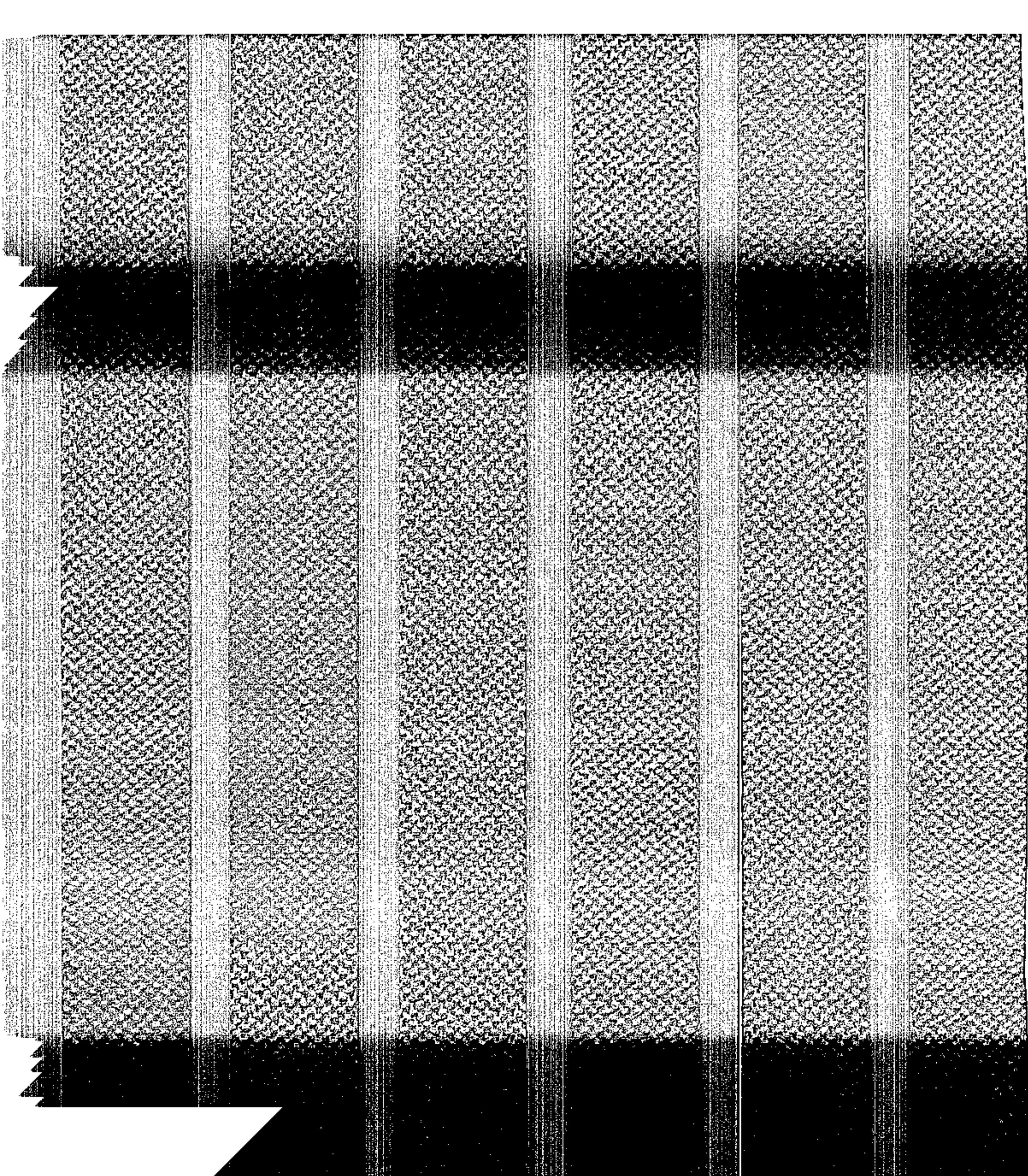
Inquiries can be made to Lindley on phone number (011) 486-3294, fax 486-3369 or PO Box 44189, Linden 2104.



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David Lindley
with nature.

and rehabilitating



'Children ill after Macassar blaze'

56
NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

ARG 8/11/96
The commission of inquiry investigating the sulphur fire at AECI in Somerset West has been told two Macassar children developed breathing problems afterwards.

The commission, headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, was appointed by President Mandela to investigate the sulphur stockpile at African Explosives and Chemical Industries, the

cause of the fire last December, the adequacy of emergency response to the disaster and its impact.

Two asthmatics died and Macassar was evacuated during the fire.

Macassar resident Dorothy Cupido, a mother of three, yesterday told the commission that her son Kurt, 7, had been diagnosed as an asthmatic and had a damaged lung as a result of the fire.

Another resident, Cornelia Hickley, said her daughter Tracy-Lee, 6, had developed a bronchial ailment.

Radioactive waste mop-up 'progressing'

David Capel

(56)
BO 8/11/96
THE Atomic Energy Corporation said yesterday the clean-up operation at its radioactive waste storage area at Pelindaba was "running smoothly".

This follows reports earlier this year that radioactive contamination from Thabana, also known as Radiation Hill, was causing concern among nuclear safety and other experts.

Council for Nuclear Safety licensing manager SWP Swanepoel said in a report made public in February that

drums containing radioactive waste had been ruptured by a mechanical digger, spilling the contents.

The corporation estimated half the spilled waste had now been "sorted and containerised in 1 60l metal drums.

This amounted to 75 tons, of which 65 tons were contaminated soil. The material would be placed in temporary storage, "pending a decision on its future disposition". The AEC said the waste was mainly contaminated with uranium, but trace amounts of cobalt 60 and caesium 137 were also found.

Jordan gets tough on environment abuse

Profit-seekers to get short shrift

ARG 9/11/96

(56)

ADELE BALETA
STAFF REPORTER

The era in which some people had become accustomed to blatantly abusing the environment, ignoring what most South Africans had to say, and looking for the easiest way to the biggest profits, is over.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan said this was not a warning from the ANC government but a "clear message" that came through from broad public consultation in the development of two green papers his department launched last month.

Dr Jordan referred to the key green papers on "An Environmental Policy for South Africa" and on the "Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity" during an ANC media briefing in Parliament this week.

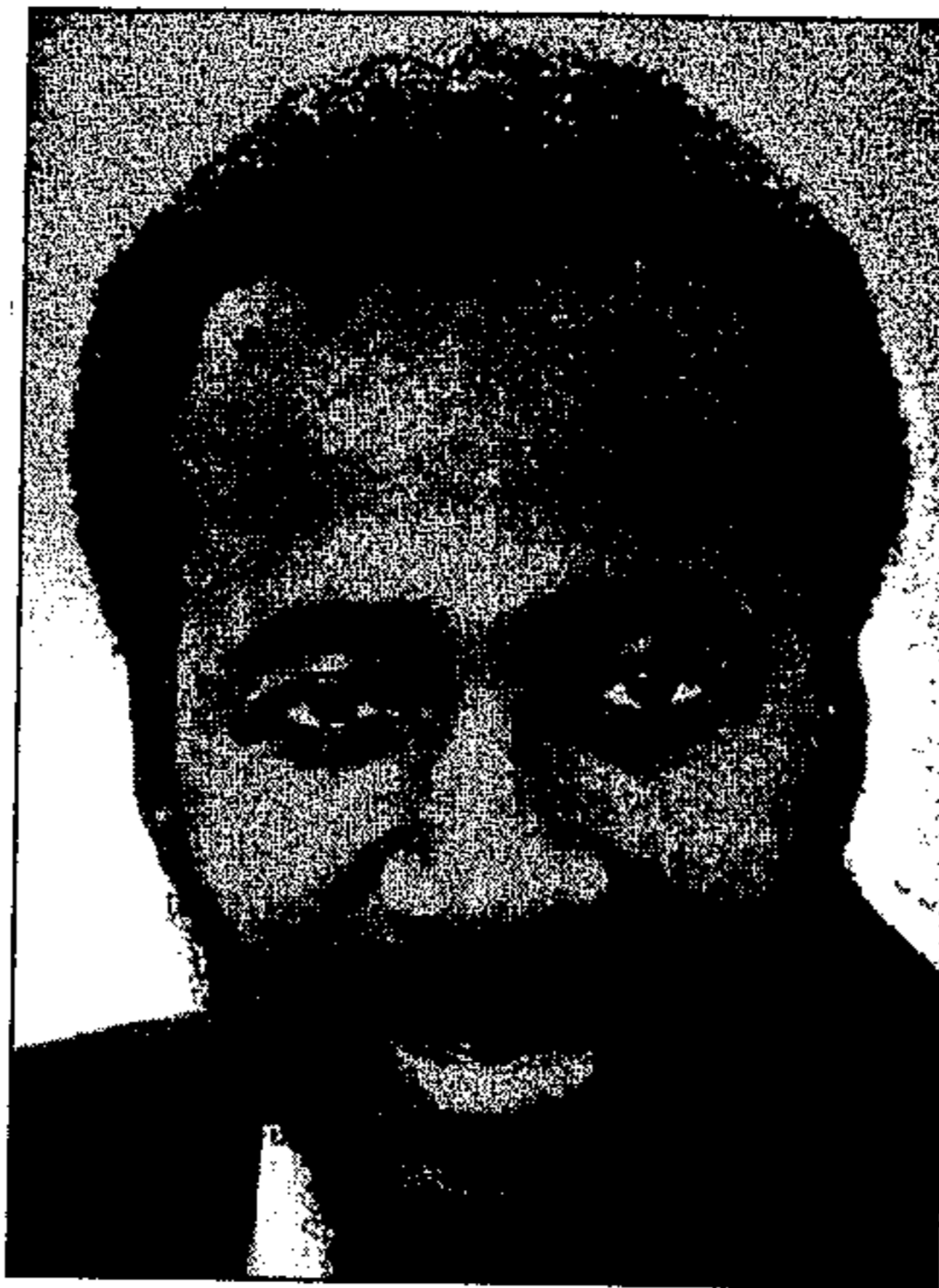
Budgetary constraints and the decision to reduce the size of the public service had reduced his capacity to meet growing environmental needs. December 16 is the deadline for public comment on the green papers which were born out of a "dynamic consultation process" called Consultative National Environmental Policy Process (Connepp).

Connepp national co-ordinator Christelle van der Merwe said one of the most exciting features of the green paper on environmental policy was that the debate on contentious issues was far from over.

So, what are the thorny issues in the environmental policy green paper?

Those requiring resolution by government in the development of a white paper, which is expected at the end of March, were the question of who would be accountable for environmental regulation and the issue of the unnecessary proliferation of institutional structures.

On the one hand, the development sector would argue for a better system of self regulation by commerce and industry - meaning that each industry regulated itself with regard to environmental



Clear message: Minister Pallo Jordan

impacts. On the other hand, parties argue that regulation is government's responsibility. There was also the question of affordability in relation to developments and the costs which might be incurred from specific levels of environmental protection and management.

There is major debate on how a workable system of environmental administration can be achieved so as to include all levels of government and many sectoral interests.

According to Connepp, there are many different views on what the role of a Department of Environment should be. Some quarters promote a strengthening of the national department supported by a permanent cabinet committee for environmental affairs. Others believe this responsibility should be devolved to either provincial or ad hoc structures. What was clear was that the lack of capacity and resources would restrict options, Ms Van der Merwe said.

The green paper on environmental policy's important focal points included:

- Ensuring there is better equity regarding access to environmental resources including access to land, use of natural resources and the supply of services.

- Ensuring that all people are able to exist in a healthy environment which is free of hazardous pollution. This is an objective which is highlighted in the new constitution.

- Endeavouring to develop a more sustainable lifestyle for the country in which the environment is not irreversibly damaged. Environmental debts of the present could not be left for future generations. Consumption patterns and long-term protection of the environment was necessary.

- Developing a participative form of environmental management style in which there is a more transparent approach to decision-making.

- Developing capacity for a better understanding of environmental issues and management. This involved better environmental education and training.

- Developing a more complete and responsible system of governance which integrated environmental issues with those of development and ensuring better disclosure and dissemination of information.

- Developing an improved system for resolving environmental issues which might involve international trade issues.

- Improving waste management with respect to health, cleaner production and hazardous materials.

- Incorporating land use and natural resource use into planning of urban and rural areas.

The green paper on biodiversity represented a commitment to addressing the global crisis of a rapidly contracting biological diversity. South Africa had more than 24 000 species of plants.

These were a tourist attraction and enabled the country to meet demands for food and energy, Dr Jordan said.

Laws to protect environment from development (56)

Star 11/11/96
New legislation forcing developers to do an initial environmental impact assessment (EIA) before the start of projects will be promulgated early next year.

In a statement last week, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism said the new legislation would provide standards for the impact of development projects on the environment.

The legislation would be the first step towards formalising environmental impact assessment in South Africa, along international lines, the statement said.

The Environment Conservation Act would authorise the Minister of Environmental Affairs to identify activities which require an EIA. Those which could have a detrimental effect have been listed in the provisions published in the Government Gazette of November 1.

Comments on the legislation should be submitted to the Director-General, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001, before January 29 next year.

- Sapa.

Game farmers face regulation

BD 12/11/96

(56) (S)

Louise Cook

THE R1bn-a-year privately run game industry has come out strongly against moves by the Gauteng provincial authorities to introduce a registration and permit system for hunters.

The Gauteng Nature Conservation has proposed that the new system should apply to the province and possibly the whole country.

In a report in the SA Hunter, the province, in the process of writing a new Nature Conservation Act, called for a new system to regulate hunting. According to the report, "All persons wishing to hunt in the province/s will have to register with an accredited hunting organisation, representing all hunting associations in SA."

If the industry failed to organise into a single representative body registration would be the responsibility of the conservation authority. The new representative body would have to set registration fees and pay a maximum of 25% to the provincial government for running a permit-and-tag system of

control, the report said.

Game farmers see the move as a ploy by the Gauteng government to cash in on industry profit, saying provincially owned reserves were losing money as the authorities failed to farm them profitably.

Northern Game Association president Jimmie Malan dismissed arguments by the province that game was a scarce resource, needing government regulation and control. "Since private farming started up, more opportunities, jobs and farms have been set up than in the time government was the only roleplayer.

"We do not need intervention — the money paid to the province will go into state coffers and will not be used to boost the industry. The authorities are trying to tell farmers how to market their product."

Malan said that, up to now, government's role did not extend beyond the approval of special fencing around the farm and issuing a permit which allowed hunting on the property, provided the fence met the requirements.

Kruger communities set for showdown with National Parks Board

Star 12/11/96

(56)

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

A showdown between the National Parks Board and grassroots communities looms at today's open forum in Midrand to discuss a new management policy for Kruger National Park.

This emerged yesterday at a media conference by representatives of communities living along Kruger's western boundary, held under

the auspices of the Africa Resources Trust.

According to a joint statement, the communities are demanding the creation of a forum to ensure effective participation in and benefit from the management of Kruger.

Demands include compensation for damages caused by problem animals, access to natural and cultural resources, greater benefit from economic activity, environmental education programmes, and contributions

from Kruger towards infrastructural development such as clinics, water, electricity and housing.

The communities support culling and the downlisting of the elephant population to Cites Appendix II to allow trade in ivory and elephant products.

The statement was the outcome of a workshop organised by the Group for Environmental Monitoring, attended by about 100 delegates. It will be tabled at today's meeting.

It's a race against time over Khayalami toxic dump site

Nov 13/11/96 (57)

If no agreement is reached by end of month, province may give go-ahead

By HOPEWELL RADEBE
City Desk

Residents in the Khayalami metro area east of Johannesburg may lose the battle against preventing the creation of a toxic waste dump in their backyard.

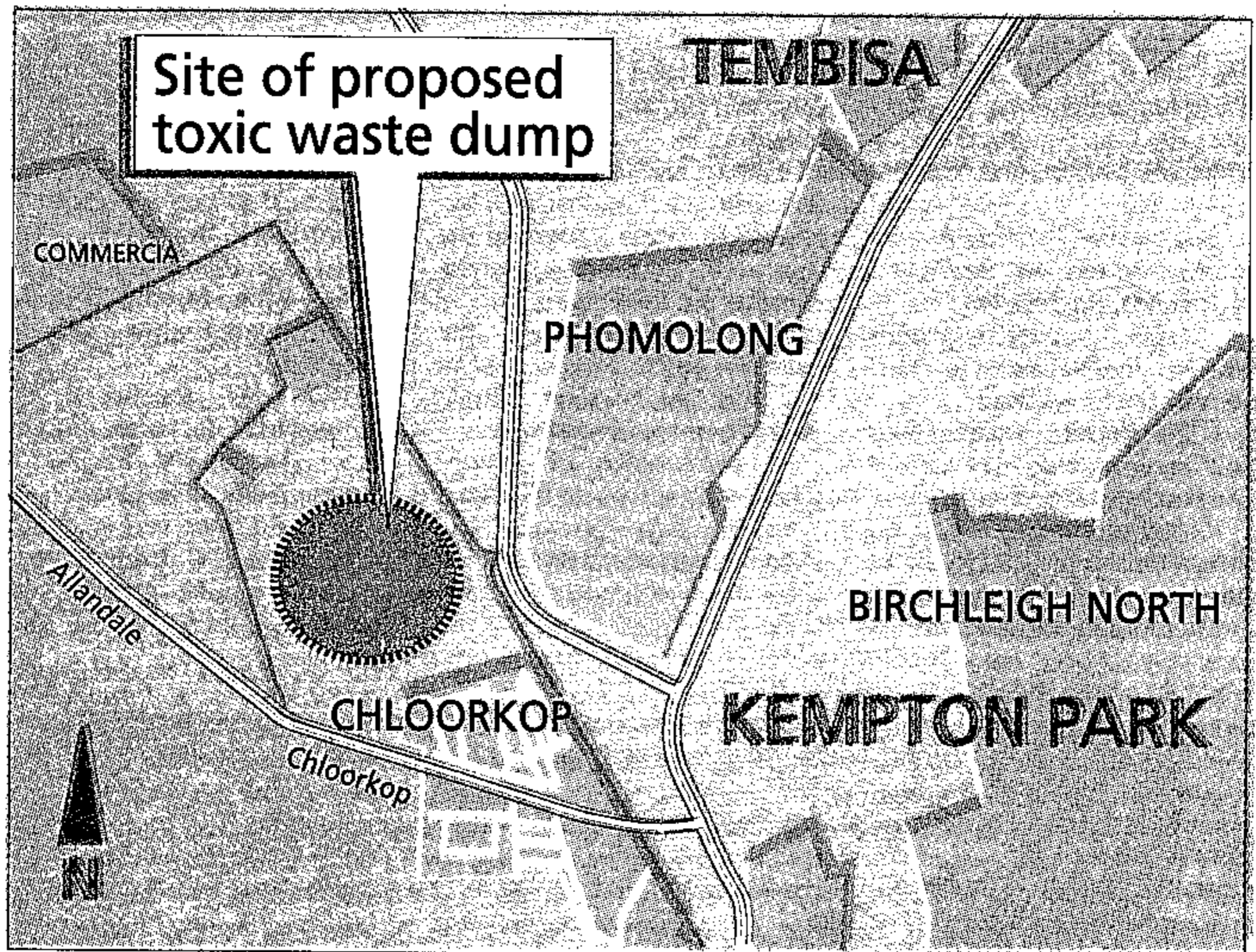
If residents, councils and the disposal company cannot reach an agreement about the use of the controversial toxic waste dump being built in the area, the provincial government may give it the go-ahead at the end of this month.

