POPULATION — VITAL STASTISTICS

1991

Add oomph to geriatric medicine

Life expectancy in most westernised countries is increasing for a variety of reasons, including technological advances in medicine. South Africa unlike most Western countries, is not increasing its medical support for older people.

237

Star 14/2/91

In South Africa, geriatric medicine is beginning to have a moribund look, says Professor Peter de Vos Meiring, who holds the country's only university chair in geriatric medicine, at UCT

Life expectancy in most westernised countries is increasing for a variety of reasons including technological advances in medicine But South Africa, unlike most Western countries, is not increasing its medical support for older people, says Professor Meiring

In spite of South Africa's political standing, our medical profession has always maintained a high profile, with some disciplines excelling to equal the best anywhere, he says, in the latest issue of The Journal of Age-Related Disorders

In spite of the widely acknowledged importance of the shift in population over recent decades, geriatrics is an area of medicine that could easily be labelled not only poor, but neglected, he says

A dramatic shift of interest in age-related disorders shows that the elderly's importance is recognised and acknowledged in most Western countries, he says Most medical schools actively support a chair of geriatrics with consultative, registrar and houseman posts to staff specific hospital wards and growing demands for beds

Neglected . . . South Africa fails to address the medical problems of its over-50s, says an expert

There are also numerous auxiliary and support services to complement these geriatric units to improve patients' quality of life, and keep them independent and in the community for as long as possible

This obviously has enormous cost benefits to any health care programme or policy, Professor Meiring says

"In South Africa there is a dearth of information on the over-50 patient population," he says

This is evident in the lack of innovative and clinical research in this area And what speaks volumes is the fact that there is only one active chair of geriatrics among the country's seven medical schools, he says, especially as the demographic shift in population is a widely accepted fact

The health implications are enormous for the new South Africa as this shift continues Unless adequate provision is made now for teaching, research and clinical study into age-related disorders, the outlook is bleak, he says

"Perhaps there is a typical South African perception prevailing in some quarters that if the problem is ignored it will just go away"

MARIKA SBOROS

Double trouble. And more to come

W/mail 22/2 - 28/2/91 (237)

By GAVIN EVANS

WELL over a million South Africans are twins, triplets, quads or quins — and if the international trend is anything to go by, the number and rate of multiple births is likely to increase.

Not only is the incidence of twinning significantly higher among black South Africans than white, coloured and Indians, but in other countries there has been a dramatic increase in the rate of higher order multiple births (triplets plus) over the past decade.

British figures, for example, show that in 1982 there were 12,2 sets of triplets, quadruplets or quintuplets per 100 000 births, but by 1989 this had more than doubled to 28,6.

One reason for this, says Jill Bosman, research officer of the South African Multiple Birth Association, is the increased prevalence of assisted reproduction and fertility drugs.

Other factors of potential significance include the age of the mother (women aged between 30 to 34 are more likely to have twins), long abstinence from sex, certain diets, a history of twins in the family and, according to one theory, intercourse shortly after coming off the pill.

International research shows conclusively that the incidence of fraternal twin births (involving two eggs and two sperm) varies considerably among different racial or ethnic groups, though there is no significant difference with identical twin births (one egg is fertilised by one sperm and then divides), where the international average is one set per 250 births

In Nigeria, for example, one in 35 births involved sets of fraternal twins, though this has started to fall. One theory is that this is because yams, which are high in oestrogen, were one of the key staples there until recently.

The international average is one set per 80 births, while among Orientals the average is one in 140. In the United States there is an average of one set per 100 births among whites and one per 80 among blacks.

Wits University human genetics researcher Francis Hein says that figures in the PWV area show 14 twin births per 1 000 among blacks, 10,5 among whites, 8,5 among coloureds and 8,1 among Indians, with an overall average of 12 per 1 000.

"Nobody knows the precise reason for this variation. It may have something to do with uterine capacity and relate to differences in sex hormones, but this is not clear."

Hein says there seems to be a general increase in the percentage of twin births in South Africa, though this is now starting to level off.

The enormous difficulties concerned with raising children from multiple births — time, money, emotional energy and problems such as learning disabilities which are often caused by premature births — led to the formation of the South African Multiple Births Association in 1975

"Our aim is to provide active moral support for families of multiple birth children, disseminate information to families, professionals and to different communities and to increase our knowledge of the area by keeping informed on research projects around the world," says the association's president Alida van Eerden.

The non-racial organisation now has over 700 members from six regions — most being mothers and fathers of twins — with the Transvaal having 400 members and 14 branches.

Bosman, the mother of two sets of twins, said they do some of their own mini-surveys but rely heavily on international research and attend the congress of the International Society of Twin Studies every three years.

Births registered

96 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many births were registered in South Africa in respect of (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds, (c) Indians and (d) Blacks in 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, respectively?

(237)

Hansard 6/3/91.

B264E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

	(a)	(b)	(c)*	(d)**
1985	79 863	83 705	20 396	257 945
1986	72 955	81 825	19 560	306 451
1987	70 431	83 356	20 286	304 464
1988	69 189	77 752	19 525	603 071
1989	70 964	82 484	20 644	411 485

1990 still being processed

* Information only available in respect of Asians, which include Indians

** Excluded births in National States

(3) A committee comprising mainly of experts from the private sector, is at present busy with inter alia an investigation into the investment opportunities of the pension funds I shall provide a full statement on this matter as soon as this extensive investigation has been completed

Family planning, amount spent

*15 Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health

Whether there has been a decrease in the amount spent by her Department on family planning in the current financial year, if so, (a) why and (b) what amount (i) has been spent on family planning in the current financial year and (ii) was so spent in the 1989/90 financial year?

B343E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

No, (a) falls away and

(b) (i) R128 000 000 has been spent up to date in the present financial year and (ii) R113 000 000 was spent in the 1989/90 financial year

Project Dyson

*16 Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Defence †

(1) (a) What is understood by Project Dyson, (b) when will this project be completed and (c) how many present members of the Defence Force are involved in it,

(2) whether any former members of the Defence Force are involved in this project, if so, (a) how many and (b) why?

B349E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) (a) Project Dyson is primarily aimed at the rationalisation of occupational differentiation in the Permanent Force In terms of the Project, 38 different occupational classes have been consolidated into a single occupational class, namely that of Military Practitioner The rationale of the Military Practitioner dispensation rests on the concept of soldiership in order to neutralise the over-emphasis of functional specialities at the cost of soldiership By implication, the nucleus salary structures of 38 different occupational classes have been reduced to a single basis salary structure for the Military Practitioner A further facet of the Project also includes the rationalisation of the various allowances

(b) The Project has not been finalised in total The Military Practitioner dispensation and the accompanying salary structure has been implemented with effect from 1 July 1990 and was completed on 28 February 1991 The refinement of certain facets of salary and allowances is in progress The remaining facets of Project Dyson will be implemented as part of other personnel projects on an ongoing basis

(c) All members of the Permanent Force are, in one way or another, affected by Project Dyson

(2) No Only those persons who were members of the Permanent Force on the implementation date, in other words 1 July 1990, are affected by it (a) and (b) Fall away

SADF Special Forces

*17 Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Defence †

(1) Whether there are still Special Forces in the South African Defence Force, if so, what is the function of these forces,

(2) whether these forces exist as separate Defence Force units, if so, how long will they continue to exist as such units?

B352E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) Yes The Special Forces are, just as other units of the SA Defence Force, employed in accordance with the stipulations of section 3(2) of the Defence Act

(2) Yes With the exception of CCB which has already been operationally disbanded and is in the process of having its administrative affairs closed down by the Chief of the Army, it is not planned to disband any of the remainder of Special Forces

Afrikaans as official language

*18 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Education †

(1) Whether it is the standpoint of his Department that Afrikaans should be retained as an official language under a new constitutional dispensation, if not, why not, if so, for what reasons,

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

B354E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(1) The official status of languages, and thus also Afrikaans, will be dealt with in the process of negotiation and eventually in the new constitutional dispensation

It is however the view of the Department and the Government that the status of Afrikaans, as well as English, will be maintained in the new constitution

(2) Lapses

Peaceful protest marches

*19 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Justice

Whether, with reference to statements made by him during an interpellation debate on 13 February 1990 (a newspaper report on which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply), proposals to clarify the requirements for peaceful protest marches have been formulated, if so, what requirements have been laid down, if not, why not?

B357E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The enactments providing for the control of peaceful protest marches are to be found in *inter alia* the Internal Security Act, 1982 (Act 74 of 1982) and various Provincial Ordinances

As already indicated by me the provisions relating to gatherings and processions are under review It must be pointed out that at present the authorities enjoy the co-operation of the majority of organisers of protest marches in complying with formal and informal arrangements and directives

Mbekweni: electricity supplied to schools

*20 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Education and Training †

(1) Whether schools in the Black residential area of Mbekweni, Paarl, falling under his Department, are not being supplied with electricity at present, if so, which schools,

(2) whether the electricity account for these schools has been paid to date, if not, why not, if so, for what reasons are these schools not being supplied with electricity at present,

(3) whether he is contemplating steps to have the supply of electricity to these schools restored, if not, why not, if so, what is the nature of these steps?

B358E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1) Yes
Simon Hebe Secondary School
Mbekweni Primary School
Langaboya Junior Primary School

(2) Yes According to my information, the electricity supply to the township was cut off by the Paarl Municipality This was apparently caused by residents refusing to pay the Mbekweni Residents' Council for services since October 1990 Consequently the latter has been unable to pay the Paarl Municipality for the services

(3) No Negotiations between the Paarl Municipality and the Mbekweni Residents' Council, as well as the Council and the residents are in progress in order to end the boycott and resume the supply of electricity Local conditions preclude the selective restoration of power to schools

SADF: support to certain organisations

*21 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Defence †

(1) Whether, over the past 10 years, any section of the South African Defence Force has directly or indirectly given financial or organisational support to certain organisations, whose names have

Twins born to 'sterilised' woman

By Shadley Nash

A PORT ELIZABETH domestic worker is suing the Cape Provincial Administration for R54 000 after she gave birth to twins despite having been sterilised at Livingstone Hospital.

Mrs Zimela Mavis, 40, underwent an operation to be sterilised at the hospital in 1984 Three years later she gave birth to twin boys, Siyabonga and Siyabulela

Mavis, who has five other children, claims the multiple birth led to considerable hardship for her family

She was forced to give up her job to take care of Siyabonga who suffered from a heart ailment and subsequently died Her younger children had to be sent to live with their father after she could no longer afford to keep them

The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in Port Elizabeth claims the doctor who performed the sterilisation operation, had not removed the woman's fallopian tubes

A LRC spokesperson, Mr David Mias, said they were demanding R10 000 for pain and suffering, R5 000 for loss of amenities and R39 000 for maintenance for the surviving child

The legal officer for the CPA, Mrs E Valentine, said the matter had been referred to the state attorney in Port Elizabeth — *PEN*

Single parents 'more acceptable'

Star 18/3/91 237

By Carina le Grange

Although society considers the single-parent family to be incomplete, 124 000 white children were affected by divorce between 1985 and 1989, Department of National Health and Population Development deputy director-general Dr J H Schoeman said in Johannesburg at the weekend.

Dr Schoeman was speaking during the official opening of the first national conference of the South African Council for Singleness (SACS) at the Rand Afrikaans University.

The first co-ordinating body of SACS, a non-profit organisation, was established at the conference

It is the first national organisation to co-ordinate the needs of all single persons.

Dr Schoeman said statistics for black people were unfortunately not available, but in 1989, 31 654 white, coloured and Asian children were affected by divorce.

Despite this, he said, the single-parent family was increasingly being accepted by society and should not be synonymous with problem families.

To this end, organisations for single parents should accept the task of assisting these families to help ease reintegration and adaptation to changed circumstances.

● Single people and/or parents could contact SACS at (011) 489-2800/795-3502 (Elmarie Erasmus) or (012) 323-6851/57-4139 (Johan le Roux).

'Black caucus is shifting goalposts'

THE INFLUENTIAL black caucus in the US Congress is clearly "shifting the goalposts" on the conditions for lifting US sanctions against South Africa Star 5/4/91

As a result, Congress and President Bush may be heading for a bruising clash when he makes his expected move in a few months to lift the statutory sanctions measures

The black caucus — and other congressmen — are in effect bypassing the specific conditions for lifting sanctions written into the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAAA).

Instead they have laid down the new condition that sanctions should be lifted only when "consensus" is reached in SA that majority rule is imminent

This in effect means sanctions should be lifted only when the ANC gives the nod.

The black caucus position was spelt out by one of its members, Mervyn Dymally, chairman of the important Congress sub-committee on Africa

Mr Dymally is in Cape Town for the Aspen Institute conference on SA, where 17 members of US Congress are hearing the views of the major South African parties on US-SA relations.

Mr Dymally believes President Bush is likely to lift the CAAA by the end of June, when the Land Acts, Group Areas Act and Population Registration Act have been repealed and all political prisoners have been released

But Mr Dymally warned that if Mr Bush did move as expected, he would jeopardise plans to provide reconstruction aid to post-apartheid SA.

Asked how Congress could deny reconstruction aid to blacks, he said black South Africans had already decided to make sacrifices for the sake of majority rule. He denied that his views represented a shifting of the sanctions goalposts

Informed sources say that although Mr Bush would like to lift sanctions as soon as the five conditions have been met, it is not clear if he is ready for a head-on clash with Congress.— Political Correspondent □

Academic hospitals: statistics

260 Miss M SMUTS asked the Minister of National Health Hansard 15/4/91

(1) How many academic hospitals are there in South Africa,

(2) what percentage of the (a) total number of hospital beds in South Africa, (b) number of (i) in-patients and (ii) out-patients treated and (c) total national health budget does each of these hospitals account for,

(3) whether her Department has statistics on the number of magnetic resonance scanners in use in South Africa, if so, how many such scanners were in use in the (a) public and (b) private health sector as at the latest specified date for which statistics are available?

B687E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) 14,

(2)

	(a)	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)	(c)
Groote Schuur	2,45	1,80	4,53	5,12
Tygerberg	3,28	1,63	1,73	3,99
Pelonomi	2,12	0,75	1,92	1,40
Universitas	0,78	0,42	0,25)	2,07
National	0,41	0,21	0,06)	
King Edward VIII	3,31	1,80	3,55	2,72
Baragwanath	5,18	2,45	1,79	2,85
Coronation	1,03	0,60	1,00	0,73
Ga-Rankuwa	3,38	1,28	1,07	1,87
HF Verwoerd	1,66	0,69	2,91	2,41
Hillbrow	1,37	0,51	1,12	1,32
JG Strijdom	0,86	0,20	0,48	0,73
Johannesburg	1,62	0,74	2,97	2,83
Kalafong	2,13	1,19	1,49	1,26

(3) yes,

(a) 1 and

(b) 14 as on 27 March 1991

Children: places of safety

261 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health Hansard 15/4/91

(1) (a) How many places of safety other than police cells and prisons were there in South Africa for children of each race group, and (b) what was the total number of children who (i) could be accommodated and (ii) were being held in each of these places of safety, as at the latest specified date for which information is available,

(2) whether her Department has statistics on the number of children of each race group being held in police cells as places of safety, if so, (a) what are the relevant statistics and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

Hansard 15/4/91 B695E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1)

Population group	(a) Number of places	(b) (i) Accommodation available	(b)(ii) Number of children on 28/2/91
Indian	2	148	112
White	7	505	374
Coloured	8	675	598
Black	10	1 279	1 008,

(2) yes,

(a) Indian 1
White 9
Coloured 103
Black 222 and

(b) 28 February 1991

Illegal strikes· workers charged/convicted

278 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Justice Hansard 15/4/91

How many workers in each race group were (a) charged with and (b) convicted of illegal strikes and related conduct in 1990?

B737E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The required information is not readily available in the Department In an effort to be of assistance to the honourable member, the following information was obtained from the Central Statistical Service for the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990

(a) Males 49
Females 4
Total 53

(b) Males 31
Females 3
Total 34

Divorce cases· guardianship/custody of children

280 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Justice

How many (a) wives and (b) husbands were given (i) guardianship and (ii) custody of their children in divorce cases during each of the latest specified five years for which information is available?

B744E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The required information is not readily available in the Department To obtain the information all court records pertaining to divorce cases will have to be examined, which is not economically feasible

Infanticide

288 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

(1) Whether any (a) men, (b) women, (c) mothers and (d) fathers were (i) charged with, (ii) taken to court for and (iii) sentenced for infanticide during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available, if so,

(2) (a) how many in each case and (b) how many of the (i) men, (ii) women, (iii) mothers and (iv) fathers so sentenced were certified insane?

Hansard 15/4/91 B758E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE 237

The required information is not readily available in the Department In an effort to be of assistance to the honourable member, the following information for the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990 was obtained from the Central Statistical Service

	Male	Female	Total
Prosecuted for infanticide	24	6	30
Convicted of infanticide	17	5	22

Murder of spouses. charges

289 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

(1) How many (a) men and (b) women charged with murdering their spouses were convicted of (i) murder and (ii) culpable homicide during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available,

(2) whether any such (a) men and (b) women were found not guilty as a result of diminished responsibility, if so, how many in each case?

B759E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The required information is not readily available in the Department To obtain the information all court records pertaining to the crimes concerned will have to be examined, which is not economically feasible

Legal abortions

290 Dr Z J DE BEER asked the Minister of National Health Hansard 15/4/91

(1) Whether any applications for legal abortions were made to her Department in 1989 and 1990, respectively, if so, how many (a) such applications were made and (b) legal abortions were performed as a result, 237

(2) how many of these legal abortions were authorized in respect of (a) statutory rape, (b) rape and (c) incest?

B765E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) (a) Applications for legal abortions are not made to this Department Applications are being referred to the Superintendents of the relevant hospitals and

(b) 960 in 1988/90
868 in 1989/90,

(2) in respect of section 3(12)(d) of the Abortion and Sterilization Act, 1975 where rape or incest is involved, 34 legal abortions in 1988/89 and 70 in 1989/90 were performed There is no distinction between (a) statutory rape, (b) rape and (c) incest in the available data

Crimes persons sentenced

292 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

For each of the crimes of (a) murder, (b) rape, (c) car theft and (d) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, how many persons were sentenced to (i) a fine, (ii) corporal punishment, (iii) imprisonment for less than two years, (iv) imprisonment for two to four years,

Hansard 15/4/91

APARTHEID BAROMETER

RACE CLASSIFICATION

W/Mail 19/4-25/4/91.

A TOTAL of 463 people were reclassified racially in 1990, compared with 549 the previous year, according to the annual report of the Department of Home Affairs tabled in parliament this week.

The following reclassifications were approved: White to coloured: 12; coloured to white: 138, coloured to Chinese: two; Chinese to white: two; Chinese to Indian: one; Chinese to Malay: one. One white person reclassified from white to Malay, five Malays to white, and one Malay to Chinese.

White to Indian: three, Indian to coloured: 23; coloured to Indian. 31. Indian to Malay: eight; Malay to Indian: 23; other Asians to Indian: one. African to coloured: 183; coloured to African: nine; African to Indian: five. Coloured to Malay· four; Griqua to coloured: one; Indian to white: three; and Malay to coloured. six.

INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

OF the R2-billion allocated by the state to the Independent Development Trust (IDT) last July, R1,3-billion had been allocated to housing, education and health, Finance Minister Barend du Plessis said in parliament this week. He said funds had been allocated to upgrade land and housing for hostels and squatter settlements. An amount of R750-million over 24 months had been allocated to making property rights and housing accessible. W/Mail 19/4-25/4/91

INDEMNITY

A FURTHER 1 208 people had applied for, and been granted, indemnity for undergoing and receiving military training contrary to provisions of the Terrorism Act, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee announced last week. His department said this brought the total of indemnity applications granted to 3 692 — 73 percent of those received.

BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES

EIGHTY-TWO black local authorities in the Transvaal still owe more than R1-billion for service charges. Eskom said this week townships in the region owed at least R1,6-million for electricity supplied. Thokoza, Katlehong, Atteridgeville and Vosloorus are among the townships still being affected by electricity cuts as a result.

W/Mail 19/4-25/4/91

ABORTIONS

W/Mail 19/4-25/4/91 (237)

A TOTAL of 868 legal abortions were conducted during 1989/90 as compared with 960 during 1988/89, Minister of Health Rina Venter said in parliament. Replying to a question from Dr Zach de Beer (DP, Parktown), she said 70 in the first and 34 in the second period had been authorised due to rape and incest.

POLICE DEATHS

Abortion being used as means of contraception

(237)

Star 27/4/91.

MALCOLM FOTHERGILL

SINCE 1975, when the Abortion and Sterilisation Act was passed, allowing abortions in some circumstances, the number of legal abortions carried out in South Africa has increased greatly and the reasons for granting them have changed radically

According to the latest statistics, from 1989, "maternal mental health" is now by far the most common reason why women — most of them young, white and unmarried — are granted legal abortions.

The swing, says Pro-Life campaigner Dr Claude Newbury, adds weight to arguments that the Abortion Act should be repealed

"It's very clear that the condition for which the psychiatrist is granting the abortion is that the woman is unmarried," he says "Abortion is regarded as another means of contraception"

Contention

And, he says, the result of the invitation by the Government last year for people to comment on whether the Act should be changed was "pretty conclusive" — 98,62 percent of the nearly 49 000 people who responded were against any change

"This suggests South Africans in general are against any further 'liberalisation' in the law."

Figures detailing the age, race and marital status of women granted legal abortions since 1975 support Dr Newbury's contention that being unmarried is a main reason why South African women are granted abortions

Abortions on white women have outnumbered by far abortions on women of other race groups

During 1975, just under half of the 570 legal abortions carried out in South Africa were performed because the mothers' mental health was thought to be at risk

By 1989, the last year for which figures are available, the number of legal abortions had grown to 963 and the proportion of abortions performed because of the threat to the mothers' mental health had grown to 63 percent

The risk of having a handicapped child accounted for 29 percent of legal abortions in 1975 and 23 percent in 1989, the risk to the mothers' physical health accounted for 19,3 percent of legal abortions in 1975 and 10,5 percent in 1989, and rape and incest rose as a percentage from 3 to 4

From 1975 to 1989, nearly 10 000 legal abortions were carried out in South Africa — "destroying enough South African children," says Dr Newbury, "to fill 20 average-size high schools".

Dr Newbury believes the official figures tell only part of the abortion story "We believe many doctors are performing illegal abortions under the guise of dilation and curettage (D and C) procedures which involve scraping the lining of the womb."

However, Dr Newbury also believes the pro-abortionist estimate of 200 000 illegal abortions a year in South Africa is wildly exaggerated

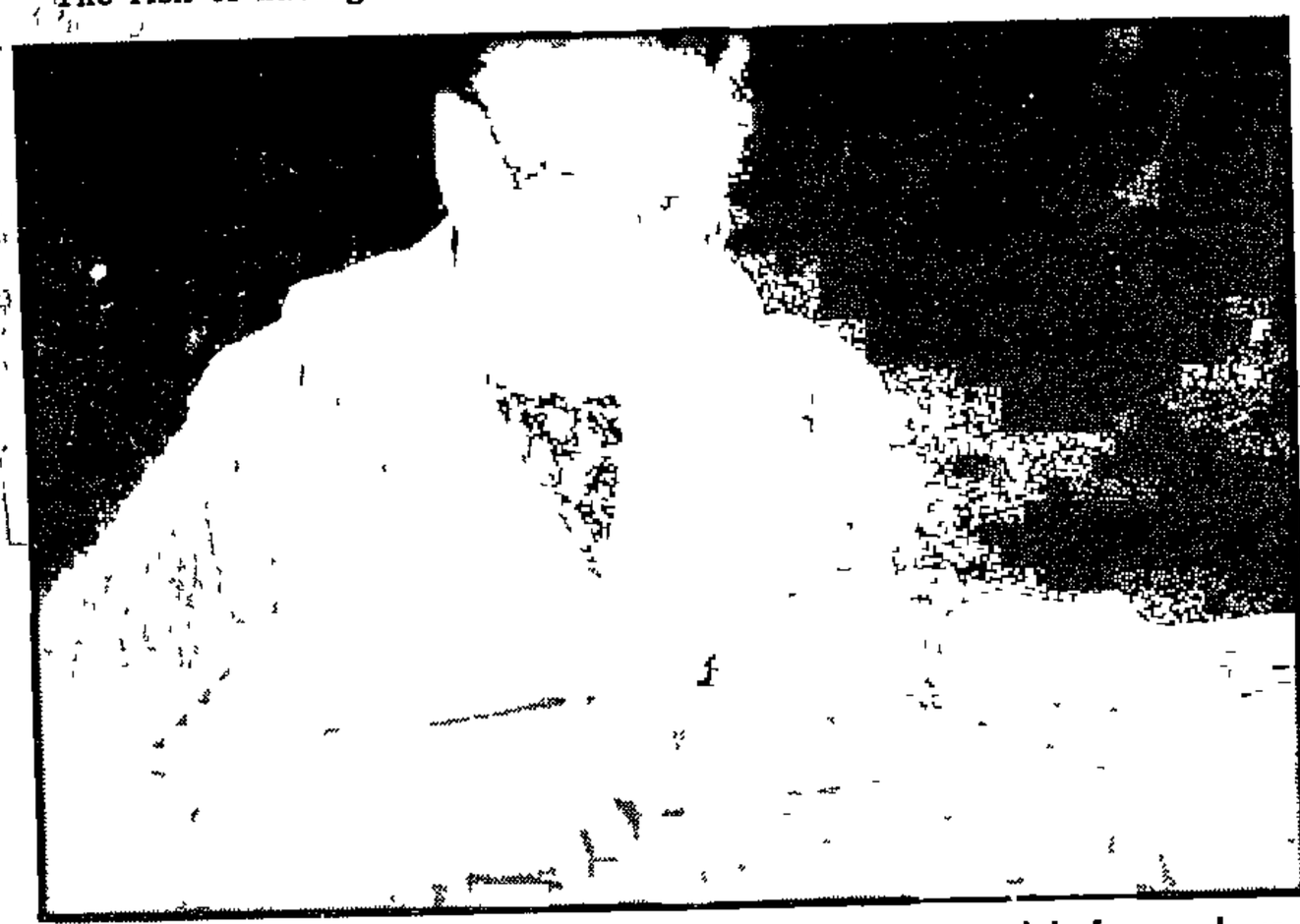
Dr Newbury's estimate, based on the number of women who die from illegal and legal abortions, is that from 1980 to 1982 only 266 illegal abortions were performed in South Africa.

Killed

In 1988, he says, 35 000 operations were carried out to remove the residues of pregnancy Of these, 1 280 were septic "and only 20 showed signs of injuries and foreign material which indicated deliberate interference with the pregnancy"

"There are no absolute medical indications for abortion, which is is the only procedure carried out by doctors which is deliberately intended to kill human beings

"Doctors now perform about 60 million abortions each year. American doctors kill in one year, by abortion, more Americans than the total number of Americans who were killed in all the wars in American history — 1,6 million"



FIGHTER FOR LIFE: Pro-lifer Dr Claude Newbury shows a model of an embryo in the womb. Unmarried mothers use excuses to have abortions, he says.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) (a) Bonds (stocks) as at 31/12/1990 — R2 990 397 000

(b) Government bonds (stocks) as at 31/12/1990 — R18 450 660 000

(c) Other investments (money market securities and cash) as at 31/12/1990 — R6 142 214 000

(d) Cash balance as at 31/03/1990 — R8 211 859

(2) (a) *Pension contribution receipts (members' contributions)*

1985/86 — R392 803 151
1986/87 — R474 827 249
1987/88 — R578 612 050
1988/89 — R656 825 162
1989/90 — R778 820 030

(b) *State contributions*

1985/86 — R1 080 074 653
1986/87 — R1 305 550 568
1987/88 — R1 590 942 661
1988/89 — R1 802 494 498
1989/90 — R2 143 353 859

(c) *Receipts from investments*

1985/86 — R1 028 087 033
1986/87 — R1 459 261 469
1987/88 — R1 787 467 215
1988/89 — R2 248 846 824
1989/90 — R3 307 126 876

(3) (a) Direct costs for the administration and maintenance which were debited to the fund Amounts represent the costs for the actuarial assessment and regional establishment levy

1985/86 — —
1986/87 — R 151 315
1987/88 — R 6 450
1988/89 — R 34 305
1989/90 — R4 320 253

The bulk of the direct costs is financed out of the Department's vote

(b) (i) *Pensions (annuities)*

1985/86 — R 596 168 561
1986/87 — R 714 430 932
1987/88 — R 879 738 428
1988/89 — R 988 603 012
1989/90 — R1 154 949 493

(ii) *Retirement bonuses (gratuities, benefits paid on resignation and payments to estates)*

1985/86 — R379 377 947
1986/87 — R448 588 328
1987/88 — R496 751 235
1988/89 — R570 117 638
1989/90 — R720 976 896

(4) The date of the information furnished is as at 31 March 1990 unless otherwise mentioned

Voters' list: names of White deceased persons

267 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

(237)

(1) (a) What procedure is followed in removing White deceased persons from the voters' list and (b) how long does this take,

Hansard 7/5/91

(2) whether lists of White deceased persons with the same particulars that appear on the voters' list are made available to political parties, if not, why not, if so, what is the average time this takes,

(3) how many White (a) persons of 18 years and older have died since the voters' list for the general election of 1989 closed and (b) deceased persons have been removed from the voters' list since the voters' list for the said election closed,

(4) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B718E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) (a) During the processing of a complete death notice for the updating of the Population Register the names of such deceased persons are identified automatically by computer for deletion from the voters' list

(b) As voters' lists are amended on a monthly basis, the deletion normally takes place during the month in which the notice is received

(2) Yes Particulars of inter alia deceased White voters are made available monthly per electoral division to all registered political parties by means of a list of deletions

(3) (a) 61 494 deaths in respect of White South African citizens 18 years and older are registered with the Department for the period concerned

(b) 56 191 (237)

The difference between the figures in (a) and (b) is because all the deceased are not registered voters whose particulars appeared in the voters' lists

The difference of 5 303 is made up as follows

4 296 pensioners without identity numbers

376 persons over 18 in possession of old identity cards

631 persons over 18 without any form of identification

(4) The period 1 June 1989 (voters' lists for the general election of 1989 closed on 31 May 1989) until 28 February 1991

SA citizenship

314 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(1) How many Blacks in each independent Black state regained their South African citizenship in 1990 in terms of the provisions of the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, No 13 of 1978,

(2) whether any applications were refused, if so, (a) how many from each state, and (b) why, in each case?

Hansard 7/5/91

B794E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Owing to the provisions of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), which came into effect on 1 July 1986, no Black of any of the independent states applied in terms of section 3 of the National States Citizenship Act, 1970 (Act 26 of 1970), as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, 1978 (Act 13 of 1978) for South African citizenship during 1990

(2) (a) and (b) Fall away

University students registered in 1990

324 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Training

(a) How many (i) White, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Asian and (iv) Black students were registered in 1990 at each university falling under the control of his Department, and (b) how many of these students were first-year students, in each case?

B846E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

	(i) White	(ii) Coloured	(iii) Asian	(iv) Black
The North				
(a)	25	7	6	10 588
(b)	5	7	3	4 504
Zululand				
(a)	48	2	15	5 196
(b)	13	1	3	1 410
Medunsa				
(a)	235	18	117	1 649
(b)	20	5	24	509
Vista				
(a)	106	251	28	24 399
(b)	26	113	13	7 492

Tax concessions: amount lost

325 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance Hansard 7/5/91

What is the total amount of tax lost or expected to be lost as a result of tax concessions granted to decentralised or deconcentrated industries in respect of the year ended 31 March 1990?

B847E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

It is estimated that the tax lost as a result of the granting of concessions to industries in decentralised or deconcentrated areas will amount to R19,0 million for the financial year ended 31 March 1990 Final figures are not available as many assessments, especially in respect of companies, have yet to be processed

The original estimate of R1 million for the year ended 31 March 1989 has been increased to an amount of R21 million in the light of further information now available

SA women now having fewer babies

(237)

Star 14/5/91

CAPE TOWN — The fertility figure for whites in South Africa had dropped from 2,1 children per woman in 1986 to 1,7 in 1989, the Department of National Health said in its 1990 report, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

It said the comparable figures for Asians were 2,8 and 2,3, blacks 5,2 and 4,9, and coloureds 3,6 and 2,9

This implied that women in the 15 to 49 age group would, in the rest of their productive life-spans, bear 1,29 million fewer babies

In terms of State expenditure on education alone this would result in a saving of R15,8 billion in the next 25 years. — Sapa

Public 'against abortion law change'

Star 30/5/91 (2379)

By Kaizer Nyatsumba
Political Staff

The overwhelming majority of South Africans were opposed to the legalisation of abortion, hence no amendments to the present Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 would be made, National Health and and Population Development Minister Dr Rina Venter said yesterday

Dr Venter said that her department had invited "comments and motivations from the general public" in March on the needs for abortion not addressed at present by the Act, and the overwhelming response was in favour of the retention of the status quo

6 000 babies born to city teenagers

(237)

TEENAGE mothers bore 6 440 babies in greater Cape Town alone last year, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring disclosed at a family-planning promotion yesterday.

The arrival of unplanned children placed great stress on young parents, he said.

The Mayor, Mr Gordon Oliver, said family planning was not a politicians' trick. It was not only a matter of white people telling black people to have fewer children, he said.

Star 10/6/91

Life span a key indicator

(237)

Researcher finds longer life expectancy an indicator of an approaching economic upswing. ADAM GORDON reports.

THE PLANNING office of Royal Dutch Shell, has found an indicator to help the company to anticipate rapid economic recoveries, such as those in the Pacific rim over the last decade

Arie de Geus, recently retired head of Shell group planning, said Shell had consistently found that when a country's average national life expectancy reached 68 years it could expect an economic takeoff within five years — independent of the political system of the country or the current world economic cycle

South African life expectancy in 1990 was 54, according to the SA Institute of Race Relations' annual survey

Mr de Geus, who holds an honorary position at the London School of Business, after 30 years at Shell, was speaking to delegates at a Leadership and Learning conference held recently in Pretoria

He said that, using data compiled by the UN Research Institute for Social Development, based in Geneva, Shell found that where a country devoted significant attention to developing human resources, particularly through large-scale long-term investment in health and education, considerable economic growth would take place

Life expectancy reaching the late 60s was the indicator that enough human energy and capability, not just skill, had been developed to enable a country to progress economically The statistic was, therefore, a clear indicator of a country's potential

The turnabout in thinking, he said, was the realisation that economic expansion followed social welfare investment. This was directly opposed to conventional wisdom which assumed social spending would follow in the wake of economic recovery

Mr de Geus said Shell's findings were in line with the fact that many economically successful countries relied on human resources alone

Another factor common to all examples of economic recovery, Shell found, was the willinghess to seek international competition abroad

Mr de Geus cited a 1988 World Bank development report which covered various economic cycles between 1963 and 1985 and split countries into four categories, from outward-oriented, unprotected economies to those that were primarily introverted (marked by heavy duties on manufactured goods and controls on capital flow)

World Bank figures suggested economically extrovert policies were more successful in the long term, particularly when a country would only be driven to fully mobilise its human resources in the effort to match foreign competition

Argentina and Venezuela were examples of countries above the necessary human resource threshold which were unsuccessful due to inwardly oriented, protected markets.

It seemed that enabling conditions for economic growth amounted to investing unconditionally in human potential and making it compete both at home and abroad

"But, although these policies will lead to growth under any political system the catch is that not every political system will follow them," he said

"Various South American countries, for example, are two-tier societies, with only a small segment having access to wealth and education The lack of significant investment in the rest of the population leads to national economic inefficiency, which then demands protectionist policies to ensure its survival.

"This happens very often in commodity-rich societies, where a relatively small class elite — with the help of repression and foreign borrowing — is able to support its lifestyle through commodity export alone and does not invest in the human resources of the whole country." □

Women live longer than men

WOMEN in South Africa can expect to live longer than men, with white women having the longest life expectancy at birth.

According to a report on health trends in South Africa issued by the Department of Health, at birth white women can expect to live until they are about 76, compared with 70 for Asian women, 65 for coloured women and 64 for black women.

Average

Coloured women are likely to live an average of eight years longer than coloured men, white and Asian women seven years longer than white and Asian men, and black women five years longer than black men.

the KTC-case on the days on which he worked on other cases For other cases in which he acted on behalf of the Minister of Law and Order or the South African Police he naturally, also did not charge a higher fee than that which he could charge according to the fees agreed upon for the KTC-case

For some of these cases he, in fact, charged a fee which was less than the fees agreed upon

(a) and (b) Fall away

Government Service Pension Fund: interest rate

447 Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of Finance †

(1) What interest rate did the Government Service Pension Fund receive in each financial year from 1984-85 up to and including 1990-91 in respect of funds invested in (a) Government securities and (b) semi-Government securities,

(2) whether a change of policy regarding investment possibilities is being considered, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B1162E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) (a) and (b)

Interest rates in respect of funds invested in Government securities and semi-Government securities, are not individually available

1984-85	11,5%
1985-86	12,5%
1986-87	13,3%
1986-88	13,7%
1988-89	13,9%
1989-90	14,8%
1990-91	14,8%

(2) I recently announced that a Committee of experts in the private sector had been appointed to advise the Government on the future structure and siting of the Government Pension Funds The investment policy inevitably forms part of the Committee's assignment and until such time as it has finalised its business and the Government has considered its recommendations, no conclusive answer can be given

Squatters in Germiston: attack by Whites

448 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Law and Order

(1) Whether he or the South African Police have been informed of an alleged attack by a group of Whites on squatters at Old Goedehoop High School in Railway Street, Germiston, on or about 2 June 1991, if not, why not, if so,

(2) whether an investigation into this incident is taking place, if not, why not, if so, what progress has been made in this investigation,

(3) whether any (a) suspects have been identified, (b) arrests have been made and (c) charges have been laid in connection with this incident, if not, why not, if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) what is the nature of the charges,

(4) whether any squatters were injured in this attack, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the nature of the injuries,

(5) whether he or the Police intend taking any action to prevent further similar attacks, if not, why not, if so, what action?

B1163E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes

(2) Yes, the matter is being investigated and numerous arrests have already been made

(3) (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(i) and (ii)

The case is still being investigated, but six identified suspects have already been arrested for public violence

(4) (a) and (b)

Yes, 5 squatters sustained superficial wounds

(5) Yes, the functions of the South African Police are, inter alia, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime This implies that the task of the South African Police is at all time directed at, inter alia, protecting all persons against attacks by other persons, irrespective of who may be responsible for such attacks This principle is applied consistently

Should law and order be disturbed in any manner—also attacks on civilians—the Police will take steps to act against any transgressions of the law

Note

The squatters have already vacated the Ou Goedehoop High School in terms of a court order, in that the Messenger of the Court acted in terms of an eviction order to remove them

Newlands police station. child abuse reported

449 Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of Law and Order

(1) Whether a case of alleged child abuse involving a 9-year-old girl and a White couple was reported at the Newlands police station, if so, when,

(2) whether an investigation into this incident is taking place, if not, why not, if so, what progress has been made in this investigation,

(3) whether there are any suspects in this case, if so,

(4) whether any arrests have been made in connection with this incident, if not, why not, if so, (a) how many, (b) when, (c) what are the names of the persons so arrested and (d) what is the nature of the charges being laid against them?

B1164E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) No, but there was a case of alleged rape reported at the Parkview Police Station on 19 March 1991, which was investigated by the Child Protection Unit at the General Johan Coetzee Police Station

(2) Yes, after conclusion of the investigation the case docket was submitted to the Senior Public Prosecutor in Johannesburg

(3) Yes

(4) Yes

(a) 2 Persons

(b) 11 April 1991

(c) Since the Senior Public Prosecutor has declined prosecution, it is not regarded to be in the interest of these persons to make their names known

(d) A charge of alleged rape was investigated

Infant mortality rate

451 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

What was the infant mortality rate for (a) Blacks, (b) Whites, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas in South Africa in 1990?

B1166E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Infant mortality rates for 1990 are not yet available The following table contains infant mortality rates for 1988 and 1989 The Department of National Health and Population Development has no seperate rates available for urban and rural areas in South Africa

Infant mortality rates (per 1 000 live births) South Africa

Year	*Population Group*			
	Indian	*Black*	*Coloured*	*White*
1988	17,4	57,4	57,5	13,2
1989	12,2	n/a	35,1	8,6

Note n/a = not available

Typhoid: cases of/deaths

452 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

How many (a) cases of and (b) deaths from typhoid were reported in respect of each race group in each province in 1990?

B1167E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(a) Notified cases of typhoid fever in 1990 RSA (as on 7 June 1991)

SA population doubles every 30 years

(237)

PRETORIA. — South Africa's population doubled every 30 years and babies were born at a rate of more than 3 000 a day, a leading academic said to mark the occasion of World Population Day today.

Prof J P de Lange, who is chairman of the Council for Population Development, said if the pattern continued, the population could reach the 80-million mark "limit" as early as the year 2020.

He said experts had concluded the 80 million figure was the limit South Africa could accommodate meaningfully.

"If we should allow the population to grow at this rate, South Africa will face an unemployment situation with catastrophic results for the country."

He pointed out that at present, certain sectors are concentrating almost exclusively on political and associated social changes.

He said care should be taken however, that in the search for an acceptable political and economic future, the country did not lose sight of the alarming population growth rate

CT 11/7/91

He said South Africa's rapid population growth and the consequences of this, could eventually foil all efforts to bring about peace and prosperity

"Every responsible South African should find the stark reality that South Africa has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, disturbing," he said.

South Africa's population, he explained, increased by 2,3% annually and greatly exceeded the economic growth rate — Sapa

Star 11/7/91

'Soaring birthrate may foil prosperity efforts'

(237)

South Africa's population doubles every 30 years and babies are born at a rate of more than 3 000 a day, says a leading academic

Speaking to mark World Population Day today, Professor J P de Lange, who is chairman of the Council for Population Development, said the population could reach the 80 million mark "limit" as early as the year 2020.

Experts had concluded the 80 million figure was the limit South Africa could accommodate meaningfully

"If we should allow the population to grow at this rate, South Africa will face an unemployment situation with catastrophic results for the country," Professor de Lange warned.

He pointed out that at present, certain sectors were concentrating almost exclusively on political and associated social changes. However, care should be taken that the country did not lose sight of the alarming population growth rate

South Africa's rapid population growth and the extensive consequences it held, could foil all efforts to bring about peace and prosperity.

"Every responsible South African should find the stark reality that South Africa has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, disturbing," he said. — Sapa.

Shock forecast for millions of African babies

Star 12/7/91

(237)

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — By the end of this decade 10 million babies will be orphaned by the Aids epidemic sweeping through Africa.

And a million women die every year in pregnancy-related deaths — with millions more left permanently disabled.

Health services mostly "remain inaccessible and unresponsive to women", says Dr Helga Morrow of the United States and formerly a consultant at the International Council of Nurses

Dr Morrow was speaking at the 10th Epidemiology Conference at the University of the Western Cape this week on the challenges of nursing in Africa

She said nurses in Africa needed to form a strong, unified professional association and to educate their members

Dr Morrow added "Enormous energy and resources are devoted to finding methods to stop and control the transmission of Aids and to discovering drugs to bolster the immune system"

But, she said, the health and home care of people affected by Aids were severely neglected

And, especially in developing countries where resources were already scarce, the extra burden resulting from the Aids epidemic was already compromising other health programmes.

Dr Morrow compared the figure of a million women who die every year from pregnancy complications to one jumbo jet — filled with 270 pregnant or recently pregnant women — crashing every two hours.

"Almost all of these deaths and disabilities from pregnancy are avoidable," she said.

The risk of a woman in a developing country dying of a pregnancy-related illness was as high as one in 15 while that of a woman in the developed world was as low as one in 10 000, Dr Morrow said

"Perhaps nurses have failed to recognise their responsibilities as health-care providers in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations"

Nursing's challenges now were "how to harness its own resources, and how to influence health-policy makers in making health care accessible and affordable for everyone"

She said there were no easy or fast ways to change old traditions, the powerful medical and political machinery, and discrimination, but change was inevitable

• "The more a profession can forecast demographic, social, scientific and economic trends, the more it can be in control of its own direction"

Time to change abortion laws

(237)

C/Press 14/7/91

By LULAMA LUTI and MOSS MAMAILA

WHEN a young Venda woman realised she had been carrying a child for four months she went, with her mother's consent, to a back-street abortionist who charged her R10.

The operation, conducted in a hut, predictably did not go well Two days later she was admitted to the Siloam Hospital in Venda

This week, more than a year after the operation, she has not recovered and doesn't know whether she is still able to have children

This is also the story of thousands of women who don't have access to legal abortions.

Pro-abortion organisations have argued for the right of women to control their bodies The founder of the Planned Parenthood Association, Margaret Sanger, said "No woman can call herself free until she can choose whether she will or will not be a mother"

Anti-abortion groups like Prolife have maintained a vocifeorus stance against the legalisation of abortion.

But according to Abortion Reform Action Group chairman, Dr Marjorie Dyer, "we know by now that making abortions illegal does not stop them It only makes them more dangerous"

Dyer said the majority of the approximately 1 000 legal abortions a year were done on white women

"These women have the time, the money, the literacy, the knowledge and the proximity to the few hospitals which are allowed to perform legal abortions"

In a paper delivered at a seminar on Women and Health held in Cape Town, Dyer said her organisation has been fighting for the right of women to choose whether a pregnancy in 12 to 14 weeks of the foetus's development should continue or not

"A woman should be able to decide to have children, not accidentally and unwillingly, but purposefully and joyfully."

According to University of Western Cape senior lecturer, Jeremy Sarkin-Hughes, as many as 250 000 women have backstreet abortions each year.

This view is supported by leading gynaecologist Dr GG Mbere, who said illegal abortions were a killer in the black commnity

"Permission is granted if a psychiatrist can prove that the pregnancy threatens the mother's life, if the baby's life is endangered, and in cases of rape and incest."

But, Mbere pointed out, there were few psychiatrists in the black community, and the legal system was not sympathetic

Dyer said in the 15 years of its existence, the Arbortion Act of 1975 has been a disaster. It was devised by elderly, conservative men who were mainly members of the National Party and the Dutch Reformed Church.

In a report released at the King Edward VIII hospital in Durban, doctors commented: "Our data confirms a high incidence of serious complications after illegal abortions

"Treatment costs a lot of money and takes a significant toll in terms of physical suffering and human misery."

Dyer suggested South African women should fight for the licensing of the RU 486 abortion pill, currently used in France and in China

The pill has been found to be the only alternative to surgery, and is used only under direct medical supervision. It is also said to have minimal side effects and no complications

"Until the principle is accepted that women must choose whether or not to bring life into the world, our laws will continue to punish people for getting pregnant – and by so doing punish the whole country"

Kimberley region has highest birth rate

(237)

CT 18/7/91

KIMBERLEY. — The Kimberley development region has the highest birth rate in Southern Africa, says Population Development Director Dr Neville Gouws

He was speaking at a Regional Development Action Committee meeting here yesterday

The region stretches from Vryburg, Kuruman and Gordonia in the north to Richmond and Carnarvon in the south It covers a total of 270 600 square kilometres, accounting for 22% of South Africa's total area The region also includes part of Bophuthatswana

The average number of children per woman born in this region was 4,2, compared with 4,1 for the whole of Southern Africa, said Dr Gouws

He indicated that as much as 41% of the total population in the region was under the age of 15 years

If the fertility rate continued unabated, the population could more than double, reaching a total of 2 625 000 relatively quickly

Another fact which was a cause for concern was the high rate of illiteracy He said there was a direct correlation between the education level, literacy and population growth

Dr Gouws said the improvement of living standards, literacy and the total quality of life was of the utmost importance in addressing the problem of high population growth. — Sapa

POENIX 10/1991

BACK-STREET ABORTIONS EASILY AVAILABLE

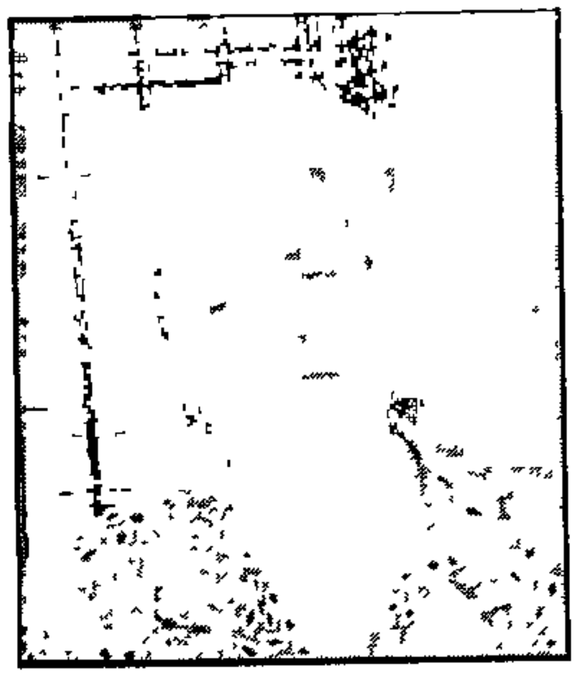
(237)

HINDUS IN FAVOUR BUT MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS SAY NO

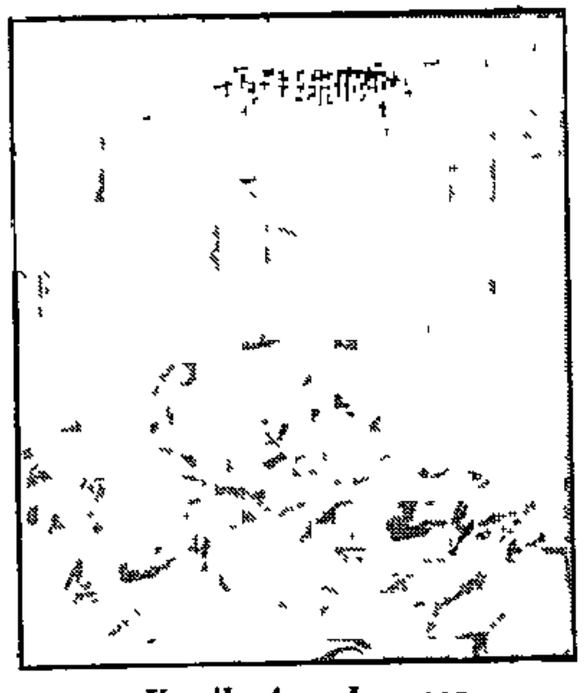
ABORTION on demand was easily available in South Africa according to the findings of a former criminology student of the University of Durban-Westville.

Kogila Ann Isaacs, who carried out a research into the attitudes of UDW students on abortion, said the majority of those interviewed on campus felt that abortion on demand existed in South Africa

Her findings correlated that of another researcher who claimed that any South African woman finding herself unwillingly pregnant, can, if she chooses, obtain the services of an abortionist with the greatest of ease



Dr Rina Venter



Kogila Ann Isaaccs

Miss Isaacs said that the majority in the 20-25 age group that were interviewed felt that abortion should be legalised

She also said that there was a strong association between religion and a persons attitude towards abortion

"The majority interviewed were Hindus, and most of them felt that abortion should be legalised while the majority of Christians and Muslims were opposed to abortions

"A majority of students also regarded abortion as a moral wrong and despite being aware of the prohibitive legislation, none of the students interviewed regarded abortion as a legal wrong

"Even if abortion is legalised in South Africa people would still find it wrong since what is legal and what is moral is not always co-extensive," Miss Isaacs pointed out

Among the arguments cited in favour of abortion were

* Backstreet abortionists will be eradicated

* The birth of a child to an unmarried mother, with the subsequent adoption of the child, carries a greater psychological trauma than early termination of such pregnancy

* Financial considerations

* Pregnancy may be unwanted or undesirable because of inconvenience or because of too large a family.

Miss Isaacs said that if unwanted pregnancies did not occur there would not be a need for abortions.

"We must aim at the ideal situation to prevent unwanted pregnancies," she said, adding that although abortions were reprehensible there was also something reprehensible about war, prostitution, racism and religious bigotry.

"All these things are reprehensible but are all facts of life and whether we care to admit it or not abortion is also a fact of life," she said

ABORTIONS ON DEMAND TABOO

Overwhelming support for the Government's view that abortion on request should not be allowed.

This was expressed by almost 50 000 South Africans, according to Dr Rina Venter, the Minister of National Health.

A total of 98 per cent, or 48 180 out of 48 846 people responded in letters to the Government that they were against amendments to the present Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975

The letters were written after Dr Venter invited comments on abortion.

Dr Venter had pointed out that with the introduction of the Act, it was the Government's belief that abortion on request was contradicatory to the religious, moral and ethical beliefs of most South Africans.

The response to Dr Venter's invitation is representative of men and women of all ages and population groups, organisations and professional persons.

"The beginning is the most important part of the work"
Plato

Statisticians lose 5 million people

(237) CT 29/8/91

JOHANNESBURG. — The preliminary results of the 1991 population census survey conducted in March indicate a population count of about 26,5 million for South Africa, it was reported yesterday.

This was nearly five million less than the expected 31,3-million figure based on the mid-year estimates of the Central Statistical Service (CSS).

The census counted 18,3 million blacks, 4,5 million whites, 2,8 million coloured people and 900 000 Asians It excluded the TBVC states

CSS head Dr Treurnicht du Toit said it could not yet be established if the 4,8-million discrepancy between the organisation's head-count and its estimates was caused by an under-count in the census, or an overestimate by the CSS

He said the under-count in urban areas was probably relatively lower than in rural areas.

The results may have been affected by the loss of 76 area returns — Own Correspondent and Sapa

Vaccine could control birth

LONDON — A contraceptive vaccine that could greatly assist in birth control in developing countries has been successful in animal trials, says the Medical Research Council's Reproductive Biology Unit.

It is developing a vaccine to target the egg or the sperm

(237)

CT 28/8/91

Surprise voter figures

(237) CT 13/9/91

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SURPRISE estimates of voter numbers in a free election in South Africa show that nearly two out every five voters will come from the Eastern Cape-Natal regions

They also show that both the National Party and the ANC have grossly over-estimated the number of voters in the PWV region, whose 3,8 million voters will be smaller than the Natal region's 4,3 million

Rural voters, with 45,9% in the 10 homelands, will have a decisive influence over South Africa's first free election

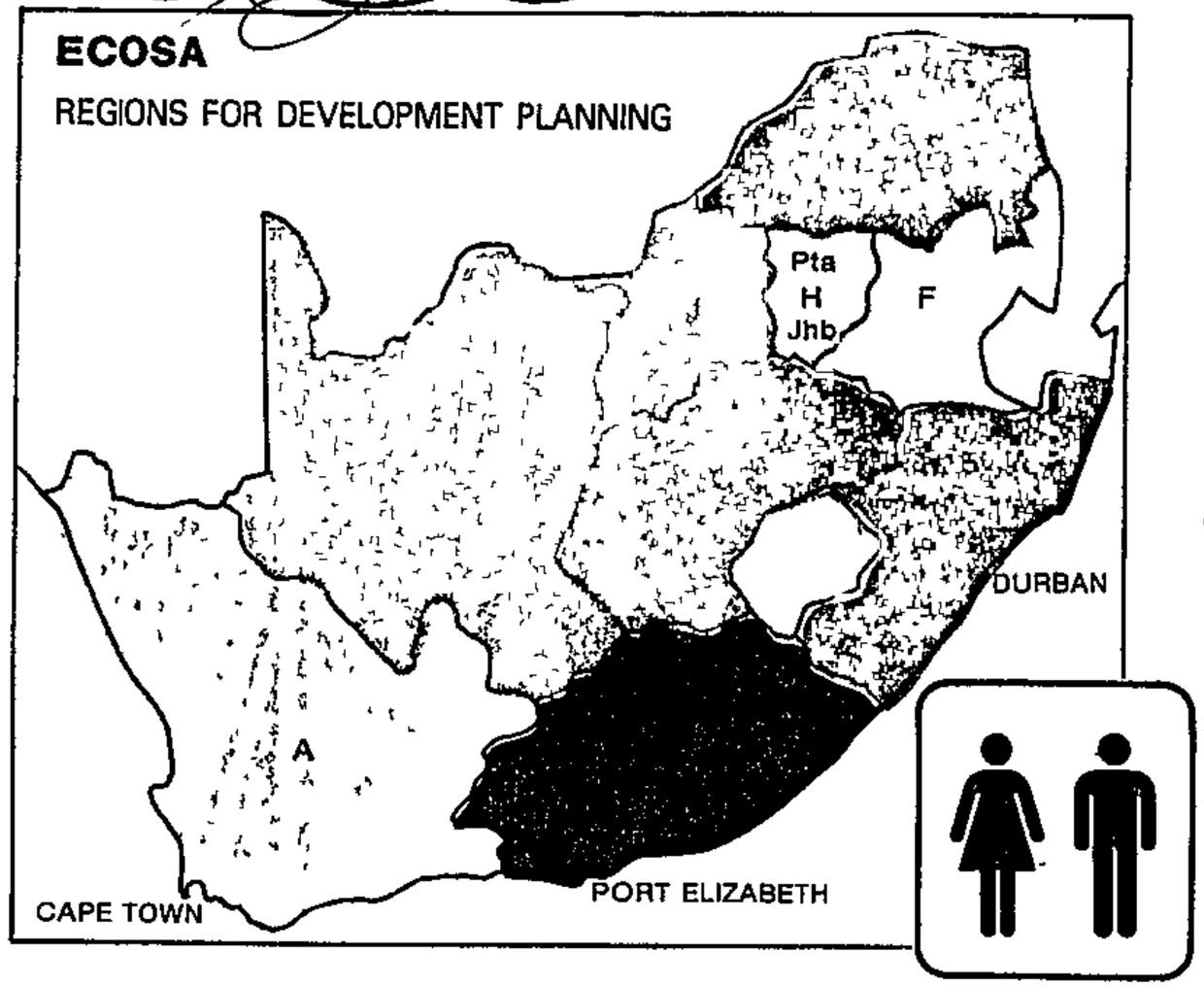
Up-to-date

If the NP's proposals for an upper house of Parliament with equal representation for each of the nine development regions are implemented, five smaller regions, where 28,2% of the potential voters live, could exercise control over Parliament and block legislation

The voter estimates are based on figures provided yesterday on request by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) on the number of people over the age of 18 in the nine regions, including the homelands

The bank, which maintains an extensive resource unit to monitor demographic trends in South Africa, is believed to keep the most up-to-date statistics on population numbers in the country

Its figures, based on 1990 estimates, show that South Africa would have 17 319 120 potential voters, 9 374 870 of whom, 54,12% of the total, live outside the homelands



REGION	TOTAL	%
[illegible]	4 277 617	24.70
H PWV/ Bophuthatswana	3 793 155	21 90
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
A Western Cape	1 375 969	7 94
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
F Eastern Transvaal	926 518	5.35
J Western Transvaal Bophuthatswana	842 845	4 87
B Northern Cape/ Bophuthatswana	493 405	2 85

A further 3 191 094 live in the 'independent' homelands of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, and 4 753 156 voters are in the other six homelands

Region E, which includes the eastern portions of Transkei, Natal and KwaZulu, has the largest number of voters, 4 277 617, or 24,7% of the total, while the PWV's 3 793 155 people over the age of 18 in Region H constitutes 21,9% of the total

The PWV estimates come as a major surprise to both the NP and ANC, whose spokesmen have recently stated that about half of South Africa's potential voters lived in the region

Region D, which includes the Eastern Cape, Ciskei and the western portions of Transkei, has 2,2 million voters, 12,7% of the total, while Region G, in the Northern Transvaal and Venda, has 2,1 million voters, 12,1% of the total

These four regions, the most densely populated in South Africa, will have 71,8% of the voters and in terms of the NP and ANC constitutional proposals will dominate the proportionally elected lower House of Parliament

The Western Cape, Region A, will have 1,4 million voters, 7,9% of the total, while Region C, which includes Free State, QwaQwa and parts of Bophuthatswana, has 1,2 million voters, 7,15% of the total

Region F, which includes the Eastern Transvaal and KaNgwane, has 926 518 voters, 5,35% of the total, while Region J, which includes the Western Transvaal and parts of Bophuthatswana, has 842 845 voters, 4,9% of the total

The smallest region, Region B, which includes the Northern Cape and parts of Bophuthatswana, has 493 405 voters, 2,85% of the total

250 000 illegal abortions

WHILE it is difficult to quantify the number of backstreet abortions, the number of operations to remove residues of pregnancy escalates.

Statistics provided by the Abortion Reform Action Group disclose that there are 250 000 illegal abortions performed each year. In 1990 there were 868 legal abortions — nearly 69% on white women. There were 38 027 operations for the removals of the residues of pregnancy.

A Groote Schuur gynaecologist says that these figures coincide with the rate of illegal abortions in the rest of Africa and the Third World where abortions are also illegal. In Nigeria and Kenya 40% of women admitted to hospitals have abortion complications.

Crude backstreet abortions where women used coat hangers and disinfectant are, however, on the decrease

"In Cape Town it appears that backstreet abortionists are using safer methods It seems like they are inserting catheters and injecting the uterus with unknown substances

"But backstreet abortions are still dangerous and could lead to renal failure"

FIGURES THAT TELL A TALE

	Legal abortions	Operations to remove residues
1980	347	29 979
1982	464	35 759
1984	566	29 596
1986	770	36 062
1988	1112	36 948
1989	963	36 318
1990	868	38 027

SOURCE Stellenbosch Law Review Newsletter and ARAG

South (South 5060) 3/10/-8/10/91

PHILIP KHUMALO

Fewer died last year

(237)

Sowetan 24/10/91

AT least 86 060 people defined as black under the old Population Registration Act died in 1990, the Central Statistical Service revealed on Tuesday.

The CSS said this compared with 118 429 deaths the previous year.

The CSS emphasised that the figures reflected registered deaths and that it was lower than the actual number of deaths

Of the 86 060 deaths registered in 1990, 36,9 percent occurred in the Transvaal, 23,6 percent in the self-governing territories, 16,2 percent in the Cape, 12,6 percent in Natal and 10,8 percent in the Orange Free State.

During 1990 the registration of infant deaths amounted to 13,9 percent of the total deaths compared with 13,8 last year

Shock illiteracy forecast

Expert links fertility to community education

Sowetan 25/10/91

(237)

MORE than 62 000 black children between the ages of six and 14 in the Eastern Cape, the Ciskei and the Transkei are not attending school.

This alarming figure was released on Thursday by Mr Johan Grobbelaar, a demographer of the University of Stellenbosch and a member of the Council for Population Development at the Regional Development Action Committee at King William's Town yesterday.

The school attendance figures were also strongly reflected in the literacy levels in this region, Grobbelaar said

He explained that the literacy level of a community was derived from the percentage of the population older than 14 years who have past at least Standard 5

"In the Eastern Cape only 57 percent of black people passed this mark against 56 percent in the Ciskei and 51 percent in the Transkei

The figure for coloureds in this region as a whole is 64 percent "

Grobbelaar pointed out that a direct relationship existed between the number of children a woman would have and her level of literacy

It had been established that women who had at least seven years' formal education had fewer children than their less educated counterparts

"In fact statistics show that the further a woman has progressed beyond Standard 5 the lower her fertility is This is the reason why so much emphasis is placed on education by the Population Development Programme "

The Population Development Programme had as its main aim the creation and maintenance of a balance between the population growth and the country's natural resources and socio-economic capabilities, Grobbelaar said

"The programme also endeavours to create a climate to facilitate the change of fertility perceptions in favour of a small family norm "

He noted that in the region some women had as many as six children each. In addition the black population in this region, especially in the Transkei and the Ciskei, was on average very young

"More than half of the population of the Transkei is less than 50 years old In the Ciskei the figure of under 15-year-olds is 44 percent and in the Eastern Cape 36 percent."

Grobbelaar pointed out that the youthful composition of the population in this region held serious implications for the future

"The many youths will demand education and training and thousands of job opportunities will have to be created

"Although a decrease in the total fertility rate has been notable recently it remains alarming when one realises that more than 430 000 females in the Transkei are still in their fertile years "

Of these, more than half were between the ages of 16 and 25 Apart from the children these women already had, they could give birth to another 1,5 million children in their life-span.

This figure could be 750 000 in the Eastern Cape and another 500 000 in the Ciskei which meant total of 2,75 million for the region

Of this figure more than half could be girls who in turn could give birth to their own children

This could lead to an increase in the population in the region, to reach a figure of seven million in one generation, Grobbelaar said. - *South African Press Association.*

Population growth time bomb

Star 16/11/91. 237

JAMES CLARKE

SOUTH Africa should decree that no couple should have more than two children. Unless such a law is urgently implemented our fight to house people and find them jobs is over before it began.

Even if the move were successful, our population growth has such momentum that we'll still end up with more people than South Africa is capable of carrying.

In fact, we may already be overpopulated, says Johannes Jordaan, economist and former academic in Stellenbosch, who has produced a powerful book, "Population growth — our time bomb"

Jordaan's depressing arithmetic shows that even if a programme were launched now and South Africans, from next year, began having 2,1 children per couple (that's population replacement rate) this country's population would continue climbing from the present 38 million to 58 million before flattening out to zero population growth (ZPG)

If it takes six years to persuade young people, the population will reach 72 million before flattening out If it takes until 2010 (18 years) we will hit 80 million.

Incredibly, this last figure is seen by the Department of National Health and Population Development as the country's "optimum" carrying capacity (should that have been "maximum"?) Either way the notion, in the light of Jordaan's statistics, is absurd if not suicidal.

As Jordaan says, we cannot support the 38 million we have now. Millions haven't got decent houses or jobs, millions aren't eating properly; all of us are growing poorer. How on earth can we find the wealth to cope with double our present population?

It will, says Jordaan, take South African 50 years from the time couples start averaging 2,1 births to reach ZPG like the rich countries.

What about Aids? Jordaan dismisses it in four pages (in a 154 page book) "(Aids) will have a significant negative effect on our labour force and thus on the economy", and a declining economy is a prescription for more poverty, more illiteracy, more homelessness, more joblessness — and more children to "insure" that the elderly will have at least a few surviving children to look after them

Spier and others have said we will probably lose to the HIV virus, 10 million sexually active people beginning from the turn of the century Jordaan argues, reasonably, that births will still far exceed the possible deaths from Aids.

He says "it would be irresponsible to use the incidence of Aids as an excuse for not according urgent attention to the expansion of family planning activities along with preventive measures against Aids."

Jordaan also dismisses urbanisation as a way of reducing population. International thought is that as a country becomes more urbanised so its population slumps towards zero growth. In a nutshell, Jordaan says that while this may be true there is no time to wait and see.

He refutes the argument that most cities grow as a result of influx from rural areas, saying they grow mostly from their own fertility — at least in Africa

"Unless drastic action is taken immediately, it will not be possible to find a humane and civilised solution."

"We must strive to attain a static growth rate in our population as soon as possible and set our maximum number of people at no more than 60 million In order to achieve this, after 1995 no woman should have more than two chilren, as a general rule"

How? By using incentives and disincentives. Small families should get tax rebates — as should firms which institute family planning programmes for workers Big families should be penalised, abortion condoned and contraception available to all

"Family planning should be accorded the same high priority as the defence of this country" In the 1990-91 budget, defence received R10 billion — family planning received R130 million.

This book represents vital input into the debate about the future Send one to your political representative and then ring him till you are sure he's read it

● (Dr Mandla Tshabalala and Zanele Mfono made valuable contributions to the text).

Abortion seen as viable solution

Star 12/11/91 (237)

One of the greatest threats facing South Africa is overpopulation, and abortion may be one way of stemming the tide CARINA LE GRANGE reports on the theories of consultant economist Johannes Jordaan (left) on abortion as explained in a recent publication, "Population Control — Our Time Bomb".

SURELY it must be a greater evil to allow living children to die of hunger than to allow abortion? Johannes Jordaan asks.

In "Population Control — Our Time Bomb" (Van Schaik) this consultant economist reminds readers that abortion has historically been a very common method of birth control in the greater part of the world

However, he offers the sobering fact that even with the advent of modern contraceptives during the past three decades, abortion has remained in second place, together with the Pill, as a method to curb births and that it is exceeded only by voluntary sterilisation

He makes a plea for voluntary abortion to be permitted as one of the solutions to reverse the population time-bomb, and draws heavily on views put forward by noted Unisa theologian and author Professor Ferdinand Deist on the subject.

Professor Deist, with whom Mr Jordaan held in-depth discussions on the matter for the purposes of the book, offers a number of thoughts in an attempt to allow for the discussion of abortion in a different context from the one in which it has traditionally been discussed — especially in the church

According to Professor Deist, the "abortion picture" looks completely different against the background of overpopulation and the resultant poverty, retrogression, misery and suffering — which means that arguments in favour of legalising abortion exist within an ethical context.

The theologian believes that according to the Bible, man must fill the Earth, "not foul it", and raises, among others, the following arguments

- Within the context of this book, anti-abortionists who advocate the "preservation of life" are talking about vegetating, not about living. They are not concerned about the quality of life, but with quantity Whoever creates life has to care for that life, to make it a full life
- What is the good of conserving nature while producing too many people to inhabit the Earth? By definition, ecological responsibility includes people and the quality of human life
- It is true that people have feelings of guilt about abortion, perhaps rightly so in the case of abortion for the sake of convenience The point is that the church nurtures those feelings of guilt but does not offer any solution to the poblem of uncontrolled population growth He says the church should be concerned about the welfare of the living and asks what the duty of the church is if people bring children into a world of misery and squalor Has the church considered abortion from this perspective?
- It is the duty of the medical profession not to help people to vegetate but to help them to live Doctors cannot voice the traditional objection of the "preservation of life at all costs" argument Medical ethics (and the law) state that an abortion may be performed if there is a possibility that the child may be physically and mentally handicapped He asks what abject poverty is other than a mental and physical handicap

Mr Jordaan sees these points as some of the "possible contours" for the discussion about abortion as a measure to limit population growth, and believes it is vital that churchmen and dotors hold themselves accountable in this regard

On opposition from anti-abortion groups, he writes that they might have resorted to regarding anti-abortion legislation "simply" as a way out of the problem and that they had never given the matter adequate thought

Mr Jordaan cites support from other sources for his plea apart from the guidelines provided by Professor Deist — including that of a Department of Health and Population Development survey undertaken by the Human Sciences Research Council in 1984

In this study Dr Monica Ferreira found that South Africa would not be able to control its population growth without legal abortions and sterilisation

Mr Jordaan holds the view that without the option of abortion, it would be impossible to reduce fertility rates in the shortest possible time to avert the disaster of overpopulation, and makes a plea that abortion be discussed in detail before a decision is made □

stration flowing from discriminatory policies and legislation The hour had arrived for all public servants to rededicate themselves to rendering quality service to all South Africans

level public servants and the public was another barrier "South Africans are in many respects reaping the whirlwind for failure to communi-

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'Curb births or face disaster'

B/Day 11/11/91

DARIUS SANAI

A NEW book published by a former Stellenbosch economist warns of impending disaster for SA if government does not introduce effective birth control methods to rural areas

In Population Growth — Our Time Bomb, Johannes Jordaan claims that the population explosion is the most serious problem SA has faced this century

Jordaan says the population explosion will lead to massive unemployment, increased social tension, political instability, economic adversity, environmental degradation and hunger

The population in the PWV area alone will increase from 6,1-million people in 1985 to 14-million in 2010, Jordaan says.

The problem needs to be tackled at the roots by providing family planning advice and birth control methods for rural areas, which government has shown little interest in doing, Jordaan says (239)

He says the SA population explosion is due to illiteracy, lack of education, lack of contraceptives and improved medical facilities, black culture and the politicisation of the perception of birth control among blacks

Black people in SA in the past have — with some justification — believed government birth control campaigns were apartheid-based schemes to reduce the black population, Jordaan says.

But blacks should realise that a lack of birth control weakens their political hand by increasing the number of impoverished blacks and increasing reliance on the status quo to provide them with help

Hunger, disease, extreme poverty, crime, rife unemployment and widespread homelessness are among the consequences of the high population increase rate that SA is already facing, Jordaan says

Only comprehensive sex education, family planning and birth control programmes can rectify the situation, as rural perceptions of contraception need to change, Jordaan says

And this can happen only if an organised family planning campaign is brought into the rural areas

Population increase is greatest in rural areas, but as the rural communities increase in size, they add to the urban drift, increasing urban and peri-urban squalour, Jordaan says

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM THE TOP

Too many mouths for too small a cake

S/Times (Buss) 3/11/91

(237)

By JOHANNES JORDAAN, economic consultant, whose latest book is Population Growth: Our Time Bomb

NO GOVERNMENT in South Africa can survive unless it succeeds in reducing the population growth rate.

In this respect, the present Government seems to have no credibility among black leaders and lacks their support for its population development programme

This is another unfortunate legacy of apartheid that one hopes belongs to the past.

South Africa has fallen into the same demographic trap as most other Third World countries where population growth is taking place faster than economic development

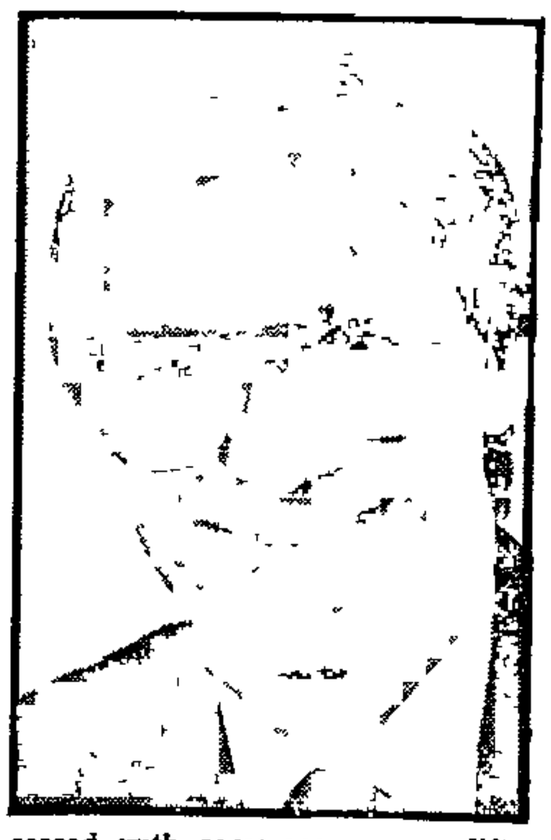
Unless the Government gains the support of leaders in all communities and the private sector, our economic and political endeavours will be in vain We have only until the end of this decade to reverse the demographic momentum or face a socio-economic disaster

Awkward

It appears that the Government has failed to communicate the importance of family planning and the advantage of smaller families A report by the Human Resources Council says 26% of blacks are aware of the Government's population development programme

However, Mandla Tshabalala, senior lecturer in social work at the University of Cape Town and co-author of Population Growth Our Time Bomb, says less than 10% of blacks are aware of the programme, let alone support it

Because population control is an awkward and unpopular subject, the Government has taken the line of least resistance It became so obsessed with socio-economic upliftment programmes that the real cause of over-population was neglected



Family planning programmes have not succeeded in reducing the growth rate rapidly enough to avert an increasing backlog in housing, education, medical services and other needs

The Government simply cannot keep on providing infrastructure and jobs for a fast-growing population In spite of the fact that taxes have increased enormously in the past two decades, the Government is still far behind in providing essential services and infrastructure

The seriousness of the problem is highlighted by unemployment.

According to J L Sadie of Stellenbosch University, about 500 000 job-seekers are added to the labour market every year But in the past five years SA succeeded in creating only 30 000 jobs annually — mostly in the public service

The unemployment figure of nearly 2-million is projected to increase to more than 8-million before the end of the century

Dr Tshabalala believes that the main reasons for SA's high population growth rate are the cultural values and attitudes among black communities that favour large families

Some politicians openly promoted large families because they believed there was power in numbers The fact that more than 50% of SA's blacks are younger than 20 and a similar percentage are functionally illiterate, also contributes to the demographic momentum A vicious circle has developed in which high population growth causes increased poverty, in turn promoting large families

Although there is a fairly widespread awareness of the consequences of overpopulation among leaders, no consensus exists about what needs to be done about it.

Bearing in mind the sensitivity of the problem, the question can be asked "Why are effective measures not being taken to stop our country's uncontrolled population growth?"

The belief that socio-economic upliftment of our poor communities — where the highest birth rate occurs — is the quickest way to decrease population growth may have worked in certain First World countries

But to expect it to succeed in SA at this stage is wishful thinking SA lacks the economic resources and the time needed to succeed in this way

The fact that the birth rate has increased every year in the past decade and that per capita standards of living have dropped is ample proof of this

The official demographic objective to stabilise SA's population at 80-million by the year 2100 is also unrealistic The fact that 50% of our people live in abject poverty with 38% unemployed in a population of not even half 80-million, proves this point

What needs to be done?

We need much more drastic measures A two-child family norm should be a priority Contraceptive services, education and counselling available to everybody, a countrywide top-quality sterilisation programme in every hospital and the adoption of more flexible abortion laws should be implemented

Because there will be resistance to measures such as these, the best solution may be to appoint a well-balanced independent task group representing experts from all population groups to investigate the position

They would be able to advise on what needs to be done, when and by whom and at what cost in money and manpower It should then be delegated to an autonomous body similar to the Independent Development Trust to make sure that it will be accepted by everyone

Lesson

Business and political leaders could perhaps learn from Lord Caradon's experience in Jamaica where he was governor a few decades ago "I asked myself why we in Jamaica were for so long blind to the danger that rapid population growth would sweep away all our efforts to achieve economic development

"No sooner had we built a new school than it was too small It was not mainly a matter of how many children could be crowded in, but how many had to be shut out.

"No sooner had we built a hospital, than there were 2,4 people waiting for every bed

"Every agricultural project we started increased the clamour for more land settlement.

"New industries, paying higher wages, showed the gulf between the favoured few and the discontented rest It finally dawned on us that if dealing with the problem of over-population was left too late, then all our economic and political achievements would be swept away like sand castles before the advancing tide"

Education the key, says PAC

(237)

By LULAMA LUTI and THEMBA KHUMALO

Argus 17/11/91

EDUCATION, education and more education is the key to controlling the population, says Ellen Mothopeng of the African Women's Organisation of the PAC.

"Africans must not be coerced into contraceptives," she said

"The government must come up with social upliftment programmes, education, social development and improve people's quality of life"

With regard to the availability of contraceptives for schoolchildren, she said the move was open to public debate, while sex education had to be stepped up as a matter of urgency

A voluntary sterilisation programme should not be directed only at women, but at men as well.

She pointed out that there was a need for the government to engage in campaigns advocating smaller families, but that this should not be done in a dictatorial manner.

Policies

"They cannot decide on the number of children African families should have And, most importantly, we need not adopt policies practised in other countries like China

"We need to come up with our own strategies We could borrow ideas, but still, we know our problems better," she said

"Most of our women have been offered contraception such as Depo-provera, with little or no education on the side-effects, which have proved problematic, most women not knowing they were actually signing sterilisation contracts"

The vice-president of Azapo's women's section, the Imbeleko Women's Organisation, Nomonde Jafta, said the outcry on how population growth would affect the country's economy showed how worried capitalists were about their own pockets

"Our people have always had large families while earning pitiful wages, and this in a country riddled with acute unemployment. Why should large families become an issue now?

"The outcry has to do with the whole question of unfair distribution of wealth among the country's inhabitants And it's not our fault that there is an uneven distribution of wealth and resources.

"I still maintain that it should be an individual's choice how many children they want to have That goes for such proposals as the introduction of sterilisation programmes and abortions The people must know what choices are available to them," she said

Jafta added that the need for primary health education could not be overemphasised

"Instead of putting more money into the manufacturing of contraceptives, they should be using that in extensive education campaigns which should be held on an on-going basis"

Practising social worker and member of the South African Black Social Workers' Association, Bongi Mosia, blamed the high number of teen pregnancies on the lack of recreational facilities, breakdown of communication between parents and their children and the inadequacy of relevant youth programmes

If these were not rectified first, whatever programme people came up with was doomed to failure, she said

"The problem is where do we start in implementing whatever programmes are implemented? I've known teenagers who fall pregnant with their drawers at home full of pills.

"Even those who go to private schools, where sex education forms an integral part of their sylabi, still get pregnant. Why? Because they are missing something

"There are no facilities in our townships and therefore they engage in activities that make them disperse the energy inside them You need only look at them when toyi-toying

"As for the implementation of programmes that might be evolved, a great deal of education would accompany them," she said

Dr Sam Motsuenyane, president of the National Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) and a respected economist, said he agreed with Jordaan's proposals, but warned that birth control might take longer to achieve than Jordaan envisaged

He said the population explosion was a legacy which the new government would inherit

Motsuenyane said· "It will take quite some time to educate our people on the matter and people shouldn't expect quick-fix solutions Birth control is completely foreign to African norms and it militates against their very religious, traditional and cultural beliefs."

Some churches encouraged their congregations to practise polygamy, which led to one man having many children Religions such as Islam were against their women using contraceptives, Motsuenyane said

He found it ironic that former State President PW Botha once exhorted the Afrikaners to have more children, while at the same time advocating birth control among blacks.

This was one example of people who politicised birth control rather than socialised it, Motsuenyane said

Recreation

Economic affluence also played an important role in birth control. While the rich retired to their lounges to watch television in the evening, the poor did not have such luxuries and they had no option but to go to bed where they indulged in sex

Motsuenyane said. The poor tend to have more children than the rich Sex is one form of recreation"

Don Mattera, a protest poet and a Muslim, said while he agreed with Jordaan's proposals, the advice came rather too late

"We've been left too long to fend for ourselves The white government should have treated us like human beings instead of mechanising us

"Blacks are not to blame for their ignorance on birth control, because the gutter system of education made them like that," said Mattera

GROWING FAST (left) ... And unless we bring the rocketing population situation under control nature will wipe out the surplus.

ONE MORE MOUTH (right) ... But add them all up and the result is a recipe for disaster Two-child families should be the norm.

SA's growing pains

C/Press 17/11/91

JOIN THE QUEUE ... If these people had been lining up for family-planning advice, our population problem would not be so pressing.

■ Two-child families ■ Early sex education ■ Condoms for kids ■ Easier abortion

(237)

ANY new political or economic dispensation is doomed to fail unless South Africa's leaders urgently back a scheme to drastically halt the runaway population growth and introduce a two-child family norm

According to a recently published book, it is no use waiting for a new government, because the country's rapid population growth is at a critical stage and any delay now could permanently jeopardise future attempts to resolve the highly-sensitive issue

This startling new book was released this week by Johannes Jordaan, a consulting economist, and co-authors Mandla Tshabalala, a senior lecturer in social work at the University of Cape Town, and Zanele Mfono, a demographic specialist

"To put it bluntly, it's either a humane method of birth control or nature wiping out the surplus Or the Chinese option – very harsh measures, forced abortions, one-child family norms," said Jordaan

"We need drastic measures now and the longer we wait the more drastic and unacceptable they will become"

He called for the issue to be discussed at the All-Party summit The book, "Population Growth – Our Time Bomb", attacks the assumption that a demographic transition can be created by socio-economic upliftment

"This will be far too slow and South Africa simply does not have the economic means to turn around the vicious circle of unemployment, escalating poverty and high birth rates"

It advocates the creation of a two-child family norm, sex education in primary schools, contraceptives made freely available to schoolchildren, more liberal abortion legislation, a national voluntary sterilisation programme and counselling on a much wider scale

It urges South Africa's political leaders across the spectrum to appoint a "well-balanced and independent" commission of inquiry or task group to study the issue and come up with solutions

At the same time, an independent body, possibly along the lines of the Independent Development Trust, should be established to deal with the problem – starting immediately

"We've got to get going now, and to wait for economic growth is unrealistic, idealistic and wishful thinking."

Currently, South Africa has a population growth rate of 2,4 percent a year, "which will lead to a doubling of our population in about 30 years", said Jordaan

Economic growth "is nothing at the moment", and averages about one per cent over the past 10 years

"The period until the end of this decade will be decisive," he warns

"If we get a national voluntary sterilisation programme going soon we can make a big difference within six years

"Voluntary sterilisation is a guaranteed successful way, and if handled correctly, can prove very popular"

Writing the book's foreword, Soweto community leader Nthato Motlana adds his concern "This is an urgent matter which can no longer be delayed

"Along with the social injustices of the past, our high population growth as one of the major obstacles towards nation-building in a new South Africa cannot be overlooked

"Unfortunately, population growth has been a highly politicised issue in the past

"However, the time has come for all the leaders of our country – in the Church, the business sphere, education, politics, and the community – to express themselves openly on the democratic realities of South Africa, so that meaningful debate on what needs to be done about the present rate of population growth can start"

The situation is so serious that spontaneous family planning programmes don't work, says Jordaan

"I don't say that we need coercion at this point, but what we need are incentives Coercion programmes at this stage are doomed to fail

"We need basic incentives that make immediate sense to people to have smaller families

"There are many creative ways in which this can be done, first of all to create a norm of smaller families – ideally two-child family norms

"If you leave it to the individual to decide on family size, then you are guaranteed to fail," he said

Tshabalala points out in the book that the government's population development programme has very little credibility within South Africa's black population

"This is perhaps a problem which should be de politicised," adds Jordaan

Whoever is in government in the next five to 10 years, and beyond, will have to deal with the consequences

Mfono argues in the book that young people, who are more receptive to new ideas and change, must be taught that family planning is a basic human right

"Women should have the assurance from an early age that preventing pregnancy is their right," she adds "There should be no misgivings or doubt in this regard

Sex education could be introduced from about Std 3, reckons Jordaan

The growing AIDS problem and rapid population growth should be linked in sex education at schools, he said "They both emanate from sexual behaviour and it is no use solving one side of the problem only to be overcome by the other

"I would say 'yes' to contraceptives being made freely available to schoolchildren on a national basis," he added

"If schoolchildren are going to be sexually active anyway, why complicate the problem further with teenage pregnancies?"

And, says Tshabalala, "An effective population programme should acknowledge the mistakes of the past and shy away from any practices which African women consider degrading, such as forced contraceptive injections and sterilisations without proper consultation with the parties concerned"

"In other words, if the focus of a programme is, among other things, to reduce fertility, then it must be devised in the idiom best understood by, and acceptable to, the largest group concerned" – Sapa

Education the key, says PAC

(237)

By LULAMA LUTI and THEMBA KHUMALO

Cape Times 17/11/91

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Policies

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"The outcry has to do with the whole question of unfair distribution of wealth among the country's inhabitants And it's not our fault that there is an uneven distribution of wealth and resources

"I still maintain that it should be an individual's choice how many children they want to have That goes for such proposals as the introduction of sterilisation programmes and abortions The people must know what choices are available to them," she said

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"Instead of putting more money into the manufacturing of contraceptives, they should be using that in extensive education campaigns which should be held on an on-going basis"

Practising social worker and member of the South African Black Social Workers' Association, Bongi Mosia, blamed the high number of teen pregnancies on the lack of recreational facilities, breakdown of communication between parents and their children and the inadequacy of relevant youth programmes

If these were not rectified first, whatever programme people came up with was doomed to failure, she said

"The problem is where do we start in implementing whatever programmes are implemented? I've known teenagers who fall pregnant with their drawers at home full of pills

"Even those who go to private schools, where sex education forms an integral part of their sylabi, still get pregnant Why? Because they are missing something

"There are no facilities in our townships and therefore they engage in activities that make them disperse the energy inside them You need only look at them when toyi-toying

"As for the implementation of programmes that might be evolved, a great deal of education would accompany them," she said

Dr Sam Motsuenyane, president of the National Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) and a respected economist, said he agreed with Jordaan's proposals, but warned that birth control might take longer to achieve than Jordaan envisaged

He said the population explosion was a legacy which the new government would inherit

Motsuenyane said "It will take quite some time to educate our people on the matter and people shouldn't expect quick-fix solutions Birth control is completely foreign to African norms and it militates against their very religious, traditional and cultural beliefs"

Some churches encouraged their congregations to practise polygamy, which led to one man having many children Religions such as Islam were against their women using contraceptives, Motsuenyane said

He found it ironic that former State President PW Botha once exhorted the Afrikaners to have more children, while at the same time advocating birth control among blacks

This was one example of people who politicised birth control rather than socialised it, Motsuenyane said

Recreation

Economic affluence also played an important role in birth control While the rich retired to their lounges to watch television in the evening, the poor did not have such luxuries and they had no option but to go to bed where they indulged in sex

Motsuenyane said The poor tend to have more children than the rich Sex is one form of recreation"

Don Mattera, a protest poet and a Muslim, said while he agreed with Jordaan's proposals, the advice came rather too late

"We've been left too long to fend for ourselves The white government should have treated us like human beings instead of mechanising us

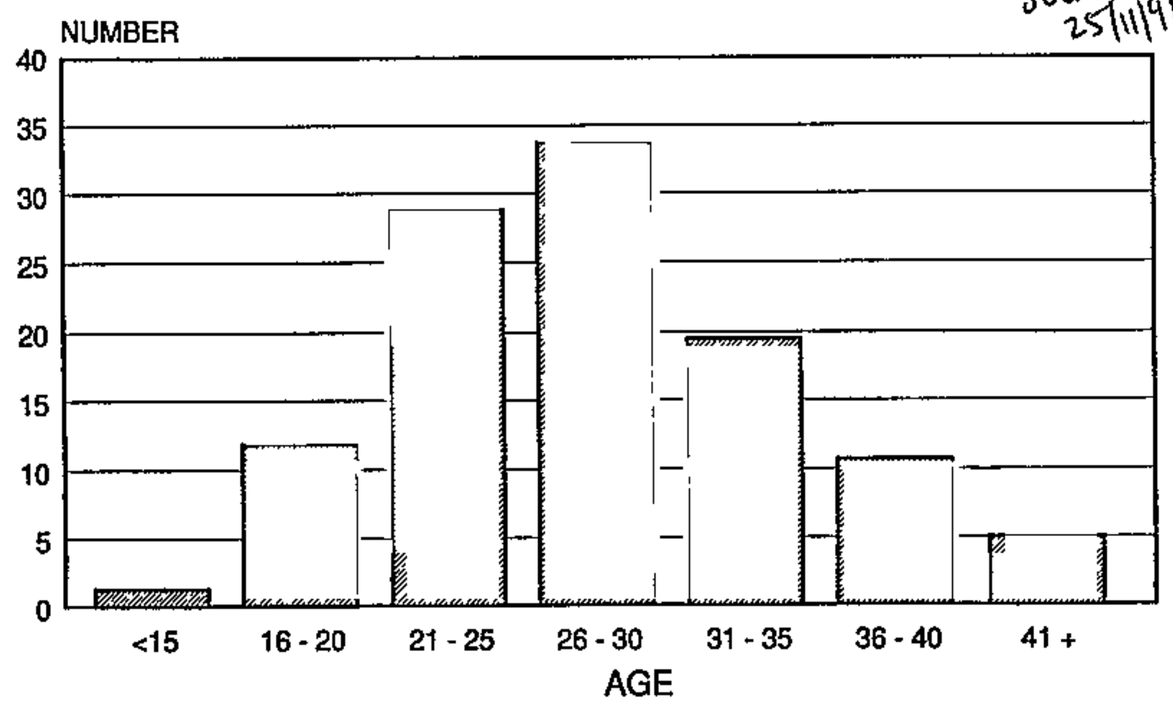
"Blacks are not to blame for their ignorance on birth control, because the gutter system of education made them like that," said Mattera

Bara's abortion shocker

BARA INCOMPLETE ABORTION ADMISSIONS

OCTOBER 22 TO NOVEMBER 22 1991

Sowetan 25/11/91



GRIM statistics released to *Sowetan* this weekend reveal that an average of 300 women are treated for incomplete abortions at Baragwanath hospital in Soweto every month

(237) By IKE MOTSAPI

For the period October 22 to November 22 about 288 women were admitted to the hospital's maternity ward for this kind of treatment.

These startling figures were supplied by Mrs Seugnet van Vuuren, public relations officer of Bara Hospital

She was responding to a request by Sowetan to confirm that 70 women were treated for incomplete or botched abortions last week

Breakdown

The official figure for the number of women treated from Monday to Friday last week is, in fact, 73

Van Vuuren said the monthly average "of such cases here at Baragwanath is 300'

With regard to the age breakdown of patients, very few are teenagers Only 11,5 percent are under 20 years of age

"The majority of women are in the 25-to 35-year age group

"It is important to remember that not all these abortions are the result of interference

"Although it is very difficult to obtain accurate figures we estimate that about 60 percent are the result of interference and 40 percent are 'spontaneous' miscarriages '

Figures for the week November 16 to 22 are

16th Nine
17th Five
18th Seven,
19th 27
20th 13
21st 12
22nd 14

A nurse who declined to be named for professional reasons has warned that women who opt for backyard abortions are risking death

Killing

She says these women only think of killing their unwanted babies, but forget about the risks they are facing when doing so

She said The risks these women are facing are either death or kidney failure

'What normally kills these women is something called sepsis This is when a person has an uncontrollable infection

The infection then develops into what is called disseminated intravascular co ordination (DIC) which causes a lot of bleeding

Death

During this stage these women develop what is described as oedema They become swollen and they no longer respond to treatment resulting in death

She says another complication which the women encounter is infertility

Those who survive suffer permanent psychological effects such as guilt

Social worker Ms Lizzy Mbele says causes of abortions are the following

Problems

Ignorance

They do not want the babies,

Failure of contraception

Deception by boy friends

Women who want to hook boyfriends for marriage,

Unplanned pregnancies and

Marital problems

'There are lots of other factors but these seem to be the main causes she says

Talkback Topic

Except under special circumstances, such as rape, abortions are illegal in South Africa. Do you think this is right? Do you think abortions should be allowed for those who want them?
Telephone popular Radio Metro DJ Tim Modise and share your opinion live with the nation on the *Sowetan*\Radio Metro Talkback Show between 5pm and 6pm today.
The hotline number is (011) 714-8063

NEWS

HIV-infected pregnant women 'should be able to have abortion'

STAR 27/11/91 (237)

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Statistics indicate that there will be about 10 million Aids orphans in the world by the year 2000 as a result of their parent or parents dying from the killer disease.

Consulting obstetrician and gynaecologist at Baragwanath Hospital Dr James McIntyre yesterday argued at a legal and ethical workshop on Aids in Pretoria, that, in the light of the statistical projection, HIV-infected women should have a choice of abortion.

In Africa, the ratio of women to men infected with the Aids virus was 14 to one, and if they gave birth, their babies had an up to 60 percent of inheriting the virus

These women should have the option of terminating their pregnancies, Dr McIntyre said

He was staunchly opposed by Dr Claude Newbury, president of Pro Life, who vehemently insisted that unborn foetuses be accorded "the most fundamental human right — the right to life".

Confidentiality in the testing of suspected HIV-positive patients also inspired lively debate.

Warrick Allan, co-ordinator of Act Up "Aids Coalition to Unleashed Power", said the social stigmas attached to Aids were not the same as in the case of other diseases, and that there should never be breach of confidentiality.

"I have never come across a case (during counselling) where breach of confidentiality is acceptable," he said.

However, Dr Manda Holmshaw, head of the Aids unit at the Department of National Health, said confidentiality about Aids was a way of saying it should be hidden, adding that a Western approach to Aids counselling and treatment was not necessarily fitting in Africa.

"In Africa, individualism is not the highest value ... patients are more interested in having a community representative, a way of getting Aids education to the community.

"We need an African response to Aids, not one that is imposed from the Western world," she said.

Debating the role of legislation on Aids, Dr Edwin Cameron of the Centre for Applied Studies at Wits University, said the time had come for a charter of rights for HIV sufferers to be adopted in legislation

Case for allowing abortion mounts

Sowetan 28/11/91 (234)

FOCUS

Last Friday and Monday we released shocking details about abortion in Soweto. Today, our health reporter, MOKGADI PELA, looks at this scourge.

THE Oxford Medical Dictionary defines abortion as the expulsion of an embryo from the uterus during pregnancy when it is incapable of independent survival.

Shocking statistics released to Sowetan last week showed that an average of 300 women are treated for incomplete abortions at Baragwanath Hospital every month

The controversy surrounding abortion has prompted the Department of National Health and Population Development to invite the public to submit reasons to justify changing the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975

The Act provides for abortions to be carried out only if

The continued pregnancy endangers the life of the woman or constitutes a serious threat to her physical or mental health

A serious risk exists that the baby may be born with a physical or mental defect.

The foetus was alleged to have been conceived as a result of rape or incest

The foetus was alleged to have been conceived as a result of unlawful carnal intercourse with a female idiot or imbecile in contravention of Section 15 of the Immorality Act

According to the Department of Health there were 756 legal abortions in South Africa in 1990 A total of 597 abortions were legally procured between January 1 1991 and September 30

On the other side of the coin there were 2 881 admissions to Baragwanath Hospital in 1978 for abortion-related complications

In 1984 at King Edward V111 Hospital in Durban, it was reported that there were 48 abortion-linked deaths Abortion was also the most frequent cause of gynaecological admissions to the wards

In 1984 there were 7 400 admissions to Cape provincial hospitals for incomplete abortions, about 90 percent the result of illegal interference

This week callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show expressed mixed feelings on whether laws governing abortion should be scrapped or not.

Laws

However, Bara gynaecologist Dr James McIntyre said the laws governing abortion were too restrictive

"I would like to see the liberalisation of the law to allow for failed contraceptions The law should take into account social and medical problems

"In this country we have hundreds of women going for backstreet abortions each week To them, it has to be morally acceptable or they wouldn't be doing it We need to respect each other's views," McIntyre said

He advised women who had procured backstreet abortions to consult a physician or to visit the clinic This is because of the tremendous risks of infection and other medical problems

McIntyre cited such complications as severe bleeding and infections which may lead to death "In the long term such women can also become infertile They may also suffer from serious psychological problems," he said

Dr M Dyer of the Abortion Reform Action Group argued strongly for the legalisation of abortion at a health seminar organised by the Advice Centres Association She said legal abortion was vital to a successful population programme because

It gives the young "accidentally pregnant" girl a chance to complete her education and to go on to plan her family responsibly

It improves the quality of life of older women by averting pregnancies too soon

It often serves as the first introduction to contraception

It has economic advantages as vast sums of money are no longer spent on repairing the damage brought about by backstreet abortionists

"There is no political gain in opposing effective methods of bringing down the population growth We all suffer so much when the quality of life deteriorates None suffer like women who are persuaded to have children they cannot feed, house, clothe or educate

"We have worked consistently for the liberalisation of the Act. Because we believe that illegal abortion is presently the only solution to accidental pregnancy in South Africa. We also believe that children deserve to be wanted at birth We are also deeply concerned about the effects of our population explosion," Dyer said

The ACA seminar resolved that not only is it the right of women to limit their fertility, but that they should be encouraged to think clearly and responsibly about every pregnancy A woman should be able to decide to have children not accidentally and unwillingly, but purposefully and joyfully

Counsel

Dr Tom Marishane of the Community Health Awareness Programmes said it was important to counsel women before or after abortion "It is interesting that in Britain when women consult their doctors, about 80 percent have already decided to end their pregnancies," he said

In a television programme a British member of parliament said there was a generation of women who were accustomed to having legal abortion available to them and who would not easily forfeit that right

In South Africa there appears to be a glimmer of hope that the Act may be liberalised. This will only happen if women in particular express their views unequivocally so that this hot issue may at last, end peacefully

Need to legalise abortion growing

Star 2/12/91

(237)

By Zingisa Mkhuma

At least 250 000 illegal abortions are performed in South Africa each year — and according to the Abortion Reform Action Group (Arag) the booming backstreet abortion "industry" claims many lives, with the toll especially high in rural areas where medical facilities are minimal

A million babies were born in South Africa every year but almost 15 percent of babies were illegally aborted, Arag reported

A spokesman for Arag, Dr M Dyer, said abortion figures were difficult to compile and could be higher than 250 000

While many lives were lost because of illegal abortions, some "backstreet abortionists" in urban areas were becoming sophisticated and many women did not end up in hospital

Dr Dyer said whatever the numbers were, black women primarily suffered greatly physically, mentally and psychologically

She said "Poverty and desperation also contributed to high incidences of infanticide

"The Government was spending a lot of money treating the after effects instead of legalising abortion and minimising the risks Some of these women had spent long periods in hospitals suffering from kidney failure and infections"

Dr James McIntyre of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology in Baragwanath Hospital estimated that a high percentage of backstreet abortions were procured by insertion of an object into the womb

Sometimes a herbal mixture or a strong disinfectant, was injected into the womb

More than 30 percent of the women suffered from sterility as a result of infections but the post abortion figure could be higher, he added

According to Arag the need for abortion to be legalised is growing The population explosion and economic problems compounded the plight of many women who could not afford to feed one more child

"Women in Khayelitsha squatter camp near Cape Town, don't even know the differences between legal and illegal abortions, because when they need one they just go and find somebody to do it," Dr Dyer said

"The Government and political organisations need to consider inserting a clause in a future constitution to give women the right to have abortion on demand"

Review abortion laws - expert

Sowetan 12/12/91 (237)

In this edited version of an article published in a Witwatersrand University journal, Dr Helen Rees, who is involved in the Women's Project of the Centre for Health Policy at the university, looks at the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 She argues that the Act has failed in achieving its purpose and also in meeting the needs of South African women She contends that the laws on abortion in South Africa should be liberalised She discusses the effects of liberalising the law and raises questions about the practicalities of changing the law

UNTIL 1975, abortion was prohibited in South Africa, except in the case of the absolute necessity An abortion would only be granted if the mother's life would be at risk if the pregnancy was to continue.