This was the word from Development Planning and Local Government MEC Sicelo Shiceka, who said agreement had to be reached by the end of November or the province would have to impose "an unpopular decision" on residents.

Kempton Park/Tembisa council deputy executive committee chairman Bheki Khumalo said the disposal company, Waste-Tech, had already spent R10-million preparing a site near Midrand for toxic waste dumping and was threatening to sue the council if forced to leave the area.

Khumalo said the company had extracted a promise from the old Kempton Park town council in the early part of this decade to rezone the area between Allandale (R39) and Modderfontein roads for the purpose of dumping.

Residents from the neighbouring suburbs of Birchleigh and Chloorkop got wind of the proposed dumping site in 1993



and strongly opposed rezoning, which has still not been granted. Construction went ahead anyway and is now almost complete.

The issue became heated earlier this year when residents lobbied councillors of the newly elected council to oppose the site. Council was divided on the issue and a special tribunal was unable to resolve the matter.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal was asked to intervene and he suggested the creation of formal, highly monitored toxic dumps.

At the time, Asmal said that because of the type of industry in the area, there was a need for proper dumping sites. The responsible council would have to find a way to accommodate this need, he said.

Khumalo said: "If the council completely refuses to acknowledge the need for creating well-managed and regulated toxic waste dumps in the region, illegal dumping of dangerous substances will continue."

The council was caught in the middle of this responsibility and its responsibility to residents, he

said. The situation has been exacerbated by the rapid development of Phomolong section in Tembisa, where residents on the outer edge of the section are now less than 1km away from the proposed dumping site.

"We would rather encourage by-laws or call for the establishment of legislative guidelines both at national and provincial level to help in restricting and monitoring such dumps," said Khumalo. Before this could happen, the council wanted to examine the implications of toxic dumps on the surrounding area.

Secret deals over sulphur queried

Fire inquiry told AECI held stocks for government

58

AKA 13/11/96

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Questions have been asked at the inquiry into the Somerset West sulphur fire about secret deals between the former government and African Explosives and Chemical Industries.

A document labelled "confidential" was studied by Commissioner Mr Justice Siraj Desai, by AECI and Department of Trade and Industry legal teams and by attorneys acting on behalf of the Macassar Crisis Committee at yesterday's hearing in Macassar.

Lee Bozalek, for the community, asked whether the former government and AECI had engaged in secret deals.

A letter, part of the document, addressed to AECI's Gauteng head office by an official in the Department of Industries, Commerce and Tourism dated November 4 1981, read: "The government stocks of sulphur at Somerset West are to be increased by 15 000 tons.

"As in the past you will buy at the most advantageous prices as if for your own account and the name of this department or the government must not be disclosed in any transaction relating to the purchase of the sulphur.

"Payment will be made to yourselves on submission of copies of relevant invoices, converted into local currency where necessary.

"Consideration will be given to increasing the total government stocks of sulphur under your control when the storage problem at Umbogintwini, Natal, has been solved."

And in a footnote: "The cost of 15 000 tons is approximately R2,2-million."

The writer of the letter thanked AECI for its previous letter.

Mr Desai asked the department and

AECI to explain the document, and the hearing continues today.

Earlier, a Department of Trade and Industry official told the commission that the sulphur at AECI in Somerset West, where last December's fire killed two Macassar asthmatics, had not been sold.

Department communications director Ismail Lagardien yesterday told the commission that a tender process begun about four weeks ago was aimed at removing and selling the sulphur owned by the government. The sulphur was worth only R75 000.

Asked why it was taking so long for the department to dispose of the chemical, Mr Lagardien said he had begun "protracted discussions" with the Macassar community and AECI about their concerns.

He said residents had agreed that the stockpile be removed, but on condition a record be kept of such operations.

Mr Lagardien said that in March, April and May "we were busy putting together a response to questions by Legal Resources Centre attorney Vincent Saldanha, acting on behalf of the community. Our answer had to go through our legal and other line departments before the documents could be sent to the centre"

The commission has heard that AECI wrote to the department earlier this year asking about the sulphur dump and on September 5 told the department it was no longer prepared to be the custodian of the dump for the government.

Mr Lagardien said: "Since then tenders have gone out to sell the sulphur."

Mr Lagardien confirmed that the government owned the sulphur, and that AECI had agreed to its safe-keeping.

He read from a document: "During the early 1960s, the government introduced a strategic sulphur stockpiling scheme to counteract the effect of sanctions. An arrangement was made with AECI to stockpile the sulphur."



DOUG PITHEY

Testimony: Ismail Lagardien testifies at the commission of inquiry into last year's AECI sulphur fire

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Testimony: Ismail Lagardien testifies at the commission of inquiry into last year's AECI sulphur fire

DOUG PITHEY

SO TH Jo yo de su th ch ki M N Pe K C th C S b fa tw hi in fi p ci s fa v fi al p r s r A r b c s I c

People want a share of the parks ...

An indaba held by the parks board to discuss the problem of elephants in the Kruger Park ended up being dominated by the needs of neighbouring communities, writes **Eddie Koch**

THE sky on the night of President Nelson Mandela's inauguration back in May 1994 was moonless and, after watching the song and dance at the Union Buildings on an old television set, I sat in a hut with Gilbert Nwala talking by candlelight about life in his village about a kilometre from the fence of the Kruger National Park.

Nwala, a cattle farmer from the village of Mabiligwe in a far corner of the Northern Province, told a story of how his neighbours had been moved at gunpoint from the northern parts of what is now the Kruger Park, and he described the manifold problems which continued to affect their lives on the day of their freedom.

This is how he described the paradox: "Today we have our freedom. Yet we cannot move. We feel locked in. The people of Mabiligwe had lived in a wild and beautiful part of the park for more than 100 years when government trucks and some policemen arrived in 1969 and told them to move. Some resisted by throwing stones but the community relented when the police threatened to shoot."

As he spoke, a series of low bellows emanated from the cattle kraal next to his homestead. Nwala's sons ran into the darkness where they found a heifer that had been chased and mauled by hyenas. The boys slit its throat, and as its blood seeped into the earth, Nwala explained that in a bad month he



Putting their case: People from communities neighbouring the Kruger Park want some involvement in the management of the park. PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

could lose six head of cattle to predators which break out of the fence that separates his people from the park where they once lived.

This week, more than two years after Mandela's inauguration, the representatives of thousands of people like Gilbert Nwala made it clear that they would no longer accept a situation in which ordinary rural people, many of them the victims of removal to make way for the park, are expected to bear the new burdens of living next to one of the world's most famous game reserves.

The occasion was a conference called by the National Parks Board this week to discuss how best to manage the elephant herds of the Kruger Park without resorting to culling — one of the most heated environmental controversies in recent times. Billed as the elephant indaba,

the event turned into one of the most important challenges to this country's conservation authorities to ensure that game reserves play a meaningful role in rural development.

"We know very much that the Kruger Park is a national asset. But we shouldn't forget that the wild animals in Kruger have a direct impact on the local people. The animals are destroying our products. The park must help to make development programmes to upgrade these neighbouring communities. We feel we must be assisted by the Kruger National Park," said Mmbengeni Musalafu, a local government councillor for three villages adjoining the park's northern boundary.

"What the communities want is some involvement in the management of the park because their voice is not being heard. The National

Parks Board seems to be representing animals only because at the end of the day the people's voice is not being heard," added Joseph Ngwenya, member of the transitional local council for the Bushbuckridge area.

The councillors were part of a delegation representing villages along the entire western border of the Kruger Park which attended the conference to make the very basic point that, although the South African public had a right to discuss what went on inside the national park, the needs of people who used to live there and whose livelihoods were most affected had to be given priority.

And Elvis Madhlope, vice chair of the Bushbuckridge Environmental Forum, emphasised lions which preyed on people's livestock or marauding elephants trampling people's crops were only the most dramatic issue the delegation wanted to deal with.

Historically people lived there, he said. "But ever since the Kruger National Park was established we have never seen what that place can do for the community. No classrooms or businesses like people being able to sell their crafts in there. Take even this elephant issue. We hear about the selling of ivory in the past but we never knew what happened to it."

A set of resolutions, adopted earlier this month at a workshop attended by more than 100 people from many of the villages bordering the park, insisted that mechanisms or an institution must be created to ensure effective community participation in and benefit from the management of the Kruger National Park.

A number of speakers at this week's

conference added that the new board of trustees, appointed last year by the Cabinet to oversee the work of the parks board, was not creating this opportunity. "We are not really challenging the legitimacy of this new board of trustees. But we are challenging the effectiveness of their job. Many issues need their attention but have not yet been addressed."

Members of the rural delegation said they were disturbed to hear about the public conference to discuss how best to manage the population of Kruger's elephants in the press — even though the park's management had set up four forums in regions adjoining the park to liaise with neighbouring communities about conservation issues that affected them.

"The parks board made no plans to take the process to communities," said Unjinee Poonan of the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem), the organisation that arranged the community workshop and delegation. "The National Parks Board didn't even take the policy discussion document to its own community forums."

A list of resolutions presented by the rural delegation stated that specific needs of the neighbouring communities that must be addressed through a change in the management policy of the Kruger National Park included:

- Compensation for damages suffered by problem animals.
- Access to natural and cultural resources in the park. The former includes firewood, water and thatching but also ... the right to harvest wildlife through hunting. The latter includes the right of access to visit sites of cultural importance such as ancestral graves.
- Business partnerships based on tourism and related activities to do with the existence of the park. This would be one of the most effective ways to redistribute the benefits and revenues generated by Kruger's existence.
- Environmental education to remedy past exclusion of black people from exposure to game reserves and the kind of conservation values that they generate.
- Contributions from revenues generated by the park to infrastructural development such as the provision of water, electricity, housing and clinics.

Julian Sturgeon, from the Africa Resources Trust (Art), pointed out that the communities demands were modest and responsible. They respected the park's integrity and did not want to take over the reserve so that it could be used for farming or other economic activities.

Sturgeon added it was a priority for the parks board — along with other government agencies such as provincial governments, the Department of Land Affairs and the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism — to ensure that effective programmes were created on the borders of Kruger.

Gilbert Nwala may not have realised it when his heifer was killed by hyenas in Mabiligwe more than two years ago, but the event that took place earlier that day — the inauguration of a new government which has given effective power to ordinary people in far-flung parts of the country — has ensured that people and their needs can no longer be ignored by the country's conservation authorities.

And this, rather than issues relating to the complex question of whether to cull or not to cull elephants, was the basic message from the parks board's indaba this week.

... but do elephant need to get the pill?

THIRTY five elephant in the Kruger Park have been darted from the air with sedatives, checked with an ultra-sound machine to ensure they are not pregnant, and given a hefty dose of the pachyderm pill in a novel experiment designed to test whether animal contraception can minimise the need for culling the Kruger National Park's elephant population.

The experiment, funded by the Humane Society of the United States, involves research into two types of contraception. The first method, known as "immuno-contraception," requires the cows to be injected with a vaccine derived from proteins harvested from pigs' ovaries. The vaccine provokes the formation of antibodies in the elephant that binds its ovaries and prevents them from being penetrated by sperm.

The second method requires the cow to be immobilised so that implants of oestrogen, which work according to the same principles as the contraceptive pill used by women, can be surgically implanted into the animals. So far 25 cows have been vaccinated and another 10 implanted with the pill.

The aim of the experiment is to determine whether this kind of contraception works and, if so, whether it has an adverse effect on the long-term fertility and behaviour of the elephants.

Initial computer modelling suggests that at least 2 300 adult cows

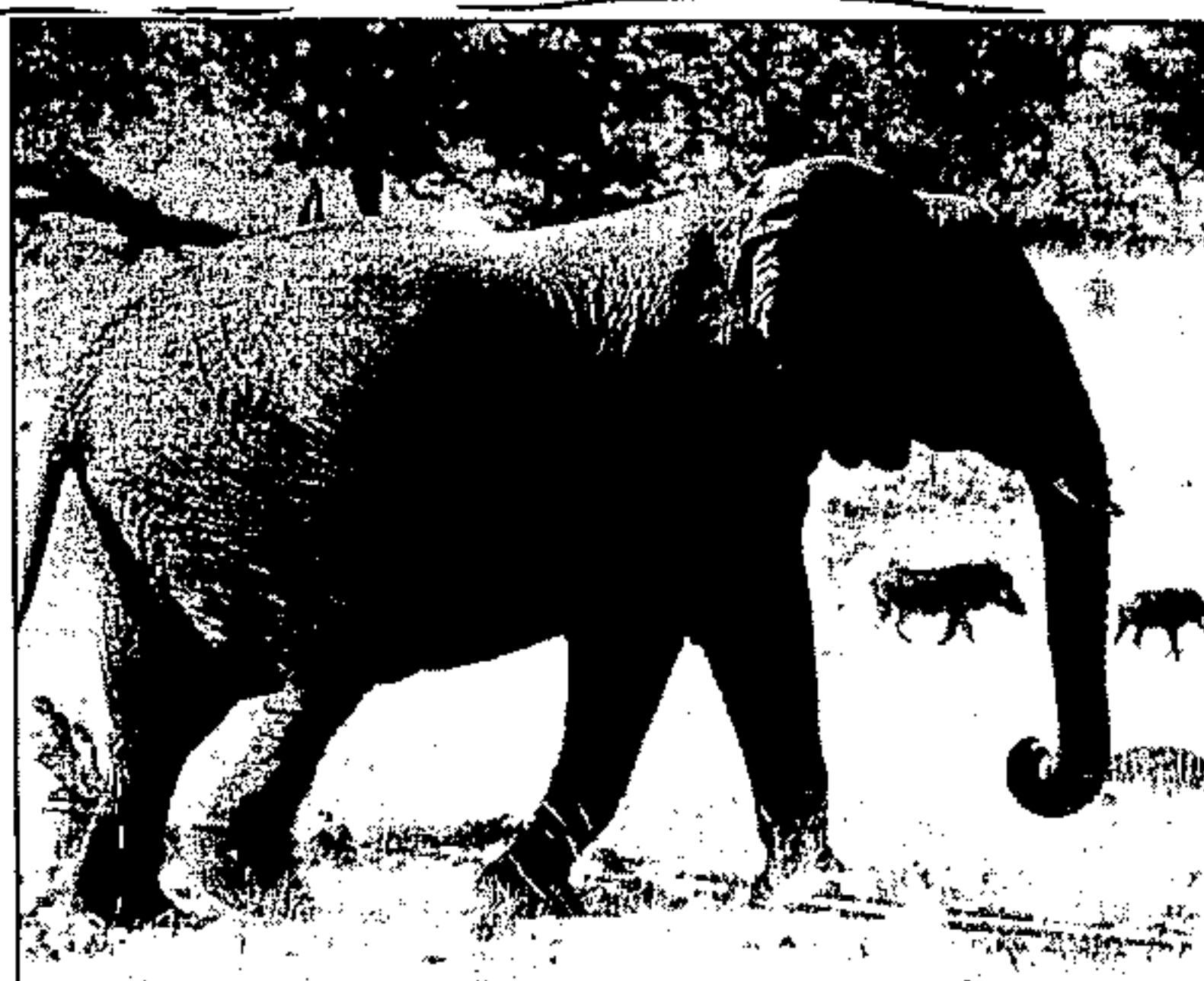
will need to be under treatment at any one time in order to stabilise the Kruger National Park population ... The costs involved in doing so for 2 300 elephants at this stage appears to be prohibitive.

Although the research project is still in early experimental stages, it drew widespread criticism at the elephant policy indaba hosted by the National Parks Board this week. A number of wildlife organisations complained the project involved an extravagant expense at a time when rural people could benefit from revenues and products derived from elephants.

"Africa is a protein-poor continent. We're trying to grow cattle and crops. All the world has cattle and crops! But elephants are something the world wants. They want to see them, and they want their products, and we've got them. But what do we do. We reduce productivity through contraception. It makes no sense," said Jon Hutton, project manager of the Africa Resources Trust, in an article criticising the experiment.

"Elephants can provide both income, through the sale of products and hunting licences, and much-needed protein for communities bordering national parks. The same economic activities can also fund the upkeep of those parks."

The parks board, however, insists that its relatively small experiment does not mean it has given up the right to use culling as a population control method. "The current state



Pachyderm pill: Experiments are being conducted in the Kruger Park on contraceptives for elephants

PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

of this technology suggests that even if contraception works in elephants, it will not be a viable option for controlling larger elephant populations," says an official statement. "However, should the research show that contraception can be achieved in elephants, it will offer a useful option for limiting small populations."

But Anthony Hall-Martin, director of research and development for the National Parks Board, admitted at the indaba that Kruger's population could be allowed to rise as high as 25 000 if the policies of other conservationists in Africa are followed.

Hall-Martin noted that Kruger's management had based its culling policy on observations that elephant moved into new grazing land once

their herds exceeded 1,2 animals per square kilometre of rangeland. In parts of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where ecological conditions were similar to those in Kruger, conservationists had established the terrain could support 2,7 elephants per square kilometre.

David Barrit, from the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said he welcomed the board's decision to review the scientific status of its policies and to open the debate on how to handle Kruger's elephants to the public.

Other animal rights groups said Hall-Martin's admission vindicated their claims that the old policy of shooting a few hundred elephants a year to keep the population of Kruger at around 7 500 had not been necessary.

Environmental partners reap 'green' awards

(51)
15/11/96

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Unique partnerships, innovation and excellence were recognised and rewarded at the annual Environment Awards of the Green Trust yesterday. Winners in the seven categories, which carry a total prize money of R85 000 were:

■ Tony Carrie of The Mercury, who won the Sam Mabe Media Award for excellence in environmental reporting. His prize of R10 000 was sponsored by Times Media Ltd and was for covering a variety of issues in a direct and informed manner.

■ The External Education Services Unit of Ungeni Water won the Water Conservation Award for the most original and effective water conservation project. The R10 000 prize, sponsored by the National Water Conservation Campaign of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, was for a series of environmental education programmes with schools.

■ The Environmental Group of Pick'n Pay's Brackenfell Hyper won the Keith Kirsten Greening Award for the most innovative and effective tree-planting or greening project. Their prize of R20 000 worth of green goods was for the establishment of the 70ha

Brackenfell nature reserve.

■ The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's "Working for Water" programme to eradicate alien plants won the Green Trust Conservation Project Award for the most sustainable conservation project. The prize is R15 000 cash for project support.

■ Dr Gerhard Verdoorn won the Individual Award for personal commitment in recognition of his contribution to the conservation of vultures and raptors. He received R10 000 cash sponsored by South African Breweries' Beer Division.

■ Westville Primary School in Mitchells Plain won the Schools Envi-

ronmental Project Award for the best environmental project by schoolchildren of any age. The R10 000 prize by Total South Africa was for various greening programmes.

■ Shell South Africa won the Environmental Entrepreneur Award for the most innovative and effective corporate contribution to conservation.

The Green Trust was created in 1990 when the local chapter of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA) and Nedbank joined forces to identify, fund and support practical and sustainable conservation projects, with an emphasis on direct involvement of local people.

Official silence over sale of parks rights

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Johannesburg — An R18 billion deal, believed to entail the sale of exclusive commercial and development rights for all of Mpumalanga province's parks to a foreign investor, is being kept tightly under wraps — even Mpumalanga Parks Board members are being kept in the dark.

John Hanks, a parks board member, said he learned last Friday that an R18 billion deal had been finalised with an off-shore investor, but said he was unaware of what the deal entailed.

"I have requested further information ... I think all of the board members are in the same position," he said.

Details of the deal are to be revealed on November 27, but the board has yet to learn the details of and approve the deal at its meeting on November 26.

Parks board officials have refused to comment.

Karl Lane, a spokesman for the board, said: "There is a lot of interest in a partnership with us from a major corporation ... but I cannot com-

ment on the scale."

Oupa Pilane, a spokesman for Mathews Phosa, the Mpumalanga premier, also declined to comment. "There is no secrecy, we just want it to be a surprise," he said yesterday.

Alan Gray, the chief executive of the Mpumalanga Parks Board, has been reported as saying that the deal was the biggest yet done in Mpumalanga. He refused to put a figure to the investment, saying only that it was worth substantially more than R1 billion to the province.

Alan Louw, the chief executive of state-owned Aventura, which owns several resorts in Mpumalanga parks, said the deal could jeopardise the viability of existing resorts.

"Gray has said they expect us to renegotiate the rights of access (to the parks) which we currently enjoy with the new third party ... (while we have not been informed of what the deal involves) ... this suggests that commercial rights are in the hands of someone else," he said.

□ Business Watch, Page 20

CT (OR) 15/11/96 (56)

ANC condemns Pagad threat to journalists

STAFF REPORTER

ARG 16/11/96

The African National Congress in the Western Cape has condemned threats to journalists and the proposed boycott of the Cape Times by members of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad).

Pagad intends to start a boycott of the Cape Argus's sister newspaper on Monday, because the paper had "tried to split Pagad" and had portrayed Pagad "as a militant Muslim organisation".

At a meeting earlier this

week Pagad leaders said they would continue their boycott until the paper has rectified what they had done.

A Pagad spokesman told Saturday Argus yesterday they called on people who support the aims of Pagad not to buy the paper from Monday.

He allayed fears of Muslim shop owners worried they would be targeted for selling the paper, saying it was a free country and people could sell the paper if they wished.

Some businessmen said they might be targeted by vigilantes for stocking the paper.

UWC seizes eight stun guns

From page 1

device that was allegedly used two weeks ago to control students applying for admission to the university for 1997.

Ms Kadali said she would complete her investigation by Tuesday and present her findings to UWC's executive.

Ms Kadali said she had established that the batch of 80 000 volt "Paralyser" stun guns had been bought by the former head of campus security before a pop concert was to be held at UWC in March.

The head of security, who was a victim of depression, committed suicide after the concert, Ms Kadali said.

"He ordered and purchased the weapons without the knowledge or permission of the university's executive," she added.

She said the university had given its full co-operation in the investigation and that all relevant staff and students had been interviewed, except the female student who was allegedly shocked on Thursday

two weeks ago. Ms Kadali said the university maintained a gun-free policy, which included the carrying of dangerous weapons by security personnel.

This was confirmed by the rector, Professor Abrahams, who also confirmed Ms Kadali's initial findings.

"We support all of it (the initial findings). The university has had a policy on the presence of dangerous weapons and firearms on campus for a long time, but from time to time we re-instil this policy so that everyone is aware of it."

Thomas Winslow of the Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence has asked UWC to implement a programme of human rights education for security personnel at the university and to issue a public apology to the students and staff who may have been affected by the incident.

Earlier this year the use of electric batons by Transnet security staff was found to be a contributing factor in the Tembisa railway station stampede.

National Parks Board in bid to prevent Madimbo mining

The National Parks Board said yesterday it had lodged an appeal with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna against diamond prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor.



PENUELL MADUNA

The corridor, stretching from the west of the Kruger Park to the north of the Limpopo River, was an ecologically sensitive area, home to vulnerable fauna and flora species, it said in a statement in Pretoria.

"It forms part of the National Parks Board's plan for a proposed transfrontier park aiming to link up conservation areas of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa," the board said.

A prospecting permit was issued to Madimbo Diamond Corporation by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs in May last year. — Sapa

(56) Star 16/11/96

Oudekraal row heads for court

ST(M) 17/11/96 (56)

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE Oudekraal development row is going to be fought out in the Supreme Court.

Oudekraal landowner Kassie Wiehahn told Cape Metro that the legal battle was on — and that it was only a matter of getting a court date to launch a counter-attack in defence of his rights.

"Our legal opinion has it that our rights are in place. I'm just waiting for an opening in court," he disclosed on Wednesday in reaction to the Cape Metropolitan Council's official notification earlier in the week that it was not in a legal position to approve a services plan for the controversial development.

One of the row's most emotional rallying points has centred on Muslim shrines and graves on the mountain slopes above Victoria

Drive — and the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee has vowed to keep up the pressure until the entire Oudekraal mountainside is saved from any further development.

The Muslim-led backlash came as a major snub to developer Neill Bernstein, who in September offered to personally buy the affected plots at a cost of R9-million and give them to the Cape Mazaar Society as a gift.

Two recent rallies drew tens of thousands of protesters to Oudekraal, and EMAC and the Save the Mountain Coalition have mustered support from the ANC, DP, Cape Town Olympic Bid Company chairman Chris Ball and a flurry of sympathetic letters to local newspapers.

The ANC, among others, has called on the provincial government to invoke Section 31(a) of the

Environment Conservation Act against the development, but this would be prohibitively expensive for a province which is already running its own conservation department on a shoestring.

According to a senior advocate briefed by the CMC on City Council authority, development rights for the Oudekraal Township had lapsed — with the effect that the CMC was not legally competent to approve a services plan.

This was confirmed by CMC planning chief Peter Tomalin, who said he had informed Wiehahn of the council's decision on Tuesday.

Nervous to approve plans based on dubious rights and drafted in terms of archaic planning norms, the CMC deferred this decision to the city council and also requested that it be allowed to get legal opinion on which laws could compel

the developer to reassess the township.

Stressing the opposition of conservationists to the project, Wildlife and Environment Society ecologist Marlene Laros told Cape Metro:

"For far too long environmental conservation has taken a back-seat by stroking the egos of megalomaniacs, especially in metropolitan Cape Town.

"Clearly, something is terribly wrong when the conservation of an area which is one of the world's hottest hot-spots of bio-diversity is subject to political whims and fancies."

But Wiehahn and Bernstein are adamant that a general plan which was registered with the surveyor-general 34 years ago is still valid, and allows them to develop 237 residential erven on the property.

Environment laws battle in the offing

(56)

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

STCCM 17/11/96

THE Western Cape administration is gearing for a constitutional battle with the central government over its long-anticipated — but already controversial — draft environmental impact regulations.

According to one of the province's most senior nature conservation officials, the Department of Environment Affairs' proposed regulations impinged on provincial powers and were therefore unconstitutional.

"We have tremendous problems with the national regulations. They seem to take authority away from the provincial planning minister, and that would be unconstitutional," Cape Nature Conservation deputy director Niel van Wyk told Cape Metro.

Van Wyk also admitted that environmental regulation in the Western Cape was still "very much up in the air" as his own department grappled to work out its role and functions in the new constitutional dispensation.

The national regulations on impact reports were gazetted for comment on November 1, but missed a key opportunity to merge environmental principles with strategic planning decisions, informed sources said this week.

Van Wyk's remarks coincided with a blistering attack this week by UCT's Prof Richard Fuggle on the government's "muddled" and seemingly directionless approach to environmental planning.

Commenting on the apparent lack of co-ordination between the central government and the Western Cape's planning department — which has also published a draft planning and development Bill for comment — Fuggle complained that there was "total confusion as to what authority resides with central and provincial governments".

"The national regulations have two glaring omissions — mining and spatial planning. It's nonsensical to have environmental controls in the absence of planning; the whole Saldanha Steel Project issue showed that industrial projects have regional consequences.

"The positive side is that there is movement, but without a coherent vision we're ending up like Alice in Wonderland — not knowing where to go, or how to get there," Fuggle charged.

It is a critical issue for Cape Nature Conservation and the provincial planning department, and one which could result in a political and Constitutional Court showdown, sources warned this week.



Green light for lodge in Constantia

By TOM HOOD

A CONTROVERSIAL R7-million country lodge planned for Constantia received the go-ahead from the South Peninsula Municipality's planning committee this week.

The property, in Spaanschemat River Road, is owned by Peter Fleck.

Objectors sent 98 letters and a petition with 151 signatures, complaining about possible noise, traffic and parking congestion and lowering of property values, and said they would appeal against the ruling.

They claimed the hotel would be bigger than the Alphen Hotel, but Fleck said it would be smaller.

Reserve to get highest status

METRO CORRESPONDENT

(56) APR 19 11/1/96

The Cape Point Nature Reserve will be afforded the highest possible conservation status in the country as part of the proposed Table Mountain National Park.

The Cape Metropolitan Council's executive committee has decided that the reserve should have Schedule 1 status, which means it can be deproclaimed as a national park only by a two-thirds majority of Parliament.

This reverses a position adopted by the council, which wanted to maintain control

of the Reserve and enter into a contract with the National Parks Board.

David Erleigh, chairman of the metropolitan infrastructure, works and services committee, said the ideal was that the Table Mountain National Park should have World Heritage Site status.

He said the handover to the parks board would have to be negotiated to ensure fair treatment of staff.

Mr Erleigh added that other concerns included the honouring of contractual obligations, financing of the park and the establishment of an advisory committee to ensure public access.

Cape Town's coastal waters get clean bill of health

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)
ARG 20/11/96

The water quality of False Bay and Table Bay has remained consistently high during the past year, but unseasonal rain during the dry summer season created minor problems at some sites along the coast.

This is the assessment of the False Bay Water Quality Committee and Table Bay Water Quality Committee, set out in a combined annual report.

Sites where there were temporary problems included Kalk Bay harbour, where

bathing is at "own risk", the old Sandown Hotel site at Muizenberg and at Gordon's Bay.

At the Camps Bay tidal pool, higher than normal bacteriological counts - although still below mandatory values - are being investigated.

Chairman of the committees Arthur Clayton, who is also Cape Town's city engineer, said: "Holiday visitors and locals using the bathing beaches of False Bay and Table Bay this summer can be confident of well-monitored coastal waters which comply with stringent European Union international bathing standards."

BUSINESS

Southern Africa recycles one in every two metal cans

GABORONE — Southern Africa boasts the third-highest recycling rate in the world and one in every two metal cans is recycled, resulting in a steady income for more than 18 000 can collectors.

The region's steel can recovery rate of 51% has managed to reduce the total waste profile from 8% in 1993 to the current 1,5%. Japan heads the list with a 69% recovery rate and Germany comes a close second with 62%.

Botswana, through the efforts of Collect-a-Can, has played a major role in elevating the region's position in the green movement. Last year the company managed to achieve a steel-can recovery rate of 56,9%.

Managing director Nick Kock said during the past financial year more than 1,397-million used beverage cans were recovered. He said a few months after the company was officially launched in 1993 it had already recruited more than 1 500 southern Africans to collect cans for cash. Today there are more than 18 000 collectors operating all over the

subcontinent and the company now pays seven times more for recovered steel than three years ago.

"A staggering 82% of our collectors were previously jobless. The additional work opportunities created by can collecting have made a major contribution towards raising living standards among the disadvantaged," he said.

However, despite the efforts being made by companies like Collect-a-Can, indiscriminate littering and dumping of cans, broken bottles, plastic bags, old tyres, building rubble and waste oil have defiled Botswana's countryside.

In an attempt to address this problem, Botswana launched a waste management project in 1993, the result of a bilateral agreement between Botswana and Germany.

The project has now entered its second phase and is scheduled to end in 1999. The main focus is to devise a policy of proper waste management by discussing aspects like waste reduction, re-use and recycling in the country and to introduce relevant legislation.

(56) BO 20/11/96
National Conservation Strategy project officer Clifford Matsoga says the envisaged waste Act will use the theme "pollution pays" to impose severe penalties for indiscriminate littering.

John Gould of the environment watch group Tshomarelo Tikologo warns that unless the government takes firm action in dealing with the problem, pollution will continue to escalate at an alarming rate. He says most non-government organisations in the country are "deeply concerned" by the threat being posed to Botswana's environment by indiscriminate waste disposal, littering and pollution.

The overall aim of the watch group is to monitor the situation and encourage environment-friendly practices like recycling and re-use of materials dumped in the environment.

"One way to prevent cans and bottles from littering the countryside would be to insist on a deposit system — people would certainly make sure that they returned them if there was a deposit involved," Gould said. — AIA.

NEWS

Find sulphur blaze tapes, fire chief told

Weak communications blamed

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

The commission investigating the AECI sulphur fire has ordered the fire chief of the Cape Metropolitan Council to produce records of telephone calls made to his control depot on the night of the blaze.

The commission of inquiry, headed by Mr Justice Siraj Desai, is probing the response of council firefighters to the fire, in Somerset West last December, which caused the death of two asthmatics

and the evacuation of the Macassar area.

Fire chief William Munnik was told by Mr Justice Desai to produce, on January 20, telephone tape recordings and the occurrence book entries made on the night of the disaster.

Mr Munnik told the commission the tape recordings of calls for help were erased by recordings of new calls.

He was uncertain of the whereabouts of the occurrence book, but agreed to search all transcripts in his department.

(56) @ ARLT 20/11/96
The AECI sulphur dump fire fell within the jurisdiction of the council fire department in Ottery.

Earlier, Somerset West fire chief Gert Cilliers told the commission that he and his colleagues had been unaware of the sulphur dump at the AECI plant.

This remark drew jeers from spectators.

Mr Cilliers said there had been a serious communication problem between fire depots that attended to the fire.

The commission hearing continues today.

CAPE FLATS SEWAGE PONDS A BIRDS' PARADISE

Call to 'save' False Bay park

(56) CT 21/11/96

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have urged that conservation status be conferred on the Cape Flats Sewerage works. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

EVER heard of the False Bay Coastal Park? Not many people have. It was proposed by the Cape Town City Council eight years ago as part of its "Greening the City" project, but seems to have gone little further than the drawing board.

Now environmentalists are getting jittery about its future. Since the boundaries were approved by the council in 1988, squatters have moved into a section of the proposed park, another section has been sold to the Capricorn science park development and there are proposals to develop some of the important bird habitats for the Olympic Games rowing course.

A road is also earmarked for the area, the False Bay Arterial, which would split the park in half.

Wildlife Society spokeswoman Ms Heather Shreiner said yesterday: "The False Bay Coastal Park has been mooted for so long and now it seems that it's being whittled away at the edges. It's time something was done to make it a reality."

The proposed 1 350ha False Bay Coastal Park includes Zeekoewiel, Rondevlei, the Cape Flats sewerage works and a 5km coastal zone. The aim is to develop an area for the people of Greater Cape Town for recreation and conservation.

The Cape Flats has more rare and endangered plants than any other area in the world of a similar size. The park would protect a rem-

Over 36 000

birds at works

Why the Cape Flats Sewerage Works needs conservation status:

- The ponds at the sewerage works support more than 36 000 waterbirds.
- There are more birds here than at Lake St Lucia which is more than 300 times its size.
- It is the sixth most important coastal wetland in SA.
- It supports 1% of five bird species found worldwide.
- It is home to nine Red Data Book bird species — species that are threatened.
- It is an important destination for migratory birds from the northern hemisphere.
- It supports a higher density of birds than Rondevlei bird sanctuary.
- It supports 50% of all waterbirds in the Peninsula.
- It meets two of the criteria for registration with RAMSAR Convention as a wetland of international importance.

nant of coastal strandveld — a type of fynbos — which has almost disappeared through development and alien plant invasion.