In 1975 the Abortion and Sterilisation Act was introduced This is the legislation that specifies who can get a legal abortion today

It also discourages illegal abortions with heavy penalties of five years imprisonment or a R5 000 fine, or both, for people doing such abortions

The overall aim of the Act is to decrease the total number of abortions done

Restricting

The Act has been successful in restricting the number of legal abortions About 40 percent of applications for legal abortions each year are successful Only 800 - 1 000 women get legal abortion each year Over 70 percent of these are done on psychiatric grounds

Due to the difficult procedure involved, a high proportion of these abortions are done on white women

It is interesting that the private health sector, understanding that there was a demand for abortions that the State health sector would not meet, found legal ways to give women their abortions

In 1988 Sandton Clinic did 257 abortions 241 of which were done on psychiatric grounds While this service was much appreciated by the women able to use it, in 1988 the procedure cost R800

This restricted these abortions to the rich and predominantly to white women

The Act has however, not led to a decrease in the total number of abortions

Criminal

In a recent court case where a doctor was being prosecuted for doing illegal abortion, the judge commented that ' if the (legal) grounds upon which an abortion may be procured are too restrictive, the paradoxical situation arises that this would increase the number of criminal abortions

This is exactly what has happened in South Africa today

The Abortion Reform Action Group (ARAG) estimates that 200 000 to 300 000 illegal abortions are done here each year

Because of its illegality, accurate statistics are difficult to establish However, it is accepted that less than one percent of legal and spontaneous abortions usually become infected

This is unlike the situation with non-legal abortions which frequently result in some degree of infection.

The Abortion Act has failed in its aim to control the total number of abortions It has also failed to respond to the needs of our society

A future South African Government will be faced with the task of reviewing this law

To understand why South Africa should move towards the liberalisation of its abortion laws we need to consider why women have unwanted pregnancies, and whether the factors producing unwanted pregnancies will continue to exist in a future South Africa.

Health services are often inaccessible or unavailable to women Where they exist the methods of contraception offered to women are often unacceptable, either because of the way that they have to be used or because of the side effects.

Even when women do find a contraception that suits them there is a risk of contraceptive failure with all methods except the combined pill and injectable contraceptives

Some women are forbidden by their partners from using contraception Others either because of their low level of education or because of their young age, do not know about contraception

Many women have times in their lives when they use contraception effectively and times when they use it irregularly or not at all, even though they don t want to be pregnant

The alternatives to running the risk of pregnancy are often not that attractive to women

Because of the history of apartheid many black South African women have a further suspicion about using contraception A widely held view is that family planner often prescribe contraceptives, not in the interests of the individual woman, but because of an unwritten State policy which seeks to control black population growth

The most obvious effect of a more liberal abortion law would be that the number of legal abortions will increase, and that of illegal abortions will decrease

Legal abortion, and particularly early legal abortion, has a very low risk of producing bleeding infection or death in the women when compared to illegal abortion

Women tend to be present earlier for abortion when it is legal The physical trauma that they go through is also reduced

Secondly, the psychological trauma for women of either illegal abortion or of continuing with the unwanted pregnancy, is diminished by legalising abortion

Many studies show that the woman's psychological and mental state, and interpersonal relationships, improve after counselling and therapeutic abortion

Anti-abortionist often argue to the contrary and give many examples of women who have had abortions and are very unhappy afterwards.

Pregnancy

Both these arguments are probably true, many women with unplanned pregnancies feel ambivalent about them They partly want the pregnancy and partly don t want it.

A woman must feel very sure that she wants an abortion if she is not going to feel some kind of regret afterwards.

Health services are often inaccesible to women. Where they exist, methods of contraception offered to women are often unacceptable, either because of the way that they have to be used or because of the side effects.

WOMAN

Star Beat

ARIES March 21 - April 21
You have tolerated inconsiderate relatives for too long and must now put a stop to their shenanigans. Decide what you want out of life and let others know what you intend to do about it. You can turn the time in your favour

TAURUS April 21 - May 21
You will have to exercise caution regarding your financial concerns Monetary matters will become tricky and a loss may be experienced even after you have taken precautions. An emergency may deplete your resources somewhat.

GEMINI May 21 - June 22
A temporary downward trend in your destiny could lead to a falling-off in your enthusiasm However that is not the way to respond to disappointment. Pick yourself up and use your time to plan new aspirations and strategies.

CANCER June 22 - July 23
Your temperamental side may get out of hand much to your datriment. Sudden desputes will occur and your relationships with some of people who share your vironment will deter Plans could disintegr process.

LEO July 23 -
Your sense of in doubt as strive to ga Greed a comeup later you a

ber 23
Guard against being in transigent when dealing with professional and career matters. You will not do your chances any good by beinr opinionated or wilful m tone down your demand order to reach agreem major issues.

LIBRA. September
ber 23
Rather a frustra you must con main them least will emotion to avr sho ca

CAPF
Jan
M

POPULATION - VITAL STATISTICS

1992

Doctors slam Bishop for TV abortion bias

S/Times 19/1/92.

237

WOMEN doctors attacked Agenda presenter John Bishop this week for what they called his shocking, flippant and biased handling of a debate on abortion on TV1 last Sunday.

By ROY RUDDEN

They said he had allowed what should have been a serious debate on a matter of grave national importance to degenerate into an uproar in which screaming and shouting anti-abortionists practically drowned out opposing views

One panellist, Dr Helen Rees, a Wits Medical School lecturer in family medicine who chairs the Planned Parenthood Association, called for his replacement as an *Agenda* presenter

Several called on the SABC to broadcast a debate on abortion again, this time with informed participants and an impartial chairman

Excited

A staffer said the panellists reflected a 50-50 representation of pro-lifers (those opposed to abortion) and pro-choicers, who believed women should be legally entitled to have unwanted pregnancies safely terminated in certain circumstances

Mr Bishop conducted the debate in Phil Donahue style, scrambling up and down the aisles to present the microphone to increasingly excited members of the audience (mainly pro-lifers, according to his critics)

There was so much animation that the debate ran over schedule At the end after a comment from the floor which was inaudible to viewers, a clearly hurt Mr Bishop said unbelievingly "I've just been accused of bias towards pro-lifers"

Dr Nkosazana Zuma of Durban, who represented the ANC's Women's League in the debate, said. "Apart from the panellists there was a clear majority of white, religiously fundamentalist pro-lifers in the audience.

"They shouted over all opposing views and jeered at statements by those of us who have first-hand dealings with the victims of unwanted pregnancy — women and children

"Mr Bishop obviously favoured these people, most of whom he seemed to know by first name When I spoke, he got two replies from them That was the pattern.

"He allowed an issue to be made of Dr Marge Dyer's (chairman of the Abortion Reform Action Group in the Cape) religious beliefs When she said she was an agnostic it seemed to be taken as a kind of 'well, what can you expect' triumph for pro-life

"That was insensitive and unacceptable"

Dr Zuma said she had been profoundly shocked by a prominent pro-lifer who remarked during the debate (and confirmed afterwards that she meant it) that "if we are worried about over-population we should rather kill the street children than human foetuses because the foetuses might turn out well"

Dr Dyer said she believed the question about her religion was loaded "But I am not ashamed of being an agnostic," she said, "although some viewers had the impression that Mr Bishop (a staunch Roman Catholic) thought I should be

"Abortion is legal in Christian countries like Italy, France and Belgium, and in Islamic Turkey it is legal within 12 weeks of conception

"Overall, what saddened me most was the flippancy with which a debate about this grave issue was conducted"

Dr Rees said "I have no doubt Mr Bishop was biased. His body language showed he sided with the pro-lifers. He encouraged their emotiveness In fact, before the filming he told the audience they could shout 'because we want some emotion'.

Impartial

"After the programme I told one of the SABC officials I thought it was a terrible debate He said 'Yes, but it was great television.'"

Under SABC policy Mr Bishop may not respond to the criticism But the corporation's editor-in-chief, television news productions, Mr Johan Pretorius, said "One expects strong views from participants and viewers in such highly emotive discussions Our anchor people do their best to be as impartial as they are able and listen to criticism carefully

"This is a normal response to such debate It happens all over the world The SABC does not, however, dismiss this kind of criticism and where it is valid, we act accordingly"

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) (a) R460,244 million and

(b) (i) R185 551 million and

(ii) R 18 087 million,

(2) Department itself R409,920 million
local authorities and R204,640 million
other agencies R 18 153 million

Please note that the Department's budget was reduced due to the fact that the Chief Directorate Pensions was transferred to the Department of Finance with effect from 1 September 1990

SAP, current strength

59 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order

(a) What is the current strength of the South African Police Force, (b) how many persons have joined the Police Force for the first time since 1 June 1991 and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B147E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(a) 96 947

(b) 4 581

(c) 6 February 1992

Wendy Orr Interdict settlements

66 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Law and Order

With reference to the out-of-court settlements resulting from civil actions taken against the Minister of Law and Order and the South African Police following disclosures relating to what was commonly known as the Wendy Orr Interdict, what were the (a) amounts paid to each applicant, (b) costs paid by the State as compensation for the legal costs of the applicants and (c) State's costs in this matter?

B156E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(a) R120 500,00 was paid to 82 applicants Compensation varies between R200,00 and R8 000,00 per applicant

(b) R21 993,71 (provisionally)

(c) R8 425,00 (provisionally)

White population group births

74 Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many births were registered in respect of the White population group in each calendar year from 1960 to 1991?

B185E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

1960	76 300	1976	78 513
1961	75 725	1977	73 998
1962	76 581	1978	73 183
1963	75 569	1979	73 079
1964	76 781	1980	74 760
1965	77 342	1981	79 058
1966	79 426	1982	77 686
1967	81 635	1983	81 139
1968	84 100	1984	81 534
1969	85 758	1985	79 863
1970	88 368	1986	72 955
1971	89 115	1987	70 431
1972	89 890	1988	69 189
1973	89 965	1989	70 964
1974	83 224	1990	69 649
1975	79 811		

1991 Not available (Since the repeal of the Population Registration Act, 1950 statistics in this regard are not kept on the basis of population groups)

Own Affairs

Teachers/promotion staff services terminated

4 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) Whether any teachers and/or promotion staff falling under his Department had their services terminated with effect from 31 December 1991, if so, (a) how many and (b) for what reasons,

(2) whether any of the above persons received additional pension benefits as a result of having their services terminated by his Department, if so, (a) what additional benefits, (b) who funded the additional benefits and (c) what total sum is involved,

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

cont

B45E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) Yes, the information, however, applies as from 1 January 1992,

(a) 1 769,

(b) attainment of retirement age, medical reasons and rationalisation,

(2) yes,

(a) full pension benefits in terms of the pension regulations which state that in respect of abolition of posts and retirement on medical grounds, a maximum of 5 years may be added to a person's total years of service,

(b) Department of Finance,

(c) the information may be asked from the Department of Finance,

(3) no

National Senior Certificate examinations: results

5 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) How many pupils at schools falling under the control of his Department (a) wrote, (b) passed, (c) failed, and (d) obtained matriculation exemption in, the 1991 National Senior Certificate examinations,

(2) how many of these pupils obtained (a) A, (b) B, (c) C, (d) D, (e) E, (f) F and (g) other aggregate symbols in these examinations,

(3) how many of these pupils passed in (a) Mathematics and (b) Physical Science in the above-mentioned year? B49E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) (a) 509,

(b) 383,

(c) 126,

(d) 22,

(2) (a) 0,

(b) 6,

(c) 45,

(d) 163,

(e) 219,

(f) 43

(g) 33,

*(3) (a) 174,

(b) 95

* Higher Grade, Standard Grade and Lower Grade included Information refers to full-time candidates only

Departmental schools utilised for other purposes

6 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

Whether any schools owned or controlled by his Department are unutilised or utilised for purposes other than education, if so, (a) how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) for what other purposes were they being utilised?

B50E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Yes,

(a) 11 as on 11 February 1992,

(b) ten schools are presently in the process of being alienated One school is being considered for education purposes

Non-White teachers appointments

7 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture †

Whether any non-White teachers have been appointed at schools under the control of his Department, if so, (a) at what schools, (b) how many and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B61E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Yes,

(a) Dale College Boys' Primary School (King William's Town)

Rondebosch Boys' High School

The Settlers High School (Bellville)

The Grange Primary School (Pietermaritzburg)

North Crest Primary School (Durban)

Cont →

Teen sexuality manual launched

Staff Reporter

FOUR THOUSAND babies are delivered to teenage mothers in Cape Town each year, a fact that has motivated the Planned Parenthood Association to compile a comprehensive instruction manual to promote responsible teenage sexuality

The book has been researched over five years in the Western Cape and is the only publication of its kind in South Africa

"We found that teenage pregnancy rates in Cape Town have remained relatively constant over the past five years," said Mrs Erica Greathead, director of the Planned Parenthood Association in the Western Cape "However, the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers has been on the increase"

Mrs Greathead said she felt this was because we fail to educate our youth on these issues "for fear of corrupting them" In researching the book, thousands of teenagers were consulted and it was interesting that their teachers thought they needed to know far less than the pupils themselves were asking, Mrs Greathead said (237) CT 24/2/92

Researchers also found that in Cape Town the average age of those engaging in their first sexual activity is lowering

B/Day 4/3/92

2 582 died last year

A TOTAL of 2 582 people died — an average of 215 deaths a month — through politically related violence in SA last year, the Human Right Commission said yesterday.

Security forces' implication in the deaths dropped to 3,9%, while vigilantes accounted for 77,9% of fatalities, the HRC reported in its annual review.

237

Rising population is outstripping economic growth

(237)

Environment Reporter ARG 5/3/92

SOUTH Africa's population growth has outstripped economic growth for several years and is likely to do so for years to come, the Department of Environment Affairs report states

It points out that the recent President's Council report, A National Environmental Management System, identified population growth and its associated poverty as the greatest single threat to the environment

Resource destruction results when large numbers of poor people compete for scarce resources and lack meaningful alternatives, the report continues.

"Poor people have a greater direct dependence on the natural environment, and the alleviation of poverty will reduce pressures on such important environmental resources as trees and soil.

"The potential desertification of large portions of South Africa as a result of water shortages and the over-exploitation of land are major contributors to the threat of environmental degradation."

There is an enormous backlog in housing, education and job creation and the population growth rate has been outstripping economic growth for years.

"As a society, we are becoming poorer and poorer, and have less and less available to meet the backlog, less and less with which to help members of the new generation become successful contributors to the economy."

The word most frequently used in relation to the South African environment was "affordability", the report says

Political violence claims 215 lives

237

Sowetan 5/3/92

THROUGHOUT South Africa in 1991, 2 582 people died through politically related violence - an average of 215 deaths every month.

However, security force implication in such deaths compared to previous years dropped dramatically to 3,9 percent, while "vigilante-related" causes accounted for 77,9 percent of deaths

These statistics were released this week by the Human Rights Commission in its annual review of politically related violence in the country

Saying the figures showed vigilante political violence was gripping South Africa, the HRC said it had recorded 2 011 deaths and more than 2 500 injuries judged to be perpetrated by vigilantes

"The highest death rates (caused by vigilante action) were recorded in May 1991 (292) and September (274) where there were major explosions of violence in the PWV area

"The PWV accounted for 50,4 percent of all vigilante-related deaths, with Natal following closely with 44,3 percent"

During 1991, hundred deaths resulting from security force action were recorded, the HRC said, which was a substantial reduction from the more than 300 deaths the previous year

"Similarly, the number of persons injured dropped dramatically from over 3 000 in 1990 to around 700 in 1991

"While the deaths and injuries inflicted by the security forces are still at an unacceptable level and are to be deplored, nevertheless it is clear that the censure of their methods by various commissions of inquiry has had its effect," said the HRC

Turning to alleged hit squad activity, the report said 60 political activists were "eliminated" in 1991 compared to 21 the previous year

"The number of those injured also tripled but this must be regarded as incidental, since the intention of such hit squads is not to maim, but to kill," it charged

Rightwing actions in 1991, the report continued, were again a mixture of organised premeditated attacks and impulsive and irrational outbursts of violence against innocent victims

"The number of deaths decreased slightly from 26 in 1990 to 21 in 1991, but injuries inflicted increased substantially from 138 to 178"

Insofar as the number of deaths was concerned, the rightwing was relatively insignificant, being responsible for 0,8 percent of deaths

On detentions, the HRC said, there was a marked decrease in 1991 after the high of 1 671 in 1990

"However, the figure of 1 093 is still higher than that of 1989 The marked decrease of detention in terms of the Internal Security Act in the second half of the year follows amendments to the Act in June"

It added that 87 percent of detentions occurred in the "independent" homelands, with most being detained in the Ciskei after the promulgation of a State of Emergency on October 28 last year

The emergency was subsequently overturned by the Ciskei Supreme Court on December 9 1991

The HRC also said it recorded no deaths in detention for the year, but had found that 10 people had died in police custody in politically related circumstances

Dealing with political trials, it said three people were convicted of treason in 1991 as opposed to none the previous year The number of people convicted of terrorism fell to only one in 1991 from 11 in 1990 and 85 in 1989

The number of convictions for attending illegal gathering rose from 37 in 1989 to 69 in 1990 and again to 84 in 1991

"As in 1990, the sentences being meted out (in 1991) were lighter than in the past There was only one death sentence passed

"The trend away from heavy sentences is largely the result of the relaxing of the Internal Security Act and various other laws as well as the changes in the political scene being reflected by the court in their approach to punishment," the HRC noted

The report also noted that Section 205 of the Criminal Procedures Act was used on at least six occasions - with journalists being jailed for up to 14 days - to force them to reveal their sources in a criminal trial - *Sapa*

B/Day 5/3/92

Political deaths down

THERE had been a significant drop in the number of deaths and injuries related to political violence in the week ending yesterday, the Human Rights Commission reported. (237).

A total of 34 people were killed and 49 injured, compared to 60 dead and 107 injured the week before

MORE SHY OF VOWS

S/Times 8/3/92

WHITE South Africans are choosing in increasing numbers to live together rather than marry (237)

Those living together have increased by 60 percent in the past six years. This is a 600 percent increase on the 1970 figure. Economic reasons, double taxation and a more liberal social climate all account for the change.

Still, white South Africans do marry — and divorce — in considerable numbers Half of the white population in March last year was married.

Govt: South African families are shrinking

CT 10/3/92 Staff Reporter (237)

SOUTH African families of all races are getting smaller, according to the latest figures released by the government.

The average number of children per woman decreased from 4,5 in 1986 to 4,1, including the TBVC states, according to a statement released yesterday by the chief director of population development of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr C van der Merwe.

He said South Africa's population growth was decreasing with the movement "among a big percentage of the population" to small families.

Economically, the population decrease will lead to a saving of more than R22,4 milliard on educational expenses over the next 25 years alone.

Dr Van der Merwe said if this trend continues, it could have a substantial influence on South Africa's "alarmingly rapid population growth".

He said the fertility rate, showed a marked decline, especially among the urban populations.

However, in rural areas the fertility rate of squatter communities and informal settlements around cities and towns remains "alarmingly high".

Literacy levels, Dr Van der Merwe said, also improved. Whites reached a literacy level of 99% according to international literacy norms while the figure for coloureds increased from 60% in 1986 to 66% in 1990.

The figure for Asians remained constant at 84% and among blacks literacy levels fluctuated between 48% and 54%.

The teenage birth rate dropped from 7,2% in 1986 to 5,9% in 1990.

For coloureds the rates decreased from 16% to 12,8%, Asians 10,9% to 8,2% and the rate for blacks fluctuated between 11,4% and 16,5%.

No figures were given for white teenagers.

He said the country's population (TBVC-states excluded) grows annually by 2% while the labour market grows annually by 3%.

However, over the past decade the country's economic growth rate only averaged 1,8% and in 1990 it was -0,9%.

(237) CT 11/12/92

SA's population reaches 37,5m

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's burgeoning population, including the TBVC states, passed the 37,5 million mark in 1991, according to a census conducted in March last year

The Central Statistical Service released the census findings yesterday, putting the total population of greater South Africa at 37 737 620

In a racial breakdown the census found there were 21 646 471 blacks, 5 068 110 whites, 3 285 718 so-called coloureds and 986 620 Asians

The TBVC states had an approximate population of 6 750 620

The census put the unemployment figure at 2,1 million, and showed that the proportion of the population who were self-employed almost doubled from 1980-91

Figures for economically active women increased dramatically from 1960 to 1991

On incomes, the census showed that most whites (38,6%) and Asians (40,1%) earned from R10 000 to R29 999 a year, while most "coloureds" (28,4%) and blacks (32,8%) earned from R1 000 to R2 999 a year

● Reports from Zimbabwe yesterday said a recent census showed the country's population grew by 37% to 10,4 million in the decade since 1982 — Sapa-Reuter

83 m in SA by 2020

WASHINGTON. — South Africa's population will grow to nearly 83 million by 2020, says the latest issue of World Population Profile (237).

In 1950, the report says, South Africa was home to 13 575 000, in 1991 the total was 40 601 000; by 2000 it will be 51 375 000, and in 2010 more than 66 million — Sapa-AP.

Osindisweni	102,00	3,60
St Apollinaris	102,00	2,78

Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State

	(a) R	(b) R
Academic Hospitals		
Oranje	25,66	1,20
Pelonomi	137,47	4,57
Universitas/National	589,41	89,24
Regional Hospitals		
Bethlehem	376,16	75,64
Boitumelo	78,45	6,96
Phekolong	90,97	13,71
Voortrekker	310,17	43,33
Welkom	177,36	80,33
Community Hospitals		
Bothaville	132,84	2,73
Botshabelo	199,48	4,05
Clocolan	91,65	10,33
Ficksburg	107,21	22,97
Frankfort	115,47	21,67
Harrismith	131,86	32,09
Heilbron	111,78	14,36
Hoopstad	96,30	14,38
Jagersfontein	98,78	23 34
Ladybrand	173,43	15,49
Odendaalsrus	125,41	25,31
Parys	116,96	24,91
Reitz	96,18	10,70
Sasolburg	344,52	142,11
Senekal	82,70	6,74
Smithfield	147,52	16,15
Virginia	114,11	48,68
Vrede	131,12	11,45
Winburg	190,06	16,15
Zastron	147,71	5,58

Provincial Administration of Transvaal

	(a) R	(b) R
General Affairs Hospitals		
A G Visser	143,67	38,08
Amajuba Memorial	121,66	30,75
Baragwanath	187,20	4,93
Barberton	114,39	26,37
Bethal	110,88	29,50
Boksburg-Benoni	142,44	20,73
Carolina	104,76	26,10
Christiana	105,78	22,65
Coronation	208,10	10,08
Ellisras	152,26	68,10
Ermelo	111,41	39,26
F H Odendaal North	161,96	12,56
Ga-Rankuwa	193,79	12,73
H F Verwoerd	381,09	36,35
Hillbrow	293,65	10,86
J D Verster	96,52	14,12
Johannesburg	400,07	58,00
Kalafong	187,28	13,05
Kalie de Haas	155,03	33,67
Klerksdorp	296,59	89,04
Laudium	189,18	57,99
Lenasia	237,24	17,53
Leratong	155,61	3,44
Lydenburg	114,34	40,72
Middelburg	152,83	63,43
Natalspruit	127,72	8,51
Nic Bodenstein	122,93	19,32
Nigel	114,74	35,34
Paul Kruger Memorial	126,42	59,54
Pietersburg	143,18	57,69
Piet Retief	69,66	15,11
Pollock Park, Springs	129,66	11,39
Rietfontein	74,85	1,30
Rob Ferreira	172,49	78,76
Sabie	99,61	26,01
Schweizer Reneke	116,35	17,75
Sebokeng	96,35	10,83
Soweto CHC's	168,22	18,09
Standerton	117,28	32,42
Sterkfontein	73,37	0,60
Tembisa	136,24	9,34
Weskoppies	182,06	4,69
Westfort	64,67	0,67
Witbank	147,60	66,07
Zeerust	107,88	24,98
Own Affairs Hospitals		
Andrew McColm	218,40	181,51
Bernice Samuel, Delmas	211,98	105,82
Bloemhof	273,81	44,10
Brits	84,83	85,10
Delareyville	307,18	86,23
Discoverer's Memorial	203,35	79,22
Duiwelskloof	135,19	79,75
Edenvale	308,45	51,30
Elsie Ballot, Amersfoort	208,97	38,08
Evander	255,57	119,32
Far East Rand	215,87	81,04
F H Odendaal South	97,16	64,91
Gen De La Rey Memorial	239,05	85,60
Groblersdal	313,18	108,79
H A Grove, Belfast	319,27	75,99
Hendrik van der Bijl	124,28	99,42

J G Strijdom	544,70	51,20
Kempton Park	165,14	124,12
Louis Trichardt	250 82	115,48
Paardekraal	335,57	90,43
Phalaborwa	189,67	142,95
Pretoria West	226,75	72,46
Sannieshof	463,02	96 57
South Rand	210 54	44 18
Sybrand van Niekerk	148,14	95 22
Van Velden Memorial	219,71	106,01
Ventersdorp	222,02	39,25
Vereeniging	126,15	126,89
Voortrekker	147,21	80,22
Warmbaths	182,04	81,90
Waterval-Boven	282,32	62,83
Willem Cruywagen	228,07	75,51

Pupils/students: *per capita* expenditure

174 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training

What was the *per capita* expenditure, (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature, on pupils or students at State (i)(aa) pre-primary, (bb) primary and (cc) secondary schools, (ii) colleges of education, (iii) technical colleges, (iv) technikons and (v) universities during the 1990-91 financial year or the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available? B407E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		(a) R	(b) R
(i)	(aa)	None	None
	(bb)	859,10	778,07
	(cc)	1 538,23	1 238,08
(ii)		10 210,90	7 797,62
(iii)		5 832,73	4 875 72
(iv)		3 783,77	3 569,48
(v)		7 052,39	6 267,18

The information given above is in respect of the 1990-91 financial year

Note

(a) The amounts in (iii), (iv) and (v) are based on the number of full time equivalent students

(b) (v)(b) includes the subsidy formula provision for the replacement and renewal of fixed assets, while (v)(a) in addition includes the subsidies paid for the payment of interest and redemption on long-term loans

Additional post offices/postal services: Sandton area

177 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

Whether it is the intention to provide any additional (a) post offices and (b) postal services in the Sandton area in 1992, if so, (i) where, (ii) what services, and (iii) when, in each case? B420E

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(a) No

(b) Yes

(i) Buccleuch, Magaliessig and Witkoppen

(ii) Mail collection points in all three cases

(iii) Buccleuch—1 April 1992

Magaliessig and Witkoppen—latter half of 1992

Infant mortality rate in 1991

182 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

What was the infant mortality rate for (a) Blacks, (b) Whites, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas in South Africa in 1991? B425E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Official South African urban and rural infant mortality rates are not available The mortality figures for 1991 will only be available at the end of 1992 or early 1993

The latest available infant mortality rates for 1990 are as follows

Infant Mortality per 1 000 live births

South Africa National Average 1990

(a) 52 8,

(b) 7 3,

(c) 28 0 and

(d) 13 5

Continued

The figure for Blacks can further be broken down to average figures in geographical areas

TBVC states	59 8
Self-governing territories	54 4
Remainder of South Africa	50 0

Education salaries

185 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training

(a) What was the amount spent by his Department in 1991 on (i) salaries of teachers and principals, (ii) salaries of administrative staff, (iii) salaries of inspectorate and executive officials, (iv) salaries of any other specified staff, (v) capital expenditure, (vi) supplies and services, (vii) equipment and (viii) other items and (b) what percentage of the total education expenditure by his Department in 1991 does each of the above amounts constitute?

B426E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The information as requested in a(i) to (iv) is not readily available and a total amount for personnel expenditure is supplied

	(a)	(b)
	R 000	*%*
(i) - (iv)	2 820 160	74,80
(v)	284 478	7,54
(vi)	243 188	6,45
(vii)	49 667	1,32
(viii)	372 947	9,89
Total	3 770 440	100,00

Note

The books for the 1991/92 financial year have not yet been closed The information is therefore based on estimated expenditure

Standard 10 examination results

186 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training

How many pupils at schools falling under the control of his Department (a) wrote, (b) passed and (c) failed their 1991 Standard 10 examinations in respect of (i) Mathematics (Higher Grade), (ii) Mathematics (Standard Grade), (iii) Physical Science (Higher Grade) and (iv) Physical Science (Standard Grade)?

B427E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(i) Mathematics Higher Grade

(a) 10 519

(b) 1 502

(c) 9 017

(ii) Mathematics Standard Grade

(a) 13 987

(b) 1 794

(c) 12 193

(iii) Physical Science Higher Grade

(a) 10 640

(b) 1 698

(c) 8 942

(iv) Physical Science Standard Grade

(a) 5 619

(b) 1 507

(c) 4 112

Pensions/grants/maintenance Black persons

191 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing

(1) How many Black persons were receiving (a) old-age pensions, (b) disability grants and (c) military maintenance aid from the State in the Port Elizabeth/Ibhayi/Uitenhage/Kwanobuhle metropolitan area as at 30 June 1991,

(2) what total amount was paid to each of the above three categories of persons during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available?

B437E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING

(1) (a) 18 305

(b) 10 840

(c) 41

(2) For the period April 1991 to March 1992

(a) R46 644 085

(b) R27 248 377

(c) R102 070

Black provincial health clinics

192 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing

(1) (a)(i) How many provincial health clinics for Blacks were there in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage/Ibhayi metropole as at 31 December 1991 and (ii) what are their names, (b) what are the functions of these clinics and (c)(i) what was the staff complement as at the above date and (ii) in what categories were these staff members employed,

(2) (a) what was the expenditure budget of each of these clinics, and (b) how many patients did each of them attend to in 1991 or the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available?

B438E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING

(1) (a) (i) 10

(ii) Walmer Community Health Centre

Kwazakele Day Hospital

Motherwell Community Health Centre 10

Motherwell Community Health Centre NU8

Laetitia Bam Community Health Centre

4 × Satellite Community Health Centres in Kwa-Nobuhle

Middel Street Clinic

(b) The above render a curative primary health service and an antenatal care The Motherwell Community Health Centre 40 renders a 24-hour service which include an obstetric and casualty service

(c) (i) and (ii)

Walmer CHC 31
5 × Administrative
5 × Professional Staff
15 × Nursing
8 × General

Kwazakele DH 60
3 × Professional Staff
33 × Nursing
5 × Administrative
8 × General
11 × General Assistants

Motherwell CHC 40 108
5 × Professional Staff
63 × Nursing
9 × Administrative
17 × General
14 × General Assistants

Moherwell NU8 10
8 × Nursing
1 × Administrative
1 × General Assistants

Laetitia Bam CHC 12
4 × Nursing
1 × Enrolled Nurse
1 × Nursing Assistant
3 × General Assistants
1 × Medical Officer
(2 to 3 hours per day)
2 × Administrative

4 Satellite CHC

1 3
1 × Nursing
1 × Administrative
3 × General Assistant

2 3
1 × Nursing
1 × General Assistant
1 × Administrative

3 4
1 × Nursing
1 × Enrolled Nurse
1 × Administrative
1 × General Assistant

4 4
1 × Nursing
1 × Enrolled Nurse
1 × Administrative
1 × General Assistant

Middle Street Clinic 10
3 × Nursing
1 × Enrolled Nurse
1 × Nursing Assistant
1 × Medical Officer
(2 to 3 hours per day)
2 × Administrative
2 × General Assistant

continue →

Births curb urgent

(237) ARG 14/4/92

Deadline to doom only 20 years away at present growth

SOUTH Africa has fewer than 20 years to cut its birth-rate in half if the population is to stabilise at 80 million, the maximum the country's resources can sustain

According to the Department of National Health and Population Development, the average number of children born to each woman must drop from 4,1 to 2,1 by 2010

Latest total fertility rate (TFR) figures are 2,3 children for Asian women, 4,7 for African women (including the TBVC and self-governing states), 2,8 for "coloured" women, and 1,7 for white women

But the present growth rate has a doubling time of slightly more than 30 years and with a population already estimated at 38 million (including TBVC and self-governing states), saturation point could be just around the corner

If the birth-rate remains unchanged, there will be 78 million people living in this country within the next 30 years

Experts have calculated that 80 million is the maximum South Africa can sustain "in a manner befitting human existence", according to the department

Factors contributing to population control include the infant mortality rate, contraception and literacy Contrary to popular belief, a falling infant mortality rate is good news for birth control

But the department's population development programme, which started in 1984, is faced with a chicken-and-egg situation

Improved living standards are known to curb the birth rate, but standards cannot be improved if the populaton continues to grow unchecked

Latest figures in the department's annual report outstrip figures released after the 1991 census, which put the country's population at 26,28 million in March, 1991

The World Population Profile, released in the United States, predicted that the population could grow to 83 million by 2020 According to this report, South Africa's population was just over 40,5 million last year, compared with 13,5 million in 1950 The report estimates 51,3 million will be living in South Africa by the end of the century

Environmentalists and economists have warned that if the population expands beyond a critical level, irreparable damage will be done to the environment

If the 2,1 TFR objective is realised and the birth-rate is stabilised, the population will reach at 80 million by the end of the 21st century

Hardened police and ambulance officials described it as the most gruesome accident they had ever seen.

throughout most of Africa' There s one catch though "most of Africa" excludes South Africa

APARTHEID BAROMETER

LAW AND ORDER

THE minister of law and order is to pay R1 008 260 to 25-year-old Andries Schnitz, who sustained brain damage and permanent paralysis of his right side when a policeman shot him in the head in 1989

In 1988, 3 903 claims were brought against the minister, of which 360 were settled out of court at a cost of R699 595.

There were 2 768 claims instituted against the ministry in 1989; 277 were settled out of court at a cost of R686 135. In 1990, a record 5 456 claims were brought, of which 229 were settled out of court at a cost of R611 132.

Last year, 4 791 claims were instituted against the South African Police; 231 claims were settled out of court at a cost of R107 304. W/Mail 16/4-23/4/92

GUARDING HOMES OF MPs

THE minister of law and order said 74 policemen were requested to perform guard duty at 62 homes of MPs in 1990. In 1991, 237 SAP members did guard duty at 234 homes of MPs

The minister said the nature of threats against individual members, their families and property necessitated the duties

INFANT MORTALITY (237)

THE average infant mortality rate for blacks was 52,8 per 1 000 live births in 1990, compared to 7,3 per 1 000 whites, according to National Health Minister Rina Venter. W/Mail 16/4-23/4/92

The 1990 infant mortality rate for coloureds was 28 per 1 000 and for Indians 13,5 per 1 000.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Persons giving themselves out as medical practitioners

3 Mr M A HENDRICKSE asked the Minister of Justice

(1) (a) How many members of the public were prosecuted in South Africa during 1991 or the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available for giving themselves out as qualified and registered medical practitioners, (b) in terms of what statutory provisions were they so prosecuted and (c) what was the nature of the charges giving rise to their prosecution,

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

C6E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) The required information is not readily available To obtain it all court records will have to be scrutinized which is not economically feasible In an effort to be of assistance to the hon member, the various attorneys-general were contacted and information regarding the following case was obtained

In the *State versus Andre Esterhuizen* the accused was prosecuted and convicted in Kempton Park on various counts of fraud and culpable homicide as well as a contravention of section 36(1)(a) of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), by practising for gain as a pediatrist whilst not registered The case is remanded until 16 May 1992 for sentence

(2) A statement is not necessary

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Number of cases handled by State Attorney

15 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Justice

(a) How many cases involving the Administration House of Delegates were handled by the Office of the State Attorney in each of the latest specified three years for which information is available, (b) what are the names of the advocates who were given briefs in this regard by the said office, (c) what was the total amount paidi n respect of costs to each of these advocates for each of the three years referred to above and (d) how many cases were successfully defended?

D66E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The required information is not readily available To obtain the information all records at the respective offices of the State Attorney for the relevant period will have to be scrutinized which is not economically feasible

Emigrants/immigrants: all races

24 Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many persons of each specified race group (a) immigrated to and (b) emigrated from South Africa during the latest specified period of five years for which figures are available?

236

D97E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

	(a)	(b)
Whites	46 488	37 875
Coloureds	802	2 322
Indians	436	1 788
Blacks	737	216
Other Asians	2 653	84

Data in respect of the period 1986 to 1990 Since 1991 information by population group is no longer available 236

Own Affairs

Cost of administering departments

9 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services

(a) What was the cost of administering the Department of (i) the Budget and Auxiliary Services, (ii) Housing, (iii) Education and Culture, (iv) Health Services and Welfare and (v) Local Government and Agriculture in the 1991-92 financial year and (b) how many personnel, including Ministers, were involved in the administration of each such Department?

D55E

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

(a) The estimated cost of administering each Department is tabulated hereunder

(i) Department of Budgetary and Auxiliary Services R1 809 648

(ii) Department of Local Government Housing and Agriculture

Ministry of Housing R1 447 170
Ministry of Local Government and Agriculture R883 798

NB Expenditure in respect of the Chief Director and his secretary has been allocated on the basis of 70% to Housing and 30% to Local Government and Agriculture

(iii) Department of Education and Culture R1 670 381

(iv) Department of Health Services and Welfare R1 157 467

(v) See (ii)

The expenditure figures are however, not final as the books of the Administration is expected to be closed in July 1992 only

(b) The number of personnel, including Ministers, involved in the administration of each Department as follows

cont →

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Redundant members of staff: South African universities

195 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education

With reference to some members of the academic staff of certain South African universities who are deemed to be redundant owing to the closure of certain departments at such universities, what are the terms relating to (a) their severance pay, (b) the *pro rata* payment of (i) pensions and (ii) gratuities and (c) any lump sum payments? B448E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(a) Universities are autonomous and their respective councils determine their own service conditions for their personnel Terms relating to their severance pay and/or lump sum payments are therefore determined domestically by each respective council

(b) (i) The payment of pension and gratuities is calculated according to the number of years service and the age of academic personnel, as determined in the Regulation promulgated under the Associated Institutions Pensions Fund Act, 1963, which is administered by the Department of Finance

(ii) See (b)(i) above

(c) See (a) above

Black medical students

198 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Education

How many Black students were studying in each medical discipline at each medical school in South Africa as at the latest specified date for which information is available? B453E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

The table below indicates a headcount taken in 1990 of all Black students enrolled at Universities with medical schools

	Medicine/ surgery
University of Cape Town	60
Medical University of Southern Africa	686
University of Natal	288
University of Pretoria	0
University of the Witwatersrand	163
University of Stellenbosch	0
University of the Orange Free State	5
Total	1 202

SA citizenship regained: Blacks

220 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(1) How many Blacks in each independent Black state regained their South African citizenship in 1991 in terms of the provisions of the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, No 13 of 1978,

(2) whether any applications were refused, if so, (a) how many from each state, and (b) why, in each case? B499E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Owing to the provisions of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), which came into effect on 1 July 1986, no Black of any of the independent states applied in terms of section 3 of the National States Citizenship Act, 1970 (Act 26 of 1970), as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, 1978 (Act 13 of 1978), for South African citizenship during 1991

(2) (a) and (b) Fall away

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Applications for identity permits: referendum

2 Mr M A HENDRICKSE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) How many persons were issued with South African identity documents subsequent to the repeal of the Population Registration Act, No 30 of 1950, (b)(i) how many such persons (aa) applied for and (bb) were issued with identity permits for the purpose of voting in the referendum on 17 March 1992 and (ii) how many of the applications for such permits were refused and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished? C4E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) Since the repeal of the Population Registration Act, 1950 (Act No 30 of 1950), the following numbers of identity documents have been issued

first issues to South African citizens	239 774
first issues to persons who are not South African citizens	8 622
re-issues to the afore-mentioned categories of persons	561 487
Total	809 883

(b) (i) (aa) It is not possible to determine how many temporary identity certificates had been issued to persons referred to in paragraph (a) as statistics are not kept on such a basis

(bb) and (b)(ii) Fall away

(c) 29 February 1992

981 legal abortions

(237)

ARG 23/4/92

A TOTAL of 981 legal abortions were performed in 1991, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, said

In a written reply to a question by Democratic Party leader Dr Zac de Beer, she said 46 of these had been after preganancy resulting from unlawful intercourse. — Sapa

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

State pension funds: actuarial report

194 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance.†

(1) When is the next actuarial report on the state of the State pension funds expected to be available,

(2) whether the State guarantees any other pension funds other than the State pension funds; if so, (a) what are the (i) names of these funds and (ii) guarantee amounts concerned, (b) (i) how many and (ii) which of these amounts represent deficits and (c) what are the State's total commitments in respect of pension funds, excluding State pension funds?

B445E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) A joint actuarial report on the State pension funds does not appear Each fund is evaluated as an entity, whereafter a report on the evaluation concerned is done The third actuarial report on the position of the Government Services Pension Fund is expected to be available by September 1992

(2) No

"Income tax: Persons and Individuals"

227 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance

(1) How many (a) persons and (b) individuals classified under the heading "Income Tax Persons and Individuals", as reflected on page 5 of the Estimate of Revenue for the Financial Year ending 31 March 1993 [RP 3-1992], paid tax for the (i) 1989-90, (ii) 1990-91 and (iii) 1991-92 financial year,

(2) what was the total amount paid by such (a) persons and (b) individuals in each of these three financial years?

B512E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

The term "individuals" denotes natural persons while the term "persons" denotes other legal personae which are not companies and which are consequently subject to tax at the progressive rates applicable to natural persons for example trusts

These taxpayers are not separately identified in the Departmental data base, and the requested information is thus not available

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Emigrants/immigrants: various professions

28 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many (a) Indian, (b) White, (c) Coloured and (d) Black (i) doctors, (ii) dentists, (iii) lawyers, (iv) architects, (v) social workers, (vi) quantity surveyors and (vii) scientists (aa) emigrated from and (bb) immigrated to South Africa in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available?

236

D121E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

		(aa)			(bb)	
	Total	(b)	(a)+(c)+(d)**	Total	(b)	(a)+(c)+(d)**
*1989*****						
(i)*	36	34	2	69	61	8
(ii)*	4	4	0	4	3	1
(iii)	13	13	0	9	8	1
(iv)	13	13	0	13	13	0
(v)	6	5	1	7	7	0
(vi)	7	7	0	8	8	0
(vii)***	79	75	4	128	124	4
1990						
(i)*	30	27	3	135	124	11
(ii)*	1	1	0	14	9	5
(iii)	19	17	2	16	15	1
(iv)	6	6	0	11	11	0
(v)	3	2	1	3	2	1
(vi)	10	10	0	8	7	1
(vii)***	116	111	5	144	139	5
*1991****						
(i)*	23			229		
(ii)*	3			12		
(iii)	5			14		
(iv)	2			16		
(v)	8			10		
(vi)	10			12		
(vii)***	80			149		

* Including specialists
** Information on the non-White population groups is not separately available
*** Natural scientist occupations only
**** Since 1991 information by population group is no longer available
***** With reference to corresponding Question 25 of 12990 (Hansard Column 256) Figures under columns (i) and (ii) of the Reply thereto to be switched

titled Education Renewal Strategy and/or the recommendations contained therein, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that decisions on this document will be taken, if so, what decisions;

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

B525E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(1) No

(a) In view of the comments received on the initial draft, the report has not yet been finalized

(b) After the report is finalized—probably within the next month or two

(2) No

Discussion document: Curriculum Model for Education in SA

*2 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Education †

(1) Whether the Government has taken any decisions on the proposals and/or recommendations contained in the discussion document entitled Curriculum Model for Education in South Africa, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that decisions on this document will be taken, if so, what decisions,

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

B526E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(1) No, the Government has not taken any decisions on the proposals and/or recommendations in the discussion document

(a) The recommendations have not yet been submitted to the Government by the Committee of Heads of Education Departments (CHED)

(b) The recommendations in the model will be decided upon by the Government as soon as the document is submitted by the CHED The CHED is still attending to the processing of comments, which have been received since the release of the document Any decisions taken will be related to the recommendations submitted by the CHED

(2) Yes, after the decisions have been made

Ballot-papers for referendum

*3 Adv S C JACOBS asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many ballot-papers (a) were printed for the referendum of 17 March 1992 and (b) were dispatched overseas for use in that referendum?

B530E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) 4,1 million

(b) 67 450 to 68 destinations

Referendum: votes cast outside borders of RSA

*4 Mr D P DU PLESSIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

(1) How many persons cast their votes outside the borders of the Republic in the referendum of 17 March 1992,

(2) how many of these persons had the citizenship of any other country in addition to their South African citizenship when so casting their votes?

B531E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) 11 573

(2) This information is not available and can also not be determined as persons who voted abroad were not required to provide such information Records of the Department do not contain such information either

SA citizenship through naturalization

*5 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Home Affairs † 236

How many White persons obtained South African citizenship through naturalization during the period (a) 20 February to 17 March 1992 and (b) 20 February to 17 March 1991?

B532E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) 24 487 236

(b) Only a total figure is available for 1991, namely 5 424 naturalizations It is estimated that there are currently approximately 420 000 persons with permanent residence who qualify for naturalization but who have not done so yet

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him for the reason why the figures for 1992 are available but those for 1991 cannot be determined for the period in question

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, it is very clear that the member asked for information on White statistics Obviously the statistics for Whites bears relation to the referendum and therefore it could be determined when it was issued, while there was not a referendum linked to a White electoral system the previous year and therefore statistics were not kept for that year It will not be kept next year either except if it is done in respect of something for which being "White" is a specific requirement

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him whether he denies that it was possible for the purposes of the referendum, to determine the race of a person according to the same statistics that were already available, and that there is a method to determine the race of the persons for the corresponding period in the previous year

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, naturally it could be determined if one did a whole lot of research It was not done for official purposes The information for 1992 was especially linked to the referendum as such

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask whether we should accept that the hon the Minister could not determine how many Whites, Black people and members of other population groups were naturalized for any particular period in 1991, without it involving an extremely elaborate process

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, I said very clearly that the statistics are not kept separately It is as simple as that The required information could be found by researching every form and calculating statistics However, it is not being done because these statistics are not kept as such It is logical

Naturalization with retention of foreign citizenship

*6 Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many White persons to whom South African citizenship was granted through naturalization during the period 20 February to 17 March 1992 retained their citizenship of any other countries on obtaining South African citizenship?

B533E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

This information is not available since statistics are not kept on the citizenship of persons applying for naturalization South African legislation however contains no impediment against dual citizenship

Sasol: beneficiary of protection tariff

*7 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

Whether Sasol is the beneficiary of a protection tariff approved by the Government, if so, (a) (i) what formula is used for the calculation of this protection tariff and (ii) when was this formula instituted and (b) what was the total value of the protection tariff to Sasol during the 1989-90 financial year?

B534E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

Yes

(a) (i) The present framework for protection is based on a derived crude oil floor price of USD 23/barrel When the derived crude oil price decreases below USD 23/barrel Sasol receives protection Between USD 23-28,70/barrel no protection is received and above USD 28,79/barrel 25% of all income above that level is paid to the Equalization Fund until all protection received since 1 July 1989 has been repaid

cont →

Black infant deaths five times white rate — report

237

ARG 29/4/92

THERE is a 10-year difference between the life expectancy of South African whites and that of blacks and coloureds, while the black infant death rate is more than five times that of whites

According to a new Department of National Health report, Health Trends in South Africa, the estimated 1990 infant mortality rate for SA, including the TBVC territories, is 47 per 1 000 live births

The department says in a statement accompanying the release that this compares favourably with the World Bank estimate of 78 for developing countries and 15 for developed countries

"Although wide differences exist in the figures for the various population groups (whites nine, Asians 12, coloured 35, blacks 52) the trends are converging"

The report said blacks and coloureds had a life expectancy of 63, Asians 67 and whites 73 — Sapa

Some states relax visa procedures

B/Day 30/4/92

(236)

LINDEN BIRNS

SEVERAL countries have recently relaxed — but not dropped — their visa requirements for South Africans.

According to a Rennies Travel survey, Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Canada, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, India, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Russia, China, Senegal, Hungary and Zambia have relaxed their visa requirments

However, although visas are more easily obtainable, travellers should bear in mind that some countries, such as Zimbabwe, take up to a month to issue travel authorisation to South Africans; Rennies says

In its survey report Rennies says the period between the submission of visa applications and their issue is Caribbean, two weeks, Europe, three to four days, Far East, 10 days; India, two weeks, Malaysia, a month, Middle East, two days, South America, five to seven days, Commonwealth of Independent States, two to three weeks, and Zimbabwe, a month

Rennies found that countries which had consulates in SA processed visas quickly

Delays occurred when applications had to be sent to other countries for processing

Some states, such as Kenya and Botswana, had facilities which allowed travellers to arrange to pick up their visas when they arrived in those countries

ground is Patrick Tayi, leaning over the cemetery wa

Future looks bleak for graveyard kids

ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter ARG 6/5/92

THE graveyard kids, a band of street children who have made a home in an old tomb in the deteriorating cemetery close to Groote Schuur Hospital, face an uncertain future

They have been given their marching orders by three men who claim to be hospital security

But the hospital says that no official ultimatum has been issued and the land belongs to the Cape Provincial Administration Works Department

The children are also being investigated by the CPA's squatter division after complaints about their presence there

Most of the children, including three girls, are in their teens They clamber into the tomb at night through a hole in the roof Some have been living in the cemetery for six years They left their homes for a variety of reasons

Social workers are actively trying to rehabilitate the children who have formed a kind of street family.

Many of them go to Molo Songololo in Salt River every morning where they get food and attend workshops on subjects such as health, Aids, street law, reading and writing and conflict resolution

An application has been made for a piece of land in Salt River where a shelter can be built, but permission has not yet been granted and money can't be raised until it is.

In the meantime, winter approaches and the children are hoping they will be allowed to stay because their "home' is warm, dry and secure

But it does not look as if they will have their wish

At the weekend, they were visited by three men in plain clothes, one with gun on his hip, who told them they would have to move or their blankets would be burned

A social worker said the children were ready to move into a more secure home if they were offered one

He said a street shelter was not necessarily the answer as they had formed themselves into a community

"A street shelter is really just a doss house They are ready for much more than that."

'Homicide the leading cause of death in SA'

ANDREA WEISS Health Reporter

HOMICIDE is the leading cause of death from external causes in South Africa, according to a new report by the Department of National Health and Population Development

Entitled *Health Trends in South Africa* it shows that accidents, poisoning and violence are the leading cause of mortality, overtaking circulatory diseases

A breakdown of this category shows that homicide is the major problem among all sectors of the population, except whites where traffic accidents take precedence

Homicide and other forms of violence account for half the accidental deaths, road accidents a quarter and suicide and accidental drowning five percent each

A population breakdown also shows that homicide is highest among the coloured population group and a "particularly important cause" of death in young males.

Suicide comes third as the leading external cause of death — but here the problem is mainly among Asian and white groups

Drownings, mostly in fresh water, are on a par with suicide and account for a high percentage of deaths in children under 10 Fires and accidental falls are also cited as important causes (237)

Use of alcohol has been linked to all categories ARG 6/5/92

"Based on clinical observation, 35 percent of injuries were noted to be alcohol related in trauma cases attending State and private health services in the Cape Peninsula," the report says

If the same proportion were applicable to deaths in South Africa, about 10 000 deaths a year would be alcohol related

Alcohol was the direct cause in up to 50 percent of severe road accidents and road accident fatalities Injury due to violence also shows a strong association wih alcohol.

On the more positive side, the infant mortality rate is now 47 in 1 000, comparing favourably with World Bank estimates of 78 for developing countries and 15 for developed countries

But the birth rate is still too high at 32 in 1 000 compared with 31 in 1 000 for developing countries

Majority go for Model C

STAR 6/5/92

By Phil Molefe
Education Reporter

The majority of Model B and previously "whites-only" State schools country-wide have changed to semi-private Model C schools

This is despite initial fears that most parents would resist the Government's plan because of the financial implications

Provincial education authorities told The Star yesterday that most State schools had agreed to having their status changed to "State-aided" schools in line with the Government's new education policy announced in February.

All 174 white schools under the Free State Education Department have opted to become Model C.

About 91 percent of Natal's white public schools, which were previously classified as Model B and status quo schools, have changed to Model C

In the Cape, of 680 Model B and status quo schools under the Cape Education Department, 637 have opted for Model C status

In the Transvaal, only 28 status quo schools have chosen to retain their present classification

TED spokesman Willie van Staden said of the 1 101 Model B and status quo schools in the province, 1 073 had opted to become Model C

The Government's dramatic rationalisation programme for white education was rejected on all fronts and interpreted by various bodies as an abandonment of State responsibility.

Educationists warned that by converting schools to Model C, fees would be pushed up by 200 percent or even more.

The Government also came in for criticism from angry parents who warned that they could not afford increased fees

While parents paid only about R300 a year in a Model B school, fees were expected to rise to more than R1 000 in a Model C school because the Government subsidy would fall away when schools converted to semi-private status

Phone, post profits hit by economy

STAR 6/5/92

CAPE TOWN — The decline in the economy had been clearly reflected in a slowdown in the rate of increase of metered phone call units in 1990/91, the Postmaster-General, R B Raath, said in his annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The rate declined markedly to 6,68 percent in 1990/91 from 18,41 percent the previous year There was an even sharper decline in the growth of mail matter, from 8,9 percent in 1989/90 to 0,02 percent in 1990/91.

The unfavourable economic climate had also meant the Department of Posts and Telecommunications financial results were less satisfactory than the year before.

Operating surplus before appropriations declined from R693 million in 1989/90 to R256,9 million in 1990/91

The report also noted that the outflow of funds from the Post Office Savings Bank continued during 1990/91.

This relatively cheap capital would have to be replaced by much more expensive capital, which would further complicate Posts and Telecommunications' financial planning. — Sapa.

40 people a month buried as paupers

STAR 6/5/92

237

By Montshiwa Moroke

On average, 40 people and more are being buried as paupers every month in the Johannesburg area, according to a spokesman for the Witwatersrand police

This figure applied to the Johannesburg area alone and did not include Soweto, he said

The spokesman said about 400 people had been buried as unknowns in the past six months The number was much higher during periods when violence broke out on a large scale

The number of pauper burials was expected to increase, especially in winter, when more unidentified people died from exposure

A spokesman for Baragwanath Hospital said an average of 28 people from the hospital's mortuary were buried unidentified every month

Some of them included unrest victims, but authorities could not establish what the percentage was

Problems were also experienced with people whose homes were in Natal and Transkei, whose relatives, if traced, took a long time to identify them

In all cases, corpses had already been buried by the time they were identified through fingerprints. The bodies were kept only for a month, as required by legislation

A Witwatersrand police spokesman said. "If the identification of a body cannot be established within seven days, two sets of fingerprints must be taken and sent to the Criminal Records Bureau in Pretoria

"There the fingerprints will be examined to establish the deceased's identity If problems are experienced, the investigating officer must seek the help of the media," he said

The investigating officer was required to take clear colour photographs of the body and make a report describing where and how the body was found, including descriptions of clothing and other marks

However, a spokesman for the Sebokeng mortuary said that if the relatives did not identify a body within 12 days, fingerprints and photographs were taken and sent to Pretoria. The person was then buried as a pauper.

Looking forward to a longer life

S/Times 10/5/92. (237)

How long can you expect to live. 70? 80? 90? 120? In the first of a series on longevity, JANET WILHELM looks at life expectancy in South Africa and international trends

MICHAEL JACKSON swears by an oxygen diet Others, even more bizarrely, choose placental implants New Agers prefer the Nemectron — an orb worn in the belief that it regenerates brain cells.

There are those who preach that we can escape the Grim Reaper permanently And, in America, cryogenics is a booming industry All in the ancient search for immortality, a quest still holding fast in our supposedly enlightened 20th century

Longevity is the latest buzzword But just how long are humans meant to live? The official, authenticated record is 120 years, 237 days But it is probably truer to say that anyone who manages to live their full biblical three score and 10 isn't doing too badly

The biological potential of the body is a matter on which medical experts can't agree Some argue that the average life expectancy enjoyed by those in the developed world — around 80 — is probably close to the limit and that at around 85 the body is genetically programmed to wind down

Others argue that, with the right genes and a favourable environment, the natural life span of humans would be more like 100, with a 15-year span on either side.

It's a debate with no conclusive answers — yet. What is certain is that over the last century more people are living longer But, while the average length of life for individuals has increased, the maximum age has not It is still rare to reach 100, an event worthy of a news item in the local paper. The most important reason for the increase in individual life expectancy is the marked reduction in infant mortality.

IN some countries, like Japan, recent improvements have been dramatic In 1947, life expectancy at birth was 53,9 for men and 59,6 for women Since then these figures have risen spectacularly to 75,2 for men and 82,9 for women

Life expectancy in South Africa has also improved, and the birth-life expectancy rate between the different racial groups is narrowing We score best in Africa and are now on a par with Asia and Latin America (see graphs)

However, our overall average continues to be reduced by the high infant and early childhood mortality rate among the black population

This imbalance between blacks and whites begins to vanish in middle age. A survey conducted 15 years ago demonstrated that, at 50 years of age, blacks had more chance of reaching 70 than did whites.

Life expectancy for middle-aged whites is reduced by chronic diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease

With urbanisation, blacks are now also falling victim to what are thought to be preventable diseases The overall pattern resembles the trend in, Britain, for example

COMPARED with other developed countries Britain does well in the overall birth-life expectancy figures But it's another story for the over-50s A 65-year-old man from Mali enjoys a greater expectation of living longer than a British man of the same age And, at this age, a number of Third World countries score better than Britain — including Belize, Cuba and Venezuela

If South Africa is to improve its overall rate — 64 years — we first need to improve the chances of survival in childhood Then there is the unpleasant matter of premature violent death

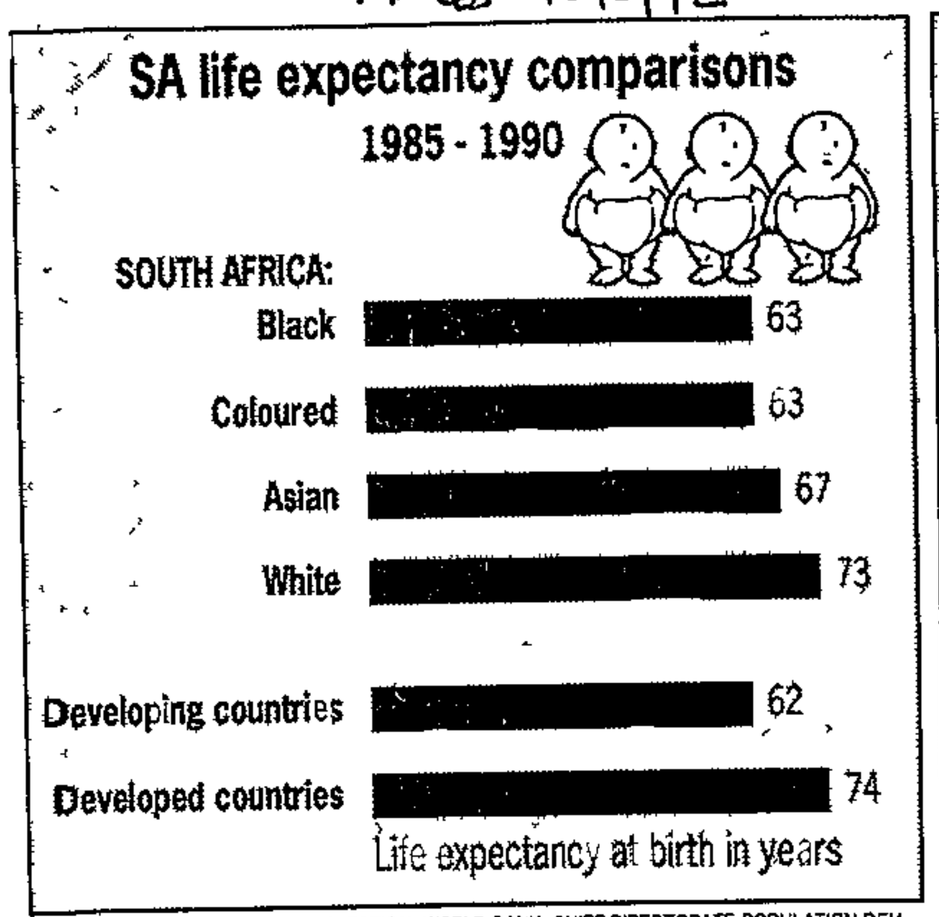
The Department of National Health report, Health Trends in SA, confirms what we know — South Africa is a hazardous place to live. In fact, accidents, poisonings and violence top our death list, with murder and manslaughter another leading cause of death. A young coloured man's chances of being murdered are far higher than those of a young white man, while motor accidents outweigh all other causes of accidental death for whites

With these accident odds it's hard to focus on the chance of surviving to old age And why bother? Why invite creeping senility, disability and loneliness? The growing army of health fanatics with their increasingly neurotic dietary warnings are enough to make the most tolerant call for double cream and greasy bacon

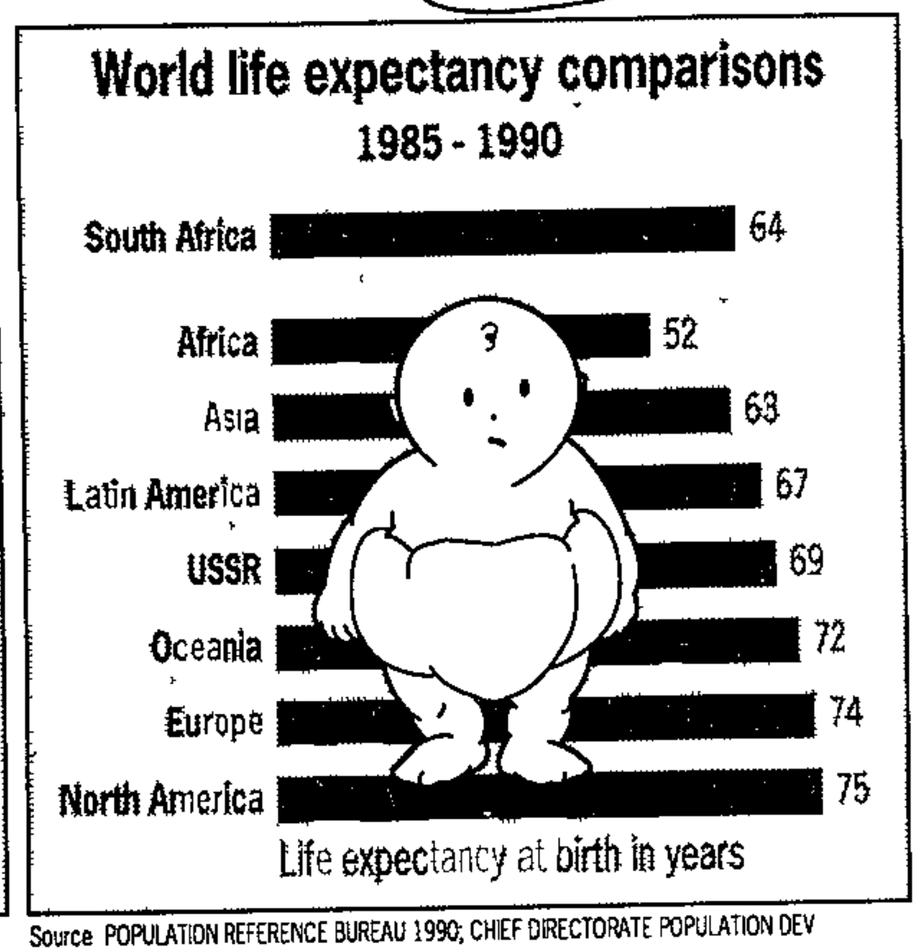
The problem is that people are living longer anyway, into their 80s and beyond And the art to longevity is not just staying alive but making the most of those extra years Middle age once meant infirmity, but that image is slowly changing Many people remain healthy, youthful and active through middle age There are those — perhaps a little idealistically — who believe that old age could be the same experience

TODAY's long-lifers believe it is possible to escape premature death in middle age. By adopting an appropriate lifestyle certain killer diseases may be avoided These lifestyle choices are within our control (as we will discuss later in the series) and improve the odds of escaping cancer, coronary heart disease, circulatory problems and strokes And the good news is that these lifestyle choices can also help keep you active until that day with the graveyard.

NEXT WEEK: The ageing process



Source WORLD POPULATION PROJECTION, WORLD BANK, CHIEF DIRECTORATE POPULATION DEV
Graphic FIONA KRISCH



Source POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU 1990; CHIEF DIRECTORATE POPULATION DEV
Graphic FIONA KRISCH

92

Teen deaths: SA 'highest'

CT 20/5/92

(237)

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA has the highest adolescent mortality rate in the developed world, and most of these deaths result from external causes such as assault, road accident, suicide and drowning.

These are the findings of a Medical Research Council study by Dr Alan Flisher, a registrar at UCT's Department of Psychology

The mortality rate for white South Africans aged 15-19 is 106 per 100 000 of the population and 189 for their coloured counterparts In the United States the comparable figure is 81

Dr Flisher says these "unduly high" figures are because South Africa exhibits both First and Third World characteristics

He found that the greatest external cause of death among whites and Asians is road accidents, while group assault causes the most deaths among coloureds and blacks

Of roughly 9 000 adolescents who died of external causes between 1984 and 1986, 56% of whites died in road accidents and 47% of coloureds died as a result of assault

According to the study, coloured adolescents are 12 times more likely to die from assault than whites

Suicide is more prevalent among whites, but there are more drownings among coloureds and blacks, the study said

Dr Flisher believes that risk-taking behaviour may contribute to many of these deaths

"The long-term aim of the study is to motivate schools to introduce more meaningful health education and to identify high-risk groups to enable intervention to be more targeted," he said

US 'is asking for, and getting chaos'

STAR 22/5/92

(237)

PREPOSTEROUS as it may seem, America's problems — including Los Angeles — may be about babies

Illegitimate babies Mainly black illegitimate babies

Their arrival in large numbers in the ugly slums of America's inner cities is rarely described simply as illegitimacy

Usually it is known by another, more academically acceptable, phrase — social disintegration

And it is social disintegration, says Senator Daniel Moynihan, who remains one of the most discerning and enlightened social observers in the United States, that is tearing America's heart out

He wonders how Americans allowed the cancer to spread so far and whether anyone has the will or the resources to restore America's torn social fabric

He puts the thought eloquently "From the wild Irish slums of the 19th century (US) seaboard to the riot-torn suburbs of Los Angeles, there is one unmistakable lesson in American history

"A community that allows a large number of young men to grow up in broken families, dominated by women, never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any set of rational expectations about the future — that community asks for and gets chaos"

There are, of course, echoes of what the senator says in every South African black township where family lives have been torn asunder — or never existed at all

Though their causes may be different — the disintegration of family life here was not born out of the discriminatory laws of the Strijdom, Verwoerd and Vorster eras that have had such a devastating effect on the family lives of black South Africans — the effect is almost precisely the same violence, crime, early death, jail, illiteracy, no job, no hope

Even Senator Moynihan is unable to put his finger on the precise cause of the American urban problem, except to say that social deterioration has worsened all round and that "something did snap in the early 1960s"

But there is no doubt America is paying tragically for it today

The proportion of black babies born out of wedlock has risen from 24 percent in the early 1960s to a current 63,5 percent

Of the black children born between 1967 and 1969, no fewer than 72 percent were on welfare before reaching the age of 18

Official figures show that in 1964, some 75 percent of black children under the age of six lived in a married-couple family. By 1990, only 37 percent of them did

All the other statistics that flow from this — disease, violence, crime, drugs, poverty — follow parallel curves

In a welter of human despair, American blacks — and black politicians who have risen to the mayoralties of some 300 cities — can plead only for more social welfare eg government handouts

Which is why, if the present presidential election is about anything, it is about which candidates and which parties are more sympathetic to the plight of America's poor — mostly blacks — and whose social programmes offer more welfare funding

Republicans, however, have unveiled their strategy for capturing the White House by saying they are to fight this election on the basis of a restoration of "law and order"

And Vice-President Dan Quayle equates social disintegration with a decline in "values", citing Murphy Brown, a new TV folk-hero, as the latest symbol of slipshod morals

Miss Brown, who is now America's best-known unwed mother, says that having a baby out of wedlock was for her just another "lifestyle choice"

But for millions of black American women living in grinding poverty in the inner cities, theirs is no choice at all

Sadly, Vice-President Quayle doesn't actually seem to see the difference □

'Love-child' stigma still alive in SA

South 30/5 - 3/6/92

(237)

Over 40 percent of children in South Africa are born outside of marriage. In some communities the figure reaches 70 percent Why is it so high? And does it matter?

Rehana Rossouw reports·

TO BE born "illegitimate" once carried a grave social stigma with severe legal disabilities In Europe this has changed, and single parenthood has become an accepted and often chosen alternative to giving birth within marriage

But in South Africa social and policy recognition of change lags far behind reality, a team of academics and practitioners in the fields of law, anthropology, religion, clinical psychology and psychiatry writes in a recent book, "Questionable Issue — Illegitimacy in South Africa"

Illegitimacy figures for South Africa are high compared to many countries of the world, and rising particularly sharply in some sections of the population

The Health Department of the Western Cape Regional Services Council reported that in 1988 46,6 percent of all births within the area were illegitimate In 1990 the figure rose to 48,4 percent

The Medical Officer of Health for Cape Town reported that during 1989 and 1990 the proportion of illegitimate births was 45,7 percent — 19,6 percent for whites, 44 percent for coloured people, 7,3 percent for Asians and 69,8 percent for Africans

As his report excludes squatter camps and all except two African townships, it is likely illegitimacy figures for Africans in Cape Town are actually higher — and the norm in that community now is giving birth out of marriage

"Such statistics have major implications for the future of South African society," said the editor of "Questionable Issue", founder member of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Reasearch on Women, Ms Sandra Burman

"They indicate that the entire pattern of the country's family structure is undergoing a radical — but largely unrecognised — change

"The widespread poverty and disorganisation resulting from, or aggravated by, apartheid have so disrupted certain sections of society that the concept of illegitimacy has lost nearly all significance "

Burman said it was "abundantly evident" that being born out of marriage and reared by a single mother puts children at a severe disadvantage with their peers who are born into two-parent families

Families headed by unmarried mothers have to make do without state assistance for housing, welfare and maintenance provision

Western notions of illegitimacy cannot be imposed on South Africa, she said, where many communities continue to use mainly their own laws, even where they clash with national laws

For example, Muslim marriages are not recognised by the state but are often the only form of marriage for many people in the Cape

Most African languages have no term for illegitimacy

Some of the anger and distress felt by a family when a woman has a child out of wedlock is dissipated in most African communities when reparation in the form of "damages" is paid by the father's family

It is standard practice for the baby of an unmarried woman to be cared for and reared by her parent and the child takes the name of the mother's father

Sometimes the man may claim his child by giving "cattle" to legitimate the child without marrying the mother

In the coloured community the incidence of teenage pregnancies has aroused deep concern over the last two decades

Of the 20 590 babies delivered at Paarl Hospital from the beginning of 1973 to the end of 1983, teenage mothers numbered 6 284 — 30 percent

"Unless the motivation to avoid early pregnancy is present, educational programmes and the provision of contraceptive advice will not necessarily lead to a decrease in the number of teenage births," remarked Ms Eleanor Preston-Whyte, professor of social anthropology at the University of Natal

"Teenagers themselves must see the need to prevent pregnancy, as must their parents Both need desirable alternatives to early motherhood

"In the short term, these might be a reasonably well-paid job, possibly a career, and the likelihood that marriage will not be delayed by general unemployment, lack of housing and poverty

"In the long term, education and the widening of female horizons beyond the home and childbearing seem to be the directions which intervention and policy should take "

Although there is a greater incidence of birth out of wedlock and greater societal tolerance in the white community, the issue also appears to generate ambivalence

Even if mothers choose to have a child outside marriage and are economically able to rear the child in comfort, there are still likely to be repercussions for both mother and child when they interact with people in their community

"The saddest thing of all is that, believe it or not, people pretend to be caring and ask the most intimate questions and then, behind your back call you the child with no name, or the bastard," said an adult in response to a survey on illegitimacy

"Yet we illegitimate children were made out of love, although our parents made big mistakes

"We are love children, because, despite the past, this is what we are and will always be "

Pro-life lobby bares its claws in mag survey

Sowetan 2/6/92

237

SOUTH African women, who advocated a change in the country's restrictive abortion laws, were being repeatedly outvoted because they were less organised than their highly vocal pro-life opponents.

This is one of the conclusions drawn from a recent Cosmopolitan magazine abortion survey

The survey was published earlier this year in an effort to challenge a Government statement on the issue and arrive at independent statistics

Last year the Minister of Health Dr Rina Venter announced that, of the 48 000 people who had made submissions on South Africa's restrictive abortion laws, less than two percent supported a change in the laws.

The total of 4 312 questionnaires returned in the survey were the highest in any survey the magazine has conducted

"An analysis of the questionnaires shows that the difference between this and other surveys is that most of the responses were not from our readers but organised anti-abortion groups," the magazine said.

"We learnt two things

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Laws unchanged

Sowetan 2/6/92

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from the responses One is that the vast majority of our readership , about 84 percent, is strongly in favour of a change in our abortion laws

"The other is that the vocal anti-choice lobby is becoming increasingly well organised in its drive to keep the laws as tight as possible As these groups did with their 'submission' to the Minister of Health, so they tried to do to the Cosmo survey "

The magazine said only 16 percent of the questionnaires returned were originals, and accepted as from the readers, while an overwhelming seven out of eight were photocopies most of which came from the anti-abortion lobby

Half of the photocopies, about 1 800, were easily identifiable as bulk mailings with up to 127 replies in one envelope.

"The largest batch of envelopes, more than 700, was sent from Edenvale while more than 300 were from the Concerned Christian Women of South Africa in Walmer, Port Elizabeth, all in matching envelopes and by the same hand

It also noted that the profile of the respondents did not reflect the average reader of the magazine There were many more men in the sample and most were from smaller cities or rural areas, it said

"They were older than the average Cosmo reader and not as well educated They had larger families and an astonishingly high number were members of Evangelical or Pentecostal churches " it said

The survey also found that 95 percent of the magazine's readers want an urgent change in the country's abortion laws

All the respondents gave overwhelming support for abortion where rape and incest had been committed

A total of 85 percent of the readers agreed with abortion if the woman felt she could not continue with the pregnancy and 90 percent agreed with abortion if a woman made the decision with her doctor

Dr Rina Venter will not budge on abortion laws.

ANC sidesteps the abortion debate

City Press 5/6-11/6/92. (237)

By PORTIA MAURICE

CHOICES about motherhood may well remain as limited as they are for South African women under a future government: the African National Congress effectively ducked adopting a policy on abortion rights at its weekend conference.

The issue sparked lengthy and heated debate. Pro- and anti-lobbyists had their axes out, locked in conflict for long periods. A proposal that abortion be legalised, with proper counselling, had been tabled in the health commission by various branches. Another hot potato from the same lobby was that the job of 'commercial sex workers' (prostitutes) be protected by law in future.

Feminists and a handful of gender-sensitive males battled with moral and religious objectors — trying to sway the organisation towards their perspective on these thorny issues. Medical workers were also among the main movers. But to no avail. The issues were referred back to "grassroots level" for further discussion, with no deadlines.

In fact, the ANC Women's League took a surprisingly diplomatic line. Although arguing that women should have control over their bodies and fertility, the League caucus felt the organisation was not ready for any fixed stance.

"Our impression was that the membership was not ready for such a decision," said Women's League representative Feroza Adam. "Many people don't understand the realities of abortion and hard lines against it often stem from a lack of information."

Slave trade still a booming business

W/Mail 5/6 – 11/6/92 (236)

A year ago The Weekly Mail exposed the slave syndicates Despite information being given to the police, the trade in people is growing

By **EDDIE KOCH**

SOUTH AFRICA'S slave trade — involving young girls abducted from Mozambique and sold to local men, who subject them to forced labour and often rape them — continues to flourish

The slave syndicates, which were uncovered last year when an investigative team from *The Weekly Mail* purchased two slaves for R200 each from a trader operating in the eastern Transvaal homeland of kaNgwane, appear to have proliferated Not a single trader has been convicted, despite evidence being handed to police about the practice

In February this year one of the slave traders, known in Mozambique as *mariano*, lured six girls from Maputo across the South African border to a village in the homeland of kaNgwane where he kept them in a kraal and invited prospective buyers around to see them

"One of the girls, Sonia Sibiya, aged 13, was raped on the way to the border She used the words 'I have been stolen' when she described her ordeal to us," says Sally McKibben, a fieldworker who runs a scheme that provides emergency aid to Mozambican refugees in kaNgwane

"They were enticed into crossing the border by the trader, who promised them well-paying jobs in a shop in South Africa They were still at school at the time and their parents did not know where they were"

The girls broke out of the stockade where they were being kept and fled to a neighbour's home after hearing rumours that they were about to be sold to a local *inyanga* and killed so that their bodies could be used as *muti*

Residents from the Ntsikazi district of the homeland, which borders on Mozambique's southern provinces, insist that refugees who are brought by professional guides across the electrified fence that divides the two countries are frequently murdered and parts of their bodies sold to witchdoctors — although there is no documented evidence of this

The neighbour, a Swazi woman from kaNgwane, directed the fugitives to a transit centre for refugees located in a village called Mangweni where McKibben works Affidavits were taken from all of the girls and handed to the local police station so that charges of abduction could be laid against the trader, known to the girls as Alfonso

Various forms of bondage, forced labour and sex slavery have developed around the large population of refugees who flee into South Africa to escape Mozambique's civil war But McKibben detects a common strand that runs through most of the accounts she has collected from victims of the trade

A group of guides or agents have developed a lucrative business which involves bringing villagers from Mozambique across the electrified fence in South Africa for a fee that ranges from R150 to R250, depending on whether the fugitives want to be dropped off across the border or travel by taxi to Johannesburg

Some of these guides offer a valuable service to people desperate to escape the extreme forms of brutality carried out by Renamo But other unscrupulous dealers take advantage of the desperation caused by war They offer young Mozambican girls a free ride across the border and a job in South Africa — a gesture of altruism that is a sure sign the agent is *mariano*

Once they cross the frontier with the girls, who have no identity documents or official record of their existence the traders sell them to men in the townships, who then try to justify the transaction by saying they have paid *lobola* and that the girls are now their wives

In reality the "wives" are forced to have sex with their owners, cook for them, carry out domestic chores without any payment, and are frequently assaulted if they refuse Many of the women complain that they are fed only scraps of food and left-overs from the meals they prepare

Ironically, most accept this form of bondage, even though it is fairly easy to escape To report their owner to the police is to invite being arrested as an illegal alien and sent back to Mozambique, where their fate is even more terrifying They face famine, drought and a horrific form of slavery practised by Renamo bands who raid villages and force women to kill their husbands before force-marching them to bases where the widows are allocated to rebel commanders

In January this year five young girls who found their own way across the electrified fence, known as "the snake" because of the lethal 3 000 volts it delivers to those who come into contact with it, were waiting at a taxi rank in a border village when they were picked up by a driver called Madonsela.

The man then took them to Johannesburg and visited various townships, apparently on the east Rand, looking for customers Along the way he allegedly raped some of the girls and, after failing to sell them on the Reef, took them back to kaNgwane There he allowed a friend to sleep with one of the captives while looking out for local buyers

The girls escaped from a local motel and reported to the Mangweni transit centre Refugee workers called in the kaNgwane police who took affidavits from the girls

Madonsela was arrested and then released on bail He has not yet been charged as all of the girls disappeared soon after he was released The refugee workers have evidence that at least one of them was abducted by the trader

Less than two weeks ago a team of health workers came across 17 adults and 19 children being held in a village called Block C at the home of a woman who is known to recruit people and sell them as chattels

The team alerted refugee worker Rachel Ntsimbini, who visited the premises and returned the next day in a bid to rescue the group — only to hear from neighbours that the trader had been warned and promptly loaded the entire group into a single taxi bound for Johannesburg

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A desperately narrow escape from slavery Anna Timba and her two daughters Photo PAUL STOBER

Seeking a better life, she was sold for R200

W/Mail 5/6 – 11/6/92

By PAUL STOBER

THE only thing that saved Anna Timba from slavery was an absolute determination to escape the life to which her masters wanted to condemn her

Through an interpreter she told how her family was broken up and she was driven into the clutches of a man who sells people for less than R500 She is not shy and her thin body seems to have shrugged off the abuse to which it was subjected.

In September 1989, after her village was attacked by the Mozambican rebel movement, Renamo, Timba fled to the relative safety of Maputo. She spent the next three months in the capital, struggling to eke out a living for her family by selling tomatoes on the streets.

In December that year, Timba received an offer she felt she could not refuse for the sake of her family. A *mariano* offered to take her to South Africa and find her a job. *Mariano* is the jargon used by residents of Maputo to describe people who lure Mozambicans to South Africa by offering them transport and jobs Eager to start a better life and ignorant of the danger involved, Timba accepted

Days later, the *mariano*, Mahulani Mapalani, herded Timba and her family, along with at least 80 other men, women and children, into an open truck and drove them to the South African border At an unmarked place, the group crossed the border on foot, were picked up by another truck and taken to Mapalani's farm in kaNgwane.

Timba and her family stayed at the farm for two months, sometimes watching others being quietly taken away

After this time, Mapalani brought a man Timba knows only as Sibuyi, to the farm in a minibus. Mapalani told her that she must go home with Sibuyi.

He took Timba and her children to Tembisa on the east Rand, where he lived and ran a shop

On the first night he demanded that Timba sleep with him "You are my wife now — don't you know I paid that man money for you?" asked Sibuyi. Timba later discovered that he paid about R200 for her

As punishment for not going to bed with him, Sibuyi locked Timba and her family out of the house when he went to market.

Determined to get away from this man she knew nothing about, Timba managed to steal two R5 notes from the shop Using the money, Timba bought a box of bananas which she sold while she was locked out of the house Over the three months she was with Sibuyi, Timba managed to squirrel away R75

One day in May she scooped up her family and using the money, caught a taxi back to Mapalani — "because he was the only one I knew"

Timba confronted Mapalani and accused him of selling her He admitted he had done so, asking "How else am I going to get my money back?" According to Timba, in Maputo, he had said nothing about her having to pay him

By way of an apology, Mapalani promised to get her "a better husband"

Timba reminded him that she was already married and wanted work, not a husband Mapalani responded with· "There is nothing for you to do here and you must go"

Before long, he had sold Timba and her children again, this time to Philip Mahlalela for about R450

Mahlalela dismissed Timba's refusal to sleep with him and during her first two nights with him she was brutally raped After that, though he did not sexually molest Timba, he assaulted her almost every day He spared the children

Mahlalela was unemployed but sometimes did the rounds of his brothers, asking for money and food which he shared with her and the children Timba was forced to plait hair each day to raise the R4 she needed to feed all of them.

While she was working, Timba heard about a centre nearby which took care of Mozambican refugees She bolted from Mahlalela's house late one night, and walked with her daughters until she reached Mangweni, kaNgwane, the next morning

In Shongwe, Timba met refugee fieldworker Sally McKibben, and made a detailed statement about what had happened to her over the past months The refugee project then helped Timba and her family settle in "Block A" of the nearby township

But Timba's fears of the slave traders are far from over After writing to her family, Timba discovered her younger sister, Wilhemina, had been brought to South Africa by a man who claiming she (Timba) had sent him to fetch her

After making inquiries among Mozambiquan refugees, she discovered another *mariano*, known as Sedake, who claimed her sister was being held on a nearby farm He promised that if she gave him R20 he would fetch her sister McKibben gave Sedake the money, who left and has yet to return

Despite this disappointment, Timba is determined to track her sister down

In the meantime Timba has established a life for herself She teaches at a pre-school for the children of refugees and has a close circle of friends

Perils of travel through Africa

Sowetan 5/6/92 (236)

Sowetan Correspondent

SOUTH Africans travelling in Africa have been warned by a medical expert to take precautions against certain diseases, some of which are potentially fatal

"The major risk which faces any business person in Africa is contracting numerous infectious diseases," Dr Simon Robson, deputy director of the Medical Research Centre of the University of Cape Town, told members of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation

He said the major diseases were malaria and cholera, but there was a growing danger from hepatitis-B

"Looking at hepatitis-B, the facts for Africa are frightening," he said. "Estimates are that between eight and 15 percent of all Africa's inhabitants are chronically infected with it. However, between 70 and 95 percent of the continent's inhabitants have been exposed to the virus "

The disease, which affected the liver, was transmitted through human body fluids and could be contracted from inadequately sterilised hypodermic or surgical needles, he said.

It was now suspected that it might also be transmitted by blood-sucking insects such as bedbugs

Robson advised business people to try to travel in pairs or groups and arrange for a member of the party to see that any needle or syringe that was about to be used on another member of the party came from a sealed pack.

Travellers should have themselves vaccinated against hepatitis B before going to a part of Africa where there was a high risk of infection, he said

Govt accused of refugee racism

C/Press 7/6/92 (236)

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE Home Affairs Department has vehemently denied allegations that only black refugees were deported back to their countries while white refugees were legalised and assisted to get jobs.

A Department spokesman, Charles Theron, said all illegal aliens were repatriated without bias.

"For admission to SA the alien is required to present himself to an immigration officer at a SA border post and be in possession of a valid travel document and comply with the normal entry requirements," Theron said in a statement.

The statement, issued in Pretoria, comes after allegations by community leaders that only black refugees were deported while other races were even assisted in starting businesses in the country.

Addressing a rally at Phola Park last weekend, attended by senior ANC members, including vice-president Walter Sisulu, a local leader accused the government of harassing black refugees in the area.

He questioned the government's deportation of black refugees, saying people of European origin were not subjected to such "inhuman" treatment.

Police had said that one of the aims in sealing off the squatter camp had been to crack down on illegal refugees.

Last year alone, 47 074 Mozambican refugees were deported. Over the same period, 7 174 were sent back to Zimbabwe, and 7 097 were repatriated to other African and European countries, according to the Home Affairs Department.

Figures for this year, until the end of April, showed that over 18 000 refugees had been deported to Mozambique.

One Mozambican refugee told City Press that they were forced by obvious circumstances – hunger boosted by the 17-year-old civil war – to leave their home country.

A touch of Taiwan for Bronkhorstspruit

B/Day 8/6/92

STEPHANE BOTHMA

AN UPMARKET village for Taiwanese immigrants is to be established outside the eastern Transvaal town of Bronkhorstspruit at a cost of R250m

The village is the first phase of a much larger investment project involving the local town council and Taiwanese businessmen in the area

Taiwanese people interested in settling in the village have to invest about R250 000 to set up industries in the area And they will take out permanent residence in SA, says town clerk H B Senekal

The Bronkhorstspruit council is operating five permanent recruiting offices in Taiwan and seminars are being held to inform interested parties there

Most of the foreign capital will be invested in ventures in Ekandustria, an industrial park about 12km from Bronkhorstspruit and administered by the KwaNdebele National Investment Corporation and the Bronkhorstspruit Town Council, Senekal says

Investment will focus on the electronics, shoe and clothing industries and will be strongly export-oriented.

The building of infrastructure for the village has started and construction of homes will begin in the next three months

All the costs involved will be met with Taiwanese money, Senekal says

A university, shopping centres, gardens, schools and an R80m Buddhist temple will be built with an accent on maintaining Chinese cultural links

However, the area will not be restricted to people of any particular race, Senekal adds

● See Page 2

Mixed reception for Taiwanese 'town'

STAR 10/6/92.

(236)

By McKeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau

The establishment of a R250 million "town" for Taiwanese immigrants in the Transvaal town of Bronkhorstspruit has been met with mixed feelings by black and white residents.

The majority of the white community was not against the establishment of a village but expressed its bitterness at the planned erection of an R80 million Buddhist temple.

They said it was against their Christian belief because "Buddha is an idol".

Last month members of the Christian community demonstrated at the spot earmarked for the temple On May 8 scores of residents bearing crosses sang at the site, protesting that Buddhism was "satanic"

The president of the civic association of Zithobeni, the township outside Bronkhorstspruit, Shakes Maisela, said he could not understand how the town council had resolved to give such a huge piece of land to outsiders, "when it threatened to evict our own people who squatted on a small piece of land in the township"

Regarding the creation of jobs Mr Maisela said "History has taught us so-called foreign investors come here only to exploit our people — paying them meagre wages."

A representative of the local Indian community, busnessman Mahomed Rahem said the Taiwanese were definitely welcome but should not be given any privileges local residents were denied.

The Indian community had been in the area for more than 60 years but there was not a single Indian school, he said

Expressing his personal view, Bronkhorstspruit CP member Hennie du Toit said he did not believe the Taiwanese would create enough jobs for both blacks and whites because in most cases they employed their own people

"In the long term I can only foresee problems with such a big Chinese community among our small Afrikaner community," he warned

Attempts to interview Bronkhorstspruit town clerk Dr H B Senekal, were unsuccessful

Give women status and watch the birth rate drop

S/Times 14/6/92. (237)

WILLIAM DEEDES believes that what is needed to control the Third World's population explosion is not sterilisation but education

NEITHER in the heady atmosphere of the Earth Summit, nor down in the pub, is there a subject more likely to stir wrathful discussion than population control in the Third World.

The figures are big, alarming and not hard to remember It is a subject made for bigots

As Paul Harrison, an authority on population and environment, said "Population, like politics or religion, is not a subject for polite conversation"

Indeed, until Baroness Linda Chalker, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, plunged into the subject at a meeting in Rio this week, population control was in danger of becoming too controversial a subject for public discussion

It is not hard to see why For one thing, it implies that guilt for outstripping the world's resources lies with the Third World, simply because it is producing more children.

The Third World, on the other hand, insists that blame for squandering the earth's resources lies squarely with the north.

The subject digs into the most controversial question of the day is it right to bring the creation of human life under artificial controls?

In reality, neither the Third World's susceptibilities nor the Vatican's doctrines are going to halt the main thrust of prevailing policies which are designed to show the Third World what the industrialised nations have learnt about eugenics

The temperature around this subject of fertility would be lowered if we saw it in better proportion Population pressures are only one factor in environmental degradation. They are not the ultimate cause or even the most important cause.

It needs to be emphasised that reducing the fertility rate can be no more than a long-term contribution to easing Third World poverty.

Ahead lie four decades of the fastest human growth in all history The rate of increase will average 97-million a year until the end of the century, then 90 million until 2025

Some 97 percent of the increase will be in today's developing countries, a third of it in Africa At 10-billion, the world's population in 2050 will be almost double that now

Half the global population today is below reproductive age — up to 45 percent of it is under 15 The projection for 2000 is around 6,26-billion people in the world

MEANWHILE, in most developed countries, and in six developing countries, fertility has already fallen to replacement level, and even below it.

If low fertility persists, the world's population will reach a peak in 2050, and start to fall thereafter

What we know for certain is that the factor most likely to influence these projections is the status and education of women Those who regard Vatican doctrine as a block to family planning in the Third World betray ignorance of what is going on

It is not so much of a block as a brake on family planning The expression "population control" is drawn from a bigot's vocabulary.

IT conjures visions of compulsory sterilisation, such as India disastrously attempted in 1975, and condoms issued off the back of trucks delivering food relief from overseas

Access to guidance and means of deciding the size and spacing of the family has been accepted as a human right for a generation Yet, as lately as 1990, this was denied to about 300-million women in developing countries Those developing countries which have had most success in reducing fertility rates have laid emphasis on education and health care, especially for women

In this contentious field, nobody disputes that the status of women is the key

Thailand's experience illustrates this The average number of children per woman there has fallen from just over six in 1965-70 to just over two in 1987 — primarily the outcome of increasing use of contraceptives

There have been similar population falls in China, Cuba, Korea, Indonesia and Tunisia

There can be no development for anyone, the United Nations Population Fund has declared, without development for women "Economic growth has been fastest in countries where women have higher status and slowest where they face disadvantages." — *Telegraph*

the business of such body corporate or enterprise,"

(i) In ordinary public state schools which function under the control of a government department, the head of department is deemed to be the chief executive officer who shall ensure that the employer (the State) complies with the provisions of the Act

(ii) In those cases where the employer is a body corporate the chief executive officer of the body corporate shall be responsible for the adherence to the provisions of the Act and the regulations

The definition of "employer' reads as follows

" 'employer', means, subject to the provisions of subsection (3), any person whomsoever who employs or provides work for any person and remunerates that person or expressly or tacitly undertakes to remunerate him, or who permits any person in any manner to assist him in the carrying on or the conducting of his business, but excludes a labour broker within the meaning of the Labour Relations Act, 1956 (Act No 28 of 1956),"

The payment of remuneration is an important element in the definition of "employer"

The institution who pays the remuneration of the teachers could therefore be regarded as the employer Currently the State can therefore still be regarded as the employer

An investigation into the legal position of the liability of body corporates at state subsidized schools has not yet been finalized, but the *prima facie* impression is that the chairman of the body corporate is indeed the chief executive officer as contemplated in the Act, with the accompanying legal liability

Amount budgeted for Aids programme: balance

*21 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

With reference to her reply to Question No 268 on 26 May 1992, (a) why was the amount of approximately R2 664 000, being the balance of the amount budgeted for her Department's Aids programme for the 1991-92 financial year, not spent during that financial year and (b) what has been done with this balance?

B799E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(a) The under expenditure can mainly be ascribed to the following

— the advertising agency which was initially appointed for the AIDS prevention campaign suspended its services and a new agency could only be appointed three months later, and

— suitable staff for vacancies could not be recruited and this resulted in certain programmes not being completed in time and

(b) the unspent balance was paid into the Exchequer Account

Permission for certain person to enter South Africa

*22 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether permission has been granted for a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to enter South Africa since his application for (a) permanent or (b) temporary residence was refused if so, (i) (aa) when, (bb) where and (cc) how many times was such permission granted and (ii) what is this person's name?

B800E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The question requires a full explanation and I therefore find it necessary to make a full statement on the matter and with your permission, Mr Chairman, I lay the following statement on the Table.

Robert Von Palace Kolbatschenko alias Vito Roberto Palazzolo

Palazzolo's initial entry into South Africa was dealt with fully in Justice Harms's Commission of Inquiry Report and the matter had been covered extensively in the media It is therefore not elaborated on now

Consequent upon the inquiry Mr Palazzolo's permanent residence permit was withdrawn and he was instructed to leave the country, which he did on 31 October 1991

Since then he has applied to enter South Africa on various occasions, inter alia for holiday, business and transit purposes

As regards transit visas it should be remembered that Mr Palazzolo is a citizen of the Ciskei

Every application was considered as objectively as possible on the facts and arguments of the application concerned and in accordance with firm guidelines and established policy On five occasions, after such consideration, permission had been granted to him to enter South Africa Particulars are as follows

11 December 1991	Visitors visa for a visit 18 December 1991 till 7 January 1992 for purposes of a Supreme Court action and on compassionate grounds to spend Christmas with his wife, children, mother and sister
5 March 1992	Visitors visa for visit of 10 days for purposes of a medical examination in Cape Town
2 April 1992	Transit visa for multiple entries within six months for travel through South Africa from one place to another in the Ciskei using the shortest route
24 April 1992	Transit visa for transit to Jan Smuts Airport and return valid till 5 May 1992 in respect of two transit journeys of 72 hours each over the shortest route
15 May 1992	Transit visa valid for six months for transit journeys of 72 hours at a time in order to reach Jan Smuts Airport for purposes of visits overseas and to travel from one part of the Ciskei across South African soil to another part of the Ciskei

Normal customs, norms, rules and regulations continue to apply and Mr Palazzolo's presence within the Republic of South Africa remains subject to strict permit control which does not afford him the right to residence in South Africa and only free access for transit purposes

The following applications for entry into the RSA were refused

22 January 1992	Request for re-admission to the RSA
10 February 1992	Request for restoration of visa exemption
26 February 1992	Visitors visa for two visits of 10 days each requested Visa in respect of only one visit of 10 days granted
24 March 1992	Further request for restoration of visa exemption
14 April 1992	Visa in respect of business/family visit of 30 days

Extention of the periods that he wanted to sojourn in the Republic was also refused in the following instances namely

28 February 1992	Request that visa for visit of 10 days be extended to 12 days
26 March 1992	Request for extention of temporary residence permit from 28 March 1992 till 20 April 1992 Extention granted till 10 April 1992 only
31 March 1992	Request for extention of residence permit till 21 April 1992
3 April 1992	Further request for extention

Use of public hospitals by private patients

*23 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

(1) Whether she has announced that private patients may now make use of public hospitals,

(2) whether any private patients suffering from particular illnesses or diseases will be prevented from making use of the provincial hospitals, if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether patients will be restricted in regard to making use of public hospitals for any reason other than the illnesses and diseases referred to in paragraph (2) of this question, if so, what are these reasons?

B803E

cont'd

DEPARTEMENT VAN FINANSIES

No. 1601 **12 Junie 1992**

13 PERSENT BINNELANDSE GEREGISTREERDE EFFEKTE, 2009/10/11 SERTIFIKAAT No 8336 VIR R84 500 UITGEREIK TEN GUNSTE VAN MEV. RACHEL ANN BECKER

Aangesien daar by die Departement van Finansies aansoek gedoen is om 'n duplikaat van bovermelde sertifikaat wat verloor of verlê is, word hierby bekendgemaak dat tensy die oorspronklike sertifikaat binne vier weke na die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing by die Departement van Finansies, Privaatsak X115, Pretoria, ingelewer word, die verlangde duplikaat uitgereik sal word

No. 1639 **12 Junie 1992**

VERKLARING DEUR: MNR. DEREK KEYS, MINISTER VAN FINANSIES EN VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID: 3 JUNIE 1992

MET BETREKKING TOT RENTE WAT DEUR BUITELANDERS IN SUID-AFRIKA VERDIEN WORD

Suid-Afrika bevind homself vandag in die posisie dat hy in 'n al hoe meer mededingende internasionale omgewing vir buitelandse beleggings moet meeding, en dit is noodsaaklik dat buitelandse beleggers nie ontmoedig word om beleggingsfondse beskikbaar te stel nie

Rente wat deur buitelanders in Suid-Afrika verdien word, is alreeds in die volgende omstandighede van belasting vrygestel.

* Alle rente verdien op fondse wat binne die skuldstilstand geblokkeer is
* Rente verdien op effekte uitgereik deur die Staat, plaaslike owerhede en sekere ander instansies soos Eskom en Transnet Hierdie bepaling word vrylik deur emigrante gebruik vir die belegging van hul gebrokkeerde fondse
* Rente verdien op kapitaal wat buite Suid-Afrika aan die lener beskikbaar gestel is en wat derhalwe ingevolge bestaande inkomstebelastingwetgewing nie uit 'n bron binne Suid-Afrika verkry word nie

Ander rente wat uit 'n bron binne Suid-Afrika verdien word, is tegnies steeds aan belasting onderhewig Baie min belasting sou egter op hierdie wyse beskikbaar wees, veral in die lig van die probleme wat ondervind word met die verkryging van opgawes en die hef van aanslae op buitelandse leners Daarbenewens is daar 'n beweging onder die Europese Gemeenskapslande om rente slegs te belas in die land waarin die ontvanger woonagtig is

Ten einde sekerheid op die gebied van buitelandse belegging te verkry en om enige oorblywende ontmoedigings in die vorm van belasting te verwyder, is daar met die eenparige goedkeuring van die Belastingadvieskomitee besluit om alle rente van belasting vry te stel wat van vandag of toeval aan iemand wat nie gewoonlik in die Republiek woonagtig is nie, of aan 'n maatskappy wat nie in die Republiek bestuur of beheer word nie Die vrystelling sal ook op emigrante van toepassing wees, onderworpe aan die verdere voorwaardes dat hulle nie in die Republiek besigheid dryf nie.

Navrae Lesley Lambert
Telefoon (021) 45-3796/8

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

No. 1601 **12 June 1992**

13 PER CENT INTERNAL REGISTERED STOCK, 2009/10/11: CERTIFICATE No 8336 FOR R84 500 ISSUED IN FAVOUR OF MRS RACHEL ANN BECKER

Application having been made to the Department of Finance for a duplicate of the above-mentioned certificate, the original having been lost or mislaid, notice is hereby given that unless the original certificate is produced at the Department of Finance, Private Bag X115, Pretoria, within four weeks from the date of publication of this notice, a duplicate as applied for, will be issued

No. 1639 (236) **12 June 1992**

STATEMENT BY: MR DEREK KEYS, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: 3 JUNE 1992

REGARDING INTEREST EARNED IN SOUTH AFRICA BY NON-RESIDENTS

South Africa has to compete for foreign investment in an increasingly competitive international environment and it is essential that foreign investors are not discouraged from making investment funds available

Interest earned in South Africa by non-residents is already exempt from tax in the following circumstances:

* All interest earned on funds which are blocked in terms of the debt standstill
* Interest earned on stocks and securities issued by the Government, local authorities and certain other bodies such as Eskom and Transnet This provision is widely used by emigrants as an avenue for investment of their blocked assets
* Interest earned on capital which was made available to the borrower outside South Africa and which is therefore, in terms of existing income tax law, not derived from a source within South Africa

Technically, other interest which is derived from a source within South Africa remains subject to tax Very little tax would however be available in this way, particularly in view of the problems obtaining returns and raising assessments on foreign lenders Furthermore, there is a move in the European Community countries towards taxing interest income only in the country where the recipient of the interest is resident

In order to introduce certainty into the area of foreign investment and to remove whatever disincentive remains in the form of taxation, it has been decided, with the unanimous approval of the Tax Advisory Committee, to exempt from tax all interest which from today accrues to a person who is not ordinarily resident in the Republic or to a company which is not managed or controlled in the Republic This exemption will also apply to emigrants, subject to the further condition that they do not carry on business in the Republic

Enquiries Lesley Lambert
Telephone (021) 45-3796/8

Death of two persons at Noemeput: inquest

*8 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order †

(1) Whether an inquest was held in respect of the death at or near Noemeput in the Kalahari in November 1991 of two persons whose names have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, if not, why not, if so (a) what was the result of this inquest and (b) what are the names of the persons concerned,

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

B769E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) No

An inquest has not yet taken place The docket has been forwarded to the Attorney General for his decision

(a) Falls away

(b) Jurgens Mattheus White and Johannes Jurgens Grobbelaar

(2) No

Drivers' licences in KwaNdebele abuses

*9 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport

(1) Whether he has been informed of and/or has received any complaints on alleged abuses in the system of the issuing of drivers licences in KwaNdebele, if so, what is the (a) nature and (b) extent of these abuses,

(2) whether he intends taking any action in this regard, if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when?