Zeekoewiel would be developed for recreation, with an upgraded launching ramp and a small boat harbour, as well as horse trails, hiking trails, braai and picnic areas.

The jewel in the park is the sewerage works. The 320ha of sewerage ponds are home to about 36 000 birds and are rated the sixth most important coastal wetland in SA.

There are more birds there than at Lake St Lucia — which is more than 300 times the size. The reason for this is that the sewerage provides plenty of food for the birds, and the nearby Rondevlei provides a safe breeding ground.

There are nine South African Red Data Book birds — species which are threatened — on the ponds and 101 different species of waterbirds. The birds found there make up 50% of all the waterbirds in the Peninsula.

The Cape Bird Club has been trying to get conservation status for the sewerage works since 1982 — but without success.

Dr Dave Whiteclaw, chairman of the Cape Bird Club's conservation committee, said yesterday they had lawyers try to draw up a document which would give the ponds conservation status, while allowing the sewerage works to go ahead.

Two of the sewerage ponds, home to flocks of flamingoes, are now being considered as part of the Olympic rowing course, which would be connected to Zeekoewiel.

Said Whiteclaw: "There's no point trying to oppose that, but we would like to see a trade-off. If those two ponds go, we want some sort of conservation status for the

rest of the sewerage works."

This is echoed by the Zeekoewiel Environmental Forum. Spokesman Mr Theo Stock said: "If we lose those two ponds to Olympic rowing, we want an unambiguous guarantee that the rest will get conservation status."

Environmentalists say if the sewerage works ever close, it would be easy to fill in the ponds and build on the land. They want conservation status, to ensure this never happens.

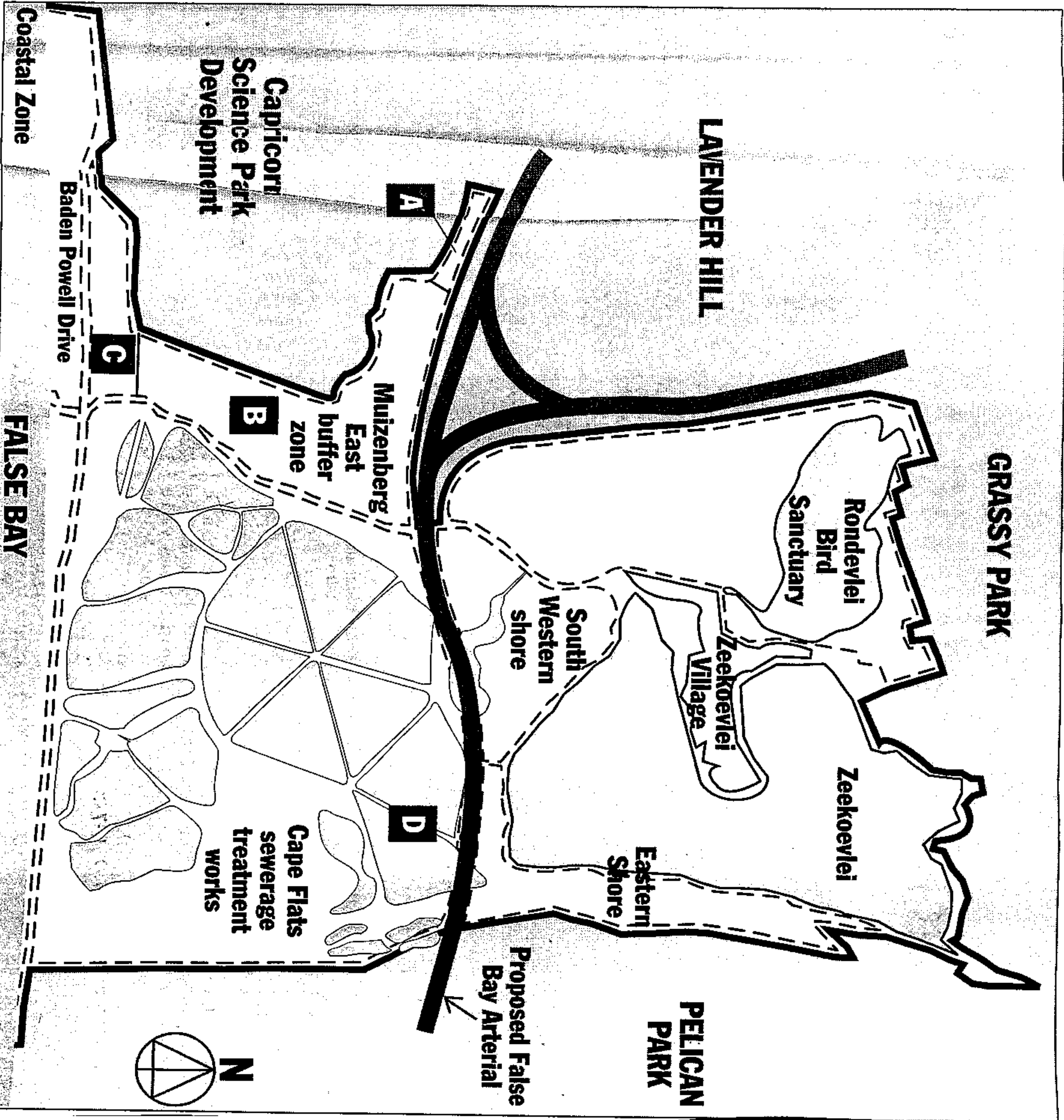
To complicate matters, the sewerage works will soon fall under the Cape Metropolitan Council after having being under the city council — and environmentalists fear talks will have to start from scratch.

They are also anxious because the council has sold some of the land within the proposed park to the Capricorn developers, who have the option to buy more.

Environmentalists say this could erode the park boundaries. But they say Capricorn has given a verbal undertaking that the land would be developed as a green belt, which was confirmed yesterday by Capricorn managing director Mr Raven Naidoo.

A council spokesman said yesterday planning of the whole area was being reviewed because of the proposed Olympic rowing course and the Capricorn technopark.

"The city is concerned about the potential impact of new developments on this sensitive natural system. The city is planning its improvements as a developmental catalyst for adjacent communities," the spokesman said.



PARK IN WAITING: Environmentalists say the city council is dragging its heels in proclaiming the False Bay Coastal Park. Since the council approved the boundaries in 1988, squatters have moved in (A), Capricorn science park developers have bought a portion (C) and have the option to buy another (B). Now there are proposals to develop the Olympic rowing course in part of the sewerage works (D).
GRAPHIC: MUGAMAD JACOBS

Funding boost for wildlife ⁽⁵⁶⁾

BY ANITA ALLEN

Science Writer

Stow 21/11/96

A major new funder of conservation and animal care projects in South Africa has announced donations of more than R2-million.

The Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation received the bulk of the estates of the late Elizabeth and Anthony Lewis, who started Lewis Construction in SA.

The first donations are through the following:

■ The World Wide Fund for Nature receives R500 000 for two projects: its Table Mountain Fund and the SA Wildlife College at the Kruger National Park.

■ The Endangered Wildlife Trust receives R420 000 a year for three years to key individuals. These are Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, co-ordinator of the Raptor, Vulture and Poisons working groups; Dr Paul Bartels, head of the Wildlife Breeding Research Centre; Dr Gus Mills, who will initiate the Carnivore Working Group; and David Newton, head of the South African office of TRAFFIC, which investigates the trade in flora and fauna. The EWT's South African Crane Working Group will get R50 000 to continue its work.

■ The SPCA's Johannesburg branch and Animals in Distress each receive R50 000. Both organisations were supported by Mrs Lewis.

A green scheme for companies

(56)

System will help manage the impact of
corporate activities on the environment

By **NORMAN CHANDLER**
Pretoria Bureau

South African companies can now manage the impact of their activities on the environment according to international standards.

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) this week unveiled a registration scheme for environmental management systems, known as ISO 14001.

Dr Jean du Plessis, SABS president, said the purpose was to give direction in the managing, measuring and communicating of environmental aspects of company operations, service and products.

The new standard was applicable to human activity in general and could be used by both government and the private sector, specifying what should be done by organisations to manage the environment in terms of the country's about 80 laws on the subject.

"In the last few years, local companies have been experiencing increasing pressure from over-

seas clients to ensure that their environmental management programmes met international criteria. This situation resulted in a great demand for the implementation of an internationally recognised standard," he said.

The vice-president of the SABS' chemical departments, Dr Henri van Rensburg, said that 67 countries – including South Africa – had been working since 1993 on an acceptable standard for environmental management systems.

The final draft of the constitution stipulates "that everyone has the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislation and other measures.

"These are to minimise pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation, secure ecologically sustainable development and further the effective utilisation of natural resources which promote justifiable economic and social development," Van Rensburg said.

8101 21/11/96



These smiling children are unaware that the beautiful scenery behind them is the key issue in the battle between environmentalists and a mining company about land use in the ecologically sensitive Madimbo Corridor.

PIC: LEN KUMALO

Scales tip to green lobby

The Madimbo Corridor debate reopens after investigations by Deputy Minister

By Russel Molefe

STRIVING FOR A BALANCE between the environment and development was a minor issue in the corridors of power in the past when it came to deciding if development should be allowed in a particular area.

When the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs allowed the Madimbo Diamond Company to prospect in the ecologically sensitive Madimbo Corridor, the environment was not a consideration.

Environmental assessment studies to determine the best land use options in the area took a backseat, environmentalists noted.

The dismissal of the National Parks Board's appeal against diamond prospecting in the area was seen by environmentalists as relegating the environment to a non-status issue.

This practice of overlooking environmental issues whenever a particular area had to be developed was detected by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Mr Peter Mokaba when he took office in September this year.

After the much criticised dismissal of the NPB's appeal, Mokaba met Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Peniel Maduna and they agreed to review the decision to dismiss the appeal last month.

Mokaba and Maduna also decided that mining in the area should not proceed because of, among other things, land claims in the area, current proposals to develop eco-tourism peace parks and the process and procedures by which the company obtained the mining permit.

"Information gathered shows that, in the past, decisions taken regarding this area were conducted in an undemocratic and unsatisfactory manner.

"This tradition cannot be allowed to continue and I am satisfied that all parties involved are committed to a transparent process of consultation to determine the best land use options for the Madimbo Corridor," Mokaba said.

He made it clear that the days when the environment was ignored in South Africa are over and the new democratic dispensation was committed to sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Mokaba further committed his department, together with the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department, to investigate and research any development in the area and to ensure that a clear path of sustainable development is embarked upon.

Madimbo Corridor, a strategic strip

of land along the Limpopo River bordering Zimbabwe, is an ecologically-sensitive area where important international archeological treasures dating back to the Stone and Iron Ages were recently discovered.

The corridor, which is highly erodible, has other important environmental features such as pristine vegetation, 339 bird species of which 29 are scarce, and the 150-hectare Banyini and Mabiligwe pans which are valuable wetland assets.

Local black communities were forcibly removed in the 1960s when the then South African Defence Force created a military no-go zone against the liberation movements and South Africa's neighbours.

But with South Africa facing a high rate of unemployment, it was not surprising that local communities initially came out in favour of mining.

When the corridor was proclaimed a nature conservation area in December 1991, expectations were high among local communities that there would be jobs and an improvement in their living conditions.

Headman Josias Mavundavahi put it this way: "We earlier gave up another piece of our land to environmentalists and later we agreed that the area become a nature reserve in the hope that we would benefit.

"Instead, animals in the park now have more rights than us. We have been forced on to barren land where you cannot even plant a vegetable garden - we are starving, we want bread.

"The mine will bring our people jobs and they will be able to feed their families and improve their living conditions."

Change his mind

Chief Khorombi Mutele of the Mutale clan, who pointed out the consequences of a nearby Tshikondeni coal mine established without any consultation years ago, was in favour of eco-tourism but was forced by his people to change his mind.

Employment opportunities was the carrot that the Madimbo Diamond Company offered to the communities to convince them to accept mining without explaining what dangers lay ahead for future generations as the result of environmental degradation.

Environmentalists believe that to preserve the area, current proposals to develop eco-tourism peace parks should be implemented fast.

This will ensure that the majority of local people get secure jobs.

Parks board chief quits in power battle

Shock as Robinson goes

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Shock has greeted the announcement that the National Parks Board has agreed to a request by its chief executive Robbie Robinson to take early retirement in April.

Dr Robinson's request follows a serious difference of opinion with the board – and particularly its finance sub-committee – over the commercial development of national parks.

Dr Robinson wants the management of each park to have the power to decide on commercial developments. The board wants a new executive officer based in Pretoria to decide.

The differences emerged in committee meetings on Thursday, leading to Dr Robinson's letter asking for early retirement on Friday.

Dr Robinson, who is credited with changing the board from a highly

(56) ARG 25/11/96
conservative conservation organisation into a body sensitive to the need for community participation in, and public ownership of, the national parks, today described the issue as "a difference of opinion in how to drive the commercial side of the operation".

"I suppose it's been coming for a while," he said.

"National parks are very sensitive ecosystems and one has to be very sensitive if you develop tourism facilities.

"For the 30 years in which I've been in this organisation, this is the thing that has really stimulated me. It's why I left research, because I wanted to be a national park manager.

Dr Robinson said he did not agree with the board's decision to appoint a commercial director to run the tourism side of the parks.

"I've always maintained that if you do that you're just heading for conflict. You have to manage this (tourism development) at park level."

Angolan economy benefiting from peace

56

Large-scale investments depend on lasting ceasefire

REUTERS
Luanda

Two years after Angola's government and rebels halted hostilities, the oil and mineral-rich country is starting to feel the benefits of peace.

The country is prospering with business deals. In the past six months, the capital Luanda has seen a stream of foreign business and government delegations from Europe and Africa.

International Monetary Fund economists are in the country planning a comeback after the fund withdrew last year, saying the government was not serious about economic reform.

Angola's first private investment bank opened last month backed by foreign shareholders from South Africa, Portugal, the

United States and Britain.

Bigger investments in industry and agriculture, however, depend on lasting peace.

The MPLA-led government and rebel Unita movement were parties to the Lusaka Protocol, signed in Zambia, that put an end to one of Africa's bloodiest wars which lasted for nearly two decades.

Overseen by the United Nations and 6 500 peacekeepers, the implementation of the accord has been the focus of attention for the past 24 months.

Troops from Brazil, India, Namibia, Portugal, India, Jordan, Malaysia and Zimbabwe helped to secure the countryside to allow for the disarming of Unita rebels before their integration into a single Angolan Armed Forces.

The process has been long and

tedious but the UN announced last week it was satisfied that both sides were co-operating enough to begin a gradual pullout from the end of next month.

But some Western diplomats feel the UN might be pushing ahead too fast.

"The most challenging task lies ahead for a political solution. We have here two very determined players who both want political power," said one Western diplomat.

Angolans want peace, but are sceptical about the new efforts to end the war after the collapse of the Bicesse Accord in 1991 when Unita leader Jonas Savimbi rejected UN-supervised elections and returned to war.

But UN mediator Alioune Blondin Beye has reassured Angolans the peace process is intact.

SPW 25/11/96

Early retirement for Parks chief

Robbie Robinson to step down after differences over commercial developments

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

In a move that is sending shock waves through South Africa's environmental community, the National Parks Board has agreed to a request by its chief executive, Dr Robbie Robinson, to take early retirement from April next year.

Robinson's request follows a major difference of opinion with the board, particularly with its finance sub-committee, over the commercial development of the national park network.

Robinson wants the management of each park to have the power to decide on commercial developments. The board wants a new top executive officer based in Pretoria to make these decisions.

The differences emerged in a series of committee meetings on Thursday, leading to Robinson submitting a letter to the full

board on Friday, asking for early retirement.

Robinson, who is credited with changing the parks board from a highly conservative conservation organisation into a new body sensitive to the need for community participation in, and public ownership of, the country's national parks, today described the issue as "a difference

"I suppose it's been coming for a while"

of opinion in how to drive the commercial side of the operation".

"I suppose it's been coming for a while," he said. "National parks are very sensitive

ecosystems and one has to be very sensitive in how you develop tourism facilities.

"I believe that for the 30 years in which I've been in this organisation, this is the thing that has really stimulated me. It's why I left research, because I wanted to be a national park manager.

"I've always maintained there is a lot to be gained [from developing tourism facilities in parks], but there is a very, very fine line between this and killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

Robinson said he did not agree with the board's decision to appoint a commercial director to run the tourism side of the national parks.

"I've always maintained that if you do that, you're just heading for conflict.

"You have to manage this [tourism development] at park level."

In a statement on Friday, National Parks Board chairman Dr Enos Mabuza said Robinson had served the board in different capacities and in various regions for more than 30 years.

"He has contributed substantially to creating an organisation of which all South Africans can be proud, and which has earned in-

ternational renown," Mabuza said.

The board had resolved that all future tourist developments would, wherever possible, be on the periphery of national parks and it adopted a resolution re-affirming that the conservation of biodiversity was sacrosanct.

"We commit ourselves to creating a culture that is more sensitive to the needs of all visitors, both local and international," he added.

Robinson, who is 57, said the board had always held him in high regard and had

said "nice things" about him, and he did not want to leave in a bad spirit.

He said he would probably move to his house in Newlands in Cape Town after retiring and did not yet have any firm plans. Asked what he was going to do, he replied: "I wish I knew."

"There is a lot to be gained from tourism"

Financial blows hit two conservation bodies

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - Environmental conservation suffered a double blow at the weekend with the disclosure of a R35-million funding deficit for the Natal Parks Board (NPB) and nearly R4-million in fraud in its sister conservation body, the Department of Nature Conservation (DNC).

Speaking at Parliament's environment portfolio committee meeting on Friday, NPB chief executive Dr George Hughes expressed deep frustration about the "massive" deficit faced by his organisation in the coming finan-

cial year.

Hughes said provincial budget cutbacks for his organisation were particularly frustrating in the light of stringent savings by the board, juxtaposed with the loss of millions of rands in fraud in certain government departments.

"It's simply an appalling situation. We have excellent financial controls and no 'ghosts' in the NPB but we are being penalised to the same extent as a department which has millions missing. I simply can't express our frustration. People are working their butts off for conservation."

He felt departments should be

(56) Star 26/11/96
penalised in budgetary allocations according to the amount of money they lost in fraud.

It was doubly frustrating that the NPB had been forced to close down five major operations over the past year to save money, leading to much public criticism.

The NPB vehicle fleet was in a state of disrepair, and if it "walked away" from its commitment to community conservation projects outside proclaimed parks, it would only be able to save about R5-million.

Ian Thomson, his acting counterpart in the DNC, disclosed that police had been called in after the

recent discovery of "extensive fraud" in the department.

Department secretary Robin Raubenheimer said a "ghost" hunt was under way at all reserves and offices under the control of the Ulundi-based DNC [formerly the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources]. "It looks like about R3 822 000 has gone down the drain [since October last year]."

Police and the attorney-general's office had asked him not to release too many details at this stage, in the hope that further scrutiny of private bank accounts would uncover a "very big fish"

Milnerton factory faces shutdown move by council

Lime kiln a 'public nuisance'

ARC 26/11/96

(56)

CHENÉ BLIGNAUT
STAFF REPORTER

The Blaauwberg council may ask Environment Minister Pallo Jordan to shut a controversial Milnerton lime factory permanently after requests to the owners to clean up their act failed to solve pollution problems.

The lime works near Bloubergstrand extract lime by burning seashells, which gives off a stench like burning bones.

In August Dr Jordan ordered Kilson Lime Works to stop production after many complaints about pollution from residents of Milnerton, Bloubergstrand and Blouberggrant.

But the council's executive committee members claimed this week that the operation was still proceeding and nothing had been done to control the problem. They accused the company of not being committed to addressing it.

Exco chairman George Mellet said the plant was a public nuisance and a headache for the council which had to deal with many complaints each month.

Police and traffic officers have also appealed for the lime works to be closed because they maintain the smoke it emits is a traffic hazard on Otto du Plessis Drive.

Meanwhile, it is understood the company has applied to the Department of Environment Affairs to increase their concession of seashells

from 200 to 800 tons a year.

The executive committee will recommend to the full Blaauwberg council that it ask Dr Jordan and his provincial counterpart, Kobus Meiring, to shut the plant for good and formally oppose any expansion of the concession.

The controversial plant, established in the early 1950s, has been a continuing source of annoyance to people living nearby.

The complaints intensified with increased development to the north in the Blouberggrant area, which is creeping closer to the plant.

The Department of Environment Affairs served a notice on the company to install control equipment to eliminate the smoke and odour in October 1995. This was followed by another notice in April this year and the plant's temporary closure in August.

Exco members said if there had been any modification to the plant since then they had been inadequate.

Kilson owner John Killa, who could not be reached for comment, said earlier this year that other industries closer to residential areas were causing much worse pollution than the lime works. He also maintained the company had been there first and that people should not have bought properties in the area if they had a problem with it. The company's bookkeeper said various attempts had been made to solve the pollution problem during the past few months.

Unleaded petrol fails to spark interest at the pump

Reinie Booysen

BD 26/11/96 (56)
GOVERNMENT and the oil industry are considering a fresh bid to promote the use of unleaded petrol amid signs that its share of the 10,2-billion litres a year petrol market has stagnated well below the target level of about 20%.

Industry sources said the strategies being considered included increasing the discount for unleaded petrol and a nationwide awareness campaign.

Oil industry sources said they had been surprised by the low demand for unleaded petrol.

Recent sales figures suggest there is little chance, at current pricing differentials, that unleaded petrol use will rise much above the current market share of 9%-10%.

At present, unleaded is 4c a litre cheaper than leaded petrol. In Gauteng 91-octane unleaded costs 209c a litre, while 93-octane leaded is 213c a litre. At these prices a 60-litre tank of unleaded would cost R125,40, while a 60-litre tank of leaded is R127,80 — 2% more expensive.

"I am not sure whether petrol users generally do not think about the price, but it seems that there must be many people out there who could be using unleaded but, for some or other reason, do not want to benefit from the lower price," said one oil company official.

The official said about 90% of the SA car pool could use unleaded petrol with little or no adjustment to the engine.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA says only 10% of cars cannot use unleaded petrol at all, either due to their age or the fact that they are high-performance vehicles requiring a higher octane. About 65% of cars can use unleaded without any adjustments whatsoever, and another 15% can use unleaded after minor engine adjustments to account for the change in octane. The other 10% can use unleaded, provided leaded is used from time to time to mitigate valve-seat wear.

When the grade was launched in February, the oil industry and govern-

Continued on Page 2

Petrol (56) (183)

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Continued from Page 1

ment aimed to convert about 20% of the petrol market to unleaded by May next year. To promote the use of unleaded fuel — considered less harmful to human health than leaded petrol — government agreed to lower the fuel tax by 6,2c a litre for unleaded.

The oil industry agreed to make investments totalling R300m in their refineries and distribution networks in order to meet the projected growth in unleaded petrol demand.

At the time, the industry expected to receive a slightly higher price for unleaded petrol, based on trends in the international markets. Since then, however, international prices for leaded and unleaded fuel have been roughly similar.

Oversting policemen

Firearm unit members at Eastgate shop- yesterday after al- ing an undercover po- ney tried to sell in counterfeit bank

pokesman Capt Jan said the sergeant and were charged with rob- in possession of coun- ney and unlicensed heft of two bullet-proof driving a vehicle with- ner's consent. men allegedly used an ind a person willing to like money, in R200 de- ns, for R250 000, in- rob the victim of his money. The scheme was after the agent decided t the police's anti corrup- and confessed. wo men were expected to n court soon, Combrink sapa.

Parks chief quit over commercial plan

Bonile Ngqiyaza

DIFFERENCES of opinion on a new commercial strategy for the National Parks Board were responsible for the unexpected request for early retirement at the weekend by the board's CE, Robbie Robinson. It was reported yesterday that the new strategy — designed to increase revenue by attracting more tourists to national parks — entailed appointing a commercial director to the board. Robinson said yesterday he had opposed the resolution by four members of the board's financial committee at a meeting last Thursday be-

cause it negated what his entire career had cen- tred on — integrating conservation and tourism. He said every conservation and game park needed a warden to balance promoting tourism and protecting the environment. The strategy, he said, sought to divide the two. Board chairman Enos Mabuza said reports at the envisaged strategy were "pure speculation" at this stage, as it had not been adopted by the board. Robinson, however, said he believed that the board was seriously considering adopting the financial committee's recommendations. Mabuza denied knowledge of tensions and rumours of a power tussle within the board, saying

Robinson had been entitled to retirement as far back as two years ago. The board said it accepted Robinson's request for early retirement and commended him on the good work he had done to lay a solid framework to take the the organisation into its "next phase of development". It praised Robinson for endeavouring to eliminate discrimination within the parks board and expressed its satisfaction with transformation to strategies which sought to link conservation to development and "provide material benefits to communities adjacent to national parks". Robinson will retire at the end of March.

Chairman denies anyone has been fired

John Dlodlu

CONFUSION continued at the Mpumalanga Development Corporation yesterday over the status of four employees accused of handing over confidential documents to a parliamentary investigative team. Weekend reports sug-

gested two of the four managers who allegedly handed over the documents, had already been dismissed. However, last night the parasatal's chairman, Jabu Mabuza, said no one had been dismissed.

According to sources close to the corporation, the disciplinary hearing, instituted after complaints from acting MD Jeff Rapoo, had recommended that Attie Botha and Coral Snyman be dismissed. But the official who had to fire them had yet to receive the report. A disciplinary committee's decision on the other two was awaiting the outcome of hearings into their conduct. The charges against the four

from an inquiry into allegations of financial irregularities against dismissed MD Patrick Mogorosi being investigated by a parliamentary committee. The four allegedly handed over documents to investigators when corporation procedures forbade this, unless ordered by a court.

BD 26/11/96

Move to protect lab animals

Louise Cook

BD 26/11/96
(56)
AGRICULTURE and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, responsible for veterinary services, had agreed to set up a working group to regulate the fate of laboratory animals, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) national council executive director Marcelle French said at the weekend.

This was seen as a first step towards legislation aimed at protecting laboratory animals, she said.

SPCA national council members met Hanekom in Pretoria on Friday. A ministry spokesman said there was "agreement on various issues, including the need to protect this vulnerable group of animals".

Plan to curb petrol fumes

Edward West

AN INVESTIGATION to be undertaken by the mineral and energy affairs department, motor manufacturers and fuel refiners could make the use of catalytic converters mandatory, as well as use of special equipment to curb petrol fumes when filling a car.

National air pollution control officer Martin Lloyd said the investigation, to be managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), would be launched next year. Initially it would concentrate on the effects of vehicle exhaust emissions and later on the use of equipment to curb evaporative emissions.

The committee undertaking the investigation would consider whether further measures to curb vehicle emissions were necessary, and if so, what measures should be considered.

Currently only fuel storage fa-

ilities were required to have secondary seals to control fumes, and there were no regulations for filling stations, said Lloyd.

Eight European Union (EU) countries recently announced legislation requiring equipment to be installed at filling stations to recover the vapour from vehicle tanks and send it back to the tanks under the forecourt so it did not pose health risks to motorists and forecourt attendants.

The legislation has been introduced because petrol vapour contains small quantities of volatile organic compounds which could contribute to low-level ozone formation. Up to 2% of the vapour was benzene, which was widely accepted as carcinogenic. Benzene levels could be higher in unleaded petrol than leaded petrol, according to a recent report in the Financial Times.

In the EU countries emissions from vehicle refuelling were esti-

mated at a 250 000 tons a year, about 2% of the 12-million tons emitted annually from all sources.

In the UK pipework for vapour recovery was being introduced during forecourt refurbishment and the establishment of new retail operations, but the equipment would not be in use until legislation was introduced.

In the US, under the 1990 Clean Air Act, cities with the worst air pollution will have to phase in the vapour dispenser systems, and car makers will have to fit large onboard activated carbon canisters from the 1998 model year to soak up vapours.

An SA Petroleum Industries' Association spokesman said the cost of introducing vapour dispenser systems was high, especially considering vehicle densities in SA were low compared with other developed countries. He believed legislation in this regard was a long way off.

Bid to put Olympic body off Cape Town

Paul Martin

CAPE TOWN — Former Cape Town city councillor Arthur Weinburg has asked for a hearing with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegation in a bid to stop the 2004 Olympics being staged in Cape Town.

Weinburg, as spokesman for the Concerned Citizens for Olympic Games Committee, said yesterday that the 2004 Olympic Games had the potential to leave Cape Town and possibly even SA in financial despair.

"I believe that the whole Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid is a totally irresponsible project," he said. "Every other country besides the US has battled in vain to turn the event into a financial success, and Cape Town can definitely not be compared with the American cities which hosted the event."

The Olympic committee delegation is to arrive in Cape Town on December 6 to assess the city's chances of hosting the games. Weinburg said: "The bid issue is a very sensitive one, and I believe it is important that the committee hears both sides of the story."

Weinburg would not divulge the full list of members of his organisation, but disclosed that former Black Sash president and alderman of Cape Town Eulalie Stott was a member of his anti-bid group.

Sexwale unopposed as Gauteng ANC boss

Tim Cohen

GAUTENG premier Tokyo Sexwale remains unchallenged for the chairmanship of the provincial African National Congress (ANC), but strong contenders for other executive positions have emerged, including Gauteng health MEC Amos Masondo and Johannesburg metropolitan council executive deputy chairman Kenny Fihla.

Gauteng ANC deputy secretary-general Obed Bapela said yesterday the party had not yet had the opportunity to confirm whether the candidates would accept their nominations for the elections, due to take place at the ANC's provincial conference this weekend.

But contestants for all positions on the regional executive had been proposed, other than for the top position, he said.

ANC branches had also proposed all the incumbents on the executive. These were provincial general secretary Paul Mashatile, treasurer Mohamed Dangor, deputy chairman Mathole Motshakga and Bapela himself.

Meanwhile, financial and fiscal commission chairman Murphy Morobe denied reports that he had

intended challenging Sexwale for the position of regional chairman. "The thought never even entered my mind," said Morobe.

Bapela said 544 delegates from six regions consisting of 146 branches were expected to attend the conference, which would be opened by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

The theme of the conference would be "towards socioeconomic transformation" and it would discuss, among other issues, the ANC's past two-and-a-half years in government and its relationship with its alliance partners.

Meanwhile, SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) board chairman Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri said yesterday that she had been formally advised that she was one of the people being considered for the Free State legislature.

Speaking in her personal capacity, she said she reluctantly made herself available for reconsideration for the SABC board and her name was put forward in the list of candidates forwarded to the president. "I will consider my options when the president makes his decision," she said. "If I am reappointed to the SABC board ... I cannot allow myself to be considered for the legislature."

New cars cost R14m to build

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

THE Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company will today unveil the two new cable cars that are to replace the existing cars when work starts on a major upgrading project intended to transform the existing cableway into a world class facility.

The cars have just arrived in the country from Switzerland. They were built at a cost of about R7 million each, the company's managing director Mr John Harrison said yesterday.

When unveiled in the harbour this morning, the cars will sport the new TMACC logo with the wording "Table Mountain Rotair". The word "rotair" refers to the cars' unique rotating floors.

The new cable cars, which can carry 65 people, will bring the cableway into line with some of the best in the world.

The rounded design will enable them to function better in windy weather. At present the cableway stops when winds reach speeds of 60km/h.

The new cars will be able to operate in winds of 80km/h. The rotating floor will provide three 360-degree turns during the five-minute trip.

The new tickets, which will cost R35 for a return, have also been professionally designed so that they can be kept as souvenirs. All tickets will feature a colour photograph of the new cable car with Table Mountain as a backdrop.

Cableway company to sue over delay

THE city council may decide not to transfer cableway land into the ownership of the National Parks Board. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company will sue the National Monuments Council for R100 000 for each day that their R60-million cableway upgrading project is delayed, managing director Mr John Harrison said yesterday.

And in a new twist yesterday, city council officials say the council may decide not to transfer the cableway land into the ownership of the National Parks Board, which means Table Mountain could not become a World Heritage Site.

The cableway company claims the then Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane, acted beyond his powers in setting conditions under which the National Monuments Council could issue a permit for the upgrading to begin.

These are that the National Parks Board is the controlling authority of the cableway land and that it has been declared a national park.

Said Harrison: "The minister made conditions which we are unable to comply with. The transfer of the cableway land is not our problem. We can't influence the city council or the parks board to make it happen — it is a legal mat-

ter between them. How then can we comply with the conditions?"

The company has asked the minister to drop these two conditions and allow the Monuments Council to issue them a permit to upgrade now.

He said there was no need for the public to be concerned about environmental damage to the mountain.

"We've signed an environmental management agreement with the city and the parks board, which we will stick to whichever landlord is in place," Harrison said.

Meanwhile city council officials deny they are to blame in delaying the transfer of the cableway land to the parks board.

Deputy director of the council's estates department, Mr Jannie Roux said yesterday: "Everyone's pointing fingers at us, but we're waiting for a formal application from the parks board to tell us exactly what they want. At the moment, we don't even know exactly what piece of land they're talking about. Now I hear they're also talking about bits of land at the lower cable station.

"Also transferring the land to them does not necessarily mean

transferring ownership to them. We might only lease it to them — we still have to negotiate that."

National Parks Board spokesman Mr Paul Britten said yesterday he had been unaware that council needed a formal application.

"But we're not concerned about whose fault it is, we're concerned about sorting out the problem so we can get transfer. We've taken note that they want a formal submission and we're doing so," Britten said. The original decision of the council was that all assets of the city council in the CPPNE (the region on the peninsula to become a national park) would be transferred to the parks board, not leased to them, he said.

Only land owned by the parks board could be declared a schedule one national park. Table Mountain can only become a World Heritage Site if it is protected under the highest conservation status in the country — a schedule one national park.

Councillor Leon Markovitz said yesterday the cableway company should have pushed for the land transfer to go ahead before they went to the expense of arranging for helicopters and cranes to start the upgrade.

He said it was unlikely that the transfer would go ahead soon.

"Nothing happens in the city between December and January," he said.

TABLE MOUNTAIN AERIAL CABLEWAY COMPANY says:

- The Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology has acted beyond his powers by stipulating that we can get a permit to upgrade the cableway only once the National Parks Board is the controlling authority of the land and once it has been proclaimed a national park.
- We have asked the minister to drop these two conditions.
- We will sue the National Monuments Council for not giving us a permit.
- This will be for at least R100 000 a day for each day we are delayed.

THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL says:

- The Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology acted

well within his powers by saying we could issue a permit only once the parks board was in control and the land was formally declared a national park.

● He made these conditions in response to an appeal by the cableway company and all parties approved them.

● Delays in transferring land owned by the city council to the National Parks Board, which we have no control over, are causing the hold-up in fulfilling these two conditions.

CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL says:

- Although the city council took a decision in principle to transfer the land to the parks board, we as officials cannot transfer the land until the parks board applies to us to have the land

transferred.

● We don't know exactly what piece of land the parks board wants.

● We have not decided yet if we will transfer ownership of the land to them or if we will only lease it to them.

● It's not up to council officials to drive this transfer process — it's up to the parks board as they're the ones who want the park.

THE GREEN LOBBY says:

● The only protection the mountain has is that the cableway upgrading does not begin until National Parks Board is in control of the land and it has been proclaimed a schedule one national park.

● The decision has been made to transfer the land and the offi-

cials involved must now get off their butts and make it happen.

THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD says:

● We have been told by council officials only now that the transfer of land cannot go ahead without a formal application from us, which we are now making.

● We have now spelt out exactly what piece of land we want.

● The city council's decision was that all their assets in the CPPNE (the future national park) would be transferred to us, not that they would be leased to us.

● If the land is not transferred into our ownership, the future park cannot be proclaimed a schedule one national park and cannot therefore become a World Heritage Site.

56 CT 28/11/96

Nat government 'kept stockpiled sulphur a secret'

~~AB~~ (56)
NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 28/11/96

The previous government kept details of its stockpiling of large amounts of sulphur a closely-guarded secret, the commission of inquiry into the sulphur fire at African Explosives and Chemical Industries in Somerset West has been told.

The fire on December 16 caused the deaths of two asthmatics and the temporary evacuation of Macassar.