B773E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

(1) Yes The Department of Transport is aware of complaints regarding alleged abuses in the system of the issuing of drivers' licences in self-governing territories

(a) The complaints pertain to the issuing of drivers' licences to people on payment without those people undergoing the appropriate tests

(b) The exact extent of abuses in this regard is unknown as self-governing territories, in terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitution Act, 1971 (Act 21 of 1971), themselves exercise legislative and executive authority with regard to road traffic, including the licencing of drivers The awareness of alleged abuses is solely based on complaints which are received and media reports in this regard

(2) Yes

(a) and (b)

In terms of Act 21 of 1971 the Department of Transport has no statutory authority to take action regarding the alleged abuses All complaints received are currently referred to the South African Police for investigation The resolution of this issue is, therefore in the process of initiating discussions with all parties concerned to address this problem in a coordinated fashion The strategy will be finalized shortly whereafter further announcements will be made

Steps against taxpayers

*10 Mr D P DU PLESSIS asked the Minister of Finance †

(1) What steps are taken against taxpayers who fail to pay personal income tax,

(2) whether at any time during the past five years it was decided not to take action against politicians who failed to pay personal income tax, if so, (a) when and (b) why?

B781E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) If a taxpayer fails to submit a return of income, legal proceedings are instituted against him and a court may, upon conviction, impose a fine not exceeding R2 000 or a prison sentence not exceeding 12 months Furthermore, the Income Tax Act authorizes the Commissioner for Inland Revenue to impose an additional penalty equal to twice the tax chargeable

If, after furnishing a return of income, he fails to pay any tax due in respect of an assessment issued to him, civil judgement may be obtained against him

(2) No

Arms/ammunition caches· Umkhonto we Sizwe

*11 Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Law and Order †

(1) (a) How many arms and ammunition caches of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) have been traced by the South African Police in the Republic since 2 February 1990 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

(2) how many of these caches were pointed out to the Police by MK itself?

B782E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) (a) 12

(b) 11 June 1992

(2) In ten (10) of the abovementioned instances arms and ammunition caches were pointed out by MK members after their arrest

Trial of persons: Operation Vula

*12 Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Justice †

(1) Whether the trial of any persons charged as a result of Operation Vula has been completed, if not, why not, if so, how many such persons have been tried,

(2) whether he will furnish the names of those who have been tried, if not, why not, if so, what are their names?

B783E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) No Indemnity has in terms of section 2(1) of the Indemnity Act, 1990 (Act No 35 of 1990) been granted to nine of the persons who were involved in Operation Vula

(2) Falls away

Marriages between Whites and non-Whites

*13 Mr W L VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs † 237

How many marriages between Whites and non-Whites have taken place in the Republic since the repeal of the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act?

B784E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS 237

3 775

The figure is for the period 19 June 1985 till 31 December 1990 Since then, statistics on the group context of persons who married after 31 December 1990, are no longer being kept

Alleged actions of members at Roodepoort counting hall

*14 Mr W L VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

Whether he will disclose his source for the statements made by him in an interpellation debate in this House on 22 April 1992 on the alleged actons of the hon members for Roodepoort and Losberg on 18 March 1992 at the counting hall in Roodepoort, if not, why not, if so, who is the source?

B785E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The Department has at its disposal statements of persons who were involved with the counting of votes at Roodepoort on 18 March 1992 The information which my predecessor disclosed during the interpellation debate concerned was taken from those statements The statements are available in the Parliamentary office of the Department for the hon member's confidential perusal if he so requires

Companies/close corporations declared insolvent

*15 Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Trade and Industry †

(1) How many companies and close corporations were declared insolvent in the Republic during the latest specified 5-year period for which information is available,

(2) whether his Department has made any estimates or has any statistics on the number of job opportunities lost as a result of the above-mentioned insolvencies, if not, why not, if so, how many job opportunities were lost over the said 5-year period?

B786E

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The life-size bronze statue of one of SA's most famous elephants, Shawu, was unveiled yesterday at Sol Kerzner's new jungle theme resort at Sun City — the Lost City. The 45-ton statue, which was cast in bronze in Italy, is the work of SA sculptor Danie de Jager.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Hundreds apply for SA residence

B/Day 19/6/92

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Applications for SA residence by prospective Hong Kong immigrants were running at about 800 families this year, but were expected to increase to about 2 000-3 000 families annually over the next few years as the countdown for the 1997 takeover of Hong Kong by China accelerated.

These estimates were given yesterday by Rico Li, a director of Hong Kong business consultancy Standard Authorised which claims between 42%-50% of the Hong Kong immigration market to SA.

He said this large anticipated influx of people would bring not only foreign exchange into SA but also a lot of creative business and professional people.

In terms of SA legislation each immigrant family was required to bring a minimum of R300 000 which would mean R1,2bn for 400 families. Li pointed out that about half the 800 applicants this year were only interested in getting the necessary documents as an insurance against the future and had no intention of immigrating at this stage.

He said he and a consortium were looking at setting up an investment vehicle for the expected flow of funds.

Li has been looking for a 40ha piece of land to develop into about 400 to 600 houses for the Hong Kong immigrants and held talks this week with the Johannesburg and Pretoria city councils. He envisaged a R100m first phase to build about 200-300 houses, followed by a R100m second phase later.

He said about 210 Hong Kong families had already settled in Verwoerdburg outside Pretoria but the project had not been successful as the prices asked were about R100 000 higher than the market price. This had put off many prospective buyers who had visited SA, he said.

'Illegals' pour in

236

JOHANNESBURG — The number of illegal immigrants arriving in the Soutpansberg area from Zimbabwe and Mozambique has increased by 870% in the first five months of this year, compared with the corresponding period last year CT 23/6/92

910 000 babies conceived daily

(237) CT 26/6/92

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that the daily number of acts of human sexual intercourse (100 million) results in 910 000 conceptions — and 356 000 incidences of sexually transmitted disease

Contained in a report to mark the 20th anniversary of the WHO's programme of human reproduction, the figures are believed to be the first official estimate of global sexual activity

The report shows "unprecedented" declines in world fertility rates over the past 20 years. This, combined with the use of contraceptives, means each woman now has 3,9 children compared to 6,1 two decades ago In developing countries contraceptive use has increased from nine percent between 1965 and 1970 to 50% since 1985

Female sterilisation is the most widespread form of contraception (26%), followed by intra-uterine devices (19%), with the pill third at 15%

Of the 910 000 daily conceptions about half were unplanned Every day there were 150 000 abortions, a third of them in unsafe conditions, and 500 women died as a result

In spite of the success of contraception populations would continue to grow, the WHO report said

Fewer women fall pregnant

The message is clear: contraceptives are catching on

Sowetan 26/6/92 (237)

GENEVA - The World Health Organisation said the birth rate in developing countries dropped 36 percent in the past 25 years, in parallel with a tenfold increase in the use of contraceptives.

But it said nearly 300 million couples who do not want children still have no access to family planning services

The figures came in a WHO report published on the 20th anniversary of its Special Programme of Research Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction-

It said the birth rate in developing countries - or the number of children per woman - dropped by 6,1 percent between 1965 and 1970 to 3,9 between 1985 and 1990

Some 380 million people in the same countries use modern and safe contraception methods.

"The most significant development in reproductive health over the past few decades has been the major expansion in the use of contraceptives with major benefits to individuals, families, societies and the world at large," said WHO director Hiroshi Nakajima

WHO says the sexual act is performed more than 100 million times a day throughout the world

The most popular contraceptive methods are female sterilisation, followed by intra-uterine devices, the pill, condoms and finally male sterilisation

Contraception

It stresses that in the United States, it took 58 years for the birthrate to fall from 6,5 to 3,5, while it took only 27 years in Indonesia, eight in Thailand and seven in China

In the Far East, the number of couples using contraception went up from 18 million between 1965 and 1970 to 217 million between 1985 and 1990

In Africa, the figures were up from five to 14 percent - or from two to 18 million people.

Sixty percent of people in the developing world have easy access to contraception - around 95 percent in the Far East, compared to 57 percent in South-East Asia and nine percent in sub-Saharan Africa

But one of the report's authors, Mahmoud Fathalla, insisted "In spite of these major advances, there is still a need to provide safe, effective and acceptable methods of family planning to the world's increasing population"

The report says some 36 to 53 million abortions are carried out every year - around 15 million of them illegally.

Fifty-two countries comprising 25 percent of the world's population allows the practice when a pregnant woman's life is in danger. - *Sapa*

Space and climate lure immigrants from Orient

STAR 29/6/92 (236)

The spirit of the East is becoming increasingly prevalent in South Africa, where burgeoning communities of affluent Taiwanese and Hong Kong Chinese are taking their chances despite the political mayhem, reports HELEN GRANGE.

WHY, AT a time when South Africa is racked with violence and impoverished by corruption and economic woes, are Taiwanese and Hong Kong Chinese still trickling in to settle here with their considerable life savings?

The Star established this straightforward answer: space, good property prices, government concessions, mild weather and comparatively good education facilities.

The new Eastern pioneers, anxious to escape the cramped and hurricane-battered lifestyle back home, are enamoured with aspects of South African middle-class living few South Africans in this category fully appreciate, according to David Chang, manager of the newly established Bank of Taiwan in Johannesburg.

The space priority could perhaps be better understood if one placed Taiwan on a map of South Africa. It would fit into the Kruger National Park, and yet Taiwan accommodates some 21 million people.

Those who can afford it are happy to invest in a country where homes stand on plots of up to 1 000 sq m. Land and property here is also cheap in comparison with Taiwan.

"The new immigrants from Taiwan and Hong Kong are quite different from the immigrants before them. They are wealthier and their first priority is not employment, but rather property and land purchase or development.

"The weather here is also more temperate and the Taiwanese find that education facilities in South Africa are very good," says Mr Chang.

For the Hong Kong Chinese, there is also a pressing urge to leave Hong Kong before unification with mainland China in 1997, for fear of losing their life's acquisitions to the communist government.

The flavour of the East is most visible where the Chinese are being settled in an organised manner — in Verwoerdburg and Bronkhorstspruit.

In both centres, the town councils have gone out of their way — including advertising abroad — to attract wealthy immigrants, hoping to reap the benefits of a people known for their work ethic.

Some 500 families have begun moving into Bronkhorstspruit's "Chinatown" and are to set up industries and businesses in neighbouring Ekandustria, and another 500 families are preparing to inhabit Verwoerdburg's "Chinatown", which covers nearly 100 ha of ground south of the town centre.

Other favourite spots are Newcastle in Natal, where there are 37 Chinese-owned factories, and Bloemfontein, which heads the list of immigrants from Taiwan.

Earlier this month, about 20 Taiwanese families visited Johannesburg's northern suburbs with a view to buying homes, according to Mr Chang.

But the Chinese settlement in South Africa — ironically, mostly in conservative towns — has not gone without conflict.

The establishment of the R250 million "Chinatown" in Bronkhorstspruit has come up against a wall of opposition by both white and black residents in the area. A number of whites are angry about the erection of an R80 million Buddhist temple, and residents of the nearby Zithobeni township are outraged that immigrants can be so well accommodated when they themselves are threatened with eviction.

Black authorities are also sceptical of the immigrants' objectives, believing that "so-called foreign investors" come to SA only to exploit the people working for them, paying them meagre wages.

Conservative whites fear they will be swamped by their new neighbours and have visions of massage parlours and opium dens springing up close by.

Most of the new immigrants will go into the manufacturing industry, with a strong emphasis on electronics — industries South Africa needs to stimulate economic growth.

Political death toll 34 pc up on 1991

STAR 8/7/92.

The third highest number of deaths related to political violence in two years was recorded last month with 373, bringing the year's figure to 1 806 — 34 percent more than this time last year — according to the Human Rights Commission's monthly human rights update.

The two higher months were March this year, with 437, and August 1990, with 709.

Two hundred and eighty-one deaths occurred in the PWV region last month, while Natal's death toll remained constant with 82 deaths

The remainder occurred in other areas.

Responsible

Vigilante-related actions were responsible for 290 deaths, and security forces and "hit squads" accounted for the others

Thirty-six percent of those killed were women and children

The report said there was one death in police custody last month.

According to the HRC, 118 people were detained without trial last month, mostly in connection with the Boipatong massacre.

Political arrests for the month were the highest in the past two years, with 1 433.

In May 1990, 2 574 people were arrested. — Sapa

Development in rural areas is a priority

STAR 10/7/92

The relationship between population growth and living standards has been clearly demonstrated worldwide where the total fertility rate (TFR) of women in impoverished and undeveloped areas is generally higher than that of women in developed areas.

In urban areas, where the standard of living is on the whole higher, the average birth rate is three per woman In rural areas this climbs to an average of nearly six per woman

Clearly part of the solution to the population crisis is to work at improving the living standard of all the people, but particular emphasis must be placed on rural development for it is in here that the greatest poverty and lowest living standards are experienced

Lack of development in rural areas in most African countries has led to increased movement of people to the cities, which creates its own problems — lack of housing and unemployment

Those left behind on the land are caught up in a web of poverty exacerbated by malnutrition, low productivity, and a decrease in agricultural production, of which high birth and death rates are a feature.

It is imperative that living standards in rural areas are urgently improved and that support is given to programmes for rural development

There are nearly 6 million people living on farms in South Africa in a largely Third World environment These people, mostly farm labourers and their families are in most cases totally dependent on the farmers. An estimated 80 percent of farm workers can neither read no write and there is limited access to schools, clinics and training centres Compounding the problem is the high birth rate of an average of 5,2 children per woman

With its aim being to improve the standard of living of farm labourers and their dependants, the SA Agricultural Union established the Rural Foundation, which concentrates on practical programmes to improve the quality of life of the workers and aid them in becoming more self-sufficient

With the co-operation of farmers and their wives, a wide variety of courses can be initiated on farms These include literacy courses, health counselling and family planning

Advice on family planning

STAR 10/7/92

The Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa offers an advice service to the public. Its motto "Small families have big plans for the future", fittingly supports the advantages of small families. However, the organisation stresses its belief that the decision for sterilisation must be completely voluntary (237)

The association offers free advice on both male and female sterilisation and will happily answer any questions people might ask

For more information contact them at (011) 880-2643 or at Box 41636 Craighall 2024

Women hold key to world development

STAR 10/7/92

The status of women is a determining factor in any population-development programme, and the influence a woman can exert on the family is largely determined by her level of education

In Africa, and in many developing countries around the world, the status of women and recognition for the role they play in the community, is so low that they form part of the syndrome labelled the "feminisation of poverty".

It is a sad fact that instead of becoming part of the solution, women still remain part of the problem, often through no fault of their own

This will continue until attitudes towards women, particularly in rural areas, change.

The international conference on "Population Development in the 21st Century", held in Amsterdam in Holland in 1989, issued a declaration which called for the recognition of women as central to the development process.

It stated that the improvement of "their status and the extent to which they are free to make decisions affecting their lives and that of their families will be crucial in determining the future population-growth rates".

According to The State of the World Population 1992, a report issued by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in April, economic growth and improvement in the quality of life have been faster in those areas of the world where women enjoy a higher status

Women's health and nutritional state during pregnancy and breastfeeding affect the health of the child, and their education and degree of control over family resources affects the child's mental and physical development.

Discrimination against women is still common in many societies, but more particularly in traditional communities

Women are still often regarded as "poor investments" when it comes to education and this is highlighted by statistics

In Africa the figures show that at primary school level there are 80 girls for every 100 boys. At secondary school level this drops to only 47 girls to 100 boys

Female literacy in Africa is put at about 38 percent and out of the world's 949 million illiterates in 1985, nearly two thirds, or 592 million, are women

In South Africa there are about 3 million women who cannot read or write

In its booklet "Population Growth — a Critical Decade", the Department of Population Development suggests that certain factors are necessary to improve the status of women

Their prime needs, it says, are

- The opportunity to attend school
- The opportunity to receive non-formal education though which they can acquire skills in areas such as nutrition, child care, domestic budget control and home industry
- Job opportunities
- Services and facilities such as child day-care facilities, access to clinics and family planning services

Promoting 2-child family

(237)

Unusual as the title of the organisation sounds — Splendidly Alive People Within Limited Environmental Resources (Sapler) — its aims are very down to earth and very serious.

Its mission is to spread the word about the dire consequences to the world if we continue along the present trend of soaring population growth. STAR 10/7/92

Sapler's aims are to show the gains to limiting population, highlight the likely final tragedy if we fail to do so; and promote the two-child family for the new SA

For more information contact Sapler at (011) 640-7180 fax 648-7130 or write to Box 51406, Raedene 2124.

SA can hold 80 million – and no more

(237) STAR 10/7/92

Tomorrow, July 11, is World Population Day It is a day commemorated each year by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to highlight the awareness of population issues worldwide.

It was in 1987 that, according to UNFPA calculations, the population of the world reached the 5 billion mark.

Now, only five years later, the figure of 5 billion has grown to 5,5 billion

By the turn of the century, at current estimates the figure will be in excess of 6,5 billion and by the year 2 025, there will be more than 8,5 billion people

Growth

The world population scenario looks grim, indeed, but the outlook for Africa, which is expected to experience the largest population increase of any continent over the next 10 years, is even worse — with an estimated 900 million people fighting for existance

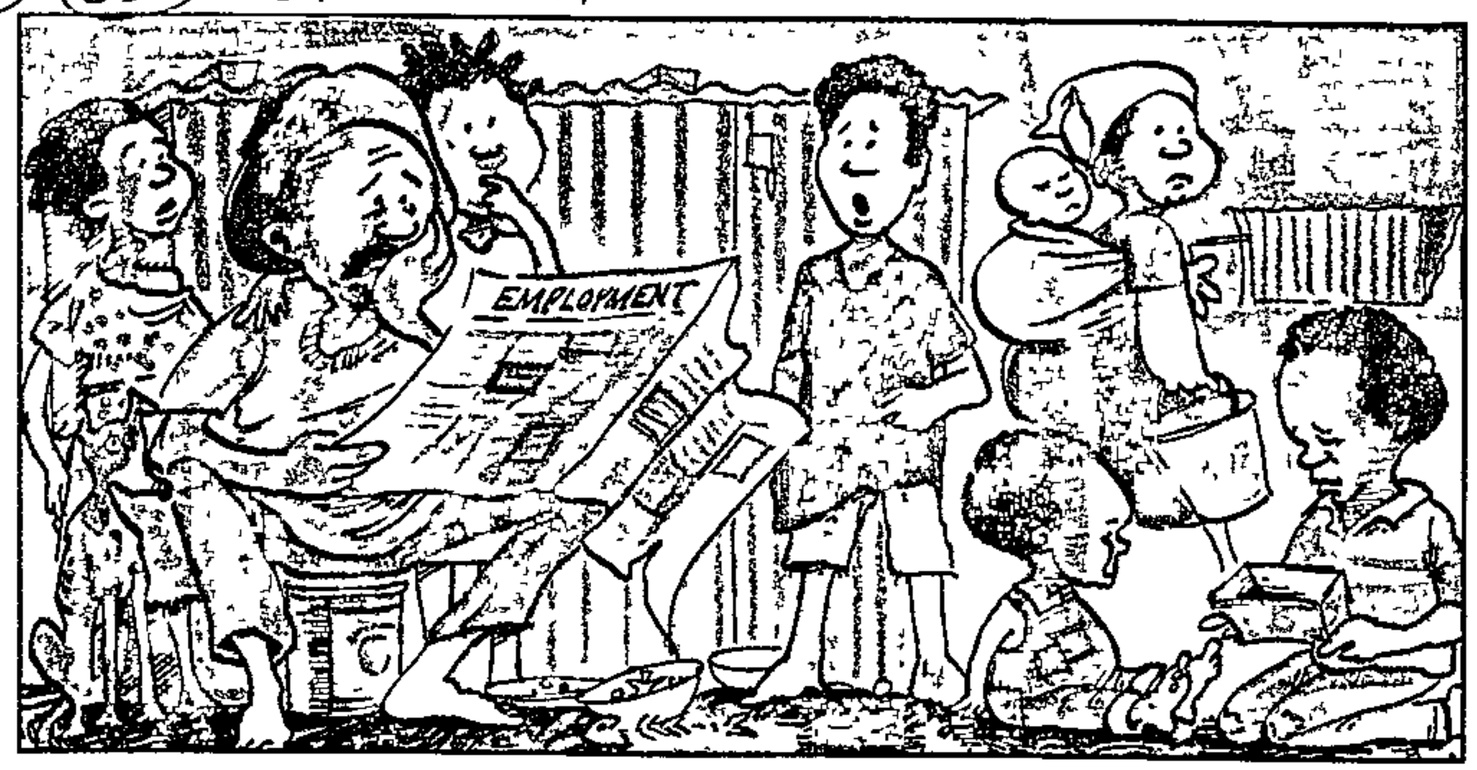
The population of South Africa, following the trend of the rest of Africa, is increasing by 2,3 percent a year

The present population figure for South Africa (including the TBVC) countries, is 39 million, but it is estimated that, at current growth rates, by the year 2 025 South Africa will have a population of 80 million people; and by 2 100 that figure will have increased to a horrifying 464 million

There is evidence, however, that there may have been a decline in the fertility rate in South Africa and if this continues to drop the estimated population of the country will only reach 110 million by the year 2 100

This is still an unacceptable figure and it has been calculated that the maximum number of people that can be supported on the resources available is 80 million.

It has been calculated



Growing pains The average birth rate in urban areas is three children per woman In rural areas, however, it climbs to an average of almost six children per woman It is in these areas that the greatest poverty exists

Contraception key to family planning

STAR 10/7/92

Any population control plan must centre on modern effective family-planning techniques — and a long-term drop in fertility rates can only be brought about with voluntary and widespread use of contraceptive methods

Recent evidence has shown that fertility is now declining in all major regions of the world This is even found in Africa, traditionally a high fertility/low contraceptive use area.

According to United Nations figures, the total fertility rate in undeveloped countries is now at about 3,8 percent and 51 percent of couples in these regions now use contraception on a regular basis

However, to maintain a drop in the fertility rate to a UN projection of 3,3 percent, the target figure for contraceptive use must rise to 59 percent — an increase of 186 million users

The emphasis in any family-planning programme must be on voluntary birth control, and thus education in the benefits of limiting the number of children in a family is essential.

Parents will only be willing to limit the number of children they bring into the world if it makes good sense to them.

The key to effective family planning lies in a better understanding of life.

In South Africa, the birth control issue has been a somewhat contentious issue and has been seen by some as a ploy by the

an article in *Salus* magazine, Dr C A van der Merwe, chief director of Population Development, says that the department's programme "has succeeded in recent years in establishing a strong awareness about population-growth problems among a large proportion of the population"

Surveys in both rural and urban areas "show awareness levels are between 68 and 82 percent"

Writing in the forward to Johannes Jordaan's book, "Population Growth — Our Time Bomb", Dr Nthato Motlana says that in the past the population growth has unfortunately been a highly politicised issue

"However," he says, "the time has come for all leaders in our country — in the church, business sphere, education, politics and in the community — to express themselves openly in the democratic realities in South Africa so that the meaningful debate about what needs to be done about the present rate of population growth can start."

In many cultures large families has been the norm, based on the principle that more children are needed to help with the raising of crops and animals

High mortality rates are also a factor, with the hope that even if some of the children died, there would be others to take their place

This perception is now on the decline.

Many parents are beginning to realise that when resources are limited it is preferable to raise a small, healthy, family than to have many children who will suffer from the limitations of poverty

Women should play a vital role in choosing the size and spacing of a family, but too often they have little or no say in the matter

This is particularly the case in rural areas where very few women have had sufficient education to play a meaningful role in the development of the families

Dr Motlana says the change in attitudes is significant in that family planning is not merely a matter of providing contraceptive services

"The ability to take advantage of family planning is part of an attitude to life, created by an environment in which everyone has opportunities and choices

"Opportunities include such

WHO's shock statistics

The World Health Organisation (WHO) revealed in a report published in Geneva recently that daily sexual acts worldwide cause about 910 000 conceptions of which 50 percent are unplanned and 25 percent are "definitely unwanted" through back-street abortions.

The WHO report — *Reproductive Health, a Key to a Brighter Future* — stressed the importance of family planning in containing the

Development in rural areas is a priority

STAR 10/7/92

The relationship between population growth and living standards has been clearly demonstrated worldwide where the total fertility rate (TFR) of women in impoverished and undeveloped areas is generally higher than that of women in developed areas

In urban areas, where the standard of living is on the whole higher, the average birth rate is three per woman. In rural areas this climbs to an average of nearly six per woman

Clearly part of the solution to the population crisis is to work at improving the living standard of all the people, but particular emphasis must be placed on rural development for it is in here that the greatest poverty and lowest living standards are experienced.

Lack of development in rural areas in most African countries has led to increased movement of people to the cities, which creates its own problems — lack of housing and unemployment

Those left behind on the land are caught up in a web of poverty exacerbated by malnutrition, low productivity, and a decrease in agricultural production, of which high birth and death rates are a feature

It is imperative that living standards in rural areas are urgently improved and that support is given to programmes for rural development

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Advice on family planning

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The Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa offers an advice service to the public Its motto "Small families have big plans for the future", fittingly supports the advantages of small families However, the organisation stresses its belief that the decision for sterilisation must be completely voluntary

The association offers free advice on both male and female sterilisation and will happily answer any questions people might ask.

For more information contact them at (011) 880-2643 or at Box 41636 Craighall 2024

Women hold key to world development

STAR 10/7/92

The status of women is a determining factor in any population-development programme, and the influence a woman can exert on the family is largely determined by her level of education

In Africa, and in many developing countries around the world, the status of women and recognition for the role they play in the community, is so low that they form part of the syndrome labelled the "feminisation of poverty"

It is a sad fact that instead of becoming part of the solution, women still remain part of the problem, often through no fault of their own.

This will continue until attitudes towards women, particularly in rural areas, change

The international conference on "Population Development in the 21st Century", held in Am-

tional state during pregnancy and breastfeeding affect the health of the child, and their education and degree of control over family resources affects the child's mental and physical development.

Discrimination against women is still common in many societies, but more particularly in traditional communities

Women are still often regarded as "poor investments" when it comes to education and this is highlighted by statistics

In Africa the figures show that at primary school level there are 80 girls for every 100 boys At secondary school level this drops to only 47 girls to 100 boys

Female literacy in Africa is put at about 38 percent and out of the world's 949 million illiterates in 1985, nearly two thirds, or 592 million, are women

World Population Day It is a day commemorated each year by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to highlight the awareness of population issues worldwide.

It was in 1987 that, according to UNFPA calculations, the population of the world reached the 5 billion mark.

Now, only five years later, the figure of 5 billion has grown to 5,5 billion.

By the turn of the century, at current estimates, the figure will be in excess of 6,5 billion and by the year 2 025, there will be more than 8,5 billion people.

Growth

The world population scenario looks grim, indeed, but the outlook for Africa, which is expected to experience the largest population increase of any continent over the next 10 years, is even worse — with an estimated 900 million people fighting for existance

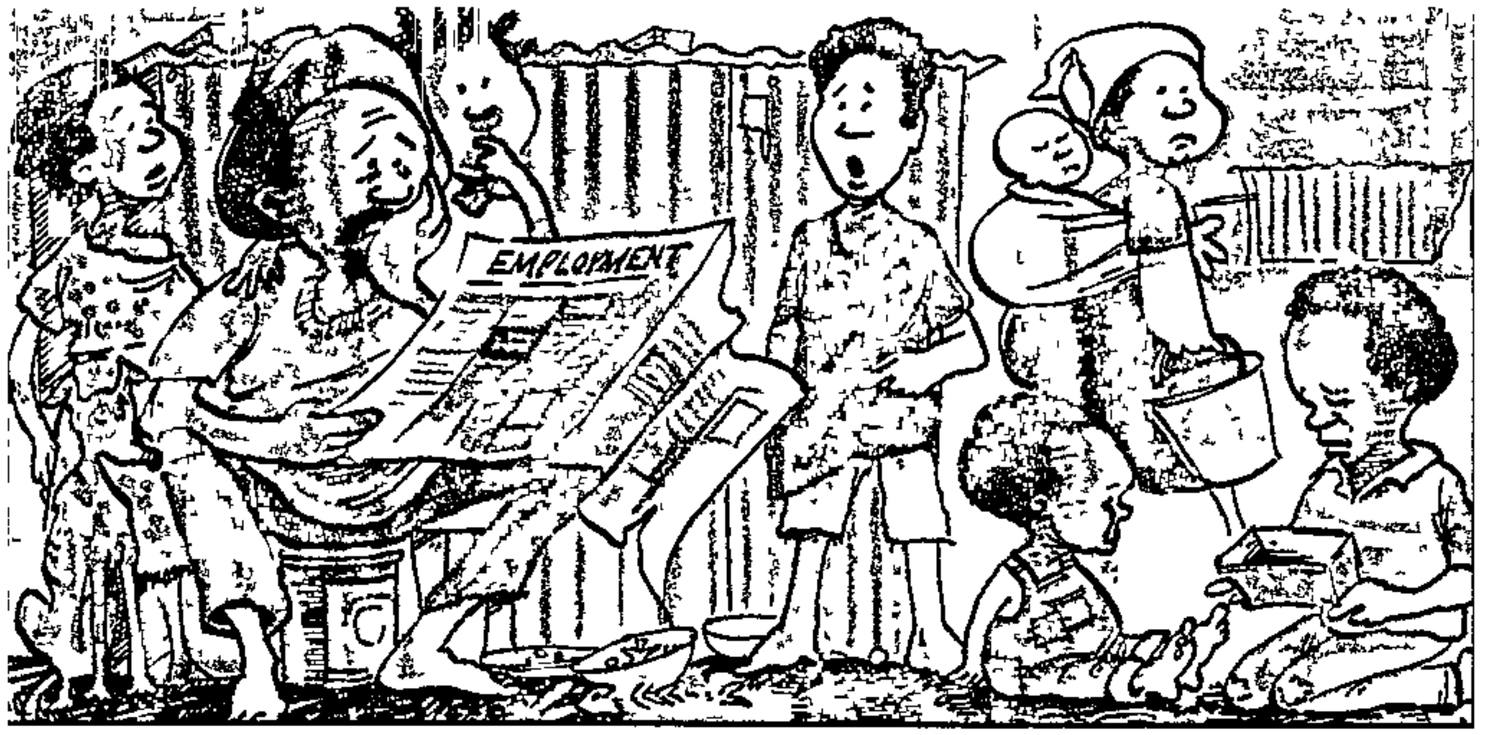
The population of South Africa, following the trend of the rest of Africa, is increasing by 2,3 percent a year

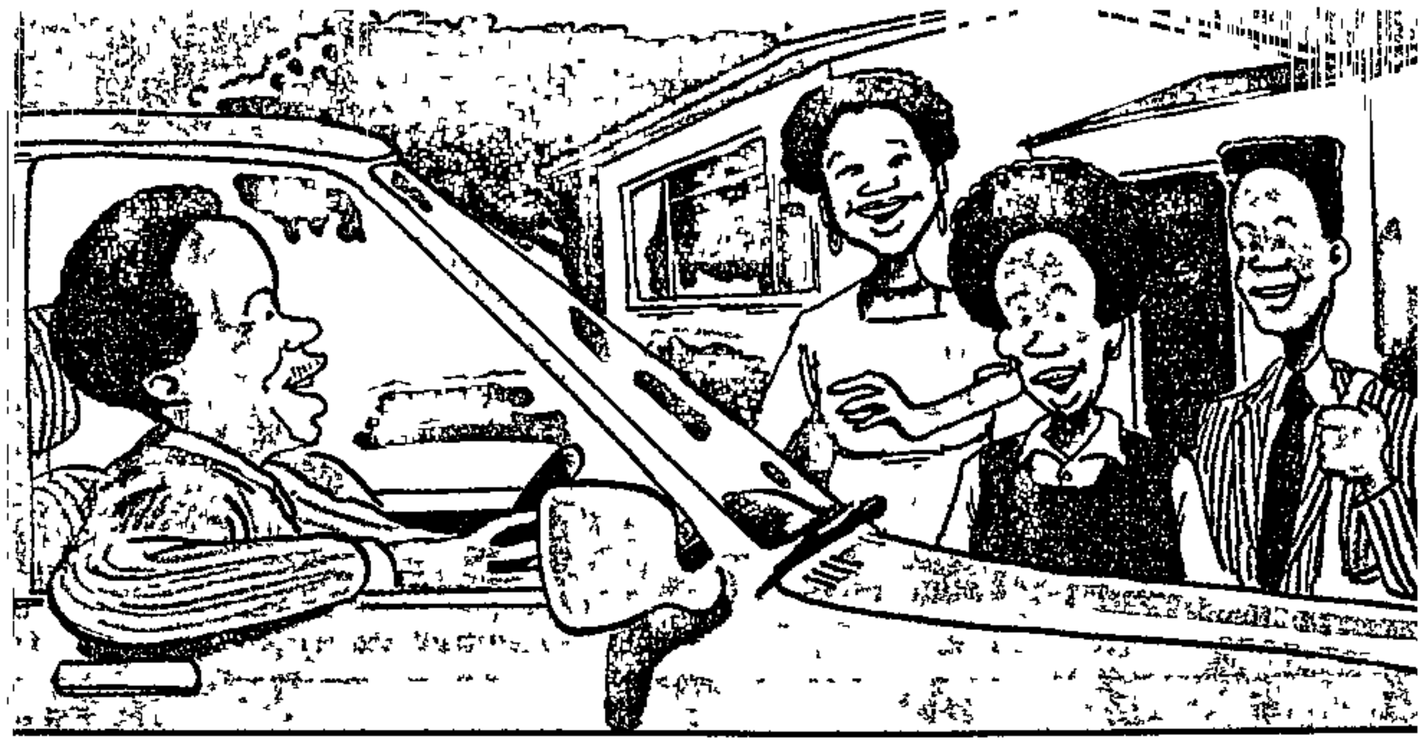
The present population figure for South Africa (including the TBVC) countries, is 39 million, but it is estimated that, at current growth rates, by the year 2 025 South Africa will have a population of 80 million people; and by 2 100 that figure will have increased to a horrifying 464 million

There is evidence, however, that there may have been a decline in the fertility rate in South Africa and if this continues to drop the estimated population of the country will only reach 110 million by the year 2 100

This is still an unacceptable figure and it has been calculated that the maximum number of people that can be supported on the resources available is 80 million.

It has been calculated that the 80 million mark will be reached within the lifespan of the present generation It is up to this generation to prevent the crisis of overpopulation in the future





Growing pains The average birth rate in urban areas is three children per woman In rural areas, however, it climbs to an average of almost six children per woman It is in these areas that the greatest poverty exis

Contraception key to family planning

STAR 10/7/92

Any population control plan must centre on modern effective family-planning techniques — and a long-term drop in fertility rates can only be brought about with voluntary and widespread use of contraceptive methods.

Recent evidence has shown that fertility is now declining in all major regions of the world. This is even found in Africa, traditionally a high fertility/low contraceptive use area

According to United Nations figures, the total fertility rate in undeveloped countries is now at about 3,6 percent and 51 percent of couples in these regions now use contraception on a regular basis.

However, to maintain a drop in the fertility rate to a UN projection of 3,3 percent, the target figure for contraceptive use must rise to 59 percent — an increase of 186 million users

The emphasis in any family-planning programme must be on voluntary birth control, and thus education in the benefits of limiting the number of children in a family is essential.

Parents will only be willing to limit the number of children they bring into the world if it makes good sense to them

The key to effective family planning lies in a better understanding of life.

In South Africa, the birth control issue has been a somewhat contentious issue and has been seen by some as a ploy by the Government to control the black population.

A great deal of resistance was found in implementing or encouraging birth control.

However, there has recently been a change of attitude and in an article in *Salus* magazine, Dr C A van der Merwe, chief director of Population Development, says that the department's programme "has succeeded in recent years in establishing a strong awareness about population-growth problems among a large proportion of the population"

Surveys in both rural and urban areas "show awareness levels are between 68 and 82 percent"

Writing in the forward to Johannes Jordaan's book, "Population Growth — Our Time Bomb", Dr Nthato Motlana says that in the past the population growth has unfortunately been a highly politicised issue.

"However," he says, "the time has come for all leaders in our country — in the church, business sphere, education, politics and in the community — to express themselves openly in the democratic realities in South Africa so that the meaningful debate about what needs to be done about the present rate of population growth can start."

In many cultures large families has been the norm, based on the principle that more children are needed to help with the raising of crops and animals

High mortality rates are also a factor, with the hope that even if some of the children died, there would be others to take their place

This perception is now on the decline

Many parents are beginning to realise that when resources are limited it is preferable to raise a small, healthy, family than to have many children who will suffer from the limitations of poverty

Women should play a vital role in choosing the size and spacing of a family, but too often they have little or no say in the matter

This is particularly the case in rural areas where very few women have had sufficient education to play a meaningful role in the development of the families

Dr Motlana says the change in attitudes is significant in that family planning is not merely a matter of providing contraceptive services

"The ability to take advantage of family planning is part of an attitude to life, created by an environment in which everyone has opportunities and choices

"Opportunities include such factors as equality for women and education and health facilities.

"Choices in family planing are a private matter, but the individual decision needs the support of all levels of the community"

WHO's shock statistics

The World Health Organisation (WHO) revealed in a report published in Geneva recently that daily sexual acts worldwide cause about 910 000 conceptions of which 50 percent are unplanned and 25 percent are "definitely unwanted"

About 150 000 abortions are performed every day worldwide and every year there are between 15 and 22 million illegal abortions, the report says About 500 women die every

die through back-street abortions.

The WHO report — *Reproductive Health, a Key to a Brighter Future* — stressed the importance of family planning in containing the world population explosion, saying that about 300 million couples worldwide still did not have access to contraception

It said sub-Saharan Africans have the least access to family-planning services

Development in rural areas is a priority

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In urban areas, where the standard of living is on the whole higher, the average birth rate is three per woman. In rural areas this climbs to an average of nearly six per woman

Clearly part of the solution to the population crisis is to work at improving the living standard of all the people, but particular emphasis must be placed on rural development for it is in here that the greatest poverty and lowest living standards are experienced

Lack of development in rural areas in most African countries has led to increased movement of people to the cities, which creates its own problems — lack of housing and unemployment

Those left behind on the land are caught up in a web of poverty exacerbated by malnutrition, low productivity, and a decrease in agricultural production, of which high birth and death rates are a feature

It is imperative that living standards in rural areas are urgently improved and that support is given to programmes for rural development.

There are nearly 6 million people living on farms in South Africa in a largely Third World environment These people, mostly farm labourers and their families are in most cases totally dependent on the farmers An estimated 80 percent of farm workers can neither read no write and there is limited access to schools clinics and training centres Compounding the problem is the high birth rate of an average of 5,8 children per woman

Advice on family planning

STAR 10/7/92

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It is a sad fact that instead of becoming part of the solution women still remain part of the problem, often through no fault of their own

This will continue until attitudes towards women, particularly in rural areas, change

The international conference on "Population Development in the 21st Century", held in Amsterdam in Holland in 1989, issued a declaration which called for the recognition of women as central to the development process

It stated that the improvement of "their status and the extent to which they are free to make decisions affecting their lives and the of the family or

tional state during pregn and breastfeeding affec health of the child, and education and degree of co over family resources a the child's mental and phy development.

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In South Africa there about 3 million women cannot read or write

In its booklet "Popul Growth — a Critical De the Department of Popu Development suggests tha tain factors are necessa improve the status of wom

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Blanket restrictions are most common in the Third World*

Abortion non-issue in most of the world

Sowetan 27/7/92

BIRTH CONTROL *Abortion is not a topic that engages the minds of the public except in only three of the world's nations:* 237

By John Wright

WASHINGTON — While the debate on abortion rages in America, Poland and Ireland the issue is barely discussed in many other countries, including those that ban abortion and others where it is government funded

Abortion is often illegal in Latin America and the Middle East where organised protests against the bans are rare and the influence of Roman Catholicism and Islam - which oppose abortion - are strong

In Western Europe abortion is almost always legal

An Associated Press survey of abortion laws on six continents found that prosperous nations are most likely to have liberal abortion policies, while blanket restrictions are most common in the Third World

In this year's presidential race, President Bush is opposed to legalised abortion and Democratic challenger Bill Clinton supports a woman's right to choose an abortion without government interference

Brazil - Abortion is illegal in Brazil except in cases of rape or a health risk to the mother. But judges usually delay so long in authorising abortions that permission comes too late

Canada - Abortion is legal under all circumstances in Canada which has no law on abortion and where government-run health insurance pays the cost

Mexico - Mexican law bans abortion except in the case of rape or a life-threatening situation Still, nearly 250 000 abortions are performed every year, the Health Department says

United States - Abortion is legal although laws vary by state The abortion issue is emotional and divisive with abortion rights advocates saying the government has no right to interfere with such a personal decision and opponents saying the right of the foetus supersedes personal choice

Islamic law

Egypt - Because of Egypt's Islamic law, or Sharia, abortions are illegal except when the mother has been exposed to certain diseases or is suffering from cancer or diabetes Egypt has a serious overpopulation problem and the government sponsors birth control programmes

Israel - Abortion is allowed if continuing the pregnancy would risk the woman's psychological or physical health, among other conditions

Britain - Abortion in England, Wales and Scotland became legal through 28 weeks in 1967 but last year it was limited to 24 weeks It is not permitted in Northern Ireland The time limit is lifted in cases of deformities or when the woman's physical or mental health is threatened

Ireland - Irish voters approved an anti-abortion amendment to their constitution in 1983 by 2-1 margin The only exceptions are to save the mother's life and for the "morning-after pill" which is effective within 72 hours of conception

Denmark - Abortion was legalised in 1973, is free and granted without restrictions up to the 12th week After that the woman needs permission from a physician and psychologist

France - Abortion has been legal since 1975 provided the woman is less than 10 weeks pregnant, has parental permission if she is under 18 years old and it done by a doctor in a certified hospital

Germany - Earlier this month Parliament's upper house passed a law that grants West German women the same liberal abortion rights as East German women Women will be allowed to decide whether to have an abortion during the first three months

Referendum

Italy - Abortion is legal with few restrictions The Vatican continues to attack legalised abortion after a church-backed referendum to overturn the law in 1981 was soundly defeated

Poland - Abortion was legalised in 1956 and as soon as the Communists were toppled in 1989 the Catholic Church began pressing the new government to outlaw it

Russia - Abortions became legal in the Soviet Union in 1956 and are performed free through official medical institutions through three months

Scandinavia - National health insurance pays for abortions in Norway, Finland and Sweden where there is little opposition

Spain - The law allowing abortion went into effect in 1985 It allows abortion in case of rape or incest, danger to mother's life or foetal deformation

Switzerland - Abortion is illegal except when doctors certify the mother's life is threatened or she risks "lasting grave damage to her health"

Africa - Most of the poor and overpopulated countries in Africa prohibit abortion under nearly all conditions Among the few exceptions are the more developed nations of South Africa and Zimbabwe

South Africa - Abortion was legalised in 1975 in cases where pregnancy threatens the mother's physical or mental health, if there is evidence of birth defect, or in cases of rape or incest Potential danger to the mother's mental health is given as the main reason for the 700 to 1 100 legal abortions each year

Zimbabwe - Abortion has been legal since 1978 in case of danger to the woman's mental or physical health, in cases of birth defects, and situations of rape or if the pregnant woman is under 16 or mentally handicapped

Australia - Although abortion is freely available in Australia, the Catholic-backed Right to Life Association opposes construction of an abortion clinic in Canberra, the nation's capital

China - Abortion is integral to strict family planning policy which tries to restrict couples to one child China is the world's most populated country, with 1,13 billion people Women are often encouraged and even coerced into having abortions

India - Abortion was legalised in 1971 A woman who is under 18 or is mentally unstable needs to get her guardian's consent The law recommends abortion before 12 weeks but it can be done up to 20 weeks if two doctors agree the pregnancy would risk the woman's life or mental health, or would result in a damaged baby

Japan - Japan allows abortion until the end of 21st week in cases of birth defects, mental illness or retardation of the mother or her partner, if the pregnancy could harm a mother's health or economic situation, or if rape or incest caused the pregnancy - *SA Press Association-AP*

Abortion the 'first choice' in family planning

(231)

ARG 1/9/92

LONDON. — More than 500 million women worldwide risk unwanted pregnancies because they lack access to reliable contraception, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) said today

In many countries reliable contraceptives were simply not available, the IPPF said in its 40th anniversary report But the estimate also included adolescents who did not know how to prevent pregnancy and women who were dissatisfied with the contraceptive methods available to them

The IPPF, which groups family-planning bodies in more than 130 countries and campaigns for wider availability of contraception, said the problem was not exclusive to the developing world.

In the United States, there were more than 600 000 unintended pregnancies each year among 15 to 19-year-olds More than half of these were terminated by abortion

In Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union there were close to 30 million teenagers, most of whom did not have access to family-planning education and services. In these countries, more than 13 million abortions were reported each year, the IPPF said

"Abortion is tragically being used as the first and only choice of family planning method by women in these countries due to lack of any alternative We must face this reality and offer other options," IPPF secretary-general Mr Halfdan Mahler said in a statement

In developing countries in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa few family planning clinics offered their services to unmarried women and many women were forced to resort to illegal and often unsafe abortions, the IPPF said

In Nigeria, abortion complications were responsible for 72 percent of deaths of women under 19, it said — Sapa-Reuter

(23T) ARG 2/10/92

'Population rise can't be ignored'

EAST LONDON. — Population growth is a problem for South Africa "which cannot be ignored or denied any longer", according to an expert from the University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Chemera-Dan was speaking at an Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa) conference on an integrated approach to population development in East London

Development was the best way of lowering the population growth rate, and reducing the population growth rate was integral to successful development, said Dr Chemera-Dan

He warned against confusing population policy control with a policy on birth control, since it was broader than contraception

While advocating family planning, he felt it was important to raise the status of women in society and her right to control her fertility

Dr Chemera-Dan said it was clear internationally that population growth was affected by social and environmental factors

Professor Bill Davies, of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, said that in order to achieve a decline in fertility levels a measure of political stability was necessary

He said the introduction of the Population Development Programme (PDP) in 1984 had created a complacency that progress would be made and that the programme was seen to be targeted at reducing the growth capacity of the African population, which reduced public confidence in it

Professor Davies said there was a "sustained population growth, particularly among Africans", which was expected to be the norm for the next few decades.

Socio-economic development must be at the forefront of population development, said Dr Boet Schoeman of the Department of National Health and Population Development

He said fertility was linked to primary health care and education

Ms Susan Macala from the National Health Department and Ms Barbara Klugman from the Centre for Health Policy at the University of the Witwatersrand focused on the crucial role of women in population development

"An improvement in women's status in society is generally considered the key indicator of the success of a population policy, because it correlates directly with a reduction in fertility," said Ms Klugman, referring to the Amsterdam Declaration on population

The indicators included the level of education, participation in wage employment and representation in political decision-making

Women with access to education and income were more likely to feel in control of their lives, said Ms Klugman

She said it had been shown that fertility rates were often highest where there was grinding poverty — Ecna

Grimbeek said man said

Councillor reinstated

ADRIAN HADLAND

SUSPENDED Sandton councillor Frederick Ehlers was reinstated yesterday following an emergency meeting of the town council.

B/DAY

The council, which suspended Ehlers for 60 days in August, voted to rescind the suspension only minutes before its responding affidavits were due at the Rand Supreme Court.

7/10/92

Ehlers, who has served about 40 days of his suspension, had brought an urgent application two weeks ago calling for the council to withdraw the motion that had removed him from office.

The suspension, which was imposed for interfering with council business and disputing the authority of mayor Bruce Burns, followed the suggestion by Ehlers that council tendering procedures were vulnerable to bribery and corruption.

A walk-out by councillors and council officials, who believed Ehlers had impugned their honour by referring to corruption, prompted the suspension.

A number of initiatives aimed at resolving the dispute between the council and Ehlers failed.

Sandton management committee chairman Willem Hefer said the whole matter centred around the question of Ehlers' apology.

"We hope that he will make the apology and resolve the matter once and for all," he said.

Ehlers said he was delighted at the reinstatement but added the matter of costs had yet to be decided.

Race and job play part in measuring length of life

B/Day 7/10/92 (237)

GAVIN DU VENAGE

LIFE expectancy in SA can depend on one's race group and one's job.

Manual labourers die sooner than those in physically less demanding jobs, says Alexander Forbes actuary Garry Schoonbee, who adds that, historically, blacks have shorter life expectancy than whites.

Schoonbee says recently compiled figures on mortality rates are important in calculating how long people live, and how this will affect pension funds.

Medical advances are keeping people alive longer than even a decade ago, which means more costs for pension funds For example, annuitants insured between 1900-1920 were expected to live 76 years (men) and 78 years (women).

However, the 1967-1970 forcast is 79 years for men and nearly 83 years for women. Although the increase in lifespan may seem negligible in real terms, the financial difference is significant.

Schoonbee says the interest calculable for each year a person lives and draws a pension will affect actuarial planning on how a pension is funded.

More people are living longer, and this will increase demands on pension funds. Other factors, such as AIDS, which reduces the population but affects the young rather than the old, will complicate matters

Most figures used in SA on longevity were compiled in the UK, as collection methods were more reliable and the population larger and more homogeneous, making it easier to get reliable data, Schoonbee says.

●Proposal follows death certificate workshop

Death document updated

Sowetan 15/10/92 (237)

■ Proposed certificate has different format; will be more efficient than present one:

By Mokgadi Pela

MEDICAL authorities have called for new death certificates that would provide more accurate information and conform to international standards

This follows a death certificate workshop by the Department of National Health and Population Development, Home Affairs and mortality researchers The objective of the workshop was to produce a death certificate that

- Would fulfill medico-legal requirements in South Africa,
- Would improve the quality of data received,
- Could be computerised to enable easy analysis and early intervention in health-related matters, and
- Could be used for international comparison of cause of death certificates

Forms will be in English and Afrikaans, and data to be recorded are identity number, surname, names, date of birth, estimated age, date of death, stillbirth

Other requirements are body weight and cause of death

FOCUS ON ABORTION: No matter how difficult or dangerous, no matter how sever

It hurts, it's illegal, it can kill

W/Mail 6/11 - 12/11/92 (237)

Both the conservative white right and the militant township left have one issue in common: an intense antagonism to abortion. MARK GEVISSER looks at the law and politics of unwanted pregnancy

Informers, we will destroy you, haai haai!
Witches we will burn you, haai haai!
Those who commit abortions will be destroyed, haai haai!
Mrs Botha is barren — she gives birth to rats, haai haai!
Mrs Mandela is fertile — she gives birth to comrades, haai haai!

THIS toyi-toyi chant was popular among young comrades in the northern Transvaal during the insurrection of the mid-1980s

Fifteen years earlier, in 1973, the then-Minister of Health Dr LAPA Munnik was criticised in parliament by Helen Suzman because he had no women on a commission of inquiry into abortion Munnik responded "If one wanted to abolish capital punishment, one would not appoint a bunch of murderers to go into the matter"

And in the last few years, South Africa Pro-Life chairman Dr Claude Newbury has publically compared abortion to Nazi atrocities "In the Holocaust," he says, "the Nazis killed six million people because they decided that these people were unwanted and a burden on society Now, doctors all over the world kill over 60-million unborn children a year, using the very same arguments"

Caught somewhere in the middle of this rhetoric is a 14-year-old Cape Town girl, already raped and pregnant, forced to endure the further trauma of trying to prove to the supreme court that she needs an abortion Ignored by comrades on the left and moral guardians on the right is the naked fact that, despite (or more likely because of) heavy restrictions on legal abortion in South Africa, up to 200 000 women a year undergo risky "backstreet" abortions anyway

The 200 000 figure is the estimate of the Abortion Reform Action Group (Arag) Government officials pooh-pooh it, but even the Department of National Health — which makes no bones about its antipathy to legalised abortion — puts the figure at 42 000 per year

Wits University specialist gynaecologist Dr James McIntyre notes that Baragwanath Hospital alone sees 3 000 induced miscarriages a year, "and we estimate that 60 percent of these are due to botched backstreet abortions That means 2 000 a year at Bara alone, 10 to 20 a day who require urgent medical attention and who often land up with permanent physiological and emotional damage"

> At Baragwanath alone, there are 10 or 20 women a day who need urgent medical attention after botched abortions

Contrast this with the fact that only 1 000 women are granted legal abortions each year And that only 40 percent of all the applications for legal abortion are granted The vast majority of unwanted South African pregnancies are thus terminated illegally because the restrictions on abortion are so great, because the process of procuring a legal abortion is so difficult, or simply because they do not even know that they might be entitled to a legal abortion

The Abortion and Sterilization Act, passed in 1974, allows for legal abortions only when there is proven rape or incest, or when the continuing pregnancy will seriously affect the mental or physical health of mother or foetus

But what makes the law so impossible, explains Dr Helen Rees, national president of the Planned Parenthood Association, "is the process a woman has to go through to prove this. She needs to get the signature of three doctors, one of whom must be a state employee, and the operation needs to be performed in a state-controlled hospital"

Because it is much easier to prove mental incapacity than physical danger, the majority of legal abortions — 53 percent — are on psychiatric grounds And this, continues Rees, "works to the benefit of wealthy white women, who have access to psychiatrists and the money and power needed to manipulate the system How many psychiatrists are there, after all, in rural black clinics?"

Added to this is the fact that the state has selectively applied the law, usually tempting "criminal" women with indemnity by asking them to turn state witness against

HOW WOMEN GET LEGAL ABORTIONS

LEGAL ABORTIONS

WHO
800-1000 women are given permission to abort every year

WHERE
In any state hospital and in specially-designated private clinics.

HOW
Women are entitled to legal abortions in cases of rape or incest or if childbirth endangers [illegible] health of mother or foetus. If you feel that you cannot cope with the pregnancy, you may ask to have your mental state evaluated.

PROS
Performed under hygienic conditions by trained medical officials.

CONS
- Difficult to get if a woman has no history of psychological instability
- Can take as long as three weeks to get through bureaucracy Sometimes women have to wait into their second trimester
- Rural women hardly ever get legal abortions because there are no (or very few) state registered psychiatrists in rural areas.
- Because doctors can be held responsible, they tend to interpret the law very conservatively

COST: R100-R2 000

MORNING-AFTER PILL

WHO
Its use is quite widespread but many women do not know of this easy and reliable option

WHERE
At any family planning clinic [illegible] your gp [illegible]

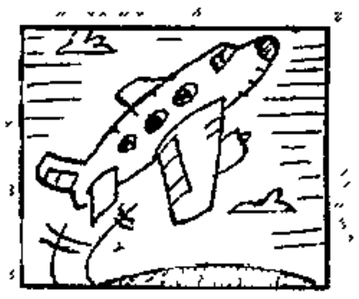
HOW
The pills are [illegible] within 72 hours of unprotected [illegible] knows if she is pregnant. It consists of two doses of high oestrogen content pills taken 12 hours apart.

PROS
- Quick and highly effective (99%)

CONS
- It is accompanied by nausea and should be taken with anti-nausea medication.
- It disrupts the menstrual cycle
- It should not be used regularly as a contraceptive, because the high oestrogen content can be dangerous.

COST
Either free from family planning clinics or dispensed with a prescription from your general practitioner.

FLYING THE COOP



WHO
A few hundred wealthy women fly abroad each year for abortions.

WHERE
Many women do the "Maputo Run", but the most common — and safest — destination is the United Kingdom, where the state has set up a Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS) for overseas women coming to the country for abortions.

PROS
- Easy to get an abortion once there. PAS advertisements are well-displayed in public places.
- Intensive counselling
- Sterile conditions.

CONS
- Limited to the wealthy.

COSTS
About R 1 500 plus the cost of the flight, unless you are British

CASE STUDIES: THREE WOMEN TALK OF THEIR DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES OF ABORTION

W/Mail 6/11 - 12/11/92.

THE QUASI-LEGAL ROUTE

ONE month, Angela didn't bleed. At first she thought it was because she was traumatised, having just ended a long-term relationship. But then the nausea started and her breasts began to swell and ache.

Her gynaecologist said she was six weeks pregnant. "There was no way that on an emotional or financial level I could feel comfortable about bringing up a child," says Angela, who is unemployed and in her mid-twenties "I know a lot of miserable single mothers. I don't like the idea of an unwanted child or a child who will be deprived in any way

"I heard about a back street abortionist in town. But there are no guarantees with back street abortions I've heard some horrific stories .."

She wanted "the whole thing to be clean and above-board" And so, despite the immense risk at which he put himself, Angela's gynaecologist said he was prepared to procure a "legal" abortion for her That's when the three-week technical paperwork process began.

She had to have a consultation with a psychiatrist who signed a form stating that having a child would be detrimental to her mental health. (She was at the time depressed to the point of feeling suicidal)

Then there was the back-up form in which a medical number was allocated, one from her GP and another in which the superintendant of the general hospital granted permission for the termination of pregnancy

Pro-choice activists make much of how traumatic this bureaucratic process can be But Angela found it surprisingly smooth and the doctors extremely helpful "The whole time I had the sense that this was incredibly secure," she says, acknowledging that all those people were putting themselves on the line for her well-being.

"My gyaecologist is amazing Before I went in he said to me 'Look, you still have time to change your mind' and when I left he said 'I want to see you in a couple of days time — even if you just want to come into my office to scream and shout and stomp around'"

> It was almost as if this little spirit inside me was holding on, as much as I was resisting. And then, deep inside my belly, there was this burst. We had both let go ...

All in all the abortion cost her R3 500 — a "hell of a lot of money" that she does not really have "It really bothers me that's it is mainly rich kugels who can have access to this option"

Angela does not regret her decision She says she felt surprisingly in control throughout Not for a moment did she feel that the situation had been taken out of her hands The route that she took made her feel "responsible, not criminal", she stresses However sometimes she gets this "irrational kind of bad feeling" when she does perceive herself as a killer "

"It took me a long time to reclaim my body again," she muses "I'm not sure if I have"

THE BACK STREET

"Sure I have regrets," says Amy, remembering the abortion she had three years ago the blood the fever blisters the excrement. "I regret the whole thing wasn't more civilised If abortions were legal you wouldn't have to go septic, you wouldn't have to go through the whole sordid, ugly thing"

It was Christmas 1988 when Amy found out she was pregnant. "I thought my mother would be supportive But she wasn't It was a case of 'It's your problem and don't tell your father'" That was her first big shock

And her fiancé, to whom she is now married, was adamant he did not want the child The family doctor treated her like the plague — washed his hands of her Other doctors she consulted didn't want to hear her story "I didn't know what to do I had no one to turn to"

And then Amy found out about a women's support group who had been trained by gynaecologists to perform abortions for women

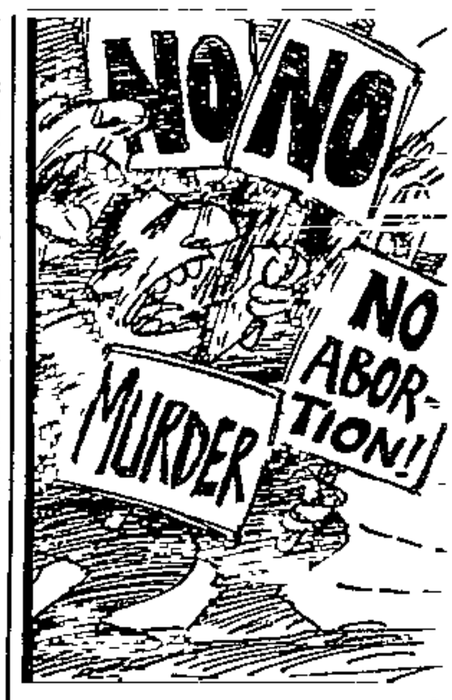
She went to see one of these women late one Friday afternoon "It was strange There was a certain mercenariness about this woman She wanted R500 to do it and claimed that it would go into a fund to buy instruments and antibiotics for less-fortunate women"

The woman said there was no reason why the abortion shouldn't be done right then and there. "So she got me on to a bed"

The procedure was to insert a catheter into the uterus and inject saline solution which causes the uterus to spontaneously abort. "But I was really tense She couldn't get the catheter through into my uterus So she told me to come back the following afternoon"

After 24 hours of vomitting and "feeling like death" Amy returned "Now this woman was far more organised She had instruments, a trestle table, a big light to get at me at just the right angle"

The woman struggled and struggled to get the catheter into her "It was almost as though this little spirit inside me was holding on as much as I was resisting And then, deep inside my belly, there was this burst. We had both let go She got the catheter in, injected and then it was all over She gave me a cup of tea and sent me on my way"



First Amy was very cold and [illegible] she developed a raging fever She was climbing in and out of cold baths her entire body shaking uncontrollably She started vomitting again and then lost control of her bowels She was bleeding excessively and getting weaker and weaker

At three in the morning her [illegible] rushed her to hospital "The doctors were amazing They never asked [illegible] and why — just how, so they [illegible] deal with it."

They discovered that Amy had septi-

W/Mail 6/11 - 12/11/92

ere the penalties, desperate women still flock to backstreet abortionists

...but 200 0000 women do it

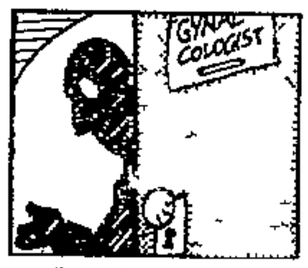
w/mail 6/11-12/11/92. (237)

HOW WOMEN GET ILLEGAL ABORTIONS

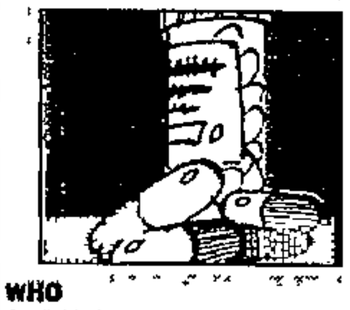
SYMPATHETIC DOCTOR

WHO
Gynaecol[illegible] $0mn general prac[illegible] [illegible] ex passion or n[illegible]
WHERE
Some g[illegible]
HOW
Most o[illegible] and curettage (D&C), which doctors do for a variety of other reasons, thereby disguising the real reason in their patient notes. The womb is scraped causing th[illegible]
PROS
- High success rate, if done early.
- Medical aid will pay for D&C.
- Done u[illegible] conditions
CONS
- Option available only to women with access to health care
- Doctors face being struck off the role and criminal prosecution.

COST: R1 000-R3 500



PROSTOGLANDINS



WHO
Available from gynaecologists
HOW
A tablet which induces bleeding, causing an abortion. Not registered as an abortive drug and illegal.
PROS
Safe if it is done in a sterile environment and bleeding is monitored.
CONS
Very few doctors willing to dispense prostoglandins.
COST: R200-R600

THE BACKSTREET

WHO
By far the easiest option available to South African women. The many thousands who go to backstreet abortionists cross all cultural and age boundaries. Doctors estimate that the vast majority [illegible] 40 000 to 200 000 women who about each year go this route.
WHERE
Usually in a backroom of the abortionist's house. One nurse comments that "there's an abortionist on every str[illegible] every township".
HOW
These are really incomplete abortions caused by the introduction of a foreign body into the uterus. In most cases, a catheter is inserted to provoke bleeding. In other cases, anything from saline to detergent to Dettol is injected into the womb. In rural areas, abortionists use bark, roots and herbs. Women are then instructed to go to a hospital as soon as bleeding starts.
PROS
- None, except that it is easily available
CONS
- It is illegal.
- Danger of infection, bleeding and septicaemia, kidney failure and long-term infertility; possible death.
- Perforation of the uterus

COST: R200 or less

Research Fenal Haffejee
Drawings: Rico

[illegible]cfit their doctors "The law," explains Rees, "was initially passed to give doctors discretion in deciding when a woman is eligible for abortion But the fact that a doctor can face up to five years in prison means that he or she is likely to interpret the law very conservatively indeed"

There are, for example, almost no legal teenage abortions granted, even though any girl younger than 15 is entitled to one, as any act of intercourse with someone younger than 15 is classified as statutory rape.

It's little wonder then, that most women — and particularly black women who cannot afford the legal process or the trip to a country where abortions are easier to obtain — resort to dangerous backstreet procedures "A woman will have an abortion whether it is legal or not," comments Arag founder Dr Marjorie Dyer "She has a problem and if she can't solve it in a hospital she'll solve it in the backstreet, no matter what the consequences Doesn't it make sense then to legalise the process so that that it is safe and hygienic?"

The main reason for liberalising the law, Dyer feels, "is to preserve womens' health Statistics the world over prove that where abortions are legal and subsidised the backstreet industry collapses And statistics also prove that no family planning programme is effective if not accompanied by the right to abortion"

Dyer's campaign has been falling on deaf ears for nearly two decades now -Health Minister Rina Venter is adamant that the law will not be amended or liberalised in any way, despite submissions from bodies as august as the South African Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians

Venter cites a survey her department conducted in 1991, in which 98 percent of the 48 000 respondents were against changing the law Pro-choice activists, however, have slammed Venter's methodology the call for submissions was made through newspapers, thus limiting it to literate people, and most of the submissions seem to have been roneoed form-letters generated by Pro Life organisations

But it is not only the fundamentalist far-right that is opposed to abortion Even within the African National Congress, the issue is flammable and unresolved Despite strong submissions from both the Women's League and the Health Department calling for an inclusion on the right to abortion in the movement's Bill of Rights, all that could finally be mustered was a lukewarm clause about womens' "rights to control their own bodies" This prevarication is particularly glaring, given the ANC's otherwise remarkably progressive gender policy

Women's League media officer Lindiwe Zulu explains "While ANC National Executive Committee members are largely in favour of abortion reform, a large chunk of our grassroots is still fervently opposed to it, and so we have committed ourselves to an education process on the ground."

Why are many women still so opposed to abortion in South Africa? Wits University sociologist Liz Walker recently interviewed 35 African female health-workers in Soweto, and came up with some startling conclusions

"The women," she says, "were overwhelmingly opposed to abortion, and felt such hostility to patients seeking to terminate pregnancy that they often refused point-blank to tell patients of their legal options"

Religion, Walker found, actually had very little to do with it "Most of the antipathy stemmed from the fact that, in African culture, womanhood is defined by mothering. A termination of a pregnancy is thus seen as a termination of motherhood, and thus womanhood The women I spoke to placed fertility at the centre of their being, and they saw any denial of this fertility to be untenable"

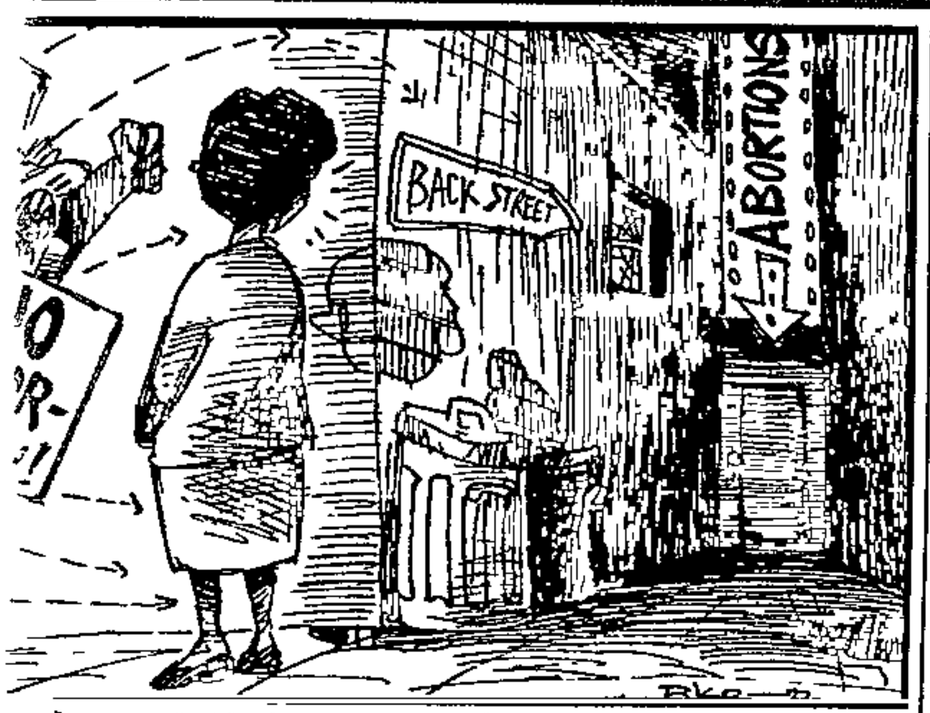
Looking north at independent African states with even stricter legislation than our own, Rees points to an irony "Abortion was practised in Africa in pre-colonial times and restrictions were introduced only with colonialism Now the colonists have gone home and liberalised their own laws, while Africans have kept the restrictions in the name of 'traditional culture'"

> In African culture, womanhood is defined by mothering The women I spoke to placed fertility at the centre of their being, and they saw any denial of this fertility to be untenable."

Abortion myths

[illegible] neat [illegible] DO NOT [illegible] is nothing you can do [illegible] [illegible] doctor

... AND TALK OF FEAR, PAIN AND A WILLINGNESS TO DO IT AGAIN



[illegible] caemia — her blood was poisoned She had a roaring temperature, so they could not operate. She was on all kinds of drugs but her temperature was not coming down.

The doctor told her that if in 24 hours she hadn't stabilised she would have to have a hysterectomy And that was the turning point "I realised that I had given up the will to fight and live because my family just hadn't been there for me But now they were with me, sitting at the side of my bed worrying about me

"I think the shock shifted something in me I decided I wasn't going to give up — and when I woke up my temperature was down"

"When I left hospital later, they said I d never have children. The fact that I now have a little girl is a miracle," she says.

THE DOCTOR'S ROOM

THOKO was nineteen years old and breast-feeding her first child when she discovered she had fallen pregnant again Her husband had just left the country It was 1976

Contraception was not on my mind I hadn't even got my period back," she says "In our black culture contraception was taboo and there was even a belief that the pill made you pregnant because you put on weight when you start taking it"

A girl she knew from high school told her about a woman close to where she lived who would help her to abort. It would cost her R20 "That was a lot of money then," she says

At the consultation the woman asked her to return a few days later with some cotton wool, some household antiseptic, and the money

"When I returned she had laid out some plastic and a blanket on the bedroom floor She told me to take of my panties and my dress — because it may be soiled, so I lay on the floor with my short nightie on"

The woman added the antiseptic to a big jug of boiling water and took a catheter out of a plastic bag "I knew what it was because I had been a student nurse for a few months"

The woman put her whole hand inside her followed by two fingers of the other hand with the catheter "It was extremely sore and after about half an hour I was screaming and crying, and the woman became fed up with me She stopped the process and lit up one cigarette after the other" When Thoko told her she couldn't go through with it "she said OK"

When Thoko returned home she was feeling "dazed, tired and sore" She was very anxious and thought that she might die Two of her school mates had died from abortions when she was still in high school

After a bad night's sleep she awoke in excruciating pain "I got an urgent desire to go to the toilet and my whole pelvis was sore Then a lot of blood

> It was extremely sore and after about half an hour I was screaming and crying. The woman became fed up with me. She stopped and lit up one cigarette after another ...

started streaming down my legs .. clots and clots were falling into the loo there was a lump I think that was the pregnancy"

Her sister bathed her and gave her some porridge so that she wouldn't pass out and later she rested and recovered

Following this experience, she visited a family planning clinic, but found that oral contraception made her sick. "During this time my husband would go out of his way to buy condoms and gels, but in 1978 I fell pregnant again," she says

Her and her husband had no stable place to stay at the time and could not afford another child So he found her a GP in Pretoria who could perform the abortion safely, for about R40

Thoko was the last client late on a Monday afternoon "I thought I'd be safe with a GP, but it wasn't to be that way"

He performed a dilatation and curettage with no anaesthetic and not even a pain killer "It was more painful than anything I've ever experienced," she says.

"My legs were stirrupped, so I had no control I couldn't say no He insisted that I be co-operative so I couldn't even cry"

He injected her with a white solution in a big syringe which she perceived to be an antibiotic, and told her not to come back For three days she was fine Then the spotting started then the heavier bleeding When she admitted herself to casualty, she was informed that "it was an inevitable abortion" That night she went into theatre for a D+C. She woke up fine and it was all over

Since then Thoko has had three children, all of whom were planned "My husband and I don't feel we killed anyone," she says "We live our lives proudly

"This country puts Christian values at the forefront to force people to have children they can not have And then they victimise my children with those same Christian values These are not my values."

Alex Dodd

w/mail 6/11-12/11/92.

Party should back legalised abortion — Suzman

ARGT 16/11/92 (237)

Political Staff

VETERAN anti-apartheid campaigner Mrs Helen Suzman wants the Democratic Party to take a pro-abortion stance.

She said at the DP congress in Johannesburg that the party and its forerunners had never balked at a contenious issue.

If the DP was going for power it had to make its policy clear on all contentious issues, Mrs Suzman said She therefore proposed a resolution that the party back a pregnant woman's right to decide for herself whether she wanted to give birth.

Mrs Suzman said outgoing President Bush had lost many female votes because of his stand on abortion.

The population explosion was an enormous problem and "no country has had successful population control without a liberal abortion policy"

Special wards had been opened at Baragwanath and King Edward VIII hospitals "to deal with the hundreds of self-induced abortions and back street abortions brought on by women who are determined not to have unwanted children," Mrs Suzman said.

But abortion is as contentious an issue within the DP as it was within other organisations A delegate from the Northern Transvaal, Mr Martin Brink, said an unborn child had a right to live, and its life could not be determined by the choice of the mother.

"As a Christian I do not think abortion can be Biblically substantiated," said Mr Brink

Delegates resolved to refer the abortion resolution to a party study group.

Abortion — the silence behind the screams

SOUTH 21/11 – 25/11/92.

237

Media reports have focused attention on abortion, but political parties remain vague on the issue, reports **Diane Coetzer**.

THE abortion issue is hot. Over the past weeks, newspapers have been filled with horrific statistics of the hundreds of thousands of women who undergo traumatic "backstreet" abortions every year.

And anonymous tales of women who have gone to edge of death, of infanticide and sterility abound.

Capetonians were also held captive by the recent heartrending case of a 14-year-old schoolgirl, who was raped and fell pregnant. She underwent a traumatic court ordeal to prove she needed a legal abortion

Amid all of this, however, no political party or organisation has spoken out on the issue

Not one has called for either the repeal or maintenance of the 1974 Abortion and Sterilisation Act which allows for legal abortions only when there is proven rape or incest or when the pregnancy will severely affect the mental or physical health of mother or foetus.

It was only veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, Mrs Helen Suzman, who called for the Democratic Party to take a pro-abortion stance at the party's congress in Johannesburg at the weekend

If the party was going for power, she said, it had to make its policy clear on all contentious issues.

This general silence on what many regard as a human rights issue is something workers in the field of abortion have slated as "unacceptable"

It is also in marked contrast to the American presidential elections where abortion became such a key issue that one in eight voters voted for outgoing President George Bush purely for his anti-abortion stand and many more voted against him for the same reason.

Since South Africa is a country where women make up 53 percent of the electorate, parties and organisations wishing to be involved in a democratic election need to clarify their stand on abortion, say pro-abortion organisations.

"We are very disappointed that political organisations have ducked the issue by saying its all very emotional and delicate," says Dr Marj Dyer, chairperson of the Abortion Reform Action Group (Arag) said

Helen Suzman

Anti-abortionists have also come out strongly on the question of politics and abortion.

"It must be an issue for political parties and organisations as it involves the most fundamental of human rights — and that is the right to life," says the chairperson of Pro-Life, Dr Claude Newbury

However, despite this call from both sides most parties have adopted a vague position: the NP falling in line with the law and the ANC having yet to commit itself to legalising abortion.

Dyer says. "You absolutely cannot sit on the fence because if you do you are indicating you favour the law remaining as it is.

"Organisations such as the ANC should especially address the issue — they must find it in their heart to speak up for the poor, disadvantaged, illiterate women of the country who do not have the options open to those women who can, for example, afford to travel overseas for a legal abortion"

A member of the National Women's Coalition, Mrs Gill Noero, says the poor also need to be given choices if the country is attempting to move towards democracy

This will show whether political parties are serious about redressing the imbalances of the past

Noero says it is important to emphasise the large economic cost in treating women who are admitted to hospitals as the result of backstreet abortions.

"Nothing will make men care about abortion but if we can put it in an economic context perhaps we may see a change," Noero says

Another aspect of the abortion issue is the role women will play in a future South Africa

National President of the Planned Parenthood Association Dr Helen Rees says political parties can show their commitment to development by taking a pro-choice stand

"Women are seen as the cornerstone of development and an integral part of that development process is for them to be in a position to control their fertility."

"As long as women are ghettoised into having children when they do not choose to do so, they will never be able to fully take part in the development of the country," Rees says

Anti-abortionists stress that abortion is a profoundly political issue, although in a completely different way

Newbury says it is the duty of government to arrange the affairs of the country to increase the virtue, goodness and prosperity of its inhabitants

"Economics and other such things become trivial when compared to this

"It is the tragic lesson of history that when countries condone the killing of innocent children they are bound to fall into complete moral disrepair and then anarchy," says Newbury.

"There will be no peace in the country until women stop killing their innocent children in the womb," he says

But even if political parties and organisations fail to take up the issue, women can ensure that abortion is put on the political agenda

They can do this through the Women's Charter which, under the auspices of the National Women's Coalition, will cross the length and breadth of the country canvassing women's needs and opinions

STAR 26/11/92. (237)

Stats stun delegates

Alarming statistics, showing that up to 9 000 people have died in politically related violence in SA over the 34 months ending in October, were shown to delegates at the National Peace Committee (NPC) meeting on Tuesday night.

The statistics, shown against graphs reflecting a depressed economy, met a stony silence from delegates representing the major political parties, according to an NPC source.

The statistics, provided by the SA Police, showed that between 7 000 and 9 000 people had been murdered and 15 000 seriously assaulted in politically related violence between January 1990 and last month.

B/Day 9/3/92

English is spoken in Asian homes

GERALD REILLY

THE 1991 census showed that 95% of the Asian population had English as their home language, compared with 39% of whites, 15% of coloureds and 0,2% of blacks.

Afrikaans was the home language of 57,6% of whites and 83% of coloureds.

Most blacks spoke Zulu (38,7%) Next among blacks were Northern Sotho (15,1%) and Xhosa (12,7%)

Black advancement in higher education is clear from the census report released at the weekend The number with university degrees has almost trebled since 1985, while the proportion doubled among coloureds, increased by a half among Asians and by a quarter among whites.

The proportion of people with standard six or higher qualifications increased from 32,6% in 1985 to 39,3% in 1991. 237

The report also reflects a fast-ageing population The number of whites over 65 increased by 9,4%, coloureds by 3,6% and Asians by 3,1% However, the percentage of blacks over the age of 65 declined from 4% in 1985 to 3,7% last year B/Day 9/3/92

On marital status, the census found the number of unmarried white couples living together increased by 60% since 1985 and by more than 600% since 1970

Many more 'living in sin'

W/Mail 11/12 - 17/12/92

Weekly Mail Reporter

The number of whites living together as husband and wife without being married surged in the 1980s, says the latest census (237)

According to the 1991 Population Census, this figure has risen by 87,4 percent since 1980 and by more than 700 percent since 1970.

The percentage is still small, however, at two percent of the population — compared with the 47,6 percent of the white population which is married.

The census also reports the number of divorced whites has increased from one percent of the population in 1970 to four percent in 1991.

POPULATION - VITAL STATISTICS

1993

★ Cap

SA psychiatrists urge abortion

CT 14/1/93 (237)

Staff Reporter

ABORTION should be legalised, according to most of the country's psychiatrists

In a survey conducted by the Society of Psychiatrists of South Africa (SPSA), 51% of psychiatrists supported termination on request before the 12th week of pregnancy, while 89% of respondents indicated that the act governing abortion in South Africa was unacceptable and required revision.

The survey reported in the December issue of the South African Medical Journal claimed that each year 1 000 legal abortions were performed, while up to 40 000 backstreet abortions were carried out.

Of those psychiatrists surveyed, 87,6% supported abortion on request in girls under the age of 14, and 77,6% supported it in the case of girls under the age of 16.

The act makes no automatic provision for abortion on the grounds of age.

SPSA felt that the overwhelming dissatisfaction with the act deserved serious attention as the majority of abortions performed on theraputic grounds in South Africa were based on psychiatric decisions

Population policy 'flawed'

South Africans had reached a consensus that there needed to be a population policy to lower the population growth rate, said Dr Nkosazana Zuma of the Medical Research Council yesterday

The current population strategy was "flawed from the beginning because it did not accurately reflect the needs of society," he said

Dr Zuma was addressing a primary health care strategy conference in Cape Town

"The present growth rate will make it impossible to plan and provide proper economic, social and environmental development for all," he said

Present family planning in South Africa falls under the Population Development Programme established in 1984 CT 22/1/93

"But it was not well planned and was impossible to implement owing to the oppressive nature of the state and its lack of political credibility," said Dr Zuma (237)

No easing of abortion law

(235)

Political Staff

THE Abortion and Sterilisation Act, which allows for abortion only under very limited circumstances, is to remain in force CT 6/2/93

Confirming this yesterday Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee said "moral, religious, and legal problems surrounding the issue" were difficult to address.

Two basic fundamentals were at issue — the right to a woman's physical integrity and her right to decide freely whether to terminate her pregancy — and the right to life

The minister said, for these reasons the question of abortion was being left as it was at present This meant the existing legislation would remain in place "until challenged for validity" before a future constitutional court

Paper largely as a result of an item in the hon the State President's Opening Address to Parliament this year when he said that the Government was prepared to make far-reaching proposals to strengthen the National Peace Accord, and that they were working for an urgent meeting of the signatories

We were expecting to hear something about these far-reaching proposals The items that have been enumerated by the hon the Deputy Minister really have to do with recommendations by Mr Justice Goldstone and other recommendations that are already points of discussion throughout the National Peace Accord The hon the Deputy Minister quite rightly said that the National Peace Accord was a product of the people We are all working together, but we would look forward to the suggestions that the hon the State President had in mind, because it is obviously very urgent that, in our forward planning, we know what the NP and the hon the State President are going to say

I would like to turn for a moment to the speech from the CP on this matter The condemnation that has come from that party is really quite reprehensible and disgraceful [Interjections] I would suggest that all the thousands of people that are trying to make peace in South Africa at the moment should be supported I will tell that hon member that the police themselves are very grateful indeed for the assistance that they are giving them in bringing about a peaceful situation

However, let me hold out an olive branch to that hon member and invite him to come to some of our meetings to see what operations we undertake We would like him to come and see what we are doing in the Wits-Vaal area, how we are defusing situations of violence day by day, and how those dedicated people, who are largely working for nothing to bring about peace in South Africa, are day after day doing a fine job [Time expired]

Mr W U NEL Mr Speaker, I can only endorse what my hon colleague said here It is about time that the CP joined us and actually tried to make peace rather than criticising on the side

I also want to endorse what he said about the comments made by the hon the Deputy Minister I share his disappointment, because we certainly did not hear any far-reaching proposals, as we envisaged when we listened to the speech of the hon the State President earlier

I want to come back to some of the shortcomings of the accord and the structures One of the main problems, of course, is that one needs some mechanism to convict people or at least bind them into compliance with that which they have undertaken to do Of course, because the local structures cannot be judgmental, and the regional dispute resolution structures cannot be judgmental, we need a complaints procedure That, as the hon the Deputy Minister has pointed out, is essentially something that needs to grow from within, but we need to look at it urgently [Time expired]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE Mr Speaker, I thank the hon member for Mooi River again for his contribution I absolutely agree with him The fact is we have had five instances in the past few months of parties being found guilty of contraventions the Peace Accord They were asked to distance themselves from these contraventions, and they refused to do so Something will have to be done about that [Interjections]

I also wish to thank the hon member for Bryanston for his contribution I am sure he will appreciate the fact that it would be wholly inappropriate for us to come with detailed proposals at this stage in view of the fact that this is a matter for negotiation in the forums that are available

*I cannot conclude this debate without thanking each of those 6 500 people intimately involved in this Peace Accord for the work they are doing without payment I only want to say that these peace institutions remained in place in spite of a collapse in negotiations at national level The people in South Africa must know that there cannot be peace at grassroots level if there is no peace at the highest level

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

*1 Mr J J Walsh—Defence [Question standing over]

*2 Mr J J Walsh—Transport [Withdrawn]

*3 Mr D H M Gibson—Justice [Question standing over]

VAT exemption of basic foodstuffs

*4 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Finance

(1) Whether his Department has made calculations regarding the possible impact on the budget of basic foodstuffs being exempted from value-added tax (VAT), if not, why not, if so, (a) what amount is it estimated will be involved and (b) in respect of what fiscal year have such calculations been made,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B9E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Dr T G Alant)

(1) Yes, various calculations were made for the purposes of discussion with various parties who had sought concessions through the zero rating of additional foodstuffs

(a) As no decision has yet been taken on this matter it is not possible to provide an amount

(b) The calculations were made in respect of the current year

(2) No A statement at this juncture would be inappropriate

Mr D H M GIBSON Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply I would like to ask him whether he is aware of the fact that although the inflation rate has shown a welcome drop to 9,6% per annum, food inflation is still reckoned to be 14% per annum Ordinary consumers, most especially the unemployed, pensioners and all those on fixed incomes, are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet They are also finding it increasingly difficult to believe that the Government cares about them or has any plans to help them If the Government does have plans to help them, what are those plans?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the hon member for Yeoville's supplementary question has nothing to do with the original question

Mr R M BURROWS Mr Speaker, further arising from the answer of the hon the Deputy Minister to part (1) (a) of the question, am I to understand that they have worked out a figure and they are not prepared to reveal that figure?

The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the hon member must go and read my answer

†Adv S C JACOBS Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy-Minister s reply, could he just give the House of Assembly an indication—I am not expecting amounts from the hon the Deputy Minister—of whether his department has also made calculations with regard to the exemption of medicine, and if so, whether he will make a statement about that at a later stage?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, this has nothing to do with the original question either

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Abortions reported/procured

*5 Dr Z J DE BEER asked the Minister of National Health

How many legal abortions were (a) reported for 1992 and (b) procured in terms of section 3 (1) (d) of the Abortion and Sterilization Act, 1975 (Act No 2 of 1975), in that year? B10E

†The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND TOURISM (for the Minister of National Health)

(a) 1992 (1 January to 31 October) 1 027 and

(b) 1992 (1 January to 31 October) 50 (4,9% of total)

†Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister s reply can he tell us how the various population groups are represented in the figures he quoted?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, if the hon member puts that question in writing, I am sure the hon the Minister of Health will attend to it

*6 Mr R M Burrows—Finance [Question standing over]

President Clinton: RSA leaders invited to inauguration

*7 Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs †

(1) Whether he received an invitation to attend the inauguration of the new American President on 20 January 1993, if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether he or his Department was informed of invitations to any other South African leaders to attend that function, if so,

(3) whether he will disclose the names of

cont --

We'll talk about the bathwater — but not the baby

W/Mail 12/2 - 18/2/92

(237)

By IAN CLAYTON

THE government and the African National Congress have reached a new consensus: they have both copped out of taking a stand on the abortion issue.

And both sides seem determined to carry this wishy-washyism into the new South Africa, leaving it to the future parliament or the constitutional court to deal with the matter.

Women's rights, it seems, are fine for political platforms, policy statements and posturing — but not when it comes to such fundamental issues as the right to choose whether women want to give birth.

The government's stand, even in the milieu of its new-found commitment to women's rights, is not that surprising, given its hardline opposition to any liberalisation of the abortion laws over the years.

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee and National Health Minister Rina Venter said in a joint statement this week that the question of abortion would be "left as it is at present". This means that existing legislation will remain in place until challenged before the constitution of the future. "Laws are but the expression of the prevailing mores of society. If a law is at variance with the mores, it will be struck down by the constitutional court. This principle will apply also to the abortion laws," the ministers said.

They added that the question dealt with two conflicting rights: the right to life and the right to a women's physical integrity; one values the sanctity of life above all and the other values the quality of life above all. "The moral, religious and legal problems surrounding the issue of abortion are some of the most difficult to deal with. Two basic fundamental rights are at issue here. It is therefore necessary to strike a balance between these rights. Worldwide, abortion remains a hotly debated issue."

That gobbledygook simply means the government is going to sit on the fence and avoid the issue.

Venter was confronted at a media conference last week with the horrific realities of backstreet abortions and the often tragic consequences. Surely this showed there was a need for women to have the right to choose whether they wanted an abortion, she was asked. Venter replied enigmatically: "I think the government's point of view is that it is not supportive of abortion and I think that type of problem cannot be solved by allowing backstreet abortions. Or let me say we should try to prevent that problem by making facilities available.

"I know you would say at the moment we are not in a position to do so. At least we are looking at the health delivery system by making it possible for women to receive proper care and also by making family planning facilities available to all the communities. That is why we have dealt with it fairly extensively in the primary health care programme."

Which means that the grim backstreet abortion industry is going to continue until the new South Africa faces up to the problem.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said she was not aware the organisation had taken a stand on the issue and referred inquiries to its constitutional experts.

Not that they were much more helpful: Professors Kader Asmal and Albie Sachs said that despite their personal views on the matter, the ANC had not made a decision on abortion and the future parliament would have to decide about it.

If the major political organisations are going to fudge the issue at this stage, the right to choose could be a long way off in South Africa.

Black family planning on the increase

STAR 16/2/93

(237)

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Black women in South Africa are discovering that contraception is conducive to good health and enables them to plan their families, says researcher Dr Chimere Dan

At a population growth conference, Dan said calls for black women to reject family planning were "a product of ignorance" or a type of paranoia on the part of black men who believed women could become a threat to them.

Dan, of the University of the Witwatersrand's department of sociology, criticised the perception that family planning programmes were a strategy to reduce black numbers because whites feared being swamped

Professor T S Gugushe of the Medical University of South Africa said responsible world leaders realised something had to be done immediately to curb population growth and bring it into balance with resources and sustained development

John Vorster Square	165	20	366	1 274	149	1 141	2 892	4 453	669	110	188	174	0	0
Langlaagte	9	30	135	277	18	216	256	533	166	158	25	58	0	0
Mondeor	97	65	97	298	30	287	453	637	200	1 018	31	53	0	0
Genl J Coetzee	48	10	241	1 325	84	142	463	948	556	1 359	45	103	0	0
Parkstation	40	1	95	95	23	29	41	1 866	42	0	41	5	0	0
Fairland	3	6	27	100	5	38	155	247	58	314	30	16	0	0
Lombardy East	9	7	12	58	9	115	263	384	167	612	8	13	0	0
Norwood	3	12	56	199	15	142	513	797	347	741	44	24	0	0
Parkview	2	7	58	123	13	55	399	493	150	612	36	50	0	0
Yeoville	10	3	47	200	23	84	477	362	329	562	45	23	0	5
Rosebank	2	6	23	80	9	49	221	393	78	144	33	24	0	0
Alexandra	452	11	846	571	182	36	275	393	397	181	3	0	0	0
Bramley	34	31	106	186	11	326	588	1 047	460	642	25	516	0	0
Halfway House	64	44	234	265	59	242	362	909	241	1 307	59	40	0	0
Randburg	25	50	204	389	59	153	800	1 576	639	3 087	73	88	0	0
Sandton	29	36	100	334	29	224	988	1 477	626	1 761	43	60	0	0
Linden	4	13	40	185	21	76	520	697	409	982	17	62	0	0
Hillbrow	111	51	601	1 350	168	735	2 507	2 875	1 377	1 604	173	375	0	5

Identity documents: backlog

14 Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

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(1) How many identity documents were issued in 1991 and 1992, respectively,

(2) whether there is a backlog in the issuing of these documents, if so, (a) why and (b)(i) what is this backlog and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B33E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) 1991 *1 736 424 1992 *1 841 614

(2) 1993 commenced with a backlog of one week which was mainly due to the holiday season during which a large number of the personnel involved in the processing of applications and the issuing of identity documents had been on leave The Department of Home Affairs has already taken the necessary steps to cope with the backlog and on 5 February 1993 the backlog had already been insignificant 238

*The figures include both first re-issues

Record of Understanding: releases

16 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Correctional Services †

Whether any prisoners have been released in terms of the Record of Understanding concluded between the Government and the ANC on 26 September 1992, if so, (a) how many up to the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) what (i) are the full names, (ii) are the convictions for which terms of imprisonment were served, and (iii) is the date of release, of each of these persons? B35E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Yes

(a) Since 26 September 1992 up to and including 10 February 1993, 150 prisoners were released in terms of the Record of Understanding (123 persons were released from prison in terms of the stipulations of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959), and 27 persons were released in terms of the Further Indemnity Act, 1992 (Act 151 of 1992))

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

Under normal circumstances it is departmental policy not to make known the personal particulars pertaining to individuals However, as provision has been made in the Further Indemnity Act, 1992 (Act 151 of 1992) and related regulations for the publication of the names of the persons involved, in the Government Gazette, I have deemed it fitting as an exception to furnish the names in this case These names have already appeared in the media

The following persons were released in terms of the provisions of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959)

Name	*Date of release*
August L	92 09 26
Blackey S	92 09 26
Booi Thembikile	92 09 26
Booysen T S	92 09 26
Boss A T	92 09 26
Boss N N	92 09 26
Buthelezi J	92 09 26
Chicken H	92 09 26
Dabula K V	92 09 26
Danster C	92 09 26
Dhlabathi P	92 09 26
Dick B B M	92 09 26
Dorana M	92 09 26
Duma S	92 09 26
Garendeka S	92 09 26
Gowya S	92 09 26
Gqezengele M M	92 09 26
Heteni V (Msuthu)	92 09 26
Jack V	92 09 26
Jacobs V P	92 09 26
Jama T	92 09 26
Jantjies S	92 09 26
Jawa M B	92 09 26
Khoza D	92 09 26
Khosa N J	92 09 26
Khumalo M	92 09 26
Khuzwayo V W	92 09 26
Lebepe S	92 09 26
Lwayo M	92 09 26
Lukhele D J	92 09 26
Magaba T H	92 09 26
Magagulo M M	92 09 26
Mahlangu P	92 09 26
Mahleza E	92 09 26
Majola D J	92 09 26
Majola P	92 09 26
Makeleni M	92 09 26
Malaza L	92 09 26
Maledi B Z	92 09 26
Manzini N E	92 09 26
Mashego Boet G	92 09 26
Mashego Dilai L	92 09 26
Matshile W	92 09 26
Maxasa M	92 09 26
Mbatha J	92 09 26
Mbaza A	92 09 26
Mbotyana M	92 09 26
Mdabomgaye S	92 09 26
Mdiza M	92 09 26
Mdunge S M	92 09 26
Mehlo T	92 09 26
Mene Themba	92 09 26
Mhlongo S M	92 09 26
Mjacu M (Raymond Williams)	92 09 26
Mngeni T	92 09 26

Cont - P

FM 19/2/93. (238)

seems to be supported in certain quarters, though the department doubts its viability

Though a registration card system sounds a simple and effective way of proving identity, the process is more involved To register as a voter, a person would first have to be able to produce evidence of identity, citizenship and age For those with ID documents it would be a simple process, the registration card would in effect be a duplicate ID

The process would, however, be more extensive and time-consuming for those without ID documents Considering the number of aliens in SA — including contract workers, refugees and illegal immigrants — special care would have to be taken with registration

Another aspect to be considered is that voter registration can start only once the legal basis for it has been established "This entails the passing of an electoral Act, which can follow only once the constitutional foundation for such a measure has been laid"

A drawn-out registration process will not be possible as it would be desirable for an election to take place within a reasonable time after a political settlement, said Van Wyngaardt

If an election were held at the beginning of 1994, it would imply that a registration would have to be concluded within three or four weeks at the most, Van Wyngaardt added This would require about 100 000 officials to do the job, an enormous logistical problem The estimated cost would be R400m-R450m — "an amount which could, arguably, be better utilised"

Attention would also have to be given to the question of fraudulent registrations To avoid multiple registrations by the same person, a record of all voters would have to be compiled Even by computer this will take four to six months

The most important consideration of all, said Van Wyngaardt, is the rate of registration that could possibly be achieved Authoritative sources, with African electoral experience, regard a registration rate of 60% as high for Africa But this may not be acceptable here because of our political history "The legitimacy of an election may even be a risk"

At present 84% of the potential electorate has ID documents "and it is the department's opinion that a registration of voters will not equal or exceed that percentage," said Van Wyngaardt

Because of this, a registration process is "not a viable option" In view of the requirements of simplicity, effectiveness and credibility, therefore, the department advocates the use of IDs as the basis on which to conduct an election

Special efforts — begun last year with the assistance of employers, unions, civic bodies, churches and political parties — to issue the remainder of ID documents to the 16% without, would require probably no more than R20m

Though not all parties have accepted the idea of using IDs there seems to be some consensus on accepting this method Home Affairs is now issuing 50 000-60 000 IDs a week, and Minister Louis Pienaar recently estimated that 95%-96% of the population would have IDs by March next year ■

ELECTIONS (238)

Identity crisis

FM 19/2/93

While the precise format — and date — of SA's first universal franchise election is yet to be decided at the negotiating table, the Home Affairs Department is preparing the way In addition to existing ballot boxes, a further 10 200 have been manufactured There are about 22 000 ballot boxes and all comply with international standards

About 15 200 additional folding booths have been prepared for the envisaged 7 000 polling stations — an average of 20 stations per magisterial district Items such as ultraviolet lights (for detecting indelible ink marks on voters' hands) and ink pads have been ordered

There are about 21,6m potential voters, says Home Affairs, of which 84% have identity documents — the most likely basis on which voter eligibility will be established

The racial breakdown of voters and the percentage in possession of ID books is. whites — 3,4m (98,5%); coloureds — 2,06m (88%), Asians — 645 000 (94%); blacks in SA — 12,3m (79%), and TBVC states — 3,156m (it's not known how many in these areas possess ID documents of some kind)

Detailed arrangements for the historic poll will naturally have to await the passage of an electoral Act, which can follow only once a new constitution has been agreed upon, said Home Affairs' Western Cape regional director Koos van Wyngaardt at an Idasa meeting recently

At the same time, he explained, it would not be acceptable for implementation of political agreements to be unduly delayed because of unpreparedness to conduct an election Hence the department's preliminary planning "that could serve any kind of election and system which may be decided upon"

Foremost among the aspects to be borne in mind in the preparations is that the system will be based on proportional representation The minimum voting age will be 18. Any arrangements made by the department, as well as its role, will be subject to scrutiny by the parties involved in the negotiation process. An independent electoral commission is envisaged

The main purpose of a general registration of voters would be to determine and confirm a person's elegibility to participate in an election, said Van Wyngaardt A registration of voters would manifest itself in voters' lists — or a registration card system, which

Continue →

Violence, poison are big killers in SA

CT 19/2/93

PRETORIA — Nearly one in every five deaths in South Africa in 1991 can be attributed to poisoning, violence and accidents, the Central Statistical Service revealed yesterday

The CSS said 176 475 deaths were registered in South Africa and the "homelands" in 1991

The statistics also indicate that South African men are more at risk than women Women live an average of 5,8 years longer than men, and more boy babies die than girl babies

In 1991 the CSS said the average age at which men died was 46, while the average age at which women died was 51,8.

Nearly half of the 18 185 infant deaths were recorded before the babies were 28 days old, and 20% of all infant deaths — the largest proportion — were caused by disorders related to premature birth and low birthweights

The next major cause of infant death was intestinal infections, 229 babies died "cot deaths"; 82 babies died of accidental poisoning; 56 of Aids, and 62 in fire accidents

According to the CSS, 19% of the total number of deaths registered in 1991 could be attributed to accidents, poisoning and violence

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"A further 18% of deaths were caused by diseases of the circulatory system, 10% by cancer, 8,3% by infections and parasitic diseases, and 8,2% by diseases of the respiratory system"

"Fifteen percent of the total number of death registrations were classified as other ill-defined and unknown causes of morbidity and mortality" — Sapa

Will Clinton's Policy Differ?

By Hobart Rowen

MICKEY KANTOR, the new U S Trade Representative, brushes aside as a "misperception" a headline a visitor to his office points to: "U S is Prepared to See Trade Relations Worsen"

In shirtsleeves and sporting suspenders, Kantor chats affably about the high-profile job he has taken on for his old, close friend Bill Clinton He is anxious, but only barely, to take the edge off an American tone described as "unilateral bullying" by his European Community counterpart, EC Commissioner for External Economic Affairs Leon Brittain

Misperception or not, Kantor's rhetoric is "tough" vis-a-vis America's trade partners Kantor prefers the word "resolute" to "tough" But the operative question, not answerable this early in the Clinton administration, is whether the actual trade policy will differ significantly from Bush's It may turn out that the bark is worse than the bite

As a lawyer, Kantor sees himself a stickler, on behalf of American companies and American workers, in seeing that American laws and agreements the nation has entered into are honored

Kantor makes plain he will resist pressures from Europe to conclude the seven-year long talks on the Uruguay Round of GATT trade negotiations in a hurry

What does the administration want out of the GATT talks? "A balanced round, one that favors global growth, and is beneficial to the U S economy" Kantor complains about inadequate market access in Europe Glaring example "We have no tariff on semiconductors, Europe has a 14 percent tariff That doesn't make any sense"

The administration has also taken dead-aim at forcing European governments to reduce their subsidies for the production of the Airbus, claiming that the European airplane gets a huge and unfair edge over American aircraft companies such as Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas

Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Laura D'Andrea Tyson, who has openly embraced "managed trade" in some specific areas, has written extensively on the Airbus issue as an example of where America has to fight subsidy with subsidy, special favor for special favor

In her new book, Tyson writes that to meet the damage done to American military contractors such as McDonnell-Douglas over the past decade, "the United States will have to replace its expensive and outmoded military industrial policy with a civilian industrial policy"

Kantor is not the sole, or even the principal, shaper of the Clinton trade policy, nor does he pretend to be It all starts with the president himself, who wants to make trade policy an integral element in generating what he calls "high-wage, high-skill" jobs for Americans

Clinton, after a meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe last week, told reporters that he agreed with the Japanese minister's warning against protectionism, "But I said I thought we had to bring (the U S trade deficit with Japan) down and that we would be working with him on it, very firmly"

If Watanabe knew just how Clinton proposes to go about that, he — and the rest of us —would know how to define the new American trade policy Stay tuned.

Guardian W In W/Mail

Putting All The World's People First

(337)

26/2 - 4/3/93

By Robert L. Borosage
Special to The Washington Post

NOW that President Clinton has presented his domestic plan, he will be forced to address the larger challenge — and irony — facing his administration The success of this president will be measured largely by what he does or doesn't do on the one concern his campaign was happy to neglect foreign policy

Foreign policy? One can hear people gnashing their teeth and sputtering, "It's the economy, stupid" And indeed, Americans want their new president to get the economy back on track Many foibles will be forgiven if the president produces on that front But the first few weeks of the administration have already shown that unless the president is present at the creation of a new progressive global policy — one that steps outside the limits of both the conservative and liberal agendas that he inherits — he simply cannot get there from here

Take economic growth Currently, much of the southern hemisphere is mired in debt and misery, the former Soviet Union and East Europe verge on disaster Europe and Japan are struggling with recession Without a way to spark global growth, the sputtering U S recovery may be short-lived And if most people in the world believe their lives are without hope, Americans too will face a future of violence, upheaval, migration, and environmental despoliation

There is little prospect that the administration can achieve the growth it promises without finding a way to expand the global economy, and hence the market for American goods and services Conservative as well as liberal economists should have no reason to disagree with that premise

But liberals, who saw in Clinton's election an opportunity to refocus government concerns on the problems at home, need to extend their sights If the administration cannot find a strategy that helps lift wages and conditions abroad, they will continue to fall at home. America cannot sustain a high-wage, high-skill work force here while practicing Reagan-era economics abroad

What the administration faces is in part a legacy of the conservative era Since the collapse of the Bretton Woods international monetary system and the inflation and oil shocks of the '70s, growth has declined and debt has increased throughout much of the globe

Under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, the erosion of wages and social supports at home was matched by a policy of enforced austerity abroad, turning countries toward low-wage, export-led growth that would insure debt repayment to Western banks The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank served as cops on the beat Corporations restructured for global production, the wages of unskilled and, increasingly, skilled workers in high-wage countries such as the United States came under mounting pressure

To meet the challenge those trends present, Clinton needs both a political and an economic strategy — a Global Putting People First Putting People First, the Clinton campaign platform, was a politically crafted economic argument It made the case that high-wage jobs and economic growth require government investment It sought voter support for social spending on children, education, worker training, and public works not by a humanitarian appeal on behalf of the needy, but with an argument of economic self-interest— that a competitive world demands investment in people

The president needs to extend that argument to the global level Some of the basic elements of an expanded agenda are already being pursued, but there is much more to do. Germany and Japan have to be enlisted in coordinated efforts to help reflate the global economy Their current economic travails, and the German fear about prospects in the East, may help Last week, the Germans and Japanese both moved to stimulate their economies, doing on their own what American leaders have been urging for years

International cooperation to expand the world economy will ease concerns in financial circles about Clinton's trade policy, just as recognition of the economic importance of public investment helped ease corporate opposition to Clinton's domestic spending promises It might also mute the trade-war hysteria that will inevitably accompany any straightforward negotiations with Japan on the systematic reduction of our unsustainable trade deficit

But the president must join his commitment to high-wage jobs at home with a policy designed to bolster Third World wages, environmental standards, and living conditions Only in this way can Clinton avoid choosing between two unpleasant alternatives erecting self-punishing tariff barriers or watching U S living standards sink toward the world's lowest standards

Borosage is a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

1992/93 financial year

Cape Province	13,94%
OFS	4,18%
Natal	4,46%
Transvaal	14,57%

Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage: population numbers

209 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many (a) male and (b) female (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds, (iii) Asians and (iv) Blacks were there in the magisterial districts of (aa) Port Elizabeth and (bb) Uitenhage or the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropole as at the latest specified date for which information is available? B467E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(aa)	(a)	(b)
(i)	70 983	73 318
(ii)	76 963	82 415
(iii)	4 286	4 211
(iv)	182 517	175 960
(bb)	(a)	(b)
(i)	19 746	19 854
(ii)	21 937	23 189
(iii)	506	545
(iv)	48 614	48 160

1991 Population Census, 7 March 1991 Final data after having been adjusted for over- and undercount

Mortality figure

215 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) What was the mortality figure in each province for the 1991 calendar year and (b) what percentage of the total population in each province does each such figure represent? B451E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

	(a)*	(b)
Cape Province	50 610	0,8
Natal	26 330	1,1
Transvaal	62 958	0,7
Orange Free State	14 484	0,7

* Mortality figure not available Figures represent death registrations

Public telephones: cost of repairs

219 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

What was the estimated cost of repairing public telephones in the Republic during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available? B465E

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Managing Director of Telkom SA Limited replied as follows to the hon member's question

The estimated cost of repairing public telephones in the Republic during the 12-month period ending 28 February 1993 is R35 245 000,00

SAA cabin crew members: retrenchments/gratuities/lump sum payments

225 Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

(1) Whether the South African Airways are currently retrenching any cabin crew members if so, (a) how many have been retrenched, (b) at what total cost and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

(2) whether any (a) gratuity and/or (b) other lump sum payments were made to any of the crew members so retrenched, if so, (i) what was the total amount so paid, (ii) how many crew members were involved, (iii) how many such gratuity and/or other lump sum payments amounted to between (aa) R100 000 and R150 000 and (bb) R150 001 and R200 000 and (iv) in respect of how many years of service was each such payment made in each of the two categories referred to in subparagraph (iii) above? B495E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question

(1) No

(2) Falls away

Bophuthatswana: guarantees/sureties given by State

227. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Bophuthatswana in the 1991–92 financial year, if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available,

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties, if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations? B515E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) No

(2) and (3) Fall away

Transnet: office accommodation

232 Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

(a) What proportion of the office accommodation owned or leased by Transnet in certain buildings, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, is currently utilized by Transnet in respect of each such building and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B528E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question

	Per cent
(a) Paul Kruger Building, Johannesburg	100
South Station Building, Johannesburg	100
Park Chambers Building, Johannesburg	100
Union Square Building, Johannesburg	61
NZASM Building, Pretoria	91
Station Building, Pretoria	100

(b) 23 March 1993

Children in Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage

242 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Asian and (d) Black children of school-going age in the (i) pre-school, (ii) primary school, (iii) secondary school and (iv) 18 to 22 years age categories were there in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropole as at the latest specified date for which statistics are available? B548E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
(i)	7 342	13 844	585	24 287
(ii)	18 776	32 564	1 391	62 000
(iii)	15 166	22 795	936	44 288
(iv)	16 973	23 691	867	50 661

Notes

The age categories are compiled as follows

(i) 3 to 5 years
(ii) 6 to 12 years
(iii) 13 to 17 years
(iv) 18 to 22 years

Cont-D

Political peace essential to curb birthrate — prof

(237)

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter ARG 1/3/93

PEACE and political commitment are two essential ingredients if meaningful population control is to be achieved.

This is the view of visiting Egyptian experts Professor Maher Mahran and Dr Abdel Salam El-Banna

The doctors, who occupy senior positions in Egypt's population programme, were invited to South Africa by the Department of Foreign Affairs

Egypt has managed to reverse its birthrate from about 40 births per 1 000 population in 1985 to about 31 in 1991.

In a presentation to the Population Forum, Professor Mahran said Egypt's population problems were recognised as far back as 1936 when the country had only 16 million residents Today, Egypt has a population of 57 million.

Egypt also has the majority of people living on only five percent of the land in the country, creating population density problems.

In some parts of Cairo, population density is as high as 120 000 a square kilometre.

The overall objectives of the Egyptian population control programme include reduction in growth rates, improvement of distribution and improvement of standards of living

Among their achievements has been the provision of family planning in deprived areas offering an appropriate mix of contraceptives

The programme also has as its objective increased employment opportunities for women and expanded child-care services and Egypt is trying to open up more land for development.

Professor Mahran pointed out, however, that while Egypt was at war with Israel, little attention was paid to the economic needs of the population.

"Peace is extremely important," he said.

He also emphasised that political commitment was needed if any changes were to come about.

Egypt also had to grapple with a child-labour problem — where children were able to earn far more than their parents by working in the carpet-weaving industry.

Professor Mahran said child carpet-weavers could be allowed to continue, as long as their education was not neglected. Where the choice was between education or weaving, education had to come first.

● The Population Forum has been meeting for 18 months to discuss South Africa's "demographic realities". Members include individuals and groups concerned with population growth

For written reply

General Affairs

Moneys to certain overseas organization

73 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) Whether he or his Department has made any moneys available to a certain overseas organization, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, over the latest specified five-year period for which information is available, if so, (a) what amounts were so made available in each of these five years, (b) for what reasons were they made available and (c) what is the name of the organization in question,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B174E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Please refer to oral Question 11, as asked by Adv T Langley on 16 February 1993, to which I replied on 24 February 1993 (Col 210)

Tests on control of quelea

75 Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture

(1) Whether tests on the control of quelea (red-billed finches) were carried out by his Department in the Dwaalboom area of the Transvaal on or about 4 February 1993, if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) extent of these tests,

(2) whether any toxic chemicals were employed in these tests, if so, (a) what chemicals and (b) with what results;

(3) whether any birds or animals other than quelea were killed as a result of these tests, if so, how many of each bird or animal species,

(4) whether, when these tests were carried out, any steps were taken to limit the risk of poisoning non-target species, if not, why not, if so, what steps,

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B183E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(1) Yes

(a) Aerial spraying with the objective of controlling two flocks of queleas was undertaken near Dwaalboom on the evening of 2 February 1993,

(b) Two areas of 35 ha and 10 ha were sprayed with an aircraft which was calibrated to deliver 3 litres per hectare at a flying speed of 168 km/h.

(2) Yes

(a) Queletox (Reg no L 3689—Act 36/1947) with a concentration of 640 grams fenthion per litre was used

(b) A large number of queleas were killed by the poison

(3) Yes Other birds were killed According to information furnished by the Poison Working Group, the following numbers were found

More than 100 steppe buzzards
4 wahlberg eagles
4 yellowbilled kites
1 larner falcon, as well as an unknown number of other smaller birds such as primas and redbacked shrikes

(4) Yes, but unsatisfactorily

(5) Yes A statement was released on 8 February 1993 in which it was announced that a moratorium has been placed on the further chemical spraying of queleas

Mortality figure in 1992

76 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs (237)

(a) What was the mortality figure in each province in the 1992 calendar year and (b) what percentage of the total population in each province does each such figure represent? (237) B200E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) and (b)
Statistics in respect of death registrations for 1992 are not yet available The Central Statistical Service is at present still gathering information in this regard and the data should become available during the course of the year

Domestic servants: legislation

83 Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Manpower

Whether he intends introducing legislation with a view to improving the (a) working hours, (b) salaries, (c) service conditions and (d) living conditions of domestic servants, if not, why not, if so, when? B216E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(a) Yes, during the 1993 Parliamentary session

(b) A committee will report back by September 1993 on possible methods of wage regulation and the impact thereof on employment opportunities in the domestic sector The tabling of legislation will be dependent upon this investigation and further consultation

(c) Yes, during the 1993 Parliamentary session

(d) No, since regulations concerning living conditions do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Manpower

Family planning subsidy reduced

Municipal Reporter (237)

FAMILY planning services provided by the city council will no longer be fully state-subsidised

However, Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss said yesterday there would be no cutbacks in the services.

He said ratepayers would have to pay more when family planning became a "section 26" service, which meant its subsidy is reduced until it is on a par with other health services

Dr Popkiss said he wanted the council to meet National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter to object to the "arbitrary change" in subsidy status of family planning.

He also wanted her to be told "of the likelihood of drastic cutbacks" in other council health services if the government subsidy next year is not increased.

In a letter from the Department of Health, Dr Popkiss was told the average weekly expenditure on health in the Western Cape from 1987 to 1992 was R85 million, of which the state paid R47m or 55,4%

"Because of the lack of funds, it is not possible to increase the subsidy," the letter said

CT 3/3/93

Cape Town's birth rate shows steady decline

(237)

ARG 3/3/93

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

CAPE Town's birth rate has shown a steady decline over the past five years

The annual report of the city council's medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss, says the birth rate for 1991/1992 dropped from 19,76 in the previous year to 18,98 births a thousand

The figure indicates a steady decline from 20,74 a thousand five years ago

But this good news has to be read with the fact that since 1969 there has been a 72 per-cent increase in Cape Town's population — bringing it to an estimated 1,2 million

There has also been a steady decline in the black and coloured infant mortality rate over the past decade — although there was a slight increase last year over the previous year from 16,91 to 17,62 a thousand

Dr Popkiss said the decline in infant mortality rates — which were a sensitive indicator of community health — was a reflection of the high standard of maternal and child care offered in the city.

Gastro-enteritis had also been dislodged as the number one killer of young children

Homicide biggest township killer

237

Health Reporter

HOMICIDE is the major cause of death in Langa and Guguletu, according to the Cape Town medical officer of health's annual report.

Although homicide ranks overall as the fourth cause of death in the city — accounting for 556 deaths in the 1991/92 — it ranks first in the two townships which fall under the city council's jurisdiction.

Malignant growths or cancers, ranked second as a cause of death — accounting for 1 228 deaths last year — followed by ischaemic heart disease (622).

Dr Popkiss also noted that in the year 1991/92 2 193 Capetonians died of diseases which could be associated with smoking. ARG 3/3/93

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Referendum 1992: deceased persons on population register

19 Mr S P BARNARD asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

(1) Whether any names of deceased persons appeared on the population register at the time of the referendum on 17 March 1992, if so, (a) how many and (b) why,

(2) whether a computer programme was drawn up to remove these names from the population register, if so, (a) who drew up the programme, (b) when was it put into operation and (c) what was the cost thereof? B42E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Yes

(a) The specific number as on 17 March 1992 is not known and cannot be determined retrospectively either At the moment there are approximately 36 000 such cases

(b) On a death notice being processed the Population Register is automatically updated by the death being registered on computer It follows that if deaths had not been registered by 17 March 1992, the names of deceased persons would still have appeared in the Population Register as if they were alive Such cases would mostly refer to deaths which occurred shortly before 17 March 1992 as well as cases of unnatural deaths In the past it was necessary in the latter cases to wait for the postmorten examination and a report by the Magistrate In many such cases it took as long as 3 years before a death could be registered With the coming into operation of the new Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act 51 of 1992), with effect from 1 October 1992 the death of persons who have died due to unnatural causes can now be registered immediately on receipt of a medical certificate The registration of deaths could also be delayed by the filing of incomplete death notices or inaccuracies occurring in such notices

(2) Yes It is part of the computerized Population Register programmes The registration of a death is programmed to automatically amend all related records such as for instance voters' lists

(a) Staff of the Department of Home Affairs with the help of the Company International Business Machines

(b) 1972

(c) Unknown It is not possible to determine the cost of the programme in respect of death notices separately It forms an integral part of the programme for the Population Register which also caters for the registration of births, marriages, addresses, citizenship, etc

Prisons: visits by judges/magistrates

42 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(1) (a) On how many occasions in 1992 was each prison visited by a (i) judge of the Supreme Court and (ii) magistrate and (b) on what dates did each of these visits take place at each such prison,

(2) whether he took any action as a direct result of reports submitted to him pursuant to such visits; if so, what action on each occasion,

(3) whether any prisons were not visited by either a judge or a magistrate in 1992, if so, which prisons? B95E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Reply bound in Annexures of House—see M204–93

I think in this debate we should not focus on who those 200 doctors are, because they were acting within the terms of the present Act What they did, was quite legal I should like to repeat myself

Mr M RAJAB Mr Chairman, may I ask the hon the Minister a question?

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, the hon member had his opportunity [Interjections]

The point he raised was that not mentioning these names gave the impression that all doctors were guilty of this This is not what I implied

Mr M RAJAB The hon the Minister could then be guilty of being an accessory after the fact

The MINISTER Yes, and this is not what I implied That is why I am saying that if doctors themselves would come forward and say that this is unacceptable, and would themselves defend the principle and investigate its soundness, it would be to their own benefit

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

Prison at Umzinto: tenders

*1 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services

Whether, with reference to the reply to question No 1 on 29 April 1992, tenders for the building of the prison at Umzinto have been accepted, if not, why not, if so, (a) to whom was the tender awarded, (b) what is the cost involved and (c) when is it anticipated that the work on this prison will be completed? D49E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Mr Chairman, at the outset I should like to say that I received certain requests in this regard from *inter alia* the hon member for Umzinto, and I hereby reply to the question as follows

No, an invitation for tenders was published in the Government Tender Bulletin of 5 March 1993 It is expected that the duration of the contract should not exceed 32 months and that construction should be completed during the 1996/7 financial year

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away

Mr N SINGH Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, do I then take it that the planning phase has been completed? Secondly, previous plans included the construction of tennis courts, squash courts, a bowling green and other sporting facilities on this site Are these facilities also included in the present tenders which have been called for?

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, as far as the second part of the hon member's question is concerned, unfortunately I do not have those specific particulars with me I invite him to come and have a cup of tea with me and I shall give him that information [Interjections]

As far as the first part of his question is concerned, I should like to say that last year I replied to this question as

According to present planning the tender date is set for February 1993 and it is expected that the project will be completed by 1996, provided that sufficient funds are available

The present tender date is 5 March

†We are as near as possible.

It will be completed by 1996–97

Mr M RAJAB Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, for which I thank him, may I ask him whether, given the fact that so much time has elapsed since this particular prison was planned, and given the fact that our jails are overflowing, that particular jail would not be too small by the time it is fully operational?

The MINISTER. Mr Chairman, this is a possibility, but this is unfortunately the situation that we are in It takes quite a long time to do the planning and we have to wait for funds to become available The possibility exists that the jail will be too small by the time it is completed

SAA· flights to/from India

*2 Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

Whether the South African Airways have applied or intend applying for permission to introduce flights to and from India, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? D52E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited replied as follows to the hon member's question·

No, the South African Airways does not intend introducing flights to India, as another South African airline has already been granted permission to operate services between the two countries

Braemar: death in prison cell

*3 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Law and Order

(1) Whether a certain person of Braemer in Natal, particulars of whom have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was at any stage detained in a police cell during February 1993, if so, what is this person's name,

(2) whether this person was found dead in a cell one morning, if so, (a) in which police cell and (b) when was he (i) arrested and (ii) found dead;

(3) whether a pathologist's report has been received in regard to his death, if not, why not, if so, what were the findings? D73E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER·

(1) Yes

Kader Shaik

(2) Yes

(a) Sowati

(b) (i) At 15:40 on 15 February 1993

(ii) At 05 15 on 16 February 1993

(3) Yes, the finding of the state pathologist was that the cause of death of Mr Shaik was consistent with that of a heart attack The histological report is still outstanding

Mr M RAJAB Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he please tell us whether the pathologist's report was, in fact, communicated to the family of the deceased?

The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Chairman, to my knowledge this has not yet been done, because we are still awaiting the histological report as well

Islamic/Hindu marriages: legislation

*4 Rev C PILLAY asked the Minister of Justice

(1) Whether he will consider introducing legislation to recognize Islamic and Hindu religious marriages; if not, why not, if so, when,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D76E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) and (2)

A project dealing with Islamic marriages and related matters was placed on the programme of the South African Law Commission during July 1986 The project committee appointed for the purpose of the investigation considered a working paper A copy will be handed to the hon member immediately after the question period A study of comparative law is presently being conducted All interested parties are welcome to submit proposals in this regard to the Secretariat of the Law Commission

Mr A RAJBANSI Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is he prepared to tell us why the Government is dragging its feet on this, while the ANC and the IFP have officially announced that they will recognise these marriages, and while the NP recognises that there is freedom of religion in this country?

The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Chairman, there is no doubt as far as the commitment of the Government is concerned The fact is that this project has been launched and is being conducted [Interjections]

PTO →

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order!

The DEPUTY MINISTER However, I want to agree with the hon member that it is taking far too long (231)

Mr P NAIDOO Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, will he concede that the NP's attitude to the recognition of Islamic and Hindu religious marriages is in conflict with the charter of fundamental human rights recently released by the NP?

The DEPUTY MINISTER Most certainly not, Mr Chairman I invite the hon member, if he has any suggestions as far as these proposals are concerned, to make such suggestions

Mr A RAJBANSI Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, is he aware of the fact that the hon member for Springfield and this House have raised this matter previously? The NP, however, is only interested in Indian votes They are not worried about our culture or religion

The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Chairman, the fact is that this matter is in the hands of the SA Law Commission, which operates independently Consequently the Government cannot be accused in this regard I concede, however, that this matter should receive more prompt attention

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language

Own Affairs

Provision of low-cost housing

1 Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture

(1) Whether, with reference to certain remarks made by him on 17 February 1992 in respect of the provision of low-cost housing, he intends giving priority to the provision of such housing in cases where there is an urgent need for it, if not, why not, if so, what procedure will be followed in this regard,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D81E INT

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE

Mr Chairman, the answer to the first question is yes In answering the rest of that question, my answer will overlap with the second question

I fully share the concern of the hon members of this House regarding housing for the homeless in the poorer sector of our community, and am totally committed to doing everything in my power to speed up our low-cost housing delivery programme with a view to providing as many housing units as possible within the parameters of financial and time constraints

I will deal more comprehensively with our achievements in the current financial year and our plans for the ensuing years during the discussion of my Budget Vote later this session However, I wish to give some indication of the steps I have taken thus far to accelerate the delivery of housing by virtue of certain circumstances

Unfortunately local authorities have taken up allocated funds relatively slowly during this financial year This had the disappointing effect of delaying the commencement of projects In an effort to minimise the negative effects of this phenomenon I have had very positive discussions with *inter alia* the Development and Services Board, which previously had a rather negative attitude in this regard I mention the Development and Services Board, because in actual fact their activities overlap with ours in many of the areas in which the poorer section of our community resides

Furthermore I have had weekly meetings with the management of the department with a view to accelerating the commencement of approved projects which have, for various reasons, been delayed I have also approved certain recommendations relating to staff appointments and the staff establishment structures of components of head offices and regional offices with a view to remotivating the department's staff towards increased productivity and efficiency

Since assuming responsibility for the housing portfolio, I have had discussions with some hon members of this House regarding *inter alia* the housing needs in their constituencies and I intend to proceed with this individualised approach of canvassing the subject with the remaining hon members as soon as possible

after which I shall call a joint meeting [Time expired]

Mr A RAJBANSI Mr Chairman, during the debate on the Additional Appropriation the hon the Minister and the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council made it very clear that the provision of low-cost housing in this country would be afforded priority

Statistics have shown, especially in our Indian community, that 80 % of those on the waiting list belong to the low-income group Of course, with the repeal of the Group Areas Act and other legislation that controlled and inhibited our progress with regard to housing, those who belong to the self-help group will now be able to cater for themselves

What we need today is an announcement that certain projects will commence, because last year the hon the Minister of Finance announced the allocation of a special sum of approximately R35 million to the House of Delegates especially for housing for people in the low-income group Unfortunately the Ministers' Council could not show a single record of any worthwhile project for the low-cost income group in this country What we need today is an announcement that we can produce 5 000 units to the west of Chatsworth and 10 000 units in the Phoenix-Verulam belt What we are doing, however, is having too many soliloquies when what we need is action

What we expected today was a programme of action I appreciate the fact that the hon the Minister is a very hard-working person He has been very busy ever since he was appointed Minister of Housing earlier this year Nevertheless, we are going to point out to him certain shortcomings in our constituencies and I express the wish that every hon member of this House will suggest where certain projects can be undertaken in our respective constituencies

Wherever land is available, if it is intended for high-cost housing, I want to suggest to the hon the Minister that this be changed so that it can be used to provide homes for the people in the low-income group and also for those who qualify for self-help projects Vacant sites must be serviced and allocated to people so that they can build their own homes [Time expired]

Mr K CHETTY Mr Chairman, I fully endorse the sentiments expressed by the hon member for Arena Park He comes from the same area as I do

I also have a great deal of respect for the hon the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, whom I know to be a very hard-working Minister When it comes to the poorer section of the community in particular, he is always willing to go out of his way to assist them In this regard I must say a big thank you to him Whenever we go to him, he is willing to listen to us He is always at the service of the poor man

Mr M MOHANLALL [Inaudible]

Mr K CHETTY What I cannot understand, however, is that the officials in his department, and I know

Mr M MOHANLALL [Inaudible]

Mr K CHETTY Why don't you give your mouth a rest, man!

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! The hon member for Chatsworth Central is on his feet I do not want any cross-border discussions or violations The hon member may proceed

Mr K CHETTY Thank you, Mr Chairman As I have just pointed out, the officials in the Department of Housing suddenly put the project at Croftdene—the hon the Minister and the previous Ministers' Council are aware of this—on ice I do not know why this happened We have people living in overcrowded conditions I invited the previous Minister of Housing, but he also failed to [Time expired]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE Mr Chairman, I want to commend the hon member for Arena Park, because he placed two very important motions on the Order Paper of this Parliament during this session, both relating to issues that cannot possibly be more important than that of housing This interpellation too is widening our horizon, and perhaps giving us in-depth knowledge of the problems all of us have

As far as Phoenix, Chatsworth, the periphery of Durban, the Pinetown area and the Dassenhoek area are concerned, I am fully aware that projects have to be initiated Such projects are being considered at the moment and every available piece of land must be utilised specifically for the needy of our community as soon as possible

P70 →

who will eventually pay between first generation of landlords

Happy birth-rate plot denied

DAVID BREIER
Political Staff

(237)
ARG 13/3/93

BIRTHS in South Africa are decreasing — mainly among blacks — and, while the government is celebrating the trend, Deputy Minister of Health Mr Boy Geldenhuys emphatically denies the population development plan to promote birth control is a trick to neutralise blacks at the polling booth.

Mr Geldehhuys announced this week that the average number of children born to each woman had dropped from 4,6 to 4,1.

While this drop appears insignificant, it means that women between the ages of 15 and 49 will for the rest of their fertile years give birth to 1 830 000 fewer babies. This will save R22,4 billion in education spending alone in the next 35 years, says Mr Geldenhuys.

The government's ideal birth rate is an average of 2,1 children for each family to prevent further population growth and ensure houses, jobs, education, food and water for all.

From next month the country will have its first full-time Minister of Population Development in the form of National Party coloured leader Mr Jac Rabie.

But in spite of reports that Mr Rabie has set a bad example by having nine children, he said he has only had four sons — slightly below the national average.

Star 18/3/93

Safe, legal abortion a 'basic human right'

(237)

EARLY GRAVE
The right to safe, legal abortion is integral to the development of women and to comprehensive primary health care. Failure to confront this issue is to sentence an uncounted number of South African women to an early grave, says a specialist. **JANE STRODE** reports.

THE militant American "prolife" group, Human Life International, has begun bringing its money, resources and expertise into South Africa to organise against abortion law reform, against contraception and against sexuality education in schools

In the face of this powerful, well-organised and evangelical lobby, demands around abortion law reform need to be properly thought out and implemented, says Dr Helen Rees, executive chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa

Conference

Rees spoke at the recent conference of Women under the Criminal Justice System organised by the Centre for Criminal Justice in Hilton, near Maritzburg

Rees, a practising medical doctor, says the debate around abortion is often seen as a battleground between those who advocate the foetus's right to life and those who support the woman's right to choose. The fight becomes a "no-win dispute of ideology" that fails to consider the complexity of the topic in any given social setting

There is only one historical and present-day reality: women remain the final determinant of whether or not they will have an abortion

If a new constitution and new legislation in South Africa are aimed at enshrining human rights, and racial and gender equality, then the current situation must change.

Political parties cannot excuse themselves from tackling the abortion issue because of potential sensitivity with certain sectors of the population

Liberalisation of abortion laws is aimed at giving women the right to make their own choice about their lives and allows individual women to follow their own consciences about the sanctity of life, Rees says

With the debate on abortion beginning to gather momentum in South Africa, policymakers and politicians must realise that it is more than just a sensitive moral issue which fires up feminists and religious groupings, she says

The right to safe, legal abortion is integral to the development of women, integral to the development of a comprehensive primary health care and a basic human right that cannot be wished away

Failure to confront this issue is to sentence an uncounted number of South African women to an early grave

The clearest example of the determination of women to pursue their own choice regardless of the risk, she says, came from Romania

Under Nicolai Ceausescu's rule, contraception was banned and abortion was punishable by death. In spite of this, Romania had the highest abortion and abortion-related mortality of all European countries

Over the past two decades, 65 countries have liberalised their abortion laws, while four have restricted theirs. About 40 percent of the world population now lives in countries where no specific justification is required to obtain a legal abortion.

In 25 percent of the world, abortion is allowed only if the woman's life is endangered and, in extreme case, not even in those circumstances

This means that one in four women does not have access to safe, legal abortion

These women are most likely to come from Africa, Latin America and Muslim Asia, Rees says

However, she cautions, there is more to making abortion legal and safe than simply liberalising the laws. Also, clearly defined liberal abortion laws are not always sufficient to guarantee access to abortion.

Revising abortion policy means considering the commitment and ability of the government to provide accessible services

In Britain, a country with a liberal abortion policy, there is enormous regional variation in the availability of abortion services because of differential spending often influenced by the power of the anti-abortion lobby

In situations like this, the ability of the woman to pay for an abortion becomes the final determinant in whether she could have one or not, Rees says

Before 1975, the South African abortion law was restrictive, allowing a termination only if the woman's life was in danger

In 1975, a working party of "white male parliamentarians" developed the Abortion and Sterilisation Act in place today

When veteran politician Helen Suzman challenged the gender composition of the working group, the reply was "You wouldn't revise the laws on hanging by putting a group of murderers on to the committee"

Not surprisingly, says Rees, the current law is restrictive both in the grounds for abortion and in the way it is enacted

An abortion is permitted only where continued pregnancy will endanger the life or constitute a serious threat to the physical or mental health of the woman, where there is a serious risk that the child will be seriously physically or mentally deformed, where the pregnancy results from rape or incest, or where the pregnancy is conceived by a woman mentally handicapped or unable to understand the full implications of parental responsibility

The penalty for carrying out an illegal abortion is a five-year jail term, a fine of R5 000, or both

The enactment of this legislation is full of pitfalls, Rees says

It is open to interpretation by health professionals who are mostly conservative and reluctant to jeopardise their position by involving themselves in abortion referrals

Freehold

Also, the administrative procedures which have to be completed are cumbersome lengthy and not understood by many health workers and women generally, making it impossible for the majority of South African women to get a legal abortion

The result is that there are only 1 000 legal abortions done annually, mostly on white women, but anywhere between 42 000 and 300 000 illegal abortions being done, "depending on whose estimates are correct", Rees says

people were killed and 34 wounded during a bomb attack at a political rally in the southern Philippines, in a worsening bout of violence before Muslim elections in the area

Avalanches trap Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan — Avalanches roared down the mountains of northern Afghanistan, burying vehicles on the country's main highway and trapping scores of people, officials said yesterday

Militant Muslims march

ASYUT, Egypt — Security forces allowed 3 000 followers of the banned Islamic militant group Jamaa Islamiyya to march through this town to mark the end of Ramadan

Pulitzer winner dies

KEY WEST — Famous World War II correspondent and Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Hersey died yesterday aged 78

Best-selling author dies

NEW ROCHELLE, New York. — Robert Crichton, author of the best sellers The Great Impostor and The Secret of Santa Vittoria, has died aged 68

Free State water cuts

PRETORIA — Irrigation quotas from the Orange River Project will be cut for the first time by 50% from May 1 unless there is a dramatic improvement in the flow of water to the scheme 25/3/93

Reports by Staff Re[illegible] Own Correspondent, Sapa Reuter AP and UPI

Population to double by 2020

DURBAN — South Africa's population will double within an estimated 27 years, according to population development specialist Mr Geoff Willis CT 25/3/93

He said the world's population would increase by one billion to a total of six billion in a few years (237)

The population explosion overshadowed most of the economic, political, environmental and social problems in the world today, Mr Willis added — Sapa

Pensioner's killer jailed for life

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

A YOUNG Khayelitsha murderer was jailed for life in the Supreme Court yesterday for his part in the "heinous" killing of a Milnerton pensioner.

Zamuxolo Marali, 22, was convicted of murdering Mr Samuel Wright, 65, on July 8 last year and the court found he had the "direct intent to kill".

He was further sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery and so was his co-accused Sandile Mvunyiswa, 24, of Port Elizabeth. They loaded about R55 000 worth of household goods into Mr Wright's car after the murder.

Mr Justice L A Rose-Innes found that Marali had shown no remorse.

Telkom refused appeal

CT 25/3/93

Staff Reporter

TELKOM was yesterday refused leave to appeal against a Supreme Court decision to restore the telephone service of a Retreat naval employee who had refused to pay his "dramatically high" bills and prevent Telkom from suspending it

Mr Justice R M Marais granted an interim interdict last month ordering Telkom to restore the service pending the determination of legal action to be instituted by Telkom against Mr Raymond Richardson for non-payment of disputed telephone bills Telkom was given 60 days to sue Mr Richardson for the outstanding amount

The interdict was a sequel to a dispute between Mr Richardson and Telkom when his telephone service was disconnected after he received three bills totalling about R2 000

Yesterday Telkom applied for leave to appeal against the decision and Mr Justice Marais refused the application

Govt is blamed for high infant mortality

B/DAY 26/3/93

GAVIN DU VENAGE

GOVERNMENT was impeding hunger relief and was directly responsible for the growing infant mortality rate, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday

She said government was playing "political games" with relief funding, and getting in the way of other organisations that were trying to assist starving people

Perlman said in some areas infant mortality had jumped by up to twice their mid-'80s levels as a direct result of government interference For instance, it was preventing relief organisations operating in areas where state poverty aid was functioning, to prevent "unnecessary duplication'

However the state's efforts were inadequate and often carried out by officials who had no interest in their tasks, other than safeguarding their jobs As a result, she said, aid was reaching only a selected group — specifically those who were already ill from malnutrition — instead of reaching families before their health was destroyed by hunger

[illegible] government assistance was available, [illegible] came with 'unacceptable conditions' For example, homeland governments may be allowed direct control over funds administered by aid organisations

"Under the pretext of not duplicating services, or of people not looking after the money available, elaborate structures were set up,' said Perlman "This has led to a huge deterioration in services"

Perlman said R60m was needed to fund present feeding schemes, excluding Operation Hunger's various self-help programmes

She estimated the number of families living under the bread line at 80% of the population

Perlman said the latest Budget would make the situation worse, as any relief from the extension of VAT exemptions would be negated by a rise in the fuel price

☐ Operation Hunger would launch Gold Rush 14 at the Rand Easter Show on April 10, with one of the biggest fireworks displays yet seen in SA, Perlman said The pyrotechnic display will take place on three different nights, after the concerts by British group Duran Duran

Police eyes in the sky are here to stay

B/DAY 26/3/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

RESIDENTS on the Reef will have to get used to [illegible] helicopters circling suburban areas if they want a relatively crime-free society Witwatersrand police liaison officer Major Eugene [illegible] said yesterday

Responding to regular complaints about the noise made by the helicopters, Opperman said the current crime rate warranted their use

"The individuals who complain about air-patrols must now decide what they want — a crime-ridden society or an area which is relatively free of crime,' he said

Police were often accused of not doing enough to curb crime but air patrols were one way of fighting crime effectively, he said

In a typical month, the air wing of the SAP on the Witwatersrand would take part in 440 or more assignments of all kinds

The unit has made meaningful contributions in arresting robbers, tracing stolen and hijacked vehicles, dagga search operations and aerial photography, he said

The helicopters were also used as observation and communication platforms in the sky, Opperman said

The SAP helicopter pilots were among the best in the world and therefore the public had nothing to fear

"No modern police force can do without air support," he said

about who are supposed to be our leaders," said businessman Moloantoa Ntsheare

Seventeen parties are contesting the poll in which some 700 000

In the absence of public opinion polls, local analysts expected Mokhehle, who spent 20 years in exile, to win largely on the basis of his opposition record

who toppled Jonathan in 1986 and was himself overthrown in April last year

One of more than 100 foreign observers monitoring the election said

Expert warns of SA birth rate time bomb

Star 27/3/93

237

JOE LOUW

THE spectre of famine, plague, horrific unemployment and eventually civil war are among the awful choices South Africa faces if its current rapid population growth rate is not brought under control speedily

This grim scenario is contained in a new book, *Population Growth — Our Time Bomb*, by Stellenbosch economist Johannes Jordaan, who warns that South Africa is falling further behind in controlling its birth rate

Choices

The country's total population, including that of the TBVC states, is about 39 million and is expected to reach 50 million by the year 2000. Jordaan says the number of unemployed could be a frightening nine million within a decade

"South Africa has only one of two choices," he says "Either to follow programmes which will result in a rapid and drastic decrease in population growth, or to let nature take its course, so that the population will eventually be reduced through famine, plague and civil war"

Jordaan warns that although the "Chinese option" — in which the Chinese promote one child per family as the ideal norm — might be in conflict with traditional policies, such drastic measures might be the only escape out of the demographic trap In China there are heavy penalties imposed on families that do not adhere to the one child per family norm But parents of one-child families receive a monthly subsidy for the child's education

In contrast, says Jordaan, in South Africa and many other countries, governments allow a tax deduction for each child in the family The more children, the more tax deductions This will have to change, and soon, he warns

To test how South Africans would react if such drastic changes became law, the Markinor research group conducted a survey among urban blacks and whites in various metropolitan areas in November

A questionnaire was circulated among 1 000 whites and 1 300 blacks asking a range of questions — from whether a problem existed to what course of action was required, with South Africa heading "for disaster with mass starvation and destruction of the environment"

According to Christine Woessner, deputy managing director of Markinor, there is wide recognition of the problem, and blacks and whites generally favour birth control

The highest score among both race groups was the call for sex education nationwide and the lowest for the suggestion that women have an abortion if they fall pregnant after their second child

A higher percentage of whites than blacks favoured sterilisation, although more black women than black men supported the measure

PEOPLE'S LIVES *There's no turning back for many females once they have fallen pregnant*

15 and pregnant – what now?

Sowetan 31/3/93.

By Sizakele Kooma

NOT FREE *Women and girls cannot decide their own future with abortions:*

NTOMBI Sokhulu* is 15 In school uniform she looks no more than a tender 13 She is pregnant Ntombi is at the Baragwanath social work department with both her parents They have just been through the second session with the social worker to try and get her a legal abortion

The social worker has passed her case to the psychiatric department

If all goes well and the psychiatrist finds justifiable reasons to grant her an abortion she will probably be free of child within the next five days

But Ntombi was not raped and her life is not at risk from the pregnancy

Too young

She has only started Standard Eight, she feels she is too young to have the child and her parents say they cannot afford to feed an extra mouth

But all this will probably not be enough to stir sympathy from the psychiatrist

Although distressed, Ntombi does not look "desperately depressed and according to Dr Smadar Kometz, consultant psychiatrist at Baragwanath, the hospital can only grant a therapeutic abortion "if the threat to the woman's mental health is permanent

"We discount all the financial and social aspects We only look at the mental health," Kometz said

Psychiatric problem

"The woman s perceptions must be severely disturbed or she should have a major psychiatric problem We do consider immaturity or potential psychiatric problems as grounds for giving an abortion "

In South Africa over 70 percent of legal abortions are granted on psychiatric grounds

The social work department at the hospital sees about 10 applicants, single or married women and aged from 13 upwards, a week

Of these only a few will be referred to the psychiatrists

Some will be turned down or will default

Baragwanath performed only 31 legal abortions in 1991 and 38 in 1992 Illegal abortion cases treated by the hospital for the same years were 3 252 and 2 967

Said Kometz "When we turn them down we always know for certain that they are going to the back street But until the law is changed there is very little we can do

"Abortion for psychological reasons is the only legal loophole to an abortion Some women come to us just to try their luck We have to be very careful of this

"I would prefer the hospital be seen as conservative on the issue of abortion I wouldn t like to see a flood of women coming to us, thinking they can get an abortion when the law only considers particular cases "

Both the social workers and psychiatrists see the applicants at least twice, in one hour sessions, before they make a decision

"This, said social worker Buyi Ngidi, helps the woman to reconsider her application

"Very often they don t come back after the first session

"When you give them a chance to explore other options they never do

"Another factor that deters them is the long procedure. They get discouraged when they realise they have to be seen by a string of people before they can get an abortion, ' Ngidi said

Rape, she said, was the one most likely basis on which an abortion could be granted, but only when consent had been given by a magistrate

(* Not her real name)

● *More on abortion tomorrow*

FOETUS DUMPED Almost daily black townships wake up to a foetus, like this one found in a drain in Dobsonville, in their yards or in the veld

Star 2/4/93

Legislation tackles 'rent-a-womb' issue

(237)

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation on surrogate motherhood devised by the South African Law Commission would prevent a "rent-a-womb" situation.

The draft Surrogate Motherhood Bill is contained in a report presented to Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee in November last year. It was tabled in Parliament on Monday.

The commission's research into surrogacy legislation came after Pat Anthony (48) gave birth to triplets — two boys and a girl — in Johannesburg in October 1987

Anthony became the world's first surrogate grandmother by carrying the children for her daughter, Karen Ferreira-Jorge (27).

The proposed law stipulates that the surrogate mother's own gametes may not be used as there could then be little justification for her to hand over the child to the commissioning parents.

The draft Bill provides that a written surrogate motherhood agreement must be confirmed by the court, and that no payment or compensation may be made except for expenses relating directly to the artificial fertilisation and pregnancy of the surrogate mother

Appeal to back legal abortion

(237)

Municipal Reporter

HUNDREDS of women take their lives in their hands annually by having illegal abortions — helping society by preventing unwanted children

Cape Town city councillor Mrs Eulalie Stott called on the Cape Province Municipal Association to aid the campaign for the right to legal abortion

Mrs Stott made the call during a debate on a motion by Kraaifontein asking the government not to cut health subsidies. ARG 21/4/93

Kraaifontein Deputy Mayor Willie Hambly said the reduction in subsidies meant that councils would have to scale-down services at clinics or try to find new sources of income

MRC wins R1,2-m research contract

Health Reporter (237)

A LUCRATIVE research contract on contraception and fertility control has been signed with the SA Medical Research Council by a German pharmaceutical company. ARG 26/4/93

Schering Aktiengesellschaft has promised R1,2 million over three years for the study which will involve the MRC and Stellenbosch University's infertility unit.

Schering AG said it chose the MRC because work supported by the research institution was "of world-class standard"

Researchers will probe a new, non-hormonal contraceptive method for men

3 000 babies are born a day in South Africa

So weten 28/4/93

MORE than 3 000 babies are born in South Africa every day, according to the latest edition of the Department of Health's magazine, *Salus*

This is a rate of increase that would double the country's population every 32 years The magazine also said there was no reason to believe Aids would have any marked impact on the population of Africa as a whole in the near future

It said experts had calculated that SA, in

■ Aids will not affect growth rate yet:

(237)

terms of its natural resources and socio-economic capabilities, could only accommodate about 80 million people

Given the present growth rate, SA would reach this figure in this generation's lifespan If the trend continued. SA would have 94 million people by the year 2040 - *Sapa*

Over 3 000 babies born in SA every day

(237) CT 28/4/93

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The magazine also said there was no reason to believe Aids would have any marked impact on Africa's burgeoning population in the near future

It said experts had calculated that South Africa, with itsits natural resources and socio-economic capabilities, could only accommodate a population of about 80 million people

Given the present growth rate it would reach this figure in this generation's lifespan

The magazine said the outbreak of Aids had led to a belief by some that this disease would eventually help curb the tremendous population growth

"In analysing the Aids situation however, there is no reason, in the light of available data, to believe that an increase in mortality rates as a result of Aids will have any marked impact on population growth in the near future

"On the one hand, it cannot be definitely stated that population growth will decline as a result of Aids deaths, and on the other hand, Aids deaths will have the effect of increasing the dependency burden," the magazine said — Sapa

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language

General Affairs

Low fertility rate among Whites (237)

*1 Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of Population Development.

(1) Whether his Department has conducted an investigation into the alleged low fertility rate among Whites to determine whether it has any negative implications and/or poses any problems as far as the Afrikaner people is concerned; if not, why not; if so, what are the findings,

(2) whether he or his Department intends taking steps in this regard; if not, why not, if so, what steps?

B791E INT

*The MINISTER OF POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Mr Chairman, the answer is no The hon member raised this question during the debate on the Budget By raising this question once again he is making it clear that he is being fed racism through an umbilical cord

The Department of National Health and Population Development is responsible for the implementation of the population development programme which represents the demographic policy of the Government The objectives of the PDP are to achieve a balance between the size of the country's population on the one hand, and its socio-economic and natural resources on the other There is a serious imbalance at present, and the present population growth rate in the RSA of 2,1 per annum—that is for 1992–93—is too high The aim is to reduce this growth rate as rapidly as possible

It is not the responsibility of the State to prescribe to any individual or community what the size of his or their families should be The State does have a responsibility to bring the relationship between the demographic realities and a meaningful continued existence to the attention of all The Government acknowledges, therefore, that all parents have the right to make an informed choice themselves in regard to the number of children they want to have The implication of this is that Whites or Afrikaners or any other population group have the right to decide to have fewer children

The decline in the fertility of Whites has very little to do with any measures introduced by the Government When the PDP was introduced in 1984 the declining fertility rate among Whites was already at replacement level, which is the objective of the PDP

introduce measures that will curb population growth when it threatens limited vital resources and hence the survival of man It is not the responsibility of the department to be concerned with the implications of low fertility in a specific population group

If a programme were to be developed, for example, to increase the low fertility of the Whites, with the accompanying publicity and incentive measures, together with a programme to reduce the high level of fertility among Blacks using the same methods and penalty measures, this would lead to conflict between the various population groups in the country

A differentiated policy would result in population development becoming politicised and would thwart the programme aimed at checking the population explosion

*Dr F H PAUW Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister does not understand his job

The total fertility rate for Whites has for several years been lower than the figure at which the total population stabilises It is considerably lower, and this means that the White people are becoming fewer in number If the same applies to Afrikaners, I believe we have a problem If one is not part of a people, and one does not understand the implications of the existence of a people, one would not regard this as a problem The fact that one is not a member of a people, does not mean that there is no such thing as a people

cont'd

I recently asked whether the hon the Minister of Population Development would investigate the causes of the low birthrate and whether his department would consider measures to combat it He refused point-blank One can conclude from his attitude that he is highly satisfied that Whites are having fewer children

It is clear that the hon the Minister does not understand his job He should not think that one should simply encourage smaller families A healthy family is a basic requirement for keeping a community happy This does not mean that one should regard every baby that is born as a frustration of one's efforts Sound family development dictates that there should be nothing preventing parents from having children

What is happening to the Afrikaner people here is that young people who are considering having a baby are literally being fined by an amount of between R3 000 and R5 000 before they have bought a single nappy or bottle, because this is what the confinement expenses alone amount to They also know that when the child goes to school they will be subjected to the child tax at State-aided schools They know that when their children go to school they will have to pay, whereas millions of children receive free education simply because they are not White

If the hon the Minister wants to do his job, he should receive professional guidance to enable him to understand that the only objective is not a fertility rate of 2,1, but a healthy family development programme This is why his department is going to participate next year in the "Year of the Family" project Up to now his attitude has been of no benefit to Afrikaner families Therefore we can ask whether he is at all suitable or equipped to adopt any standpoint in regard to Afrikaner births

*Miss M SMUTS Mr Chairman, I am speaking today in my capacity as a typical South African mother [Interjections]

*Mr H J COETZEE How many children do you have? [Interjections]

*Miss M SMUTS I will be pleased to answer the hon member's question [Interjections]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! Hon members must please give that hon typical South African mother an opportunity to make her speech [Interjections] The hon member may proceed

*Miss M SMUTS I am the mother of two children and as the mother of two children I am a good example of the White fertility profile of 1,7 As far as that hon member is concerned, I am therefore part of the problem

I should answer the hon member succinctly and seriously by saying that the answer to his problem does not lie in fertility, but in federalism If he joins the AVU and comes to the Western Cape and becomes non-racial, he will no longer have a problem

However, as a typical South African mother, I take pity on the hon member I did some of the research which the department is unable to do, namely research into the hon member's alleged low fertility, and I made use of the document "Vroue Ons stille vegters" It is an NP publication, but it was drawn up in 1979 when the hon CP members were still NP members That was also the year in which my son was born My daughter was born in 1982 when the CP was founded [Interjections] Therefore while I was engaged in propagating my line, the hon members were engaged in the following·

As vroue moet ons onsself beskikbaar stel

*Mr J H VAN DER MERWE Hear, hear! [Interjections]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I am sorry, but we will never know for what purpose the ladies should make themselves available [Interjections]

*Dr F HARTZENBERG Mr Chairman, on a point of order Is it not reasonable to ask that the Chair compensate the hon member for the time that we have taken up? [Interjections]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I have already been very accommodating towards the hon member

*The MINISTER OF POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Mr Chairman, I cannot go into detail with regard to the snide remarks which the hon member made in respect of my incompetence It is precisely because I know what population growth means that I am telling him these things

He will know that there were times in the history of the Afrikaner when the children who were born from mixed marriages were given away and dumped with the Coloureds

*Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE Don't talk nonsense, man

*The MINISTER Two of my uncles are sitting there in the ranks of the CP [Interjections] Let me state for the hon member's information that the one uncle has five children and the other, four Therefore I know what the needs of that people are.

His assumptions of how the Whites are going to be economically destroyed and how it will be impossible for there to be economic growth

*Mr C H PIENAAR Mr Chairman, on a point of order Does the hon the Minister not think that if one was his uncle one would also have given him away? [Interjections]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE. Order! The hon the Minister may proceed

*The MINISTER I shall leave the issue relating to that hon member at that [Interjections]

It has been proved throughout the world that it is precisely where there is a decrease in the population growth that the economy grows We cannot support more people with the limited means at our disposal I think that is what the hon member should try to understand when we talk about adopting a population development policy in this country Race is not at issue here, but rather every population group living in this part of the world Furthermore, we must make every population group aware of the fact that our resources are running out and that we simply cannot continue in this way

I would appreciate it if the hon member would stop being so insulting [Time expired]

*Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Chairman, I find it regrettable that the hon the Minister is trying to make a joke of this whole issue, because it is a very serious issue The total fertility index of 1,7 of the people, or the power base of this House, means that it is actually a dying people in number terms This will ultimately result in a disaster for South Africa

What are the most important reasons for this? [Interjections] Yes, it is true that favourable socio-economic conditions do have a lowering effect on population growth, but there are also many other important reasons For example there is the heavy economic pressure on many of our people who do not qualify for free hospitalisation, the medical costs related to confinement, and the costs of educating children, or as my colleague said, providing them with education

These are some of the other reasons, but the important one, and one that is becoming increasingly prominent, is the fatalistic attitude in regard to the future of the self-determination and freedom of our people in their own fatherland Many people are asking, and it preys on their subconscious, because this is a burning question, whether there is still a future for their children in this country Furthermore, we should not lose sight of the effect which this act of terrorism—yesterday's murder of a farmer and his wife—which was so provocatively directed at the farming community, is going to have on the farmers The farmers are now being forced to take active measures to protect hearth and home

The hon member for Barberton, whose voters and friends were victims of this callous deed, said the following in a statement, and I quote

> Ná die vergadering op Potchefstroom is die teerling nou deur die terroriste- en moordbendes gewerp en hierdie mense moet nou weet dat daar nou aktiewe selfverdedigingsaksies in aksie gestel gaan word

This is not war talk to be taken lightly, but our people must now enforce law and order with determination in order to create a new vision for the future Only then will we be able to expect a positive view of the future to have a favourable effect on the population growth of our people [Time expired]

*Dr F H PAUW Mr Chairman, the Afrikaner people, as the hon member for Pietersburg said, are vital to this country The Afrikaners ran this country when this country was experiencing an economic boom [Interjections] If the number of Afrikaners and other Whites in this country were to dwindle, this country would suffer damage

The question is, what are the causes of this problem? The hon the Minister does not regard it as a problem, but there can be no doubt that it is in fact a problem I emphasised the cost aspect Something I did not touch on is the confidence in the future and hopes for the future

This Government is clearly not competent to rectify this situation The solution lies in providing assistance with confinement expenses and school fees, and in replacing the Government so that Afrikaner parents may once again have the hope and confidence to have children and hence be able to make their contribution to the continued existence of the people

*The MINISTER OF POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Mr Chairman, I am not making a joke of this serious issue These hon gentlemen want to politicise the issue Let me give an indication of what I mean

When the Government introduced family planning, it had a racial base and they were not able to check the population growth of the other sectors of the population Now they are saying a disaster will hit the country if the numbers of Afrikaners were to dwindle This is quite clearly nonsense

In Europe, for example, where the total average fertility rate is 1,7, the number of children under 15 years of age dropped to 20 % of the population, and although the figure for those above 65 increased to 14 % as against South Africa's 4 %, the total dependency burden is only 34 %, as against South Africa's 50 %

The percentage of South Africa's population under the age of 15 years is 46 %, and if we continue to grow at 2,3 % per annum while we have a negative economic growth, then it is a disaster! What are the hon members talking about? If we cannot support the people in the country, that is a disaster, not the reduction of one section of the population.

If those rugged Boere leaders want to launch such a programme, they should rather motivate their own people In that case they should not expect the Government to launch a programme to motivate them They referred to confinement expenses Who in this country does not have confinement expenses? Do those hon members think we are exempted from confinement expenses or that our maternity cases are dealt with free of charge?

This is the crux of the matter If we do not check the population growth in this country, then we will be facing disaster

Debate concluded

SAP: multi-party control

2 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order

Whether the Government has given consideration to introducing multi-party control over the South African Police during the run-up period to any general elections, including election day, if not, why not, if so, (a) what form of multi-party control is being envisaged and (b) through what structures will such control be exercised?

B795E INT

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER Mr Chairman, the hon the State President, in a statement issued on 8 May 1993, said the following, and I quote

> The Government controls the full power of the State and will continue to do so until power can be transferred in an orderly fashion to a new and safeguarded constitutional dispensation

In the same statement he said, and I quote again

> In particular I reject the false impression which was created to the effect that the Government is considering to give up control of the security forces All that is under consideration is the acceptance of mechanisms which will eliminate beyond all doubt the misuse of the security forces for party-political purposes.

It is the primary responsibility of the Government to maintain law and order This is also the viewpoint of Inkatha, the ANC, the CP, the AVU and, I believe, the DP This viewpoint is also supported by the United Nations

At Codesa the following decisions were taken by Working Group 3 in respect of the subcouncil for law and order. I quote:

> The subcouncil will acquaint itself with developments in law and order, stability and security at all levels of government: central, regional or local and concerning all other participants in the TEC
>
> It will take steps to identify and to promote all developments in this field which, in its opinion, may impact favourably upon the levelling of the playing fields, free political participation and the creation, as far as possible, of a climate of peace and stability
>
> It will take steps to identify and prevent, within its powers, all developments in this field which, in its opinion, will impact adversely upon peace and stability, the levelling of the playing fields, free political participation or the transition to democracy

It is the Government's view that we are committed to giving substance to the above-mentioned structures and their powers and duties by means of negotiation and by means of participation in the structures, ensuring that the objectives, as spelt out, do come to fruition

The Government is, however, prepared to perform its task in consultation with various parties

*The essence of the answer lies in the fact that a subcouncil must ensure that the security forces of the Government, the self-governing territories and other participants in the negotiation process, as well as MK, Apla and the AWB do not misuse the powers at their disposal in the period leading up to the election, or during the election campaign [Time expired]

Mr P H P GASTROW Mr Chairman, as I interpret the hon the Minister's answer to this question, he is saying "no" to joint multi-party control and "yes" to joint supervision

There is a big difference between those two Joint control implies joint responsibility and joint accountability In the event of joint control, if the police have to act against elements who are disrupting meetings during the election campaign, for example, and someone is injured by birdshot, then it is not this hon Minister alone or the SA Police who are responsible The multi-party representatives take responsibility for that act If there is joint supervision only, and someone is shot with birdshot, the others who act as joint supervisors are not responsible They are not accountable Only this hon Minister and the SA Police are If the Government persists in sole control of the SA Police to the bitter end, every single incident in which the police are involved during the election campaign, and which can be exploited by all the Government's political opponents, will be blamed on this Government and on the police Every single incident will be laid at the door of this hon Minister.

Joint supervision is weak It is a step forward, but it is weak It does not impose joint responsibility Why does the hon the Minister insist on clinging to sole control of the police to the bitter end of this Government's term? No one is suggesting that he should throw control out of the window We are talking about joint control—joint control just before an election, after which he will no longer be in sole control

I would suggest that unless there is a form of joint control, the chances of the police acting with a degree of legitimacy, and with the support of the other actors are very, very slim, and that therefore the chances of the SA Police Force being able to control the situation with a degree of legitimacy are very slim The SA Police Force will be seen as a private army of this Government acting on behalf of the Government during an election campaign

That is how it will be painted, because he refuses to allow others to have joint responsibility He does not want the others to have joint accountability because he want to cling to it to the very last This Government is going to lose votes [Time expired]

*Mr D S PIENAAR Mr Chairman, I want to tell the hon member for Durban Central that every incident in the situations he sketched here in which the police were involved, will in any case be exploited by the revolutionaries in that election climate in an effort to make maximum capital out of the situation against the authorities which have to maintain law and order [Interjections]

The DP is just the party one could have expected to make such a proposal They have a tradition of attacks on the police and of casting suspicion on the police Even the most recent and more moderate attitude of the hon member in respect of the police is qualified by his repeated statements that the Government and the police do not have legitimacy, in other words credibility, to maintain law and order in this country with confidence We reject this

The proposal for multi-party control means in effect joint control of our security forces by the ANC It is as simple as that, and the hon member cannot deny it Therefore what the hon member is suggesting, is that our security forces, and specifically the SA Police, should be placed under the control of that organisation whose

Cont →

AGEING WHITES

S/Times 8/3/92

SOUTH AFRICA is a young nation — but its white population is ageing.

Census 1991 shows that while half the black population is younger than 20, only a third of whites are. The national average is 40 percent. (23·1)

But the steep rise in population growth might, at last, be slowing down. There are more children aged between five and nine than any other age group in the country — on March 7 last year there were nearly three million of them. There were, however, 200 000 less children aged five and under.

Not only do whites comprise the smallest proportion of under-20s, but also the biggest proportion of over-60s. Thirteen percent were older than 60 on March 7 last year, compared with only six percent of blacks.

61 killed, 165 hurt in 7 days

Sowetan 14/5/93

(237)

■ Figures show increase

SIXTY-ONE people were killed and 165 injured in the seven days ending on May 11, according to the Human Rights Commission's weekly repression report released yesterday

It said the figures were higher than the previous week's totals of 46 deaths and 40 injured Of the 61 deaths, 28 had occurred in Natal, 19 in the PWV area and 14 elsewhere — *Sapa*

(b) communication of its proposals and functions to employers and employees in the Industry,

(c) the establishment of a committee to address a framework for career paths and training modules in the Industry by March 1992,

(d) regular reporting by the Industry Education and Training Board to the Industrial Council on training efforts occurring in the Industry.

(b) die mededeling van sy voorstelle en funksies aan werkgewers en werknemers in die Nywerheid,

(c) die stigting van 'n komitee om teen Maart 1992 'n raamwerk vir beplande beroepe en opleidingsmodules binne die Nywerheid daar te stel,

(d) gereelde verslagdoening deur die Raad vir Nywerheidsonderrig en -opleiding aan die Nywerheidsraad oor opleidingspogings in die Nywerheid

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

No. R. 883 **21 May 1993**

MARRIAGE ACT, 1961 (ACT No. 25 OF 1961)

FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MARRIAGE ACT

The Minister of Home Affairs has, in terms of section 38 of the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961), made the regulations in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Definition

1. In this Schedule the expression "the Regulations" means the regulations in terms of the Marriage Act, 1961, published under Government Notice No. R 2207 of 24 October 1986.

Insertion of regulations 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D in the Regulations

2. The following regulations are hereby inserted after regulation 5 of the Regulations.

"Marriage register

5A. The marriage register referred to in section 29A shall contain substantially the information prescribed on form BI-30.

Issuing of marriage certificates

5B. (1) The marriage officer who solemnizes a marriage shall, after the register referred to in section 29A (1) has been signed, issue to the parties, free of charge, a marriage certificate containing substantially the information prescribed on form BI-27, in respect of the marriage

(2) The Director-General may on application issue—

(a) an abridged marriage certificate, containing substantially the information prescribed on form BI-41, or

(b) a full marriage certificate, containing substantially the information prescribed on form BI-36,

based on the particulars contained in a marriage register which is preserved by him under the Act or any other law, or of which the particulars are included in the population register mentioned in the Identification Act, 1986 (Act No 72 of 1986), on receipt of—

(i) an amount of R12,00 in respect of an abridged marriage certificate, or

(ii) an amount of R24,00 in respect of a full marriage certificate

DEPARTEMENT VAN BINNELANDSE SAKE

No. R. 883 **21 Mei 1993**

HUWELIKSWET, 1961 (WET No. 25 VAN 1961)

EERSTE WYSIGING VAN DIE REGULASIES KRAGTENS DIE HUWELIKSWET

Die Minister van Binnelandse Sake het kragtens artikel 38 van die Huwelikswet, 1961 (Wet No. 25 van 1961), die regulasies in die Bylae uitgevaardig.

BYLAE

Woordomskrywing

1. In hierdie Bylae beteken die uitdrukking "die Regulasies" die regulasies kragtens die Huwelikswet, 1961, afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing No. R 2207 van 24 Oktober 1986.

Invoeging van regulasies 5A, 5B, 5C en 5D in die Regulasies

2. Die volgende regulasies word hierby na regulasie 5 van die Regulasies ingevoeg:

"Huweliksregister

5A. Die huweliksregister bedoel in artikel 29A moet wesenlik die besonderhede voorgeskryf op vorm BI-30 bevat.

Uitreiking van huweliksertifikate

5B. (1) Die huweliksbevestiger wat 'n huwelik voltrek, moet, nadat die register bedoel in artikel 29A (1) onderteken is, 'n huweliksertifikaat, wat wesenlik die besonderhede voorgeskryf op vorm BI-27 bevat, ten opsigte van die huwelik gratis aan die partye uitreik.

(2) Die Direkteur-generaal kan op aansoek—

(a) 'n verkorte huweliksertifikaat uitreik wat wesenlik die besonderhede voorgeskryf op vorm BI-41 bevat; of

(b) 'n volledige huweliksertifikaat uitreik wat wesenlik die besonderhede voorgeskryf op vorm BI-36 bevat,

gegrond op die besonderhede vervat in 'n huweliksregister wat kragtens die Wet of enige ander wet deur hom bewaar word of waarvan die besonderhede in die bevolkingsregister, vermeld in die Wet op Identifikasie, 1986 (Wet No 72 van 1986), opgeneem is, uitreik by ontvangs van—

(i) 'n bedrag van R12,00 ten opsigte van 'n verkorte huweliksertifikaat; of

(ii) R24,00 ten opsigte van 'n volledige huweliksertifikaat.

→ P 70 →

Supplementation and rectification of particulars in the marriage register

5C. If it comes to the attention of the Director-General that any particular in respect of any person in any marriage register completed or preserved in terms of the Act or these regulations, are not correctly reflected, the Director-General may supplement and rectify such particular

Completion of marriage register

5D Where a marriage has allegedly been solemnized in terms of the Act but the marriage register referred to in section 29A has for some reason or other not been completed or cannot be found, the Director-General may, after consideration of such proof and after such inquiry as he may deem necessary, direct that the marriage register referred to in regulation 5A with regard to such marriage be completed ".

Amendment of regulation 6 of the Regulations

3. Regulation 6 of the Regulations is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subregulation (1) of the following subregulation:

"(1) Any marriage officer shall, in respect of every marriage solemnized by him, forward the documents referred to in subregulation (2), where applicable, together with the register and duplicate of the register referred to in regulation 5A, to the regional or district representative of the Department of Home Affairs for forwarding to the Director-General as contemplated in subregulation (3)."; and

(b) by the deletion of subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (d) of subregulation (2)

Amendment of regulation 13 of the Regulations

4. Regulation 13 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) and (c)

Insertion of regulation 13A in the Regulations

5. The following regulation is hereby inserted after regulation 13 of the Regulations.

"Offences and penalties

13A. Any person who—

(a) contravenes any provision of these regulations or fails to comply therewith;

(b) makes or causes to be made any false statement relating to any of the particulars required by these regulations to be furnished; or

(c) falsely makes or counterfeits or causes to be falsely made or counterfeited any marriage certificate mentioned in regulation 5B, any certified copy thereof or any certified extract therefrom,

shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.".

Amendment of Annexure to the Regulations

6. The Annexure to the Regulations is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion of the following forms before form BI-31E

Aanvulling en verbetering van besonderhede in huweliksregister

5C. Indien dit onder die Direkteur-generaal se aandag kom dat enige besonderheid ten opsigte van 'n persoon in 'n huweliksregister wat ingevolge die Wet of hierdie regulasies voltooi is of bewaar word, nie korrek weergegee word nie, kan die Direkteur-generaal sodanige besonderheid aanvul en verbeter

Invul van huweliksregister

5D Waar 'n huwelik na bewering kragtens die Wet voltrek is maar die huweliksregister bedoel in artikel 29A om die een of ander rede nie ingevul is of nie gevind kan word nie, kan die Direkteur-generaal, na oorweging van sodanige bewyse en na sodanige ondersoek as wat hy nodig ag, gelas dat die huweliksregister bedoel in regulasie 5A ten opsigte van sodanige huwelik ingevul word."

Wysiging van regulasie 6 van die Regulasies

3. Regulasie 6 van die Regulasies word hierby gewysig—

(a) deur subregulasie (1) deur die volgende subregulasie te vervang.

"(1) 'n Huweliksbevestiger moet ten opsigte van elke huwelik wat hy bevestig, die dokumente bedoel in subregulasie (2), waar van toepassing, saam met die register en duplikaat van die register bedoel in regulasie 5A, aan die streek- of distriksverteenwoordiger van die Departement van Binnelandse Sake stuur vir deursending aan die Direkteur-generaal soos beoog in subregulasie (3) ", en

(b) deur subparagrawe (ii) en (iii) van paragraaf (d) van subregulasie (2) te skrap

Wysiging van regulasie 13 van die Regulasies

4. Regulasie 13 van die Regulasies word hierby gewysig deur paragrawe (b) en (c) te skrap

Invoeging van regulasie 13A in die Regulasies

5. Die volgende regulasie word hierby na regulasie 13 van die Regulasies ingevoeg·

"Misdrywe en strawwe

13A Iemand wat—

(a) 'n bepaling van hierdie regulasies oortree of versuim om daaraan te voldoen,

(b) 'n valse verklaring betreffende enige besonderhede wat volgens hierdie regulasies verstrek moet word, doen of laat doen, of

(c) 'n huweliksertifikaat in regulasie 5B vermeld, 'n gesertifiseerde afskrif daarvan of 'n gesertifiseerde uittreksel daaruit, vervals of namaak of dit laat vervals of namaak,

is aan 'n misdryf skuldig en by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met 'n boete, of met gevangenisstraf vir 'n tydperk van hoogstens drie maande ".

Wysiging van Aanhangsel tot die Regulasies

6. Die Aanhangsel tot die Regulasies word hierby gewysig—

(a) deur die volgende vorms voor vorm BI-31A in te voeg.

of problems with the measurement of school-leavers in particular This survey was to be restructured and re-introduced on the basis of the results of the 1991 Population Census However, as a result of the restrictions placed on the 1992–93 budget all activities regarding the current population surveys had to be discontinued A survey, the October Household Survey, with the primary purpose of measuring unemployment is planned to be undertaken during October of this year, since funds have again been made available It will be a comprehensive survey that will be undertaken only once a year and will also include information on aspects such as the informal sector, births and deaths to determine *inter alia* birth and death rates by population group

Infant mortality rate

332 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

What was the infant mortality rate for (a) Blacks, (b) Whites, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas in South Africa in 1991 and 1992, respectively? B746E

The MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Since 1991 the Central Statistical Service does not publish information according to racial group A total infant mortality rate is not available

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

nation

Missing man's body found

The body of missing Camperdown farmer Alex Kalafatis was found yesterday Police discovered the decomposed body in an abandoned house at Umgababa on the Natal South Coast It appeared that he had been shot Kalafatis's burnt-out car was found about two kilometres from the house. Three suspects have been arrested in connection with his death — Sapa.

Star 26/5/93

Spotlight on abortion deaths

Preventing deaths from abortions is the theme of this year's international day of action for women's health, which falls on Friday To mark this day, the women's health project, a division of the Centre for Health Policy at the University of the Witwatersrand, is convening a workshop to discuss these issues. The workshop will be held on Saturday at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg. — Sapa (237)

Constable shot in Daveyton

A 32-year-old policeman, Constable Z S Mudugive, was shot dead in Daveyton yesterday Police said the municipal policeman was walking with a female colleague at about 5 pm when three youths came from behind and shot Mudigive in the back of his head The killers grabbed the policeman's pistol and fled The woman was not injured in the attack — Sapa.

Scores flee after four slain

Star 26/5/93

Scores of people are reported to have fled their homes in the Bulwer area in Natal after a series of violent incidents at the weekend in which four people, including a five-month-old child, were killed following a rally organised by the ANC Youth League The Inkatha Freedom Party and the league accused each other of harassment before and after the rally — Sapa

Baby dolphin makes splash

The Seaworld Dolphinarium in Durban recorded a "splashdown" of a special kind at the weekend when Indian Ocean bottlenose dolphin Frodo gave birth at 3 pm on Sunday Fathered by Gambit, it was the fifth calf born to the two dolphins A special "maternity" net was used during the birth to shield the infant from the pool's hard walls — Own Correspondent

Toddler drowns on farm

A toddler of 2½ was found drowned in a farm dam north of Pretoria yesterday Police said Andre le Roux went missing about 8.30 am yesterday After an extensive search, his body was found in the dam — Sapa.

Two blasts rock Reef mine

Two explosions ripped through the Vaal Reef

metro

New rules for city's hawkers

Star 26/5/93

By Cyril Madlala

Johannesburg's CBD pavements are to be leased to landlords in a bid to promote orderly hawking and overcome congestion and littering, the city council decided yesterday.

Leasing to landlords, including those in Hillbrow and Joubert Park, will be on a permanent basis with lease periods of at least a year.

Littering

"We sincerely believe that leasing pavements will lead to more orderly hawking in the CBD and that problems such as littering and obstruction will be alleviated," management committee chairman Ian Davidson said

Before applications for sidewalk leases were submitted to the management committee, the urbanisation department would consult hawker associations, hawkers, and any other party whose interest might be affected, the council said.

Davidson said landlords would be encouraged to erect hawker stands on pavements adjoining their properties.

"It must be emphasised that the council is not attempting to discriminate against hawkers in favour of CBD landlords. We are in fact trying to improve informal trading so that everyone who shares the CBD can benefit," Davidson said

Landlords leasing sidewalks would have to permit street traders to use a portion of the leased site free of charge, but the number of hawkers and the vending areas would be subject to approval by the municipality

Although pavements would be leased to landlords only, hawker associations and consortia would be invited to lease identified market sites within the CBD

Lessees would be required to upgrade the quality of hawking on the leased sites by providing temporary or permanent structures, refuse storage and, if possible, overnight storage facilities for the hawkers. They would be allowed to charge a nominal rental for the structures

It was up to the landlords to ensure the sites were kept clean and traders did not obstruct pedestrians

Cable theft hits phones

About 1 600 telephone subscribers in the Alrode industrial area east of Johannesburg will be without their services until Friday afternoon following the theft of cable on Monday, Telkom said yesterday

A Telkom spokesman said three cables were stolen.

gularly stolen and the copper content sold to scrap dealers.

"Last year in the Witwatersrand region we had around R5 million worth of cable stolen."

Telkom hoped services would be restored to Alrode subscribers from about 4 pm

	Howick	40
	Estcourt	53
(b)	Pietermaritzburg	745
	Glencoe	39
	Howick	53
	Estcourt	74
(3) (a)	Pietermaritzburg	734
	Glencoe	39
	Howick	53
	Estcourt	74
(b)	Pietermaritzburg	11
	Glencoe	0
	Howick	0
	Estcourt	0

Reserve Bank/Corporation for Public Deposits: profits

353 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance †

(1) Whether the Reserve Bank showed a profit (a) during the period 1 January 1921 up to and including 31 December 1988 and (b) in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively; if so,

(2) whether any portion of this profit accrued to the State during the periods mentioned in paragraph (1) (a) and (b); if not, why not, if so, what was the amount, in each case;

(3) whether the Corporation for Public Deposits has shown a profit since 1 January 1984, if not, why not, if so, what is the relevant figure in respect of each calendar year since that date? B828E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE·

(1) (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(2) The total profits after a dividend of not more than 10 per cent and a transfer to the statutory reserve fund of 10 per cent of the remaining profit, is paid to the Government annually in terms of the South African Reserve Bank Act, No 90 of 1989

The following amounts have been paid to the State

Financial year ended 31 March	*R(millions)*
1921 – 1988	405,1
1989	48,7
1990	147,1
1991	70,9
1992	139,4

(3) The Corporation for Public Deposits has realised the following profits since its inception in 1984

Financial year ended 31 March	*R(millions)*
1985	10,4
1986	16,7
1987	16,7
1988	15,7
1989	19,0
1990	35,6
1991	31,7
1992	27,1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

UESTIONS

Indicates translated version

or written reply

eneral Affairs

Illegal abortions: persons charged

2 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of ustice

(a) How many persons were charged with illegally performing abortions during the latest specified period of three years for which figures are available and (b) how many of the persons so charged were convicted on this charge? D233E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE·

The following statistics were obtained from the Central Statistical Services

	July 1988–June 1989	July 1989–June 1990	July 1990—June 1991
(a) Number of persons prosecuted	33	44	33
(b) Number of persons convicted	26	36	20

wn Affairs

Financial assistance to institutions

4 Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of elfare:

Whether any financial assistance was given by his Department to certain institutions, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, in the 1991–92 financial year, if not, why not, if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) extent of the assistance given to each of these institutions? D282E

e MINISTER OF WELFARE.

Yes

(a) Granting of subsidies

(b) (i) Aryan Benevolent Home Council—Chatsworth

Children's Home	R1 166 021,16
Home for the Aged	R 504 015,48
Home for the Handicapped	R2 777 829,24
Service Centre for Aged	R 28 199,98

(ii) Cheshire Home—Chatsworth

Adult Home	R 101 576,24
Children's Home	R 76 433,26

(iii) Chatsworth Child and Family Welfare Society R 563 773,15

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Specialist courts: jurisdiction

46 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

(a) What specialist courts are operating in South Africa at present, (b) at what level does each such court operate and (c) what is the jurisdiction of each? B87E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The question is susceptible to various interpretations, and the question cannot be replied to in the form in which it is asked In order to be of assistance to the hon member, details concerning "special courts" instituted in terms of acts administered by the Department of Justice, as well as some of the institutions commonly regarded as "special courts", to serve as examples, are mentioned hereunder:

(i) (a) Labour Appeal Court (Labour Relations Act, 1956 (Act 28 of 1956))

(b) Constitution The Court consists of a judge (chairman of the Court), and two assessors appointed by the chairman

(c) Powers (sec 17B) To decide *inter alia* appeals from the Industrial Court

(ii) (a) Industrial Court (Labour Relations Act, 1956 (Act 28 of 1956))

(b) Constitution: The Court consists of a president, deputy president and other members appointed by the Minister of Manpower

(c) Powers (sec 17 (11)): To decide matters arising in terms of the Labour Relations Act, 1956

(iii) (a) Court for Income Tax Appeals (Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act 58 of 1962))

(b) Constitution The Court consists of a judge or acting judge, an accountant and normally a representative of the commercial community

(c) Powers (sec 83) To hear and determine appeals against decisions of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue

(iv) (a) Water Court. (Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956))

(b) Constitution A judge presides and may appoint two assessors.

(c) Powers (sec 34): To hear and determine certain disputes relating to the use or appropriation of water

(v) (a) Special Superior Court. (Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977))

(b) Constitution The Court consists of three judges.

(c) Powers (sec 148) To adjudicate charges which relate to the security of the State or to the maintenance of the public order

(vi) (a) Maintenance Court (Maintenance Act, 1963 (Act 23 of 1963))

(b) Constitution Every Magistrate's Court is also a Maintenance Court

(c) Powers (sec 5) To hold enquiries with regard to maintenance matters

(vii) (a) Children's Court (Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983))

(b) Constitution A commissioner or assistant commissioner of child welfare (magistrate) presides

(c) Powers (sec 6) To adjudicate matters regarding the protection and welfare of children

(viii) (a) Small Claims Court: (Small Claims Court Act, 1984 (Act 61 of 1984))

(b) Constitution A Commissioner for Small Claims presides.

(c) Powers (sec 15) To adjudicate small civil claims up to the amount of R2 000

(ix) (a) Short Process Court (Short Process Courts and Mediation in Certain Civil Cases Act, 1991 (Act 103 of 1991))

(b) Constitution An Adjudicator for Short Process presides

(c) Powers (sec 9) To adjudicate certain civil cases

(x) (a) Civil Courts of Black Chiefs, Headmen and Chiefs' Deputies: (Black Administration Act, 1927 (Act 38 of 1927))

(b) Constitution: A chief, headman or chief's deputy presides

(c) Powers (sec 12) To hear and determine civil claims arising from Black law and custom

(xi) (a) Black Divorce Courts (Black Administration Act, 1927, Amendment Act, 1929 (Act 9 of 1929)) The Department of Justice has recently investigated the desirability of the continued existence of these courts, as a result of which certain changes regarding the forums for the adjudication of divorce matters in general are deemed to be appropriate The Magistrates' Courts Amendment Bill, 1993, which is currently being considered by the Joint Committee on Justice, consequentially provides, amongst others for the abolishment of these courts

(b) Constitution: A president, who may appoint two assessors to assist him, presides

(c) Powers (sec 10) To hear and determine suits of nullity, divorce and separation in respect of marriages between Blacks

State employees: charges/trials/convictions for offences

103 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether he will furnish statistics on the number of (a) former and (b) current State employees who, during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, were (i) charged with, (ii) tried for and (iii) convicted of offences involving acts of dishonesty committed whilst in the employ of the State, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant statistics? B265E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The required information is not readily available It can also not be obtained by scrutinizing all the court records in the Republic as it is in most cases not evident from these records whether or not an accused is a current or former State employee or whether the offence was committed whilst in the employ of the State.

Infanticide: prosecutions/convictions

119 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

How many (a) men and (b) women were (i) prosecuted for and (ii) convicted of infanticide during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available? B288E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The following statistics were obtained from the Central Statistical Services

	Men	*Women*	*Total*
(i) Persons prosecuted for infanticide	61	19	80
(ii) Persons convicted of infanticide	31	13	44

Compensatory orders made by magistrates/judges

167 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Justice:

(a) How many compensatory orders were made by (i) magistrates and (ii) judges of the Supreme Court in terms of sections 297 and 300 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977), in favour of victims of crime during the latest specified period of 12

20 people convicted for abortions in 1990/1

(237) CT 28/5/93

Political Staff

DESPITE reports of widespread and increasing numbers of illegal abortions in South Africa — said to be more than 100 000 a year — only 20 people were convicted for performing illegal abortions in 1990/1.

Over the past three years 82 people were convicted of performing illegal abortions after 110 had been charged with committing the crime, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said in Parliament yesterday, replying to a question by Mr Mahmoud Rajab (DP, Springfield).

Children don't have to die — doctor

Sowetan 29/5 - 2/6/93 (237)

Dirty water and open fires are child killers. These and other aspects of impoverished living conditions, coupled with a lack of primary health care facilities, are responsible for most deaths of South African babies.

Dr Marian Jacobs of the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town points to the statistics on the causes of infant mortality.

"The top killers are preventable causes," she points out.

Infant mortality is generally taken to mean the number of babies dying before their first birthday — in 1989 more than 36 000 children died in the first year of life.

Of the babies who die before their first birthday, 56 percent are perinatal deaths: that is, occuring during labour or within the first four weeks of life. Jacobs says most of these deaths could be prevented by a proper system of pre-natal, obstetric and post-natal care.

A further 17.3 percent of infant deaths are the result of intestinal infections, with diarrhoea a common symptom — these infections are largely the result of unsanitary living conditions. Respiratory diseases account for another 10 percent of child deaths — electrification of homes could help prevent such diseases, which are most common when children are living in smoke-filled houses or shacks.

Diseases caused by inadequate nutrition account for three percent of infant deaths.

Among older children, deaths caused by traffic accidents and drowning could be reduced with better road planning and recreation facilities in townships.

These findings are part of a report which Jacobs has compiled on child health as part of the Situation Analysis of Children and Women in South Africa, which the National Committee on the Rights of Children (NCRC) is to present to the United Nations Children's Education Fund in June.

The report also illustrates how strongly the infant mortality rate is linked to socio-economic status. Babies whose families can provide private medical care, and who live in clean, electrified houses, are more likely to live past their first birthday.

In South Africa, racially skewed health services mean that race as well as income group has an effect on whether a child can expect to survive the first year of life.

While the infant mortality rate among high-income white communities is 7.3 a thousand, among low-income black communities it is as high as 25.2 a thousand.

Concentration of health care facilities in urban areas means that rural children are more likely than urban children to die during infancy.

"The infant mortality rate is the most sensitive indicator of children's well-being," Jacobs says.

She also suggests the mortality rates for African children, especially in rural areas, may be even higher than reported, owing to unreliable registration and census data.

controlling the finances of that country. [Time expired]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Mr Chairman, I think that the floundering hon member for Johannesburg North owes the hon member for Sea Point a debt of gratitude for trying to come to his rescue, but unfortunately what the hon member for Sea Point said implied that for 15 years the position has been static and nothing has been done This does not stand up to critical examination [Interjections]

Ever-increasing attention has been given to this matter, so much so that there has not been a point at which more incisive attention has been given than at this very moment [Interjections]

I was on the point of trying to inform the hon member for Johannesburg North because I am trying to shed some light on the subject for him He generates a lot of heat on the subject I am trying to shed some light on the subject [Interjections]

I wanted to tell him, for example, of one specific mechanism in the whole process, namely suspensions It actually happens frequently that proposed expenditure on specific items is suspended during the budgetary discussion Before such suspension can be lifted, the affected party has to give full reasons justifying the lifting of that suspension, and these reasons have to be acceptable to the SA Government

As I said earlier, the SA Government has a say in preparations made for these governments, but I must also remind hon members that the independent states frequently remind us of their independent status when the question of effective forms of control is discussed

There is no disputing that taxpayers' money has to be protected and that proper financial control should be in force at all times What I have been dealing with refers precisely to that [Interjections] [Time expired]

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 26 May 1993

Swedish aid to political organization

*9 Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs †

(1) Whether South Africa's ambassador in Sweden exerted any pressure on the Swedish government to discontinue financial assistance to a certain political organization, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, what is the name of this organization;

(2) whether he or his Department gave (a) instructions and/or (b) approval for such pressure to be exerted, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, why,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B856E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) No

(2) (a) and (b) No, not previously I am of the opinion that benefits which are granted exclusively to the ANC result in heightened tension and do not contribute to reconciliation This point of view was on more than one occasion conveyed to the relevant governments

(3) Falls away

Citizenship: White males (238)

*12 Mr D S PIENAAR asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

(1) How many White male persons who renounced their South African citizenship and left the Republic before 1 January 1990 and before reaching the age of 30 years, were readmitted to the country after the said date (a) after regaining South African citizenship and (b) on a temporary basis in terms of the Aliens Act, 1937 (Act No 1 of 1937), and the

Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act No 96 of 1991), (238)

(2) whether the admission of such persons was subject to any conditions, if not, why not, if so, what conditions,

(3) whether any of the persons referred to in paragraph (1) (b) are still in the Republic, if so, what are the relevant details with regard to the residence of such persons in the Republic,

(4) whether the South African Defence Force has been notified of the admission to the Republic of and the regaining of South African citizenship by the persons referred to in paragraph (1), if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? B853E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) to (4) Statistics on the required basis are unfortunately not available However, for the hon member's information it may be mentioned that during the period April 1985 until December 1989 a total of 470 persons of all population groups, sexes and ages, whilst inside or outside the Republic, renounced their South African citizenship in terms of section 16 (2) of the South African Citizenship Act, 1949 It must also be pointed out that South African citizenship cannot be resumed whilst a person is abroad after he has renounced his citizenship in terms of section 16 (2) of the South African Citizenship Act, 1949 Such a person must first be admitted to South Africa lawfully and can only resume South African citizenship if he settles here permanently

Persons who have renounced their South African citizenship and left South Africa and subsequently return to the country on a temporary basis are in terms of Departmental policy admitted to the country on temporary permits for holiday or business purposes only Such persons must also hold return tickets

When a former South African citizen resumes South African citizenship in terms of section 25*bis* of the South African Citizenship Act, 1949, or if he is in any way exempted from the loss of his South African citizenship, the South African Defence Force is advised thereof in writing However, the South African Defence Force is not informed when a former South African citizen returns temporarily to South Africa since such persons are not eligible for military service

New questions

RSA citizenship: national service for White males

*1 Mr D S PIENAAR asked the Minister of Defence †

Whether any of the White male persons who before 1 January 1990 and before reaching the age of 30 years had renounced their South African citizenship before they could perform their national service, performed such national service after they had regained their South African citizenship, if so, (a) how many and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished, if not, why not? B854E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(a) 15

(b) 1988 Statistics of this nature were not kept before this date

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Housing finance: co-ordination

*2 Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of National Housing †

Whether the Government intends co-ordinating all aspects of housing financed on the first, second and third tiers of government, if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? B814E

The MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HOUSING

Mr Chairman, I am grateful to the hon member for Heilbron for asking me this question, because I am told that as a new boy I am supposed to make a maiden speech, and here I am giving a maiden reply Regretably, it is a very short reply as well, under the circumstances

As a new national housing policy and strategy for South Africa are at present being negotiated between all interested parties, unfortunately it is at this delicate stage not possible to reply to the hon member's question

I would like to add that it is expected that at least three months will be required before full details are available

cont'd

... BUT ARE THEY READY FOR THE ELECTIONS?

The dompas: From hated symbol to sought-after ticket

W/mail 11/6-17/6/93.

Identity books have finally gained respectability in the run-up to South Africa's first democratic election. By **ALEX DODD** *and* **FERIAL HAFFAJEE**

238

THE little green book is no longer a dompas, but a ticket to a democratic government. Most eligible voters in South Africa have identity documents which will enable them to vote in next April's first democratic election

But the plight of TBVC-homeland voters hangs in the balance as politicians in the World Trade Centre decide whether or not they will be given IDs prior to elections

"It is quite possible that people in the TBVC states will be entitled to use their homeland identity documents to vote," said Black Sash director Sheena Duncan

In that event, some kind of safeguard would have to be built in to prevent people with both homeland and South African IDs from voting twice. A number of migrant workers were accustomed to using their South African IDs here and their homeland IDs in the TBVC states, she said

Identity documents will take on mammoth importance in the run-up to elections. Instead of a voters' roll, voters will use their IDs as a ticket to the vote

Minister of Home Affairs Danie Schutte estimates that this will save about R420-million in additional voter-registration costs

In the absence of a voters' roll, ID documents are one way of ensuring that voters are eligible to vote and that South African citizens do not cast their vote more than once, said an electoral advisor to the multi-party negotiating process

"The likelihood is that there won't be a voters' roll," he said this week

According to the Department of Home Affairs, 91 percent of potential South African voters have been issued with identity books More than 98 percent of whites over 18 years of age have IDs, while the figure for blacks is 81,1 percent For coloureds, the figure is 89,1 percent and 94,2 percent for Indians

According to Home Affairs, there are 18 672 307 eligible voters in South Africa About four million other eligible voters live in the homelands, bringing the total voting population to just over 22-million people

The department says about 42 000 ID documents are being issued every week, with as many as 60 000 being issued in some weeks. They are relatively cheap the department has costed them out at about R1,14 per document

"It is expected that the tempo will continue to increase as we near the coming election," Schutte said earlier this year

Whereas, in the past, Home Affairs was intransigent on the issue of ID application forms being available at points other than departmental offices, it now readily supplies churches, non-governmental organisations and political groupings with the necessary documents.

"Home Affairs' new openness and willingness to accommodate people is a consequence of how government has changed," said Duncan "People are now willing to work with government departments, and the departments are also coming into the real world and realising they won't get anywhere unless there is co-operation"

She said the Johannesburg branch of the Black Sash had no reason to believe that Home Affairs was creating difficulties in the issuing of ID books, because it was not surfacing as a problem in the advice office "We have not had an unusual increase in requests for help in that area," she said

Duncan believes this is a sign that things are running pretty smoothly

"Our experience of working with people is that they are very enthusiastic about this whole voting thing"

Although one generally needs a birth certificate to get an identity document, special arrangements are being made for the many people whose births have not been registered or who have lost their birth certificates They may use a baptism certificate, a certificate from the institution where they were born, a school certificate from the first school attended, or any document on which birth particulars have been recorded

If none of these is available, a family member at least 10 years older than the applicant who can identify that person may make a sworn statement. And if all else fails, prescribed questions may be put to the applicant by officials at the Home Affairs office and an affidavit compiled

Mobile units are available for communities who cannot reach the regional and district offices of Home Affairs. To accommodate rural applicants, the department may send out teams of officials to large groups of farmworkers

The problem with this is that "many people in the rural areas don't know to go to Home Affairs and say 'We need a mobile unit in our area'," said Duncan "It's general information they need"

She said city dwellers and frequenters were much more likely to have identity documents than those in the rural areas and informal settlements

"In a big city you need an ID for so many purposes other than voting — to open a bank account, to get a driver's licence," she said "The first time you need an ID book in a rural area is when you need to get your old-age pension Making sure that people in those areas are reached is the big problem"

Mobile ID units in Western Cape

South 12/6-16/6/93

(238)

IT IS NO longer necessary to travel all the way to the foreshore in Cape Town to apply for an identity document

The ANC Western Cape has arranged with the Department of Home Affairs for mobile ID units to be made available in local areas

This initiative is the result of a number of meetings between the ANC and the Department.

Home Affairs has undertaken that all applicants will receive IDs within six weeks

Applicants should bring birth, marriage and other relevant certificates with them to speed up the process.

The first two of these units began operating last week. Each will remain in place for two weeks before moving to another location

TONY YENGENI

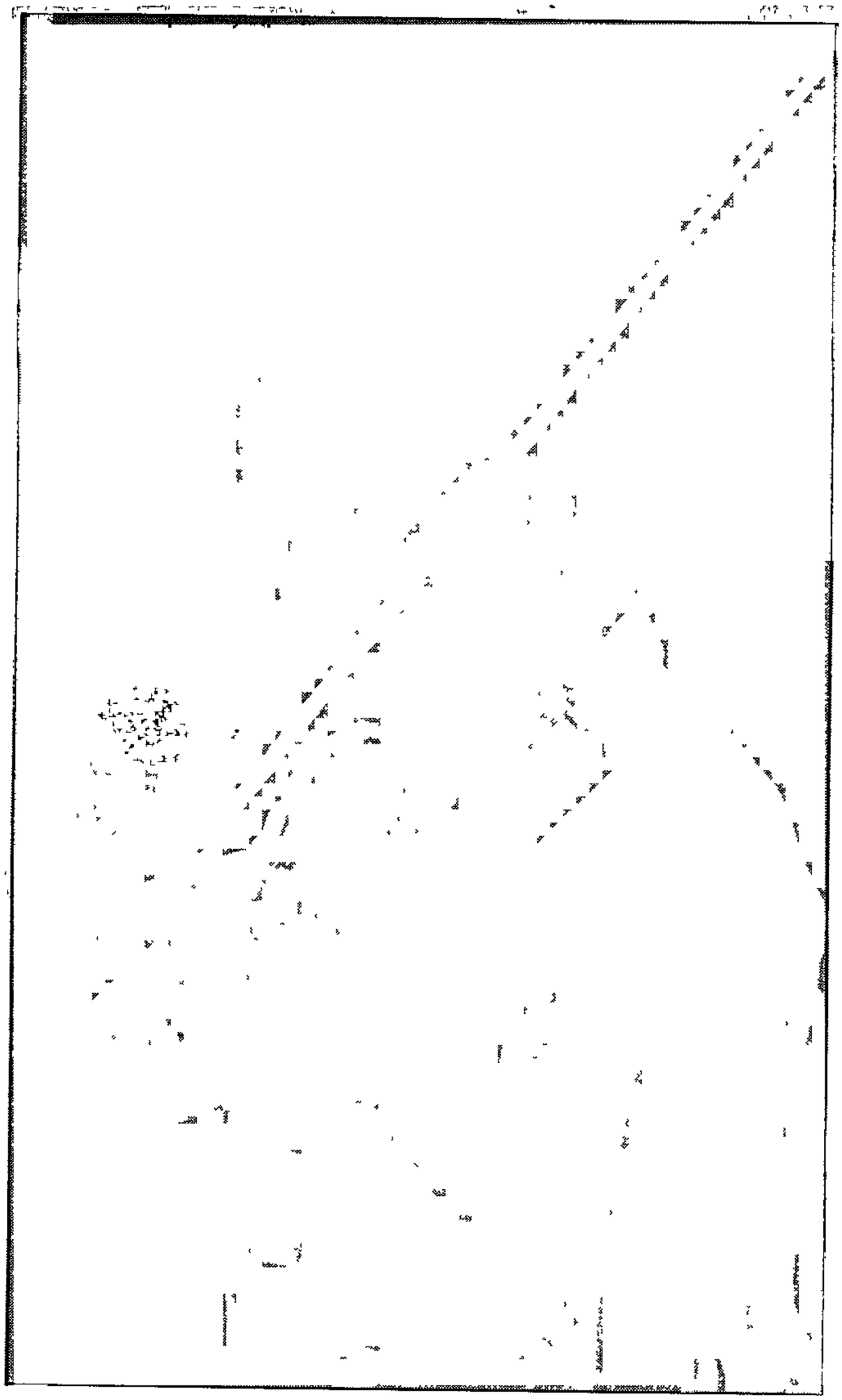
One was at Lusaka Squatter Camp at the Food and Allied Workers Union office in NY1, Guguletu

This week one will stay at Fawu's office while the other moves to Brown's Farm where it will operate from the Marais Building. On Monday June 7 a unit in Noordhoek will begin operating

Applicants will also be able to have their photographs taken at the Noordhoek unit at a cost of R5,50

"We welcome the co-operation of Home Affairs and their preparedness to set up these units," said ANC regional secretary Mr Tony Yengeni

"This extremely important initiative will greatly assist in preparing people for the elections in which they will vote for the first time"



Taking a bow . . . the African Youth Ensemble played at the launch of a landmark report on the state of South Africa's children. Picture: Jacoob Rykliff

Youthful toyi-toyi changes Civic vibe

Star 17/6/93

(238)

By Shirley Woodgate

Johannesburg's controversial Civic Theatre came of age yesterday when hundreds of children took over the auditorium and breathed life into the building previously marked "Reserved for ticket holders only"

The occasion was the launch of a landmark report by the United Nations Children's Fund and the National Children's Rights Committee ahead of a two-day conference in Midrand on the state of South Africa's children

Cheers

It was a serious enough affair, chaired by the PAC's Patricia de Lille and addressed by greying Ellen Kuzwayo and Gertrude Shope, with a solemn moment for two youngsters who signed a National Peace Secretariat peace pledge

But it was Nelson Mandela's arrival that set the foot-stomping, ululating tone which had the rafters ringing as the children mobbed the ANC president all the way to the stage

There were more cheers when he told them that every time he saw a child, a year was added to his life

Afterwards, they toyi-toyied in the aisles to music from the African Youth Ensemble, from classics to jazz, which threatened to bring the house down

It was the day the children gave birth to a new vibe in the building which some had predicted would become a white elephant

● Chilling report on children — Page 6

ne 16 1993

Programme will advance SA children

Star 16/6/93

(237)

By Shirley Woodgate

Sweeping aims to achieve basic education for 80 percent of South African primary school children, a massive reduction in infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates and the halving of adult illiteracy have been announced by the National Children's Rights Committee in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The national programme of action for children is based on a situation analysis of children and women in this country, aimed at meeting most of the World Summit for Children goals for promoting the survival, protection and development of children.

More than 40 African countries were committed to implementation of the programmes and the two organisations hoped South Africa would join their ranks.

Goals include the reduction of infant and under-five child mortality rates by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1 000 live births respectively, whichever is less.

Infant mortality rates would be partly reduced by Universal Child Immunisation (UCI); maternal mortality rates would be cut by improving nutrition and eliminating Vitamin A and iodine deficiency disorders.

Measles, polio and neo-natal tetanus must be eliminated by the end of 1994.

Maternal mortality rates and severe and moderate malnutrition among under-fives should be reduced by half by 2000.

There must be universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of excreta disposal.

LIFESTYLE

Star 23/6/93

(237)

West's birthrates now rising

CANBERRA — Birthrates in most rich nations, falling since 1965, have slowly begun to rise, apparently because of social trends encouraging childbearing, an Australian scientist says

In nearly every nation in northern and western Europe as well as Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, birthrates are rising again after reaching record lows in the 1980s, says demographer Lincoln Day of the Australian National University

"Most of the countries have experienced a slight increase," Day says

"There are continuing declines in nine nations and five show small fluctuations But most of the 31 countries studied are showing growth"

Day argues the rise may be due to such factors as divorced women's cementing of second marriages with children, expectations of larger families held by new immigrants and a greater appreciation of children in people's lives

He says the rising birthrates in rich nations may also reflect dissatisfaction with careers and modern society, leading to withdrawal "to the bosom of the nuclear family"

Day based the study on information compiled by the United Nations

Fertility

The figures show that in Iceland, Sweden, the United States and New Zealand, birthrates now exceed the pace needed to maintain current population

Iceland leads at 6 percent above this figure, followed by New Zealand at 5 percent, Sweden at 3 percent and the US at 2 percent

"In the past, divorce has tended to reduce fertility levels but there are indications that it may now be tending to increase fertility," Day says

Divorced mothers who enter into another relationship may see "the birth of a child or two to the new union as something of a cementing factor"

Birthrates are also being boosted by immigrants from developing nations who arrive in countries such as Australia, Canada and the United States and want larger families, according to the demographer

Rich countries that did not initially show big falls in births after 1965, such as Italy and Spain, have seen their birthrates drop sharply in the past few years

There were an average of 1,26 live births per woman in Italy in 1991 and 1,24 in Spain, down on 2,55 and 2,97 in 1965 and far below the replacement level of about 2,1

"The highest rates of decline over the past two to three decades — in both absolute and proportionate terms — have taken place in those populations with the highest fertility levels at the outset," Day says

Scientists ascribe this to new attitudes to sex, legalisation of birth control and abortion, higher rates of women working, and a desire for smaller families — the same factors that drove birthrates down in other developed nations

SAPA—REUTER

'SA population to reach 54 million by year 2011'

237

ARG 5/7/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The population of South Africa and the TBVC states is expected to rise to at least 54 million by the year 2011 — and then begin to fall

According to a study by Unisa, this represents an increase of 42,3 percent over the 1991 population figure.

The university's Bureau of Market Research says in a report compiled by Professor J Sadie that the growth of the country's white population will approach zero by 2011

The annual increase in the total population is expected to peak between 1996 and 2001 before the tapering off process begins. Projections indicate that the average annual rise in population, peaking at 843 800 — and almost exclusively black — will begin to drop in the first decade of the 21st century.

In the five years to 1996, 88 of every 100 people added to the country's population will be black and, by the year 2011, this will have reached 93.