Cross-examining Alexander Weir, AECI group safety and environmental officer, Macassar Crisis Committee counsel Lee Bozalek said the former government's secret sulphur stockpiling coincided with widespread political instability of the 1960s.

Mr Bozalek quoted part of a letter from an official in the Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism: "The government stocks of sulphur at Somerset West are to be increased by 15 000 tons. As in the past you will buy at the most advantageous prices as if for your own account and the name of this department or the government must not be disclosed in any transaction."

Commission will look after Cape environment

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — A proposal that a constitutionally enshrined commission for the environment be established in the Western Cape was accepted by more than a two-thirds majority at provincial constitutional talks yesterday.

The National Party (NP) proposed that an independent commission, with powers to monitor and advise cabinet on environmental issues, be set up.

The Western Cape leader of the Democratic Party (DP) and chairman of the provincial standing committee on constitutional affairs, Hennie Bester, while supporting the idea, did not think it went far enough and called for the commission to be given greater powers.

"The environment is critical for the long-term survival of the Western Cape," Bester said.

The African National Congress, although concerned about the environment, was worried about the cost of such a commission and reserved its position.

The environmental issue, together with the possible establishment of cultural councils, a commission on local government and a commissioner for children, were left over for finalisation today.

All the parties agreed that there should be some mechanism built into the constitution to monitor the affairs of local government, but they differed on how this measure could best be achieved.

However, the ANC was strongly against the NP's proposal for cultural councils charged with protecting the different cultures, arguing that these would be separatist.

Bester told a news conference at the close of yesterday's deliberations that he hoped the draft provincial constitution would be wrapped up today and be ready for publication for public comment on Friday next week.

The public would have until January 20 to express their views, after which a further two weeks had been set aside for final negotiations.

The committee has worked hard over the past two weeks to finalise the document, which Bester said set out "a comprehensive charter of provincial government within the framework of the national constitution".

Unity government

Bester and other party leaders all praised the co-operative spirit in which the negotiations had taken place and expressed confidence that the provincial constitution would be a consensus document, which they hoped would easily pass the certification process.

Apart from procedural matters, the outstanding matters of principle which had to be finalised were the inclusion of a provincial electoral system, and the composition of the legislature and the executive. The question of the continuance of a government of provincial unity beyond 1999 would also be embraced.

BD 28/11/96

Mpumalanga sells wildlife park rights to Dolphin

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Nelspruit — Commercial and development rights to four of Mpumalanga's flagship wildlife parks were sold this week to the Dubai-based Dolphin Group for 50 years for up to R377 million in a controversial deal to bankroll the Mpumalanga Parks Board.

Dolphin has agreed to fund the parks board's budget deficit over the coming 10 years. Thereafter, the payments by Dolphin will be renegotiated in periods of 10 years.

Alan Gray, the chief executive of the parks board, declined to put a value to the payments by Dolphin, but documents in the possession of Business Report indicate that the board's projected budget deficit could total R377,2 million over the next 10 years.

Gray said Dolphin owned the Block Hotel group and the United Touring Company, which have extensive interests in East Africa. The board had sold the development rights in exchange for tourism investments worth be-

tween R300 million and R400 million over the next few years.

Gray denied charges that the parks had effectively been privatised, saying the board would still own the land and the new facilities developed on it.

A parks board document entitled Macro Business Plan to Self Sufficiency says the board need to budget R51,7 million in expenditure for next financial year. Government support during the period is expected to total R47,3 million, leaving an 8 per cent deficit.

This deficit is expected to grow as government support declines to about R14,7 million in 2006, as expenditure rises to an expected R109,7 million.

Government support in the 10-year period is projected to total R918 million in operating costs. A further R125 million will have to be spent on infrastructural development by the board.

At the launch of the Parks Board and Dolphin joint venture on Wednesday night, Gray said the venture would ensure the integrity of these areas and would

mean the board did not compromise its conservation principles through dwindling provincial budgets.

"How are we to improve the socio-economic plight of so many of the provinces' impoverished rural communities if not through the rational and sensible development of these resources?" he asked.

John Small, the chairman of Block Hotels, said the first phase of the park's development, which would take place over the next three years, would cost R30 mil-

lion and generate employment for more than 2 000 people.

The group planned to build 15 lodges and camps with 650 beds in the Songimvelo reserve. The reserve would offer safaris with a 1930's "white mischief" theme to high-income tourists. Other plans include accommodation for 540 people, an aqua centre and helicopter safaris in the Blyde River Canyon at R70 million.

He said turnover from the resorts would have to reach about R500 million in five years to cover payments to the Parks Board.

(56) CT (SR 29/11/96

Parks board seals R400m commercialisation deal with Dubai-based Dolphin

Josey Ballenger

BD 29/11/98

THE Mpumalanga Parks Board has entered a R400m agreement with Dolphin Group to commercialise five areas for tourism and help the board achieve self-sufficiency. Through its subsidiaries Block Hotels and United Touring Co, Dubai-based Dolphin Group will run the commercial side of the board's tourism and marketing di-

visions, with the board overseeing conservation.

The deal, announced in Nelson Mandela Bay yesterday, involves investment by 2000 of R300m in "bricks and mortar" to build and upgrade 30 places of accommodation with 2 370 beds, and another R100m on vehicles and infrastructure.

The joint venture is expected to create 1 150-1 500 jobs.

The first phase of the 10-year

contract involves the development of five natural areas, three of which — Blyde River Canyon, Loskop Dam and Reserve, and Pilgrim's Rest — will remain open to the public.

Songimvelo will become a private reserve.

Whether the Manyaleti area would remain open to the public was uncertain, said Block Hotels Africa chairman John Small.

Mpumalanga Parks Board CEO

Alan Gray said the board's motivation for the agreement was its fear of dwindling budgets in the face of increased conservation costs. In the current fiscal year its budget was R55m. The board expected next year's budget, despite subsidies for development, would be cut by 3%.

Dolphin will underwrite the parks board's budget.

Premier Mathews Phosa said the deal was in line with government

policy to preserve natural resources while developing them in a "rational, sustainable" way.

He said the partnership would achieve "maximum socioeconomic benefits through the development of reserves (and) achieve the self-sufficiency of the board".

The deal involves building 30 hotels, camps and lodges catering for everyone from the "no-fills" tourist to those requiring luxury.

'Mega-parks' set to boost conservation

AKG 30/11/96

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But fears expressed

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Nature conservation in Southern Africa is set to get a boost of hundreds of millions of rand and the creation of thousands of jobs with the announcement that eight "mega-nature" parks are to be established in the region.

The move was announced by World Nature Foundation president, Anton Rupert, who disclosed a comprehensive plan which could put nature conservation on a sound footing for many years to come.

Dr Rupert also announced the appointment of John Hanks, chief executive of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), as the head of the new Foundation for Peace Parks in South Africa. South Africa will enter into partnerships with neighbouring countries to establish huge nature parks over their borders. Countries involved could include Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho.

Dr Rupert's announcement followed a week of high drama in the National Parks Board. In a move which sent shockwaves through the environmental fraternity Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson announced his resignation.

His decision sparked fears that the nation's game parks may become money-spinning, commercial ventures that ignore conservation.

Dr Robinson, 57, said the board's financial committee recommendations - that conservation and tourism functions be split - was contrary to his belief that tourism should not stifle the integrity of conservation. He believes they can co-exist.

What baffles many, however, is Dr Robinson's decision to resign before the sub-committee had tabled its recommendation to the full board for a final decision.

"Facilities will be upgraded, but not at the expense of the conservation ethic"

Dr Robinson, internationally acknowledged for his conservation work, is no stranger to controversy. In 1993 then board chairman Fritz Eloff - after an apparent palace revolution by conservatives within the organisation - admitted that there was tension within the organisation relating in part to Dr Robinson's management style.

A year later Dr Robinson locked horns with Kruger Park chief Salomon Joubert over management issues and last year Dr Robinson threatened to resign after a showdown between him and the then board chairman Naas Steenkamp over the Saldanha Steel issue.

This week board chairman Enos Mabuza was adamant that Dr Robinson's fears that the country's parks would be the losers under the new dispensation were unfounded.

He said as part of a "transformation drive" the board would go out of its way to upgrade its facilities

but, "not at the expense of the conservation ethic".

Dr Robinson said he opposed the idea of a commercial department which would operate independently from the conservation arm.

"If you split the conservation and the commercial functions, money will soon dictate what is happening in the conservation field."

What was needed, one source said, was an integrated commercial policy on how to improve park facilities and deal with an increasing number of applications from developers and tour operators.

"We can't deal with these on an ad hoc basis, otherwise our parks will soon look like Las Vegas on a Saturday night," said the source.

At the same time there was no certainty that the board's state subsidy of about R48 million per year would not be cut further - a problem which had to be addressed before it was too late.

The storm over national parks

56
By ANDREW UNSWORTH

ST 11-12-96
DR ROBBIE ROBINSON, the chief executive of the National Parks Board who resigned from his post this week, would probably do anything to help conservation.

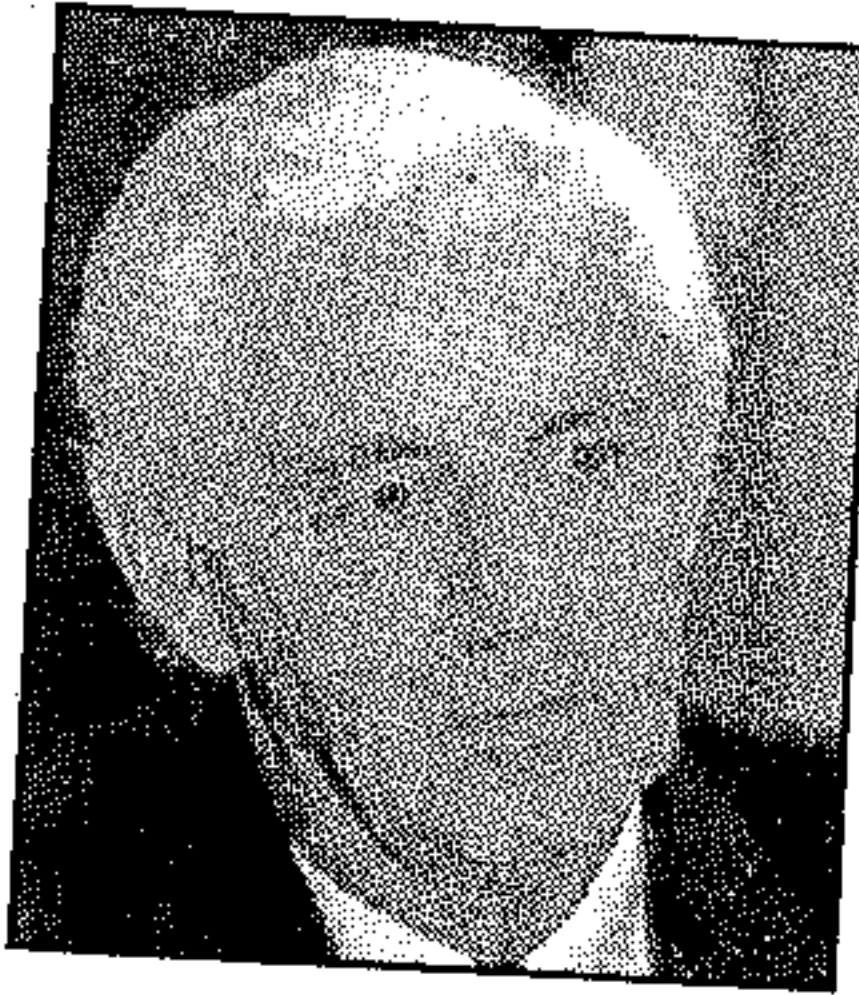
And it seems that his decision to quit was made for just this reason.

Robinson requested early retirement after a misunderstanding with the new board appointed just over a year ago. His move has set alarm bells ringing in conservation circles here and abroad.

The disagreement appears to have come over a proposal to group all commercial aspects of the parks into a new section that would be accountable to a new director under the chief executive, thereby separating conservation and commerce.

The proposal was put to the board, but it is unclear whether a final decision has yet been made.

Robinson says that, far from being pig-headed over reform, he cannot go along with a proposal that flies in the face of his philosophy of conservation.



QUIT: Robbie Robinson

And certainly he is no bureaucrat unable to adapt to the new order. He has promoted a new approach to conservation, trying to balance economic exploitation with the needs of the fragile environment.

The line between the two, he thinks, is very thin.

"The individuals who run the national parks have to make sure the integrity of a special area is protected at the same time as making it accessible to the general public, and developing tourist facilities.

"It is a sensitive balance and the best way to achieve it

is for staff to be really involved in both tourism and conservation, working at grassroots level."

Leading conservationist Ian Player says the board had no option but to accede to Robinson's request: "We are naturally very sad ... Over six years at the top Robinson helped steer the parks through a very difficult period ..."

The board has reaffirmed its policy that the conservation of biodiversity is sacrosanct, and has resolved to put all future tourist developments on the periphery of national parks.

If Robinson predicts that the commercial development of parks will be at the expense of conservation, he is too much the diplomat to say it. What he does say, however, is that he foresees conflict if management is divided into two camps.

South African parks, he says, are world leaders in developing ecotourism which protects the environment while generating funds.

"If we had a bad track record I could agree with changes, but in the past five years we have done very well."

Big cash from

the Big Five

MTG (Pm) 6-12/12/96 (56) (288)
The big guns are out, but this time they are profiting from protecting the wildlife. **Eddie Koch** reports on the phenomenal growth of the Conservation Corporation

WHEN Dave Varty opened his company's newest lodge on the banks of the Zambezi River last month, he identified a phenomenon that is helping to fuel exponential growth in Africa's game-lodge industry. "What made this possible is that a lot of wealthy banks and finance institutions have realised that it makes economic sense to invest their money in projects that protect the dwindling wildlife of Africa," he says.

That mechanism is, in essence, the lever that has converted Conservation Corporation Africa (CCA) in just six years from a family-owned set of Lowveld lodges into a multinational corporation operating 20 of the most luxurious lodges south of the Sahara. It employs about 2 500 people and manages 350 000ha of the continent's most valuable wildlife real estate.

The company — valued at US\$65-million (about R300-million) and probably the only corporation of its type in the world — sees itself as being so successful that it plans to expand into the wilderness of South, and possibly even North, America.

It is also planning a stock exchange listing next year in London or the United States. According to one director, CCA is becoming "the world's Microsoft of ecotourism".

But sceptics in South Africa's conservation industry say this kind of phenomenal growth is unrealistic. Since 1990, when the corporation was formed to take over the Phinda Private Game Reserve in northern KwaZulu-Natal, it has acquired six lodges and a hotel in East Africa, two lodges on the Zambezi in Zimbabwe — and a small island off the coast of Zanzibar.

In the middle of this year, CCA acquired all three of Southern Sun's game lodges and began operating a lodge at Tswalu in the Kalahari. South Africa's largest private game reserve. Talks are now under way with Wilderness Safaris to take over at least

another two lodges in KwaZulu-Natal's wilderness areas, and the company is spearheading a drive with the Natal Parks Board to make the long-awaited Greater St Lucia National Park become a reality in that province.

"That kind of growth is just impossible to sustain. With so many beds opening up in new lodges, each of CCA's operations simply won't be able to run at the kind of occupancy rates that are required to make them profitable. It seems it is relying on soft money in the form of investment by noble financiers who are willing to take risks and less return on their money in order to be able to say they did something good for Africa's wildlife," says a wildlife and tourism consultant who asked not to be named.

That perception is not borne out, however, by company statistics. An official release notes that total available bed nights sold have grown from 23 627 in 1992 to 94 000 in 1996. Average occupancies have escalated from about 60% in 1992, the kind of figure that causes some commentators to question the profitability of some lodges, to well over 80% in 1996 — all at an average rate of a whopping US\$225 (more than R1 000) a night, which is expected to generate a turnover of US\$33.5-million (about R155-million) in 1997.

CCA's deputy chairman, Alan Bernstein, says the criticisms are a "subjective view", which "fail to take account of years of research by investment analysts into CCA's revenue earning potential". He adds it is not short-term operational profits that account for the company's skyrocketing performance.

"The international investment scene is showing an appetite for investment in the natural resources of the southern hemisphere. Ecotourism is increasingly interesting from a number of perspectives, including the ability to generate medium-term returns but also to create a viable and long-term industry."

The real success of CCA, says Bernstein, lies in its growing ability to behave and perform in a way that attracts equity investment from international capital markets. This long-term endeavour, rather than immediate pressures to boost the occupancy rates of its new lodges, is where the company's strategic accent lies.

"We believe there is an appetite for people of the northern hemisphere to participate in the lifestyle and natural-resource based products and services that people of the underdeveloped world can offer. CCA is essentially about setting up partnerships between the holders of capital internationally



Natural resources: 'We haven't even scratched the surface in terms of the tourism potential for Africa's wildlife' PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CONSERVATION CORPORATION AFRICA

and the holders of natural resources in Africa, with ecotourism creating the best opportunity for structuring those partnerships."

In exchange, investors can expect to earn a return on their equity in the high 20% bracket over the medium term, possibly escalating to the high 30s. But a new surge of international investment into other sectors of the game-lodge industry could also create competition problems for CCA.

Last month the Dubai-based Dolphin Group announced it was preparing to spend between R300 and R400-million on more than 25 new game lodges in Mpumalanga — indicating

Smart lodges, smart thinking, Open Africa PAGE 6

Choosing right road to mutual benefits

(56) Star 6/12/96

There is much that links the European Union and South Africa, including shared values and the quest for morality in the world, promoting regional co-operation and working closely together on international issues like the present crisis in Central Africa.

And with the EU absorbing 40% of South Africa's exports and providing 52% of its total foreign investment, we must share a common desire to consolidate our trade and investment.

There is certainly more that unites than divides us. The first agreement between the EU and South Africa of October 1994 set out the broad principles on which our relationship has developed: respect for human rights and democratic principles; support for balanced and sustainable social and economic development and co-operation in SA and in southern Africa; reducing protectionist barriers and freeing up trade by encouraging investment by European companies in South Africa and vice-versa.