New look at birth control jab

(231)

ARG 6/7/93

DEPO PROVERA is remembered as a contraceptive injection designed for the ignorant and feckless Now — freed from controversy — it is being used by women, including high-flying executives with erratic lifestyles who don't have time to pop the Pill

The Fertility and Maternal Health Drugs Advisory Committee of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended that Depo Provera — 25 years after it was first registered — be approved for use as a contraceptive in the United States

Most women vaguely remember it as a birth control injection for the dime and disorganised which was eventually foisted on a reluctant female population in the Third World Women, so the story went, were being forcibly injected

In the late 1970s it came under fire following studies that showed that beagles given huge doses were likely to develop breast cancer

The FDA steadfastly refused to give it a licence

But the results from a nine-year study by the World Health Organisation (WHO) showed no overall increased risk of five types of cancer — breast, cervix, liver, ovarian and endometrial

Family planning specialists have always maintained that Depo Provera has had a bad press and say it is an excellent choice for women who cannot tolerate the Pill, who are too forgetful to take it or who have irregular lifestyles

"It used to be seen as a last resort, but it can be a first choice contraceptive for some women," says Ali Kubba, a consultant in community gynaecology at St Thomas's Hospital in South London

"It's nearly 100 percent effective, it doesn't interfere with love-making, you don't need to take a pill every day and if you have a lifestyle that isn't conducive to a strict regime, it's ideal

"We think it should move from being the last resort to being an option — part of a 'cafeteria' menu of contraceptives"

● Depo Provera and other injectable contraceptives have been widely available in South Africa for many years, in spite of the powerful international lobby that has opposed their use, says Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA) executive chairperson Dr Helen Rees

The association believes injectable contraceptives are safe and acceptable methods of contraception

"However, we are also aware internationally, and within South Africa, injectables have been given to the poorer, less educated women who have not been given a real choice of contraceptive methods

"While we welcome the FDA's further confirmation of the safety of this method, it is of concern to PPASA that injectable are still being given to many South African women without their informed consent," says Rees — The Observer and The Argus Correspondent.

How the injection works

DEPO PROVERA, developed by US drug company Upjohn, is given by injection every 12 weeks, gradually releasing the hormone progestogen, which prevents ovulation

After two or three injections, most women find their periods stop, along with any premenstrual tension and pain

Depo Provera eliminates the usual reasons that women conceive on the combined oestrogen/progestogen pill forgetting to take it, stomach upsets, and reaction to other drugs such as antibiotics

It is registered in more than 70 countries, including South Africa More than two million women use it worldwide and 100 000 of those have been on it for more than 10 years

About one in five women has irregular bleeding during the first three months, but specialists say this settles down by the second or third injection If the bleeding is heavy, women can have their second jab early or take a dose of oestrogen

ARG 6/7/93

Doctors say it is essential that women are warned about possible side-effects, which include weight gain and breakthrough bleeding

It is not recommended for women who have just given birth, nor is it a short-term contraceptive Though the injection has no long-term effects on fertility, it can take six to 12 months for a woman to regain her fertility, depending on her age

The World Health Organisation is developing two new injectable contraceptives — Cyclofem and Mesigyna — both of which contain a combination of oestrogen and progestogen and are injected monthly

Waking up to birth control

Citness 11/7/93

By STAN MHLONGO

EVERY day 500 babies are born in SA to children no older than 15.

That's according to deputy director of National Health and Population Development, Dr JL Du Preez, and he has a list of names to prove it

On the eve of world-wide commemoration services for World Population Day today, the department has launched a birth control awareness drive directed at the youth (237)

A statement from the department said. "The world's population is likely to double by the year 2050, and Africa's population will be three-and-a-half times what it is now if the present birthrate continues"

The department mantain that unless drastic steps to curb population growth are taken, an ecological catastrophe will occur

The Director of UMFPA, Dr Napis Sadis, has called for immediate and determined action to balance populations

Pupils ponder procreation

(237)

Staff Reporters

FREE contraception, more money for education and better recreation facilities were solutions to high population growth rates proposed by more than a hundred schoolchildren at the Waterfront yesterday

The children were attending a youth programme to mark World Population Day hosted by the Department of National Health and Population Development, the Junior Town Council and a commercial company

Std 8 and 9 pupils from Cape schools expressed their hopes, fears and ideas for the future. CT 12/7/93

They feared political violence and were concerned about the link between poverty and over-population

The pupils said racism should be abolished They hoped homelessness would end, children would not be neglected and that more would be spent on environmental protection.

Effective media campaigns were needed to educate whole communities — not only schoolchildren — on these issues, they said

the nation

Sowetan

Divorce rates on the rise

12/7/93

THE divorce rate among whites and Asians in South Africa continued to rise in 1992 but that of "coloureds" was unchanged, the Central Statistical Service has revealed

The CSS said it was unable to assess the divorce rate for blacks because of "a lack of comprehensive information" Last year, 17,3 out of every 1 000 white married couples and 8,9 of every 1 000 Asian married couples divorced This was an increase over previous years The 11,7 out of every 1 000 coloured married couples who were divorced in 1992 was the same figure as for 1990 (237)

Star 13/7/93

7-year itch no myth in SA

(237)

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

The seven-year-itch — made famous by a film as well as by music hall comedians — appears to really exist when it comes to marriage, South African-style

Latest figures on the matrimony scene show that one in two of the more than 1,8 million marriages among white, Asian and coloured South Africans ends in the divorce courts "within seven years of solemnisation".

The Central Statistical Service (CSS) says 14,4 percent of all white marriages were dissolved during 1991, while among coloureds the figure was 11,1 percent and among Asians 6,9 percent.

Some 30 000 children were involved in all the divorces

There are no statistics for divorces by black people nor of the number of children who are affected

The year 1991 is the last in which marriages on a population group basis were recorded.

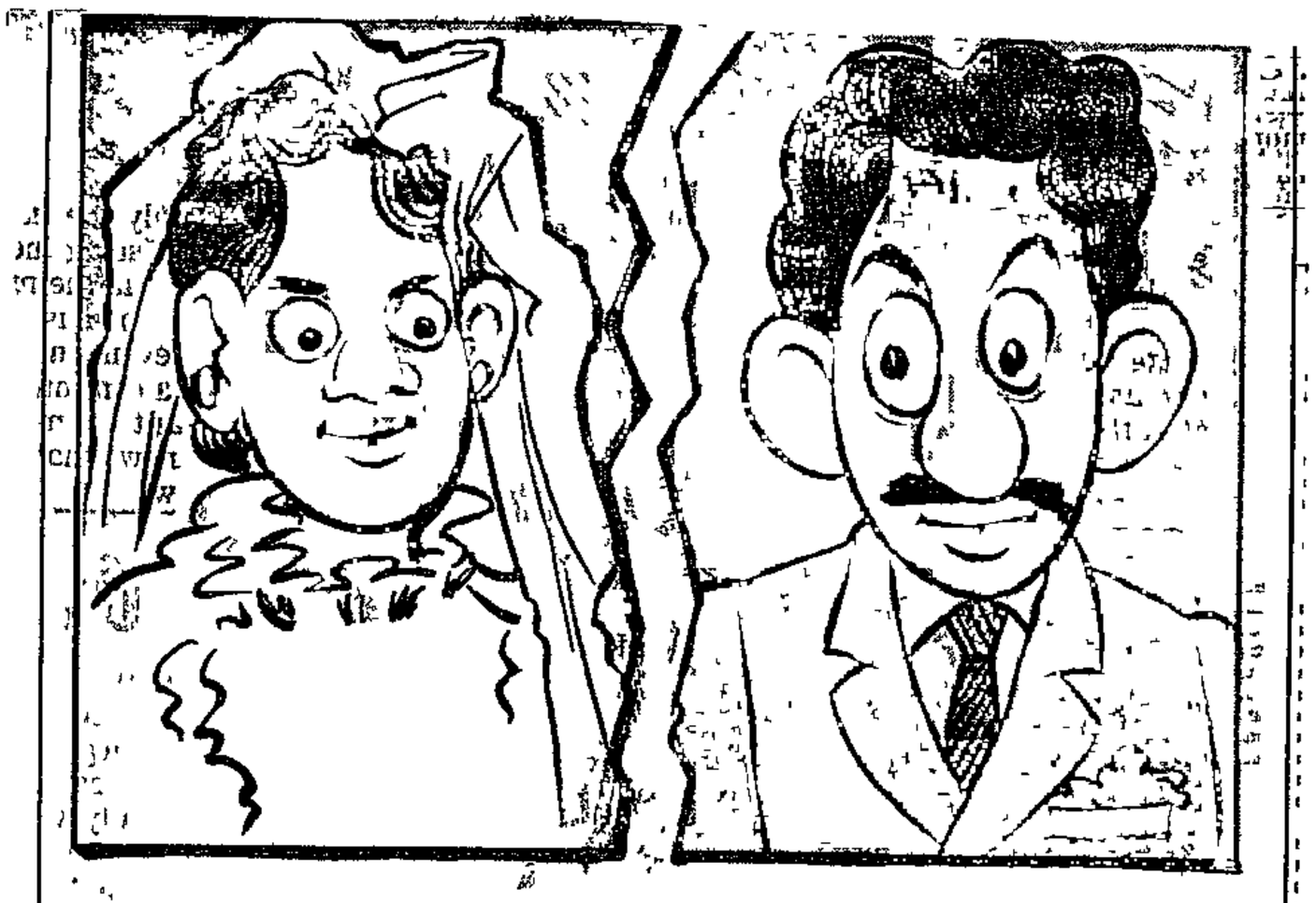
Since then, all marriages have been part of the statistical data irrespective of race It is only in the case of divorces that separate group information is still being kept

However, in spite of the high divorce rate, people are still going to the altar

In 1991, a total of 108 929 couples tied the knot, about half the marriages were in church and 41 percent in magistrates' courts.

And the CSS data also shows it is never too late to marry — even for the first time

There were 64 grooms who held out until they were 80 years old before marrying for the first time Ten women of the same age decided 1991 was the time to get off the shelf



Proposed divorce law wins approval

Star 13/7/93

(237)

By Anna Cox

The Family and Marriage Society of South Africa (Famsa) has welcomed a proposed new law that will enable magistrates to conduct divorce cases

Famsa national training manager, Sylvia Poss, said although the system had not yet been tested, divorce proceedings in the Supreme Court were unnecessarily expensive

"We hope costs will be reduced," she said.

Johannesburg Child Welfare assistant director Celia Theart said that she foresaw no problems with the Bill

The Bill is likely to be promulgated this year

The position of the majority of South Africans however, would not change drastically, said MP Douglas Gibson (DP Yeoville).

"Black people have generally never used the Supreme Court for divorce. Commissioners' courts, which are now being abolished, and which did not require advocates to be present, have traditionally been used," he said

Gibson said he did not believe the new courts would reduce litigation costs significantly

"Even if a divorce is uncontested, attorneys' bills could still be high especially if they have to stand around waiting for the case to be heard Advocates charge flat rates in the region of R250 Obviously in contested cases, the sky is the limit," he said

The only major benefit would be for people living outside big cities who would be spared the expense of travelling to Supreme Courts, said Gibson

He said that magistrates would be empowered to handle all cases — including those involving disputes over children

Senior divorce attorney Alick Costa said he saw some major benefits in the new law All people would have access to the same courts, the discriminatory central division courts (or commissioners' courts) which dealt only with black divorces would be done away with The case load of judges would be alleviated, there would be a larger number of family courts available and in defended cases where counsel was not employed, the costs would probably be less

"In uncontested cases judges have largely become rubber stamps If the family courts are well organised, divorce procedures could be streamlined

"I am a bit concerned about complex matters where the parties or magistrate choose not to refer the action to the Supreme Court The magistrates will not have the experience of judges and at first this may create a few problems," said Costa

The Magistrate's Court Amendment Bill will allow magistrates with LlB degrees to handle divorce actions which have, until now, been the domain of the Supreme Court

The Bill divides the magistrates' courts into three sections, civil, criminal and family courts. The latter will hear divorce, maintenance and custody matters

Attorneys will be able to handle divorces and advocates are no longer necessary

Litigants will have the choice of the Supreme Court or magistrates' courts

South 17/7 - 21/7/93

Mothers before they're adults

(237)

Now that teenagers have access to contraception, the number of teenage pregnancies has dropped But, the roots of the problem are rape, and a lack of sex education, reports **SHANNON NEILL**

THREE years ago you had to be 18 or older to be allowed access to contraception without your guardian's consent Today, people as young as 14 can obtain contraception legally

One of the official reasons given for the age decrease is this country's high teenage pregnancy rate

An unofficial source at one hospital said that they often dealt with pregnant girls "as young as 12, sometimes younger"

What is astonishing is that, according to the source, these girls are more often than not the victims of incestuous rape

Girls too young to have even started menstruating are brought in by their mothers and put onto contraception because the mothers fear their daughters falling pregnant

"We usually put the girls onto Depo Provera (an contraceptive injection that only has to be given every three months) so that at least they don't fall pregnant

"We try to educate the mothers, try to get them to help their daughters Often though, bringing them in for contraception is all they will do," said the source

Because teenagers — both those who are sexually active and those who survive rape — can now get contraception, teenage pregnancy rates have begun to slowly drop, according to a study done for the Department of National Health and Population Development.

From 1990 to 1992 the number of women and girls under 19 using contraceptives in the Western Cape rose from 95 943 to 147 828

PREGNANT AND POWERLESS: Teenage pregnancy can leave catastrophic consequences for the life of a young person
Photo Yunus Mohamed

The number of teenage pregnancies in the Cape Town metropolitan region dropped from 6005 in 1989, to 5766 in 1991

While the drop indicates positive results in dealing with the physical problems of teenage pregnancy, the way these results were achieved indicates extreme social inadequacies

To provide a victim of sexual abuse with contraception does not address the fundamental problem

"In South Africa we have always adopted an ostrich approach, we just buried our heads in the sand and avoided the issue of teenage pregnancy In the future this must change," said Dr Pohl de Villiers, head of the Gynaecology Department at Paarl East Hospital

He identified the lack of sex education in schools as one of the main reasons for the high teenage pregnancy rate in South Africa

"Sex education in schools has been virtually non-existent to date It is a catastrophe when women fall pregnant while still at school It disrupts their education and often they become slaves to their families or husbands

"The unavailability of contraceptives to sexually active teenagers obviously caused a lot of pregnancies," said De Villiers

Although there has been a significant drop in teenage pregnancy figures at Paarl East, De Villiers feels it is not enough

"In 1978, 38 percent of pregnancies at Paarl East were teenage ones At the time this was one of the highest percentages in the world By 1992 the figure had dropped to 18,45 percent

"But we need the figure to drop below one percent It should be possible In the Netherlands only one out of every 100 pregnancies is a teenage one, in Japan only one out of every 300 is," said De Villiers

Ms Gertrude Fester, ANC Women's League member, agreed that sex-education was essential if a change in social consciousness was to be achieved

"It is all very well to lower the age at which contraceptives are available to people, but it means nothing if the desperate need for sex education is not met," she said

"In the light of the Aids epidemic I'm not convinced that lowering the age at which contraception is available to teenagers is a good idea, unless it is accompanied by sex education"

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Marriage counsellor disputes lawyer's*

Divorce rate has dropped — claim

Sowetan 20/7/93

By Sizakele Kooma

LAWYER GODFREY PITJE used to walk into the courtroom with a load of about 30 files of divorce cases under his arm

Today he comes in with just four

This, says the veteran divorce lawyer, can only mean that the rate of divorce has dropped

Ridiculous? Wait for it

Pitje joined the legal profession in 1959 Then there was only one Black Divorce Court, in Pretoria, serving the whole of the Transvaal As the years went by, a centre was established in Johannesburg, starting with two courts and later expanding to three

Now there is one Black Divorce Court.

"Statistically, the numbers have gone down," Pitje says

"It is true that the more affluent blacks are going to the Supreme Court where there is privacy and unopposed cases can be heard quicker than at the Black Divorce Court There have also been more lawyers coming into the profession

"But after July 1979 when adultery and malicious desertion ceased to be the main grounds for divorce, the rate was extremely high," he said.

Getting a divorce on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, Pitje said, opened the door to easy severance of marriage ties

"It was ridiculous I could be given a divorce on the grounds that my spouse drank too much, assaulted me, committed adultery or did not satisfy me sexually, among others," Pitje said

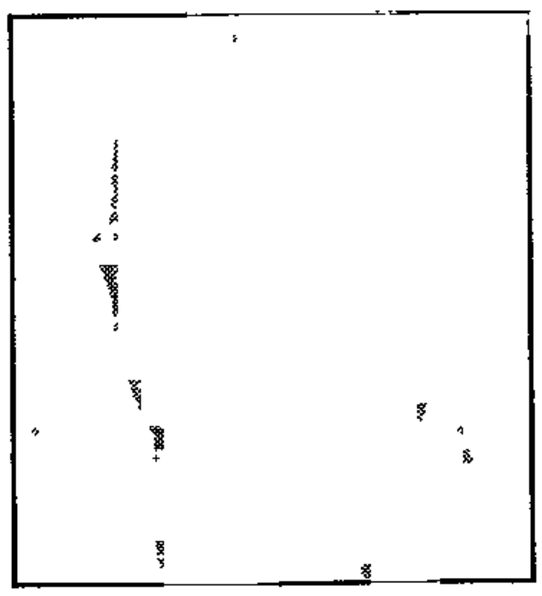
The tendency towards polygamy, especially among people of substance, is one of the reasons for the decrease in divorce cases, Pitje maintains

Some married women, he contends, cannot see themselves leading an independent life They turn a blind eye to the other women in their husbands' lives to preserve their comfortable lifestyle

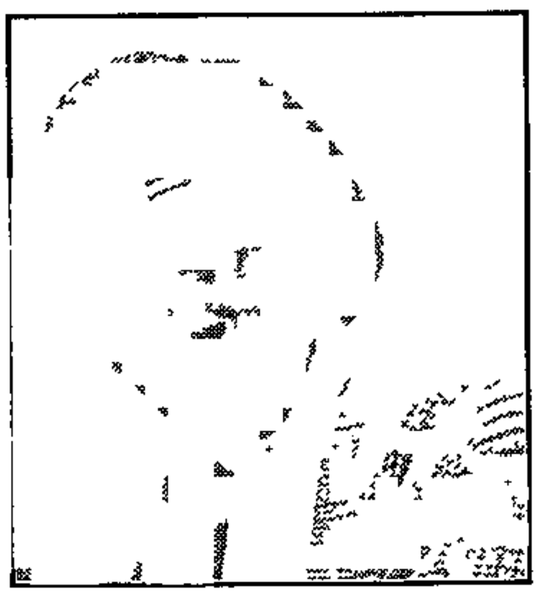
In the 1970s, when divorce cases used to provide juicy copy in the newspapers, Pitje used to have more male than female clients But today most of his clients are women

Wives, he said, take more of the battering in marriages than husbands About 75 percent of women are faulted by their men

34 YEARS *Veteran lawyer looks back on his long career in court:*



Godrey Pitje



Thuli Bottoman

> **"The tendency towards polygamy ... is one of the reasons for the decrease in divorce cases..."**

Pitje doubts the role of counselling in saving marriages Only one percent of the cases, he thinks, could be salvaged by therapy

"When you are set on a divorce no amount of persuasion can help Very few of my clients would have gone for help

(237)

"Counselling is ineffective People who go for therapy have no faith in it either "

He said divorce could be blamed on men refusing to share with women the privileges they have enjoyed all their life. The economic independence of women, among other factors, threatened their dominance

"Where in the past marital power was invariably part of the marriage, now it can be excluded by marriage contracts Men can no longer claim power over their wives' bodies and property," Pitje said

Thuli Bottoman, a marriage counsellor with the Family and Marriage Association of South Africa, does not hold the same views as Pitje concerning the rate of divorce

She asserts that marriages are breaking up at a higher rate than in the past Bottoman, who has been with Famsa for 10 years, said she used to counsel an average of three people a day but now she sees five clients and could stretch herself to more if her job was not so demanding

"A big number of people go to the Supreme Court. It is not just the affluent ones," Bottoman said

She said break-ups in marriages should not be viewed only by the number of people who end at the divorce court There were couples who lived apart and had established steady relationships outside the marriage Bigamy was also not unusual, although not on a large scale

On whether counselling worked, Bottoman said 50 percent of marriages could be saved if most couples would consider therapy before filing for divorce

"A number of attorneys and the Black Divorce Court refer people to us before they institute divorce proceedings

"For some people, filing for divorce is actually a cry for help They want to stay with their partners but they do not know what to do to end the conflict in their marriages They are angry, they are disappointed or sad They want the bad feelings to go and think divorce will help," Bottoman explained

Star 22/7/93

Children need a 'grand new alliance'

(237)

BORN TO DIE? Life is dangerous for most of this country's children And the danger exists before they are even born. **MARIKA SBOROS** reports.

NO one knows just how many South African children die before they complete their first year Few realise that hundreds of thousands of our children are quietly dying from preventable disease, and that nobody is recording the tragedy

Life is dangerous for most of this country's children The hazards start even before birth when the children of malnourished women, who get little ante-natal care and live in poor conditions, are likely to be weak and succumb to infection in the first few days after delivery

Alliance

They need a new agenda, a "grand new alliance", says the first report compiled on the state of South Africa's children.

The study was compiled by this country's leading academics in health, education and social policy and launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC)

No government can achieve a major reduction in childhood death without support from the private sector, popular organisations, the media, non-governmental organisations, church leaders, parents and other groups

"All need to come together in that alliance and adopt a unified policy to put children first in the new South Africa," says the report.

Our infant mortality figures tell a chilling story statistics indicate that the rate for black children is more than 10 times greater than it is for their white counterparts

The first step in the new agenda, says the study, is immunisation.

South Africa should pledge to immunise 90 percent of the country's children within the first 90 days of an interim government.

That campaign should form the basis of sustained immunisation cover so that all children are fully immunised against six killer diseases measles, TB, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and whooping cough.

SA government figures suggest that 70 percent of the child population has been immunised, but that statistic excludes the TBVC states

A 1988 Transkei study revealed that only 30 percent of children between one and two were fully immunised. Rural South Africa has low immunisation rates. 41 percent in the western Cape, 47 percent in southern Transvaal and 49 percent in the northern Cape.

And while South Africa is well on the way to eradicating polio, many children are still not immunised against the disease in rural districts

If South Africa does not mobilise to immunise all its children, polio could strike again, killing and disabling along the way

Diarrhoea is estimated to cause a fifth of infant deaths, yet it is easily and cheaply prevented through the use of oral rehydration therapy A simple sugar and salt solution, mixed with water, quickly rehydrates children on the brink of death after massive fluid loss from diarrhoea.

Children die from pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, especially during the winter months.

Sanitation

Improving living conditions and providing water and sanitation to all South Africans, would also sharply reduce the number of childhood deaths

Unicef estimates that providing clean water to everyone on the African continent would cost an average of R70 per person per year

Environmental health experts have estimated that improvements in water quality and quantity, sanitation and health education would lead to a 50 percent reduction in childhood diarrhoea.

But the risks of illness caused by poor living conditions and inadequate health care, are compounded by the ever-present threat of violence in this country

Diarrhoea in under fives can be significantly reduced through the provision of safe drinking water and improved personal hygiene Picture Unicef

TOMORROW

The boot is on the other foot for UK football stars

Water as a fitness aid

WATER is necessary not only for life it seems, but also for fitness

A one-day conference on the latest developments in water exercise will be held at the University of Pretoria's sports institute on August 7

The "aqua extravaganza" organised by the South African Water Fitness Association, won't be all talk. Participants will get into the water for practical instruction

Topics will include stress and exercising, pregnancy exercises in water, cardiovascular aspects, stretching and flexibility

Dr Mel Siff, a biomechanist at the school of mechanical engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, will talk on innovations in water fitness Siff is a pioneer of the use of "aqualand" circuits in South Africa — combining land circuits with water

- Water has distinct advantages as an exercise medium, says Siff It reduces the risk of injury substantially

"However, we are land animals and must balance water exercise with land exercise," he adds.

For more information, telephone (011) 782-8846

Racist policy setback for birth control’

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ARG 1/8/93

DALE KNEEN
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE success of any economic and social upliftment drive for the country will depend on a well-implemented, community-based population control programme, says Dr Mandla Tshabalala, head of the Population Development Forum.

Politicians should popularise issues related to population control. This would determine the effect of housing, health, education, employment and environmental programmes.

There were 38 million people in South Africa and it was estimated that in seven years there would be 51 million. This number would swell to 61 million by 2010.

"The rapid increase in the population will have a dramatic impact on every sphere of life. Our view is that population management is central to national development," said Dr Tshabalala.

The Population Development Forum was launched in July last year and aims to co-ordinate the activities of agencies and government bodies dealing with population issues.

Dr Tshabalala said population control had had severe setbacks because the government implemented population and birth-control programmes in a racist fashion.

Whites were encouraged to have large families and blacks were encouraged to have fewer children. Black women were also not given the option of choosing various contraceptive devices.

This resulted in most South Africans reacting suspiciously to population control, which was already fraught with complications relating to sexuality and customs.

Dr Tshabalala said the government's policy had changed significantly in the past few years and it showed an interest in consulting as many people as possible before making decisions.

Advertising campaigns and programmes in schools were effective, but needed to be co-ordinated with other organisations working with the community.

The Department of National Health recently contributed to a joint conference with the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organisation.

Dr Tshabalala said politicians and the media had an important role to play.

SA population up 1,5m in two years

CT 30/8/93 (237)

PRETORIA — South Africa's population has increased by more than 1½ million in the two years since the last census in March 1991, according to estimates by the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research

The bureau said in a statement yesterday that the total estimated population was now 39,3 million, with an average annual growth rate of two percent in the past two years.

Of the total increase of 1 557 181 since 1991, the Transvaal showed the highest growth rate (332 981) and Natal the lowest (73 377)

A breakdown of estimates for 1993 showed that 20,9m people lived in the Republic of South Africa, 11,3m in the self-governing homelands and 7,1m in the TBVC states

The highest geographic concentration of blacks was in the self-governing territories (37,9%), followed by the TBVC states (23,8%), Transvaal (22%), Cape (6,8%), Free State (6,2%) and Natal (3,4%)

The bureau said coloureds were mainly concentrated in the Cape Province (85%), with 51,8% in the south-western Cape and in and around Cape Town Almost 78% of Asians were living in Natal and about 17% in the Transvaal

"The report fills a major gap in population statistics and meets an urgent need for up-to-date population figures for the smaller geographic units," the statement said — Sapa

Teen pregnancies on the increase

WM 3-9/9/93

Beverley Garson (237)

ALMOST a quarter of the children born in Port Elizabeth have teenage parents. Eastern Cape regional director of National Health and Population Development Dr WA Strauss said this week that the extent of teenage pregnancies was due to changing behaviour patterns, weak family ties and a lack of education.

Strauss said changes in behaviour patterns and values have resulted in teenagers having sexual relationships at younger ages. The birth rate among teenagers is much higher in underprivileged communities where there is little secondary education, he said

A recent World Health Organisation report shows that in communities where women receive no secondary education the number of births per woman averages seven. If 40 percent of the women received secondary education the rate drops to three. — Ecna

Illegal abortions kill 200 000 a year

WASHINGTON. — As many as 200 000 women die each year as a result of unsafe, illegal abortions, mostly in the developing world.

"Of the estimated 50 million induced abortions worldwide each year, more than one-third are illegal and nearly half appear to take place outside any health system," a population research group said in reporting the findings yesterday

The report, by Population Action International, contends that limits placed on voluntary access to safe, affordable abortion are a key cause of abortion-related death and injury. Despite their intent, those limits do not alter demand for abortion as birth control, the report said

The report noted that a ban on abortion and birth control by former Rumanian dictator Nicolai Ceausescu did not increase the birth rate as he intended. However, maternal deaths doubled under the ban and 87% of those deaths were attributed to illegal abortions.

After the ban was lifted the number of maternal deaths fell by half.

"Unsafe abortion is a major cause of maternal death worldwide and has a devastating public health impact," said the report. (237) CT 13/9/93

'Estimates of abortion-related deaths are imprecise, but range from less than 100 000 to as many as 200 000 deaths each year," it said.

The report said that even with contraceptives widely available, at least one out of five women faced an unplanned pregnancy — Sapa-AP

'Roman roulette' as good as the pill

(2367) CT 18/9/93

LONDON — Natural birth control methods in which women abstain from intercourse on certain days of the month work as well as the pill

A study among 20 000 women in India by the World Health Organisation supports the Catholic case that "Roman roulette" is highly effective

The technique has been derided by some doctors and politicians who accuse the Pope of ignoring global overpopulation and encouraging the spread of Aids by barring condom use

But the latest research, unveiled yesterday in the British Medical Journal, suggests women are good at detecting their time of ovulation by changes in vaginal mucous

Some 93% of women could pinpoint changes and abstain from intercourse for six to eight days when conception can occur

In the Calcutta study, natural family planning resulted in no more pregnancies than would be expected using the pill, giving 0,2 pregnancies per 100 women a year — The Telegraph plc

ther home to the United States

vehicles last month

SA: 'Lowest child deaths'

From CHRIS BATEMAN

LONDON. — South Africa's measles immunisation programme is expected to be ranked among the worst in Southern Africa when the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) release their annual Progress of Nations tables here today.

However, the country is believed to have emerged with the lowest child mortality and maternal death rates among its Southern African neighbours.

One of Unicef's most important indicators in assessing each country is by the number of children who die before the age of five (per 1 000 live births) and the maternal death rates.

CT 22/9/93

These gives vital clues to income and education levels of parents, prevalence of malnutrition and disease, availability of clean water and of the country's health services and the health of its women.

People — SA's big problem

JOHANNESBURG — South Africans cannot expect to be better off in the future unless economic growth is complemented with a plan to combat the country's population crisis

This was said yesterday at the World Trade Centre by the director-general of the SA Chamber of Business Mr Raymond Parsons.

His statement was backed up by National Parks Board public relations manager Mr Fanyana Shiburi, who said unless South Africa's population explosion was addressed soon all conservation efforts would be rendered futile.

(237)

At the same conference Peninsula Technicon rector Mr Franklin Sonn said apartheid induced black South Africans to flout population control measures

Mr Sonn said the apartheid system had alienated blacks and diminished their sense of responsibility

● Clerics who argue against family planning are highly irresponsible, Professor Len Hulley of the Department of Systematic Theology at the University of South Africa told the conference. — Sapa CT 22/9/93

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same time it is seldom that one finds a murder where aggravat-

SA striving to lower mortality rate

(237)

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has 38 more child deaths than the world average for countries of comparable wealth, even though it has one of the lowest child mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa

South Africa's records show 72 deaths per 1 000 children, according to a recent United Nations Children's Fund report

The report compares statistics of each country's progress — or lack of it — towards goals set for the year 2000

South Africa was aiming to lower the figure to 49 deaths per 1 000

Women in South Africa had the second lowest fertility rate in sub-Saharan Africa, and had an average of 4,2 children — Sapa

CT 23/9/93

SOWETAN Thursday September 23 1993

icef unhappy about social progress

Baby deaths in SA alarming

Sowetan 23/9/93

MORTALITY RATE South Africa needs to redouble its efforts at reducing fatalities:

SOUTH AFRICA HAS 38 MORE CHILD deaths than the world average for countries of comparable wealth, even though it has one of the lowest child mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa (237)

South Africa's records show 72 deaths per 1 000 children, according to the United Nations Children's Fund's latest publication *Progress of Nations*, launched yesterday in London by its executive director James Grant

Progress of Nations brings together, for the first time, the statistics of each country's progress — or lack of it — towards the year 2 000's Goals for Children and Development agreed to by the 1990 World Summit for Children, to which most world leaders committed themselves, said Unicef

"It is hoped that South Africa will join the world community of nations by committing itself to the attainment of these global goals for all of South Africa's children

"By Unicef's measure of progress, South Africa should have achieved considerably more 'social miles per economic gallon'," said a statement on the launch

"Mauritius, with a lower level of Gross National Product, has a child mortality rate of about one third that of South Africa"

Sri Lanka, it added, with a Gross National Product of 500 US dollars — lower than that of Mauritius — offered its children even better child survival prospects

"It cut child mortality by 60 percent between 1980 and 1991 from 52 deaths per 1000 to 21"

It said that if South Africa was to achieve its objective of 49 deaths per 1 000, it would have to double its efforts from a 2,2 percent annual reduction to 4,1 percent

Unicef pointed out that malnutrition was the key indicator of children's mental and physical development but South Africa had no recent data on child nutrition — *Sapa*

SA's child death rate is too high -- UN

Sowetan 28/9/93

By Sizakele Kooma

MORE than twice as many South African children die from preventable causes before the age of five than should be expected in a country with a level of income as high as South Africa's

According to information released by a publication of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), South Africa's child death rate is 72 per 1 000 live births This is 38 deaths more than the world average for countries of comparable wealth

(237)

While South Africa has the lowest maternal mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa and one of the lowest child death rates, it has the region's third highest gross national product (GNP)

Expected to survive

Unicef calculated the number of children on average who could be expected to survive the hazardous first five years of life

They reach fifth grade in primary school and have adequate nutrition in relation to their country's economic level

It then compared key statistics with the average for countries at similar levels of GNP and identified national performance gaps, above or below expectations

By Unicef's measure of progress, South Africa should have achieved considerably more "social miles per economic gallon"

Mauritius, which has a lower GNP, has a child mortality rate of about a third of South Africa's

Sri Lanka offers its children even better child survival prospects

It cut child mortality by 60 percent between 1980 and 1991, from 52 deaths per 1 000 children to 21

If South Africa is to reduce the present level of child mortality to its year 2000 objective of 49 death per 1 000, it must double its efforts from 2,2 percent annual reduction to 4,1 percent

P.T.O.

SA's infant mortality well above average

S/Times 3/10/93

By PETER MALHERBE
London

A UNITED Nations Children's Fund survey has found that South Africa's child mortality rate is more than double the average of that of countries of comparable wealth.

Unicef reported that, according to 1990 statistics, 72 children out of a 1 000 died of preventable causes before the age of five — 38 more than the comparable world average (237)

This was higher than many African nations, such as Botswana (60 deaths a 1 000), Algeria (61), Morocco (66) and Tunisia (42)

Southern African countries that fared worst in this category were Mozambique, with 292 deaths a 1 000, and Malawi with 228

Zimbabwe recorded 88 deaths a 1 000; Namibia, 81, and Kenya, 75.

Unicef said South Africa would have to double its efforts if the country was to reduce the level of child mortality to its goal of 49 deaths a 1 000 by the year 2000

However, the figure for 1990 showed substantial improvement over the 91 deaths a 1 000 recorded in 1980.

Unicef's Progress of Nations report, which ranked countries according to their achievements in health, nutrition, education and family planning, also found that South Africa had a poor record for measles immunisation.

The organisation said immunisation against measles was "the most important single medical intervention for protecting children against malnutrition and disease", but South Africa came only 14th of 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with 63 percent of children immunised

Countries ranking higher included Zimbabwe, 88 percent, Botswana, 78 percent; Malawi, 78 percent; Lesotho, 76 percent; Uganda, 73 percent and Namibia, 71 percent.

The Unicef table, based on World Bank figures, showed that South Africa had the region's third highest per capita GNP of R8 600, behind Botswana, R8 800; and Gabon, R12 850.

South Africa did not provide Unicef with data on child nutrition or children who had completed four years of primary education.

However, the country recorded the second lowest fertility rate in sub-Saharan Africa with an average of 4,2 children per woman.

South Africa had the lowest regional maternal mortality rate in the region with 83 deaths for every 100 000 births. The regional average was 590.

Voluntary sterilisation is ultra-hip — and it's liberating

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

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ARG 16/10/93

ULTRA-HIP pre-adolescents — in baseball gear and street fashions and dancing to hip-hop rhythms — are the stars of a new television commercial that urges South Africans to have fewer children

At this week's launch of the commercial, Pohl de Villiers, chairman of the non-governmental Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa (AVSSA), said South Africa had a population of 40 million people, but only 48 000 sterilisations were performed yearly

Twenty times as many women as men had the operation — "a small procedure which takes a few minutes"

Dr De Villiers said AVSSA's target was 300 000 to 400 000 sterilisations a year

The doctor said sterilisation was "a wonderful way of liberating women"

Many people thought female sterilisation was the same as a hysterectomy, but that was not true No organs were removed and only the tubes were blocked

■ The operation is free at all state hospitals AVSSA can be contacted at ☎(021)531-1665

Bigamystery! All tangled up in red tape

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LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE last thing Patricia Anne Louw expected when she married was to be charged with bigamy ... but that was only the beginning of her problems.

Not only does she have to make do with an old ID document, issued in 1986 in her maiden name, but her 18-month-old baby has never been registered

Patricia, 26, married Timothy Benjamin on November 28 1991 and shortly afterwards applied for a new Book of Life, in her married name

Three months later she was telephoned by a Wynberg police officer who asked her to come to the police station as a charge of bigamy was being investigated against her

"They showed me another marriage certificate which showed that I was already married before I got married to my husband," said Patricia

"I said it was impossible and it wasn't my signature on that marriage certificate, although it was in my name But they wouldn't believe me at first and told me bigamy was a very serious offence"

Further investigation showed that another Patricia Anne Louw, born on the same day as Patricia — October 28 1967 — and with exactly the same ID number, got married exactly a year before her — on November 28 1990!

"We are one person," a fed-up Patricia told Weekend Argus

After her encounter with the police she returned to the Department of Home Affairs, had fingerprints taken and she filled in the necessary forms But in spite of several follow-up telephone calls to the department she has not yet been issued with a new Book of Life

And Patricia's baby, Tarryn, born in April last year, has still not been registered and does not have a birth certificate as the department insists that Tarryn is illegitimate

"Every time I telephone the department they say that according to their computer I'm not legally married to Tarryn's father, so she is illegitimate"

All Patricia knows about her namesake is that she married in the New Apostolic Church, while she herself was married by a magistrate

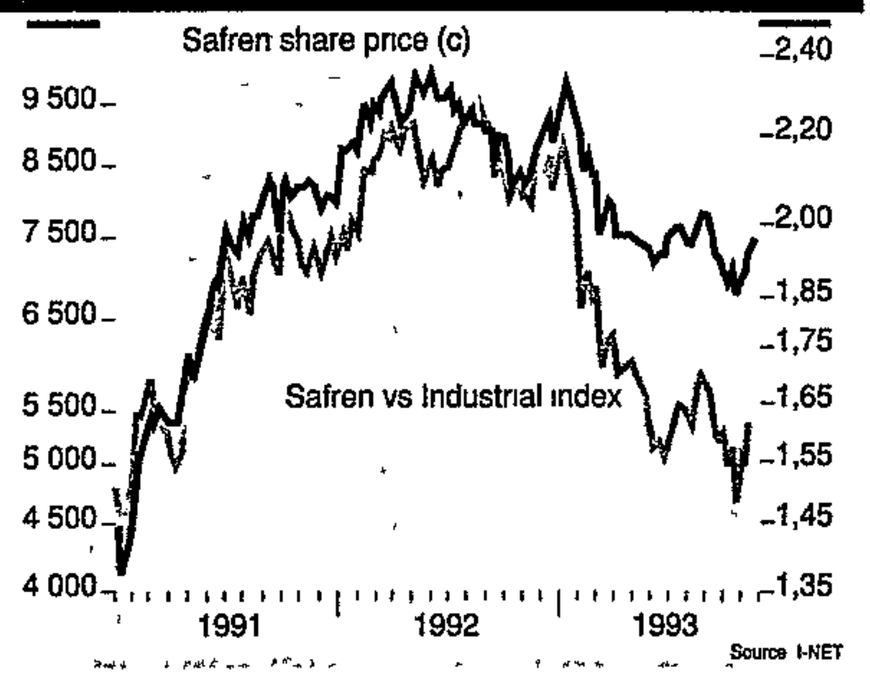
To make matters worse, Patricia is getting divorced in the next few months "All I know is that if matters aren't fixed up soon, she (the other Patricia) is getting divorced with me!"

A Department of Home Affairs spokesman said yesterday the department was investigating the "confusing" situation and would "hopefully" sort it out by Monday

Fm 19/11/93

The market rating

Safren



have to close it," says Hawton But, he adds, the situation is improving

Payloads have increased considerably, though they (and revenue) are still only 72% of capacity The market share of the Cape Town-Johannesburg route is about 27%, Durban-Johannesburg 23% and overall just below 20% Farr hopes financial 1994 will produce cash breakeven which, he says, will give the airline a good chance of survival. This seems attainable.

Customers are learning that Flitestar offers competitively priced seating which is more spacious than its competitor's; food and service, especially in business class, are markedly superior.

The third area of significant loss in 1993 was Safair Revenues were difficult to collect throughout Africa but especially in Angola A R45m provision dented 1993 earnings Hawton contends these funds should be recovered over time

Meanwhile, Safair's basis of accounting has been changed Revenue will be accounted for only when received; payment is now requested in advance

Farr says Safair's long-term strategy is to reduce dependence on the Hercules aircraft Since sanctions were lifted, inquiries from outside Africa have increased Some are turning into contractual commitments

In summary, Hawton reckons the quality of Safmarine's earnings will be much better in 1994 While the significant 1993 tax benefit — the write-back of R48m deferred tax (representing R80m in operating profit) — will not recur, he is optimistic operating profit will increase by at least this amount To do so, it will have to rise by at least 48%

Because Safmarine will not have to pay cash tax, cash flow will be substantial, Farr predicts. No major capital expenditure is planned, but, in line with his vision, Hawton hints that depressed international shipping conditions could lead to unplanned purchases of ships at competitive prices


Farr

That is the good news on the shipping front but the strobe lights are again fixed on Kersaf For years, it has sought international investment opportunities beyond those in France, Marrakesh and Mauritius Now one has been found in Paradise Island in the Bahamas, close to the US mainland and often visited by large cruise ships

Kersaf's leisure subsidiary Sun International, Sol Kerzner's World Leisure and Caledonia Plc have contracted to buy a portion of the island, involving about $100m (R330m) on a first phase (269) (180) (232)

Intermediate holding company Sun International Investments has contracted to buy 60% of Paradise Island Resort & Casino for $75m SII, with the minorities, are to invest a further $25m This and a $75m long-term loan will finance refurbishment of existing resort facilities and the first phase of another ambitious park development (*à la* Lost City) with a Caribbean theme

Resort activities already occupy much of the island but there is 80 ha undeveloped land There is a 3 300 m² casino. The golf course will be upgraded to international standard

Approval for the deal is in the hands of the US courts, which are examining the financial restructuring package It's expected the offer will be accepted in February/March It could provide a substantial rand hedge investment to complement the currency hedge element in Safmarine.

Closer to home, Kersaf is grappling with effects of the recession on hotel room occupancy and competition from new casinos. In 1993, its pre-interest profit rose 1,6% but attributable earnings fell by 9,3%

Hawton admits that "across the board, occupancy rates are still a little soft," a situation he ascribes to the economy and a lack of tourists. "But our gaming revenues are up because of intensified marketing and promotions." In Kersaf's main subsidiary, 80%-held Sun International, the first quarter's results are better.

Business remains difficult for other subsidiaries Interleisure (37%) and Douglas Green Bellingham. Interleisure's 1993 turnover rose by 6% but attributable earnings fell 8% Douglas Green's revenues fell 3% and operating profit 17% as it fought to retain market share Hawton expects better results from both this year

So Kersaf's earnings will improve — with two caveats: that socio-political instability doesn't worsen between now and the April election, and there is no resurgence of unregulated or illegal gambling

He is also optimistic about Rennies The freight division had a bad 1993, despite additional revenues generated by drought relief cargoes This year it should recover The terminals are doing well, freight activities have quickened and the travel division, especially on the foreign exchange side, is prospering. Hawton predicts Rennies' earnings will be 5%-7% better

When Hawton's conservative estimates are aggregated, Safren's 1994 outlook appears distinctly positive. Why is the JSE not reflecting this?

The stock market is usually no slouch in anticipating earnings trends, but, bearing in mind the economic downturn began in 1989, it saw the difficulties confronting Safren and its subsidiaries later than it should have Perhaps Safmarine's US dollar earnings capacity helped shore up the share price. Despite considerable negative evidence, the price continued to rise strongly


Hawton

In mid-1988 Safren traded at R17,25 It rose to R46 in February 1990 and then began a seven-month reaction which ended at R33,75 that October before resuming a further 21-month ascent to R101 in June last year Only then — at the financial year-end — did investors appreciate the group was struggling to maintain earnings growth

That point coincided with intensified social and political unrest, which inhibited holiday and leisure (gaming) travel, as well as the appearance of scores of competitive casinos, which took market share from the gambling oligopoly controlled by Kersaf Only then did the market begin to mark the share down. Last month it fell to R67

Analysts are almost unanimous the share, around R74, is at least a hold, many recommend it as a buy On the technical side, with the four-and-a-half-year long-term upward trend line broken, there is little support until about R50 But for a group of Safren's stature and earnings record, it seems unlikely the price will fall that far unless the whole market declines

If you believe SA has a future, shipping, travel, tourism and leisure facilities will remain in demand

If Hawton's predictions are sound, the market should soon restore a deeper blue to the share and the present price could prove cheap.

Gerald Hirshon

South African realities:

- Every 26 seconds a new baby is born. At this rate the country's population will double every 30 years.
- The population is growing by 3 323 babies a day.
- By the year 2000, the population will grow to 48 million, to 80 million by 2038, and to a staggering 272 million by the year 2100.
- The population growth is 2 percent while our economic growth is at an alarmingly low rate of 1,8 percent.
- The United Nations publication World Population Prospect 1988 predicts that South Africa could be one of the 23 most densely populated areas in the world by the year 2025 if the present growth rate continues.
- There is only one doctor for every 2 000, compared to Australia and America where there is a doctor for every 500.
- One in three people cannot find work in the present population. More than 1 000 people join those without work every day. And this does not even include the 10 million children under the age of 15 who will have to find jobs in the near future.
- One in three people in Africa suffers from hunger, poverty and poor health, and tens of thousands of children die before they are one year old.

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STAR 10/5/93

Research has proved that population growth can be controlled successfully only if the standard of living of that portion of the population with high growth rate can be improved by social and economic development programmes.

To achieve this, the Population Development Programme which was launched in 1984, does the following:

- Offers literacy classes for adults to learn how to read and write
- Encourages women to motivate their children to stay at school as long as possible.
- Educates women on the causes, implications and prevention of teenage pregnancies.
- Educates women on parental responsibility by stressing the importance of planning their lives and their children's careers.
- Motivates women to attend family planning and health education as well as educating them on child spacing.
- Educates women on income generating activities such as small businesses, self-help projects and home industries.
- Offers courses in leadership, budgeting and self-image improvement to equip women to be involved in their family's and the community's decision-making processes.
- Encourages the creation of jobs for women and employment of women.

POPULATION — VITAL STASTISTICS

1994

Pro-abortion stance taken

CT 20/1/94 (237)

ONE of the most controversial aspects of the ANC's five-year health plan is likely to be the organisation's stance on abortion.

A clause proposes that all women be given the choice of having abortions, and medical practitioners be given the right to refuse to perform abortions.

Health spokesperson Ms Cheryl Carolus said she did not believe this position conflicted with the Bill of Rights which affirms the right to life

The new government would have to address the reality of deaths, mental trauma and infertility caused by illegal abortions and a decision would have to be taken with moral and religious concerns in mind, Ms Carolus said.

Pro-abortion group hails ANC plan but pro-lifers rage

(From page 1)

tions have increased by about 100 percent since 1973 when abortion was legalised"

Political Correspondent Michael Morris reports that in contrast to the ANC, the National Party and Democratic Party do not have an official policy on abortion and regard it as a matter of conscience for individual members.

However, the National Party broadly endorses the present legislation which allows abortion only under narrowly defined conditions

A spokesman said "The NP has not taken a collective vote on abortion and, as with capital punishment, we believe there should be a free vote

"However, the party feels very strongly about the right to life of babies and believes this is an issue which should be approached with great circumspection.

"We believe the present legislation, in principle, is the right approach, but we are willing to look at it to make improvements However, the general feeling in the party is that we are opposed to abortion on request"

The DP has not adopted an official policy on abortion in acknowledgment of the opposing views in its ranks

"It is a matter of conscience and therefore our view is that there should be a free vote on this issue," media officer Annchen Doherty said

Parties to the right — including the Conservative Party — are implacably opposed to abortion, except in very special cases where the mother's life is in danger

● See page 13

237 ARG 20/1/94

Activists hail ANC stance on abortion

(237)

ARG 20/1/94

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

THE pro-abortion stance taken by the ANC has been welcomed by those who have been campaigning for the right for years, but has infuriated the "pro-life" lobby

Cape Town pro-abortion stalwart Mary Dyer, national president of the Abortion Rights Action Group, congratulated ANC health spokesman Cheryl Carolus for taking a stand on an issue which was "absolutely vital to women's health"

Yesterday, the ANC unveiled its health plan which proposes that women have the right to abortions, and health workers the right to refuse to do them.

Dr Dyer, who estimates that up to 250 000 South African women resort to backstreet abortions yearly, said the country could not afford its present policy which contributed to the population explosion, infanticide and abandoned children

It was great pity other political parties had been too scared to take a stand on the issue

She believed the ANC should pursue the matter immediately by campaigning to decriminalise abortion by rescinding the Abortion Act of 1975

This could be followed by a freedom of choice Act which would limit the gestation period and include a conscience clause allowing medical practitioners to refuse to do abortions

But from Kranskop in Natal, Christians for Truth slammed "the growing trend within the ANC pushing for abortion rights in the new South Africa".

Ms Carolus's call "for the liberation of abortion is a disappointing confirmation of Nelson Mandela's recent statements supporting the pro-choice lobby", the group said.

The group said it was a known fact that figures quoted by pro-abortionists had been greatly exaggerated in countries shortly before abortion on demand was legalised

"According to statistics released by the Department of National Health and Population Development for July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991, only 1 090 patients were treated nationwide in South African hospitals for septic abortions for all population groups

APE METRO, 23 January 1994

Call to back ANC abortion stance

S/Times [C Metro]

23/1/94

SOUTH AFRICAN women must make their own decisions about abortion and should not be dictated to, Marj Dyer, national president of the Abortion Rights Action Group (Arag), said this week

By DIANA STREAK

Dr Dyer was responding to the ANC's announcement that it was in favour of women having the freedom to choose

"The proposal by the ANC is excellent and women should seize the opportunity to support it," she said

"At least the ANC has had the guts to tackle the issue"

The ANC's health plan proposes that women be given the right to abortions and health workers the right to refuse to perform them

"Until there is a discussion and a new vote, the fence-sitters will be entrenching the old restrictive law," Dr Dyer said

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Getting the issue talked about "was definitely a move in the right direction" as there had "already been a backlash" from the anti-abortion lobby

Dr Dyer said the Democratic Party and National Party would stick to the law as a matter of expediency and not of principle because they were "too scared to touch the issue"

"We are delighted the ANC has taken up the matter," she said

"Women must do something before the bigoted pro-lifers try to marshall their forces and stop the ANC"

It was a woman's democratic right to decide whether she wanted an abortion and to have access to facilities for a legal operation

Arag members were not "immoral activists" but a concerned group who were trying to save women's health, Dr Dyer said

'Safer'

"Legal abortion does not increase the number of abortions — it simply makes them safer and that's what we want."

Dr Dyer said the "punitive atmosphere" around abortions in South Africa meant women had to "beg, lie and cry" to get one

An estimated 200 000 backstreet abortions are performed in the country each year No more than 1 000 a year, most of them on psychiatric grounds, are done in terms of The Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975

Abortion likely to be a heated election issue

B/Day 26/1/94

JACQUIE GOLDING

(237)

ABORTION sparks debate, demonstrations and dilemmas everywhere. It even caused Belgium's King Baudouin to step down from his throne in 1990 because his conscience would not let him sign a law legalising it.

Whether SA's future government will legalise abortion remains to be seen. The release last week of the ANC's national health plan has reignited the abortion debate in SA.

The draft recognises the "right to control the reproductive functions of one's body, including abortion". ANC health head Cheryl Carolus said "women should have the choice whether to have an abortion", adding that "practitioners should be given the choice whether to perform one". She argues the increase in backstreet abortions goes hand in hand with lack of education about contraception, and that banning abortion does not stop them.

"It's difficult to dodge the issue and no government can afford to avoid the question of abortion when so many women are dying," she said. "Every candidate standing for election should tackle this question."

The ANC itself appears divided on the issue. While, possibly because of Carolus's influence, its health department has taken a clear stand, the ANC's drafters of the Bill of Rights fudged the issue — along with the DP — by proposing an ambiguous, American-style right to life clause. This will leave to the courts the final say as to whether this clause protects the life of the unborn foetus.

The NP and CP are clearly opposed to liberal abortion laws. The Inkatha Freedom Party is the only party to have taken a clear stance in favour. Its policy stipulates that all people who so desire shall enjoy the freedom of procreative choice including the right to receive sexual education, to use contraception and terminate unwanted pregnancies when safe. Anyone who finds these practices objectionable, Inkatha says, shall have the right to protect his or her own sphere of interest from these practices.

Internationally, abortion has been a burning issue. George Bush, on his first day in office as president in 1987, called on the US Supreme Court to reverse the 1973 decision giving women a constitutional right to abortion. In 1988 Mother Teresa reiterated her anti-abortion stand in Pretoria. In contrast, a medical committee in Ottawa in 1992 approved the use of a French-developed abortion pill. But the Irish government's anti-abortion law tore the country apart the same year when a 14-year-old teenager was refused permission by the Dublin High Court to leave the country to have an abortion in Britain.

The Soviet Union was the first country to legalise abortion, in 1920, and some eastern European countries followed suit in the 1940s along with the Scandinavians.

From 1975 SA allowed abortions in cases of rape and incest, and in cases of foetal abnormalities or when the mother's physical or mental health was threatened, but the Abortion and Sterilisation Act stopped neither the debate nor the raging controversy. Four years ago, statistics pointed to 1 000 legal abortions a year while an estimated 200 000 backstreet abortions were performed.

Backstreet abortions are the cheapest and most accessible option for most people. But they often result in infection, bleeding, long-term infertility or even death.

The ANC's health plan has put party officials in a corner with the abortion question. One member who declined to be named said: "It's a heated debate in the organisation and it will be a while before we issue a policy statement. Right now it is each one for himself, until we decide which way to fall."

Whether you are for it or against it, confused on the issue or nonchalant, abortion alone is sure to fuel some fires in the days leading up to the election.

Recently, one of the more sober attempts to get to grips with the moral issues has been made by British legal philosopher Prof Ronald Dworkin in his book Life's Dominion.

Trying to untangle the web of debate, he argues that what underpins both sides' position is recognition of the sacredness and value of human life. However, he argues, that both parties consider life to have intrinsic value but each takes a different view of what that implies for personal and political decisions.

His hope is to redefine the debate into one which focuses on the better way to advance human existence, and in so doing to help reduce its ferocity. Why, he asks, if a tolerant society can embrace differences of religious and political views, can it not do so on the question of how best to respect life's sanctity?

But a project of a team of London scientists this year threatens to complicate rather than simplify the debate. They are planning to use the eggs from the ovaries of aborted foetuses in fertility treatment. Implanting the eggs in infertile women would raise many ethical questions about raising a child whose mother has never been born.

The abortion debate, it seems, may become the life-after-abortion debate.

LETTERS

Dear Sir

WM 21-27/1/94 (237)

ANC controversy over abortion plan

The ANC's draft plan on health care backs abortion on demand, report **Pat Sidley and Reg Rumney**

THE ANC's tentative backing for abortion on demand in its draft health policy has already drawn criticism from pro-lifers It is one of several highly contentious suggestions in the ANC's draft plan for a national health policy plan released this week, which emphasises public sector health at the expense of the private sector.

The support for women's choice on abortion is hedged with a note that "the issues around abortion remain contentious and need to be discussed and debated further".

The move to support abortion is also likely to stir up feelings within the ANC itself, where the issue of abortion is by no means settled. Another issue likely to cause controversy is the suggestion that medical graduates be forced to work for the state for a period — or repay state loans.

The reaction of the Medical Association of South Africa to the plan has been muted, with the association saying it is "encouraged" by the policy proposals in general Masa merely notes that "to discourage growth in the private sector is debatable". It also says ambitious time schedules could create unrealistic expectations

Centre for Health Policy Studies' Max Price comments that there is a contradiction in the document which later talks about contracting the private sector to provide services for the public sector, which would entail growth

Price believes that overall the document offers health care workers a rosy future, albeit in a regulated environment The move to bar doctors dispensing medicines they themselves have prescribed will cause unhappiness among some members of Masa itself

It is also unclear how the bar on medical practitioners buying shares in private clinics is to work. Dr Gordon Cohen of Clinic Holdings notes the move could not be done retrospectively and he doubts its feasibility "Our doctors are free to buy Clinic Holdings shares on the JSE "

The plan proposes free basic medical care Some proposals are also likely to send shivers up the spine of the pharmaceutical industry

The ANC plan, which runs to 100 pages and was presented this week in Johannesburg by health and welfare supremo Cheryl Carolus, calls for a strengthening of the public health sector and the availability of basic medical care to the whole population Free health care would be available to children under six, pregnant and nursing mothers, the elderly, disabled and chronically ill

Cheryl Carolus ... radical new plan

Free medical services would include immunisation, regular screening procedures to detect cancer, ante-natal care and child delivery, contraceptives, feeding support and treatment for TB

The national health service would be financed through current income tax levels, claims the ANC Extra revenue would come from steep increases in the prices of tobacco and alcohol Patients with health insurance or medical aids will face steep charges at public hospitals

In an attempt to redirect resources towards the public sector, the plan would regulate private health care, which it says currently channels resources disproportionately to wealthier, healthier people

Illegal aliens in ID fraud

Illegal immigrants are taking advantage of the race to register voters, writes **Ferial Haffajee**

ILLEGAL immigrants are taking advantage of the chaotic race to register voters by fraudulently acquiring identity documents

Not only will they be able to secure South African residence but can also cast illegal votes in the April election

Home Affairs clerks this week provided the *Mail & Guardian* with samples of false baptismal certificates, school records and spurious affidavits used to secure ID documents and voter cards

They claim that political pressure, the huge backlog in issuing IDs and temporary voter cards and hasty plans to clear that backlog means they are pushing through applications they might not otherwise process.

An agreement reached with Home Affairs last year to cut through the backlog of people allowed the use of baptismal certificates, school records or sworn affidavits proving birth in South Africa or five years' residence. This allowed people without proper documents to register as voters

The IEC is aware of the forgeries and has received a complaint that Zimbabwean workers are receiving illegal IDs

This week, Home Affairs clerks in Johannesburg and Lenasia — where three refuse bags filled with ID documents were found two weeks ago — produced false school records bearing stamps of non-existent schools Often, the same stamps were used repeatedly, but documents bore different signatures of alleged school principals, suggesting a fraud network Some applicants provided non-existent telephone numbers or school records without a school stamp They also produced false birth certificates as well as forged baptismal certificates

Such applications would usually be turned down or sent for investigation But almost two million temporary voter cards have to be produced in seven weeks, giving little time to sift bona fide applications from false ones

"We as clerks are being pressurised by political parties to accept each and every application I doubt whether this is going to be a free and fair election," said a chief clerk who did not want to be named

Peter Harris, head of the monitoring directorate of the IEC, confirmed that monitoring the issuing of IDs and voter registration cards was underway and that initial report-backs had already been laid before the commission Monitoring would take place three to four times a week at specially selected sites to ensure enabling documents were being issued properly, Harris said.

The Department of Home Affairs this week said "The number of persons involved is insignificant and has therefore never been a matter of concern Such persons are normally apprehended and subsequently prosecuted"

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Call for families to be limited to two children

POPULATION Development Council member Prof Tshepo Gugushe says families in SA should be restricted to two children to curb the growing population problem. B/Day

At a population education seminar in Pretoria Gugushe said continued growth would mean more jobless people and a greater housing need 24/2/94 (237)

Meanwhile, Central Johannesburg Partnership executive director Neil Fraser has warned that central Johannesburg's population would grow fivefold to 500 000 by 2020.

Speaking to the press yesterday he said SA urbanisation would jump from 50% to 80% in the next 20 years, but there had been few new housing developments since 1970

Faced with the resulting rise in crime and urban decay, a problem-solving forum in 1991 had launched the partnership.

Fraser hoped the regional housing boards would alleviate the housing shortage. — Sapa

Report by L Roderick, Sapa, 141 Commissioner St, Jhb

CAPE

(237)

Population time-bomb is ticking away

ARG 16/6/94

Staff Reporters

SOUTH AFRICA'S population growth rate of 2,3 percent is among the highest in the world — and the total could reach 80 million by 2025

So says Western Cape Population Forum chairman Mandla Tshabalala.

Addressing a symposium hosted by the forum at the Medical Research Council yesterday, he said the Western Cape had been characterised by great inequalities in terms of resources allocated to different racial groups.

Originally, most of the people migrating here were Xhosa-speakers. Now migration was heterogeneous, with some even coming from other countries.

The plight of black Capetonians, even those born here, was "worse than Africans in other regions", because of the "noticeable residual effect of the coloured preference policy", saaid Dr Tshabalala

"In our view the enactment of a population policy is central to population development"

Senior lecturer Vanessa Watson of UCT School of Architecture and Planning, told the symposium the population of greater metropolitan Cape Town doubled every 20 years

● South Africa needed to debate a new policy to control population growth, freed of the suspicion of apartheid-inspired attempts to limit black numbers, a visiting Kenyan expert told the symposium

Population policy expert Ayo Ajayi said this would include a review of South Africa's stance on abortion.

Sub-Saharan Africa had the fastest population growth rates in the world — three percent, Dr Ajayi told delegates in his keynote address

At that rate the region's population was expected to double in less than 25 years and to increase five-fold over the next 100 years

Half the region's population was younger than 20 — the highest proportion anywhere in the world

Several African countries had developed population policies, including his own country, he said

South African population policy had been effective in increasing contraceptive use and reducing population growth rates.

South Africa should strive to prevent unwanted pregnancies by trying new approaches to family planning.

Abortion on demand wrong, says FW

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ARG 10/3/94

TZANEEN — The National Party is convinced abortion on demand is morally wrong and will oppose it, says President De Klerk

Speaking to about 600 NP supporters, election candidates and local chiefs here, he said his party stood for moral values and principles, to which all God-fearing South Africans subscribed

"According to our Christian outlook the unborn foetus is a creation of God and has the right to live," he said

But the NP was open to positive proposals to improve existing legislation on abortion.

On his party's view of homosexuality, Mr De Klerk said the NP believed individual freedom should be recognised and privacy respected But the community's Christian values and principles should also be recognised when enacting legislation on this issue

"We believe that Christian norms and standards should remain the guidelines of our society and we believe these values are also morally acceptable to other faiths"

The NP leader was welcomed by cheering supporters waving miniature NP flags, and women in traditional dress beating a cowhide drum

Earlier at Mooketsi, Mr De Klerk likened the African National Congress to a wild bull which attacked people and trampled fences

Mr De Klerk also had a private meeting with reclusive "rain queen" Modjaji in the Mooketsi community hall — Sapa

(News by E Kemp, Nedbank Centre, Strand Street, Cape Town)

Pro-choice ... No choice

WM 11-17/3/94 (237)

2/ Abortion

IT'S official After years of equivocation, the African National Congress has finally come out in favour of abortion on demand The party's Reconstruction and Development Plan (RDP) calls for "every woman" to have the "right to choose whether or not to have an early termination of pregnancy according to her own individual beliefs"

At a celebration of International Women's Day in Johnnesburg last weekend, ANC PWV regional leader Tokyo Sexwale put it more strongly "No woman will be forced to give birth ," he said "A woman must have the right to control her own body "

But if one issue threatens to divide any united cross-party women's lobby, it is that of abortion. On TV1's *Agenda* last week, National Women's Coalition convenor (and ANC candidate) Frene Ginwala reaffirmed the recently released Women's Charter's commitment to the "pro-choice" stand Her National Party comrade on the NWC, Anne Routier, begged to differ abortion should remain legal for women whose physical and mental health was threatened, "but abortion on demand should not replace contraception".

The ANC couldn't agree more with the last point "The last thing we want," says Lindiwe Zulu, "is for abortion to replace contraception But we have to deal with the reality that thousands of women have backstreet abortions every year, and many die from them "

But it's precisely the "thousands of women" statistic that worries deputy minister of justice and NP candidate Sheila Camerer She concedes that, "as a political party, we must be in a position to counter the allegations that thousands of women undergo backstreet abortions every year" She thus believes that legal procedures must be "rethought" to improve women's access to abortion facilities

Pro-choice Cheryl Carolus

Camerer says neither she nor Health Minister Rina Venter accept the backstreet abortion figures but, clearly, she recognises the power of these figures — and the political mileage that a pro-choice party can get from them

The Democratic Party's Dene Smuts, who is personally opposed to abortion reform, takes the issue even further "This is not an issue that can be decided by a political party or even by a parliament The interim constitution has guaranteed the right to life Only the constitutional court can decide on this It is not appropriate for it to be a campaign issue "

So divided is the DP's caucus on the matter that abortion is the one issue upon which the party will not take a strong civil liberties stand Rather, its policy, says campaign manager Paul Ascherson, is that "each parliamentarian should vote according to his or her conscience, not a party line"

Won't this equivocation lose the DP crucial votes within its niche "civil liberties" constituency? "You'd be surprised," says PWV leader Tony Leon, "how much mail I get from pro-human rights nuns who say they'll never vote for us because we haven't taken a strong enough stand against abortion "

The ANC's pro-choice stance, concedes a senior woman ANC candidate, is perhaps "one of the very few issues we could lose votes over in the black community There is also strategic argument against coming out as pro-choice I wouldn't be the slightest bit surprised if we start hearing FW (de Klerk) on his roadshow railing against the ANC for killing babies "

There is clearly a lack of consensus, even within the ANC's leadership structures How, then, did ANC policy shift? ANC insiders credit health policy boss Cheryl Carolus, a fervent pro-choicer who made the critical strategic decision of divorcing the issue from the RDP's gender policy and grafting it instead on to its health policy This week's ANC "mop and microphone" advertisment, for example, targets women's concerns but does not mention reproductive rights

But the ANC's pro-choice stand, while clearly articulated in the RDP, is not mentioned in the party's manifesto, "A better life for all", which is the easily digestible popular summary

"What you can tell from that," says the woman ANC candidate, "is that while it's allright for the intellectuals who read the RDP to know that we're pro-choice, it's a little bit more difficult when you come to the man or woman in the street. We're struggling over this "

Home Affairs forfeits holidays for IDs

B/Day 28/3/94

STEPHANE BOTHMA

PRETORIA — Home Affairs regional and district offices will be open on two public holidays next month — Family Day and Founders' Day — to enable as many potential voters as possible to get identity documents or temporary voters' cards before the election.

The department said yesterday that it would be "business as usual" at their offices on April 4 and 6

The move followed a request from the Independent Electoral Commission that Home Affairs offices should be open to the public on those days.

The department had employed more than 2 000 temporary workers countrywide to help process the increased number of applications for identity documents. "Several offices are working extended hours and are also open on Saturdays," a spokesman said.

Home Affairs had also launched a comprehensive awareness campaign and more than 100 mobile units had been set up to reach applicants in the "outermost corners" of the country.

The department urged people not yet in possession of a document enabling them to vote to visit regional and district officers on April 4 and 6.

The department also pointed out that any of the following documents would enable people to vote: (238)

- ☐ Blue or green identity documents previously issued;
- ☐ Old green identity cards;
- ☐ All identity documents issued by TBVC countries;
- ☐ Reference books previously issued;
- ☐ Temporary identity certificates; and
- ☐ Temporary voters' cards.

GLOBAL STERILISATION

■ In Cairo this September an international conference will demand that all nations stop the growth of their populations. **PAUL GALLAGHER** in New York gives his opinion on what the delegates will be demanding, arguing that what they want amounts to a campaign of global genocide.

(237) ARG 21/5/94

ORGANISERS of this year's United Nations World Population Conference have been meeting in New York to prepare final drafts of the documents which are supposed to emerge from the conference.

The documents reveal that nations of the world are going to be urged to use sterilisation, contraception and euthanasia to force their populations to shrink — to disappear, in part — during the 21st century.

Documents of the Worldwide Institute, the New Delhi Scientific Academies Conference and other promoters show that pure Malthusian depopulation will be demanded at the Cairo conference. Nations will be told "survivors" will live better as a result.

WorldWatch head Lester Brown puts it this way: "If people know that large families will bring more hunger and even mass starvation, they'll decide to shift to smaller families."

These ideas are already in practice in the nations of the former Soviet Union, especially Russia, where international credit agencies have imposed "economic shock therapy". Their populations are falling, their people's life spans are falling, abortions and contraception are universal, the death rate of their elderly is rising.

But are the "survivors" there — and in Bosnia and former Yugoslavia — living better as a result? Or are they being plunged into complete misery? Is "sustainable development" being imposed, or is it genocide?

Cornell University's David Pimentel got worldwide publicity at the American Association for the Advancement of Science when he called for the Cairo conference to reduce the world's population by 80 percent during the 21st century — down to between one and two billion people

This is greater depopulation than occurred during the "black death" plague of the fourteenth century, which wiped out half the parishes in parts of Europe. Dr Pimentel says the United States and other industrial countries get to keep 70-80 percent of their populations — so the Third World nations must become completely depopulated.

WorldWatch, the most powerful non-governmental organisation preparing for the Cairo conference, has a massively publicised report which says the human race has already exceeded the natural "carrying capacity" of the planet

WorldWatch wants the human population to fall by between two and three billion from the level it will reach early in the 21st century. And it wants this to be enforced by "national carrying capacity studies" of every nation, financed by the World Bank.

This is global genocide: it is a reversal of the entire history of the human species' successful existence. And with the claim that "survivors" will live better, it is an eat-your-neighbour policy of global cannibalism.

The number of children must be increasingly and drastically reduced; as a result, the elderly cannot be supported and euthanasia will have to be practised on them.

Then . chaos, economic breakdown, war.

Any nation's government which does not denounce and oppose the Cairo conference is betraying its own people

Already 500 million children have died unnecessarily in a decade, from preventable diseases. How much higher must that death toll go to reach the goals of the promoters of the Cairo conference?

The real demographic history of the human species is that the spiritual, creative power of the individual human being (in the image of God the Creator) has transformed nature through science and increased potential population density

The human species has grown through periods of scientific enlightenment, renaissances which have increased and ennobled its power to reason and govern itself.

During the Greek classical and Confucian renaissance periods up to 400 BC, we grew from 75 million to more than 150 million human beings.

In the 800-1200 AD period of Islamic renaissance and the neo-Confucian renaissance in Asia, we grew from 200 million to more than 400 million.

The fifteenth-century European "Golden Renaissance" led to 500 years of unprecedented, successful worldwide population growth Growing from 450 million, 5,5 billion human beings now owe their existence to that renaissance

Whoever attacks human population growth, attacks the very principle of human reason and knowledge represented by these scientific renaissances Whoever attacks population growth is attacking the principle of advanced education of children in science and art — a longer average childhood education requires a larger population to support it

Whoever attacks population growth is attacking the nation-state, product of the Renaissance, which mediates and makes possible the individual's contribution to general progress

Today's strong nation-states which are the heirs of the European Renaissance are the world's most densely populated nations and have the highest living standards.

The African Academy of Sciences has courageously opposed the "Joint Scientific Statement" for the Cairo conference, in a dissenting statement "For Africa, population remains an important resource for development, without which the continent's national resources will remain latent and unexposed"

Pope John Paul II has called together all of the world's ambassadors to the Vatican, to warn them against the dangers of the Cairo conference and its direct attack on the idea of the individual human being in the living image of God

Lyndon LaRouche, American physical economist and opposition leader, best represents the Renaissance tradition today "The people who are pushing the agenda of this Cairo conference," he said, "are comparable to Adolf Hitler only in the sense that they're far worse."

In 1988, Mr LaRouche forecast and proposed concrete measures to prevent the global food crisis which is the primary excuse of the Malthusians for demanding depopulation This was an entirely preventable crisis, Mr LaRouche insisted, caused in large part by the breakdown of the former Soviet bloc, comprising more than 15 percent of world food production.

Since Mr LaRouche made his forecast in 1988, food production in those nations fell as communism collapsed and then fell by more than 30 percent as the International Monetary Fund tried to push all these nations into Third World economic status through shock therapy

This occurred in the midst of a worsening, global food supply crisis

Mr LaRouche also exposed the policy underlying the demands for depopulation the geopolitical policy expressed in secret 1974 documents of the US National Security Council under Henry Kissinger

These NSSM-200 documents declared population growth of major Third World nations a strategic threat to Anglo-American interests and established support for global sterilisation and contraception programmes

Mr LaRouche says the potential for population density of 10-15 billion human beings exists in scientific and technological advances already achieved. The breakthrough to thermonuclear fusion energy, laser and process-heat technologies, together with exploration and colonisation of our solar system, would lift this population potential far higher.

Mr LaRouche has outlined a Fourth UN Development Decade policy To realise the programme would require a global shift in economic policy and the thorough defeat of Malthusian policies and cultural perspectives A crucial step in the fight to crystalise such a shift would be the denunciation of the genocidal goals of the Cairo World Population Conference

Abortion debate for parliament

Woman Minister 'may have better insight into thorny issue'

(23/7) Argus

TRISH BEAVER
Weekend Argus Correspondent

OPPOSING camps in the abortion controversy are preparing their arsenal of weapons for a parliamentary showdown later this year.

Tossed around like a live hand grenade for decades, this issue has the potential to explode in the face of the whoever makes the decision

Minister of Health Nkosazana Zuma has been landed with the proverbial "hot potato" and a decision either for or against abortion should, for once, have the interests of the majority of women at heart

For years, the battle between pro-life (PL) and pro-choice (PC) has been a fairly evenly-matched one But as real democracy has dawned on South Africa, the balance of power may be tipped in favour of newly-acquired womens' rights

Oppressed for decades, empowered women have seized their share of power with enthusiasm

Although still outnumbered by men, their presence in parliament has started ripples across the waters of male dominance

As the perfumed winds of change sweep through smoke-filled lounges where predominantly male attitudes have prevailed, the change brings with it the share of responsibility

Giddy with their emancipation, politically and economically they may make a decision that will turn the power to bear life into one that can destroy it too

Being able to choose the fate of one's own body is one of those soul-searching and difficult decisions

South Africa's stalwart anti-apartheid campaigner Helen Suzman was one of the first women to point out that an all-male commission set up to explore changes to the Abortion and Sterilisation Act was a hypocrisy

For while many men sow their wild oats with gay abandon, their endless sperm supply does not guarantee their responsibility towards the fate of that sperm

With the advent of the contraceptive pill, women embraced sexual freedom only to discover there was no foolproof contraceptive except a hysterectomy or sexual abstinence

As contradictory as baby powder and smelly nappies, the issue of whether or not to legalise abortion will be hotly debated later this year.

The black community has suffered the most from this double-edged sword A community burdened with poverty and traditional beliefs meant that a woman's marriage prospects increased with her fertility

Illegitimate children were welcomed into already overcrowded families

But, childbearing did not guarantee marriage for a black woman Contraceptives were regarded with suspicion and tradition bound them to a lifestyle of oppression

Desperate women have risked their lives at the hands of back-street abortionists For as little as R50, they would endure any amount of pain to be free of the responsibility of having another mouth to feed

PL supporters see the abortion issue as a human-rights issue — they believe the unborn foetus has rights, too, protected by the bill of human rights

But, PC supporters say it's a women's-rights issue — that the unborn foetus is not an entity until it is outside the womb Therefore, the woman carrying the foetus has all the rights

British Academic Ronald Dworkin points out that, ironically, both sides have the same interests at heart The issue is about quality of life

PC activists say that an unwanted child born into poverty and hardship has no quality of life PL supporters say that all unborn children must be given the chance to have a life — no matter the quality

As this debate rages on, 300 women are having the remains of an unborn foetus removed from their bodies — victims of back-street abortions

Wire coathangers, muti from witchdoctors and saline injections are instruments of the trade Without a choice, these women will risk death itself to have their freedom

Abortion debate for parliament

Woman Minister 'may have better insight into thorny issue'

(237) ARG 4/6/94

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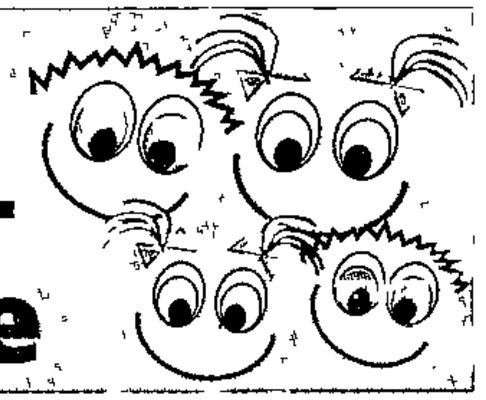
Wire coathangers, muti from witch-doctors and saline injections are instruments of the trade Without a choice, these women will risk death itself to have their freedom

Our children – the future



If the new democracy is to have real meaning for South Africans, it will have to focus on our youngest citizens – the children – whose needs have been long neglected

They are the ones who will make South Africa the great nation we know it is destined to become

Our top priority is undoubtedly health Poverty and poor living conditions have taken their toll on the well-being of our children Figures show that 66 out of 1 000 babies die before their first birthday

But that is just the start of the problem Many of those lucky enough to survive early childhood, do so in poor living conditions Violence has traumatised many Mental illness has become a new problem

Educational standards must be improved so that the talents of all young people can be harnessed for the good of the country

Finally, we need to address the problems caused by urban changes: single parents, unmarried mothers, street children and disabled youngsters

Today, June 16, is Soweto Day It commemorates the role children played in the struggle and gives us an opportunity of looking squarely at the problems besetting our children and assessing what should be done to solve them

Advertising [illegible] A Star survey

Infant mortality is highest among low-income African and coloured households

Star 16/6/94

Suffer the poor little children

(237)

Disease, violence and accidents are just some of the problems that beset the African child – but they can, and must, be solved.

A report by the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) points out that of all the causes of infant deaths, perinatal causes were most prevalent (56 percent), followed by intestinal infections (17,3 percent), respiratory diseases (10 percent), bacterial and viral diseases (5,5 percent), nutritional diseases (3 percent), and congenital defects (3 percent)

Deaths associated with trauma – motor vehicle accidents, poisoning, falls, fire and other accidents – accounted for about 1,3 percent of all infant deaths (*Epidemiological Comment, 1992*).

According to the report, the relationship between infant mortality and socio-economic status has been demonstrated by a research study in greater Cape Town which is representative of most metropolitan areas in the country

The data indicated clearly that infant mortality rates were highest among low income households, and mortality was most prevalent among African and coloured children (*Proceedings of 8th Perinatal Conference 1989*)

In 1986, the causes of child mortality (that is, deaths of children between one and four years) were identified to be the following intestinal infection accounted for 27,4 percent of all child deaths (presumably most of these deaths resulted from diarrhoeal disease), acute respiratory infection was the cause of death in 16 percent of children, nutritional disease was the third most common cause (10,4 percent), and unspecified viral diseases accounted for 9,4 percent

Injury is a leading cause of death in child mortality with an incidence of 1,5 to 3,8 times greater than that of the United States

However, cause-specific proportional mortality should be interpreted with care because under-registration of deaths among African children may not be consistent

It is possible that deaths from injury may be registered more frequently than those related to natural causes such as malnutrition and diarrhoeal disease

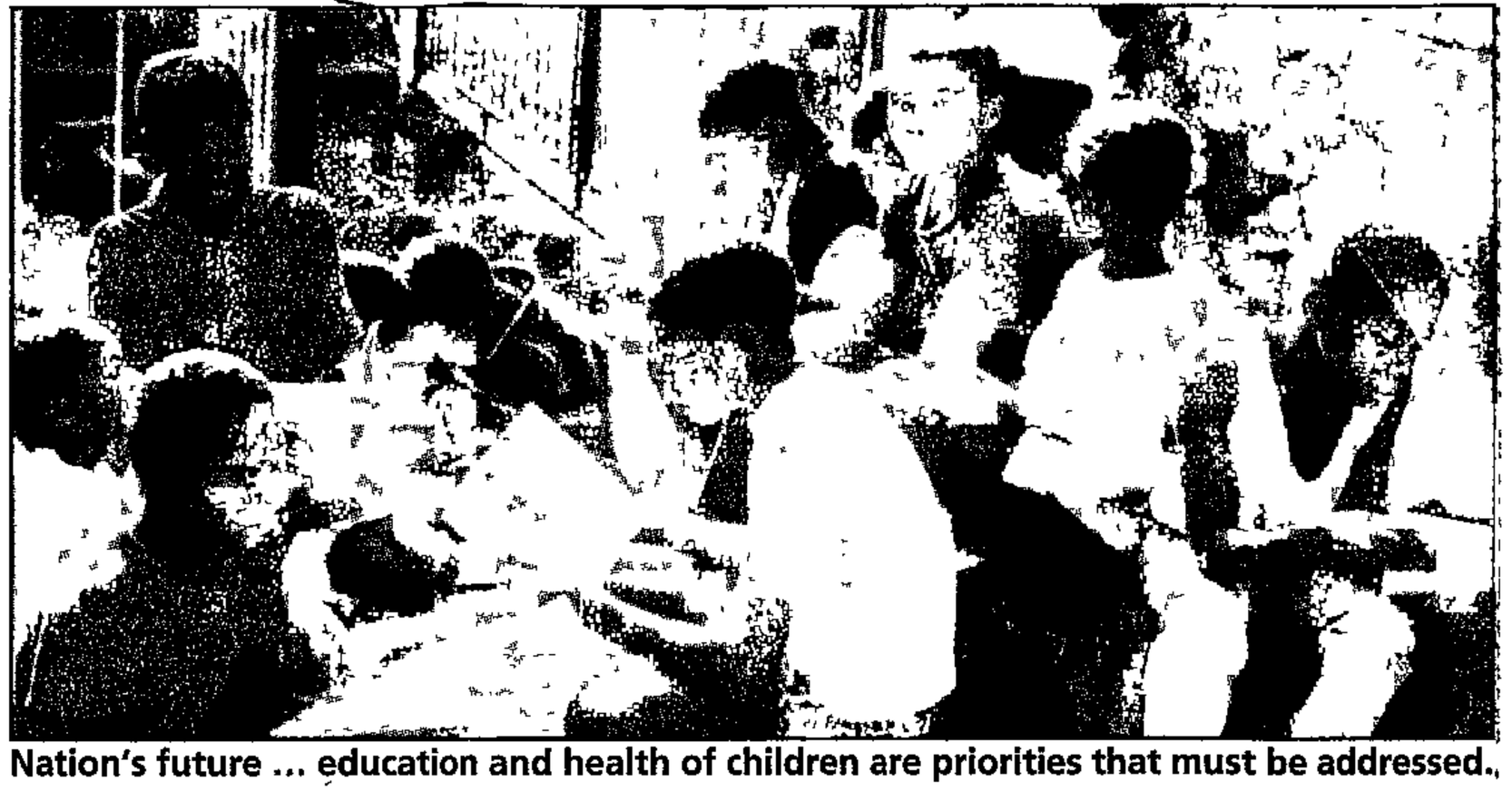
The Child Accident Prevention Centre at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town has collated child injury mortality data for South Africa

According to their records, a major cause of death among children under 14 years in 1989 was assault (38 percent), which concurs with the high incidence of child abuse Road accidents accounted for 41 percent of the number of incidents reported.

African and coloured children are more prone to pedestrian accidents which reflects a lack of safe recreational space in these communities The country's high incidence of drunken driving undoubtedly contributes to increasing road mortality

Another cause of accidents is fire burns (3 percent) which is particularly high in overcrowded communities where energy fuels are used for cooking and warmth

Among adolescents, injuries and drownings are by far the most common cause of death accounting for 62,7 percent of all deaths in 1989 in the 15-19 age group



Nation's future ... education and health of children are priorities that must be addressed.

For all external causes of death, assault is the most common – 38,8 percent

Motor vehicle accidents accounted for a further third of deaths, and suicide was the fifth most common cause – 94,5 percent)

Infant and child mortality data collected by the HSRC (1989) identified the strongest risk factors for infant and child mortality to be short birth intervals of less than 24 months, multiple births; very young or old mothers, residence in rural areas and life in shacks with limited access to a closed water supply and toilet facilities

In South Africa there is a paucity of research on analyses of risk factors in child mortality which needs further investigation

70 deaths per 1 000 births is double expected rate

Too many infants die in SA – Unicef

Star 22/6/94

Brussels — More than twice as many South African children die from preventable causes before the age of five than expected in a country with its level of income, the United Nations Children's Fund said yesterday

In its annual Progress of Nations report, launched in Brussels, Unicef said South Africa had 70 deaths per 1 000 live births This means the country's infant mortality rate is double the average of 34 per 1 000 expected for its $2 670 GNP per capita (237)

Of the two other nations in the region with comparable incomes, Mauritius has a death rate of 24 per 1,000 and Botswana 58 per 1 000.

But with high-level political commitment, rapid progress in improving the healthy development of infants and children was possible in South Africa, Unicef representative Scholastica Kimaryo said

She said the fact that investment in children was not just a moral imperative but would be of economic benefit through a healthier, better educated workforce was accepted by the new Government, "but, surprisingly, not by the wider business community which would ultimately benefit most".

Ten nations in the region, nine of them poorer than South Africa, had higher rates of immunisation against measles, the most lethal of the vaccine-preventable diseases. South Africa's rate was 63 percent last year, with great regional and urban-rural disparities

South Africa's efforts towards family planning was rated third in the region, after Botswana and Mauritius Fifty percent of married women use family planning, second only to Mauritius with 75 percent The world average is 57 percent South Africa's population is expected to double to 96 million before it stabilises in the next century

South Africa has signed, but not ratified, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child which lays down minimum standards for the treatment of children — Sapa.

Decade of decline in births

Star 29/6/94

It may not sound like much, but the 0,2 percent decline in South Africa's total fertility rate over the past 10 years has meant 839 362 fewer births, says Patricia Majeke of the Population Development Programme

The programme, under the auspices of the Deparment of National Health and Population Development turns 10 this month, and is celebrating what it perceives as "a decade of success"

The programme's demographic objective, says Majeke, is 2,1 children per fertile woman down from the present 3,7 by the year 2010

The fertility rate is highest among black women (4,3) and lowest among white women (1,5), with Asian (2,2) and coloured (2,3) women in the middle

A decrease in the fertility rate has a corresponding and welcome decrease in the infant mortality rate, says Majeke In the past 10 years, this has decreased from 55 per 1 000 live births before the age of one, to 43,1 But this is still unacceptably high

(237)

The programme aims to ensure a balance between the size of the population, natural resources and socio-economic capabilities. To achieve these aims, programme workers conduct activities aimed at

- Influencing South Africa and its peoples' views about family size, in favour of a "small family norm"
- Improving the role and status of women so they can achieve joint responsibility for the size of their families
- Giving priority to education and the eradication of illiteracy
- Accelerating economic development and enhancing standards of living

For more information, telephone (011) 836-2232, ext 2242

Many black babies unplanned

(237) CT 9/7/94

JOHANNESBURG — Many black women would not have babies if they knew how to avoid pregnancy, a national poll has shown

The poll by Research Surveys also showed that family planners are not reaching the people who need and want contraception

It showed that far fewer black first-time mothers wanted another baby than their white counterparts

According to figures released yesterday, only 32% of first-time black mothers would like another baby, compared with 67% of whites

Four hundred black mothers and 400 white mothers of infants under two were polled nationally

The poll also revealed a serious lack of access to or knowledge of contraception, with 47% of black mothers saying their babies were unplanned, against 30% of white mothers

Research Surveys joint managing director Mr Butch Rice said in a statement the results were even more dramatic when age was taken into account

"Some 80% of babies born to black mothers in the 18-to-24 age group were unplanned" — Sapa

S Africa's population explosion serious threat to RDP — Motlana

Staff Reporter (237) ARG 8/7/94

THE fast-growing South African population will seriously jeopardise the government's reconstruction and development programme (RDP), says the chairman of the Council for Population Development, Nthato Motlana.

In a statement released to coincide with World Population Day on Monday, Dr Motlana said there was growing concern that the natural and socio-economic resources of the region would be unable to accommodate the rapidly growing population.

July 11 was chosen as World Population Day because the earth's population first exceeded the five-billion mark on that day in 1987. The idea is that the international community should reflect on the world's population growth, which threatens the survival of humanity.

Dr Motlana said: "High population growth places huge demands on the economy. The high cost of demographic investment — like housing, education and health — erodes the capital needed for economic growth.

"South Africa will only achieve its full potential if a smaller family norm is accepted."

Although South Africa's population growth rate was declining slowly, the rate was still one of the most rapid in the world.

"The South African population doubles every 30 years and no less than one million people are added to the population every year," Dr Motlana said.

'Slower population growth vital to development'

SA must accept smaller family norm – Motlana

Star 11/7/94

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

COMMUNITY leaders and politicians are urged to become involved in Population Development Programme

(237)

South Africa will achieve its full potential only if a smaller family norm is accepted This is the message for World Population Day today from Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Council for Population Development

It was on July 11 1987 that a baby was born who sent the world's population over the 5 billion mark Since then it has been set aside as a day to reflect on mankind's growing threat to the planet and ultimately its own survival

Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams urged politicians and community leaders to become involved in the Population Development Programme (PDP) which operates in tandem with the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

"The successful implementation of the RDP is definitely dependent on the effective curbing of the population growth rate," Williams said

Although South Africa's population growth is declining slowly, it is still one of the highest in the world. Our population stands at an estimated 39 million, and at the current growth rate of 2,3 percent per annum, our population doubles every 30 years This means that 1 million people are added every year and 1 000 job-seekers enter the market every day

If the trend continues, our population will stabilise only around 2100 at 110 million Even the most optimistic estimates, in terms of natural resources and socio-economic capacities, calculate that the country can accommodate only 80 million people

The PDP is aimed at a sustainable balance between population growth, natural resources and socio-economic capabilities It emphasises that the fastest way of turning the population growth rate around is to empower and uplift the status of women

"The Government of National Unity and all concerned non-governmental organisation are committed to improving the quality of life and standard of living of all South Africans," Motlana said. "But at this present population growth rate, the achievement of this objective will be seriously jeopardised

"It is therefore imperative that socio-economic development in South Africa should be accompanied by more specific programmes to promote the small family norm and stimulate a bigger demand for family planning"

It was up to the more privileged and better educated citizens to help other, less fortunate fellow citizens to escape from the grinding entrapment of being poor and powerless by

- Offering literacy classes, or teaching a skill such as knitting, sewing or baking Projects could be started with the assistance of liaison officers of the PDP.
- Creating an awareness about the negative effect of exponential population growth
- Taking an active interest in the welfare of employees
- Trying to upgrade the skills of employees.
- Making provision for employees to have preventive health services, family planning, and funding schemes for housing

CAPE

Rapid population growth world's most serious threat

(237)

ARG 12/7/94

☐ Increased numbers add to demand on land and water resources

JENNY VIALL
Staff Reporter

A BABY is born every 26 seconds — 3 300 every day — in South Africa, where the population growth rate of 2,1 percent a year is one of the highest in the world

Yesterday, World Population Day, marked the seventh birthday of the child whose birth took the world's population over the five-billion mark

Projections are that South Africa's population could double — to 80 million — by the year 2020

The world faces an ecological and social catastrophe within this decade unless something is done to curb the rapid population growth, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said

The world's population increases by three people a second — or 250 000 a day — a growth considered by international demographers as the most serious threat to the survival of people and the environment

The global population will reach 100 million by the year 2000

More than half of all future growth in the world's population will be in Africa and South Asia, the UNFPA report said Africa's population will increase fourfold

According to the UNFPA report, the livelihood of about 1,2 billion people could become affected by desertification by the year 2000, due to poor use of land — including non-stop cultivation, over-grazing, excessive cutting of fuelwood — and poor water management

Millions of people could become environmental refugees, unable to make a living from the land

South Africa's growing population already destroys more than 7,2 million cubic metres of wood for fuel annually, diminishing agricultural potential and interfering with rainfall patterns

But all is not gloom South Africa has succeeded in lowering fertility rates by a third in 30 years, from an average of six children a woman to four children a woman

This is, however, no cause for complacency, said a report from the Population Development Programme The report said everything possible will have to be done to change people's perceptions of fertility to get them to accept small families as the norm

Due to natural growth and urbanisation 83 percent of the increase in the world's population is expected to take place in towns and cities — 81 million people a year — equivalent to 10 extra cities the size of Delhi, Paris or Lagos

The time it takes to add a billion people to the world's population is becoming shorter and shorter It took a century to double the world's population from one to two billion (1830 to 1930), 30 years for the next billion, 15 for the next and 12 years to grow from four to five billion

The next billion will take about 10 years

By the end of the century at least 37 countries will be unable to feed themselves from their own resources

A legal right — or murder?

ARG 13/7/94 (237)

"If women knew their babies had a soul and all body systems were fully formed at eight weeks, they might realise the enormity of aborting a pregnancy" — Miriam Cain of the Salt Shakers.

THREE speakers at a Pro-Life rally in Claremont argued against a woman's right to a legal abortion in South Africa

Everyone instinctively knew abortion was evil, and creativity should be used in addressing social problems, a church leader claimed at the rally

The meeting was organised in response to a report on the Abortion Rights Action Group's draft bill, aimed at legalising abortion Representatives from Pro-Life, the Africa Christian Action church group and the organisers of a new Crisis Pregnancy Centre called for an end to "the murder of innocent children".

Two videos showing lengthy close-up footage of dead foetuses were backed by mournful music, where shown to an audience of teenagers and engaged couples

Arguing that abortion defeated the rights to life of the unborn child, and that life began at conception, Miriam Cain of the Salt Shakers called abortion "premeditated murder."

She said that if women knew their babies had a soul and that all body systems were fully formed at eight weeks, they might realise the enormity of aborting a pregnancy

She listed the negative side-effects of medically-approved methods of abortion, including the risk of ectopic pregnancy, increased incidence of pelvic inflammatory disease and breast cancer, babies born 'placenta praevia' and up to 40 percent more birth complications in mothers with a history of abortion

Citing research by an American psychiatrist, Ms Cain referred to Post Abortion Syndrome, a traumatic stress disorder Women who had abortions may initially deny the impact of the experience or suffer feelings of guilt and loss, but later developed symptoms such as depression, drug or alcohol abuse, phantom pregnancy and broken relationships.

She stressed that mothers with unwanted or unplanned pregnancies needed counselling and accurate information about the development of the foetus

"Forget this eyewash about freedom of choice — what about the freedom of choice of the unborn woman?" exhorted the Rev Peter Hammond He called abortion "a murderous religion"

Warning that Pro-Life Christians would pay for abortions through their taxes if abortion were legal in South Africa, he accused the Press of "hiding the new South African abortion industry"

Comparing the cruelty of child abuse to the cruelty of abortion, he claimed too much emphasis was put on the evil of spanking children — "they might learn more manners" It was a greater evil to kill children by aborting them.

Mr Hammond slated the use of abortion in European countries, claiming it was killing their economies The church should be active in confronting social problems — "killing the problem is not the solution."

When asked what solution the church could offer to the problem of unwanted babies, he said Christian families should get involved and adoption should become more widespread

"Illicit sex is a sin, but not as great a sin as killing your baby"

He was surprised to hear there were babies available for adoption who nobody wanted, such as those conceived by rape He called on all Christians to become activists in upholding morals and Christian values The alternative to abortion should be the upliftment of the economy and the encouragement of social responsibility.

Pro-Life speaker Norma Wardle suggested sending anti-abortion postcards to the Minister for Health.

She also thought it a good idea to send these postcards to the President "If the big chief says no go, then it's no go"

She was apprehensive that the forthcoming opening of a new woman's hospital in the city centre was to provide medical facilities for abortion

The plight of the woman carring an unwanted pregnancy was addressed by a speaker from the newly-established Crisis Pregnancy Centre at Libertas Hospital, Yvonne Reynolds. This small organisation offered a service to women facing the decision of whether to seek an illegal abortion

As part of the Youth for Christ movement, the centre offered non-judgmental support, medical information on prenatal development and information on giving a child up to be fostered or adopted

Ms Reynolds stressed that "we do not thrust the gospel down people's throats", but offered women the freedom to make their own decisions once they had been informed of the implications of that decision

Practical help was also available in the form of pregnancy testing, a 24-hour counselling hotline, placement service for the mother seeking a home for unmarried mothers, counselling for the woman's family and father of the child, group counselling and ante-natal classes Counselling on single parenthood and adoption was also offered.

Ms Reynolds appealed for donations of maternity clothes, baby clothes and the loan of baby equipment

The Crisis Pregnancy Centre also aimed to provide for the woman's needs after the birth, assisting her to find a place to live and providing medical care and support to complete an interrupted school career

The Africa Christian Action group —incorporating Salt Shakers — can be contacted at P O Box 36129, Glosderry 7702 or on ☎ 689 4481 The Crisis Pregnancy Centre is on ☎ 418 4616, page 7321

A foetus in the womb ... the subject of controversy worldwide.

Free vasectomy service extended

(237)

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter

ARG 3/8/94

A FREE vasectomy service will be available at Woodstock Hospital on alternate Friday mornings, beginning this week

The service, the latest addition to facilities also offered at seven provincial hospitals and community health centres in the Peninsula, is a response to "increasing requests" for the procedure, according to the Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa (AVSSA).

Margaret Moss, chairman of the Western Cape branch of the AVSSA, said voluntary sterilisation had an important role to play in curbing population growth and there was an increase in the number of men taking the option.

But far more women were still being sterilised than men. Last year 12 000 female sterilisations were done in the Western Cape, compared to only 1 200 vasectomies.

Dr Moss said: "It is encouraging to see an increase in sterilisation figures, particularly in the Western Cape, which had an increase 6,8 percent, compared to the national average increase of 3,9 percent last year."

For more information, contact AVSSA at ☎ 531 1665.

TICS

R144m census set for 1996

B/Day 3/8/96

CAPE TOWN — A national census costing R144,488m would be held on March 7 1996, Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said yesterday.

The cost of the census would be spread over four financial years. This year R14,488m would be set aside, R23m in 1995/96, R103m in 1996/97 and R4m in 1997/98.

237

In the Budget debate yesterday Clarence Makwetu (PAC) raised the issue when he said local authority elections would be impossible without a national census and voter registration.

The absence of voter registration was one of the main flaws in the recent election. The PAC had called for voter registration in its first bilateral meeting with the NP, but had been ignored. A census would also help the implementation of the reconstruction and development programme.

Theo Alant (NP) said the cost of local government elections should be borne by the local communities with some help from the provinces, but government "should not be able to run around with a blank cheque book".

The expenditure for the transition process was not resented by the taxpayer when it came to election costs, but there was anger at the money spent on transitionary departments like the National Peacekeeping Force.

The SA National Defence Force was "being made into a massive employment bureau".

"I criticise the way personnel are taken into service and then fired by retrenchment. The hidden costs for pension funds in retrenchment packages will be seen later in the form of increased state debt."

The ANC was acting recklessly towards senior state officials as it wanted to "install its old Shell House friends at outrageous salaries" while at the same time announcing there had to be cuts in the salaries of public servants. — Sapa.

Our men a cut above

Staff Reporter CT 4/8/94

WESTERN CAPE men are leading the way in the growing demand for vasectomies and the increase in requests has led to the opening of a free service at the Woodstock Hospital. (237)

Dr Margaret Moss, chairwoman of the Western Cape Branch of the Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa (AVSSA), said vasectomies were "picking up in popularity"

Dr Moss said men of all ages were volunteering for the operation but they were mainly married in their mid 20s to 30s in stable relationship with a least two kids (237)

She said mainly men in the middle- to upper-income groups volunteered for the operation but there were a significant number in the unemployed to lower income groups

Dr Moss said a vasectomy was technically easier and safer than female sterilisation and closer to being 100% effective

Hospital now offering free vasectomy service

CT 4/8/94 (237)

THE Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa says a free vasectomy service is now offered at Woodstock Hospital

The service will begin at the hospital tomorrow morning and will be held on alternate Friday mornings

Growing demand

AVSSA regional organiser Mrs Carla Johnson said "The Woodstock facility is the latest addition to the quality vasectomy service offered at seven provincial hospitals and community health centres in the Cape Peninsula

"The initiative to provide this new service was taken by the Cape Provincial Administration together with AVSSA because of a growing demand for vasectomies in the Cape Town area"

"Over the past year AVSSA has been instrumental in increasing the availability and accessibility of quality sterilisation services in the Cape Peninsula This has resulted in greater acceptance of sterilisation by both men and women in the region"

Increase

Chairman of the Western Cape Branch of AVSSA, Dr Margaret Moss, said "It is encouraging to see an increase in sterilisation figures, particularly in the Western Cape which last year had an increase of 6,8% compared to the national average increase of 3,9%

"While female sterilisation far exceeds males, with 12 000 female sterilisations performed in the Western Cape last year compared with only 1 200 vasectomies, there is a significant increase in the number of men deciding on sterilisation"

An AVSSA spokesman said "Vasectomy or male sterilisation is a quick, safe and simple procedure, offering the convenience of permanent contraception without any long-term effect on a man's health or sexual performance."

☐ To make an appointment for a vasectomy or for more information call Sister Jackie Eiserman at Woodstock Hospital on (021) 47-0150 x146 More information is available from the AVSSA office in Pinelands on (021) 531-1665

High rate of teenage pregnancy

CT 12/8/94 (237)

Staff Reporter

SEX among primary school pupils is rife, the Planned Parenthood Association says

According to the Central Statistics Service in Pretoria, there were 69 162 teenage pregancies in 1991 Of these, 2 500 were girls under the age of 15

These figures represent only white, coloured and Indian girls No figures for black teenage pregancies were available

Teenage pregnancy and sexuality was highlighted at the launch of a new booklet brought out by a supermarket chain in conjunction with the association this week

"For the teenager who falls pregnant the rest of her life's script is written and almost all of it is bad," Dr Esther Sapire of UCT medical school and former president of the association said

The association started a campaign in Mitchells Plain in June among primary schools in an effort to educate the teachers and pupils about sex and sexually transmitted diseases.

One of their aims is to have sex education become part of the school curriculum.

"Reasons for the high rate of teenage pregnancies could be put down to overcrowding and the fact that many children were without parental supervision for a large part of the day," occupational health educator Mrs Rose Crowley said

"The schools in Mitchells Plain were enthusiastic about the programme At some of the schools we referred pupils who had been raped or exposed to incest to Rape Crisis and Nicro"

Teachers at the schools to which the association were invited were taught to carry on the education.

The Margaret Sanger Centre International of the Planned Parenthood Association in New York recently held a five-day workshop in South Africa presenting a programme modified for this country

More teens visiting contraception clinics

(237)

By BARRY STREEK,
Political Staff

CT 17/8/94

THE number of teenage women attending government clinics to obtain contraception rocketed by 29% during 1992/3, according to the old Department of National Health and Population Development

More than 61% of the 2 407 878 women who visited clinics for contraception during the year were teenagers, it said in its annual report which was tabled in Parliament.

Teenage clinic attendance in 1992/3 totalled 1 474 219, compared to 1 142 494 in 1991/2, a growth of 29,04%, the department said.

Black baby deaths highest

(237)

CT 17/8/94

INFANT mortality of black children was seven times higher than for whites, the Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, said yesterday

She said the rate in 1992 was 48,9 per 1 000 births. This was lower than the 1990 figure of 52,8 But the estimated rate for blacks was 54,3, 36,3 for coloureds; 9,9 for Asians and 7,3 for whites

Fewer child deaths

Sowetan

By Ismail Lagardien

22/8/94

SOUTH Africa's infant mortality rate has fallen from 124 deaths per 1 000 live births to just under 50, according to combined statistics of the World Bank and the Department of Health

According to the Department of Health, the infant mortality rate in the black community of South Africa is 54,3 per 1 000 births, among coloured people it is 36,3 while the figure for Asians and whites are 9,9 and 7,3 respectively

Impromptu questions

The question was raised in Parliament by Senator WF Mnisi of the Democratic Party and forms part of the tradition of putting questions to the Government on behalf of public interest groups or persons in the greater community (239)

Any question can be put in writing to any Cabinet Minister who then has to deliver the answer to Parliament Special question times are held on every Wednesday for Oral Reply and on every second Wednesday the President faces impromptu questions without notice

Last week Mr MJ Modisenyane asked the Minister of Labour, Mr Tito Mboweni, whether he or his department intended taking any steps to ensure that farmers complied with the provisions of the Labour Relations Act Mboweni replied that the LRA did not prescribe conditions of employment, but that the Agricultural Labour Act of 1993, which came into effect on January 17 this year, did in fact provide for it as well

TV series to focus on maternity death toll

□ SA figures 'far too high'

Health Reporter

ONE in 20 girls growing up in Africa today faces a risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth. (237) ARG 22/8/94

And, worldwide, half a million women die annually from pregnancy and labour complications, according to Unicef's latest Progress of the Nations report

But, maternal deaths often are avoidable and are the result of lack of access to health care and information

Common causes of maternal deaths in South Africa include malnutrition, insanitary conditions leading to infections, illegal abortions and obstructed labour, according to the Unicef/National Children's Rights Committee's State of SA's Children report.

The maternal mortality rate (number of women who die per 100 000 live births) in sub-Saharan Africa is 561, while the South African figure is much lower at 83, but more than four times that of developed countries, according to the World Bank

Department of National Health and Population Development figures show a huge disparity between the MMR for white and black South African mothers — the official MMR is eight for whites and 58 for blacks

But, the figures exclude the former "homelands", where 55 percent of South Africa's women live

● The R6 million CCV squatter camp soap opera, *Soul City*, this week highlights the urgent steps to ensure safe motherhood

Project manager Garth Japhet, who works at Alexandra Clinic as a mother and child practitioner, said the importance of early and then regular ante-natal check-ups could not be over-emphasised

The "essential early check-up" and the "vital six to eight visits during a pregnancy" might sound excessive, particularly to those in rural areas where just getting to a clinic was a major problem, but their importance could not be over-emphasised

"Through *Soul City* we hope to communicate this importance to many more people"

Soul City is part of a multi-media community health project, in which The Argus is taking part with a colour graphic series, appearing regularly on the front page of The Argus Classified section

It is aimed at communities which have been deprived of basic health education, but is informative to a wide spectrum of people in need of health care information

Soul City is screened on CCV at 6 pm on Mondays and repeated every Saturday at 1 pm

Births, deaths data 'unreliable' — CSS

B/Day 31/8/94

TIM COHEN

CAPE TOWN — The Central Statistical Service yesterday acknowledged its figures on births and deaths were inaccurate because its source was unreliable data supplied by the Home Affairs Department

Briefing the parliamentary joint committee on finance, Central Statistical Service head Treurnicht du Toit said his organisation had considered scrapping publication of the figures about two years ago But at that time it had been prevailed upon by the Health Department to continue supplying the statistics although it was aware many births and deaths were not being reported

Du Toit expressed satisfaction with the R144,48m budget for the 1996 census, saying the service would not again conduct a census by means of aerial photography

Although MPs attacked the aerial photography method used for the first time during the 1991 census as "highly unreliable", Du Toit said it was an internationally recognised method in inaccessible areas

Du Toit defended other statistics produced by the service, pointing out that an independent study on unemployment in SA by the UN Development Programme had found that 30% of the economically active members of the population were unemployed, compared to the service's figure of 29,1%

He said the number of votes in the elections in each province had tallied with the census figures provided by the service

Du Toit said the biggest problems faced by the organisation were the lack of qualified staff and the problem of non-response by data providers.

He added that measures were being considered to compel respondents to provide information (237)

Du Toit was questioned extensively on the measures being adopted to ensure affirmative action within the Home Affairs Department and on how the department would fit into the reconstruction and development programme

Changes had been made to the October household survey, which would include more questions related to the level of services required, he said More extensive questions would be asked on the provision of water and health facilities

The statistics council, which consists of between six and 10 people appointed by the Minister responsible, was to be restructured, Du Toit said

Committee chairman Gill Marcus expressed concern about the in-built resistance to supplying census information, and said measures should be considered to address the problem

Abortion laws to be probed

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

PARLIAMENT is to probe South Africa's abortion laws.

Minister of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma gave notice yesterday of a motion to the National Assembly that a select committee be appointed "to inquire into and report on possible amendments to the Abortion and Sterilisation Act"

No date has been set for the multi-party committee to complete its work but it will have the power "to take evidence and call for papers".

The probe is expected to provoke a lively debate inside and outside Parliament with most parties split down the middle on the controversial issue.

The question also holds major constitutional implications as the constitution defends both the right to life and maximum personal freedom of choice.

The DP welcomed the minister's decision to review "this highly contentious and emotional issue". "Since this matter will affect the lives of many people, it may be necessary that voters be given the opportuity to speak on this subject, possibly through a referendum," DP health spokesman Mr Mike Ellis said.

(237) CT 1/9/94

Urgent legal abortion plea

(237) ARG 10/9/94

WOMEN in South Africa who waged a lonely campaign for legal abortion under apartheid rule are complaining that the new black majority government is too busy with other problems to take up their cause

Pro-choice lobbyists say the men in the cabinet are moving too slowly on what for thousands of women scarred by backstreet abortions is a life-or-death issue

Pro-choice lobbyist Marge Dyer, of the Abortion Rights Action Group, said "We feel it is terribly urgent"

"We know there are a lot of urgent matters, but I don't see why the government is focusing on Aids while thousands of women risk their lives with backstreet abortions We want to see the government truly interested in women's health"

Her group worked in fear for 20 lonely years during the apartheid era, when white male politicians imposed stringent laws banning abortion But a meeting in June with new Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma led to optimism

"We were received in a very friendly manner — unlike the previous government, which treated us like the lunatic fringe," Ms Dyer said

"I see a lot of hope in the new government We are very pleased to see what is happening now"

Women from all classes and races have dodged the law About 200 000 South African women out of at least 10 million of child-bearing age seek illegal abortions each year

Only 1 000 qualify for legal abortions allowed under special circumstances — incest, rape or danger to the mother's life — and only after consultations with a minimum of four doctors

The law says that abortionists and the women themselves can be fined up to R5 000 or jailed for five years for procuring an abortion

Women who sought abortions were often as scared of social stigma as of the law to talk openly.

But an underground network has flourished, with plenty of people willing to take the chance in spite of the dangers

A white lawyer, when asked about the masked doctor who gave his wife an abortion while they were students, said "We never knew his name"

The rich fly to Europe for a costly but safe operation, or pay local doctors operating clandestinely

The poor go to backstreet abortionists — paying up to R2 000, the equivalent of several months' salary

They are lucky if the only scars are emotional

Doctors at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital, the biggest of Johannesburg's township clinics, say between 10 and 20 women daily require urgent attention from botched abortions

"They are usually too scared to admit they've had abortions — but we know the signs," a doctor said

"They'll use anything, often wire hangers Sometimes they just scrape themselves superficially so that we are forced to evacuate the womb when examining them"

A survey for the National Women's Coalition, the biggest women's lobby representing 92 national women's organisations, showed a deep desire by women of all classes and races for control over whether to bear children or not

It argues that pro-choice is not just a feminist issue, but one of economic need for black victims of apartheid

"Women are frustrated about their lack of control over their own bodies, especially when it comes to family planning and childbearing," it concluded

Reformers want speedy decriminalisation of abortion for up to 14 weeks of pregnancy, and 24 weeks in special circumstances

The ANC-dominated government has made clear it is pro-choice, including it in its reconstruction and development programme which aims to redress apartheid's social ills

A select committee is to be formed and is to meet this month to examine possible amendments to the Abortion Act

Fifteen of the 26 committee places are earmarked for the ANC The other parties to be represented are split on the issue of abortion on demand, partly because they do not want to alienate strongly religious or traditional constituencies

The Inkatha Freedom Party and Democratic Party have not explicitly defined their positions The National Party says it is happy with the law it invented — Sapa-Reuter

IFP threat of physical action on illegal immigrants

Star 14/9/94

BY KAIZER NYATSUMBA
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Inkatha Freedom Party yesterday threatened to take "physical action" against the growing number of illegal immigrants in the country if the Government of National Unity (GNU) failed to embark on "drastic steps" to deal with the issue

The first local political party to openly take a stand on illegal immigrants, the IFP in the PWV said it was imperative that the GNU dealt with the problem as soon as possible "to make sure that all South African citizens are employed"

Otherwise, the party's members in the region would "march against illegal immigrants", with the possibility of "physical action" not ruled out

(237)

The IFP said the streets of the country's towns and cities had "to be kept clean", and should not be allowed to become areas where drug-trafficking flourished

The party's leader, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has direct responsibility to deal with illegal immigration

Buthelezi has said at least twice — in Parliament and in an interview with The Star — that illegal immigrants presented the GNU with one of its most serious problems, and could even impact negatively on the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

At a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, the IFP said the country's citizens had to be taken care of first, including when it came to the RDP

"Strong action needs to be taken (by the GNU) Beyond this, we as citizens of this country will march against illegal immigrants, and physical actions (will) be applied if drastic steps are not taken," said the IFP in a statement

SA population 'pushing the limit'

CT 27/9/94 (237)

Staff Reporter

ECO-TOURISM in South Africa could become a multi-million dollar industry if the issue of the country's exploding population was addressed, says SA Nature Foundation director Dr Iain Macdonald

In the keynote address yesterday at Ecotour '94, an international conference on eco-tourism in Cape Town, Dr Macdonald said South Africa had many unique natural assets that attracted tourists — the world's tallest dune forests, 97% of the world's white rhino, and the entire fynbos floral kingdom — within its boundaries

"But the land is shuddering under the impact of what we are doing to it Erosion is 20 times faster than it should be, human communities are stressed and social structures are breaking down

"The root of the problem is that human numbers are pushing the limits of the system," Dr Macdonald said

The population density in South Africa was 34,4/km² — higher than the United States

There was pressure from hungry people who asked why wild animals were protected while people were starving

"Never underestimate that pressure The only way to reduce it is to reduce the population," Dr Macdonald said

DP votes to support abortion

CT 24/10/94

(237)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Democratic Party yesterday voted at its national congress here to support abortion on demand

A resolution guaranteeing the right of every woman to choose a safe, legal termination of her pregnancy, preferably within the first 12 weeks, by a willing, qualified medical practitioner was overwhelming passed by delegates

This is a departure from the previous position which allowed each DP member a free vote The new resolution said "The choice rightly belongs to pregnant women and not to their elected representatives"

The abortion debate was the most intense discussions at the congress

A Western Cape speaker said "If we want to improve the health of any society, we must allow women to choose when to have children"

Eastern Cape provincial legislature member Mr Eddie Trent disagreed "Does God agree with what you are doing? Don't kill these innocent children"

Emotions on the boil as abortion storm brews

ARG 29/10/94 (237)

■ Emotions threaten to boil over if abortion on demand is allowed in South Africa — as happened in the United States where the issue has led to violent confrontation.

DAVID BREIER
Weekend Argus Political Staff

PRO-LIFE activists have warned that South Africa will face protest marches "on an unprecedented scale" if the government permits abortion on demand.

The majority African National Congress strongly favours reforming the abortion laws to permit pregnant women to obtain proper medical abortions — many poorer women have fallen victim to illegal back-street abortions

It's National Party partner in government opposes abortion on demand but is now in the process of re-examining its policy

With other pressing political issues enjoying priority, the abortion issue was put onto the backburner during the first few months after the election

But it now threatens to erupt as one of the most emotive issues in the country as a parliamentary select committee tackles it

The Democratic Party has come off the fence after having no policy on abortion It resolved at its national conference this month to support abortion on demand — setting off a bitter backlash from pro-lifers in the party

DP youth media chairman Denzil Coulson, 22, incurred the wrath of the party hierarchy this week when he condemned his own party's new policy DP public representives who reject the new party line include Wessel Nel of KwaZulu-Natal and Eddie Trent of the Eastern Cape, both provincial legislature members

Party leader Tony Leon cautioned Mr Coulson not to make statements in his official capacity but to restrict himself to statements in his private capacity

But an angry Mr Coulson continued to defy the party line this week, warning "You will see marches on an unprecedented scale if abortion on demand is legalised"

He said South Africa was a very religious society compared to the United States, where controversy has been raging since the US Supreme Court decided in 1973 the foetus did not have the constitutional right to life

South Africa's new Constitutional Court will have the final power to veto or approve any parliamentary decision to liberalise abortion The court will have to decide whether this contravenes the right to life guaranteed in the constitution's bill of rights

Sheila Camerer

Tony Leon

But Mr Coulson believes the issue is too important to leave to the courts — like other pro-lifers he insists on a referendum

At present the law permits abortion in cases such as rape or other illegal intercourse, or where the life of the mother is endangered or there is a serious risk the child would be born mentally or physically handicapped

But the pro-choice lobby demands the right of women to decide for themselves

"It is not a woman's choice — we are talking of heads, bones and blood," Mr Coulson said

Medical evidence was that heartbeat started six weeks after conception and brain activity after nine weeks

The DP policy is for abortion "preferably" within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy But Mr Coulson said the goalposts would shift

"In five years another law will be passed shifting it to 18 weeks and later to six months," he said

"To my mind it is the killing of innocent unborn babies I believe society should protect the life of unborn children But now we say it is okay to kill up to the age of 12 weeks," he said

He said his strong religious beliefs motivated his anti-abortion stand

The parliamentary standing committee on abortion and sterilisation was set up earlier this year But at its first meeting several days later to elect a chairman, the ANC indicated it had not yet had a chance to caucus The meeting adjourned and no further meetings have taken place

DP health spokesman Mike Ellis said the issue had become so contentious, the party could not avoid being caught up in the debate

"I am absolutely amazed at the number of people who have phoned us to ask for our stand on abortion They were dreadfully disappointed when we could not answer There is no doubt we have taken the right decision No doubt we will alienate some, but we would have offended more if we had sat on the fence," he said

Nat spokeswoman on women's affairs Sheila Camerer said the party opposed abortion on demand and believed abortion should not be promoted or used as a method of family planning

"At the same time the NP recognises that there are women in South Africa entitled to a legal abortion who do not have access to adequate medical and health facilities

"Accordingly the NP will support any impovement to our laws and procedures governing abortion which will ensure equal treatment and equal access to facilities for all women

"However we believe that any changes to the law should be preceded by the widest possible consultation," Mrs Camerer said, adding the NP had an internal debate on the issue and invited submissions to the party

A recent Stellenbosch University survey of attitudes among South Africa's elite showed pro-abortion feelings among supporters of the ANC, DP and NP but not the Pan Africanist Congress, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Conservative Party

While most English-speaking leaders support abortion on demand, more Afrikaner leaders oppose it than support it, while the African-language elite are evenly-divided

Alliance set to fight abortion

CT 28/10/94

JOHANNESBURG — Religious leaders comprising Jews, Muslims and several Christian denominations yesterday agreed in principle to form an alliance to lobby against abortion on demand (237)

Speaking at the Rhema Church here, the Rev Ray McCauly said the delegates would seek mandates from their communities before November 24 when they hoped to formalise the alliance — Sapa

4 000 teenage births — only the tip of the iceberg

Teenage pregnancies reach crisis proportions

BY VICKY STARK

Southeaster

Cont →

THE INCREASE in teenage pregnancies in the Western Cape is reaching crisis proportions, with official figures only the tip of the iceberg, a SOUTHEASTER investigation has found.

Last year 3 972 teenage girls gave birth at Groote Schuur Hospital (Suppl. to South)

"This figure probably doesn't come close to reality, as many teenagers have their babies delivered at private clinics," said Professor Herman de Groot, who provided the statistics 28/10 - 1/11/94

"Young people must learn that teenage pregnancy is bad for the child, bad for the family and bad for the community," Professor De Groot said

But Mrs Clarissa Arendse, guidance teacher at Rocklands High in Mitchells Plain, has found a way to make her young students aware of the problem

The school had 14 pregnant pupils in 1990, but after the implementation of her life-skills project in 1991, numbers were reduced to two

"I shocked the staff and the community with statistics I told them we had 902 pregnancies in the Rocklands area during 1990 alone

"They realised the seriousness of the situation and readily co-operated with me," Mrs Arendse said

The project is aimed at Std 9 pupils, who have to pair up and adopt a baby doll for two weeks The couple has to sign a declaration of rights for the child and agree not to separate or divorce

"They have to clothe, feed and look after the doll as if it were their own child

"They have to draw up an imaginary budget for food, rent, electricity, travelling expenses and telephone And they have to pay for a babysitter"

Mrs Arendse would ask pupils' parents to wake them at 3am to feed the baby

"Over weekends I would call the pupils and tell them they couldn't go out because their child had suddenly taken ill"

She said the boys and girls were keen on the idea for the first week

CRUSADER: Mrs Clarissa Arendse fights against teenage pregnancy on the Cape Flats ***Photo: Roger Sedres***

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"They dressed the dolls and paid attention to them Some 'grandparents' even took photographs

"Then in the second week the pupils started complaining about the responsibility," Mrs Arendse said

"They said they'd had enough Some of them couldn't get along with their partners and threatened to divorce But most just couldn't cope with the demands of the child," she said.

She and the staff reinforced the role-playing parenting experience with sex education, assisted by the Mitchells Plain family planning clinic

"Preaching to children about the misery of unplanned pregnancy doesn't work They have to get involved in a project like this to realise the full extent of the burden," Mrs Arendse said

Abortion row looms

DAVID BREIER
Weekend Argus Political Staff

■ The new parliamentary committee on abortion has appealed to people to remain calm over abortion after an American pro-life extremist was convicted of murdering an abortion doctor and his guard.

ARG 5/11/94 (237)

PUBLIC evidence on the explosive issue of legalising abortion will be heard by a parliamentary committee early next year.

With an emotional confrontation threatening to erupt, members of the new parliamentary committee have appealed for public calm out of fear that emotions could boil over into violence.

Parliamentarians fear South Africa could follow the example of the United States which has experienced years of angry clashes.

American anti-abortion extremist Paul Hill has been convicted of murdering a doctor and an unarmed guard outside a women's clinic in Pensacola, Florida Hill's supporters say he would welcome execution in the electric chair as a form of martyrdom.

This week in Cape Town the new parliamentary ad hoc select committee on abortion and sterilisation had its first full meeting. It appointed a steering committee to finalise its terms of reference by the end of the current parliamentary session later this month.

The committee is to invite the public to submit evidence — and it expects to be inundated with emotional submissions from pro-life and pro-choice lobbyists. Public hearings are expected to begin early next year

Meanwhile, committee members have appealed to the public to "cool it".

Democratic Party committee member Mike Ellis said "It is absolutely essential we receive evidence from as wide a range of people as possible. Nobody must be denied an opportunity to give evidence.

"It is vital for the select committee to retain an even temper throughout the debate that lies ahead so that it comes to a sane and rational decision".

Mr Ellis appealed for cool heads during a debate which had the potential to split the country.

Chairman of the new parliamentary committee on abortion is Sokhaya Nkomo of the African National Congress — a medical doctor. He was not available for comment

The ANC strongly favours changing the country's laws to permit abortion-on-demand and the DP recently followed suit and now supports legalising abortion after previously having no policy on the issue.

The National Party, which has opposed abortion-on-demand, is reviewing its policy

But other parties are ranging themselves against abortion, including the Freedom Front and the African Christian Democratic Party.

ACDP spokesman Derek Egleton said abortion was murder as the foetus was "cut up inside the mother to be removed".

Religious leaders from various denominations are also mobilising to form a joint strategy against legalising abortion

They include church leaders from Rhema, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, United Congregationalist, Apostolic Faith Mission, Church of England, the Council for African Independent Churches, Assemblies of God and Salvation Army as well as Jewish and Muslim leaders

Rhema Church spokesman Ron Steel quoted Mother Teresa, who said "If you have violence in the womb, how can you have peace in the world?".

The United Ulama Council of South Africa has said that Islam upholds the sanctity of life and that abortion was the murder of life.

South African law at present permits abortion in limited circumstances — such as cases of rape or incest or where the life of the mother is at stake or there is a serious risk the baby will be born handicapped

Supporters of abortion-on-demand say women should be empowered to decide what happens to their own bodies But pro-lifers say this does not mean women have the right to kill defenceless foetuses.

Pro-choicers also point out that many women have dangerous backstreet abortions because doctors are prohibited from performing abortions

Any change in South Africa's abortion laws would have to be tested by the new Constitutional Court, which would have to decide whether abortion contradicted the right to life guaranteed by the bill of rights

SA's population growth rate 2,1%

STEPHANE BOTHMA

PRETORIA — SA's population growth rate for all race groups during the past three years averaged an annual 2,1%, according to a Unisa Bureau of Market Research report released at the weekend

The country's total population in 1994 was estimated at 40,1-million

The bureau estimate for the provinces showed that KwaZulu/Natal, with 8,5-million inhabitants, was the most populous province, and the Northern Cape, with 0,8-million, the least populous

"KwaZulu/Natal has the most blacks (close on 7,0-million), the most Asians (0,8-million) and the third-largest white contingent (0,6-million)," the report said

Between 1991 and 1994 the black population rose 2,4% a year, from 28,4-million to 30,5-million, compared with annual growth figures of 1,3% for Asians, 1,4% for coloureds and 0,7% for whites

The PWV had the largest number of whites (41,1% of the total), followed by the Western Cape (16,6%) and KwaZulu/Natal (11,8%)

Of the black population, the largest number (22,9%) lived in KwaZulu/Natal, followed by 18,3% in the Eastern Cape and 16,1% in the Northern Transvaal, the report said

SA population goes up to 40m

PRETORIA — South Africa's population in 1994 reached 40,1 million, according to estimates of the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research

The population showed an annual growth rate of 2,1% over the three years since the 1991 census, Unisa said in statement yesterday

According to the survey, kwaZulu/Natal is the most populous province with 8,5m inhabitants. The Northern Cape is the least populous with 800 000

The PWV and Eastern Cape both have more than six million people and Northern Transvaal more than five million.

kwaZulu/Natal also has the most black people — nearly seven million — followed by the Eastern Cape with 5,6m and Northern Transvaal with 4,9m

The total black population tops 30m.

More than 41% of the country's 5,165m whites live in the PWV, according to the survey

It also found that more than 60% of the 3,424m coloureds are concentrated in the Western Cape, most living in the Cape Town area

kwaZulu/Natal, with 77% of a total of 1,027m, has the most Asians, more than 60% of whom live in and around Durban and Maritzburg

The black population is growing fastest at 2,4% a year and whites, at 0,7%, the slowest — Sapa CT 7/11/94 (237)

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Black population growing fastest as SA tops 40-m mark

ARG 7/11/94

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The black population is growing fastest at 2,4 percent a year, whites at 0.7 percent, the slowest — Sapa

The donor baby debate

Lesbian mum calls for law change

■ Donor artificial insemination is out of reach of most unmarried couples — but one lesbian couple has broken new ground in Cape Town.

ARG 3/12/94

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Weekend Argus Reporter

UNMARRIED, lesbian and the mother of two children by artificial insemination from an unknown donor, 35-year-old Susan describes herself as a "pioneer in the field" in this country

Many registered practitioners in Cape Town would like to see the "conservative" law that falls within the Human Tissue Act of 1991 — and prevents unmarried woman from being artificially inseminated with donor sample — reversed In the meantime unmarried couples are turned away or encouraged to marry before they qualify for artificial insemination from a donor

Susan had been involved in a stable lesbian relationship for a few years before she looked around for a doctor who was prepared to perform donor artificial insemination on her She first made inquires at the sperm bank at Groote Schuur Hospital but quickly realised that as an unmarried woman the law was not in her favour

After asking around she found a "sympathethic doctor" who believed enough in her relationship to agree to perform donor artificial insemination on her Ten years later her daughter and her partner were present when donor artificial insemination was performed a second time and both were at her side when she gave birth to their second child

Details about the two donors are unknown to her, she says

Susan describes the law that prevents unmarried woman from receiving donor artificial insemination as "utterly illogical"

"I could have gone out and found a man and got married But I didn't want that and I didn't want to find to find somebody who would give me sperm Once the baby is a "fait accompli", there is a third parent on the scene and this is not really a natural relationship After all, we do live in the 21st century and we are allowed to be in charge of our sexuality," she says

Peter Vurgarellis, regional director of the department of National Health and the inspector of anatomy in the Western Cape, says that by law there must be authority from both a husband and wife before donor artificial insemination can take place Common-in-law relationships could be considered binding under special circumstances placed before him but no requests from lesbian couples for donor artificial insemination had been put to him, he says

"I am unaware of such cases happening in my region"

The laws reflect the "norms of the community" and have been drawn up to this effect, says Dr Vurgarellis If a lesbian couple request the service, the doctor approaches him for an opinion

"In a case like this, I would follow it up with the people involved and get an opinion from sociologists and a legal opinion"

Susan says that the doctor who performed donor artificial insemination on her had "trusted us explicitly" and to allow the artificial insemination to proceed had signed all the documents that required the signature of a husband

The couple decided to enter a legal partnership that required Susan to change her surname "We were more legally bound up than before and everything was in order before the first artificial insemination took place," she says

Both Susan and her partner would have "happily adopted" but the laws prevent a single woman from adopting a child To assist their daughter Susan and her partner explained their situation to the teachers at the schools she attends Around people they don't know the couple are careful about what they reveal — but mostly nobody asks any questions

There are 26 practitioners in the Western Cape registered to perform artificial insemination using donors from sperm banks registered with the government

One registered practitioner says he would like to see the laws that prevent unmarried women from making use of this facility removed

"One has to rely on people doing artificial insemination in a fairly ethical way I've organised it for unmarried people and gay couples but I certainly don't just do it for anyone You have to develop a relationship with the couple first," he says

The laws had been designed by "men in grey suits" and as more women legislators became involved the law would probably be reversed When performing donor artificial insemination a doctor had to ensure that what was being done would be in the interests of the child

While it is believed that there are a few registered doctors who will perform donor artificial insemination on unmarried women, there are others who would not be prepared to take the risk

"Nobody in my practice would do it because we are licensed to perform artificial insemination and we would not do it on unmarried women and break the law We would not be prepared to have our licences revoked," he says

He had instructed unmarried women who desperately wanted children how to do it themselves

A specialist with the infertility clinic at Tygerberg Hospital, who asked not to be named, says he is aware of doctors in the Cape performing donor artificial insemination on unmarried women He would like to see the laws tightened up to prevent

"You have to look at it in the broader sense and question whether you want to encourage single-parent families The wider implications are more than just having a child and it puts in the spotlight the issue of raising a child alone," he says

■ Susan is not the mother's real name Names have been changed to protect the children involved

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Sex education for youngsters

JOHANNESBURG — Young children could soon receive sex education at schools.

CT 5/12/94

Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma, said she was in favour of sex education from an early age, to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

(237)

In a speech read on her behalf at an Aids prevention rally in Kempton Park, Dr Zuma said the increasing incidence of Aids, HIV infections and teenage pregnancies highlighted the need for sex education — Sapa

Increase in baby deaths from syphilis infection

Staff Reporter

THERE has been a significant increase in perinatal deaths from infection, particularly syphilis, in the last eight years.

(237)

This is according to a study conducted by the Medical Research Council's Perinatal Mortality Research Unit at Tygerberg Hospital, to determine the causes of perinatal losses at the hospital over the last year.

CT 8/12/94

Researchers believe the finding reflected "the general increase in sexually transmitted diseases"

Rise in infant mortality rate

Sowetan 12/12/94

By Glenn McKenzie

DEATHS of babies and late-term foetuses from syphilis has increased alarmingly at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, a new study has found.

According to the Medical Research Council, 30 babies and foetuses older than 28 weeks died because of syphilis between March 1993 and February 1994. That compares with only 12 syphilis deaths in 1986.

"Researchers believe this alarming finding reflects the general increase in sexually transmitted diseases and warn politicians, community health workers and educationists to give urgent attention to this problem," the MRC said.

Researchers analysed 8610 single birth deliveries in the study.

(237)

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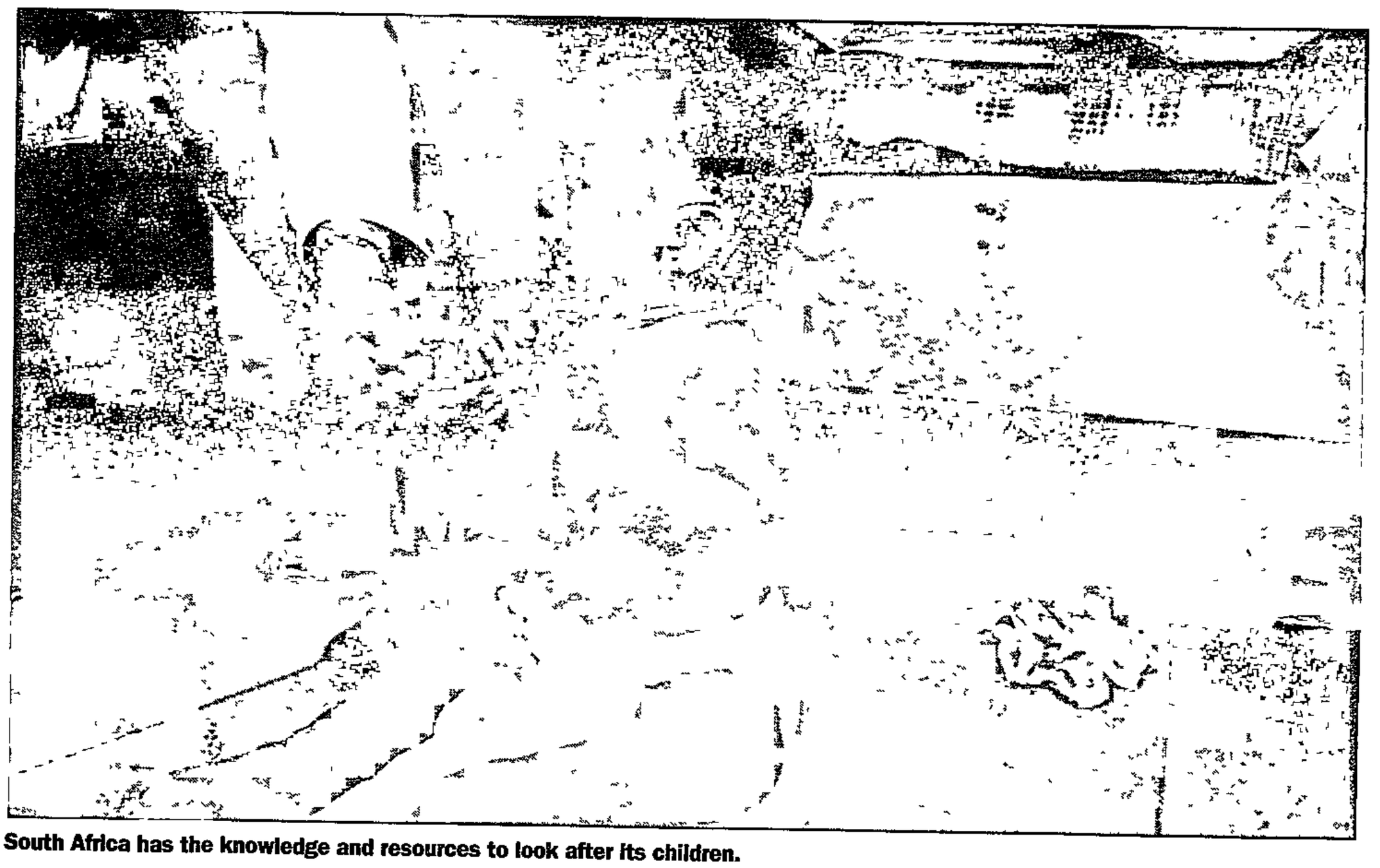
(237)

SOWETAN Monday December 19 1994

Suffer S Africa's little



South Africa has the knowledge and resources to look after its children.

focus on kids

Sowetan 19/12/94

The disease-related child mortality rate is very high in this country and worse than in poorer countries. This condition persists despite easily accessible knowledge and abundance of resources, reports Glenn McKenzie:

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A YEAR after President Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk committed South Africa to improving children's health, infant and under-five deaths are still high

While in the recent State of the World's Children report, Unicef praises most developing countries for reducing child death and disease since 1990, officials here say progress in South Africa is still slow

"This country has many of the same causes of death as Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania But here, there is both the knowledge and resources to do something about it," says Unicef representative Ms Komaryo Scholastica.

About 69 out of every 1 000 South African babies die before reaching the age of five, according to Unicef That rate is worse than in poorer countries like Algeria, Egypt and Botswana.

Most of the dying children are black In fact the black infant mortality rate is 10 times higher than the rate for white babies

Scholastica, a Tanzanian diplomat, says part of the problem is that only six percent of the country's health budget is spent on primary health care, despite new government support

"This country has problems that can be easily prevented The government needs to decide on a definite policy shift," says Scholastica

Another problem is immunisation Only 66 percent of one-year-old children in this country are inoculated against tuberculosis Unicef has called for an 80 percent immunisation rate by 1994-95

Scholastica says public hospitals and clinics need to immunise every day

"Clinics have to start immunising anything that moves," says Scholastica

"Right now, there are days when clinics immunise and days when they offer family planning and other services We feel the supermarket approach is much more practical Mothers don't necessarily know which days they should go to the clinic "

Not all the news is bad Scholastica is encouraged that the successful elections in April bode well for peaceful change

"South Africans have found a way to negotiate with each other and as long as that continues there can only be progress "

Unlike some other developing nations, South Africa can easily meet its national and global objectives by the end of the century, she says A few goals could be met by 1996 if changes start soon

"Oh yeah, South Africa can meet its goals well before the year 2000 if resources are committed to the task," she says

One key to good health is to involve all government departments For instance, Unicef studies show that children's health is directly related to the level of education among women

Enrolling all school-aged kids in primary school is essential, says the organisation Reducing drop-out rates so that 75 percent of all children complete 10 years of school is also important Both are "feasible goals" for 1995, according to the organisation

Scholastica says other health care hurdles can be overcome if the country "changes the nursing profession" to include more traditional doctor's jobs The health service can also save money by treating respiratory diseases with low-cost antibiotics

So far, restructuring the country's health system has been a complicated problem Strikes threaten the health sector around the country In parts of Lebowa, services have completely stopped.

"Every attempt to make changes has a destabilising action But by the beginning of next year (1995) we hope real changes will take place," said Scholastica.

Nelson Mandela

FW de Klerk

But what is Unicef doing to help? In comparison to some other countries, the organisation has committed only a small amount of money (R60 million over three years) to "improve the situation of children and women"

Scholastica says South Africa has enough resources to do the job on its own

That is why the bulk of Unicef efforts will go towards gathering information about health care One of South Africa's biggest problems is that accurate statistics have never been collected

Other funds will help provide technical experts to the Health Department in the next few years

"Our role is as a resource. We have 12 technical people, and we have other people coming for short periods," says Scholastica

But public involvement is what could make the difference here In countries like Sri Lanka, communities have been empowered to be watchdogs of their own health

Instead of blaming the government, people need to take responsibility for their own problems, says Scholastica

POPULATION – VITAL STATISTICS

1995

Unkind shot?

The use of immunological birth control is spreading quietly around the world by means of experimental research trials, without anyone really knowing the short or long-term effects. **BEATHUR BAKER** reports

Row over contraceptive

(237) Star 19/1/95

South African women will soon have access to a new injectable contraceptive "vaccine" currently being researched.

Experts believe the method is cheaper, easier to administer and has fewer side effects than hormonal methods, such as the pill and injection

But there is an outcry of protest from international women's reproductive rights and advocacy groups

They are raising the alarm over the possible side effects of the contraceptive, which is still in the experimental stage, and the manner in which research trials are being conducted, especially in the Third World

The new contraceptive works on the body's immune system against women's reproductive cycles to prevent pregnancy

Because the immune system ordinarily wards off illness, women feel that pregnancy is being perceived as a disease by the creators of the new drug

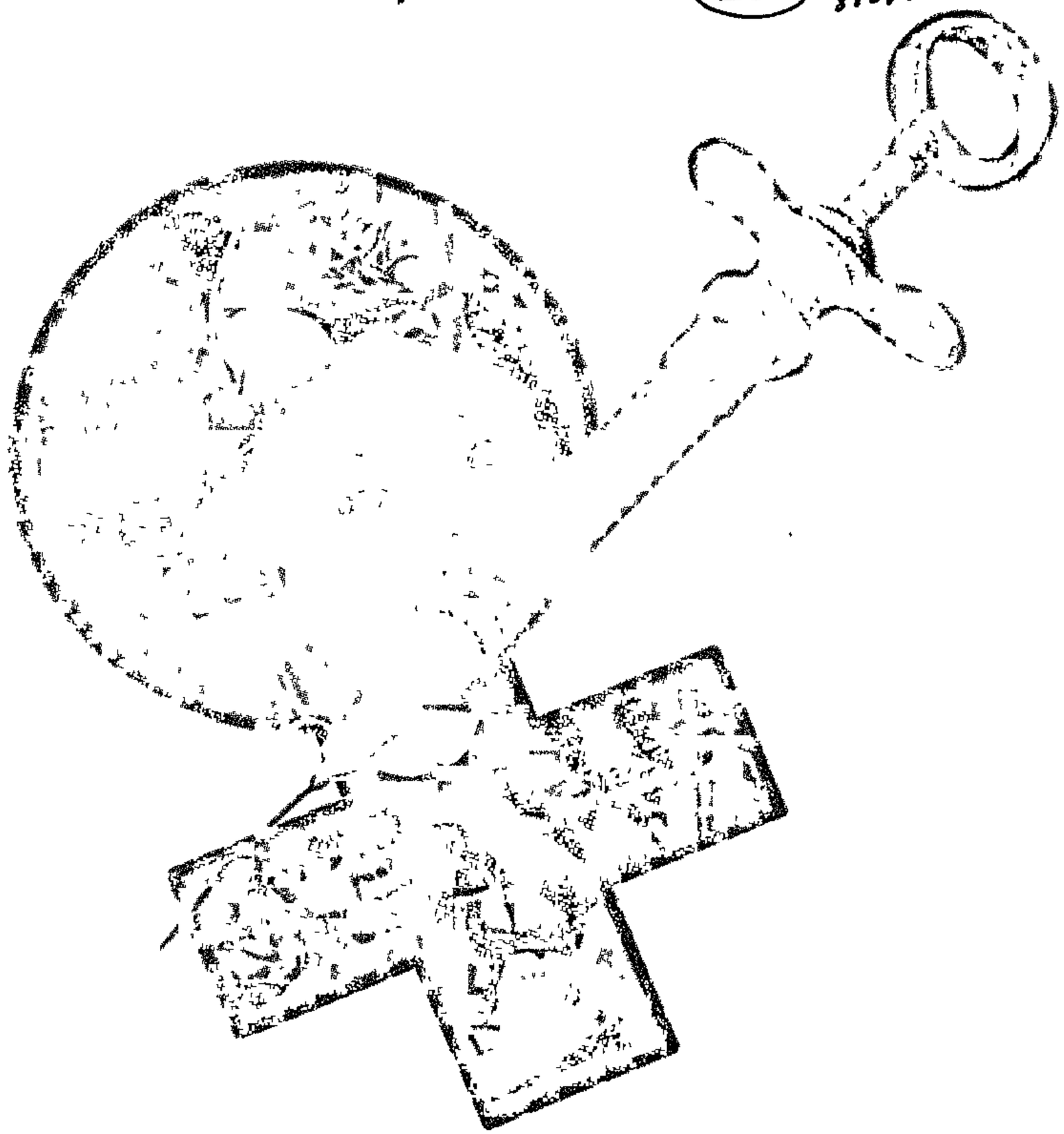
The body's complex defence system against disease is stimulated to produce antibodies that turn on the fertilised egg, which is expelled from the body in the manner of a foreign substance

The international protest campaigns are opposed to women's bodies being used for experimentation and groups are calling for an end to the trials

It is argued that women are not being adequately informed about the action, or the possible side effects, of the "vaccine" which has a longer duration than existing hormonal methods

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNNR) says increasing numbers of women are waking up to the dangers of immunological contraception

According to the protest lobby, the "vaccine" is already being widely administered in clinical trials conducted in countries such as India, Brazil, Sweden, [illegible] United States and Australia. And it is alleged the experimental trials are largely unauthorised



Gisella Dutting, the Dutch representative for the lobby group, says the use of immunological contraceptives is spreading quietly throughout the world without definite knowledge of short or long-term effects

The Netherlands-based WGNNR was represented at the recent National Women's Health Policy Conference in Johannesburg, where the group raised awareness and canvassed local support

Women feel that interfering with the immune system for contraceptive purposes is indefensible at a time when primary healthcare systems in many countries are being dismantled and the incidence of infectious diseases is increasing

Khosi Xaba, a researcher with the Women's Health Project in South Africa, points out that in the whole of Africa fundamental issues over women's basic health needs must be sorted out.

For the majority of women in this country, she says, the right to an informed choice is still not available

Xaba fears there is potential for abuse in introducing the new contraceptive and women should be counselled and educated before it is made available

"Its movement must be monitored," she said "Women all over the world are not the same"

The head of reproductive health services at Baragwanath Hospital, Dr Helen Rees, says: "Before we get any immunoligical vaccines crossing our borders, we need to ensure that our own house is in order, and that the work already being done in this field is ethical and sensitive to the needs of women"

Rees attended an international convention in Geneva on the use of immunological contraceptives last year and points out that, although it has a potential for abuse, researchers indicate the "vaccines" could be scientifically feasible and economically viable

Scientists feel it could offer women a safe method of preventing pregnancy, if they choose to use it, as it has a lower incidence of side effects than hormonal methods and will not affect women's health.

Rees feels the new method is "going to raise issues around ethics" as there are different "driving needs" behind its invention and distribution.

She feels it is inevitable that the new method will arrive here and she would like any new method to take into account the needs of women, as well as their individual circumstances

If the vaccine offers women the right to informed consent after "ethical research trials" are conducted, it could be a viable option, she believes

"Above all," says Rees, "it should consider local healthcare conditions and the position of women in society"

TOMORROW: The tenant-landlord relationship is a growing area of concern for just about anyone renting living space — from backyard shanties in the townships to leafy homesteads of the northern [illegible]

NP for death but not abortion

JOHANNESBURG. — Delegates to the National Party congress yesterday day backed reintroduction of the death penalty and continued strict curbs on abortion.

Gert Myburgh, deputy minister of justice, told reporters. "We should retain the death penalty for offences where there are aggravating circumstances."

He said there was broad support at the congress for removal of the three-year-old moratorium on executions.

Danie Schutte, party spokesman on human rights, said that with South Africa's high rate of violent crime "you have to take strong measures".

On abortion, the NP spokeswoman on women's affairs, Sheila Camerer, said delegates wanted current legislation to be retained.

"There is overwhelming support for the view that the NP is basically pro-life but accepts that abortion must take place under certain circumstances," she said.

Delegates rejected the idea of abortion becoming available as a family planning measure, Camerer said (237)

■ The National Party did not oppose monopolies but wanted to ensure that markets remained open for new entrants, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers told a media briefing yesterday ARG 24/11

He was speaking at the NP's federal congress at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park after an NP discussion group had completed a debate on economic policy.

Dr de Villiers said policy should take into account the behaviour of monopolies

It would be "dogmatic to say that big is wrong"

"It is not correct in a developing country with a small economy to say that a monopoly is incorrect," Dr de Villiers said. ARG 21/1/95

The NP supported the government in its attempts to privatise State assets and resources, saying the African National Congress had had to shift "tremendously" to a more flexible position on the issue

The NP was a aware that there was a direct relationship between economically thriving countries and the size of those countries' private sectors. — Sapa.

NP backs hanging, opposes abortion

(237)

CT 23/1/95

Political Staff

KEMPTON PARK — The National Party has backed the return of the death penalty for serious crimes and firmly confirmed its opposition to abortion

NP Women's Action member Ms Thelma Mabasa, in an emotional address to the federal congress here at the weekend, said the party's Christian approach necessitated that it fight for the right of unborn children

Only in exceptional circumstances such as rape, incest, mental incompetence of a parent, or where giving birth was a danger to a mother's physical or mental health could exceptions be made, she said

On the death penalty, Deputy President F W de Klerk said that now apartheid was gone and the society had been normalised, the death penalty for serious crimes such as murder, robbery and rape should be reintroduced

The party proposed that the death penalty only be imposed after the moratorium is lifted, when aggravating circumstances are present and it is the only fitting punishment

No abortion debate yet, says Zuma

Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday she would not debate the contentious abortion issue publicly while it was being investigated by a special parliamentary committee

The Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation had a year in which to make a thorough and representative public inquiry before reporting its findings

She and the committee were to meet in Cape Town yesterday

Star 25/1/95

The African Christian Democratic Party would seek an amendment to the 34 constitutional principles to rid the new constitution of provisions protecting homosexual rights, ACDP leader Kenneth Meshoe said yesterday

He said constitutional principle No 3, which prohibits racial, gender and all other forms of discrimination, should not be used to protect homosexuality

If this government were a people's government it should consult the public about support for homosexual rights, he said

"In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve, and not Adam and Steve," he added

(237)

□ □ □

Time was running out for international mediators to decide on the issue of KwaZulu/Natal, Velaphi Ndlovu (IFP) said yesterday

Speaking in the Constitutional Assembly, he said the question of autonomy for KwaZulu/Natal could no longer be delayed.

"We must ensure that the constitution-drafting process does not proceed from a breach of that fundamental agreement which gave to the new South Africa the agreement for peace and reconciliation"

He proposed international mediation to settle the issue of provincial autonomy and restoring KwaZulu/Natal as an autonomous kingdom — Sapa

Making family planning a right

(237)

Star 25/1/95

FAMILY PLANNING
The Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa is poised to take all aspects of family planning into the future
BEATHUR BAKER reports

The Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa, together with the United Nations, believes family planning is a basic human right — inseparable from the right to "health, development and improvements to the quality of life"

In South Africa, it appears initial announcements on changes to the health sector are poised to be implemented, and policy structures reformed

And because health is also wealth, South Africans should be happy at the prospect

For women, the promised facelift to State health services will also bring empowerment as accessible reproductive healthcare and family planning will no longer be privileges for the favoured few, say health workers

State health services in the "old" South Africa, including reproductive health, sagged under the weight of apartheid's discriminatory policies, making the health of the majority the last consideration

At that time, the responsibility to provide alternative services and map the way forward for reproductive health in this country rested on non-governmental organisations, such as the private, non-profit Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA)

The group now has a dynamic new branch director for Johannesburg in Musa Ngcobo-Mbere, who worked with a diverse number of social service organisations in the United States, after doing her studies there nearly 15 years ago

She has a masters degree in social work and hopes she will be able to contribute her broad American experience to facilitate the process of instituting change in South Africa

Mbere had hardly arrived back home last year when she was approached by the PPASA to apply for the position of branch head

The organisation had already learnt about her work abroad and had anticipated her return

A visionary who follows up her ideas with practical ways of implementing them, Mbere wants the work being done by PPASA to bring reproductive health services here on a par with those of overseas countries

Equally important, she says, is to make contraception safe and accessible to all women, especially those in rural areas

Contraception services also need to be confidential, allowing women informed choices when it comes to making decisions over what happens to their bodies

In its constitution, like its sister organisation in America, the PPASA takes a pro-choice stance on abortion

Mbere says her American experience has made her aware how far South African women still need to go before being able to make their own choices and exercise their rights over their own bodies

Before she left South Africa, she worked in what was then the department of home affairs and was chosen for an eight-month student exchange programme for youth workers

She later returned to the US when she won a grant to study at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo

But this time she stayed on when her studies were over, after meeting her husband who was in political exile

In both the black and white suburban communities of greater Boston, Massachusetts, she worked mostly for government-aligned, developmental and social services organisations

Opening up . . . family planning is a basic human right, says Musa Ngcobo-Mbere, the new Johannesburg branch head of the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa. PICTURE DEBBIE YAZBEK

Mbere concentrated on children's and youth programmes in communities.

She liaised with parents, school authorities and children in difficult circumstances, or in the care of the state and mental health workers, such as juvenile delinquents

Her interest in young people's development is what made the job at the PPASA more attractive because of its strong emphasis on youth-related work

Now more than ever before, she says South African parents need to become involved and establish trusting relationships with their children — to help make young people more positive and open about their personal problems

The PPASA dates back to the 1930s but the organisation has managed to keep abreast of change and offers a range of new and existing services

As well as contraceptive education, it provides reproductive health and sexuality education and training, primary healthcare information and technology, pregnancy prevention information, rural and urban community upliftment, and AIDS prevention

Its latest project, in downtown Johannesburg, has rapidly taken off since its launch at the end of last year

The centre is in a area frequented by young people, in response to a growing demand from them for "a confidential, comprehensive service which would be a place of their own", says PPASA national co-ordinator Tsietsi Maleho

The work done by PPASA is overseen by an outside committee of health professionals to ensure accountability, says Mbere

TOMORROW:
The turning point in Steve Hamilton's life was a coma after a drug overdose. Now he's taking an anti drug show into Gauteng schools

Survey shows little support for abortion

By LINDA RULASHE (237)

THE majority of South African adults do not want abortion to be freely available, according to a new survey.

Black men were found to be most opposed to abortion on demand, and white men most in favour of it.

Just over 66 percent of women of all races opposed it, according to the survey of 3 300 people by Research Survey's Omnichek Division.

Among both black men and and women support for abortion was significantly higher in the Gauteng area than in other areas. ST 5/2/95

Afrikaans-speaking men and women were found to be more opposed to abortion on demand than English speakers.

'Few issues divide unity government'

Political Staff

CT 23/2/95

ABORTION, the death penalty and the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission were the only issues on which the government of national unity held fundamentally different positions, according to Cabinet secretary Mr Jakes Gerwel.

In a memorandum dealing with the functioning of the government, he said there had been "remarkably few instances of sharp party-political divisions in the Cabinet". Cabinet records had not revealed any issue on which "effective government had been seriously hampered" because the ANC had to substantially alter its position in order to accommodate the views of the NP or IFP. — Sapa

'Reduce need for abortion'

Political Staff (237)

THE government should reduce the need for abortion through the provision of information on family planning, says ANC MP Manto Tshabalala ARG 24/2/95

Speaking in the national assembly, Dr Tshabalala said abortion should only be the last service in a long list of reproductive health services that should be available to women

y, March 20 1995

Black population expected to rise 76%

(237)

BD 20/3/95

THEO RAWANA

THE black population in Gauteng will increase 76,7% to 12,9-million from the current 7,3-million by the year 2010, the Black Township Market Review has forecast

The survey on black township demographics which was published last month also says the total annual income of all black households in Gauteng is projected to grow from R12,4bn last year to more than R13,4bn this year

The total income this year of black households in the Central Witwatersrand and East Rand areas (R8,8bn) will account for more than 65% of total black incomes in Gauteng.

The publication says of the 5,6-million increase the prime population growth pressure points will be Pretoria (94%) and the East Rand (81%).

Of the five areas making up the Gauteng region — Central Witwatersrand, East Rand, West Rand, Pretoria and Vaal Triangle — the Central Witwatersrand and East Rand account for 67,6% of the region's total black population.

Researcher Bill Donald says the survey provides "highly qualified" professional marketing support services to a wide spectrum of SA businesses, consumer groups, industrial organisations and public bodies.

"Recognising the need by industry for definitive base information, the concept of multiclient studies covering specific market sectors was introduced by Group Marketing about 10 years ago — the most recent of which being this 5th edition of the Black Township Market Reviews," the researchers say in the introduction.

Donald says the study covers — by region and by township — demographic details such as population from 1989 to 2010, age/sex profiles, number of dwelling units, population density a household, household income a month, total household income and total annual expenditures (by item)

The study says the average population density a black household in the Gauteng region has been established at 10,6 people — with Central Witwatersrand reflecting the highest average density factor at 12,8 people a household

It also gives a range of 79 consumer products and services, quantified market indicators covering decision-makers and influencers, need satisfaction levels (quality/service/availability/price) and prime purchase points

The survey says more than 66% of black households in the region (455 300) reflect an income of less than R800 a month, with only 20,6% (141 100) households) having a household income of more than R1 000 a month.

Baby death rate is far too high, say experts

Staff Reporter (237) ARG 29/3/95

SOUTH African babies die at a rate five times higher than those in northern Europe, say health officials

And too many South African children still die from preventable diseases, especially pneumonia and diarrhoea

At a press conference to announce the health theme for April (Children's Health and Child Survival), officials said South Africa's infant mortality rate of 49 per 1 000 live births was too large in comparison to northern European figures of eight or nine per 1 000

To add to the pneumonia and diarrhoea woes, an increasing number of babies were born HIV-positive — it was estimated that between 20 000 and 30 000 had been born so far.

Meanwhile, a recent survey under the auspices of the South African Vitamin A Consultative Group found that 3,3 percent of children between six months and five years were deficient in vitamin A

The problem appeared worst in the Eastern and Northern Transvaal Vitamin A deficiency may lead to increased susceptibility to diarrhoea, respiratory infections and measles, the department said.

The department intends meeting these challenges by creating maternal and child health programmes

"A key feature of this programme will be the guarantee of access to quality antenatal, delivery and postnatal services for all women," the department said

NEWS

Soweto facility to benefit

R4-m boost for family planning

(237)

Star 30/3/95

■ CITY REPORTER

Soweto is poised to have a much improved, comprehensive reproductive health programme, partly due to a R4-million grant made by Britain's Overseas Development Agency.

The agency has announced the donation of £700 000 (R4-million) to the Baragwanath Hospital's reproductive and women's health unit, which is a joint Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) and Baragwanath Hospital venture involving the hospital's obstetrics and gynaecology department

The grant follows a $25 000 (R90 000) donation made to the unit by the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation last year

TMC health and social welfare committee chairperson Sizakele Nkosi commented. "We believe that the work done at the reproductive and women's health research unit will tranform the traditionally narrow ambit of family planning services into comprehensive reproductive health services

"The funding by the Overseas Development Agency will play a critical role in the development of a model for reproductive health services suitable for the new South Africa."

She said the unit's activities would include research, training and the development of health systems.

The provision for reproductive health care had in the past been limited to sexually transmitted diseases and infertility and new perspectives on women's health care had to be embraced

"A strong need exists for a new approach to reproductive health in South Africa. Reproductive health refers to the ability of both men and women to take decisions about their own fertility in a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being," said Nkosi.

She said there were many gaps in the current system in which family planning programmes were aimed at limiting numbers rather than empowering women.

The British grant would be paid to the clinic over a period of five years

ABORTION (231) FM 31/3/95

Debate set to intensify

The debate around abortion has become extremely polarised — as in the US, where to be "pro-choice" or "pro-life" serves to define a broader spectrum of an individual's political and social beliefs

Continued on page 49

Continued from page 44

This debate is set to intensify in SA, along similar lines

In November, the Cabinet set up a parliamentary Select Committee to investigate the Abortion & Sterilisation Act of 1975 The law has always been controversial and — according to one lobby, the Abortion Rights Action Group — at least 5m illegal abortions have taken place since the Act came into operation

Since this would mean at least 250 000 "back-street" terminations a year, and the official figure is only 42 000, there is, as always, a major discrepancy between what people are meant to do and what they actually do

Nowhere is this more so than in the field of sex and what has come to be termed "reproductive health" in general

The Act is clearly no longer apposite to contemporary social conditions However, that does not mean that we are about to be precipitated into an era of abortion on demand, as pro-choice advocates want

Inkatha's Vos *right side of the law*

A key constitutional provision is that "every person shall have the right to life" Does this apply to a foetus — and if so, what definition of a foetus applies? These questions, ultimately, will have to be decided by the Constitutional Court Meanwhile, the Act — which allows abortion only under the most stringent conditions — is likely to be not scrapped but liberalised

Last week the committee — which has strong all-party representation by women — began work in earnest by accepting fairly closely defined terms of reference

At present, a woman may terminate pregnancy only with the concurrence of two doctors (one of whom must be a State psychiatrist), who may not participate in the procedure Grounds include her mental state (ie, whether she is suicidal), whether the pregnancy was the result of rape, and whether the prospective mother can fend for herself and her unwanted child

Since the Act was drawn up in the apartheid era, race is a factor There's more discrimination in that, for example, an urban woman has a far better chance for a legal abortion than a rural one One could add that an affluent family can more easily secure a termination than a poor one

The committee's terms of reference exclude the constitutionality of abortion Instead, it will consider

- Public opinion as articulated by lobbies, medical evidence, and submissions,
- Whether abortion and sterilisation should have separate enabling Acts,
- Whether the grounds for abortion should be changed,
- Procedures and access, and
- The position of minors

The essential point, says Inkatha's Suzanne Vos, is to seek ways of "decriminalising" abortion Given the widespread nature of the practice — if the women's lobbies' figures are accurate — and the mental anguish caused by unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions, this would represent humane reform

Views within the committee are naturally divided — indeed, during the meeting at which the terms of reference were defined, the term "abortion" itself was questioned

Some members, including Vos, believe that termination of pregnancy should be seen in the light of international thinking on reproductive health as a universal right that includes access to contraception and information about family planning Abortion, according to this view, is a final resort

Unfortunately, the process of public consultation and drafting will probably prove too time-consuming for a new law to be passed this year ■

Abortion law 'unlikely before 1996'

(237)

ARG 7/4/95

TYRONE SEALE, Political Staff

DRAFT legislation on abortion and sterilisation will not reach parliament until the first half of 1996

Sokhaya Nkomo, chairman of the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation, said today the committee would try to deal with the matter quickly while bearing in mind the complexity and sensitivities of the issue.

The committee has been asked by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to report on whether the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 is satisfactory, given the health, legal and social requirements.

The committee has already had more than 300 submissions from individuals and groups, and the department of health has had more than 6 000.

Dr Nkomo said the committee would consult as widely as possible with representatives reflecting the broad spectrum of opinion, with special emphasis on consulting communities and sectors which had traditionally not been heard

He invited people and organisations to send written submissions or ask to address the committee before April 28.

He said there would be public hearings during the second, third and fourth weeks of May, before finalising and adopting its report by the end of June

Massive interest in abortion law probe

(231)

Star 8/4/98

CAPE TOWN — More than 6 000 submissions from the public have been received by the Department of Health and an ad hoc parliamentary committee reviewing the country's abortion laws

Public hearings are to be conducted next month by the committee. Members of the public have until April 28 to make further submissions.

Those opposing legalised abortion include Doctors for Life, the Pregnancy Crisis Centre and the Muslim Assembly.

The University of Cape Town's Department of Community Health said in its submission that the present legislation was too restrictive and abortions should be made available to women wishing to make a choice.

Abortions should be granted to all women who were less than 14 weeks pregnant, and on medical grounds to women who were between 14 and 24 weeks pregnant.

Clandestine abortion

"To retain the present restrictive laws will ensure that only the wealthy, articulate and educated classes will continue to have access to legal abortion, while the poorest and most in need will continue to suffer the devastating effects of clandestine abortion," it said.

The University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Health Policy said women had the right to choose.

"We support changes in South African abortion legislation," said the centre in its submission.

Dr Caroline White of the Centre for Policy Studies argued that South Africa already had abortion on demand for those who could afford it. The problem was that in terms of the present law it was illegal and no proper counselling took place before an abortion.

UCT's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology supported changes to the abortion law. In its submission, the department noted that restrictive abortion laws did not prevent abortions.

"The morbidity, mortality and costs, both financial and in human terms, of illegally induced abortion are a serious public health problem," it said.

However, the department felt that before the law was changed, certain prerequisites should be met.

As a result of inadequate facilities at tertiary institutions, facilities should be provided at primary and secondary health care institutions. All women should be offered before and after-abortion counselling

Furthermore, the department said fees for an abortion should be strictly controlled.

Dr Eleanor Nash, a psychiatrist and lecturer at UCT, said in a submission that the law at present prevented the exploration of more efficient and economical ways of performing abortions.

Applications

A study by the Human Sciences Research Council said legal abortions in sub-Saharan Africa were available only in Zambia and Burundi.

The HSRC stated that 60% of all applications for a legal abortion each year were unsuccessful.

Quoting Department of Health reports, the HSRC said that 893 women were granted legal abortions annually between 1985 and 1991.

"According to statistics in the United Kingdom 800 South African women obtained an abortion in England and Wales in 1984," the study said.

Estimates of illegal abortions ranged from 42 000 to 170 000 every year.

Further written submissions can be made before April 28 to The Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation, Box 15, Cape Town 8000

Emigration soars

(237) Star 15/4/95

CENTRAL Statistical Service (CSS) figures for the first 10 months of last year show the number of people leaving South Africa for good more than doubled compared with the same period in 1993

More than 9 000 people, mostly whites, left between January and October 1994, up almost 50% compared with the corresponding 1993 period when 6 065 emigrated.

While the outflux peaked at 1 400 in April 1994, during the general election, this dropped to just over 500 people in November — Staff Reporter.

Cosatu calls for humane approach on aliens

Star 24/4/95 (23b) (~~205~~)

■ LABOUR REPORTER

The Congress of SA Trade Unions has appealed for the scrapping of the Aliens Control Act and its replacement by more humane and internationally acceptable legislation and for "fair and proper control of entry of migrant workers" into southern African countries

In a resolution taken at its first international policy conference in Johannesburg at the weekend, the union federation also called for the imposition of heavy penalties on employers who exploited illegal immigrants

In addition, Cosatu resolved to condemn any attempt to "create a xenophobia in South Africa and to call on our people not to take out their frustration on foreign nationals"

The conference, attended by 350 delegates and having the decision-making power of a national congress, called for a southern African summit involving governments and trade unions to discuss migration in the region

The summit would come up with a strategy on how to build the economy of the entire region and develop a regional reconstruction and development programme with clear time-frames

The summit would also negotiate a quota on numbers of workers allowed into countries in the region, taking into account the economic imbalances in the region Such a quota should be reviewed on an ongoing basis

It also called for a review "of the historic contract migrant labour arrangements among South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana and Swaziland"

More babies mean fewer jobs, says Sanlam GM

237

BD 26/4/95

KATHRYN STRACHAN

SA's population expansion had to be addressed before economic growth could be translated into jobs and better living conditions, Sanlam GM Johann Treurnicht said.

Speaking at the annual conference of the International Council for Small Business (Southern Africa) at Nchu, Treurnicht said the country had to create jobs urgently

Two parallel actions were needed: economic growth and population planning. "Only if the economy grows at a rate faster than our population, will we create jobs," he said

"We must all involve our people in family and population planning. As long as our population is growing faster than our economy, we are creating more people than jobs — and then the unemployment rate simply gets worse"

The SA population showed a natural growth of about 2,7% per annum. The SA economy had not grown at this rate for years.

Since the late 1980s, four years of negative growth had been experienced, leading to jobs being destroyed rather than created. Although the economy was now growing positively, it was still falling behind in per capita terms.

Economists predicted a 3% growth rate for this year, which meant the same number of jobs would be retained, he said

War declared on illegal immigrants

(237)

ALAN ROBINSON
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — The South African army is fully committed to protecting the country's borders from the influx of illegal immigrants and stamping out cross-border criminal activity, especially arms smuggling, according to the Chief of the army, Lieutenant General Reg Otto

In an interview with Jane's Defence Weekly, General Otto said he regarded border protection as the one task a cash-strapped defence force simply could not give up He saw no end to the need for the "very troop- and cost-intensive" operations

"There has been a substantial increase in the number of illegal border crossings over the past months and there is nothing to suggest that there will be any decline ARG 29/4/95

"South Africa is very attractive to people fleeing poor economies and civil war elsewhere on the continent They see jobs, free education and free health services and they come across the border There are perhaps 1,5 million illegals in South Africa, with between 300 000 and 400 000 in the Eastern Transvaal alone," he said

"That represents a major burden on the economy, already struggling to provide enough jobs, and on the social services We cannot relax control over our borders in those circumstances"

The interview with General Otto forms part of an 11-page special report on South Africa's armed forces and their changing role following the end of apartheid It is backed with heavy advertising from weapons manufacturing firms like Denel, Armscor, Reutech and Atlas Aviation

On cross-border crime, General Otto says tight control demands close co-operation between the security forces on either side, and "we have established good links with Mozambique and Swaziland"

The new army chief is optimistic on the problems of integrating the old SADF, MK and Apla forces "We all made mistakes last year, we all learned lots of lessons. We have put in place mechanisms to streamline the process and to address the main problem areas such as non-statutory personnel arriving without any identification or record of past service

"I can say that the process is now going well Of the first intake we have more than 7 000 members of the MK and about 1 700 former Apla members undergoing bridging training or being integrated

"We may complete the integration ahead of schedule, partly because this has been streamlined and partly because fewer former MK and Apla members are reporting for this intake than expected Some of them have found jobs and some have decided that the army is not for them"

Writing on the new realities facing South Africa, Jane's Defence Weekly says there is no immediate or even long-term military threat to the country

"The more immediate threat is the instability that plagues a large part of Africa and, to some, appears to be moving south South Africa cannot dig a ditch and pretend not to be a part of Africa Instability to the north will mean more refugees, more calls for military and civil assistance, and more danger of South African citizens becoming caught up in dangerous situations"

Africa was also looking to South Africa to play a greater role in peacekeeping and peacemaking in sub-Saharan Africa "Pretoria is not averse to taking part in peacekeeping, once the forces have completed integration owever, the government is not all that keen on involvement in peacemaking operations Nor are the armed forces"

The magazine said another vital role for the army in the short-term was to support the police in combating 'serious internal problems, both political and criminal"

Population paper emphasises development

By RAY HARTLEY

A DEBATE on the growth of South Africa's population has been triggered by a Green Paper released for comment by the Ministry of Population Development this week

Following decades of suspicion of the motives of population planners, the Green Paper — the first stage of policy formulation — proposes a radical new direction with less emphasis on contraception and more on development

The paper said "Contraception alone does not reduce population numbers People's decisions about children are based on a wide range of socio-economic factors

"Access to contraception is not enough to make people use it, other aspects of their lives influence their decisons."

Instead, education, economic independence and the position of women in society contributed to decisions about family size

Also cast out was the conventional wisdom linking poverty to over-population.

"Economic growth is essential but, because of the inequitable distribution of wealth, does not in itself ensure an end to poverty"

Echoing discussions during September's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the paper stressed the need for "a range of development activities" to improve population control.

"The question is whether South Africa should have an explicit policy to take account of population trends — fertility, mortality and migration — in relation to each area of development," the paper said

It said South Africa would have a population of 70 million by 2025, compared with the current estimate of 43,4 million

ST 30/4/95

(237)

SA women live longer than men

JOHANNESBURG. The life expectancy of South African women has increased more than that of their male counterparts, the South African Institute of Race Relations said this week.

In its latest survey the institute said infant mortality has declined by nearly 50% since 1960, and the fertility rate has dropped by a third.

It said women's life expectancy had increased by 11% to 66,3 years and the life expectancy of men increased by nine percent to 60,7 years.

The population growth rate between 1985 and 1993 was 2,44%.

CT 5/5/95 (237)

City leads in heart deaths

(237)

STAFF REPORTER

CT 6/5/95

CAPETONIANS are more likely than other South Africans to die of heart disease and strokes, while people in Johannesburg and Durban are more likely to die violently, a Medical Research Council (MRC) survey has shown

According to the report by Dr Debbie Bradshaw, released yesterday, ischemic heart disease (related to the narrowing of cardiac blood vessels) caused nearly 12% of deaths in the Western Cape in 1990 Strokes accounted for 10,5% of deaths and homicide and violence for slightly more than 1,5%

In kwaZulu/Natal, homicide and other violent deaths accounted for almost 14% of the total, and in Gauteng almost 7,7% of deaths were attributed to homicide or other violent acts

Preventable

In other areas, such as the North West Province, intestinal infections (18%) and respiratory disease other than TB and lung cancer (12%) were the biggest killers In the Eastern Cape TB (7,6%) caused the most deaths The province also showed the highest proportion of perinatal deaths, at eight percent)

Dr Bradshaw said the MRC research, based on an analysis of all reported deaths in 1990, showed South Africans were dying from preventable diseases like tuberculosis as well as respiratory and intestinal illnesses and nutritional deficiencies The 1990 data did not reflect the impact of AIDS

"Overall the death profile reflects a combination of poverty-related diseases, chronic diseases related to a Western lifestyle, and the simultaneous effects of trauma," Dr Bradshaw said

The report said death profiles reflected the development status of different provinces. In the Western Cape and Gauteng they were close to those of Brazil and Thailand The Northern and Eastern Transvaal, Free State and Eastern Cape had death profiles resembling those of several African countries

The report noted with concern that "ill-defined" deaths averaged 23% of all deaths in SA, pointing to poor access to health services in some areas and inadequacies in the certification of the cause of death

In the Northern Transvaal some 57% of deaths, more than twice the national average, were ill-defined, and in the Eastern Transvaal the figure was 38%

It was a national priority to improve the vital statistics system, a process that "will take time", Dr Bradshaw said

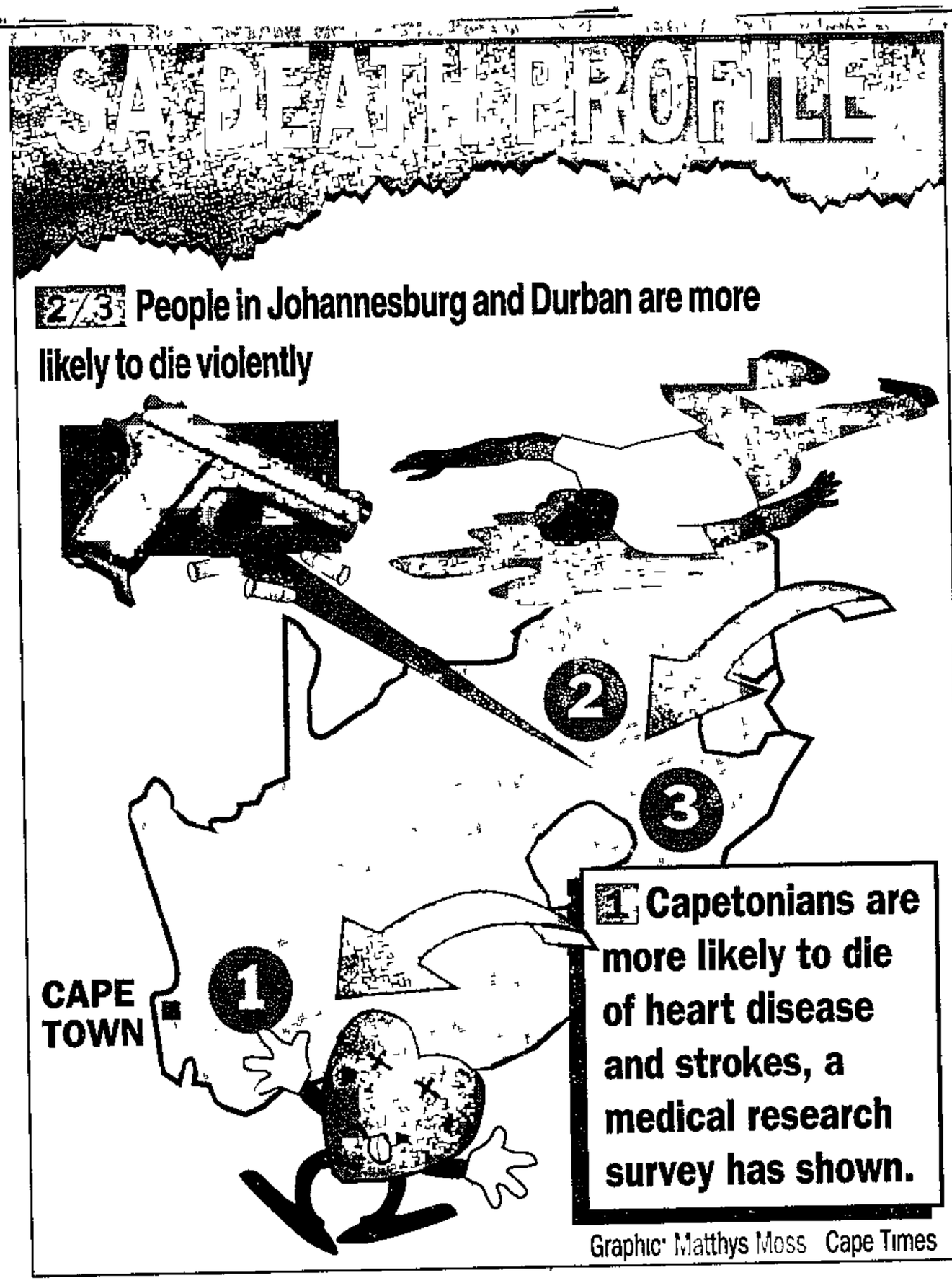
Dr Rodney Ehrlich, of the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Cape Town, said last night the higher proportion of heart disease and strokes in the Western Cape "doesn't mean that we have an unhealthier lifestyle"

He said the province, which was largely urbanised and whose citizens lived Western lifestyles, had fewer infectious diseases and less violence, which could influence the percentage of deaths attributed to heart disease and strokes

Statistics

He also said white and coloured people — who were "overrepresented" in the Western Cape — showed a higher incidence of heart disease than black people

Dr Ehrlich also pointed out that the keeping of statistics in the Western Cape was probably more accurate than in other provinces This would probably have played a role in the quantifying of causes of death



Reporting of deaths shows 'inadequacies'

Weekend Argus Reporter

MORE than one fifth of all deaths in South Africa are either not reported or are wrongly classified — reflecting poor access to health services and inadequacies in the medical certification of causes of death

This is according to research by the Medical Research Council

Debbie Bradshaw of the MRC's Centre for Epidemiological Research in Southern Africa (Cersa) said "While we believe that the vital statistics system should be improved as a national priority to monitor the health status of South Africans, we know that this will take time

"We produced this report, based on the latest information, to assist national and provincial health planners in restructuring the health service"

In the Western Cape and Gauteng, death profiles were close to those of Brazil and Thailand, while the Northern and Eastern Transvaal, Free State and Eastern Cape had mortality profiles resembling those of several other African countries

The 1990 data did not reflect the impact of HIV and Aids

● The report showed that the Western Cape had an atypical profile of causes of disease with a much higher proportion of chronic diseases than the rest of the country

(237) ARG 6/5/95

(237)

QUESTIONS

Hansard 9/5/95

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

Legal abortions performed in Republic in 1994

113 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health

(1) How many (a) legal abortions were performed in the Republic in 1994 and (b) patients were admitted to hospitals for treatment as a result of complications arising from suspected illegal abortions,

(2) whether any of the patients so admitted were younger than 16 years of age, if so, how many?

N204E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(1) (a) Figures for 1994 are not yet available

(b) Section 7(3) of the Abortion and Sterilisation Act, 1975 (Act 2 of 1975) instructs the person in charge of an institution "where an operation connected with an abortion or the removal of the residue of the pregnancy is performed" to keep a record of any such operations In 1993 the following cases were recorded

Inevitable abortion	2 298
Incomplete abortion	23 814
Septic abortion	550
Signs of foreign material	13
Total	26 675

It is impossible to determine which cases resulted from a spontaneous abortion and which from an illegal abortion Unfortunately the statistics for 1994 are not yet available

(2) No data on the age group of patients admitted is available

Note It must be accepted that some cases are not reported This may therefore be an underestimate

Project Kampong, a project of Military Intelligence

145 Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Defence

(1) Whether Project Kampong was a project of Military Intelligence, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) what was the purpose of the project, (b) when did this project commence and cease and (c) what amounts were expended on this project in respect of each specified financial year,

(2) whether (a) the (i) Global Coloured Project, (ii) Coloured Parliamentarians Project and (iii) METROS Mobilisation of Moderate Black Leaders in the RSA and (b) any other specified projects were subprojects of Project Kampong, if so, (i) what was the purpose of each such subproject, (ii) what amounts were expended on each such subproject in respect of each specified financial year and (iii) what are the further relevant details?

N268E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) Yes Project Kampong was a project initially managed by Military Intelligence Division and after 1 April 1991, by the SA Army

(a) The purpose was to mobilise the population of the RSA to accept and support the initiative for peaceful reform of the former Government

(b) The project commenced during the 1985/86 financial year and ended on 31 October 1992

(c) Financial years

(i)	1985/86	R 520 972,00
(ii)	1986/87, 87/88, 88/89	R22 300 890,00
(iii)	1989/90	R21 300 000,00
(iv)	1990/91	R23 000 000,00
(v)	1991/92	R21 583 000,00

(2) (a) and (b) Yes Global Coloured Project, Coloured Parliamentarians Project and METROS Mobilisation of Moderate

26 000 abortion ops

Political Staff (237)

MORE than 26 000 abortion-related operations were performed in 1993.

But the Department of Health has been unable to determine how many of the 26 675 procedures "connected with an abortion or the removal of the residue of pregnancy" resulted from spontaneous and how many from illegal abortions.

Answering a question in the national assembly by Mike Ellis (DP) yesterday, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said figures for 1994 were not yet available and the 1993 figures could be an underestimate as not all abortions were necessarily reported. ARG 10/5/95

Dr Zuma said no data was available on the age groups of patients.

Poverty, trauma are main causes of SA deaths

(237)

Star 10/5/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON

A report on the estimated causes of deaths in the nine new provinces has highlighted the serious incidence of under-reporting and misclassification of causes of deaths in South Africa.

The report was produced by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to assist national and provincial health planners in the task of restructuring the country's health services, according to Dr Debbie Bradshaw, of the MRC's Centre for Epidemiological Research in Southern Africa.

It showed that ill-defined deaths accounted for 23% of all deaths in South Africa, with the Northern Transvaal showing the highest number (57 %), followed by the Eastern Cape (38 %)

Deaths in the ill-defined category were a reflection of poor access to health services and inadequacies in the medical certification of the cause of death, researchers believe.

According to Dr Bradshaw, improving the vital statistics system in South Africa was a national priority if the health status of South Africans was to be monitored

The MRC report was based on an analysis of all reported deaths in 1990 The magisterial districts of the old provinces and homelands, as well as the then TVBC states, were allocated to the nine new provinces.

The overall death profile of the country reflected a combination of poverty-related diseases, chronic diseases related to a Western lifestyle, and the simultaneous effects of trauma, Dr Bradshaw said

The cause of death profiles also reflected the development status at provincial level

Resembling

Western Cape and Gauteng, for example, had death profiles close to those of Brazil and Thailand, Northern and Eastern Transvaal, Free State and the Eastern Cape had profiles resembling African countries to the north

Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportion of deaths due to violence; Gauteng had the second-highest figure for "other violence" — a cause of death where the coroner was unsure if the injury was accidental or intentional.

The Western Cape had a much higher proportion of chronic diseases including ischemic heart disease (close on 12 %) than other provinces

'Rife illegal abortion due to law'

ARG 17/5/95 (237)

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

BETWEEN 42 000 and 300 000 illegal abortions are performed in South Africa every year due to the restrictive nature of existing legislation on abortion.

This was part of yesterday's submission by the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa to the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation

The committee is hearing evidence on likely changes to the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 in terms of which legal abortions can be performed in the following circumstances

- Where continued pregnancy will endanger the life or constitute a serious threat to the health of the woman
- Where continued pregnancy constitutes a serious threat to her mental health.
- Where there is a serious risk that the child will suffer from mental or physical defect.
- Where the pregnancy results from rape or incest
- Where the pregnancy is conceived by a woman who is mentally handicapped or who is unable to understand the full implications of parental responsibility

Association national executive director Sam Mphutu said that in addition to the restrictive criteria laid down in this leglisation, the implementation of the abortion law made it difficult for a woman to obtain a legal abortion

This resulted in only about 1 000 women having legal abortions annually

In contrast, anything between 42 000 and 300 000 illegal abortions were carried out countrywide each year

Three quarters of the women having legal abortions were white, and most qualified on psychiatric grounds

While understanding that abortion was a difficult moral and ethical issue for many, the association believed abortion legislation had to allow individuals to make the choice

The association — represented by Mr Mphuti, Western Cape chairwoman Carol Thomas and Western Cape director Anna van Esch — argued

- A successful family planning programme should include the right to safe legal abortion.
- Abortion should only be carried out after adequate counselling of the woman, and post-abortion counselling should also be provided.
- Abortion should be available on request to women up to 20 weeks pregnant, and where possible termination should be performed before 12 weeks
- Consent to abortion should require the signature of the woman requesting it and of one appropriate health worker satisfied that the woman has been adequately counselled.
- Health workers with moral and ethical objections to abortion should be allowed to excuse themselves from participating in the procedure.
- Miscarriages — Six to 10 operations a day page 9.

Afrikaans has more listeners but less cash

AFRIKAANS Stereo had more listeners last year than the English-language SAfm, but the latter's advertising revenue exceeded Afrikaans Stereo's by more than R3 million, Broadcasting Minister Pallo Jordan said — Sapa

Cabinet to consider amnesty cutoff extension

Political Staff

THE cabinet will today consider whether to give in to rightwing demands for the cutoff date for amnesty to be extended by about six months

Meeting for its regular fortnightly meeting, the cabinet will decide whether to agree to a request from the Freedom Front for the cutoff date to be extended from December 5, 1993, to May 10, 1994

The cabinet meeting coincides with the debate in the national assembly on the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Bill which will establish a Truth Commission.

The Truth Bill empowers the state to grant amnesty to perpetrators of human rights violations between March 1960 and December 1993

Miscarriages — 6 to 10 ops a day

ARG 17/5/95 (237)

Political Staff

GROOTE Schuur Hospital performs between six and 10 procedures a day on women who have had miscarriages or complications, said Boet Domisse of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Speaking yesterday to the national assembly's ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation, Professor Domisse did not specify in his evidence how many of the six to 10 daily cases involved backstreet abortions

Part of a Medical Association of South Africa (Masa) panel that presented evidence to the committee which is considering changes to legislation on abortion and sterilisation, Professor Domisse said in an interview afterwards that "many" of the Groote Schuur cases stemmed from backstreet abortions

Women, however, were not ordinarily asked this question when they requested foetal evacuations

Earlier he told the committee that while association members differed widely on major changes to the Abortion Act, there was general support for a legal termination

The association proposed that abortion be granted to patients under 16, to women over 40 and in cases of failed sterilisation

Privacy was essential and parental consent should not be sought if the patient was over 16

Termination of pregnancy should not be confined to academic or tertiary hospitals and it was essential that an adequate infrastructure was created before major changes were made which could markedly increase the numbers of patients requesting termination

Free services should be available and exploitation of patients by excessive private charges should be avoided

Termination of pregnancy after 14 weeks' gestation increased medical risks and should be more strictly regulated

The upper limit of gestational age should be less than 24 weeks

Masa also called for counselling facilities before and after the termination of the pregnancy

The association said this counselling should not focus only on abortion but should present all the options to the woman

Contraception should be freely available and extensive education in sexual responsibility should be introduced in schools and elsewhere

Professor Domisse said gynaecologists were profoundly affected by changes in the Abortion Act as in most cases they were responsible for the final termination procedure

He said all medical personnel should have free choice to perform or decline to perform termination

Psychiatrist Eleanor Nash, a member of the University of Cape Town bio-ethics committee, told MPs she was consulting 700 patients a year

Most of the women said abortion was "between me and my God"

BACKSTREET OPERATIONS 'COSTLY'

Medical society puts case for legal abortion

CT 17/5/95 (237)

RESEARCH has shown that legalising abortion would lead to far fewer backstreet abortions, a Medical Association spokesman says. **SAPA** reports.

BETWEEN six and 10 incomplete abortions — most of them backstreet ones — were dealt with every morning at Groote Schuur Hospital, Professor Boet Dommisse, a representative of the SA Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said yesterday

He was part of a Medical Association of South Africa delegation that addressed the Committee on Sterilisation and Abortion on proposed changes to the current Abortion and Sterilisation Act

Prof Dommisse said it cost the state "substantial amounts" to deal with the effects of "botched" illegal abortions

International research had shown that when legal abortion was available, women generally did not have backstreet abortions

Holistic sex education at both school and tertiary level was needed as sexual responsibility was "sadly lacking".

"Contraception is also not readily available at all levels This would have to change "

Sterilisation should be separated from the act's provisions as the two issues were not linked

Abortion pills

"Sterilisation is for mentally defective patients — abortion is a totally different issue."

If the act were changed to make abortion available, medical methods should be pursued, he said

In countries abroad, pills and other medicines that induced abortion were available

These medicines were relatively cheap and could be administered by specially trained primary health-care workers

Responding to a question from Father Smangaliso Mkahatshwa (ANC) on the rights of fathers in the abortion issue, Prof Dommisse said that as a gynaecologist he believed women should have greater, rather than fewer, rights

Delegation member Dr Felix Potocnik, a psychiatrist, said a 1991 survey had indicated that 89% of people in the profession believed the Sterilisation and Abortion Act should be reviewed

Under the current act, women could only obtain a legal abortion after a psychiatrist had approved it following lengthy counselling

If abortion were legalised, it should be available to all members of society and not just those who could afford it, Masa legal adviser Ms Esmé Prins said

Intense abortion dispute

(237)

ARG 18/5/95

CLIVE SAWYER and TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

A FIERCE contest is under way at parliament between religious and health lobby groups over future laws on abortion.

The national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation has begun hearings on possible changes to the 1975 Abortion and Sterilisation Act, which allows legal abortion under limited circumstances.

Thousands of written submissions, for and against, have been sent to the committee.

The Medical Association of South Africa has told the committee that between six and 10 incomplete abortions, mostly backstreet ones, are dealt with every morning at Groote Schuur.

The association has asked for greater rights for women in choosing whether to have an abortion.

Ministry of health figures show that about 26 000 abortion-related operations were performed in 1993, although the ministry has been unable to say how many resulted from miscarriages and how many from illegal abortions.

Muslims decry abortion 'evil' — page 5

But while many medical professionals have backed a minimum change to the law to widen the circumstances under which legal abortion would be allowed — with 40 percent of gynaecologists and obstetricians favouring abortion on demand — religious groups have fought back.

● The Cape Muslim Assembly, an Athlone-based body representing about 400 people, said granting abortion on demand would reduce the status of women and would reduce men from human beings to animals on heat.

● The Africa Christian Action Group (ACAG) argued that abortion was effectively age-based discrimination and murder.

An opposing view was that of an historian who said African women in South Africa began practising abortion more than 100 years ago, viewing it as a way of safeguarding the health of the woman, rather than a crime against an unborn child.

The Planned Parenthood Association told the committee that about 42 000 to 300 000 illegal abortions were performed annually.

The association said a successful family planning programme would have to include the right to safe legal abortion.

Counselling, before and after the abortion, should be given to the women involved.

Women would have to give written consent to abortion, and this would have to be endorsed by a qualified health worker certifying that adequate counselling had been given.

HENDRIK Hanekom, tary-general ... "Much inter...

POLITICS

Muslims decry 'evils' of abortion

ARG 18/5/95 (237)

☐ 'Lowers status of women and reduces men to animals on heat'

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

GRANTING abortion on demand will reduce the status of women and "will reduce men from human beings to animals on heat"

This was part of the Cape Muslim Assembly's submission to the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation

The committee is considering likely changes to the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975

The Athlone-based assembly briefed MPs serving on the committee shortly before University of Cape Town historian Helen Bradford told the committee that abortion had been practised globally for centuries

And, the Africa Christian Action Group (ACAG) argued that abortion was effectively age-based discrimination and murder

In a written submission, the Muslim Assembly said the family tied by biological, psychological and cultural relationships formed the unit of society

Abortion could be sanctioned only in the case of a married woman, and then it had to be based on the individual's state of health and medical factors which might burden a family's relations

In rape cases, abortion could only be decided upon on the basis of sound judicial experience

"Economic and socially inspired urges and desires for abortion have no place in Islam Allah forbids the killing of offspring"

Marriage was a healthy means to emotional and sexual gratification

Family planning, as a national policy, merely patched up the extreme demands of a greed-motivated and power-hungry, materialistic order, and industrial and military demands

Birth control and family planning therefore was considered only in marriage and only on a basis that considered the consequences to the person involved and also the family interest.

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

Contraception for teenagers had no justification whatsoever and, in Islam, great emphasis was laid on social restrictions on the segregation of the sexes, "compatible with individual and collective self-preservation a pattern of society in which men and women do not intermingle too freely"

The assembly argued that masturbation, homosexuality, bestiality, 'any abnormal sexual deviation (and) abberation like rape should be severely dealt with depending on the individual and the act involved

If people were physically, spiritually or mentally unable to help themselves they should be institutionalised to safeguard the family and society

Executive member and medical practitioner Adam Omar said Islam regarded women as being three times more honourable as men Abortion on demand would lead to disrespect for women by men

"If we were to permit abortion on demand it would reduce the status of women and would reduce the status of men from being human beings to being animals on heat" he said

Speaking for the Africa Christian Action Group, representing about 4 000 people, Miriam Cain said a woman who had rights over her own body and career had no rights over someone else's body

"The baby within her is a separate human being, often with its own blood type The baby has its own heartbeat, brain waves, lungs, hands, feet, eyes ears, fingerprints and, of course, it can be of a different gender The baby has an entirely different and unique genetic structure"

Challenging the pro-life lobby's arguments, Ms Cain said men and women were free to decide to abstain from sex or to use birth control or to do neither

"Your choice is made before conception Once fertilisation has occurred, you no longer have a choice — you have a child"

Once the baby was born, the woman again had a choice — to keep the child or give it up for adoption

All human life was sacred, even in the case of a deformed baby

Ms Cain opposed the Pill and intra-uterine devices as "early abortion methods", but had no problem with barrier methods such as sterilisation, condoms and diaphragms

On the question of abortion for rape victims, Peter Hammond, of United Christian Action, said pregnancies resulting from rape accounted for only 0,06 percent of all pregnancies

"Punish the rapist not the baby,' he said

Babies had the right to life, regardless of how they were conceived, although the mothers of such children had to be counselled and had to be supported by the church and community

Where the woman's health was threatened by the pregnancy, a clear distinction had to be made between the danger to the woman's health and the danger to her life

Theologian and committee member Tshanuwani Farisani questioned the church's "schizophrenic approach" of pleading for the rights of the unborn child while doing little to protect human life "as it walks this planet"

Moves on abortion law coming soon

Political Staff (234) ARG 19/5/95

RECOMMENDATIONS on whether there should be new legislation on abortion could be ready by the August session of parliament.

The ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation is expected to continue hearing evidence from lobby groups for some weeks before beginning its deliberations

A dispute has emerged between religious groups claiming there are no grounds on which abortion may be justified and medical professionals, who say access to legal abortion is integral to an improved health care system.

It is unclear to what extent the law, which at present allows legal abortion under strictly limited circumstances, will change

The African National Congress has indicated it favours legal abortion, but under what conditions is not clear.

The Democratic Party last year took a controversial decision to back legal abortion.

The National Party told the committee in a written submission it was firmly opposed to abortion on demand.

● The history of abortion in Africa, page 18

Teenage pregnancy: SA 'sits on a population time bomb'

CT 22/5/95 (237)

MELANIE GOSLING

TEENAGE pregnancy in South Africa was "a nightmare" where 330 of every 1 000 pregnant women were teenagers

The vice-chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association of SA, Dr Margaret Moss, said "It is a critical issue — worse than your wildest nightmare And about three-quarters of teenage pregnacies are unintended, and more importantly, unwanted "

Speaking at the Unesco (UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) conference in the city at the weekend, which aimed to highlight the inter-dependence of population, development and the environment, Dr Moss said there was an urgent need for "user-friendly" services for teenagers

"A sexually active 14-year-old wanting contraception will be reluctant to go to her community health centre where she is likely to stand in a queue with her mother or a neighbour," Dr Moss said.

She said SA was sitting on a "population time bomb" with the population set to reach 57 million by 2010 SA's family planning programmes were unsuccessful largely because they were identified with the apartheid regime and viewed with suspicion

She said the keys to successful programmes were improving the status of women, client-orientated services and reaching out to men.

Dr Guy Preston, of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at UCT, said the RDP was the closest SA had come to an initiative aimed at balancing the population, development and the environment

"But the key to whether the RDP succeeds or fails is whether it picks up on the strategy from the Rio summit of 'caring for the earth' We need to get the RDP changed to RDP for Sustainable Living which would define SA's vision for the future," he said.

"The environment is not merely a biological concept Environmental conservation must cover the diversity of inter-relationships between the biological, physical, social, economic, political and historical "

Churches attack abortion

ARG 24/5/95. (237)

Parliament hears strong objections

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

MAJOR church groups, including the Ned Geref Kerk, have called for a ban on abortion

Clerics unleashed ideological fire and brimstone as they called on the parliamentary ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation to stop abortions, even as provided for by the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975

This legislation, now under review by the parliamentary committee, says pregnancies may be terminated if they result from rape or incest or if they endanger the mother's physical or mental health

The committee has heard repeatedly that — whereas about 1 000 legal abortions a year are performed, mainly on white women who have access to medical facilities — between 42 000 and 300 000 illegal, or backstreet abortions are carried out

Yesterday, Danie du Toit, theology and ethics lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch and chairman of the NGK's general commission on faith, doctrine and ethics, said present legislation, representing "the middle way", did not have his denomination's blessing

"If we have inherited a very bad system of the denial of rights, it doesn't make sense to go on furthering the denial of the rights of the unborn"

In the longer term, education and health services would have to be provided and churches would have to become more active in helping pregnant women

He said South African society was largely religious where people cared for their families, marriages and community values and attention should be paid to this

In his counselling experience, pregnant women mostly wanted abortions for social reasons, such as being embarrassed at the prospect of appearing pregnant at a family wedding

Angelo Grazioli, sex therapist and spokesman for the Church of England in South Africa, told the committee his denomination believed safe abortion had as little to do with a successful and well-structured programme of family planning, as safe euthanasia had to do with a successful and well-structured programme of geriatric health care

"In both situations, the procedure in question is designed to be physically safe for the family members and medical practitioners involved, but lethal for the individual concerned

"We endorse the right of every woman to be spared any surgical procedure potentially dangerous to her, but affirm the right of every child to be spared any surgical procedure designed to be lethal to him or her"

Dr Grazioli said people were looking to legislators for clear-cut limitations which protected the life of all members of society, irrespective of age, sex, race or creed

This had to be done by clearly stipulating who, such as policemen, judges and doctors, could wilfully terminate another person's life, and under which carefully limited conditions

While it was widely accepted that the termination of another's life was justifiable when one's own life was directly threatened, threats to one's career or social or economic status did not justify such a termination.

The dangers of backstreet abortions were not in themselves a reason to allow women to have legal abortions

Apostolic Faith Mission president Isak Burger said his church opposed abortion outright

"Legislation (permitting) abortion would be seen as a major infringement on our faith and religion"

Dr Burger said he believed that in a referendum the majority of South Africans would be fiercely anti-abortion

If the government were to legislate in favour of pornography and abortion, it would become difficult for the church to maintain its moral role in society

In a written submission, the Pregnancy Crisis Centre, working under the slogan "Life Is Sacred" said most women were grossly misinformed when discussing abortion

Most were not aware of the techniques used or of the possible after-effects they faced

The organisation said it had empathy for women who faced unwanted pregnancy

"Women need all the support and encouragement they can get to help them face the pregnancy as they will come through much stronger than those women who choose abortion as a solution to an unwanted pregnancy"

Picture ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE: Chris Warton, medical practitioner and senior lecturer in cell biology at the University of Cape Town, gives evidence against abortion on request at a hearing before the parliamentary ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation. To Dr Warton's left is United Christian Action president Ed Cain.

Anti-abortionists want moral code curbing sex

☐ *Others advocate right to choose and death penalty for rapists*

(237)
ARG 31/5/95

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

SOUTH Africa needs to return to a moral code where sex is reserved only for marriage and procreation, instead of liberalised legislation that makes it easier for women to deal with unwanted pregnancies

This was the call echoed by some religious, student and medical bodies that gave evidence yesterday before the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation

But the committee also heard submissions from the Joint Enrichment Programme and a University of the Witwatersrand academic who called for the liberalisation of existing abortion legislation that permitted abortion under special circumstances

A community health worker for the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network and a mother of two, told the committee how she had struggled years ago to get an abortion and how, as a black woman, she had suffered pain and humiliation But, she did not regret her decision

It was a day of contrasts, not only in ideology, but organisational style

Students For Life showed the committee disturbing visuals of aborted foetuses, while, a few hours later Hare Krishna devotees, preaching that sex be reserved for procreation only, continued their post-presentation lobbying with a light feast of vegetarian snacks

Barbara Muna of the African Christian Democratic Party's Women's League, said that as the world was "not overpopulated in the least", there was no reason to promote abortion

"There are starving people in this world, but it has nothing to do with a lack of food"

In India, there were 200 million sacred cows, each of which ate enough grain to feed seven people

Ms Muna said birth control and voluntary sterilisation was directed against parenthood

She said about abortion for rape victims that society had to sentence rapists to death

Counselling and other support services had to be offered to women who found themselves in such difficulties

Ms Muna called for an end to sex education in schools, saying this promoted "a liberalised sex life" in which girls could readily obtain contraceptives without their parents knowing

Nomfundo Mbuli of the Young Women's Network, which is part of the nine-year-old youth development organisation, the Joint Enrichment Project, told the committee that young women were marginalised by age, gender and race

"Their lack of status in the family, in schools and training institutions and in society at large, ensures that they bear the brunt of the social ills that face our communities"

She said statistics proved young women were most at risk of rape, abuse, incest and Aids

As a high-risk grup, young women were in theory most likely to meet the requirements, in terms of existing legislation, for a legal abortion yet they were the least likely to get one for financial reasons, the need for secrecy, a lack of access to medical facilities or counselling, and the tendency of police to be suspicious of teenage rape reports

"They are therefore highly vulnerable to resorting to desperate measures and suffer the side effects of the current abortion law"

The deaths as a result of this law were unnecessary and particularly tragic

Women who could afford to pay the right doctors would get a quick, easy abortion, while disadvantaged women, if they had been raped, were less likely to do so

Students For Life representative Candice Schmidt said abortion should not be seen as a solution to existing social problems

Law lecturer claims constitutional right

(237) ARG 24/5/95

Political Staff

DENYING women abortion on demand could be constitutionally unsound, says Jeremy Sarkin, senior law lecturer at the University of the Western Cape.

Mr Sarkin, who has written a doctorate on the constitutional implications for abortion, told the parliamentary ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation yesterday that the foetus was not covered by the constitutional right to life

Last year, the Appellate Division ruled that in terms of the Inquest Act the legal definition of what constituted a person did not apply to the foetus

Mr Sarkin said he foresaw that the constitutional right to privacy would be undermined in circumstances where, if abortion were to be outlawed, the state was intruding on the woman's right to make her own decisions about her body

If half the country's people were opposed to abortion, they should not be allowed to prevail over those who wanted it

The constitutional court was likely to come down in favour of the individual's dignity, privacy and freedom

He said abortion was legally permitted in at least 60 countries and most court decisions over the years had gravitated towards liberalisation

Mr Sarkin emphasised abortion had to be legalised in the context of a national health policy where the state facilitated, but did not control or direct, the health of women

Counselling had to be offered to pregnant women, but it could not be mandatory and directive, and statistical reporting should not expose the identities of women who had applied for abortion

He said doctors and other medical staff should be offered the option of abstaining from abortion procedures, but this should not be used to turn away women in need

Instead, those who refused to be part of such procedures should be compelled to refer the woman to practitioners who would help her.