The EU has given the relationship many concrete expressions, including: an R80-million rights programme for NGOs; a R96-million Programme of Support for the national and provincial parliaments; the R600-million European Programme for Reconstruction and Development; the European Investment Bank's R1-billion worth of soft loans; and the European Community Investment Partner mechanism providing R31.5-million of seed money so far for joint ventures between European and South African smaller enterprises.

The Generalised System of Preferences was extended to South Africa in 1994, allowing some 2 000 manufactured products to enter the EU duty-free; from next January these will include agricultural products.

In June of last year, together we launched our negotiations on the framework for a long-term relationship. We followed a twin-track approach:

■ a Protocol to the Lomé Convention, covering the terms and conditions of South Africa's accession to the convention; and

■ a bilateral trade and co-operation agreement between the EU and South Africa.

Specific proposals were made in March this year covering the process of trade liberalisation leading to a free trade area.

The FTA timetable would be asymmetrical, giving South Africa more time to adjust, and would allow the exclusion of certain sensitive products on both sides. The coverage of the FTA need not be exactly the same on both sides so as to cater for different levels of development and different sensi-

tive interests between the two partners.

I would emphasise four main considerations underlying our proposals:

■ The political dimension is essential. This is not a trade negotiation *per se* but the establishment of a far-reaching long-term agreement including trade and many other aspects.

■ The regional dimension is about helping South Africa to integrate economically with its SADC partners - including mechanisms to allow combined products from different nations to enjoy each other's EU market access advantages; to allow South Africa to tender for projects the EU finances under the Lomé Convention; and, conversely, allowing firms of other Lomé countries to compete for EU-funded tenders in South Africa itself.

■ The global dimension also advances the region's overall interests; an open trade policy strategy both between the countries of the region and with the outside world.

■ An FTA will improve SA's market access to the EU. As exporting to the EU is made easier, bilateral trade will grow and this will fuel domestic growth and employment. The whole region is bound to benefit from increased growth in South Africa, which will in turn need to buy more from its neighbours.

Discussion in SA on the EU FTA proposal has invariably and perhaps understandably focused on the list of products which the (European) Council of Ministers considers should be excluded from the FTA because they are sensitive to EU domestic agricultural production.

The lists deal only with agricultural products, and amount to some 39% of our current agricultural imports from South Africa. Although this may seem high, it does in fact represent less than 4% of our total imports from South Africa.

My misunderstandings of the EU negotiating process have cast a shadow over the current debate. The impression given was that by sitting at the negotiating table, South Africa would be committing itself to the terms of the EU mandate.

In fact, the exact terms of our offer are not carved in stone. The negotiations themselves will shape the final outcome; but the important thing is for the negotiations to get under way. We must not take too long to make up our minds; otherwise we will be acting like Vladimir and Estragon in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* - waiting for the enemy and calamity to fall on them, not realising the enemy is, of course, themselves.

With South Africa we share a collective responsibility for making sure that the economies of the SADC region will be pulled and developed together. I would even suggest that history will judge that we provided a catalyst, however small, in bringing South Africa and its neighbours together in a common effort to agree on regional trade policy reforms - which are crucial for the region as it searches for its rightful place in the increasingly globalised and interdependent trading environment.

With these reforms and common goals, the region will be better placed to forge trading ties not just with Europe, but also with other emerging and successful regions such as the Mercosur, Asia and in the Pacific. So, I repeat, there is more that unites than divides us.

I am convinced that given the goodwill that exists between us, we will continue to be influenced by the bonds of friendship and unity of purpose. In this way we will be better able to choose the right road.

As one of the founding fathers of Europe, France's Jean Monnet, said to another founding father, Germany's Konrad Adenauer, some 40 years ago, the road towards European integration "is essentially political. It even has a moral aspect".

"Indeed", concurred the German chancellor "it is the moral responsibility which we have towards our people, and not the technical responsibility which we must bring into play to make a reality from this vast pool of hope."

Erwan Fouéré is the EU ambassador to SA.

Cross-border nature parks mooted

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

A BOLD new initiative to create conservation areas that span the borders between South Africa and its neighbours and extend the range of wildlife in the region was launched this week by World Wide Fund for Nature-SA president Dr Anton Rupert.

The Foundation for Peace Parks, as it is called, will look at forming trans-frontier conservation areas and raising funds to establish and run the parks.

It is envisaged that the parks will also make an economic contribution to the region.

Dr John Hanks, WWF-SA's chief executive, will head the new foundation.

He said: "My role will be to implement the main objectives of the foundation, which are to raise large sums of money to pay for it, and to facilitate the partnership between South Africa, the National Parks Board, the Natal Parks Board and relevant representatives from the six neighbouring countries.

"This is not going to be so much an expansion of South African parks into neighbouring countries, but a partnership with other countries."

Details of the trans-frontier conservation areas are not available yet, because discussions with other countries are still in the initial stages, but early indications from neighbouring countries are "very favourable" to the project.

Seven trans-frontier conservation areas are on the cards: five under the National Parks Board and two under Natal Parks Board.

They include the Kruger, Richtersveld, Kalahari Gemsbok, Dongola (Northern Province) and Maputland (Kwazulu-Natal) parks.

"By linking these regions and expanding them as protected areas, the opportunity will return for animal migration across political boundaries," said Hanks.

At least two of Southern Africa's biodiversity epicentres — internationally recognised areas of plant biodiversity — will be included.

These are the Richtersveld, which will link up with conserva-

tion areas in Namibia, and Maputland, which will link up with areas in Mozambique.

"But the most important factor is what the trans-frontier parks mean to the regional economy," said Hanks. "There will be opportunities to create many jobs in the tourism industry and to increase the number of visitors."

Wherever possible, people living in the regions will be incorporated into the parks and, if necessary, arable lands will be fenced off to protect them from the wildlife.

The Peace Park project will also focus on capacity-building projects for local people, and on allocating money to promote local initiatives.

"First we have to identify the land to be acquired for the development, then to negotiate the purchase of the land and finally to promote the development of trans-frontier conservation areas on a commercial basis within the parameters of conservation principles," said Hanks.

The key phrases will be ecological sustainability and economic viability.

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So, while southern Africa will never return to the days when wildlife wandered free and far, wild creatures will have been given a bit more room to roam in the new peace parks.

And the people of the region, for the most part poor, will be given a chance to earn a living in Africa's growing ecotourism industry.

From colonial times the land over which wildlife had roamed freely for millions of years has been broken up by political borders and subdivided for economic purposes.

What was left of Africa's wild places was fenced off to protect the animals inside and the people outside.

The fences made national parks artificial environments which had to be managed to simulate nature as far as possible. Unable to migrate, the animals had to be culled regularly to prevent them from eating themselves out of home and habitat.

Now there is a chance that at least some will be able to return to the way of nature.

People and pines compete for water

(56)

Ecologically fragile land in the Drakensberg is to be planted with pines, reports **Eddie Koch**

WATER and Forestry Affairs Minister Kader Asmal is under fire in KwaZulu-Natal from organisations across the political spectrum over his ministry's decision to allow some 3 000ha of ecologically fragile land on the Drakensberg escarpment to be planted with commercial pine trees.

Environmental organisations, some of whose members have historical links with the anti-apartheid movement, along with officials in the Inkatha Freedom Party, argue that the water-guzzling forest could dry up wetlands in the area and deprive local farmers and communities of water.

The row centres on a decision to allow Inzinga Ranch in the Mpendle district of the Drakensberg the right to establish a commercial timber forest close to the road between Nottingham Road and Himeville.

Keith Cooper of the Natal Branch of the Wildlife Society says the forest will inevitably damage a sensitive part of the Drakensberg catchment area.

"We know plantations affect biodiversity 100% but this could also affect the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people lower down in the catchment area." He added that the green light for Inzinga would open the way for other damaging forestry

programmes in the area.

Meridy Pfothenauer from Bergwatch said there "are 80 to 90 applications for forestry in the Drakensberg" and no proper land-use plan to ensure that the region's natural resources are used and protected in a co-ordinated way.

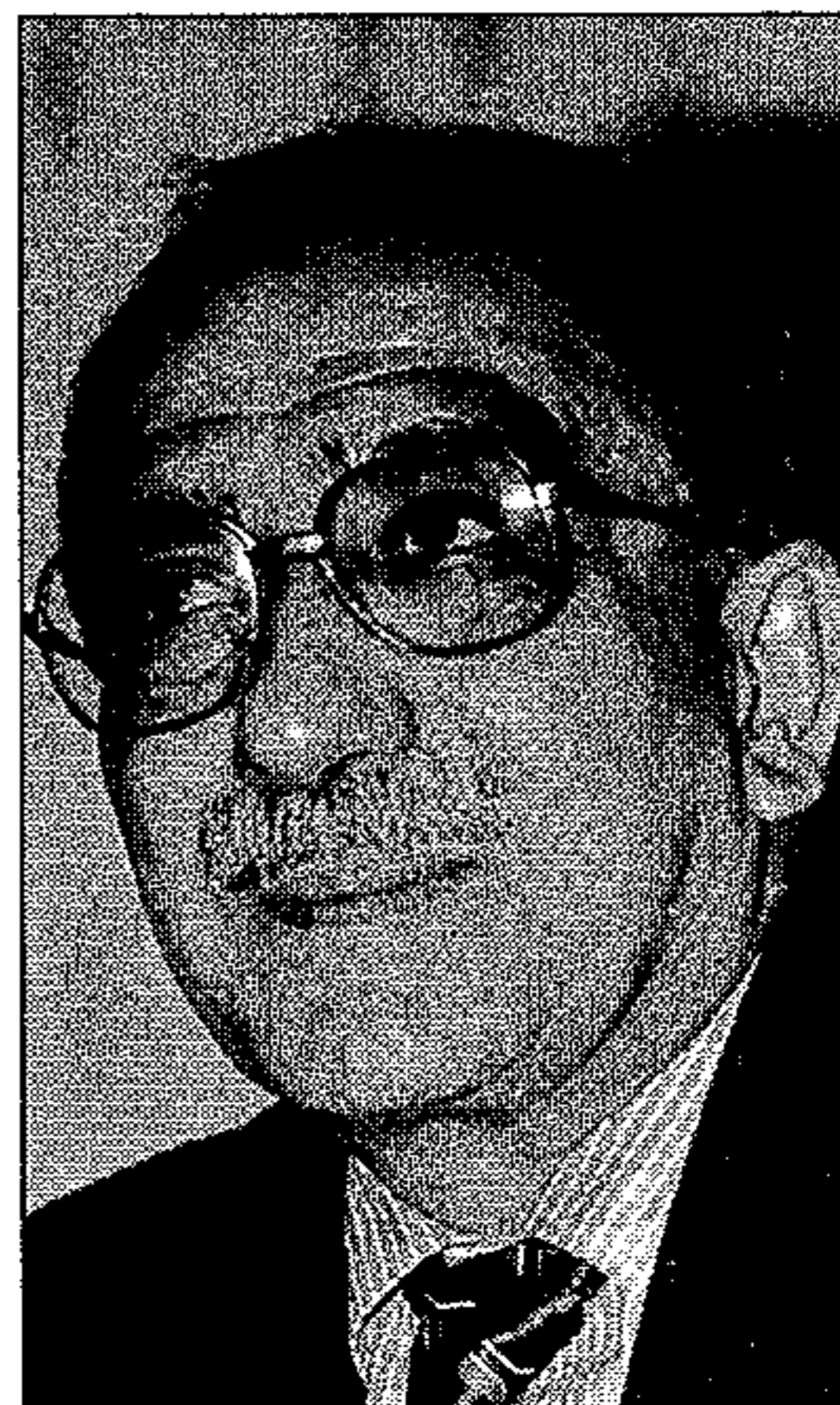
IFP senator Philip Powell said his party is concerned about the forestry plan in a sensitive area "where there are lots of streams and small rivers that feed rivers in the province". While rural people in the Mpendle area were desperate for jobs, they were also concerned about water supply in dry years.

Powell said it appeared the Natal Midlands were being targeted by the forestry industry because commercial plantations in the Eastern Cape have been severely disrupted by industrial protest and militancy.

Although some Inkatha officials are opposed to the forestry permit for Inzinga, Powell stressed it was important to come up with another form of economic development that would offer jobs and benefits to the people who live there.

Earthlife Africa representative Marion Witte, whose organisation has members more aligned to the ANC camp, said Inzinga Ranch's application for a permit had been a "completely untransparent process" and that over 20 objections had been lodged to it.

Claas Triebel, a deputy director general in Asmal's department, said the row reflected how contested the control and use of water in South



Damaging decision: Kader Asmal's ministry is under fire

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

Africa had become.

The permit had been issued after 18 months of study and consultation in the area and "careful consideration of the impact such development would have on the water resources of the immediate community". Inzinga has also promised to build a dam to ensure safe water supply for local people.

Faced with a growing controversy, Asmal has decided to call a meeting early next year of all affected by the permit.

The meeting will form part of a strategic environment assessment that aims to plan the regional economy of the Midlands in a way that will try to accommodate the conflicting views and interests. This will probably be the first time such a planning process is used to solve an environmental conflict in South Africa.

"My sense is that it is a very important step forward and a concession that the ministry has made," said Chris Albertyn, national coordinator of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum.

"It is unprecedented step to use new ways of resolving these issues."

R12,2-billion Dolphin deal under attack

MTG 20-23/12/96

The Mpumalanga Parks Board is desperately trying to rescue its 'theme resort' deal, reports **Justin Arenstein**

DESPITE mounting public opposition and the discovery that there are gazetted land claims on some of the key conservation areas promised to the Dubai-based Dolphin Group, the Mpumalanga Parks Board denied on Thursday that their R12,2-billion deal was in danger of collapsing.

The Dolphin Group signed an agreement with the Mpumalanga Parks Board three weeks ago granting the mega-corporation exclusive commercial development rights to Mpumalanga's flagship game reserves and natural assets such as the Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim's Rest, Loskop Dam, as well as the Songimvelo and Manyeleti game reserves.

In return, Dolphin has agreed to underwrite the Mpumalanga Parks Board's R12,2-billion operating budget for the next 50 years, while developing the reserves into "theme resorts" for an international clientele.

However, the provincial land affairs department pointed out this week that there are at least three gazetted land claims on the Blyde canyon by surrounding communities and that none of them has been consulted about the proposed transformation of the canyon into one of the province's biggest international tourist developments.

"Land claims are only ever gazetted if the commissioner feels there is a good chance that they will be successful. According to our records, these claims were gazetted in 1995. We will be sending a letter of notification to the Parks Board," said land affairs representative Conrad Spamer.

Once a claim for a specific area has been gazetted, the land may not be sold or substantially altered by development until the claim has been settled.

"Look, we weren't aware of any claims in the area and so didn't tell Dolphin, but even though Blyde is one of the three corner stones of the deal we don't think this will substantially alter anything," said Mpumalanga Parks Board chief executive Alan Gray.

He insisted that after the affected communities realised the economic advantages of the proposed developments — which include at the least one five-star hotel, various exclusive

lodges and safari operations as well as a "sub-economic zone" around the Bourke's Luck pot holes for the local tourism market — the land claims would "fall away".

Environmental activists in surrounding areas sent a letter of concern to provincial environmental MEC David Mkhwanazi this week, alleging that both they and members of the Parks Board had only learnt of the development from the media, that no adequate feasibility study has yet been conducted, that no attempt has been made to consult with the local communities and that South African companies would never have the opportunity to develop if "our lives are taken over by multi-nationals like Dolphin".

The activists, represented by Mpumalanga Environmental Council member Shirley Ngwenya, also asked what the purpose of discussing conservation policy at grassroots was if decisions were made unilaterally by "a dictatorship of whoever is in power".

'These people are doing their best to dig up any dirt which could destroy the deal, and I'm getting sick of fighting this negativity'

Admitting that none of the communities around Blyde has yet been consulted about the deal, Gray stressed that the 16 communities around the Mpumalanga Parks Board's biggest game reserve, Songimvelo, had already been drawn into a development forum called Songico. Similar initiatives would be launched around Blyde in the new year, Gray said.

Environmental Council chair Dr Sue Hart said on Thursday her executive committee is extremely concerned about the manner in which the Dolphin issue has been handled: "We've been attempting to get clarity or any information, in fact, on these and other developments since July — with absolutely no reply. We are supposedly the environmental ombudsman in the province, but only managed to secure our first briefing about this huge development on December 7 — 10 days after the public announcement."

Even then, she said, the briefing had only come after urgent appeals for assistance to Premier Matthew Phosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan and President Nelson Mandela's office.

Dismissing Hart's concerns by saying that the Mpumalanga Parks Board had not yet received a single direct query from the council, Gray said although he had been aware the council was querying development plans via the MEC's office, he had not considered their concerns serious enough to respond to.

"The Mpumalanga Parks Board is an independent statutory body and its board is therefore the only authority when making decisions to develop our assets. The board conducts the impact and other studies, but it is open for suggestions — if approached directly," he explained.

Accusing recent mounting public criticism on a "small band of armchair conservationists" who are allegedly "doing their damndest" to destroy the Dolphin deal, Gray said: "These people are doing their best to dig up any dirt which could destroy the deal, and frankly I'm getting sick of fighting this negativity."