Nkosi Xaba, of the University of the Witwatersrand-based Women's Health Project, said health department statistics showed that in 1991 health workers had seen between 42 000 and 167 000 women who had had incomplete abortions or complications arising from illegal abortions

Statistics do not distinguish between women who had spontaneous miscarriages and those who had illegal abortions

She said the complications of illegal abortions cost state hospitals heavily, and strained already stressed human resources in such hospitals

The current legislation on abortion was restrictive and complicated and therefore discriminated against a large number of South African women, including those who lived in rural areas where they did not have access even to services accommodated in the current law

It was important for abortion to be incorporated into the national health care policy

Legal provision for abortion had to be backed up by the provision of facilities where the law would be given effect

MAIL & GUARDIAN
June 2 to 8 1995

Parliamentary protest: As many submissions were heard by the parliamentary committe hearing public submissions on the abortion issue this week, this group of Christians marched to Parliament to protest the proposed secularisation of the state by the Constitutional Asssembly
PHOTOGRAPH RODGER BOSCH

Abortion debate rages on

(237) WM 2-8/6/95

Both the pro-life and pro-choice viewpoints were forcefully expressed as the abortion issue was discussed in parliament, writes **Rehana Rossouw**

IT'S BEEN a brutal time for the parliamentary committee listening to public submissions on the abortion issue. Over the past two weeks pro-lifers have assaulted them with bottled foetuses and gory slide shows of abortions and their aftermath

This week UCT Students For Life representative Shirley Barnes showed the ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation what an abortion *really* looked like. Slide 1 was an aborted foetus thrown into a black rubbish bag Slide 2, a foetus burnt badly after an abortion using a saline solution Slide 3, a dismembered foetus after an abortion using suction

Barnes argued that abortion, under any circumstances, was murder. Not even rape was a justification for an abortion

"The birth of the baby will be therapeutic for the mother," she said. "Some good can come out of what was done to her "

When the students were questioned by committee members, they turned to the Bible to back their case

ANC MP Sister Bernard Ncube was unimpressed "How many young girls aged 13 are already pregnant in South Africa?" Sister Bernard asked the students

"They are not even able to give birth We have street children in South Africa who are not being adopted by anybody We need a holistic approach to this problem "

The response was a quote from the Bible, illustrating that even in his mother's womb, John the Baptist was aware of the existence of Christ.

While the pro-lifers rely on the Bible to back up their arguments, the pro-choice lobby has been relying on research from countries where abortion is legal

There are only slight variations on two main arguments being presented: from pro-life that abortion is murder and from pro-choice that it is justified in terms of womens' control over their bodies

There has been no shortage of submissions on this hot issue. On Tuesday alone, the committee heard submissions from the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) Womens' League, the Young Womens' Network, Students For Life, the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network, Cathi Albertyn of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits, Doctors Who Support Human Life, the Options Crisis Pregnancy Centre and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Nomfundo Mbuli of the pro-choice Young Womens' Network, quoting statistics that up to 80 percent of women treated after a botched illegal abortion were younger than 20, said the current law condemned young women and their children to lives of poverty.

"The law has not stopped abortions from happening in South Africa, it has simply made them dangerous," Mbuli said.

SA hospitals see 45 000 women with incomplete abortions annually

(237) ARG 5/6/85

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

AN estimated 44 600 women go to hospitals countrywide each year with incomplete abortions which are either spontaneous miscarriages or illegally induced, a Medical Research Council study has found

The MRC also estimates that 425 women a year could die in hospital from septic abortion

These projections — the most up-to-date data on the abortion rate to be submitted to the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation — are based on a two-week study in September last year in 55 hospitals countrywide

All public hospitals with more than 500 beds were included as well as a random sample of hospitals with fewer than 500 beds

Presenting the MRC findings to the parliamentary committee, Helen Rees of the University of the Witwatersrand's reproductive health unit said "We suspect this is an underestimate of the total number of women who have abortions"

Women who took part in the study ranged in age from 14 to 49, and 84 percent of the respondents were African, 11 percent coloured, four percent Asian and one percent white

Among those who died while the study was under way was a 27-year-old mother of two who had tried to induce abortion with a combination of blue soap, a lotion and disinfectant

An estimate of the total costs of treating incomplete abortions in a year is R18,6 million

"While it is not possible for us to anticipate the full financial implications of a change in the law, we would expect this to result in few high and middle severity cases attending hospital and in addition there will be savings for women who opt for abortion"

Fellow researcher and senior MRC social scientist Fidelia Maforah said the two main reasons for women wanting to terminate pregnancy were rejection by their partners and socio-economic circumstances

Some of the women in the study had tried to get legal abortions and they had felt that the restrictive clauses of the existing abortion law put women under a tremendous burden.

Even women who were members of churches and religions which disapproved of abortion had not been deterred from seeking abortions, even though they acknowledged it was highly disapproved of

"The general feeling was that the decision should be left to the woman concerned"

Dr Maforah said in general the women felt that the present Act failed in its supposed attempt to limit the number of abortions, as women who needed to would and did find other options to bring about abortion even if it meant seriously endangering themselves

Most against free abortion

(237) CT 8/6/45.

Health department chief's warning on legalised abortions

(237)

□ *Services could not cope, parliament group told*

ARG 9/6/95

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

SOUTH Africa's health services could not cope with the flood of gynaecologicial cases that would follow the legalisation of abortion, says director-general of health Coen Slabber

Dr Slabber gave evidence yesterday before the national assembly ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation, where chairman Sokhaya Nkomo ruled Dr Slabber out of order when he repeatedly stated his personal objection to legalised abortion instead of spelling out department policy

Dr Slabber told the committee his department had "no policy on abortion" and was relying on the committee to formulate legislation that would ultimately be adopted as policy

He said that in 1993, 1 479 legal abortions had been performed in South Africa, two-thirds of these in state hospitals

They had included 27 cases involving girls under the age of 14, 215 involving girls aged between 15 and 19 and 323 involving women aged 20 to 24

Dr Slabber also said that at present only about 35 000 abortions — including spontaneous, incomplete or illegal terminations — were reported to the department each year

This figure was declining because doctors were tending not to report such cases, although they were required to do so by law

Dr Slabber said that if abortion was made available on request, the number of illegal or backstreet abortions should decline and the number of legal abortions would rise

"(As to) whether our infrastructure will be able to handle that increase, I have serious reservations," said Dr Slabber

"Our public sector hospitals are under tremendous pressure

"We are unfortunately losing a lot of doctors We are losing fully registered doctors either to the private sector or overseas and replacing them with doctors with limited registration who need supervision"

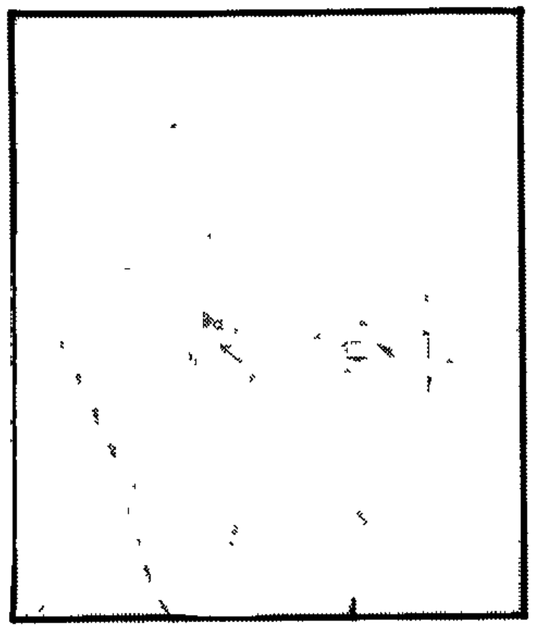
It was his personal view, based on working as a gynaecologist in a New York hospital, that abortion on request paralysed "your gynaecology department"

A document submitted to the parliamentary committee stated the department's position on the present legislation as "By and large, the legislation was considered by many to be a very humane step, compared with a situation before its promulgation, in which abortion was a punishable misdemeanour under any circumstances whatsoever"

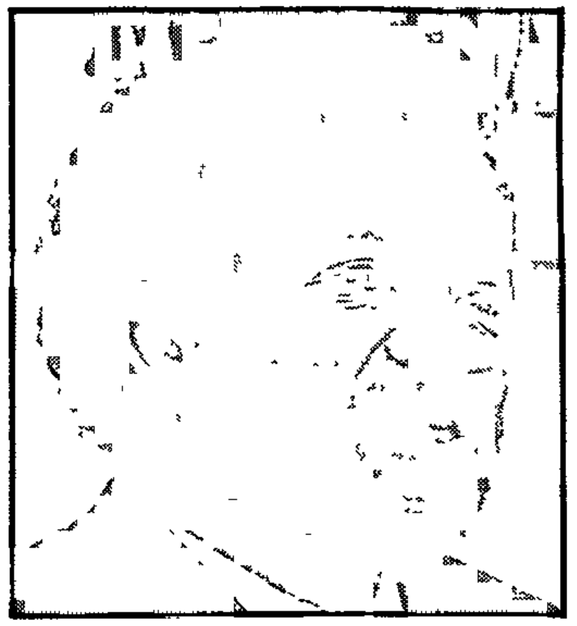
● Also at yesterday's hearing, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference was represented by Cape Town Archbishop Lawrence Henry and moral theology lecturer Hyacinth Ennis

Father Ennis told the committee his church was opposed to abortion or any form of contraceptive, apart from natural fertility cycles

In a written submission, the bishops' conference said "The law relating to abortion as it presently stands should most certainly be changed The Church has never, and cannot now, agree with either abortion or sterilisation "

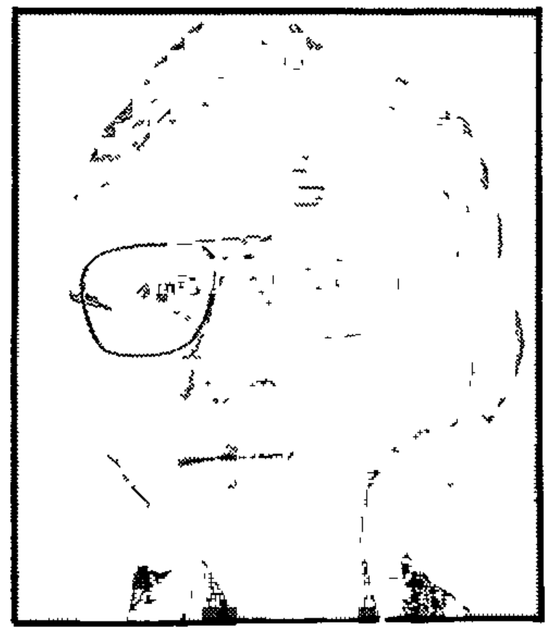


MARGE DYER wants abortion on demand during the first 14 weeks

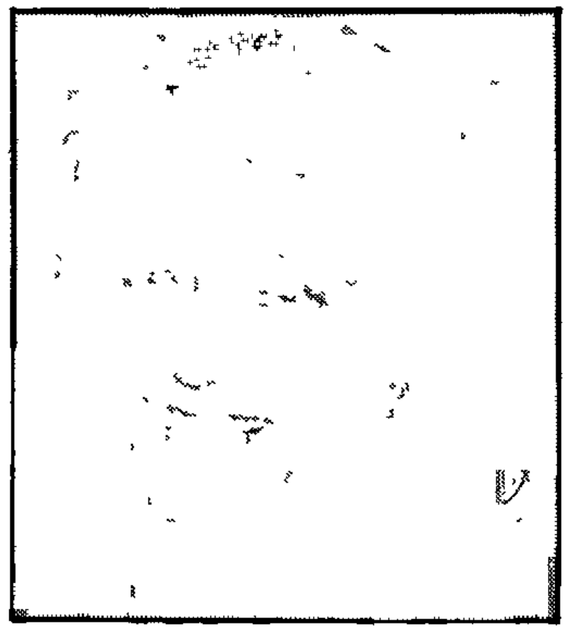


KENNETH MESHOE legislation needs to be 'tightened even more'

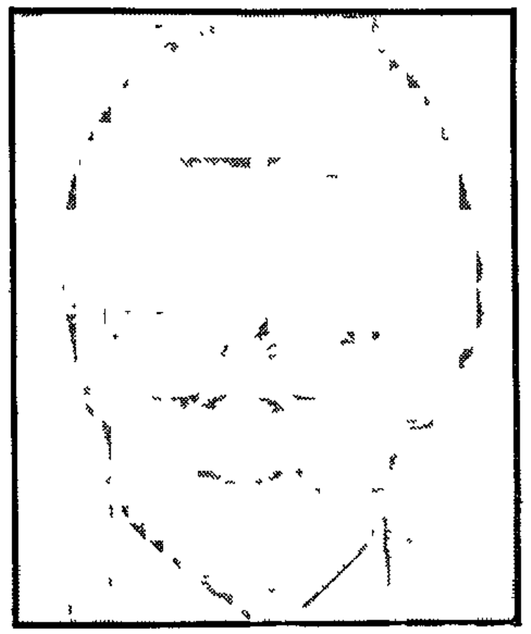
JANE RAPHAELY 'No one has the right to dictate to others what to do'



CLAUDE NEWBURY abortion is murder, 'the spilling of innocent blood'



SHEILA CAMERER National Party is opposed to abortion on demand



SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA 'We need to show great compassion'

A QUESTION OF CHOICE

ST 11/6/95 (237)

Does abortion constitute murder or is it a woman's right?

The Constitutional Court has just ruled against the death penalty, but what about abortion? Does a foetus have a right to life or is abortion a matter to be decided between a woman and her doctor? DAVID CAPEL spoke to some of the key people in the ongoing debate over abortion

SOUTH AFRICA'S abortion debate (if that is what the bitter, acrimonious exchanges can justifiably be called) rages on

Dr Claude Newbury, president of Pro Life South Africa, will tell you the debate is about bloodshed unless, of course, you don't count "the wholesale murder of millions of innocent, unborn children" and choose to ignore "the ripping apart of millions of babies in their mothers' wombs" That's the kind of language he loves

A parliamentary ad hoc committee has been hearing evidence from all sides of the debate and observers believe drastic changes to the country's controversial Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 could be on the cards

Women's rights organisations, the church, political parties, the Pro Life movement, the broadly based Pro Choice movement and a host of other organisations and individuals have submitted their arguments to the parliamentary committee In the interim, the flak — and some pretty blood-curdling rhetoric — is flying thick and fast

Re-enter Dr Newbury, the anti-abortion lobby's most visible spokesman Mention the word abortion and he responds with words like murder, genocide, brutality, evil, savage and barbarous. And with phrases like righteous war, systematic destruction and the spilling of innocent blood.

This devout Catholic and head of the casualty polyclinic at J G Strijdom hospital, says he is prepared "to fight to the end" to prevent abortion being legalised in South Africa

"Even the Nazis," he says, "generally did not murder people painfully Yet millions of babies are literally scraped and sucked out of their mothers' wombs in the most ghastly fashion imaginable

"Any government that legalises abortion will be branded as an evil government and we (Pro Life South Africa) will work systematically to destroy its moral authority We will work to overthrow such a government"

Women's Coalition education and training officer Dinky Bogatsh, who has worked extensively with rural women on the issue of abortion, counters "Dr Newbury looks at the world from his perspective of a white, urban doctor He has a very stereotypical view of life

"What do Christian fanatics like him say about all the thousands of street children — children who were brought unwanted into the world? All they do is give them bread and soup occasionally"

Bogatsh says extensive research has shown that 40 percent of rural women in South Africa have had abortions They cannot afford more children and they are not educated about, and do not have access to, contraception

While no one wants to see abortion being used as a form of contraception, figures show this is often the case, particularly in poorer communities

And the number of deaths from back-street abortions is frightening According to a doctor at a Johannesburg provincial hospital, the majority of women admitted suffering from septic abortion — which often results in the patient having to have a hysterectomy — are between the ages of 16 and 25 And, because of the stigma and the fact that abortion is illegal, most of these young women will not admit to it until they are literally at death's door. Nor do they know what has been done to them except where they have tried to administer the abortion themselves.

The doctor says they insert anything they can find into the cervix — sticks, coathangers, even bottles Herbal douches are sometimes used which can cause bad infections The patients apparently show little remorse, the most common emotional response is enormous relief that the pregnancy is finally over

Jane Raphaely, editor of Cosmopolitan magazine, says the Pro Life movement seems increasingly to consist of "retired white males and (their) docile wives with time on their hands"

She is not the only person with this perception National president of the Abortion Rights Action Group Marge Dyer says most anti-abortionists are conservative males, "a relic of the old authoritarian, patriarchal system"

The Pro Life lobby is often seen as predominantly made up of men trying to enforce their views on women, often through intimidation and, in America, through murder

Says Raphaely "We are living in a democratic country, and no one has the right to dictate to others what they should do, unless it is against the law

"The Pro Choice movement says, if a woman decides to have an abortion, she should be able to have it in a hygienic environment And it advocates health programmes which potentially remove the need for abortion"

In a recent editorial in her magazine, Raphaely writes "Only about 800 women are lucky enough to be granted a legal abortion in South Africa a year None of us want to have abortions It's a horrible experience But many of us have to have them"

Dyer says the present Act should be scrapped altogether Her organisation wants abortion to be "available on demand" during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy

"At 14 to 24 weeks, there should still be decision making between the woman and her doctor," she says.

Dyer says women don't choose abortion lightly The Pro Choice movement has always said that abortion is not a means of contraception, but many women have abortions because of the absence of contraception, she says

But Pastor Ron Robinson, director of a Christian organisation called Operation Family and a member of the anti-abortion lobby, says the issue is "really pretty simple it's determining in one's heart and mind when life starts For me, it's at conception and, therefore, to consider the possibility of wiping out this life is not only biblically unacceptable but unacceptable from a moral point of view"

What about women who fall pregnant as the result of rape or incest? Pastor Robinson admits this is "a very difficult and sensitive subject", but he is nevertheless opposed to abortion in these circumstances too, saying two "wrongs" don't make a right

Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, former head of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and now an ANC MP, says that, even within the ANC, there is no conformity on the issue

"As a Catholic priest, I am opposed to abortion But we need to show great compassion, understanding and support to people who are in a situation where they feel compelled to seek an abortion We can't sit in judgment, and the law should not punish them"

Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the African Democratic Christian Party, says that, far from needing to be reformed, the present legislation against abortion needs to be 'tightened even more"

"Most people, particularly black people, don't know what happens during an abortion," he says

Sheila Camerer of the National Party says the NP is against abortion on demand However, she says it recognises that "there are women in South Africa entitled to a legal abortion who do not have access to adequate medical and health facilities"

The Pro Choice movement points to a recent survey by Cosmopolitan magazine in which, in spite of claims that anti-abortionists tried to manipulate the result, 62 percent of respondents said they were in favour of a woman's right to choose The Pro Life brigade say that doesn't matter abortion is still "murder".

Saldanha Steel to go on with geological tests

ARG 19/6/95

Environment Reporter

SALDANHA Steel is to press ahead with further geological tests at the site of its proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The tests have the blessing of the Western Cape regional government which is still considering a rezoning application for the site, but Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has warned that any work done before full approval is at the steel manufacturer's own risk

Dr De Villiers has appointed a board of inquiry in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, and has said he will ask cabinet for permission to prohibit the steel mill in terms of Section 31 of the Act if the inquiry finds it is undesirable.

Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith said geological tests will be made at the proposed steel works site from June 26.

"In view of the recent debate on the Saldanha steel project, we wish to stress that the activity which may be observed on-site soon will be of a purely investigative and information-gathering nature," Mr Smith said in a statement

The tests, which could continue until the end of the year, were to ensure a better definition of the project's construction procedures and costs

"The tests will involve gathering further information on soil, ground water and run-off conditions and will consist primarily of hole drilling, soil load bearing tests, ground water sampling and soil condition tests."

Contraception still a top health priority

(237)

ARG 19/6/95

CONTRACEPTION could be put on the backburner as the health system targets hot topics such as HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and child health as its priorities

This was a worrying phenomena, said Helen Rees, national chairwoman of the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa

Speaking at the association's annual meeting, she said even a 20 percent increase in the use of contraception would reduce maternal ill-health and death

Contraception empowered women and improved the quality of their lives, she said.

A third of all women admitted to hospital had moderate or severe complications from abortions or miscarriages. Easy access to acceptable contraception would prevent many of these admissions

She said the priority for contraception in South Africa was to take existing services and expand them to include a whole range, such as treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and screening for cancers. This is the trend internationally, she said.

It was time to look at acceptable, safe and alternative ways of providing contraception, and get away from the medical model, which was a nurse in a clinic handing out pills. Clinics were often overloaded and contraception was a low priority. Healthy wom- [illegible] contraception were reluctant to queue for hours to get it.

One way of providing contraception, she said, was an outreach programme, where trained community health workers went from door to door, educating and counselling people and handing out pills and condoms

Community outreach pilot projects had been launched in the Cape in Khayelitsha and Worcester and in Gauteng, she added

Draft report backs choice on abortion

Tim Cohen

BD 23/6/95 (237)

CAPE TOWN — A draft report by a parliamentary committee investigating abortion legislation has adopted a strongly "pro-choice" position, and has recommended that abortion on request for up to 14 weeks after conception should be legalised.

However, Sokhaya Nkomo, chairman of the ad-hoc committee set up at the behest of Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, stressed the document was not a final report, nor did it necessarily indicate the position Parliament would finally adopt.

The report was being presented as a basis for "full and vigorous debate", Nkomo said. A consultant had been commissioned to draw up the report and make recommendations on the basis of evidence submitted to the committee, which began its hearing last month.

The report recommends that legislation be changed to provide for abortion on request for women up to 14 weeks pregnant and that abortion be available between 14 and 24 weeks under certain conditions.

Application procedures should be simplified, including the removal of the requirement that two doctors be consulted. A wider range of health personnel should be authorised to perform abortions so as to increase access in areas where there were few, if any, doctors.

The consent of the woman's partner

Continued on Page 2

Abortion

(237) BD 23/6/95

Continued from Page 1

should not be mandatory and "non-directive" counselling should be available to all women, the report said.

It found that the pro-life lobby was represented largely by evangelists, Pentecostal Christians, Catholics and Muslims, who argued that life began at conception, so abortion was murder.

Some members of the pro-life camp had called for homosexuality and pornography to be recriminalised, the report said. Some had urged the criminalisation of masturbation, reintroduction of the chastity belt and sterilisation of those who could not or would not "control their lust".

Pro-choice submissions had said abortion should be a last resort and access to abortion should be given in the context of a comprehensive health system. No one would be forced to have an abortion. They qualified the right to life with the concept of "quality of life" and raised the issue of child abuse, neglect, and rising numbers of abandoned and delinquent children.

While the pro-life lobby cited the right-to-life clause in the constitution, the pro-choice lobby cited the equality clause, the right to dignity and privacy, to freedom and security of person and to freedom of conscience, religion and belief.

Painstaking task begins on abortion issue

ARG 23/6/95 (237)

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

THE parliamentary ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation has begun the painstaking task of reporting on a range of submissions presented to the committee during recent months

The committee has established a drafting committee which met yesterday to begin preparing a draft report which will be considered by the full committee who will make recommendations to parliament on abortion policy.

During the past few months the committee has dealt with hundreds of written and oral submissions from religious leaders, abortion reformists, social scientists, ethicists, student groups, the Department of Health and individuals

Yesterday, the committee began examining a working document prepared by a consultant appointed by the full committee to assist the drafting committee with its work

The working document attempts to outline in summary form the various arguments presented to the ad hoc committee, and makes certain recommendations

Committee chairperson Sokhaya Nkomo said the working document did not necessarily represent the views of the committee or any party represented on the committee, and the document merely served as a basis on which full and vigorous debate would be held.

Willem Odendaal (NP) said his party was unhappy about certain submissions that had been left out of the consultant's report and he asked that his party, supported by the African Christian Democratic Party, be given more time to add to the working document

The drafting committee will meet again on Monday to add to the consultant's summary.

Abortion: Committee favours pro-choice

[illegible] the multi-party committee investigating abortion legislation favoured the liberalisation of the law and recommended a voluntary document to be used in future.

Committee chairperson [illegible] said the document was not final.

The committee heard evidence during 2[illegible] and years from [illegible] on the abortion debate.

The pro-life lobby [illegible] human rights case w[illegible] edu[illegible] time with abortion [illegible] at the moment argued that life begins at conception and that abortion constituted murder.

Within the pro-life camp [illegible] group [illegible] for the [illegible] termination of human life [illegible] the termination of malformation or even the introduction of the chastity belt and legislation for the [illegible] who could not or could not "control their lust".

Even in the [illegible] some pro-lifers argued that because the child could be the [illegible] present for the [illegible]

Pro-choice submissions favouring liberalisation of abortion [illegible] and abortion should be a private [illegible] and no one should be forced to have an abortion.

Liberalisation of the law would lead to an overall decrease in the difficult and [illegible] human suffering [illegible]

(237) CT 23/6/95

(237)

Probe team in favour of easier abortion laws

A "clear majority" of the parliamentary committee on abortion believed women should be allowed to terminate pregnancies if they chose, and recommended easing the law, said a committee report released yesterday.

Committee chairman Sokhaya Nkomo stressed that the document was not a final report, nor did it necessarily indicate the position Parliament would finally adopt on the matter.

The report said that forcing a woman to bear a child against her would seriously infringe on her rights and opportunities.

Women's rights to choose had to be seen in the context of the interim constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Government of National Unity's commitment to a non-sexist society and the empowerment of women.

Currently, mainly wealthier white, urban women procured legal abortions, and easy access to safe abortions would address the current bias in terms of race, rural/urban location and socio-economic standing.

Evidence also suggested that restricting access to safe, legal abortions did not prevent them.

The committee felt it could not define "murder" — as the largely Christian pro-life lobby defined abortion — on the basis of an understanding not shared by many South Africans.

The proposed Act should provide for abortion on the woman's request up to 14 weeks' gestational age. Abortion should be available under certain broadly specified conditions between 14 and 24 weeks

Current cumbersome and time-consuming procedures should be simplified The requirement that two doctors perform the operation should be removed and a wider range of health personnel should be authorised to perform abortions to increase access to women in areas where there were fewer doctors. Star 23/6/95

Non-directive counselling should be available to all women who requested abortions Except for minors, it should be non-mandatory.

The consent of the woman's husband or partner should not be mandatory In the case of minors, the woman should be advised to consult parents or responsible family members or friends, but it should not be a condition for an abortion

Doctors and other health workers who had conscientious objections to doing abortions should be free to recuse themselves, but had to then refer the woman to others who would perform the operation.

The committee had heard oral evidence and received written submissions during May and early June this year from both the pro-choice lobby, which favoured liberalisation of current legislation, and the pro-life lobby, which in many cases wanted existing anti-abortion laws tightened. — Sapa.

Pro-lifers may stage tax boycott

~~26~~ (237)

JOHANNESBURG. — Opponents of abortion on demand might refuse to pay taxes if abortion is legalised and made available at state hospitals, campaigner Reverend Ray McCauley said

"If abortion on demand is allowed in provincial and state-aided clinics the government needs to be aware that taxpayers who oppose abortion may decide to withhold their taxes," Mr McCauley said in a statement issued yesterday ARG 24/6/95

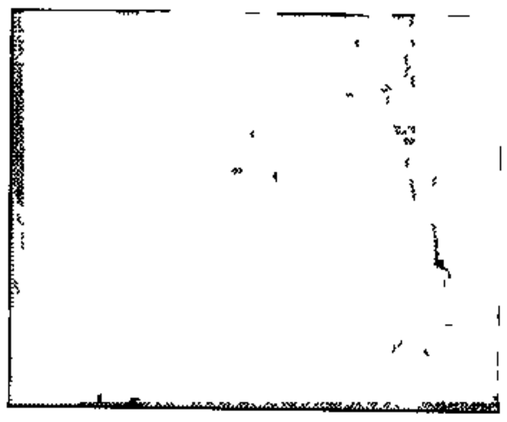
The head of the Rhema Church said he was "bitterly disappointed" by a parliamentary committee report that proposed legalising abortion on demand He also questioned whether this was the wish of the majority of South Africans — Reuter

Big city, bright lights make for an unusual contraceptive

Star 24/6/95 (237)

BACK TO EARTH

The population growth rate in South Africa is declining in some parts because of urbanisation



JAMES Clarke

Professor Wilfred Mallows said in 1988 that urbanisation has proved in Europe to be a necessary step towards reducing the population growth rate Local evidence supports this.

The most dramatic things are happening to this country's population

The Department of Welfare has just issued a Green Paper on population for public comment (write to Pt Bag X901 Pretoria 0001 or fax 012 322 3702) – much of its content is gloomy

Yet the picture is more fascinating than frightening

Population growth rate, in many regions of South Africa, is slumping Unfortunately, with 40 million people, we will soon be outstripping our recourses We have already outstripped water I would like to suggest that although some areas of South Africa appear doomed by their growth rate the rest are showing a typical 20th century trend – rapid urbanisation followed by a collapsing growth rate

Looking through some population statistics from Central Statistical Services and comparing them with Development Bank of South Africa figures, I realised how Mallows – this country's first profesor of town planning – was right

Urbanisation equals contraception

According to the DBSA the two most urbanised provinces are Gauteng – 99 6% "functionally urbanised", and the Western Cape – 95 1%

Compare these with Britain and Germany which have achieved ZPG (zero population growth) – they are 91 and 89% urbanised

"Official figures" from the CSS are slightly different They show the Western Cape as being "only" 86 6% urbanised and Gauteng as being 95%

Clearly, though, both regions have reached what one can assume is maximum urbanisation (Somebody has to stay down on the farm to grow food!) Significantly their population growth rate has dropped to 1 29 % (Gauteng) and 1 7% (Western Cape)

Compare this with Northern Transvaal where only 12 1% of the population is urbanised (DBSA) and where the population growth rate is almost 4% – a doubling time of about 15 years I noticed what seemed to be an anomaly in the Northern Cape province Its growth rate is only 0 79 – the lowest in the land How can a rural province have such a small growth rate? The answer is it's no longer rural It is almost 80% urbanised.

What's the DBSA's definition of "urbanised"?

They say that if a community falls within a recognisable local authority then that's "functionally urbanised"

I think part of the secret is that once you live in an urban area you have limited land and limited housespace Big families become a nightmare

Nature might go around, most of the time, abhorring vacuums but that's just to achieve its ultimate aim – a dynamic equilibrium

That is what happened in Europe and it's beginning to happen here

Population growth in Europe is such that most countries have a good idea of how many people they are going to have to educate, house, clothe and feed next century They can plan

But, if the truth be told, Europe is still overpopulated because, to maintain its current population, it has to buy foodstuffs and minerals from outside Europe – from places like South Africa.

In a sense then, although we are producing 1 million a year more people to feed, clothe and house – we are selling our own future sustainability to Europe It's like a tramp selling his overcoat in summer because he doesn't need it right then

One of South Africa's most interesting demographic puzzles is "how big is Soweto?"

I have seen its population put at 2,5 million A Wits analysis backed by aerial photography and ground counts revealed fewer than 1 million

Soweto is growing – but not from its fertility It is growing from influx

Another interesting phenomenon is that Johannesburg is no longer the biggest metropolis Cape Town is almost one-fifth larger

The Cape Peninsula's population is 2 350 157

Greater Johannesburg is 1 916 906 But Gauteng province is by far the biggest contributor to the gross domestic product, providing 37% The next biggest contributor is KwaZulu-Natal with 14 5 Western Cape is third with 13%

And there is Clem Sunter's "wild card" – Aids The World Health Organisation says that while the world appears to have come to grips with Aids, Africa has not

Officially, there are 1,2 million HIV positive people in South Africa Unofficially there is probably double The disease is singling out the sexually active

If Aids kills, say 20 million in Africa, it'll take the population back to around last year's level

Footnote: July 11 is World Populatio Day

Abortion proposals anger church

(237)

The Rhema Church was "bitterly disappointed" by a draft parliamentary committee report proposing abortion on demand, said its leader Pastor Ray McCauley.

"I find it hard to believe that they could come out against the immense public opinion which favours no change in the abortion laws of the country"

He added that if abortion on demand was allowed in provincial and state-aided clinics, the Government should be aware that taxpayers who opposed abortion may decide to withhold their taxes

McCauley said he was shocked by a proposal that health workers, other than doctors, should be allowed to perfom abortions

"Abortion is a serious medical procedure and should be performed only under the proper medical conditions," he said — Staff Reporter

Star 26/6/95

Thursday June 29 1995

THE NA

S African population now 41,24-million

(237)

ARG 29/6/95

☐ 3,7-m live in the Western Cape

Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africa now has a population of 41,24 million people, up from 38 million in 1991, with 3,7 million living in the Western Cape.

Midyear figures released by the government's central statistical service show the most populous province is KwaZulu/Natal with 8,7 million residents, followed by Gauteng with 7 million, Eastern Cape with 6,4 million, Northern Province with 5,39 million, Western Cape with 3,7 million, North-West Province with 3,3 million, Eastern Transvaal with 3 million, Free State with 2,7 million and Northern Cape with 739 000.

A total of 75 percent of the population is black (31,4 million) There are 5,2 million whites, 3,5 million coloured people and one-million Asians

A third of the population — 34,9 percent — are economically active, with 10 million blacks working, 2,4 million whites, 1,5 million coloured people and 414 000 Asians.

In the Western Cape the population has grown from 3,4 million to 3,7 million since 1991. The biggest population grouping is coloured with 2,12 million people, followed by whites with 885 000, blacks with 675 000 and Asians with 35 000

Coloured people have increased by 200 000 in the Western Cape since 1991, blacks by 106 000, whites by 43 000 and Asians by 6 000.

Males outnumber females in the province, with 1,86 million males and 1,85 million females, but white females outnumber white males by 23 200, and coloured females outnumber coloured males by 46 400

KwaZulu/Natal has the country's largest number of black residents (7,2 million) and Asians (799 000). Most of the whites (2,1 million) live in Gauteng, and most of the coloured people (2,1 million) live in the Western Cape

'Abortion up to 24 weeks' — ANC

CT 30/6/95 (237)

THE ANC majority of a special parliamentary committee recommended yesterday that abortion be allowed on request up to 14 weeks — and under "broadly specified conditions" up to 24 weeks

However, National Party spokesman Dr Willem Odendaal said his party would fight any legislation on these lines "at every stage, even up to the Constitutional Court"

The ANC had refused to consider recommendations by any of the other parties, he said

The ANC based their recommendations on a report compiled after six weeks of hearing oral evidence and many written submissions from both pro-life and pro-choice groups.

The African Christian Democratic Party rejected the recommendations outright ACDP leader Mr Kenneth Meshoe had called for the adoption of an act which would outlaw all abortion, even in cases of rape and incest

The NP had proposed there be legal abortions under the conditions allowed for in the existing act — in cases of rape, incest, mental deformity in the foetus and a few other specified conditions.

IFP committee member Mrs Sue Vos said it was a matter of conscience. — Sapa

● See Page 7

'14 weeks for an abortion'

(237)

Star 30/6/95

The ANC majority of a special Parliamentary committee yesterday agreed to recommend abortion on request up to 14 weeks.

The group have also agreed there should be abortion on request under certain "broadly specified conditions" between 14 and 24 weeks.

The proposals were made on the basis of a report compiled from oral evidence and a large number of written submissions from the pro-life and pro-choice groups.

The ACDP rejected the recommendations

The NP rejected abortion on request but proposed there should be legal abortions under the conditions allowed for in the existing Act — in cases of rape, incest, mental deformity in the foetus and a few other specified conditions.

The IFP said it was a matter of conscience and that some of its members supported the recommendation while others did not. Both groups should have the right to disassociate themselves from the position of the other.

The committee is still discussing the report and is expected to adopt formal recommendations. — Sapa.

All you need to know about abortion

Sowetan 30/6/95 (237)

AN ABORTION which is not performed by a doctor in accordance with the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 is illegal A woman who atempts to abort her own fetus is committing the same crime as a woman who actually performs an abortion on another woman.

Anyone who has an illegal abortion can face a R5 000 fine or a prison sentence of up to five years A legal abortion may be carried out for the following reasons

- Where the continued pregnancy either endangers the woman's life or is a serious threat to her physical or mental health,
- If there is a serious risk that the child to be born will suffer from a physical or mental defect that will make it seriously handicapped,
- If the baby was conceived as a result of rape or incest, or
- If the woman is mentally handicapped and is unable to understand the responsibilities of having a baby

A legal abortion application must be approved by a social worker and three physicians, including a state psychiatrist, before it can be performed

If the woman is in her first 12 weeks of pregnancy, the doctor will pass a tube into the uterus By making a vacuum through this tube, the contents of the uterus are sucked out If the woman has passed 12 weeks of pregnancy, the doctor will either perform a caesarean section or will try to induce labour

If a woman goes for an illegal (back street) abortion she could be given anything from poisonous herbs to household chemicals, such as bleach, to induce the abortion Some of the complications which result from an illegal abortion are infections, sterility, haemorrhaging, irregular menstrual cycles and painful sexual intercourse

When the operation is legally performed by a doctor, there are usually no bad physical effects Sometimes a woman who has had an abortion might feel relief at having got rid of her problem

However, some women suffer from depression, sorrow, anxiety and guilt She might feel hatred for her husband or boyfriend which causes a rift in the relationship It must also not be forgotten that the husband or boyfriend might also be deeply upset by the abortion

Young people must have someone that they can discuss their problems and questions with — whether it is a parent or teacher It is very important to be educated about contraception and the responsibility of sexually activity

against Zambia on the day of President running, McMillan said.

Draft Bill gives teeth to language watchdog

BD 30/6/95

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation establishing SA's new language watchdog, the Pan South African Language Board, was published in Parliament yesterday.

Deputy Arts and Culture Minister Brigitte Mabandla said the board would protect language rights in SA and encourage the principle of multilingualism.

The special Government Gazette in which the Bill was published was the first to be published in all 11 official languages.

The proposed board, which will be appointed by the Senate, will consist of 13 members including language planning experts and experienced language workers such as translators, interpretors and literacy experts.

Among the functions of the board would be the reception and acknowledgement of violations of language rights, monitoring the observance of Constitutional provisions and principles regarding the use of language and checking new legislation, practices and policies.

The board may also request government to provide financial support to victims of "gross violations of language rights", Mabandla said.

The definition of what constituted such violations would be determined by the Constitutional Court.

Deputy director of language planning Anne-Marie Beukes said language was an economic resource to be treated as an asset rather than a liability.

Empowering people to understand, participate and communicate would have advantageous spin-offs for the economy.

Written as well as oral comments on the draft Bill would be invited before the legislation was formally tabled, probably by mid-September. The board would begin work once its members were appointed.

Body backs abortion

BD 30/6/95

CAPE TOWN — The ANC majority in a special parliamentary committee recommended yesterday that abortion should be allowed on request up to 14 weeks and, under "broadly specified conditions", up to 24 weeks. (237)

However, NP spokesman Willem Odendaal said the ANC had bulldozed the recommendations through.

The NP would fight the recommendations.

The NP has proposed that there be legal abortions under the conditions allowed for in the existing Act — in cases of rape, incest, mental incompetence, foetal deformity and a few other specified conditions.

IFP committee member Sue Vos said it was "a matter of conscience" and that while some IFP members would support the recommendations, others would oppose them.

The health minister will refer the report to the parliamentary health committee to prepare draft legislation. — Sapa.

Department of Health plans to distribute condoms in schools

(237)

ARG 1/7/95

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Staff Reporter

CONDOMS will be supplied to schools by the Department of Health — on request That's the official word from head office

"Condoms are distributed by the provincial offices, Aids training and information centres and clinics If a school requests condoms, they will be supplied," said spokesperson Dr Mariette Roos.

"The Aids and sexually transmitted disease (STD) programme has no specific policy towards distribution of condoms in schools"

Dr Roos said research had shown that in spite of the fact that 50 percent of youths were sexually active they rarely used condoms

The high incidence of STDs and pregnancy among teenagers were indicators of unprotected sexual intercourse

HIV infection is more common among young people between the ages of 15 and 30 years, women and migrants

The Department of Health has identified five strategies in the fight against Aids and STDs for the coming year and one of these is the distribution of condoms

The department intends distributing 97 million male condoms and 90 000 female condoms during the 1995/'96 financial year

"A number of innovative strategies are being implemented, including a multi-media campaign targeted at the groups at risk, and more open distribution of condoms at clinics," said Dr Roos

"The programme is encouraging a range of organisations to get involved in condom awareness — it is not only the responsibility of government," said Dr Roos

"This strategy is based on a sound understanding of the state of the epidemic and what interventions are currently available The emphasis is on choice — abstinence, monogamy, correct use of condoms and less early sexual activity," said Dr Roos

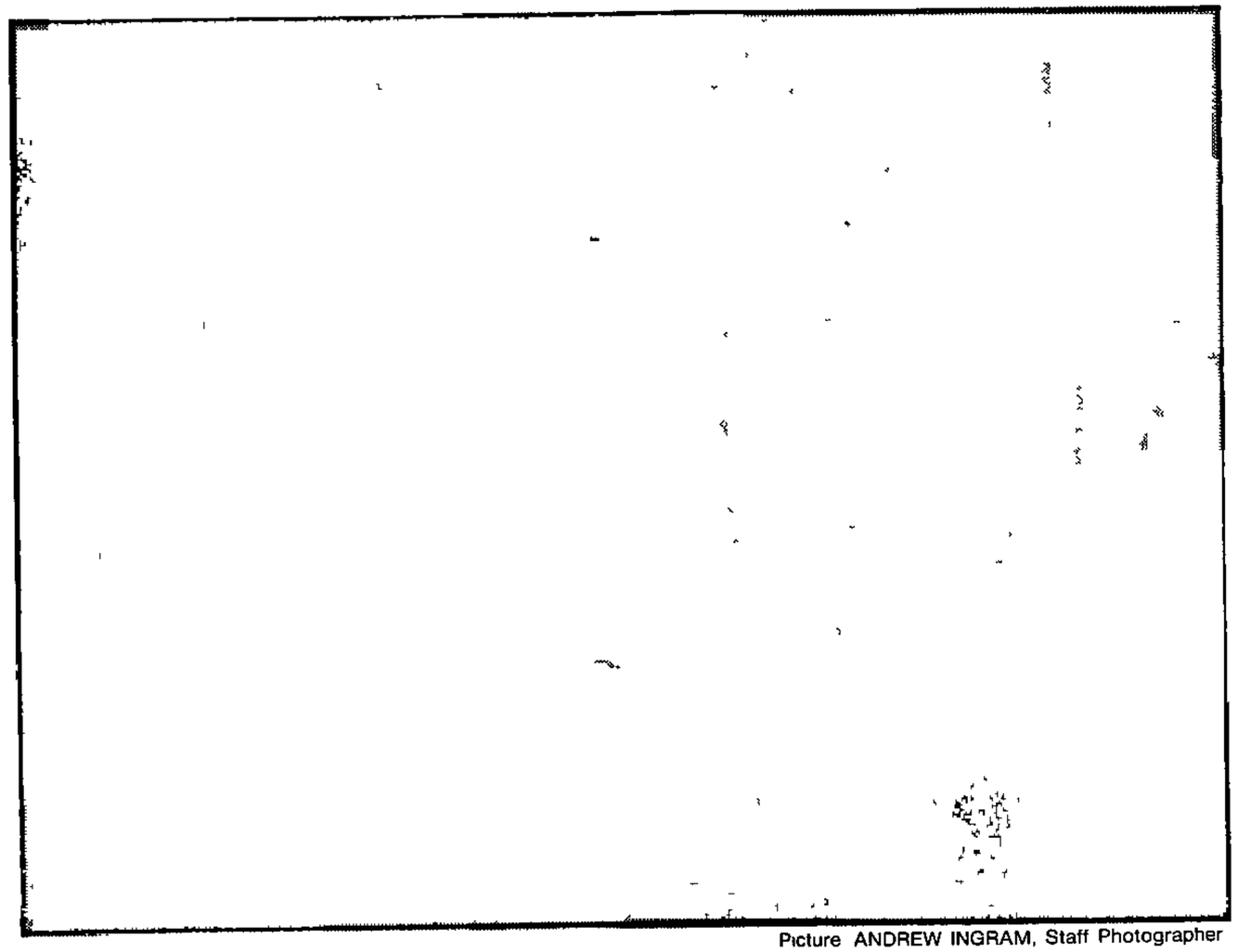
Until recently, legislation has prohibited the advertising of condoms

The Department of Health budget for condoms for the 1995/'96 financial year is R10 million

Condoms distributed by the Department of Health are available free of charge at any clinic, Aids training and information centre or provincial and national office

Tutu's call dismays pro-lifers

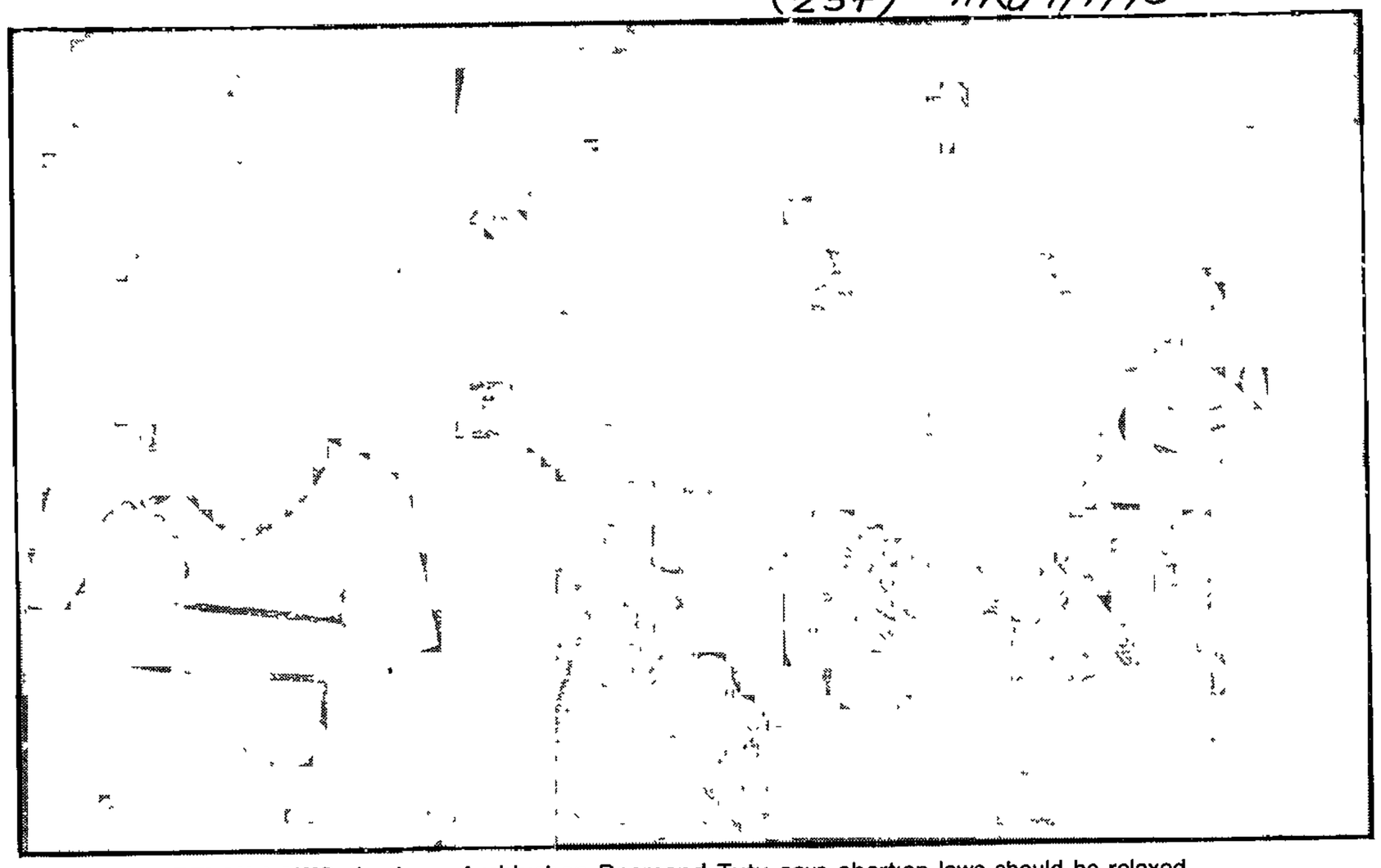
(237) ARG 1/7/95



Picture ANDREW INGRAM, Staff Photographer

□ **PRO-CHOICE:** Abortion Rights Action Group president Marj Dyer

"You cannot unrape a woman by murdering her unborn child. It adds . . . to the evil of rape."



□ **RELAX LAWS:** Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu says abortion laws should be relaxed

ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu's call for the relaxation of South Africa's abortion laws is adding fuel to an already raging debate on the issue

The ANC majority of a special parliamentary committee investigating the issue recommended this week that abortion be allowed on request for up to 14 weeks under "broadly-specified conditions", up to 24 weeks

But the National Party indicated it would fight any legislation allowing abortion, "even up to the Constitutional Court" It had proposed there be legal abortion under the conditions allowed for in terms of the existing Act

The ANC based their recommendations on oral and written evidence heard over six weeks

The committee, however, has yet to release its report

Pro-choice lobbyists have welcomed Archbishop Tutu's "enlightened" statements but suggested he has not gone far enough Pro-lifers have slammed him for being "emotive" and "morally subjective"

President of Pro-life South Africa Claude Newbury countered an attack by Archbishop Tutu that he (Newbury) was a fanatic by suggesting the cleric too could be classified as a one-time fanatical opponent of apartheid

Dr Newbury, an orthodox Catholic who is also the head of the polyclinic at J G Strydom Hospital in Gauteng, said "Since when is 'fanatic' a dirty word? Just because I firmly believe in what I am doing and working for I am being personally attacked"

In a weekend paper the archbishop — who is in the United States — said abortion was not only recommended but "obligatory" under a range of circumstances

These included rape and where a child, say an 11-year-old, was sexually abused and then fell pregnant

He suggested that existing laws which allow for abortion under these circumstances needed to be relaxed

Bishop Tutu also lashed out at the fanatical anti-abortion faction, calling its members "fanatics"

Dr Claude Newbury regarded abortion as murder

"How can the South African judiciary, that is against capital punishment and finds there are no circumstances in which a murdering rapist can be put to death, believe it's justifiable to kill an unborn child?"

He accused Archbishop Tutu of "advocating the murder of an innocent child for the crime of the child's father"

"This won't unrape the mother but adds the evil of the murder of the child to the existing evil of the rape"

Dr Newbury believed a woman who was raped should not be granted an abortion

"The solution is for society to care for her, support her, love and affirm the mother during her pregnancy and in the end, if she still does not want the child, she should be able to give it up for adoption

"We need to lessen the circumstances in society that cause sexual abuse and rape, like stopping the promotion of pornography

"Each day in the United States doctors murder more than 5 000 innocent children They use abortion to correct a contraceptive failure," he said

Children who were raped and impregnated should also not be given the option of an abortion, he added

"The twist in the tale is that Tutu is against the abuse of children — his example of an 11-year-old who is raped and impregnated — but is in favour of the fatal abuse of the unborn child

"Children are becoming sexually maturer at a younger age, but the idea of a child being raped is not desirable It's an emotive example

"How many 11-year-olds do you know who could possibly fall pregnant?"

President of the Abortion Rights Action Group Marge Dyer said any civilised country would agree that abortion should be allowed in cases of rape and abuse

Laws governing these circumstances were still strict and traumatic for the women, she said

Her organisation wanted the Act scrapped and to have abortion available on demand during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy

"We feel the church should go further The Anglican church's position of reverence for life needs to encompass the life of the mother Regard has to be given to her circumstances, socio-economic conditions and the sheer stress as a result of an unwanted pregnancy

"Abortion on request and on demand are the same thing No woman should be subjected to committees of doctors, psychiatrists or social workers She should not be subjected to spousal or partner consent for abortions

"The woman should be able to make the decision about her life She alone knows what her situation is No-one else can make this decision for her

"Anything less than this will send women to the back streets As soon as women are hedged about by waiting periods and obligatory counselling, they head for the back streets"

She said doctors should be there to answer questions and not to give mandatory advice

In Europe, where most countries had given women the right to have abortions, more than 80 percent had made up their own minds and merely wanted information on where they could have an abortion performed

"It would be great if the church would come out on a woman's right to protect her own life It's not only foetal life we are concerned with, but the mother's life too Her life, her health and circumstances are endangered because she cannot have an abortion," said Dr Dyer

"We — a pro-choice group — too have a reverence for life We are concerned about the lives of women

"It's no good insisting on the birth of children who are disadvantaged from the time they are born The church cannot cope It's no good saying the state must cope Social services cannot cope You just have to look at the increase in the numbers of street children," she said

Star 1/7/95

Male, female condoms to be available in schools

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL (237)

Cape Town — Condoms will now be supplied to schools by the Department of Health — on request

"Condoms are distributed by the provincial offices, Aids training and information centres and clinics. If a school requests condoms, they will be supplied.

"The HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted disease (STD) programme has no specific policy or strategy towards distributing condoms in schools," said Dr Mariette Roos

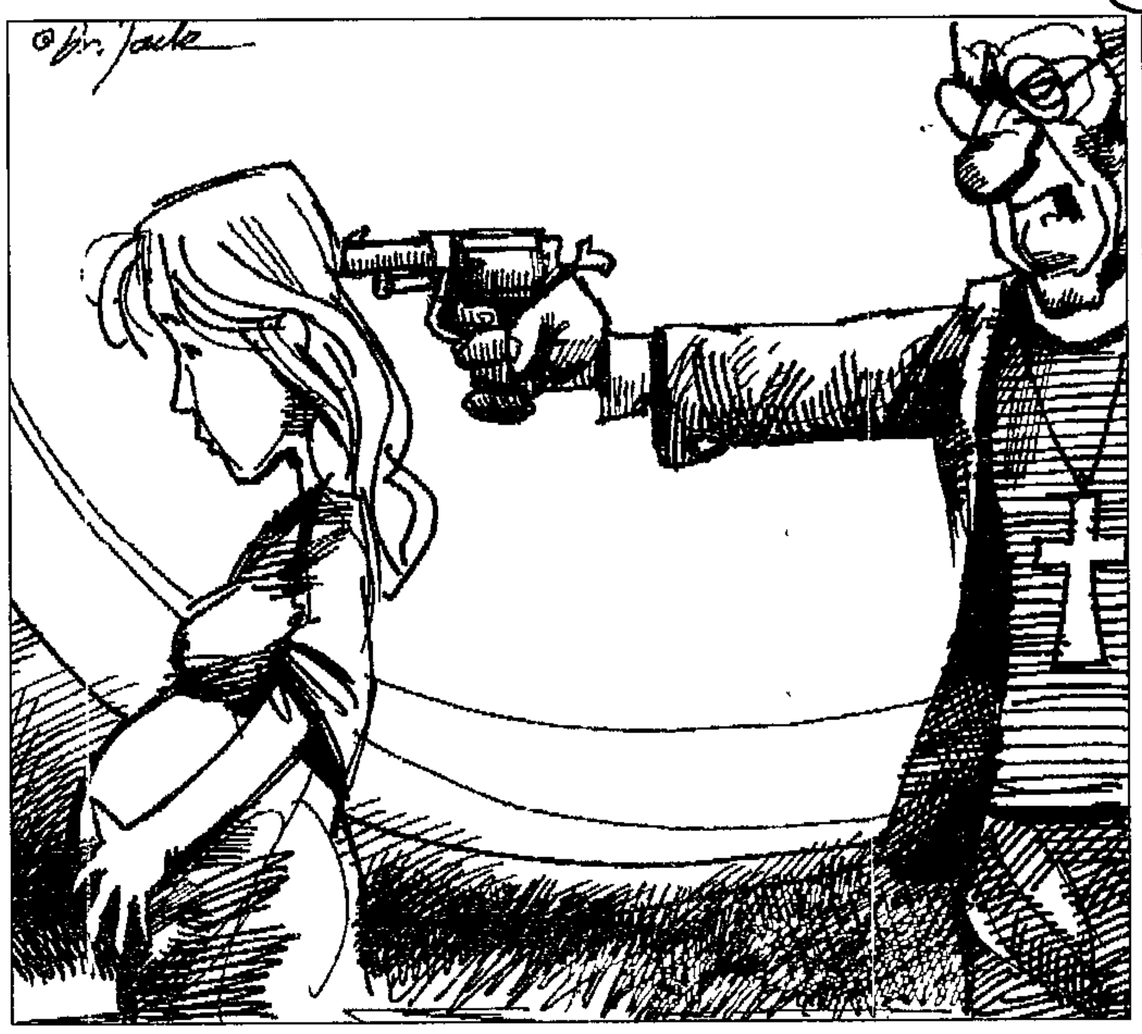
Some teenagers were engaging in unprotected multiple sexual partner relationships, she said "Ad hoc studies indicate girls as young as 12 and 13 are already infected."

The department intends distributing 97-million male condoms and 90 000 female condoms

Abortion: A matter for empathy

(237) WM 7-13/7/95

Charles Villa-Vicencio, a theologian, takes issue with the pro-life lobby and pleads for a more realistic and humane abortion law



RIGHT-WING Christians who once spent their energy condemning religious groups for their stand against apartheid, are now regrouping around the abortion issue

Some well-meaning Christians will no doubt feel compelled to join their campaign Most Christians probably do not, however, see abortion as a clear-cut issue Religious sensitivities leave many Christians opposed to the enshrinement of the unqualified right to abortion in the Constitution as an inalienable right. They also do not want to forbid it under any circumstances

Bluntly stated, we can do without the kind of ideological warfare that abortion has engendered in the United States and elsewhere Slogans that scream "Abortion is Murder", "Baby Killers", and "Women Haters" militate against one side hearing what the other is saying They confirm the zealots on both sides in their entrenched positions They make little contribution to solving a complex problem

There is, ironically, common ground between the so-called pro-life and pro-choice sides of the abortion debate Both show concern for human life

Progressive Christians in South Africa have long affirmed the need to side with the weak — protecting life where it is vulnerable Those opposed to abortion argue that life in the womb is the most vulnerable of all Pope John Paul II gives credence to this position by stating that contraception, embryonic research, abortion, capital punishment and euthanasia are all part of a single "culture of death" For him, something new begins at the moment of conception "It would never be made human (later) if it were not human already"

Many things are human. Our genetic structure, the cells of our bodies and those bits of tissue that live on after we are formally pronounced dead Yet it takes more than any of these to constitute a complete human being Scholastic writers (yes, they were all males and supposedly celibate), postulated about the emergence and existence of the soul That debate, in one form or another, continues

It is a question perhaps furthest from the mind of a woman who is pregnant because she has been violated, raped and abused It is probably also not a priority for any woman facing the prospect of bearing an unwanted child

The problem is that theologians, no less than medical scientists, do not agree as to when human life begins Heated debate continues concerning the admissibility of abortion prior to fourteen weeks of pregnancy, and the point of foetal viability and related matters It is his awareness that different stages require different approaches that makes Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, say that his argument is not with the Pope's theology but with his biology There are too many ambiguities in life for preachers to beat the pulpit or popes to pontificate about too dogmatically

A world in which women and men are equal and children are cared for — a world in which abortion is unthinkable. The problem is that we are not yet there. It is this that requires compassion and realism

The need for the protection of life pertains, of course, not only to the life of the embryonic child, but also to that of the mother Currently, a woman wanting an abortion, under the strict conditions of the Abortion and Sterilisation Act (1975), has to make written application, find a doctor willing to take the case, get corroboration and certification by two other physicians and the written authority of the physician in charge of the hospital

These bureaucratic obstacles deter many privileged women from going this route Underprivileged women, most of them black, are even more severely handicapped by these requirements The legislation is the antithesis of a system that provides equal access and safeguards to the physical and mental health of women

This racial bias results in a conservative estimate of 300 000 South African women resorting to illegal abortions every year, often with disastrous results A recent study in Denmark, which liberalised its abortion laws several years back, shows that the number of abortions are beginning to decline This is attributed to the fear of Aids, the free availability of condoms and a vigorous programme on sex education in schools that, *inter alia*, emphasises the dangers of employing abortion as a means of contraception

There are people on both sides of the abortion debate who are eagerly seeking to limit abortion In different ways they are also both pro-life Evangelical Christian and feminist Shelley Douglas sees the protection of life as a near-ethical absolute She argues that abortion is "almost always a moral wrong" The problem is we do not live in an ideal world This, she insists, makes "workable compromises" a necessity The Anglican Church has indicated that "abortion may sometimes be the correct moral decision, but it is always to be regretted"

The "solution" of the modern secular state to questions of religious and ethical sensitivity is to leave them to the discretion of the person concerned Add to this the right to privacy and we are left with an argument in favour of the abortion issue being left to the private decision-making of each individual woman concerned

Two rejoinders are, however, not out of place Excessive claims of personal autonomy, whether by men or women, have had disastrous socio-economic and ethical consequences in society It is this that makes the notion of unconditional "abortion on demand" questionable The African concept of community teaches that each individual is a person only through other persons It has a biblical ring about it It suggests that no woman should be left alone and unsupported to make a decision about abortion

That they are, is very much a consequence of 20 years of restrictive legislation that criminalises most abortions Perhaps it is too much to ask a violated person, a frightened teenager, or an enraged woman to consult with others in her hour of anger and despair Decisions made impulsively, out of fear or in ignorance, can, at the same time, have the most disastrous effects I am arguing for the availability of pre and post-abortion counselling as an essential part of any new abortion legislation

Secondly, men ought to be forced to face the consequences of their actions In the first instance, this involves the male directly responsible for the pregnancy All men, however, need to take responsibility for correcting a society within which, quite literally, women are left "holding the baby"

Issues as sensitive as abortion need to be dealt with not with harsh moral rectitude, but with empathy and compassion It is this that constitutes the high-water mark of New Testament ethics This same ethic compels Christians not to give up on the need to create a world where there is justice for women and children, where there is sexual responsibility and where men share responsibility for the children they father

At the heart of this position is a desire to build a world in which women and men are equal and children are cared for — a world, as others have put it, in which abortion is unthinkable The problem is that we are not yet there It is this that requires the nation to change the existing abortion legislation — to reflect compassion and realism

Villa-Vicencio is professor of religious studies at the University of Cape Town

'Let he who has no sperm cast the first stone'

(237) 7 WM 7-3/7/95

Rhoda Kadalie argues that the anti-abortion arguments of Christian fundamentalists are biblically unsound

THE march to Parliament in the last week of May was not only to protest against the exclusion of the words "Almighty God" in the final Constitution, and the liberalisation of the Constitution with regard to abortion pornography and prostitution — it also signalled a realignment of right-wing politics and religious fundamentalism

The anti-abortion submissions made to Parliament in May have been equally disturbing One of the leaders of these groups, a highly dubious political figure with links to the former regime s anti-liberation war machine on the border, is centrally involved in the anti-abortion campaign, I suspect with international right-wing financial support for the pro-life campaign

We should be wary of this unholy alliance between right-wing politics and Christian fundamentalism I wish to challenge their views, particularly with regard to abortion from a Christian point of view Their claim that abortion is murder is avowedly anti-Christian and I would like to point them to the Bible to illustrate my point

Consider Old Testament Law in the book of Exodus, 21 22-24 "If, when men come to blows, they hurt a woman who is pregnant and she suffers a miscarriage, though she does not die of it, the man responsible must pay the compensation demanded of him by the woman's master; he shall hand it over after arbitration But should she die, you shall give life for life, eye for an eye, tooth for tooth hand for hand, foot for foot"

In other words, according to Old Testament Law, if you cause the death of a foetus you merely pay a fine, if you cause the death of a woman, you lose your own life In those days the foetus was not considered to be a person ...Equally ludicrous, if we accept the argument that life begins at conception, then we have to accept that life begins before conception in that the sperm and the ovum are alive long before they get together at the moment of fertilisation If terminating life is murder, then the anti-abortionists should argue that terminating the life of an ovum or sperm is murder as well An acorn is not an oak, a seed is not a carrot, an embryo is not a human being

Nowhere in the Bible is the embryo or foetus given the status of a human being Personhood does not begin at conception Personhood begins when the baby takes its first breath, that is, when God infuses the baby with a soul Genesis 2 7 "And the Lord formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul

Another assumption made by Christian anti-abortionists, that God wants every foetus to grow into a person, is biblically unsound In Ecclesiastes 6 3, God compares the rich man who has led an empty, foolish life with a stillborn infant and says, "I maintain that the stillborn child is in better case than he" Jesus said of Judas, It would have been better for that man if he had not been born'

The other assumption held by anti-abortionists is that God wants every conception to result in a child Between one half and two-thirds of fertilised eggs in women fail to implant themselves in the uterus They are washed away unnoticed

Why didn't God speak out explicitly on the question of abortion in the Bible? It wasn't an issue in Biblical times (neither was polio, but who would say that polio vaccine is against the will of God?)

Anti-abortionists pretend to be motivated by reverence for life Their main motivation, I would argue, is revenge They want to see pregnant teenagers and women suffer the consequences of their "sin"

When the mob wanted to stone the woman who had committed adultery, Jesus said "He that is without sin among you let him cast the first stone (John 8 17) I cannot help but feel that if Jesus were here today he would say to them "Let he who has no sperm cast the first stone"!

Kadalie is gender equity officer at the University of the Western Cape

Population growth a threat to RDP, minister warns

(237)

Star 11/7/95

■ BY SELBY BOKABA

If steadily growing population numbers were allowed to undermine efforts at population upliftment, the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme would be out of reach, Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams has warned

In a statement to mark World Population Day today, Williams said it was encouraging that South Africa had a lower rate of population growth than most other African countries.

However, the rate was still too high to allow sustainable improvements in living standards and services.

"Our labour froce is growing at a rate of 2,8% per annum, which means that the annual economic growth rate should be at least 6% per annum to accommodate these people," Williams said.

"At the present rate of population growth in the country and considering the inherent restrictions on economic production and current economic growth rates, the standard of living of all South Africans will decrease," he said

Williams said the Government and business sector were working hard to increase economic growth

But this will not be enough if the demand for the provision of basic services exceeded the capabilities of the country

"This is an extremely serious situation which affects everyone in the country and which all of us should reflect on seriously on World Population Day," the minister said.

Williams made a special plea to all South Africans to familiarise themselves with the contents of the Green Paper on Population and Development which is available in his department

The Green Paper is a discussion document which everybody can contribute to or comment on to establish guidelines for a sensible population policy for South Africa

'Govt policy may sideline fertility issues'

Star 11/7/95 (237)

■ BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

World Population Day today has exposed fears that the Government's health policies are neglecting fertility issues

It has also shown that not all have accepted last year's Cairo International Conference on Population and Development premise that a woman's right to control her own fertility, and not demographics, should be the focus of a population programme

In a statement released yesterday, the Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa said the vital issue of fertility regulation was at risk of being "sidelined" by the focus on free health care for pregnant women, and children under six, and national programmes on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases

The shift in priority had caused major concern about the breaking down of previously well established family planning and sterilisation facilities, Dr Margeret Moss, Western Cape sterilisation society chairman said

"This is a tragedy, as it is estimated that well over half of all pregnancies in South Africa are unintended, and frequently unwanted"

Access to affordable contraceptive services, including voluntary sterilisation, were considered a basic human right, but a recent report showed sterilisation services were completely inadequate throughout South Africa, she added.

Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa executive director Sam Mphuthi added the Government had not kept its Cairo promise of additional funding for women's sexual and reproductive health

Gauteng's Population Unit, on the other hand, has warned that quality of life in the province will not improve if population growth sucks the money meant for economic development into housing and schooling

Education

It is using World Population Day to appeal to the province to help stabilise its 6,8-million population, which carries more than 17% of the total population

Positive ways to handle the problem included education, making health services available to all, creating jobs, building houses, controlling migration patterns, and making people aware they had a responsibility to conceive only as many children as they could care for, the unit said.

Birth rate 'must fall to ensure economy grows'

(237) BD 11/7/95

Catherine Crookes

GOVERNMENT and business' attempts to increase the country's productive capacity will be rendered futile unless the rapid population growth is curbed, Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams said yesterday on the eve of World Population Day.

With more than 380 000 babies born in the world each day, 3 000 of which are born in SA, the department has launched separate campaigns in each province to highlight the problems surrounding the country's rapid population growth.

Williams said that on July 11 1987 the baby was born that took the world's population over the 5-billion mark. Since then the international community had commemorated July 11 as World Population Day.

In an attempt to open debate regarding population development the department has distributed more than 10 000 copies of its Green Paper on population policy and it had held provincial workshops addressing the population question in all 11 languages.

Welfare and Population Development Deputy Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said: "In SA we are making the shift which was made at the Cairo Conference on Population.

"We are beginning to recognise that population development has to take into account a wide range of factors such as sustainable economics, development, population demographic trends, production and consumption figures and the position of women in society."

In the Western Cape a World Population Day commemoration is being held at the Victoria and Albert Waterfront, and in KwaZulu-Natal a "population" train will be travelling through the province.

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A SURVEY IN THE STAR, DAILY NEWS AND ARG

WORLD POPULATION DA

Focus on human beings, not human numbers

ARG 11/7/95 (237)

Investing in people is the key to sustainable population growth, as well as sustainable economic growth, according to this year's State of the World Population report of the UN Population Fund

This focus on human beings rather than human numbers was the landmark resolution adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo last year

The conference was given a broader mandate on development issues than previous population conferences This reflects the growing awareness that population, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and the environment are so interconnected that none of them can be considered in isolation

The ICPD endorsed a Programme of Action for the next 20 years, which places human beings at the centre of all development activities and encourages all governments to address global problems by meeting individual needs. This approach is being hailed as the start of a new era in population development

Three key principles of the plan are

- gender equality and equity,
- effective reproductive health care,
- expanded access to education, especially for girls

The world population is currently 5,7 billion According to UN projections annual population growth is likely to remain above 86 million until 2015 At that stage the world population will be between 7,1 billion and 7,8 billion, and by 2050 from 7,9 billion to 11,9 billion The target adopted by the Cairo conference is the lower figures, but the actual totals reached will be largely determined by the success in promoting the goals of the Programme of Action during the rest of this century

PO FACT

SA's population is expected to grow from the present 41,24 million to 45,3 million in the year 2000 and 53,5 million by 2010

The key to this new approach is empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services and promoting skills development and employment It emphasises that men play a pivotal role in fostering this

The Programme of Action also reaffirms the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have information, education and the means to do so

The report stated that in the past 30 years the has been great progress in developing countries in providing better health care, including reproductive health care and family planning This has resulted in lower birth and death rates, as well as reduced infant mortality and increased life expectancy

The progress was linked to higher levels of education and income, political support for population policies and changes in attitudes towards family planning Contraception has increased fourfold since1960-65

However, the disparity between countries and regions, continues Maternal death rates are 15 to 50 times greater in the developing world than in most developed countries Access to family planning, contraceptive use and average family size vary widely Worldwide some 350 million couples lack access to a full range of modern family planning information and services An estimated 120 million women would practise family planning if a modern method were available, affordable and acceptable

While women are entering the work force in record numbers, they still have less access to training, credit, property, natural resources and better paid jobs

Levels of education have risen and the gap between men and women is narrowing, the report says However, there are still nearly 960 million illiterate people in the world, two thirds of them women, and some 130 million children, of which 90 million are girls, are denied access to primary schooling

AND ARGUS

DAY

People, not numbers, are the focus this World Population Day This survey, edited by **ANITA ALLEN**, Science Writer at The Star, stresses the need to invest in people Meeting the individual's needs, broadening their opportunities and enabling them to realise their potential, is the key to productivity, development that can be sustained, as well as balanced population growth This reflects a growing awareness that what people do is far more important than how many people there are on this planet

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(237)

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A child is born ... sometime around July 11, 1987 a child was born which pushed the world's human population to 5 billion. In South Africa a child is born every 26 seconds, adding 1 million to our population each year. PICTURE KAREN SANDERSON

Six billionth child expected next year

ARGT 11/7/95 (237)

All South Africans must guard against jeopardising their new-found freedom and privileges by having more children than they can afford These words of caution were said last year by Dr Nthato Motlana, while he was chairman of the now disbanded Council for Population Development

He added "The greatness of a nation is not determined by the number of its people but by the quality of their existence. If the

The report identifies reproductive health as one of three key issues in stabilising population growth, along with gender equality and equity, and education

"The need for a functioning and effective health care system, with related education programmes which focus on families being small, happy and prosperous, cannot be stressed enough," the report says

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while he was chairman of the now disbanded Council for Population Development

He added "The greatness of a nation is not determined by the number of its people but by the quality of their existence If the population growth is much faster than the economic growth or job creation any country can only head for disaster and the expectations for a better life and a prosperous future could be mere pipe dream "

It is appropriate to recall his words today, which is internationally commemorated as World Population Day Theoretically, it was on this day in 1987, that the world's 5 billionth child was born At the time the world's population was growing at a staggering 86 million people a year Today the rate is close to 91 million a year

The 6 billionth inhabitant is now expected to be born in 1996 – a year sooner than was predicted two years ago The total of the world s population in 2025 is now expected to be 8,5 billion, 300 million more than had been projected

The present population of SA is an estimated 41,24 million, and on present trends will double in less than 30 years

In encouraging South Africans to accept small families as the norm for future prosperity, Motlana pre-empted this year's UN World Population Report Issued to coincide with World Population today, the report stresses a comprehensive approach to population growth

Under this the now outdated idea of family planning in isolation from related issues falls away Instead the report stresses an urgent need for reproductive health care, of which family planning is only one essential component

POINT

South Africa's population is currently growing at a rate of 2% a year The labour force grows at about 2,8% a year To accommodate this growth in the labour force, and annual economic growth rate of 6% is needed In 1994 the economic growth rate was only 2,3% and in the last decade an average of 0,7%

health care system, with related education programmes which focus on families being small, happy and prosperous, cannot be stressed enough," the report says

Regardless of the political football that has developed around birth control programmes in South Africa, there is abundant evidence internationally that information about birth control and access to contraceptives have been a major causes of declining fertility in all countries

Indonesia, which established a National Family Planning Coordinating Board in 1970, the barrage of family planning messages is relentless A national family-planning jingle plays when a train passes a railway crossing, religious leaders give lectures on contraception, and at sunset sirens wail to remind women to take the pill

Indonesia's campaign has met with notable success Since 1972, the fertility rate has fallen from 5,6 to 2,77 children per woman, 400 000 couples practised birth control in 1972, in 1994 more than 20 million couples did so

Executive director of the UN Population Fund, Dr Nafis Sadik, says that providing safe, affordable, effective contraceptive services is the core of population programmes "But family planning goes far beyond merely planning family size Size is only the beginning, after that comes nutrition, health, education and attention to all the children, but especially the girls

"We have never needed more urgently to put aside our differences and co-operate We must act now as if our lives depended on what we do in the next decade, because if we don't, our lives and those of our children, may not be worth living "

UN director astounded by spirit of South Africans

United Nations Population Fund director for South Africa, Dr Jay Parsons, sees his task here as two-fold to facilitate the implementation of processes in South Africa which are already in place in the rest of the world And to bring UN resources – human, technological and financial – to assist South Africa in achieving its goals

Since his arrival last November, he has toured six of the nine provinces KwaZulu Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape are still outstanding, but in the rest he has met government and provincial authorities. He is astounded by the spirit of South Africans

"There's a tremendous commitment and desire of people, despite everything, to work together People who should be demoralised by the whole restructuring process are energised," he says

Parsons, who has worked in Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Bangladesh, says there is nothing that compares with the mix of developing and developed world he has found in South Africa

Optimistic ... Dr Jay Parsons, UN Population Fund director for South Africa.

"I can't think of any more fascinating place in the world at this juncture in history The spirit of reconstruction and reconciliation that pervades the country, in face of enormous challenges, bodes well for achieving the unlimited potential of South Africa "

A SURVEY IN THE STAR, DAILY NEWS AND ARGUS

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POPULATION TRENDS ASK SOUTH AFRICANS TO THINK AGAIN!

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"The need for a functioning and effective health care system, with related education programmes which focus on families being small, happy and prosperous, cannot be [illegible] The report says

SA birth rate too high – minister

Political Staff (237)

MORE than 380 000 babies are born in the world every day, with 3 000 births recorded daily in South Africa alone

At this rate, standards of living are destined to drop, says Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams

In a statement to mark World Population Day today, Mr Williams said if social upliftment efforts were usurped by population growth, it would be difficult to achieve the reconstruction and development programme's aims

South Africa's population growth, at two percent, was still too high. ARG 11/7/95

The labour force was growing at a rate of about 2,8 percent a year, which meant annual economic growth had to be at least six percent a year

Last year economic growth had been only 2,3 percent In the previous decade it had been an average of only 0,7 percent a year

● See pages 10, 11.

Education key factor in family planning

CT 2/8/95 (237)

STAFF REPORTER

CONTRACEPTION has failed to be the "magic bullet" to curb the population explosion in developing countries that the international community hoped it would be, a United Nations official says

It had been replaced by strategies to empower women by improving their knowledge of reproductive health, Dr Jay Parsons, UN Population Fund (UNPF) country director, told a conference in the city hosted by the Phambili Women's Organisation and Earth Action The conference brought together women experts on reproductive health from all over Africa

In South Africa, where contraception had been politicised, family planning should be projected as a way of enabling women to take control of their reproductive health, Dr Parsons said

There had been a breakthrough in attitudes towards population and development when it became clear that the greater a woman's education and participation in the economy, the more inclined she was to use contraception

At the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last year, about 170 countries, including South Africa, agreed to provide $17bn (R61,5bn) for female reproductive health care by the year 2000 and to remove many other barriers that prevented women from participating fully in society

Dr Parsons said the UNPF had set up an office in Pretoria and would fund a health programme in the Northern Cape which it hoped to expand to the other provinces

POPULATION (237)

Policy babble

FM 4/8/95

The recently released Green Paper — *Population Policy For SA?* — invites people to deluge the Ministry of Welfare & Population Development with their collective thoughts on the issue. They will no doubt do so Everyone has an opinion on matters such as birth control and fertility

The Green Paper is an absurd document It claims as its rationale that it wants the public's views on two broad questions:

- What are the gaps in the RDP? Should the RDP take into account population trends and, in particular, how development activities affect population trends?, and
- If population trends are a concern, what institutional structures are necessary in order that they be taken into account, or are there already adequate structures?

Following on this, some basic data is supplied: population (40,7m in October 1994), projected population (57,5m by 2010), rate of natural increase (2,3%), GNP growth rate (2,3% in 1994) and so on There is additional information on the availability of flush toilets, the rate of teenage pregnancies, what percentage of the population uses wood for fuel

The Green Paper then sets out a series of socio-economic options and invites responses. A key question is this. "Should SA set goals and time-frames specifically in relation to fertility levels — that is, the average number of children a woman or man should have?" In simpler language, should the birthrate be cut by law and the bureaucracy, as in China?

The choice then presented to the reader is not "yes" or "no" Instead, model answers are printed for the respondents to choose from It is worth quoting one of these to give the flavour of the entire Green Paper

"If we decide to have an explicit policy to lower the fertility rate, then we must set goals with time frames in relation to the fertility rate. This is necessary in order to measure the effectiveness of the development programme in relation to the objective of lowering the fertility rate This would be represented as a goal of X children a year, for example, a goal of an average of two children per man or woman by the year 2010"

This sort of nonsense goes on for 44 pages, at the end of which the ministry says "Thank you for your responses."

What is the point? Apart from the costs of printing and disseminating this document, and keeping bureaucrats in business, the clearest intention would appear to be to arrive at a "mechanism for co-ordinating (SA's) policies and programmes in all departments in relation to their influence and their impact on resource usage, patterns of consumption and production, population trends and environmental management"

Here one can see that the ministry might be aiming at the creation of a super-department — under its aegis — which could then proceed to control virtually every aspect of human life within SA, including what its ever-rising population does in bed To call such a scheme Stalinist would be too kind· it posits a system of eugenics, influx controls, central economic planning, the abolition of all markets and the replacement of comprehensible language by a mixture of threatening gestures and sociology-based babble

For this we pay taxes For this Green Paper they cut down living trees ■

FW urges women to reject abortion

CT 10/8/95 (237)

LICHTENBURG: National Party women should reject proposals for abortion on demand, Deputy President F W de Klerk told a Women's Day party meeting here yesterday.

He urged them to play a leading and constructive role in the abortion debate.

Abortion would be morally acceptable only if a mother's life or health were directly threatened, Mr De Klerk said

"We are prepared to improve existing legislation, but we are not prepared to support abortion on demand," he said

Mr De Klerk also called on women to use and promote "healthy family planning"

If the current population growth rate of 2,8% was not curbed there would be a rise in poverty and unemployment.

"We can only guarantee a better life for all if we have fewer children."

De Klerk said discrimination against women had to be abolished, but not by quotas

"Women must, and will, play a prominent role in the community and the economy," he said, "but this must take place in a balanced and reasonable manner" — Sapa

NP to take strong stand on abortion

(237) Star 10/8/95

BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

Deputy President and National Party leader F W de Klerk yesterday rejected the legalisation of abortion on demand and said the NP would oppose any legislation in this regard

In a Women's Day address at Lichtenburg in the North West, De Klerk said the NP was prepared to improve existing legislation on abortion He urged NP women to play a leading role in ensuring the abortion debate took place within "the framework of responsible ethical and moral principles".

Poverty

He said the NP would only accept abortion that was "morally justifiable", especially where the welfare of the mother and the child were under threat

"Strangely enough, (of) those who advocate the right to life of murderers, the loudest are often the ones who have the least to say regarding the life of the unborn child. Where does the State's responsibility to protect all life begin and where does it end?" De Klerk asked

He also encouraged women to be advocates of a "healthy family planning" order for South Africa to win the battle against poverty

"We can ensure a better life for everyone only if we get fewer children," he said

In an attack on affirmative action, De Klerk said the wrongs of the past should rather be corrected by opening up opportunities than by employing quotas He said merit should be the only criterion when people were appointed or elected to office.

"Women should be given equal opportunities All obstacles preventing them from competing with men must be removed and all forms of discrimination must be removed," the deputy president said

Allow abortion on demand, parliamentary report urges

By ESTHER WAUGH (237)
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Star 12/8/95

Cape Town — A report tabled by a parliamentary committee yesterday recommends that women should be allowed to have abortions on demand up until the 14th week of pregnancy.

The Ad Hoc Select Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation also recommended — after extensive public hearings — that the current Act regulating abortions be repealed. The "cumbersome, time-consuming and discriminatory procedures should be simplified," the report said

The committee added that a wider range of health personnel should be trained and authorised to perform abortions Additional health facilities should be provided and existing facilities should be provided for women in areas where there are few, if any, doctors

Although counselling should be available, it should not be compulsory except for minors

♦ Abortion on demand

"The consent of a woman's partner or husband should not be mandatory In the case of a minor, she should be advised to consult parents or responsible family members or friends, but abortion should not be denied if she does not choose to consult," the report said. (237) Star 12/8/95

Names and identities of women undergoing abortions should not be passed on to a central statistics collection point, it said

The report also proposed the scrapping of the requirement that two doctors be consulted before an abortion could be performed

The committee recommended that any doctor who had conscientious objections be free to recuse himself. "They must, however, refer the woman to others who are willing to take part in such a procedure," the report said.

The issues of abortion and sterilisation should not be dealt with in the same law, the committee recommended

The report is, however, some distance from being turned into legislation This is the first step in a legislative procedure which includes debates in Parliament, the compiling of legislation and then amendments recommended by Parliament.

Concern over plan for late abortions

(237) ST 13/8/95

By CAS St LEGER and PETER De IONNO

A CLAUSE proposing that the abortion of a healthy foetus be allowed at six months because of "poor social conditions" has sparked debate over whether a mother's poverty should be grounds for such late intervention.

Proposals tabled in Parliament on Friday by a National Assembly committee recommend abortion on demand for pregnancies up to 14 weeks — and up to 24 weeks under specified conditions, including abnormalities, risk to the mother and "poor social conditions" They also said that lack of consent of a spouse or parent in the case of a girl under 16 should not be a reason for denying abortion

Babies born at 24 weeks (six months) weigh about 500g and may survive if they are placed in intensive care Foetuses aborted at this stage have upset nursing staff by continuing to breathe on their own for two hours.

Many doctors believed abortions at 24 weeks were justified only in the case of severe abnormalities of the foetus or grave risk to the mother's health — "but not for social conditions"

"That's crazy," said Dr Basil van Iddekinge, a gynaecologist at Wits medical school and a member of the legal termination of pregnancy committee at a major provincial hospital in Gauteng

However, Dr James McIntyre of Baragwanath hospital, chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association, said "The recommendations have been well thought up and presented in a realistic manner."

He said his hospital saw 3 000 cases of illegal abortions a year (It costs R2 000 in a state hospital to clear up a backstreet abortion Half that in ward and theatre costs to perform the procedure legally)

According to Mr Chris Diamond, spokesman for the Abortion Reform Action Group, about 250 000 illegal abortions are performed in South Africa each year He said this figure was released in June by the Medical Research Council, whose report showed that around 450 women died every year as a result of these illegal abortions.

Poor women could have pregnancies terminated at 24 weeks

Dr McIntyre said current legislation had no legal upper time limit on abortions, so the inclusion of 24 weeks merely formalised the existing position He said very few foetuses could survive at this age

Dr van Iddekinge also took issue with the recommendation that under-16s could abort without parental consent "Parents might be angry but mostly they try to do what is best for their children It would be better to recommend that parents are involved, except in exceptional circumstances," he said

Dr McIntyre agreed with providing abortions to girls under 16 "It is not always possible for a 16-year-old to obtain the permission of her family," he said.

Academics and medical staff will meet in Johannesburg next week to thrash out the points of contention.

Christian leaders are almost united in opposing any form of abortion on demand

The Catholic church, with three million members, and the International Fellowship of Christian Churches, representing 600 charismatic churches with 400 000 members, have been briefing counsel to oppose abortion legislation in the Constitutional Court should the recommedations of a National Assembly committee be enacted Muslims will also oppose abortion

Chief Rabbi of South Africa, Rabbi Cyril Harris, said life was sacrosanct under Jewish law. "Therefore we believe abortion is always wrong, unless it is therapeutic, in other words where there is a danger that the foetus might seriously damage or kill the mother"

But he added a rider which, he said, reflected his personal opinion This was that "in the African situation where clearly millions of children are starving, one should perhaps take a look at financial health too I don't think children are born to starve and have lives of misery," he said.

South Africa's largest single congregation, the Zionist Church, with around six million members, is opposed to abortion, except when the mother's life is endangered, spokesman Ezra Mantini said.

Father Ciro Benevettini, spokesman for the Vatican in Rome, said Catholics in South Africa had made their opposition to the relaxation of abortion laws clear

Pastor Ron Steele, spokesman for the Rhema Church, said the committee's recommendations were a "bitter disappointment"

The Rev Freek Swanepoel, moderator of the Ned Geref Church, which claims 1,5 million members, said the church would encourage congregations to campaign against the relaxation of abortion controls.

Tough battle looms on abortion bill

CT 14/8/95 (237)

A TOUGH and emotional battle is expected in Parliament when the proposed Freedom of Choice (Abortion) Bill is debated, following announcements yesterday by pro-life campaigners and the NP that they would do "everything possible" to prevent abortion being legalised

The ANC said last night the party hoped the bill would be debated in the current session of Parliament, which lasts another four weeks

The special parliamentary committee said on Friday abortion on demand should be granted to all South African women, including girls under 16, and proposed that a wide range of health personnel be trained and authorised to perform abortions

Pro-Life national president Dr Claude Newbury expressed his "revulsion" at the abortion proposals, and an NP statement said it will take "all possible steps", including action in the Constitutional Court, to prevent abortion being legalised

"The state becomes the mortal enemy of its citizens if it permits the murder of unborn children," Dr Newbury said

Pro-choice campaigners, however, welcomed the committee's recommendations, saying abortion on demand will reduce the number of illegal backstreet abortions — Political Staff, Staff Reporter, Sapa-AFP

Anti-abortion groups vow to battle planned new laws

ARG 14/8/95 (237)

Political Staff and Sapa-AFP

ANTI-ABORTION, religious and political groups have vowed to battle planned new laws which will give South African women abortion on demand

The ANC and National Party are poised for a showdown over the parliamentary committee report recommending far-reaching liberalisation of abortion laws

While the ANC has said the report will probably form the basis of new law, the NP has vowed to take the fight all the way to the constitutional court, citing constitutional guarantees of the right to life

NP health spokesman Willem Odendaal said there was no theological, moral or ethical basis for the report's recommendations

He accused the ANC of "steamrollering" so that only its views were reflected in the report, leaving no room for minority opinion

The pro-choice Abortion Rights Action Group has called on women to lobby MPs to support the report's recommendations

The Catholic Church, with three-million members, and the International Fellowship of Christian Churches, representing 600 churches with 400 000 members, have told their lawyers to oppose abortion legislation in the constitutional court

Islamic jurist Sheik AK Toffar called for a national referendum "Let the voice of the people be heard on this issue"

Gynaecologists, meanwhile, expressed reservations about plans to allow abortions up to 24 weeks into pregnancy

"That's crazy," said Basil van Iddenkinge, of Witwatersand University, adding that he believed that abortions at that advanced stage were only justified in the case of severe abnormalities of the foetus or grave risk to the mother's health

Pro-choice campaigners, however, welcomed the committee's recommendations, saying abortion on demand would reduce the number of backstreet abortions

Abortion Reform Action Group spokesman Chris Diamond said an estimated 250 000 illegal abortions were carried out annually in South Africa, resulting in the deaths of about 450 women every year

The report, by the ad hoc committee on abortion and sterilisation, proposes

- Legal abortion on request of the woman up to 14 weeks' pregnancy
- Abortion on request between 14 and 24 weeks under certain conditions.
- Training and authorisation of a wider range of personnel to perform abortions
- Allowing minors to have abortions without family members being informed
- Counselling should be available but not mandatory, except where a minor is to have an abortion

The report said doctors with conscientious objections to performing abortions would be allowed to recuse themselves

It recommended scrapping the requirement that two doctors be consulted before an abortion could be performed

The report will be referred to the national assembly committee on health after which legislation will be put to the national assembly and senate

ces.

... the prisoner's demands. — Sapa.

Province considering school subsidy cuts

Bonile Ngqiyaza BD 14/8/95

SEVERE budgetary constraints and an expected shortfall of R422m might mean a diversion of bursaries, hostel accomodation and transport subsidies — for both pupils and officials — to other projects in the Eastern Transvaal education department, education MEC David Mabuza has said.

A "reprioritisation of needs" was essential this year to deal effectively with problems. A needs analysis in the province earlier in the year had indicated that R2,2bn would be needed by government. "However, the education guidelines vote was put at R1,7bn, a shortfall of R422m," he said.

Last month an announcement by the Free State government, that it had decided to withdraw bursaries from thousands of Model C pupils, resulted in charges from the public that it was deliberately undermining the Model C school system.

Mabuza said he realised the need to exercise tact in dealing with the "sensitive" issue, and reassured stakeholders that "fairness" would guide the move towards a new and equitable dispensation in the province.

His department had an "inescapable duty" — outlined in the interim constitution — to deploy state resources on an equitable basis to ensure all citizens were afforded the same opportunities, he said.

Mabuza said there was still room for more submissions on the issue of subsidies. These were to be sent to his office not later than August 21

Mabuza said the former KwaNdebele homeland had — besides committing the new provincial government to capital projects before last year's election — overspent budgets and left huge debts that needed servicing.

"There is virtually very little money left for capital projects," he said.

Abortion plan is criticised

BD 14/8/95 (237)

MARITZBURG — Christians for Truth have accused a parliamentary committee which recommended abortion on demand of ignoring submissions against abortion.

The group was reacting to reports that the ad hoc select committee on abortions and sterilisation, in its report tabled on Friday, recommeded that women be allowed abortion on demand until the 14th week of pregnancy.

The report also recommended — after extensive public hearings — that the Act regulating abortions be repealed, and that a wider range of health personnel be trained and authorised to perform abortions.

Christians For Truth said the committee "has repeated the tactics of the task group for pornography by totally ignoring 99% of submissions which disagreed with their predetermined plan of action". — Sapa.

Govt told to fund research

Mduduzi ka Harvey BD 14/8/95

RESEARCH at SA institutions of higher learning should aim to create job-makers, not work-seekers, and be directed at talented, innovative personnel who could compete internationally, UCT vice-chancellor Dave Woods said at the weekend.

Addressing the Foundation for Research Development seminar on "The role of research in SA amid uncertainties of transition", he said future research at technikons and universities should be funded by government and foster quality and capacity building.

Peninsula Techknikon rector Brian Figaji called for the integration of technikons into the higher education research system.

He said there should be a redistribution of resources to build a research infastructure at technikons and historically black institutions The state should grant technikons the same level of funding as universities.

The capacity for technikon research in SA was hindered by inadequate facilities, lack of appropriate equipment and a lack of qualified staff.

Policies should be formulated at universities and technikons which would influence the performance of teaching and research.

NP and Pro-life lobby up in arms

Abortion report likely to form basis of new law

(237) Star 14/8/95

BY PATRICK BULGER and PAULA FRAY

A parliamentary committee report which calls for abortion on demand would probably form the basis of new legislation, according to the committee's chairman.

"I am confident it will result in legislation," ANC MP Dr Abe Nkomo, who chaired the ad hoc select committee on abortion and sterilisation, said yesterday

But, while pro-choice activists have welcomed proposals to legalise abortion, anti-abortionists have vowed to do everything in their power to stop them from becoming law

Last resort

The National Party vowed to take all legal steps needed to stop the proposals from being made law "As a last resort, should the proposed legislation not be stopped at an earlier stage, the NP will challenge the legality of such a law in the Constitutional Court," said health spokesman Dr Willem Odendaal

The report calls for the repeal of the current Abortion and Sterilisation Act, for "abortion on request of the woman up to 14 weeks' gestational age and between 14 and 24 weeks under broadly specified conditions"; and for simpler procedures including the training of a "wider range of personnel" to perform abortions.

Counselling would not be mandatory and a minor could have an abortion without telling family members or friends Doctors who held "conscientious objections" could recuse themselves.

Although he was confident the report would form the basis of new legislation, Nkomo said it still had to be subjected to further scrutiny at the portfolio committee stage He was aware there may be moves to challenge new legislation in the Constitutional Court on the basis that it contravened the right to life clause in the constitution

Inclusion of the 24-week provision was intended to assist those who did not have ready access to healh care, he added These people were often forced into backstreet abortions with disastrous health consequences

Nkomo said the intended new legislation "brings South Africa into line with most of the civilised world"

When health conditions improved, it might be possible to change the law But as conditions stood, the restrictions on abortion were bad health policy

Odendaal said. "The right to life — including that of an unborn child — is enshrined in the constitution No justification for the murder of defenceless unborn babies can be found."

'Intentional killing'

Claude Newbury, national president of Pro-life, said the organisation would do "everything possible to try to stop this from being made law" He said abortion was the "intentional killing of young human beings".

Abortion Rights Action Group president Marj Dyer said Arag was pleased the proposals had been accepted by the committee. She called on women in political parties to speak up for the changes as existing laws had "caused only suffering"

Women lend support to easy abortion

(237) Sowetan 14/8/95

By Claire Keeton

WOMEN's organisations yesterday gave their support for the proposed liberalisation of the law on abortion that will allow abortion on demand up to the 14th week of pregnancy

These recommendations were tabled in Parliament on Friday by the Ad Hoc Select Committee on Abortions and Sterilisation after a process of public hearings

People Opposing Women Abuse (Powa), the Women's Health Project and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies's Gender Project at Wits University, have been fighting for changes to the law

Powa coordinator Ms Anu Pillay said about 200 000 women have illegal abortions in South Africa every year and many of them die or are hospitalised

She said "Legal abortion is only accessible now to middle class white women with money and the majority who need abortions are working class or teenage black women

"Abortion happens whether it is legal or not Powa's position is to recommend abortion on demand up to 13 weeks"

She said Powa counselled five to 15 women every month, who come in pregnant as a result of rape or incest, and it was virtually impossible for them to get a legal abortion

Meanwhile, religious groups opposing abortion are up in arms about the proposed liberalisation of the law Leaders of the Zionist church plan to oppose it, along with Muslim groups

The Catholic Church, with the charismatic Fellowship of Christian Churches, have been briefing lawyers to oppose pro-choice legislation in the Constitutional Court

Another group, Christians for Truth, accused the parliamentary committee of ignoring the bulk of submissions opposed to abortion

Health officials already discussing implementation of abortion plans

(237) Star 15/8/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

While pro-life groups are preparing to challenge any abortion-on-demand legislation in the Constitutional Court, doctors and health officials are already informally beginning to discuss implementation of proposed legislation.

The ad hoc select committee on abortion and sterilisation recommended to Parliament on Friday that current abortion law be streamlined to allow abortion on request up to 14 weeks' gestational period, and between 14 and 24 weeks under certain broadly specified conditions.

Although the 24-week specification is expected to be problematic and hotly debated, the pro-choice lobby sees the recommendations as sensible changes to the Abortion Law of 1975.

Director-general of health Dr Olive Shisana yesterday said Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma still had to discuss and decide on a process through which the proposals would progress before becoming law.

Shisana said details of implementation had not been discussed at ministerial level, but it was possible doctors were beginning to assist with planning ahead.

Dr Helen Rees, chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association, said the ongoing discussions between academic departments of obstetrics and gynaecology, general practitioners and health officials were beginning to shift to planning implementation, largely to avoid a repeat of last year's free health care policy change, which saw patient loads in paediatric and gynaecology departments almost double overnight.

Ditch abortion report, says DP

THE report by a parliamentary committee on abortion was not intellectually, morally or constitutionally respectable, the Democratic Party said yesterday

It should be discarded and abortion legislation re-examined, it said.

The DP believed women had a right to choose whether to have an abortion, but that abortion should take place within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

(237) CT 16/8/95

Sapa, Political Staff

'I thank God they didn't kill me like that . . .'

APPALLED by the recommendations of a parliamentary select committee on abortion and sterilisation to grant women abortions on request, a wide range of people against abortion insist the unborn child has the right to life

"I feel strongly about that life that is being denied That life can go on to such wonderful opportunities and great things Who gives anyone the right to end it?" said Mike Hanson, 58, of Velddrif

Mr Hanson was an adopted child and although he had a "difficult adoloscence" he says "If this law was in effect then, I could have been aborted I thank God they didn't kill me like that That would not only have denied me my life, but my four children and grandchildren as well Who says an unborn foetus cannot grow up to be a compassionate, loving person?"