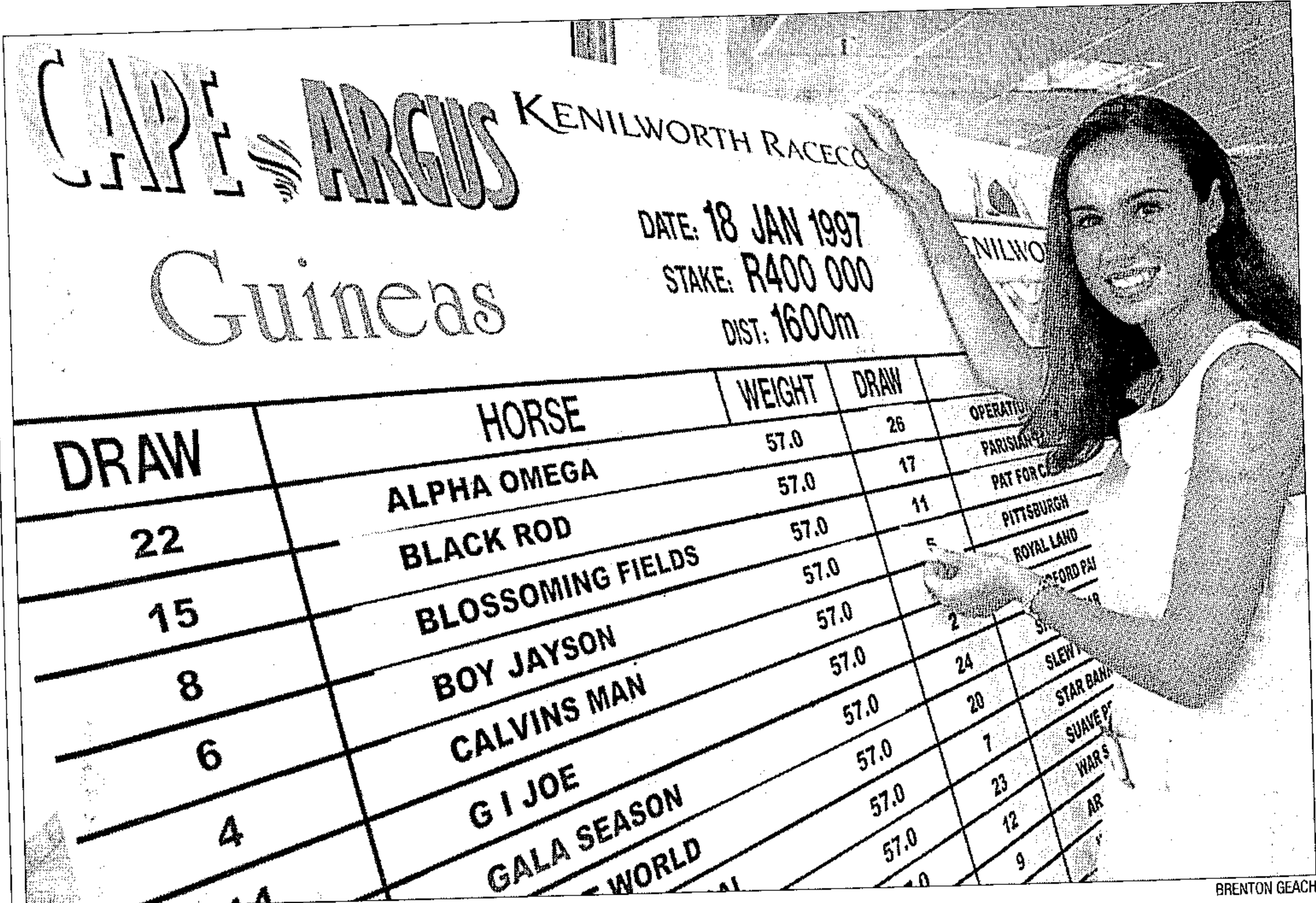
"How can people oppose a deal which will bring billions into the provincial economy, will bring jobs and development? Just what are the motives in this issue?"

Gray, however, refused to identify any of the members of the group other than to say certain Mpumalanga Parks Board members were involved, as well as a number of other conservationists outside the parks board.

Confirming he had significant shares in the Lowveld's biggest helicopter charter company, Gray rejected allegations that as the board is the licensing body, plans for helicopter safaris down the Blyde Canyon constitute a vested interest for him.

"It is true the parks board leases offices from local hotel owner Sean MacMurray and that MacMurray has signed deals with Dolphin for some form of joint operations, but we had nothing to do with that."

"MacMurray accompanied us on an investment trip with other provincial businessmen and negotiated his own deals. The office rental was a favour to us way below the economic standard."



BRENTON GEACH

Beauty stakes: Miss Western Cape Adele van Niekerk does the draw for the Cape Argus Guineas at Kenilworth race course yesterday

Plutonium shipment on its way to Japan won't harm SA, says minister

HEALTH REPORTER

A shipment of plutonium from France to Japan will not have any impact on South African waters, says Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan.

The intended route of the ship will be confirmed next week, he added.

Responding to a claim from Greenpeace that it had obtained a confidential document showing that a plutonium waste shipment from Europe would leave France for Japan on January 16, media officer Cassandra Gabriel said Dr Jordan had been informed about the shipment of nuclear waste and had received assurances that the ship would not pass through South African territorial waters.

According to the document, the shipment will be transported aboard the United Kingdom registered Pacific Teal. The vessel will sail around the South African

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 coast, around and up the east coast of Australia and cross the south Pacific to Japan.

"Minister Jordan has been briefed on the extensive range of safety measures that have been put into place around this shipment. The vessel carrying the waste of recycled plutonium will be monitored by a team of nuclear experts on a 24-hour basis and comprehensive emergency plans exist to adequately deal with any eventuality," she said.

The vessel, designed specifically for the transport of nuclear material, has the highest safety rating, and the transport flasks meet rigorous safety standards, she added.

The flasks are specially designed for the particular radioactive material they carry, give protection to the workers and the public against radiation and are designed to withstand the most serious accidents.

"Subsequently, Minister Jordan is confident that there is very little likelihood of the shipment having any impact on South

Africa and South African waters," said Ms Gabriel.

The Wildlife Society's Marlene Laros said her organisation did not support the transport of hazardous waste and would lobby the Government to change conventions that allowed such shipments.

The route for the shipment is the same as that used in 1992 for a plutonium shipment transported aboard the Akatsuki-manu, which caused a major international outcry. In 1995, the Pacific Pintail carrying plutonium waste to Japan sailed around South America, in spite of opposition from the governments of Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

"All routes for this particular shipment are unacceptable from an environmental and security perspective. The governments involved have to realise that it is not just these shipments that should be stopped, but their entire plutonium programmes," said Greenpeace.

Top names for mountain park

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)
ARG 23/12/96

Several of the Western Cape's best-known environmentalists are being nominated for the committee which will help the National Parks Board establish and manage the new Cape Peninsula national park.

This is in response to a call from Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan for nominations from the public for nine members of the 15-person committee, which will serve for three years.

The other six members of the committee will be nominated - one each - by the Western Cape government, Cape Metropolitan Council, Cape Town Municipality, South Peninsula Municipality, National Monuments Council and National Parks Board.

Nominations have to be submitted by December 31 and Dr Jordan will make his choice in consultation with the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Lionel Mtshali, Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring, and the chairman of the National Parks Board, Enos Mabuza.

At least 13 people have been nominated under the auspices of the Peninsula Mountain Forum, an umbrella body

established by local non-government environmental groups to lobby for the new national park.

They are Cecilia Assad and Desré Buirski of the Save the Mountain Campaign; Lester Coelen of the Mountain Club; Richard Cowling of the Botanical Society and the University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation; Stephen Craven of the South African Speleological Association; Alida Croudace of the Red Hill Landowners' Conservation Group; Achmat Davids of the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee; Pat Evans of Friends of Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve; Jeff Goy of Friends of Newlands Forest; Pixie Littlewort of the Afro-Montane Information Forum; Ed Tilanus and Julia Wood of the Wildlife Society; and Chris Walker of Friends of Silvermine Nature Reserve.

Mr Tilanus, who is also chairperson of the mountain forum, urged members to write letters of support for nine of the nominees.

"The establishment of the committee is a milestone in the work of the forum," he said.

■ Nominations should be sent to the Director-General, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001.

The green guerrilla who went red

This year, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum has come into its own, reports **Eddie Koch**

(56) M+G 24 - 192 - 91/97

WHEN Chris Albertyn was travelling around the country with a team of environmentalists to research a new policy paper last year, he met Kraai van Niekerk, former minister of agriculture, in Cape Town.

Said Kraai: "You people are just like unripe tomatoes, green and bitter."

Retorted Albertyn: "You should look out because when tomatoes mature they go red."

The flippant prophecy has, to a large extent, been fulfilled. This was the year the green organisation that Albertyn helped establish, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), sprouted into one of the country's most robust forces for social democracy.

Albertyn is best known — and feared — for his fiery confrontations with government ministers over the import of toxic waste into this country. Last year his organisation announced, on the very day that former environment minister Dawie de Villiers was due to open a major national conference, that a ship laden with Finish toxic waste was on the high seas and headed for our shores.

The ship was forced to turn around, De Villiers retired into relative obscurity after his party left the government, and the EJNF went from strength to strength.

And when the organisation found that the Government of National Unity, minus the National Party, was still sneaking toxic waste into the country from neighbouring African states, Albertyn and his cohorts went back into the fray.

They challenged Trade and Industry Minister Alec Irwin, responsible for allowing the hazardous materials in, to provide details about the shipments. The EJNF also insisted he give a detailed account of what was in them and to say why the policy of his government and the African National Congress was apparently being flouted.

"Alec Irwin has just run away. He has promised to meet us with the Parliament's Environment Portfolio Com-

mittee twice but has cancelled the promised meetings. Now his department has invited us to sit on an advisory committee to deal with trade and the environment. They've tried to make a small concession but they haven't really addressed the issue. We'll just have to press ahead and try and get the information out of them."

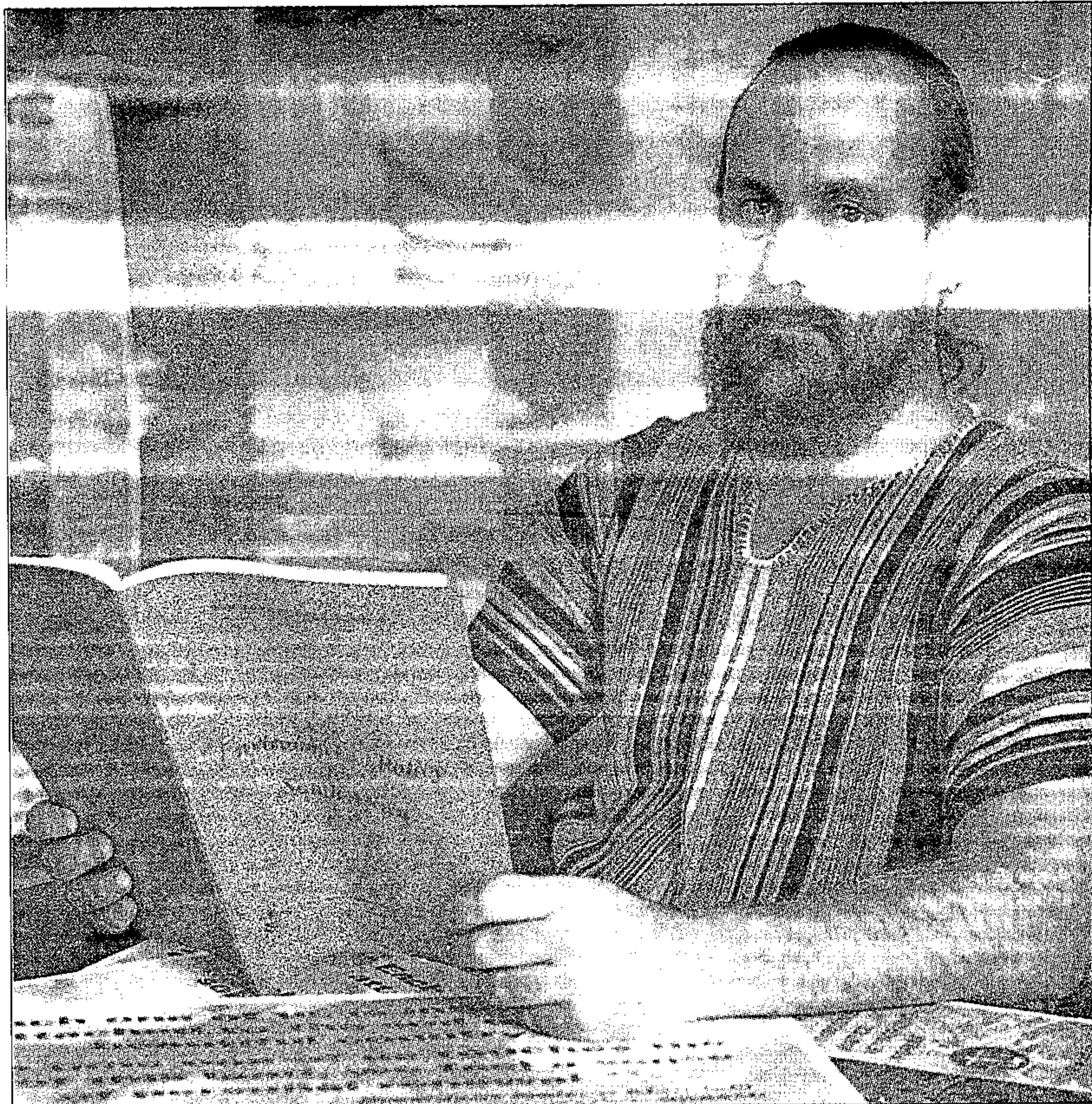
Although these high-profile encounters with people in power — regardless of their political affiliations — have established a reputation for the EJNF as being one of the most vibrant "watchdog" organisations in the country, Albertyn points out the EJNF's real achievement lies elsewhere: in creating a movement that allows ordinary men and women to realise that their struggle for a better life is inextricably linked to the environmental abuse they experience.

"People tend to see us as a fiery opposition organisation but, in fact, that's only about 10% of what we do. The most remarkable successes are the ones that go unnoticed, getting people and organisations to work within the network, which provides the foundation for a show of strength when it's needed," says Albertyn.

"You know after we set up, we set ourselves the target of having 180 member organisations this year. In fact we now have more than 330 in the network [including the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party].

"In my opinion, over the last year there has been a massive increase in the number of people who are questioning what is happening to their environment and integrating it into their broader social struggles."

Albertyn can rattle off numerous examples: a rural community near Brits in the North-West province leased some land to Union Carbide for a vanadium mine in the 1960s. In return, they got R1 000 a month and a poisoned supply of underground water. Today mine tailings blow



Killer tomato: Chris Albertyn's success in environmental battles has made politicians quiver PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL

into their homes and lungs. Many of the men complain of bleeding from their penises, a sign of kidney disorders. A range of chest diseases affect them and their families.

"They were dispossessed and that dispossession has resulted in degradation of their environment," says Albertyn. "As green issues like this have come to our attention it has become clear that they are deeply linked to social, political and economic matters.

"The EJNF is firmly of the belief that it is only if workers and poor people who are the majority of the electorate push for an end to environmental abuse that it will happen. And the only way for that to happen is to highlight the way social and economic issues affect the environment. That is why you can say our green movement now has a tint of red in it."

And this does not mean that the EJNF is simply a confrontational pressure group. "We walk a tightrope between being independent and opposing government and co-operating. But the network has another important role and that is to enable civil society to have coherent

access to government. We exhaust all avenues for co-operation and it's only when these fail that we throw the etiquette book out of the window and go for confrontation."

Another example: a small home for the disabled in Mpumalanga established a thriving vegetable garden until the nearby mine diverted the water. The staff had to carry water in buckets to wash the patients and keep the garden going. "Now it looks like a desert. We took it up through the network with the government and within six days engineers were there to sort out the problem. They did it themselves but through the solidarity that the EJNF offers."

Although he would rather give the credit to his EJNF colleagues, it is clear that much of the organisation's success is linked to Albertyn's personal skill and style. Fierce independence stems from the fact that he has "no aspirations of becoming an elected politician or getting a good job in government" at a time when others may compromise for this possibility.

"I have always been someone who if I see something is unfair, then I say it is unfair," says Albertyn.

While it was dealing with local struggles around unfairness in vari-

ous parts of the countryside, this year the EJNF concentrated mainly on developing good environmental policy. It played a major role in formulating the Green Paper for the environment that is currently being discussed by a number of organisations and government departments before being drafted into a White Paper and a new set of environmental laws.

Next year we expect to see unprecedented action on the ground. The foundations are there. This year we worked with only 11 staff members and 90 volunteers, and really ran ourselves into the ground."

In 1997 there will be a toll-free hotline into EJNF's national office, and the organisation is recruiting new staffers to manage an "information clearing house" and requests for help from the burgeoning number of member organisations and unorganised communities around the country.

Does this mean the EJNF has become the Greenpeace of South Africa? "Not at all," retorts Albertyn. "They have become much like a corporate organisation, while we are a network owned and directed by its participants, which is much more than Greenpeace ever will be."

Tourism may help pay for new Peninsula park

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE National Parks Board is keen to tap into Cape Town's vibrant tourism market as a way of funding the proposed Table Mountain and Cape Peninsula national park, says parks board spokesman David Daitz.

"We want to develop a holistic tourism plan which can be implemented over five years — but with the cast-iron commitment that no decisions will be implemented without full integrated environmental management."

Private contractors could be allowed to build, own, operate and transfer — according to National Parks Board management standards — approved facilities in the park.

"We will be guided by the principle of peripheral development, namely that no infrastructure will be allowed in areas zoned as 'quiet' or 'remote,'" Daitz said.

"There is something special about being able to spend a night in a national park — and rest camps will be a fantastic source of revenue."

Referring to the Mpumalanga parks board's controversial decision to sell its development rights to a Malaysian company, Daitz said the National Parks Board had yet to consider international investment.

"We cannot simply sell off our development rights, but once projects have been identified they will be put to tender. This could entail negotiation."

The Table Mountain national park committee would be an important driving force in the park's development, although the parks board would take management and operational decisions, Daitz said.

The proposed national park will include Table Mountain and will stretch from Signal Hill to Cape Point as a 290 km² sanctuary for part of the world's smallest, most diverse and most threatened plant kingdom.

With an unparalleled 2 285 species — of which 144 are threatened — on the Cape Peninsula alone, the area is "the jewel in the crown of the fynbos biome", which is recognised as "the world's hottest hot-spot of plant biodiversity", says Professor Richard Cowling, head of UCT's Institute for Plant Conservation.

Table Mountain and possibly Robben

Island have been mooted as strong contenders for World Heritage Site status by the director of Unesco's Geneva-based World Heritage Centre, Dr Bernd von Droste.

Before this can go ahead, the World Heritage Centre must be satisfied that management plans for the park include a protective buffer zone.

This is a critical question for the parks board, which wants a say in decisions about town planning on the park's periphery.

Although the parks board has provincial and national government approval for its Cape Peninsula project, it has yet to gain control over much of the area, which is divided among private landowners, local authorities and state departments.

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