"Adoption is the option," said Mr Hanson

"Ever since people first walked the earth, grief and agony have been part of life, and the killing of unborn children won t stop it"

He believed termination in the early stages of pregnancy in the case of rape was acceptable — "her womb needs to be cleansed without doing her harm"

"That I don't see as an abortion That's a medical approach to removing something in the same way a cancer growth is removed," said Mr Hanson, who was diagnosed with cancer in 1977

Religious groups such as the Catholic Church, the International Fellowship of Christian Churches, the Zionist Church, Africa Muslim Party, and the African Christian Democratic Party have vowed to fight the recommendations being passed as law

Sheriff Mohamed, the interim regional leader and secretary-general of the Africa Muslim Party, said he was "shocked" by the recommendations

He said section 9 of the interim constitution, which guaranteed the right to life, should be amended to include pre-natal life from the moment of conception

"The recommendations are totally unethical, contrary to divine law and the law of nature and will have traumatic consequences

"If parliament accepts them, it will be accountable in this world and in the hereafter for the awesome crime of allowing young unborn babies to be murdered There will be severe retribution on the day of judgment," he said

"Abortion can be allowed only if the mother's life is at stake We take a strong view on this and we stand in solidarity with our Christian and Jewish brethren and all other religions in the world who hold the same views"

In a letter to the constituent assembly, Mr Mohamed said "The majority of right-thinking citizens of good moral upbringing would denounce the right of women to be allowed to undergo abortions on demand"

Doctors For Life, which claims a membership of 400 doctors and academics, said in a statement they were "horrified" by the recommendations

They warned that future generations would remember the government for "atrocities against mankind" and treating "children of gestational age like animals" if the recommendations were accepted

"That would signal to scientists an undeniable crack in the wall of government integrity," they said

They also said the proposal might open the way for laboratory experiments on foetuses "If one is allowed to kill them, then surely performing experiments on them should be acceptable"

The South African Association of Men said the proposals showed a "flagrant disregard" for men's reproductive rights

Men were expected to pay maintenance for legitimate and illegitimate children and it would only be fair if they had an equal say when it came to abortion, spokesman Kierin O'Malley said

"If you must pay, you must have a say," he said

The committee's work was that of "a small group of non-representative South African women and a few men who are anti-family and have nothing but their own short-term interests in mind," he said

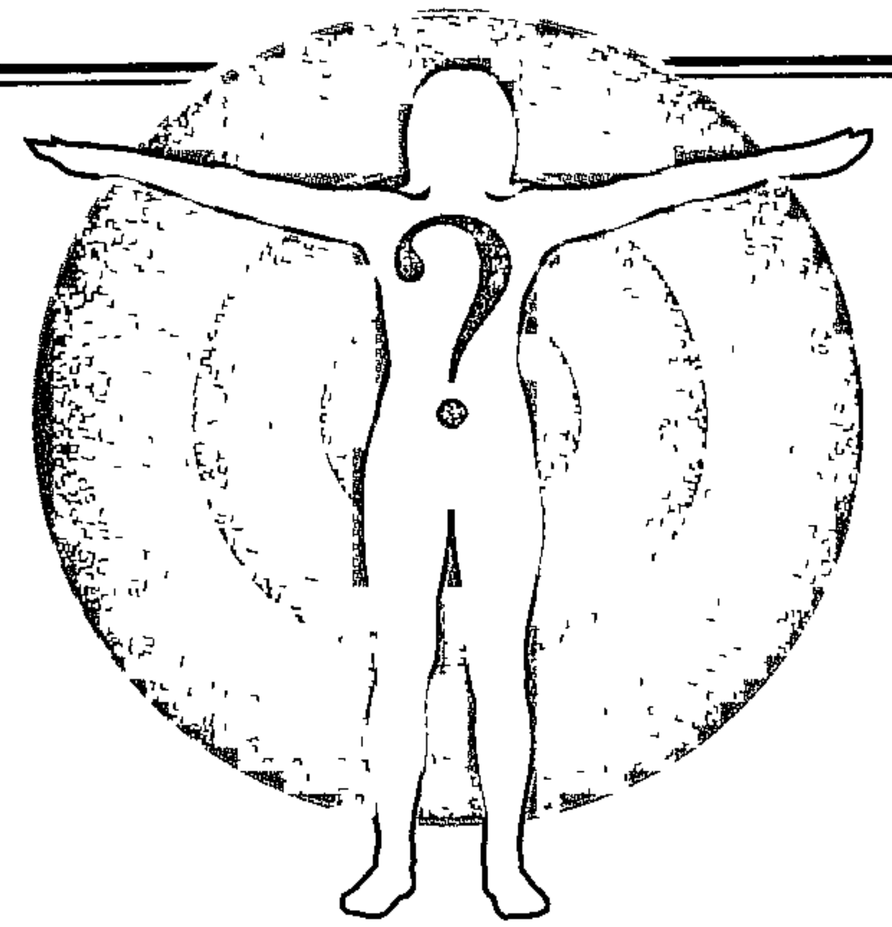
The interim constitution prohibited discrimination purely on the base of sex and if the draft bill became law, the association would challenge it in the Constitutional Court, said Mr O'Malley

THE RECOMMENDATIONS: The select committee on abortion has recommended that abortion be allowed on request for up to 24 weeks of pregnancy Girls under 16 would not need permission from doctors or husbands to have an abortion Counselling should be made available to all women asking for an abortion This document is expected to be tabled in parliament within a month It would then be referred to the Ministry of Health to prepare new legislation. This would be tabled in parliament again and debated before a decision was made whether it should pass into law

THE PRESENT LAW: The law states that women can have abortions only if they have been raped, if the life of the mother or her mental health will be endangered by the birth of the child or if there is a serious risk that the child to be born will have a physical or mental defect — Staff Reporter and Sapa

TOMORROW: Part 2 — Pro-abortionists express their 'huge relief'

Abortion



Part 1: *'It's murder'*

A furious battle over the morality of taking the life of an unborn child after a parliamentary committee has recommended that women be allowed to have abortion on request up to 24 weeks into pregnancy. In a two-part series starting today, The Argus will reflect both sides of this controversial life-and-death issue. In part 1, Dr CLAUDE E NEWBURY, president of Pro Life, puts the case against abortion; and religious and other groups also express their strong oppposition. Tomorrow, in part 2, the views of those who favour abortion on request will be aired.

(237) ARG 16/8/95

THE ANC, well before the March 1992 Referendum, and again before the election that brought it to power, clearly and often told South Africans that it would normalise the murder of pre-born infants by abortion

It should therefore, come as no surprise to South Africans that it now intends to honour its murderous promise to soak the soil and soul of our beloved country with the blood of innocent, helpless, unborn children by declaring a genocidal war against them

It has once again shown its determination to make the slaughter of the holy innocents by Herod, trivial by comparison

Abortion is defined in the Abortion and Sterilisation Act, as "the abortion of a foetus of a woman with the intention of killing such

DOCTOR "NO": Pro Life president Dr Claude Newbury uses a model of a human foetus to demonstrate his abhorrence of abortion He says the ANC has declared "genocidal war" against the unborn child

unwanted and abandoned children, to marital breakdown, and poverty, and would stop abortion deaths

The most fundamental human right is the right to life, because without that right all other rights are totally meaningless Abortion destroys this right It is of no value to proclaim the right to liberty for all, and to the pursuit of happiness, if you are not even alive to enjoy these freedoms

Those here present are fortunate that our mothers did not kill us while we were held in the detention of their wombs As a result of us not having been aborted and thus still being alive we can now claim other human rights, such as the right to freedom of expression and religion which we now do

If the state allows abortion, it destroys totally the basis of morality and its moral authority If the murder of totally innocent hel)-

'The most fundamental human right is the right to life, because without that right all other rights are totally meaningless. Abortion destroys this right.'

taxi-violence, child abuser, women abuse, and white-collar fraud

In permitting a mother to kill her child the state supports the concept that might is right The so-called "right of a woman to choose" is really the right of a woman to choose to kill her child Abortion is quintessential violence

The Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 is the single most evil law passed in our country, and this overnment should [illegible]

represents the annual budgets of 10 major hospitals

The Minister has claimed that 450 women lose their lives each year as a result of abortion, but omitted to say how many of these deaths were the result of spontaneous abortions (miscarriages), legal abortions, and neglected spontaneous miscarriages The Minister, while showing concern for deaths of adult women caused by abortion, is gearing up to kill upwards of 500 000 unborn children each year, half of whom are females

Women who abort their first child double their risk of breast cancer With two or more abortions, there is a three to four-fold increase, so that soon, an epidemic of breast cancer, with the associated financial costs, suffering and deaths will overtake South African women (Scott W Somerville *The*

[illegible] young human beings Incontrovertible scientific evidence has established that what is killed by every abortion, legal or illegal, is a young human being

The fertilisation of a woman's ovum by a man's sperm marks the beginning of the life of a new unique human individual From the time of fertilisation or otherwise known as conception, all that is necessary for that new human being to achieve the potential for which he or she is destined, is a period of growth and development, and all that is necessary for this growth is food, water and oxygen These essentials are supplied in the womb in which the child lives in its natural environment

Life is a continuum from conception to natural or accidental death All of us commenced our lives as very tiny single-celled human beings, and we have grown and developed into the adult persons we now are

Modern science and our legal definition combine to establish that abortion is the intentional killing of a young human being The intentional killing of innocent human beings is murder — so the Minister of Health has recommended that parliament permit, by abortion, the murder of young human beings

What this government is considering is the desirability or not, of introducing into this country a law far more deadly than any law of any other previous government Evil as they were, the laws of apartheid did not have as their primary purpose the killing of innocent human beings The introduction of legal abortion on request will permit and encourage on a large scale the murder of innocent pre-born children of all races

While it is true that a previous government, to its eternal shame, legalised the murder by abortion of some of its children in the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975, it drew back on many occasions from permitting the wholesale slaughter of its children of all races by abortion on request, despite pressure from many of the same promoters of abortion that have during the last few days urged this committee

'The introduction of legal abortion on request will permit and encourage on a large scale the murder of innocent pre-born children of all races.'

to normalise the slaughter of children by abortion

The murder of children by abortion is contrary to all Christian morality, as well as to the morality of all traditional Jews, Muslims, Hindus and all the indigenous African religions The murder of children by abortion is totally foreign to the historic culture of Africa and its natural customs and traditions

Credo Mutwa, stated during an SABC television programme that "abortion is worse than murder It is a vomiting-out of the unborn child"

All surveys of all races, and all opportunities for the public to express their opinion on abortion, have always revealed an overwhelming rejection of abortion During 1989 the then Minister of Health, asked for public opinion about the desirability of extending the provisions of the abortion laws and more than 48 000 submissions were recorded of which 98,64 percent expressed their detestation for abortion

The most recent survey of public opinion, conducted last November by Omnicheck, found that 66 percent of South Africans of all races and in all areas of this country did not want any further relaxation of the abortion laws

Is this proposed liberalised slaughter of pre-born children something this government considers itself elected to mandate? Has the government the right to deny the will of the majority of South Africans by allowing a woman to kill her unborn children at will

Our isolation from the realities of the rest of the world during the last few decades may have kept many from the hardest scientific facts that from the moment of conception we have a new human being, and we here and now are arguing as if we were the United States of America before 1973, the time of the introduction into that unfortunate country of abortion on request by means of the infamous, and now admittedly, fraudulent case known as Roe versus Wade, that was brought, with the assistance of Planned Parenthood, before the US Supreme Court

The promoters of abortion in America then claimed that abortion on request would be beneficial to that country Abortionists claimed then, as they claim now, that abortion on request would practically eliminate the problem of legal "back-street" abortions, of unwanted and unplanned children, that it would reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and of single parent "families", which is now the single most important cause of poverty in the United States

No benefits have accrued from freely available abortion in America, quite the contrary has occurred Rather than decreasing the prevalence of abortion, from the estimated 100 000 illegal abortions each year before abortion on request, abortion is now the most common surgical operation performed in America and there are more deaths of women caused by legal abortions now than from illegal abortions before the legisalisation of abortion

Now more than 1,6-million legal abortions are performed each year in America An average of more than 4 300 abortions a day Each day, doctors murder 40 times the number of people killed in the recent Oklahoma bomb disaster America is plagued by endemic and increasing violence and crime, divorce, child abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, women abuse, rape, pornography Now the single most important political issue in America is abortion

The conflict between those who support abortion and those who oppose it can and will only escalate until abortion is outlawed It is facile to think that all these ills were as endemic before abortion on request in America as they are now, because then the promotors of abortion claimed, as they have done now in South Africa that freely available abortion would be the solution to teenage pregnancies, to [illegible] children is permitted by the state, what other action or behaviour could be judged to be wrong by comparison? On what moral grounds would the state then be able to logically condemn the murder of human beings after birth, or rape, corruption, fraud, child abuse? Legal abortion is the murder of children, the very worst form of child abuse

Any state which permits abortion destroys its moral authority and radically alienates all those of its citizens who find abortion abhorrent In the case of South Africa, state-sanctioned abortion has, judging from the results of various tests of public opinion, antagonised and alientated the vast majority of its citizens

The permitting of abortion will also bring down upon such an immoral government the wrath of God, and would be a sure recipe for societal anarchy Those who fear Almighty God and His commandments, and this is the vast majority of South Africans, will not feel anything but loathing for a government that permits abortion Certainly rape by comparison is a lesser crime than murder Legal abortion is murder of innocent helpless children committed with the full co-operation of the state, the mothers of these children and the medical profession

A state that allows the killing of its helpless unborn children is perceived as a mortal threat to the lives of all of its citizens, and particularly by those who are frail and considered to be burdens to the state This was exactly the position in Germany during the Third Reich and we all know what that attitude towards human beings considered undersirable or less than perfect led to In this, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, let us call to mind this lesson from the past

Abortion is deliberate, cold-blooded, lethal discrimination against unborn children By comparison racism is trivialised Legal abortion does not eradicate the evil of abortion, any more than the legalisation of racism would eradicate it The same argument applies to any other social or moral evil, such as drunken driving, rape, [illegible] rety and must ensure that the right to life, now embedded in our New Constitution protects the lives of all South Africans, both born and unborn This protection must be afforded to innocent human life throughout the whole duration of life from the beginning at conception, to the end at natural or accidental death

The right to life is an absolute It is fundamental It is vital that this government listens to the wishes of its citizens by outlawing all abortions

If the ANC/SACP alliance proceeds with its homicidal intentions against unborn children it will make itself the deadly enemy of all decent people who find the murder of children by abortion to be abhorrent

The ANC claims that it is in favour of peace and reconciliation while at the same time it declares war on unwanted, unplanned and inconvenient children It claims to be in favour of justice and against child abuse while it encourages fatal child abuse against the unborn, and denies them the most fundamental human right, namely the right to life

The ANC claims to be against violence while planning the ultimate form of violence, namely the murder of innocent helpless preborn children while they are still held in the detention of the womb

Mr Mandela has frequently declared his love for children and likes to show the world this benign image, while the ANC is planning the wholesale slaughter of unborn children and is threatening those who obstruct this murder, with 10 years imprisonment and fines of R100 000 This includes doctors and nurses who refuse to refer a woman to an abortionist

Taxpayers will be expected to pay for the skilled, professional, antiseptic killing of unborn children in our hospitals The Minister of Health, while drastically cutting hospital budgets for the treatment of the sick, and acknowledging the overloading of medical services, will soon be spending about R500 million a year to subsidise abortion (Based on an estimate of 500 000 abortions a year) This sum [illegible] *Link between Abortion and Breast Cancer*, 1993)

While claiming to be concerned about the health of women, the Minister is planning an epidemic of breast cancer for South Africa The Minister ignores the fact that the Republic of Ireland, where all abortions are forbidden, has by far the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world (Three times lower than that of Britain where abortion on demand is the norm)

Soon the psychiatric services, already drastically overloaded with patients, will be inundated with women suffering from the post-abortion syndrome (Defined by the American Psychiatric Association)

Despite all the evidence from other countries that have already liberalised abortion, abortion on demand does not eliminate illegal abortions (The British Medical Journal, February 14 1987 reported that 90 percent of rural women aborted their children illegally as did 70 percent of urban women Abortions have been freely available in the Soviet Union since 1955)

The ANC claims to want to get rid of illegal "back-street" abortions, and at the same time is gearing up for the introduction of "the French do-it-yourself abortion pill", RU486, made by Roussel and Hoechst, both companies well represented in South Africa

Pro Life totally rejects abortion and calls on the government to defend and protect the lives of all its people both born and unborn, and to give the necessary assistance to mothers and their familis who find themselves in difficult circumstances

We call on Mr Mandela, to dismiss the "Pro Abortion", "Pro Choice" Minister of Health Dr Zuma and all others in his party and government who are intent on the wholesale murder of children and take all urgent measures to protect pre-born children Should he fail to do so, he will go down in history, not as a great leader and man of peace, but as the patron of the abortion industry and its empire of death

We call on all South Africans of good will to act against this move to kill unborn children

DP attacks abortion report as 'unacceptable'

ARG 16/8/95 (237)

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

THE African National Congress is emerging as sole sponsor of a parliamentary ad hoc committee's far-reaching report on abortion and sterilisation

Yesterday, the Democratic Party became the latest member of the ad hoc committee to disown the report, which recommends, among other things, that abortion be allowed up to 14 weeks and between 14 and 24 weeks under "certain broadly specified conditions"

DP health spokesman Mike Ellis said in a statement his party distanced itself from the report which was "not intellectually, morally or constitutionally respectable"

"It should be thrown in the waste paper bin and the process of investigating the current abortion legislation begun again

"While we believe that women have the right to choose whether to have an abortion or not, we believe — and have always believed — that the abortion should take place within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy"

The DP, therefore, regarded as unacceptable the recommendation allowing abortion up to 24 weeks

"Furthermore, the vagueness of the phrase 'certain broadly specified conditions' is alarming, and the fact that the report makes no attempt to expand and clarify what it means by this is cause for major concern and a serious weakness of the report"

Legalisation 'will lower abortion rate'

BD 16/8/95 (237)

Ingrid Salgado

INTERNATIONAL experience showed that abortion rates tended to drop with the introduction of legalised abortions, abortion and sterilisation select committee chairman Abe Nkomo said yesterday

Speaking in his capacity as head of an ANC study group on the matter, Nkomo said abortions went unreported because of the criminal stigma attached to them Liberalisation of abortion legislation gave a more accurate reporting rate

The select committee last week recommended abortion on request at up to 14 weeks gestation and between 14 and 24 weeks under more stringent conditions

Nkomo said legislation stemming from the recommendations was likely to go before Parliament early next year after the health select committee heard further submissions from the public

The ANC, Cosatu, SACP, National Progressive Primary Health Care Network, Planned Parenthood Association and the Women's Health Project yesterday supported the recommendations

ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus said Medical Research Council figures showed that 425 women died each year from illegal abortions More than 250 000 illegal abortions were performed in SA each year

The organisations were not "proclaiming ourselves to be anti-life Rather it is our deep-seated commitment to ensuring a better quality of life and dignity for all South Africans that motivates our position," Carolus said

Nkomo said legalising abortion on request had to be accompanied by an infrastructure which allowed women access to safer medical institutions The committee felt Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma should commission a study in this regard

Abortion was a primary health care issue and government was committed to extending such care to rural areas.

The committee has suggested that a wider range of health personnel be trained and authorised to perform abortions, that additional health facilities be provided, and that existing ones be improved to increase access to abortion for women in areas where there are few doctors

Carolus said abortion was inevitably surrounded by traumatic and tragic circumstances. Pro-lifers were rarely seen protecting the rights of abused women or street children

A woman's right to choose was a fundamental human right.

The medical costs to the state of rectifying the effects on women of illegal abortions far outweighed the costs of performing safe abortions

ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus at a meeting supporting the abortion legislation recommendations. Picture ROBERT BOTHA

The debate on abortion entered a new phase this week following recommendations made by a select parliamentary committee. South Africa's Pro Life president ***Dr Claude Newbury and Gloria Steinem,*** *celebrated feminist, argue their positions.*

Abortion: it's the big debate

(237) Star 16/8/95

'It's just a form of legalised killing'

■ BY DR CLAUDE NEWBURY

The introduction of legal abortion on request will permit and encourage on a large scale the murder of innocent pre-born children of all races

While it is true that a previous Government of this country, to its eternal shame, legalised abortion of some of its children in the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975, it drew back on many occasions, from permitting the wholesale slaughter of its children of all races by allowing abortion on request, despite pressure that during the past few days have urged the select committee to allow abortion

Abortion is defined in the Abortion and Sterilisation Act, as "the abortion of a foetus of a woman with the intention of killing such foetus" What we are dealing with here is the intentional killing of young human beings Incontrovertible scientific evidence has established that what is killed by every abortion, legal or illegal, is a young human being

The fertilisation of a woman's ovum by a man's sperm marks the beginning of the life of a new unique human individual From the time of fertilisation or otherwise known as conception, all that is necessary for that new human being to achieve the potential for which he or she is destined, is a period of growth and development and all that is necessary for this growth is food, water and [illegible]

Claude Newbury ... most vociferous opponent of the pro-choice lobby.

Credo Mutwa, stated during an SABC television program that "Abortion is worse than murder It is a vomiting out of the unborn child"

All general surveys of South Africans of all races, and all opportunities for the general public to express their opinion on abortion, have always revealed an overwhelming public rejection of abortion A survey in November 1994, by Omnicheck, found that 66% of South Africans did not want any further relaxation of the Abortion Laws

"Women who abort their first child double their risk of breast cancer."

Is this proposed liberalised slaughter of pre-born children something this Government considers itself elected to mandate? Has the Government the right to deny the will of the majority of South Africans by allowing a woman to kill her unborn children at will

[illegible]

ica, quite the contrary has occurred abortion is now the most common surgical operation performed in the US and there are more deaths of women caused by legal abortions now than from illegal abortions prior to the legalisation of abortion

Now more than 1,6 million legal abortions are performed each year in the US An average of more than 4 300 abortions each day Each day doctors murder 40 times the number of people killed in the recent Oklahoma bomb disaster The US is plagued by endemic and increasing violence and crime, divorce, child abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, women abuse, rape, and pornography

Now the single most important political issue in the US is abortion

The conflict between those who support abortion and those who oppose it can and will only escalate until abortion is outlawed It is facile to think that all [illegible] ills were as endemic prior considered undesirable or less than perfect led to In this the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust let us call to mind this lesson from the past

Abortion is deliberate, cold-blooded, lethal discrimination against unborn children By comparison racism is trivialised Legal abortion does not eradicate the evil of abortion, any more than the legalisation of racism would eradicate it

The same argument applies to any other social or moral evil, such as drunken driving, rape, taxi-violence, child abuse, women abuse, and white-collar fraud.

In permitting a mother to kill her child the State supports the concept that Might is Right The so-called "Right of a Woman to Choose" is really the right of a woman to choose to kill her child Abortion is quintessential violence

The Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975, is the single most evil law ever passed in our country, and this Government must repeal it in its entirety and ensure that the Right to Life, now embedded in our new Constitution protects the lives of all South Africans, both born and unborn

This protection must be afforded to innocent human life for the whole duration of their life from conception to the end of that life by natural or accidental death

Women who abort their first child double their risks of breast cancer With two or more abortions, there is a three to four-fold increase While claiming to be concerned about the health of women, the Minister is planning [illegible] emic of bre[illegible]cer for

Our bodies our castles, ours to rule

■ BY GLORIA STEINEM

The right to choose whether, when, and with whom to have children is as fundamental as freedom of speech

The most crucial question of democracy, feminism, and simple self-respect is not What gets decided? That comes second The first question is Who decides?

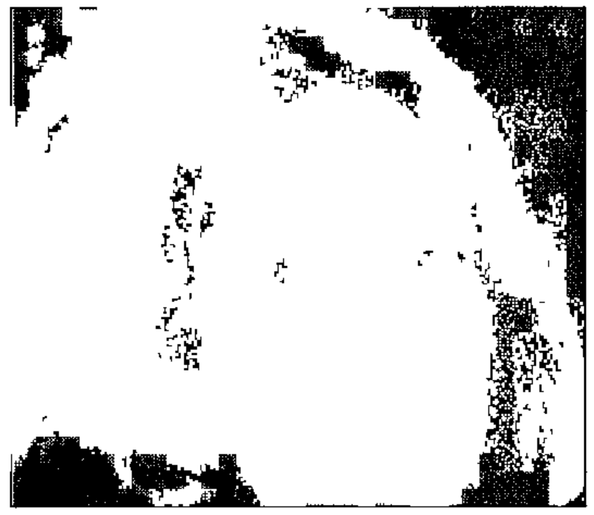
It may seem odd that this fundamental of everything from politics to self-esteem could be learned from an experience as unwelcome as abortion, but that was its source for me Or rather, understanding abortion was My own had taken place in a time of such isolation, illegality, and fear, that afterward, I did my best to just forget

Only a decade later, when a new wave of feminism was encouraging women to share "secrets" – allowing us to learn, for example, that as many as one in three or four adult American women probably had risked abortion even when it was criminal and therefore dangerous – did I begin to think about my own experience as a microcosm of what millions of women had gone through

Belatedly, I questioned why the female half of the human race, whose bodies bear all the consequences of reproduction, were allowed so few of the decisions in that regard.

Mine had taken place in a time of such isolation, illegality, fear, I did my best just to forget

Gradually, I figured out that ☐Making every person from a less powerful group feel-iso[illegible]



Feminist extraordinaire ... Gloria Steinem's own experience of an abortion many years ago moulded her thinking on the issue

position of waiting for someone else to decide, this time, Parliament and the Constitutional Court

Here we are again Waiting This return to old and deep patterns of passivity is an even greater danger than any potential action by Parliament No matter what those 400 legislators do, we must remember that we as citizens hold the ultimate power to change the law and even the constitution they interpret, to disobey any law we consider unjust if we're willing to bear the consequences and that, as women, we live and breathe in the bodies they are trying to control

To take Vietnam as an analogy if America found itself bewildered by trying to invade the home territory of a proud and motivated adversary, can you [illegible] bewildered, the medical or surgical procedure is legislated, there will be some degree of danger For one thing, any law is too inflexible for such tasks as deciding whether a particular fetus can survive, or for taking into account the realities of what is medically possible in a particular time and place For another, the very presence of such laws invited political tinkering with their terms With who gets prosecuted and who does not with who can interpret them and who cannot

Finally, Roe v Wade enshrined a limited idea of state interest in a fetus Though it did so in all good will, with the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of both woman and fetus, the rest is impractical at best how can the law directly relate to an entity it can't directly reach how can it differentially apply to two people who may be legally separate, but who actually inhabit the same body?

At worst, this limited version of state interest leaves the door open to a [illegible] lisation can be subordinated to it Poor women can be deprived of abortion, so can government employees who depend on a health scheme, teenage women can remain the childbearing chattel of families or courts, and pregnant women can be held responsible for damage to the fetus, or even be incarcerated by someone who says he or she represents the fetus

Clearly, we're already on the second path Every one of those limitations is already happening to some degree If reproductive freedom were a fundamental human right, like freedom of speech, then trying to legislate the exact conditions under which one can or cannot give birth to a child, use contraception, have an abortion would be as problematical as trying to legislate the exact conditions under which we have freedom of speech

We give freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and other basic rights to the individual [illegible] but reproductive freedom has never been taken that seriously.

A man's house may be his castle, but a woman's body is rarely her own

At a minimum, explaining reproductive freedom would put us back on positive ground, honour each other's choices, and offer protection to women who now feel pressured into abortion (and so may wrongly blame the fact that it is legal at all)

From slavery to voting rights, parliament sometimes gets on the wrong side of things. This could be one of those times There's a long tradition of civil disobedience to turn to – and we will if [illegible] of achieving

[illegible] the womb in which the child lives in its natural environment

Life is a continuum from conception to natural or accidental death All of us commenced our lives as very tiny single-celled human beings, and we have grown and developed into the adult persons we now are

Modern science and our legal definition combine to establish that abortion is the intentional killing of a young human being The intentional killing of innocent human beings is murder so the Minister of Health has recommended that Parliament permit by abortion the murder of young human beings

The murder of children by abortion is contrary to all Christian morality, as well as to the morality of all traditional Jews, Muslims, Hindus and all the indigenous African religions The murder of children by abortion is totally foreign to the historic culture of Africa and its natural customs and traditions

[illegible] the last few decades may have kept many from the hardest scientific facts that from the moment of conception we have a new human being

We are arguing as they did in the US in 1973, the time of the introduction into that of abortion on request by means of the infamous, and now admittedly, fraudulent case known as Roe v Wade, that was brought with the assistance of Planned Parenthood, before the United States Supreme Court

Abortionists claimed then, as they claim now, that Abortion on request would practically eliminate the problem of illegal "back street" abortions, of unwanted and unplanned children, that it would reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, out of wedlock pregnancies, and of single parent "families," which is now the single most important cause of poverty in the US

No benefits have accrued from freely available abortion in Amer- [illegible] as they are now, because [illegible] promoters of abortion claimed, as they have done here and now in South Africa that freely available abortion would be the solution to teenage pregnancies, to unwanted and abandoned children to marital breakdown, and poverty, and would stop abortion deaths

The most fundamental human right is the right to life, because without that right all other rights are totally meaningless Abortion destroys this right

A State that allows the killing of its helpless unborn children is perceived as a mortal threat to the lives of all of its citizens, and particularly by those who are frail and considered to be burdens to the State

This was exactly the position in Germany during the Third Reich and we all know what the attitude towards human beings [illegible] South Africa [illegible] ignores the fact that the Republic of Ireland, where all abortions are forbidden, has by far the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world (Three times lower than that of the UK where abortion on demand is the norm)

Soon psychiatric services, already drastically overloaded, will be inundated with women suffering from the Post Abortion Syndrome (defined by the American Psychiatric Association)

"Abortion is deliberate, cold-blooded, lethal discrimination against unborn children"

The ANC says it wants to get rid of illegal "back-street" abortions, and at the same time is gearing up for the introduction of "the French-do-it- yourself abortion pill", RU486, made by Roussel and Hoechst, both companies well represented in South Africa

We call on all South Africans of good will to act against this move to kill unborn children

[illegible] numbers and needs, was a psychological necessity of any political system in which one group lives under the decisions of another, in this case, a very old system called patriarchy, that tries to dominate and possess female human beings

☐Controlling women's bodies as the most basic means of production, the means of reproduction, was the very definition of patriarchy and a necessity for racist systems

☐For me, seeking out an abortion had been the first time I stopped passively accepting what happened to me and began to take responsibility for my own life that making that decision was an ethical act, just as refusing to be pressured into an abortion might have been at a different time in my life or for another woman

I go back to these basics of personal experience (and urge each reader to do the same) because right now, women in South Africa are again in the [illegible] ously tried to invade the reproductive territory of millions of proud and motivated women?

We would also be saved the task of passing a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the idea that US citizenry suddenly included fertilised eggs (Before you dismiss this possibility, remember that the proposed Human Life Amendment also defines protectable human life as beginning at conception)

Nonetheless, we still would be left with the limitations and liabilities of Roe v Wade, a decision that has done too little to help poor women, teenage women, and many others These years of defending it as the best thing around may have obscured the fact, but it was never what we wanted in the first place The goal was to get the government out of reproductive decision-making by repealing special abortion and contraceptive laws

As long as laws try to govern abortion in a way that no other [illegible] their childbearing years

Really, there are two paths They start from two different premises

If reproductive freedom – the right to choose whether, when, and when, and with whom to have children - is a basic human right like freedom of speech, then state interest lies in protecting the freedom

Women are more needful in this right because of our larger role in production, but it would protect men too.

Women are more needful in this right because of our larger role in reproduction, but it would protect men too (for instance, from the forced sterilisation allowed by eugenics laws of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries)

On the other hand, if there is a state interest in promotion of birth over other reproductive choices, then women especially [illegible] sale, avai[illegible] and putting decisions back into women's hands

Reproductive freedom is a fundamental human right

If Patrick Henry, Frederick Douglass, and Thomas Jefferson had ever been pregnant against their will, they would have been right there rebelling Reproductive issues are part of a convergence of concerns nationally and globally that may lead to a new and all-encompassing human right called bodily integrity

Many elements lead to this need such as abuses of organ transplant policy between rich countries with recipients and poor countries with donors, blood and urine tests required without probable cause or proposals for mass AIDS testing

Our bodies cannot be invaded They are our castles to rule

The legal changes the committee recommended

(237) Star 16/8/95

THERE are enormous implications for us if the law on abortion is changed. Our Medical Correspondent Janine Simon reports

South Africa already has a law allowing abortions Passed in 1975, it has long been criticised for its inequity as it made it possible for women with finance and access to facilities to procure legal abortions

It was to evaluate the efficacy of this legislation, given the country's health, legal and social requirements, that the ad hoc Select Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation was established by the National Assembly in August 1994

The Committee received 452 written submissions, and took oral submissions in two widely reported public hearings It heard a wide range of views, and took particular care to include women's groups, rural women and the youth, the report said

Submissions were summarised into "pro-life" and "pro-choice", although, the report acknowledged these divisions as crude there were more than one position in the camps, and a more "nuanced understanding" of the debate was needed, it said

The report noted the difficulty in obtaining scientific and objective information on abortion, and that it had relied on statistics of the Medical Research Council and UCT's Department of Community Health

Overall, there were more "pro-life" than "pro-choice" submissions

The former came from a well organised sector comprising largely denominations within Christianity, Hindus, and doctors and academics "It was clear schoolchildren had also been told about the campaign in class," the report added

It would be misleading, though, to categorise "pro-life" as a religious position as many "pro-choice" people also took religion as a starting point

However, the "pro-life" lobby concentrated its argument on the right to life, from the moment of conception, as enshrined in the Constitution In their view abortion equalled murder, and that outweighed any other consideration

The "pro-choice" lobby was both more diverse, and less easily classifiable, and its standpoint based on a much wider range of argument

The lobby included non-denominational women's organisations, medical and academic institutions, political parties and NGOs

In a four-page summary of the extensive "pro-choice" arguments, the report pointed out that a common theme was that abortion was a remedy of last resort, and access to it should be provided in the context of a comprehensive health-care system

It was argued that South Africa subscribed to a number of international conventions which advocated full reproductive rights for women, and that access to a full range of services would significantly reduce the number of women requesting abortions

There was distressingly little evidence from black people, and all but two of the 10 black women who gave oral evidence were in the "pro-choice" camp

The Committee's recommendations were brief that the Act be repealed and a new Act (which in effect followed the thrust of the draft Bill submitted by the Abortion Rights Action Group, plus commonly recommended amendments) be drafted

The specified changes were that

☐ The act should provide for abortion on request up to 14 weeks, and between 14 and 24 weeks under broadly specified conditions,

☐ Procedures should be simplified and a wider range of health personnel trained and authorised to perform abortions,

☐ Counselling should be available on request, and mandatory for minors,

☐ Consent should not be required from partners or spouses, minors should be advised to consult, but not denied an abortion should they choose ,

☐ Statistics should be collected by a central authority, and this should not include a women's name and identity;

☐ Health workers who object to taking part should be allowed to recuse themselves, but must refer the woman to others willing to take part in the procedure,

☐ Abortion and sterilisation should be dealt with in separate acts

Catholics oppose with prayer

Star 16/8/95 (237)

■ BY WINNIE GRAHAM

The Catholic Church will launch a national prayer campaign against abortion throughout South Africa this Sunday

The church, whose teachings oppose the artificial termination of pregnancy, has given its full backing to the anti-abortion lobby It has indicated that if necessary, it will go to the Constitutional Court in its bid to prevent abortion on demand becoming law

To spearhead its campaign, the SA Catholic Bishops Conference has appointed a top nursing sister, Rejoice Nkutha, a mother of three, to canvas support for the "pro life" view The move has the unanimous support of the Catholic Women's League, the Sacred Heart Sodality, St Ann's Sodality, the Catholic Nurses Guild and the Knights of da Gama

Quiet-spoken Rejoice Nkutha has always been opposed to abortion

"I am pro-choice," she said, "But that does not mean a choice between the life and death of an unborn child It is the choice between keeping the baby after birth – or giving the baby to a childless couple in adoption "

She admits adoption has not been an option much favoured by black families Unmarried mothers made use of the extended family to help care for their babies

She feels women are often driven to abortion because they are unemployed and unable to care for an infant But, she says, there are women who opt for an abortion because the pregnancy is an inconvenience

The Catholic voice... abortion is not part of African culture, Rejoyce Nkutha says

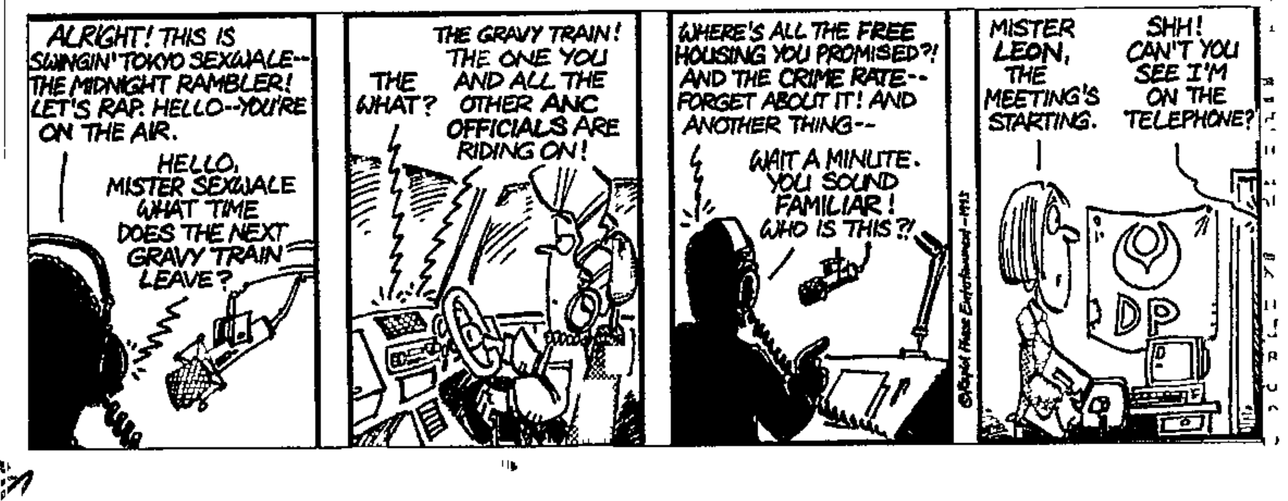
"Abortion is not part of African culture," she said "And even adoption is not often considered, but we need to encourage this "

Nkutha advocates improved sex education to eliminate promiscuity In addition both the church and the community shared the responsibility of providing expectant mothers-to-be with counselling and "all the love and support" they need

While she has enormous sympathy for anyone who has been raped, she says it is rare for a woman to conceive in those circumstances "Abortion is never justifiable," she added

MADAM & EVE

BY S FRANCIS, H DUGMORE & RICO



demonstrated its relentless opposition to the illegal use of gill nets Local legislation about gill nets is amongst the most stringent in the world I believe that the previously mentioned low frequency of transgressions, seen against the background of the excellent co-operation we receive from law-abiding fishermen in reporting suspicious cases, is an indication that the problem is under control in our waters The Government will, however, not rest on its laurels but will continue to do everything within its power to eradicate this problem when it occurs

(5) (a) No, the present legislation is regarded as adequate

(b) No, the present fines are regarded as sufficient This is borne out by the fact that there are relatively few incidents of this nature

Proportion of health budget allocated to family planning

(237)

163 Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health

Hansard 17/8/95

(1) What proportion of the health budget is allocated to family planning,

(2) whether any existing family planning facilities and services have been found to be inadequate, if not (a) in which areas and (b) to what extent have these facilities and services been found to be inadequate,

(3) whether any steps have been or are being taken with a view to making family planning facilities and services more accessible, if so, (a) what steps and (b) what progress has been made in implementing these steps,

(4) (a) which contraceptives are being offered free of charge by government family planning clinics and (b) how many (i) women and (ii) men obtained free contraceptives in (aa) 1990 and (bb) 1994?

S315E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(1) Services rendering is the responsibility of the provincial health authorities Due to the total restructuring of the health system and the formula used to allocate funds to the provincial health authorities, we are therefore unable to specify what proportion of the health budget is allocated to family planning

(2) To answer these questions (a) and (b) the necessary information will have to be obtained from the nine provinces

(3) (a) The National Health Plan must be driven by the Primary Health Care approach, the objective being to make all services more accessible

(b) All health services have been integrated to provide comprehensive primary health care

(4) (a) The following contraceptives are offered free of charge

- Oral contraceptives,
- Contraceptive injectables,
- Intra Uterine Contraceptive Devices (IUCD),
- Condoms for males,
- Sterilisation, both male and female
- Barrier Spermicidals

(b) (i) 6 317 334 (aa) 1990

(ii) 1 853 023 (aa) 1990

The above statistics are for the RSA excluding the former self-governing and independent States

(bb) 1994 Unavailable at central level—Statistics kept at provincial level

Solution of crimes: rewards to public

165 Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security

(a) What total amount was paid out in rewards to members of the public for assistance in the solution of crimes in (i) 1993 and (ii) 1994 and (b) (i) how many crimes were solved as a result of members of the public coming forward in response to offers of rewards, and (ii) what were the three most common crimes solved as a result of offers of rewards for information, in each case of these years?

S317E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(a) (i) R21 million

(ii) R33,1 million

(b) (i) 1993—18 729 cases were solved

1994—33 382 cases were solved

(ii)

Crime	*1993*	*1994*
Possession of unlicensed firearm	3 624	7 784
Drug-related offences	3 091	8 432
Theft/attempted theft of motor vehicles	2 625	5 996

Possession of AK 47 rifles: persons charged/guilty

166 Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security †

(a) How many persons were (i) charged with and (ii) found guilty of the possession of AK 47 rifles since 1 January 1994 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

S324E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(a) (i) 726

(ii) 186

(b) 29 June 1995

Responsibilities of Departments iro population control

(237)

167 Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health

(1) What aspects of population control fell under the former Department of National Health and Population Development,

(2) whether any of these aspects of population control do not fall under her Department, if so, (a) which aspects, (b) under which department or departments do these aspects now fall and (c) what basis was used for deciding on the reallocation of these aspects,

(3) whether any problems are being experienced with the co-ordination of the responsibilities of different departments in regard to population control, if so, (a) what problems and (b) what steps have taken place or after being taken to solve these problems?

S325E

Hansard 17/8/95

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(1) All aspects of the Population Development Programme

(2) Yes, (a) the entire Population Development Programme has been transferred away from the Department of Health, (b) the above programme is now placed in the Department of Welfare and Population Development, and (c) the Population Development Programme is a demographic programme

(3) No, (a) the Population Development Programme is placed in its totality with one Department, namely the Department of Welfare and Population Development, (b) co-ordination meetings are held on a regular basis between the above Department and Department of Health regarding development and health programmes

Injectable contraceptive used in government clinics

168 Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health

(1) Whether a certain injectable contraceptive, the name of which has been furnished to her Department for the purpose of her reply, is being used in government clinics, if so, (a) how many people are injected with it annually and (b) for how long has this contraceptive been in use,

(2) whether the use of this contraceptive has been stopped in any clinics, if so, (a) why and (b) when,

(3) whether any steps are being taken to make users aware of the dangers of the said contraceptive and the fact that it is banned in the United States, in the United Kingdom and in Zimbabwe, if not, why not, if so, what steps,

(4) whether there are plans to stop the use of this contraceptive, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

S326E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(1) Depo Provera (Medroxy Progesterone Acetate) is one and a popular of the two hormonal injectable contraceptive drugs used in South African clinics

(a) A total of 3 479 241 in 1991/92 and 3 737 699 in 1992/93 wome nin South Africa used Depo Provera

(Source Annual Report on Family Planning Statistics 1991/92 and 1992/93 respectively Department of National Health and Population Development)

(b) Depo Provera has been registered in this country since 1973 The national family Planning Programme of South Africa was launched in 1974

(2) Family Planning Services were devolved in own right to Provincial levels since 1990 and this Department to this time has no knowledge of any clinics that have discontinued use of this contraceptive drug

Therefore (a) and (b) are not applicable

(3) During October 1992 the FDA lifted the ban on the use of Depo Provera as a contraceptive Since then Australia also approved it as a contraceptive

A number of studies have been widely done in respect of this drug, including an extensive and comprehensive World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborative study of Neoplasias and Steroid Contraceptives Reports from these, indicate that women who had used Depo Provera have no greater statistical risk of breast cancer This produce has been registered and is being used in over 100 countries the worldwide, including developed countries such as Great Britain, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and New-Zealand

It is policy in South African Family Planning clinics, that all women prescribed for contraceptive methods are counselled and advised about possible side effects and dangers of the contraceptive drug of their choice This applies to Depo Provera as well Nurses providing family planning services are trained to counsel, monitor and evaluate the use of contraceptive hormonal drugs offered, to ensure for effective advice and guidance

Some concerned observers in South Africa have been highly vocal arguing against the use of this drug Indeed some governments in some parts and countries of Africa refused to allow the use of this drug because they claimed it was not registered in the country of its origin The strong argument in South Africa has been that the motive behind its use, is to control the black population, and the fact that it is alleged to cause breast and uterine cancer in women

The fact that Depo Provera was not initially used in America, (the country of its origin) in the beginning, caused stirs resulting in a very charged political environment around the use of this drug This (among others) has contributed largely to the arguments put up by those countries who will not use Depo Provera

Also the arguments posed against its use would seem to largely derive from the fact that the original experiments and studies that were conducted in respect of this drug were done on beagle dogs Now, beagle dogs have a high propensity for developing tumours in their breasts, a fact that was aggregated by the tests in these research studies In the human being the opposite happens in that Depo Provera arrests breast development Interestingly, research has also shown that rather than stimulate cancer development in humans, Depo Provera in fact protects the human uterus from developing endrometrial cancer, and it is one of the drugs of choice in the treatment of this condition in humans

Perhaps it could be appropriate to mention that beagle dogs were a bad choice to conduct these studies on

(4) No information of plans of any clinics wishing to stop usage of Depo Provera has been made available to this office and as already stated, rendering of the Family Planning Service is a responsibility of the Provincial levels

Gauteng: vehicles stolen

169 Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security †

(a) How many (i) passenger vehicles and (ii) other vehicles, during the period (aa) 1 January to 31 December 1994 and (bb) 1 January 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, were (aaa) hijacked and (bbb) stolen in the Province of Gauteng in each of the areas for which information is

available, (b) how many victims were (i) killed and (ii) injured in the process and (c) what is the total estimated value of the relevant passenger vehicles specified in (a)(i)?

S327E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(a) (i) and (ii) At present, the South African Police does not have statistics available which differentiate between passenger and other vehicles To obtain the information, faxes will have to be sent to all police stations country-wide, thereby placing an extra burden on limited manpower and financial resources Members will have to be withdrawn from other duties and specially allocated to peruse dockets and registers

(aa) (aaa)

	Cases Reported
January 1994	601
February 1994	598

During January and February 1994, statistics for the separate districts of Gauteng Province were not kept

District	*Cases Reported*
Johannesburg	1 406
Johannesburg North	464
Randburg	684
Vaaltriangle	589
Germiston	521
Benoni	251
Brakpan	11
Springs	199
Kempton Park	255
Soweto	1 610
Krugersdorp	260
Roodepoort	161
Northern Transvaal Region	318
TOTAL	7 928

The total of 7 928 includes all vehicles, except trucks with freight Statistics in respect of hijacking of trucks with freight were not kept in districts for Gauteng Province Total number of trucks hijacked was 625 Total number of vehicles hijacked during 1994 was 8 553

(aa) (bbb)

District	*Cases Reported*
Pretoria	4 953
Pretoria Moot	1 386
Pretoria North	1 139
Verwoerdburg	1 069
Johannesburg	10 390
Johannesburg North	6 495
Randburg	5 466
Vereeniging	3 107
Germiston	5 038
Benoni	1 635
Springs	2 248
Kempton Park	4 134
Soweto	2 640
Krugersdorp	1 762
Roodepoort	3 402
TOTAL	54 864

(bb) (aaa) 1 January–31 May 1995

Statistics for the separate districts of Gauteng Province for 1995 are not available at present

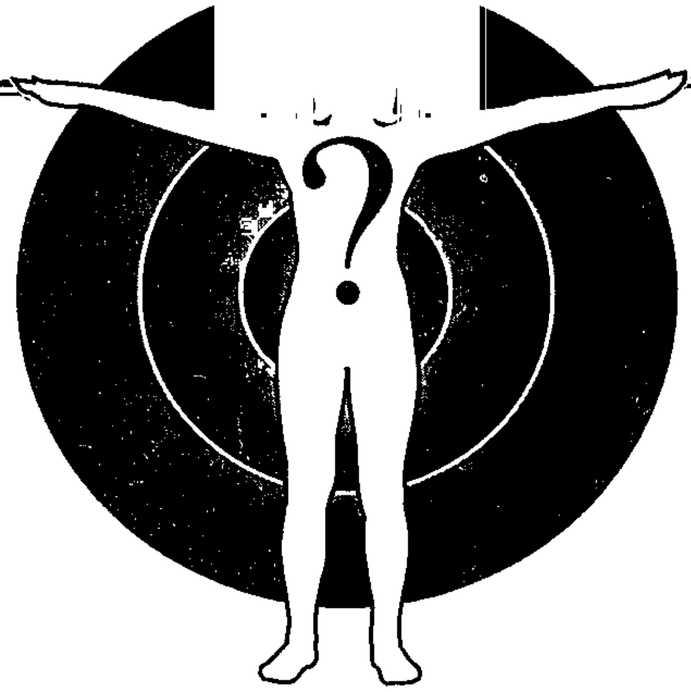
Passenger vehicles (includes all vehicles except trucks with freight)	3 410
Trucks with freight	362
TOTAL	3 772

(bb) (bbb) 1 January–31 March 1995

District	*Cases Reported*
Pretoria	1 174
Pretoria Moot	1 360
Pretoria North	278
Verwoerdburg	251
Johannesburg	2 437
Johannesburg North	1 588
Randburg	1 517
Vereeniging	893
Germiston	1 279
Benoni	353
Springs	535
Kempton Park	791
Soweto	649
Krugersdorp	496
Roodepoort	863
TOTAL	13 464

(b) (i) and (ii) To obtain the information, faxes will have to be sent to all police stations country-wide, thereby placing an extra burden on limited manpower and financial resources Members will have to be withdrawn from other duties and specially

Abortion



Part 2: *'Victory for choice!'*

A parliamentary select committee has recommended that the law should be changed to allow abortion on request during the early stages of pregnancy Yesterday, in the first of a two-part series on this controversial subject, The Argus published the views of those vehemently opposed to abortion on request Today, in Part 2, Staff Reporter HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS sounds out those who support the committee's recommendations and who argue that women have the right to choose.

(237) ARG 12/8/95

RELIEF, amazement and an overwhelming sense of victory would describe the feelings of women's organisations and pro-choice supporters following the parliamentary committee's recommendations that abortion on request be legalised in the early stages of pregnancy

The African National Congress, which enjoys the support of about 60 percent of South Africans and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest trade union federation in the country, said it welcomed the proposals

An ANC statement said the acceptance of the proposals would "put South Africa in line with advanced nations of the world"

"The report is a culmination of decades of struggle and consultations," it said

"Democratic South Africa can never be proud or remain at peace with itself while tens of thousands of women undergo illegal abortions every year with serious consequences for their lives and their future"

Western Cape ANC Women's League secretary general Nosipho Ntwanambi described the recommendations as a "victory for women", which would improve their lives considerably

"Many women have gynaecological problems or have become sterile as a result of the methods of illegal abortions," she said

The fact that people had unprotected sex did not mean they planned a pregnancy

Ms Ntwanambi said the liberalisation of the abortion laws should go hand in hand with sex education, which should be provided before people became sexually active

A group of Women's League regional executive committee members said they were "extremely happy that the whole process is at this point", and that it was "excellent that women will have the choice"

Cape Town Rape Crisis co-ordinator Bronwyn Pithey described the recommendations as "amazing"

"In most cases of sudden and unwelcome pregnancy, the intrusion of some celibate or senile reformed reprobate persuading you to have the baby is the last thing you desire. The friends of the foetus are not the ones who are going to go through the changes in mind and body which accompany pregnancy, or the trauma of birth, or the sudden bereavement of adoption, or the day-to-day struggle of bringing up the fruit of their persuasions." - Author and women's rights activist Germaine Greer.

□□□

"If you don't believe in abortion, don't have one." - Bronwyn Pithey, Rape Crisis co-ordinator."

"Although this is not the end of the struggle, the people up there have recognised for the first time what is happening on the ground

"The committee did not make a predetermined choice as some prolifers alleged The committee actually listened to what women are saying, especially black women from rural areas They must be commended for listening to women as opposed to listening to what religious groups are saying from a theoretical perspective

"Before any moral argument can be considered, it must be remembered that women will continue to have illegal abortions and will die from them if there are no adequate facilities for safe, early and legal abortions."

She said the recommendation that girls under 16 could have abortions without having to ask anyone's permission was "proof of recognition of women's autonomy and women's right to choose"

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) said in a statement it supported the proposals, which would protect at least 200 000 women who had illegal abortions in South Africa every year, "particularly black and working-class women who are most vulnerable and least able to contend with the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy"

Abortion Rights Action Group (Arag) spokeswoman Philippa Reyburn welcomed the recommendations, saying they were in line with Arag's proposals to the committee, including that abortion be granted up to 24 weeks in certain circumstances, like for poverty-stricken women

"It is very important that socio-economic conditions of women be taken into account Most households in South Africa are headed by single women The majority of men don't fulfil their maintenance obligations The life of the mother is of paramount importance and so are the lives of her already born children

"Women who are old, very young, poor or live in rural areas always present themselves later than the middle-class urban women because they face more obstacles

"Abortion does happen It's a question of how best to deal with it What would be best for women's health? At least 450 women die every year as a result of backstreet abortions and those deaths are preventable"

She said the ANC had a mandate from the electorate to legalise abortion

"That's why we voted for them We support them and they should support us and stick to their election promise"

Ms Reyburn said if the recommendations became law, they would "enable women to participate more equally in society, give them more control over their bodies and lives, and allow them to operate more efficiently as mothers, employees and members of society"

Ms Reyburn criticised the media for "presenting pro-life as a mainstream organisation whilethey are right-wing fundamentalist on the fringe who don't have a conventional point of view"

Ilitha Labantu, an orginisation which provides counselling and legal advice for women and children who have been subjectel to violence in Langa, Nyanga, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and Guguletu, supported the proposals, but challenged the government to provide free abortions

Ilitha Labantu board member Mandisa Monakali said pregnant women and children under six already had free medical care, and this should also apply to pregnant women who chose to have an abortion

She also expressed concern that township women would continue having illegal abortions if they had no access to resources and information

They did not have transport to and from provincial hospitals and "most doctors, especially in township hospitals, should be educated about abortion to change their attitudes

"They need to understand that these women have been having back-street abortions and they should be able to address this issue"

Ms Monakali said Xhosa-speaking and illiterate township women needed to be informed about the proposed liberalisation of abortion laws

The information should filter through to grassroots "instead of just being talks in parliament"

"The laws are made in English and don't reach many women People should use relevant organisations working directly on the ground and speak through them to people in the townships"

Women who had have abortions in South Africa and in Britain, who do not want to be named, have only praise for the recommendations of the committee

'Before any moral argument can be considered, it must be remembered that women will continue to have illegal abortions and will die from them if there are no adequate facilities for safe, early and legal abortions.'

"This is more than we could have dreamed of I couldn't believe it It's just amazing," said a pro-choice activist from Vredehoek

The woman, who has survived an illegal abortion that turned septic two years ago and who has since helped organise numerous safe illegal abortions for Cape Town women, said "We didn't dream that they would recommend that girls under 16 be allowed to have an abortion without the consent of their parents This is a huge victory!"

If the recommendations were accepted, "we'll probably have the most liberal abortion laws in the world", she said

A Sea Point woman who had an illegal abortion in a city clinic two months ago, and whose friend will have a similar illegal abortion performed today, said "Only the pregnant woman knows if she can offer a child a future or not How can a doctor or a psychiatrist decide for her? It is a caring person who would decide to have an abortion if she realises she cannot give the child a fair chance in life"

She said the recommendations were "wonderful a victory for women's independence, a recognition that they can decide for themselves and accept the responsibility for their decision".

A Cape Town woman's rights activist who had a safe, early abortion in London, said "It is with an overwhelming sense of relief that we salute the committee and also the ANC, specifically those formidable women in the ANC Women's League for supporting the right to choose

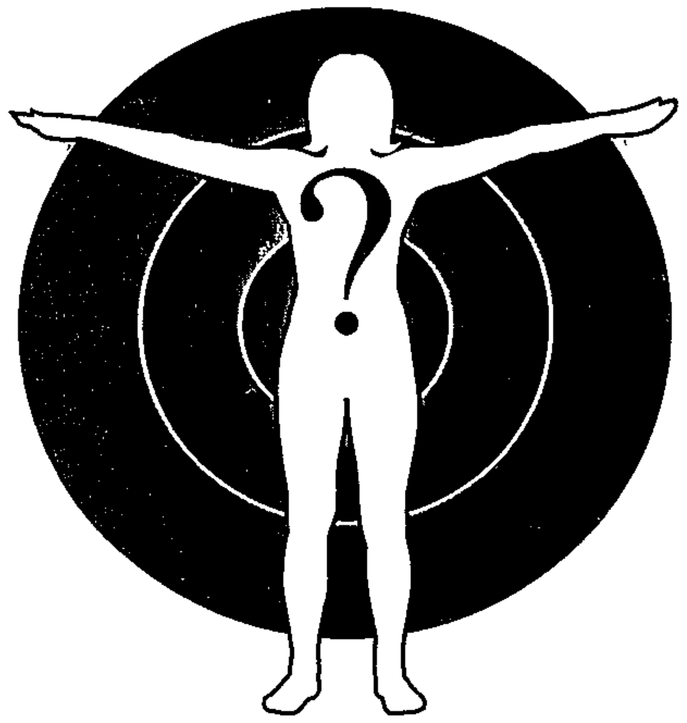
"It is hard to express how grateful we are for their efforts to improve the health of ordinary South African women by securing this achievement and pulling thousands of women out from the blood, septicaemia and death of the backstreets into an unexpected safe haven

"If accepted by parliament, it will mark one of the greatest victories for women of this country

"Anti-abortionists want to force women to bear children, but the pro-abortionists are not forcing women to have abortions Pro-abortionists are saying women have a choice, and whichever choice she makes, it's a tough one," she said

THE RECOMMENDATIONS: The select committee on abortion has recommended that abortion be allowed on request for up to 24 weeks of pregnancy Girls under 16 would not need permission from doctors or husbands to have an abortion. Counselling should be made available to all women asking for an abortion. This document is expectedd to be tabled in parliament within a month It would then be referred to the Ministry of Health to prepare new legislation. This would be tabled in parliament again and debated before a decision was made whether it should pass into law

THE PRESENT LAW: The law states that women can have abortions only if they have been raped, if the life of the mother or her mental health will be endangered by the birth of the child or if there is a serious risk that the child to be born will have a physical or mental defect.



Reaching out to women 'who want our help . . .'

Fighting for the right of others

Staff Reporter

MANY pro-choice people supported pro-life and would never themselves have an abortion, but they would fight for the right of others to have one, said Planned Parent Association of South Africa chairman Sam Mputhi

The PPS, which focuses on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies by distributing contraceptives and holding sexuality educational programmes in various communities in Gauteng, North West, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu/Natal has declared itself pro-choice and said abortion should be available on request

"The fact that pro-choice people might personally be against abortion, but support the rights of others to have abortions is never highlighted in the abortion debate

"Pro-choice supporters represent a much broader and comprehensive group of people than is currently being portrayed

"Pro-choice tries to put into context the experience of the person who has to consider whether or not to terminate a pregnancy," said Mr Mputhi

He said pro-choice counsellors would help their clients to examine both choices rationally and would encourage a client to make a decision compatible with the client's value system

"Pro-choice people generally don't use strategies of public drama But anti-choice people are raising a lot of issues in a very emotional way at the moment, for instance saying wombs are tombs They are blackmailing people as well"

Mr Mputhi said the PPS had been organising workshops on abortion and had made an agreement with other organisations to share information and resources with the aim of employing people who would focus on the lobbying of parliamentarians

"We are trying to get the ANC to fulfill its election promise so that they will pass the draft bill through a block vote, not a free vote"

He said provincial hospitals, which admitted hundreds of patients presenting with septic back-street abortions for an average of six days each, should not be burdened by women asking for safe abortions, who would stay in hospital for about two days

"The procedure of dealing with a complication of a back-street abortion is also much more complicated than a hygienic abortion"

Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africans were faced with a choice reach out to women in need or condemn them to death through illegal abortions, the deputy secretary-general of the African National Congress, Cheryl Carolus backed by nine organisations, has told a press conference in Johannesburg

She spoke at the ANC headquarters for the ANC and its women's league, but also on behalf of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sanco), the South African Communist Party (SACP), Young Women's Network, National Progressive Primary Health Care Network, Women's Health Project and the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPS), which gathered at the conference to give their "unqualified support" to the recommendations of the Sterilisation and Abortion Select Committee

"We do so not from narrow party political interests, but from a burning desire to bring about a fundamental transformation of the paternalistic and oppressive abortion laws our country has known for decades," Ms Carolus said

Women were faced with "hard choices" and they cried out for "mature and quality" leadership from public representatives, "so we have a choice to make condemn them to death through illegal abortions or rise above our parochial interests and reach out to those who want our help"

The organisations would fight for the removal of the emotive and sensational arguments "that have thus far clouded the issues" and believed the committee's recommendations reflected a humane, practical and reasoned approach to the issue of abortion

The report was worthy of the support of all South Africans, irrespective of political, cultural or religious belief and put South Africa on the same footing as democratic nations of the world

'Women should be able to take control of their own lives by taking control of their own fertility'

The proposed legislation would uplift the social conditions of all South Africans and gave full expression to the viewpoints contained in the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme document "Every woman must have the right to choose whether or not to have an early termination of pregnancy according to her own individual beliefs Reproductive rights must include education, counselling and confidentiality"

Women should be able to take control of their own lives by taking control of their own fertility

Information and services needed to be placed at the disposal of communities to help them to make informed decisions, she said

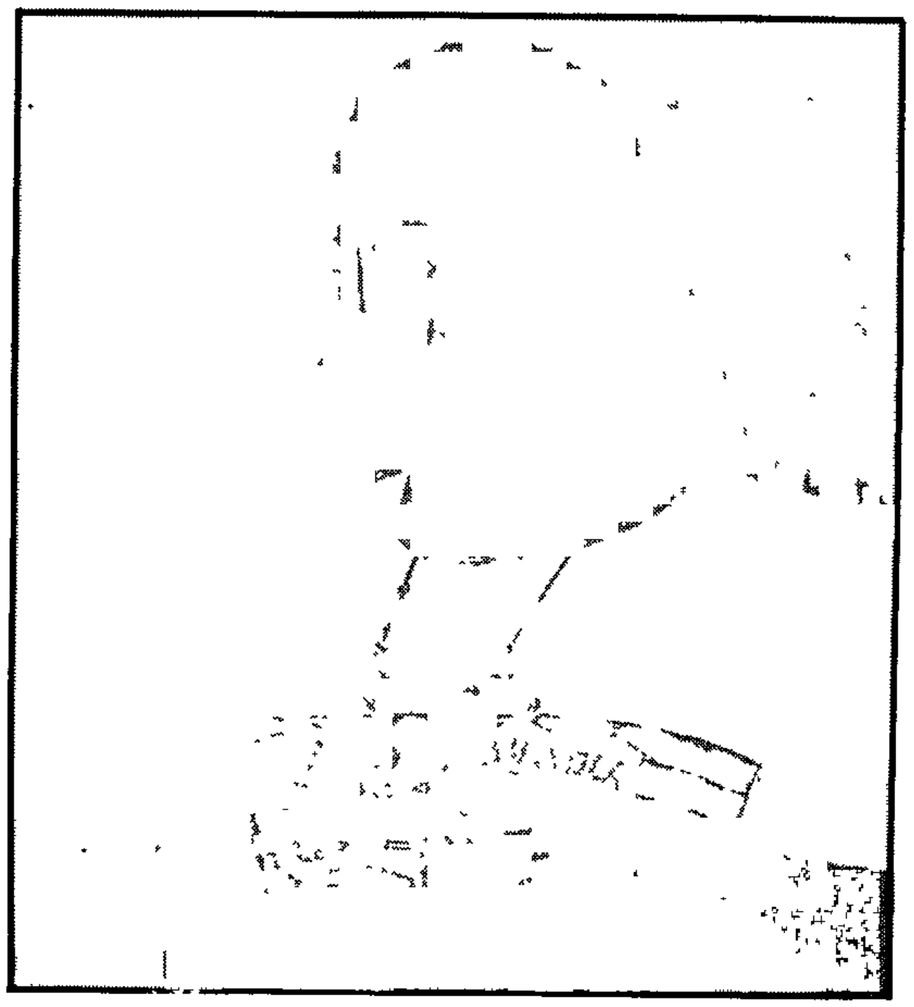
Under ideal conditions, the national primary health care system would be so effective that it would eliminate any need for abortion

"We are not proclaiming ourselves to be anti-life rather it is our deep-seated commitment to ensuring a better quality of life and dignity for all South Africans that motivates our position

"The cause of democratising our society will not be helped by moralising over the issue In the contrary, it can only fuel backstreet abortion, with disastrous consequences for all those affected

"We know, and know too well, that despite stringent abortion laws in our country, illegal abortions have continued unabated for years

"These laws drive 2 000 South African women a year to illegal acts of abortions, both at home and abroad, resulting in at least 425 women dying each year"



CHERYL CAROLUS "a humane, reasoned and practical approach"

Judi Fortuin of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network said unsafe abortion and all the complications of sepsis, blocked tubes, excessive bleeding and death needed to be redressed within a framework of public health and not one of criminality and morality

A spokeswoman for the Women's Health Project of the University of the Witwatersrand, said it applauded the new recommendations

She said the 1975 Act "has been shown to discriminate particularly against black women, for instance, in terms of the mental health clause a woman has had to obtain a psychiatrist's consent, but in the rural areas there are no psychiatrists"

"We want to call on the ANC to carry out its election promise to liberalise our abortion laws We want to ask the ANC not to be intimidated by so-called moralists who are not in touch with women's real needs," she said

Toe the pro-choice line, says ANC leadership

WM 18-24/8/95 (237)

Officially the ANC's position on abortion is pro-choice. But not all members agree, writes **Marion Edmunds**

THE leadership of the African National Congress is pulling out all the stops to whip the party back into line on its pro-choice stand on abortion.

Well-placed sources say that Tuesday's ANC-alliance media conference at party headquarters was specifically to remind members that the ANC had a pro-choice stand, and that a vote of conscience — where MPs would not be subject to the dictates of the whip but could vote as individuals — on abortion legislation would not be tolerated.

There is a growing fear inside (and outside) the ANC that conservative and religious MP's might start to push for a vote of conscience on abortion legislation when it comes before Parliament, instead of voting according to the official pro-choice party line This fear, felt keenly by the pro-choice lobby inside the party, is matched by the growing sense of unease amongst those ANC members who are uncomfortable with the idea of abortion-on-demand because of strongly held religious and ethical beliefs

There is evidence that a great deal of soul-searching has been going on in the party in recent months Sources say that there is much informal debate on the matter between party members — around dinner tables, behind closed doors There is a determination by some to keep the party discussions out of the public eye.

Since the tabling of the abortion report last week by Dr Abe Nkomo's Ad-hoc Parliamentary Committee on Abortion and Sterlisation, tension about views on abortion has increased

As an indication of the strong feeling, a highly respected ANC MP this week asked to withdraw comments he had made to the *Mail & Guardian* on the handling of the abortion issue until after the matter was discussed in the ANC parliamentary caucus

Originally this matter was deemed too sensitive to be discussed internally before the local government elections Earlier this month, the caucus chair, Baleka Kgositsile, said that the matter could "easily erupt" and that it was not in the interests of the party to deal with it until next year

Since the tabling of the Nkomo report, the matter has been put down for discussion, possibly for next week

Kgositsile said that rumours that a group of conservatively minded ANC members were trying to influence ANC Cabinet ministers to allow a vote of conscience on abortion legislation were a "misrepresentation

But members of the Reproductive Rights Alliance (RRA) — a loose group of NGOs involved in women's issues and health care — are worried that a traditional, conservative and religious lobby has been working quietly on senior ANC members and even Cabinet members to push for a vote of conscience

A male source said ANC women had pushed a pro-choice position, which had become policy, but that they had not neccessarily convinced the traditionalists

A representative of the RRA Michelle O'Sullivan, said this week that many South Africans had voted for the ANC on the basis of its position on abortion and that it could not now renege on that position by allowing party members to vote on the legislation according to their conscience

One of the NGOs in the alliance, the Women's Health Project, called this week for the ANC "not to be intimidated by so-called moralists who are not in touch with women's real health needs"

Nkomo, the head of the committee which investigated the abortion legislation, has appealed to members of the RRA to intensify their lobbying to ensure that ANC cabinet ministers stick to the ANC policy position

A male source in the ANC, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed that the issue was a 'political hot potato" within the party and that there were differing opinions He said that the women in the ANC had pushed a certain position on the matter, which had become policy, but that they had not neccessarily convinced the traditionalists of the wisdom of that position

One of the few ANC MPs who was prepared to speak openly to the *M&G* was Dr Ram Saloojee He said that he was sympathetic to the women's lobby, but said that as president of the Islamic Council of South Africa, his religion would not allow him to vote for the total liberalisation of the abortion law He said that he would prefer the ANC to allow a vote of conscience on abortion legislation He has the support of a number of other Muslim ANC MPs.

Kgositsile, however, says a vote of conscience is unacceptable because ANC MPs were elected to Parliament through proportional representation on a party list, and thus must take a party line

Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, an ANC MP and a Catholic, said this week that he believed that the majority of South Africans do oppose abortion He said that he was distressed that the debate on abortion had degenerated into mud-slinging between pro-lifers and pro-choicers He said that the debate was missing a middle ground which took all elements into account — economic, social, political as well as moral

He acknowledged that there were many ANC members who did not support the liberalisation of abortion

Its is ironic that the men in the ANC tend to be more outspoken on abortion than the women ANC veteran Adelaide Tambo refused to be drawn on the matter when asked

She said "My point of view is affected by my religious belief but I have a sensitivity towards the will of the people and I wouldn't like to comment further "

Contrast this to the responses of the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Bantu Holomisa, who said, just before Women's Day "Personally I think women should have the last say on the matter "

It is urgent that the ANC debate the matter as it affects the Bill of Rights in the final Constitution While this does not boil down to putting a "right to abortion" in the Bill of Rights, it does demand that certain choices are made by the ANC before October

On abortion, the ANC is caught between a rock and a hard place It is sensitive to the powerful pro-choice women's lobby — but it will also have to respond to the attitudes of its more conservative members and the constituency beyond

Meanwhile, a well-placed Inkatha source said it was likely that Inkatha would change what was considered a pro-choice stand on abortion, as there was such a strong pro-life feeling within the party

The source said that he was under the impression that many of the IFP women were pro-choice but that they were too frightened to speak up about their views in front of the men

Cabinet battle lies ahead

WM 18-24/8/95 (237)

Marion Edmunds

THE head of the Parliamentary Ad-hoc Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation, ANC MP Dr Abe Nkomo, has predicted a tough battle in Cabinet over his report, which recommends abortion on demand up to 14 weeks.

Should the report be adopted by Cabinet, corresponding legislation will be drawn up and piloted through Parliament by the Health Portfolio Committee. This will involve further extensive public consultation and open debate.

The Report on Abortion and Sterilisation has proposed new legislation for abortion, making it possible for women and girls to have abortions on request to up to 14 weeks, and, under certain conditions, up to 24 weeks. Such conditions would be worked out between the woman and her health worker, and could include the economic and social situation of the woman.

The report recommends that it not be neccessary for a woman to get the consent of her partner, and that girls under 16 need not tell their parents, although it would be advisable.

It is also suggested that a range of health workers be trained to conduct abortions and that resources be improved to give women access to abortions, especially in areas where there are few doctors. Yet the report recommends that doctors or health workers who feel that they cannot conduct abortions for ethical reasons can refer cases elsewhere.

The report also suggests that statistics on abortion be collected. Nkomo highlights in the report the difficulty of getting accurate and scientific information on abortion in South Africa, partly because of the past law forbidding abortion on demand and because of the stigma attached to abortions

The report recommends that a great deal of red tape, present in the 1975 Act, be scrapped.

In the report, Nkomo says that the recommendations were drawn up after the committee received 452 submissions. He said that it was unfortunate that the majority of the submissions were from well-resourced white people and that there were considerably fewer representations from black and poor people.

Nkomo said that he was suprised that opposition parties were trying to make mileage out of the debate.

No way over the great abortion divide

ARG 19/8/95 (237)

■ WOMEN in South Africa should be granted abortion on demand up until the 14th week of pregnancy, a report tabled by a parliamentary commission recommended. The recommendation is based on a wide range of submissions that reveal the extent of the divide between both sides of abortion debate, writes **CHRISTINA STUCKY.**

IN May and June this year the more than 40 men and women who comprise the ad hoc select committee on abortion and sterilisation heard endless hours of submissions from individuals and organisations and waded through reams of written submissions ranging from 50-page documents to postcards All those who gave evidence to the committee had one thing in common the conviction that their stance is the only morally justifiable one

Such is the abortion debate that has pitted men and women in two entrenched camps Nowhere in the world has one side been able to convince the other of its arguments South Africa is no exception

Here, as elsewhere, the arguments ring familiar, as does the composition of the pro-life and the pro-choice lobbies While the pro-life group is predominately made up of religious groups, religious and moral arguments can also be found on the pro-choice side The authors of the committee's report commented that the pro-life lobby "as a whole is clearly well organised" — the prolifers produced more submissions than the pro-choice lobby — and tended to be less diverse than the pro-choice group, which included organisations ranging from the Umtata Women's Theology Group, to the Black Sash, Lawyers for Human Rights and, of course, the Abortion Rights Action Group (Arag)

While black women are a majority in this country, submissions from black people, "be it African, Coloured or Indian", were "distressingly" few, the committee wrote in its report "Of the approximately 10 black women who had given oral evidence, all but two were in the pro-choice camp"

Given the wide range of often conflicting evidence submitted to the committee, it relied on statistics of well-known medical scientists, in particular on research done by the Medical Research Council and the Department of Community Health of the University of Cape Town

According to UCT's department of community health, each year more than 33 000 "procedures are performed in respect of 'removal of residues' in public hospitals", of which "the majority" relate to backstreet abortions The Medical Research Council monitored hospitals nation-wide in September last year and found that an estimated 44 686 women "present themselves at South African hospitals with incomplete abortions which are the result of either spontaneous miscarriages or illegal abortions" According to the Council, this figure underestimates the total number of women who have abortions in this country They further estimate that "of those who reach a hospital *most do not*, 425 die every year as a result of septic abortions and 12 847 can be regarded as having undergone an abortion in unsafe conditions"

Both sides of the debate use these statistics to support their arguments The pro-life lobby regards these figures as further evidence that abortions lead to death and destruction For them, abortion is murder, nothing more and certainly nothing less In their submissions, some pro-lifers painted a vivid picture of the "horror involved in some of the methods of abortion"

For pro-choice advocates, these figures represent the horrors of making abortion illegal, of pushing it into the underground Legalising abortion, they say, will ensure that women will not die in back rooms In their submissions, they evoked the image of the lives of "unwanted" children living in dire poverty, of women struggling at subsistence level trying to raise a child they would rather not have put into their world

Pro-choice lobbyists argued that abortion is to be regarded as "the remedy of last resort" and that it should be part of a comprehensive reproductive health care system Pro-life advocates argued that abortion is not necessary in a society whose "citizens conduct themselves in a 'moral' manner, and that the appropriate moment for choice is before pregnancy rather than after conception"

In the pro-life camp, proponents argued "the right to life enshrined in the constitution" and, further, that "abortion constitutes discrimination against the foetus on the basis of age, place of residence (womb), degree of helplessness, whether the foetus is wanted or not, and socio-economic circumstances" and that "abortion does not improve the quality of life of the aborted foetus"

Pro-choice lobbyists argued that the "quality of life" is integral to the "right to life", citing the large numbers of abandoned, neglected and abused children, the breakdown of the extended family as a support system, the "extremely low levels of payment of parental maintenance, resulting in many women having to support children on inadequate incomes"

They further argued that the current law discriminates against underprivileged women who cannot afford to pay the fees demanded by doctors willing to perform what at the moment is still, in most circumstances, an illegal act "They pointed to the current, very unequal access of black, rural, working class and uneducated women to legal abortions in that, for example, 69% of all legal abortions in 1990 were performed on white women"

While well-founded arguments could be found on both sides of the abortion debate, some of the "evidence" presented to the committee can only be classified as dubious, such as, for example, the issue of right to abortion after a rape

On the pro-choice side, the response is simple a woman must have the right to choose, therefore she should have the right to an abortion at all times, including and perhaps especially, after a rape

Some of the members of the — admittedly not homogeneous — pro-life side, stipulated the following "They said that a woman is only fertile for a few days in each menstrual cycle, and for a woman to become pregnant, rape would therefore had to have taken place within that period They said that rapists themselves are often not fertile, and that an abortion does not, in any case, 'unrape' the woman They also said that bearing the child would be a healing experience for the woman"

Most rape survivors would, I wager, be hard put to describe carrying a child conceived during a rape to full term, as a "healing experience"

Here's how the abortion proposal came about

Star 19/8/95 (237)

A parliamentary report has recommended that abortion in South Africa should be granted on demand up to the 14th week of pregnancy. This has stirred up controversy but the proposal wasn't plucked out of thin air writes **CHRISTINA STUCKY** – it was based on a host of submissions

In May and June this year, the more than 40 men and women who comprise the Ad hoc Select Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation heard endless hours of submissions from individuals and organisations and waded through reams of written submissions ranging from 50-page documents to postcards All those who gave evidence to the committee had one thing in common the conviction that their stance is the only morally justifiable one

Such is the abortion debate that has pitted men and women in two entrenched camps

Nowhere in the world has one side been able to convince the other of its arguments South Africa has proven to be no exception

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Pro-choice lobbyists argued that abortion is to be regarded as "the remedy of last resort"and that it should be part of a comprehensive reproductive health care system

Pro-life advocates argued that abortion is not necessary in a society whose "citizens conduct themselves in a 'moral' manner, and that the appropriate moment for choice is before pregnancy rather than after conception " In the pro-life camp, proponents argued "the right to life enshrined in the Constitution" and, further, that "abortion constitutes discrimination against the foetus on the basis of age, place of residence (womb), degree of helplessness, whether the foetus is wanted or not, and socio-economic circumstances" and that "abortion does not improve the quality of life of the aborted foetus"

Pro-choice lobbyists argued that the "quality of life" is integral to the "right to life", citing the large numbers of abandoned, neglected and abused children, the breakdown of the extended family as a support system, the "extremely low levels of payment of parental maintenance, resulting in many women having to support children on inadequate incomes"

They further argued that the current law discriminates against underprivileged women who cannot afford to pay the fees demanded by doctors willing to perform what at the moment is still, in most circumstances, an illegal act "They pointed to the current, very unequal access of black, rural, working class and uneducated women to legal abortions in that, for example, 69 percent of all legal abortions in 1990 were performed on white women "

Another contentious issue is the precise moment life begins Pro-life proponents based their argument on the Bible and quoted Jeremiah 1 4 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you " This confirmed the "existence of life before birth, or even before conception"

The organisation Doctors for Life argued that life begins at "brain birth", occuring approximately 24 weeks after conception

Pro-choice lobbyists also used the "brain birth" argument – abortion on demand should be granted until the 14th week of pregnancy

Before this point in time, "the foetus will never be able to survive without artificial respiration outside the womb "

While well-founded arguments could be found on both sides of the abortion debate, some of the "evidence" presented to the committee could only be classified as dubious, such as, for example, the issue of right to abortion after a rape

On the pro-choice side, the response is simple a woman must have the right to choose, therefore she should have the right to an abortion at all times, including and perhaps especially, after a rape

Some of the members of the – not homogeneous – pro-life side, stipulated the following

"They said that a woman is only fertile for a few days in each menstrual cycle, and for a woman to become pregnant, rape would therefore had to have taken place within that period

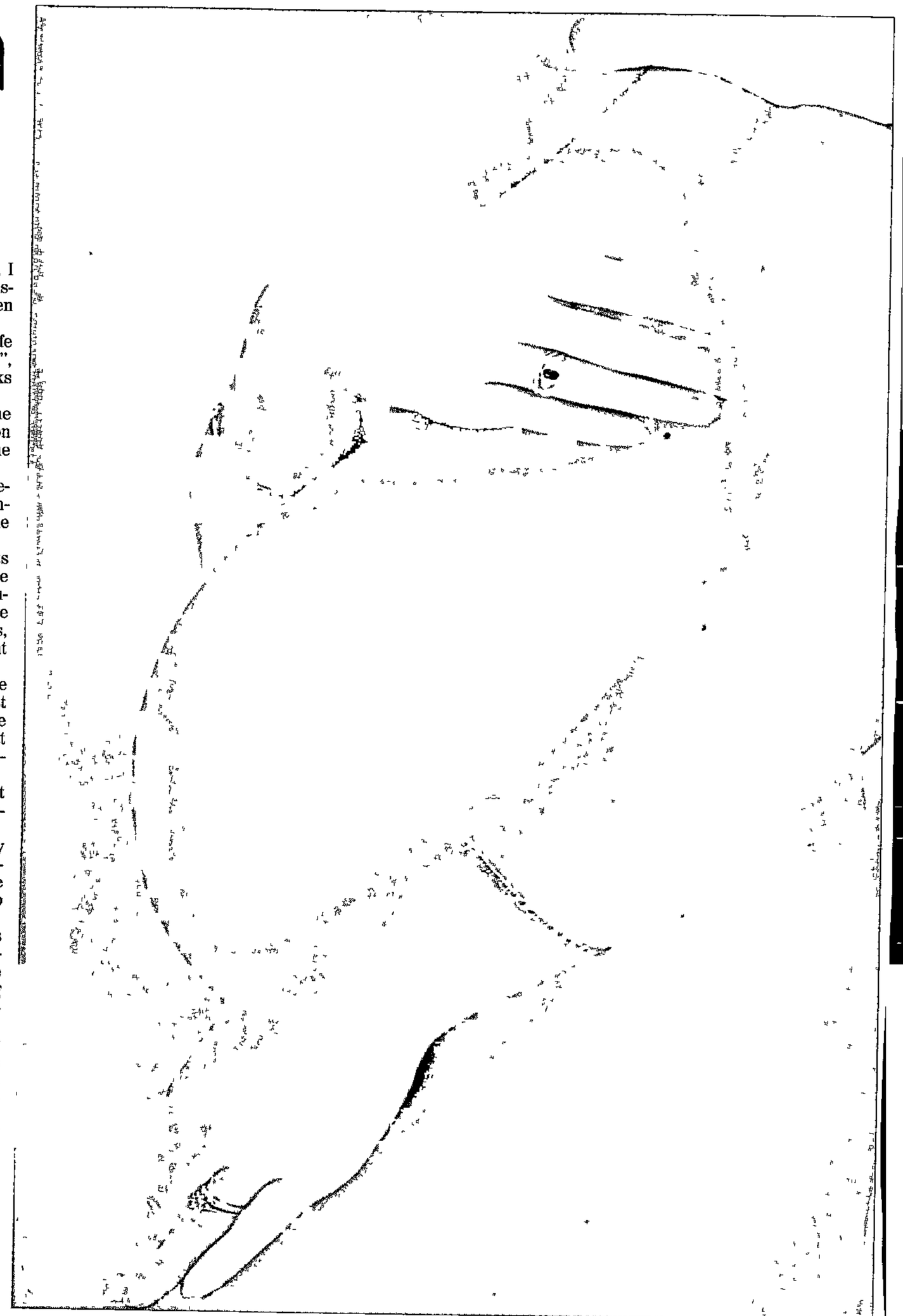
"They said that rapists themselves are often not fertile, and that an abortion does not, in any case, 'unrape' the woman They also said that bearing the child would be a healing experience for the woman "

Most rape survivors would, many would argue, be hard put to describe carrying a child conceived during a rape to full term, as a "healing experience"

And so the ping-pong match of argument and counter argument, upon which the committee based its recommendation, continues

The decision cannot have been made easily

Without a doubt, the committee members are fully aware that their recommendation has poured fuel onto a fire that is likely to continue raging well into the next century, regardless of whether the Government decides to accept the committee's recommendation or not



FULL TERM Even rape victims are expected to go through with the pregnancy Some pro-lifers say that an abortion would in any case, not "unrape" the victim and that bearing a child would be a "healing experience" They also claim women might use the rape as an excuse to procure an abortion

Pro-life lobby slams abortion report

(237) CT 21/8/95

CLAIRE BISSEKER

THE pro-life lobby has expressed outrage that the Ad-hoc Committee on Abortion and Sterilisation disregarded the fact that fewer than one percent of the submissions received by the Department of Health were in favour of abortion on demand.

Submissions to the committee ranged from calls for the imposition of the chastity belt and banning masturbation, to legalising abortion up to 28 weeks into pregnancy.

Out of the 157 000 letters, petitions and postcards received by the department by the end of July, only 54 were from the pro-choice lobby.

The committee recommended that abortion be allowed on request up to 14 weeks and up to 24 weeks under certain broadly-specified conditions, including poverty.

According to the Medical Research Council more than 44 600 women are treated each year for incomplete abortions caused either by spontaneous miscarriages or illegal abortions.

They estimate that every year more than 12 800 women undergo abortions in unsafe conditions and 425 women die from septic abortions.

The committee's report said the majority of the submissions were from well-resourced white people and there were considerably fewer representations from blacks and the poor.

Of the 10 black women who gave oral evidence, all but two were in the pro-choice camp.

In its latest newsletter Pro-Life said "A small matter like the democratic rejection of abortion was certainly not going to be allowed to obstruct this government's plan to normalise the killing of pre-born children".

They quoted a survey done last November by Omnicheck which found that 66% of South Africans of all races did not want any further relaxation of the abortion laws.

'Third of SA expectant mothers are teenagers'

CT 23/8/95 (237)

STAFF REPORTER

THIRTY THREE percent of pregnant woman in South Africa were teenagers and there was no hope of limiting population growth unless teenage pregnancies could be controlled, a former head of the Tygerberg Hospital family planning unit said yesterday

Dr Johan Roux, who headed the family planning unit at the hospital for 10 years until his retirement recently, and who has written a book called Fertility Management and Contraception in Practice said "There is an alarming increase in teenage pregnancies"

He said only 10% of teenagers visited family planning clinics, and the rate of teenage pregnancies would increase unless teenagers received better sex education and family planning clinics were made more accessible to them.

At present 14-year-old girls could attend clinics without the consent of their parents

Dr Roux said one of the reasons for the high pregnancy rate could be attributed to the myths among teenagers about contraceptives

One myth was that contraceptives made teenagers more sexually active

Parents also felt that allowing teenagers to use contraceptives gave them permission to indulge in sex

Constraints

"Teenage pregnancies not only destroy the future of the teenager, but the babies suffer terribly, as normally the financial circumstances of the families are not good," he said

There was no hope of limiting population growth unless teenage pregnancies could be controlled

Planned Parenthood Association educator Mrs Rose Crowley said one way to help control teen pregnancies was to make family planning clinics more accessible to teenagers A senior administration officer in the Department of Health said they were trying to do this but financial constraints made it difficult

However, a family planning clinic would be opening at the Nyanga Junction shopping centre next month

The association had also embarked on a project called Teach the Teacher to educate school teachers on counselling pupils on sex education

The head of the Groote Schuur Hospital family planning unit, Dr. Ester Sapire, said 15% of pregnancies in the Peninsula were teenage pregnancies, a one percent increase since last year

"The rate has increased steadily and one percent is a very significant increase," Dr Sapire said

She said teenagers also had to realise the danger of contracting Aids or an incurable sexually transmitted disease like herpes

"Warts for life and Aids for death," she said

More babies for the Rainbow Nation

(237) CT(BR) 25/8/95

BY LLEWELLYN JONES

STAFF WRITER

South Africa's population is estimated at 40,9 million people and the average annual growth rate for all population groups since the 1991 population census is 2,1 percent, according to Unisa's Bureau of Market Research

Of the provinces, the most populous province is KwaZulu Natal, with 8,7 million inhabitants, and the least populous is the Northern Cape with only 800 000 inhabitants

KwaZulu Natal's population is composed of 7,2 million blacks, 800 000 Asians and 600 000 whites

Most of South Africa's Asians (77,4 percent), live in KwaZulu Natal and, more specifically, the Durban-Pietermaritzburg complex, which hosts 64,6 percent of the total Asian population

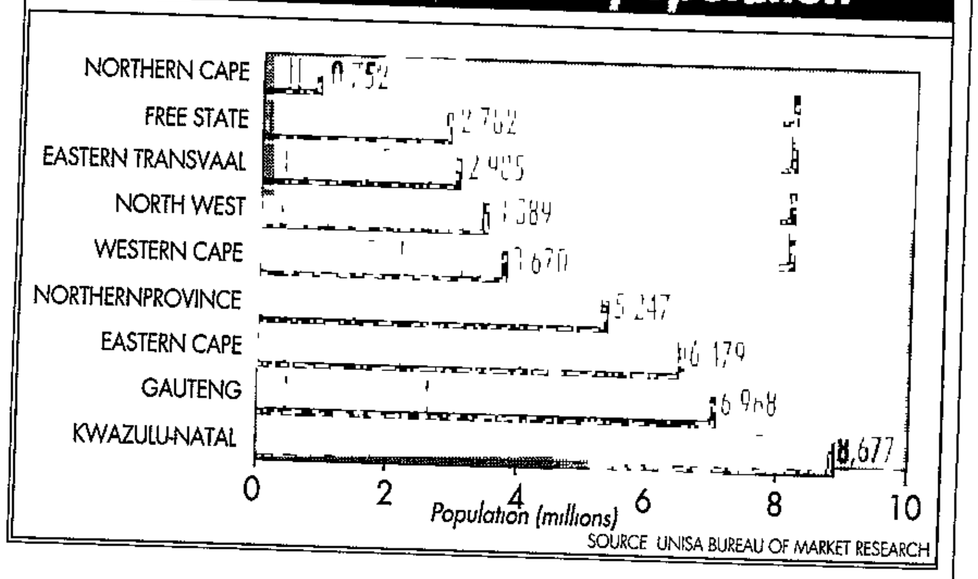
Gauteng has the second largest Asian population with 15,3 percent of the total

The country's largest black population — close on 7,2 million or 22,9 percent of the total — lives in KwaZulu Natal, followed by the Eastern Cape with 5,7 million, or 18,1 percent, and the Northern Province with 5,1 million or 16,3 percent

Most coloured people — 2,1 million, or 60,8 percent — live in the Western Cape, followed by Eastern Cape with 12,5 percent and Northern Cape with 11,3 percent

The highest concentration (52,1 percent) is in the south-western Cape, including the Peninsula, Boland, Overberg, Breede River and West Coast

Estimated South African population



SOURCE UNISA BUREAU OF MARKET RESEARCH

Gauteng has the largest number of whites — 2,1 million or 41,2 percent of the total — followed by the Western Cape with 16,8 percent and KwaZulu Natal with 11,7 percent

Since 1991 South Africa's black population has risen by 2,4 percent a year to 31,2 million , Asians by 1,3 percent, coloureds by 1,4 percent and whites by 0,7 percent

Population up 2% to 41 million

PRETORIA. — South Africa's population was about 40,9 million, representing an average annual growth of 2,1 percent since the 1991 state census, the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research said.

(237) ARG 26/8/95

The bureau said KwaZulu-Natal was the most populous province, with 8,7 million people. The Northern Cape, at the other extreme, had 0,8 million

"Of the black population, the largest number (about 7,2 million or 22,9 percent) live in KwaZulu-Natal, followed by 5,7 million (18,1 percent) in the Eastern Cape and 5,1 million (16,3 percent) in Northern Province

"Most of the coloured people live in the Western Cape (2,1 million or 60,8 percent), Eastern Cape (12,5 percent) and Northern Cape (11,3 percent).

"The highest concentration (52,1 percent) is in the south-west Cape, which in March 1995 accommodated 1,8 million coloureds."

The bureau said most Asians in South Africa lived in KwaZulu-Natal (77,4 percent).

The bureau said Gauteng had the largest number of whites (2,1 million or 41,2 percent of the total), followed by the Western Cape (16,8 percent) and KwaZulu-Natal (11,7 percent)

Since 1991 the black population rose by 2,4 percent a year, from 28,4 million to 31,2 million, compared with annual growth figures of 1,3 percent for Asians, 1,4 percent for coloureds and 0,7 percent for whites — Sapa

Suzman and DP clash on abortion

HELEN SUZMAN ... DP backtracked

By EDYTH BULBRING
Political Correspondent

FORMER Democratic Party MP Helen Suzman has criticised the party for rejecting a parliamentary report on abortion that was released this month.

In a letter to the Sunday Times, Mrs Suzman said she was "deeply concerned" to read that the DP wanted the parliamentary report on abortion to be discarded. This meant the DP had reversed its support of the committee's pro-choice recommendations.

Mrs Suzman was reponding to a statement issued by DP health spokesman Mike Ellis.

He said the report was not intellectually, morally or constitutionally respectable. "It should be thrown in the waste paper bin, and the process of investigating the current abortion legislation begun again."

Mr Ellis said this week that Mrs Suzman was wrong to fear that the statement indicated the party had changed its pro-choice position. It simply objected to the vague wording of the recommendations.

"Nice old lady that she is, but she is wrong," Mr Ellis said.

He was particularly concerned by the unclear reference to "certain broadly specified conditions" under which an abortion could be obtained during the 14 to 24-week period.

"The DP had also been concerned that counselling before an abortion was not mandatory.

● See page 16.

(237)

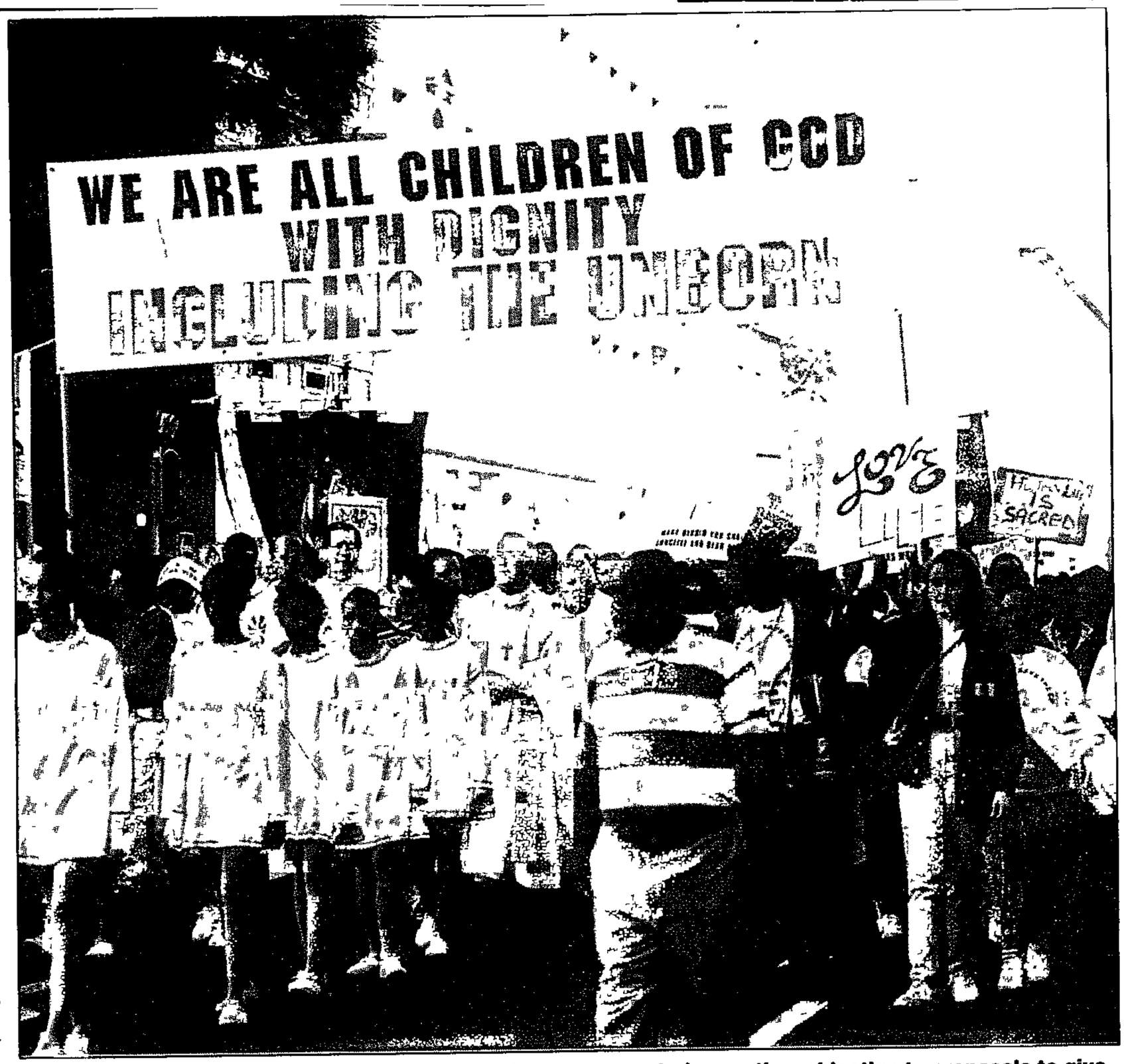
ST 27/8/95

SUMMER FLING ON SLAND

'Choosing to kill a baby in the womb is still murder'

WITH the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing a week away, the question of abortion is likely to be one of the hotly debated issues. On the eve of this important meeting, PRISCILLA MONYAI, a lecturer in development studies at Fort Hare, argues that South Africa should not legalise abortion.

(237) CP 27/8/95



ON THE MARCH . . . South Africans against abortion demonstrated recently – objecting to proposals to give women the legal right to obtain abortion on demand.

'Abortion is wrong'

DEAR PRESIDENT Mandela – I humbly appeal to you to prevent abortion on demand

Different reasons have been advanced in an effort to justify abortion on demand but let us not confuse murder with choice

Skewed, distorted and misrepresented slogans tend to advance abortion as an exclusively legal question and a mere medical procedure, obscuring the fact that abortion is also a basic moral question

That an unborn foetus is human life is a medical fact Human life is sacred from the moment of conception A foetus is not some sort of a tumour, but a human life that commands recognition

That the human life is in the womb does not make it morally inferior or disposable and it doesn't make it less wrong to kill than to kill any innocent person

Author Michael Kielty in his address at a recent abortion debate in California stated that "Dr Bernard Nathanson, who made the movie *Silent Scream* – was former director of the Centre for Reproductive and Sexual Health in New York, the first and largest abortion clinic in the Western World

"He has had an interesting change of heart and his comments are worth pondering "We must courageously face the fact finally that human life of a special order is being taken And since the vast majority of pregnancies are carried successfully to term, abortion must be seen as the interruption of a process that would otherwise have produced a citizen of the world Denial of this reality is the crassest kind of moral evasiveness "

On June 7, 1990, Dr Jerome Lejeune, a geneticist, giving testimony before the Louisiana State Legislature in the USA stated that "So even in an embryo a week old, with these new techniques, we can say already it's a man or a woman "

It passes our imagination as geneticists that lawyers knowing suddenly that this embryo a week old is a boy, or a girl, would not recognise at the same time that she is a human being, Lejeune said.

The pro-life organisation provide the following medical facts

- Heartbeats begin between the 18 th and the 25 th day.
- The foundation for the entire nervous system is laid down by the 20 th day
- At 42 days, the skeleton is complete and reflexes are present
- Electrical brain waves have been recorded as early as 43 days
- The brain and all the body systems are present after eight weeks
- At eight weeks, if we tickle the baby's nose, he will flex his head backward away from the stimulus
- At nine to 10 weeks, he or she squints, swallows, moves the tongue, and if you stroke the palm it becomes a fist
- At 11 to 12 weeks, the baby sucks its thumb vigorously and breathes amniotic fluid to develop the organs of respiration
- Fingernails are present by 11-12 weeks, eyelashes by 16 weeks
- All the body systems are functioning by 12 weeks

The right of a woman over her body is not an exclusive absolute entitlement that gives her the right to choose whether other human beings should live or die

The baby in the womb is not her body but the body of another person

Women do not have more claim to the right to life than any other human being

I think all life is equal before God, women, men and children, born and unborn, as there is no such thing as one life being inferior to another

The right to life is not a matter of social values or social utility

As Kielty rightly pointed out it isn't true that from an unwanted pregnancy comes an unloved child

This is further confirmed by Dr Edward Lenoski's conclusions in his findings in California which showed that 90 percent of battered children were planned pregnancies Kielty further stated that "with very rare exceptions, there are no true medical indications for abortion "

Those who pretend to find physical indications for abortion are either ignorant or dishonest and don't want to give proper care to their patient, he said

That women in their first months of pregnancy, whether wanted or unwanted, have reactions of fear, depression and ambivalence which they experience due to stress, cannot be denied, he said

But he argues that support from those around her – especially from the father of the child, help the woman to cope with the pregnancy

Abortion is a violent answer and a negative treatment and it promotes death as a health value!

It thrives on ignorance and negates the total physical, psychological and mental health of women

Victims are never fully informed as to the callous methods that are used nor the possible physical and psychological injuries that might occur as a result

They are never told that the baby inside them is going to be cut to pieces with a sharp steel knife

Torn to pieces with sharp toothed pliers or injected with a salt solution to burn the baby alive – where it will struggle for one hour before it dies, or be sucked out with powerful suction tube

In the movie *Silent Scream* you can actually see the baby in the womb trying to evade the sharp object inserted in the womb during abortion – and the baby opens its mouth in an effort to scream!

In 1978 an innocent college teenager in New York fell victim to "the right to choose" and relates her painful experience at the hands of "counsellors" at the abortion clinic as follows "No one suggested that I have the baby

"One "counsellor" told me the abortion was just a matter of "starting my period" for me

"How natural that sounded as if the delay of a mere bodily process was all that was involved They also showed me a uterine model

"This didn't show the inhabitant of the womb, the unseen victim whose agony I'd learn about later through the educational efforts of the prolifers

"Nor did they tell me that the loud and violent suction aspirator is 29 times more powerful than your home vacuum cleaner, or that the death date of my baby would be etched on my mind permanently April would later become, quite literally, the cruellest month for me "

Tata! As South Africans are we going to transfer the scourge of violence that has ravaged this country for years to the wombs of women – where the screams won't be heard and the violence won't be seen by the eyes of the nation?

(237)

MPs accept abortion report

PARLIAMENT accepted the report of a controversial committee on abortion yesterday, but members made it clear there was strong opposition to the committee's support for abortion on demand

After a long debate, 208 MPs voted for the report and 101 against.

The committee called for abortion on demand for women up to 14 weeks' gestational age and up to 28 weeks under certain conditions — Reuter

CT 31/8/95

Abortion a legal issue — ANC MP

LOUIS TRICHARDT. — The constitutional assembly had received more than a million submissions on what type of state South Africa should be, says African National Congress MP Collins Chabane.

Mr Chabane, talking to church leaders about their fears on abortion and a secular state, said abortion had nothing to do with the constitution but was a legal issue ARG 9/9/95

The courts would have to interpret the constitution's reference to the right to life, he said.

The interim constitution stated that everybody had a right to life. The courts would have to give their interpretation of this (237)

Population growth overestimated, says new research

B1 ARG 12/9/95

COLIN DOUGLAS (237)
Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africa's population growth rate has been overestimated and future demand for jobs and services will be smaller than policy-makers fear, says major new research.

Earlier projections that the population would number 60 million by 2010 have been cut to 53,4 million in the new study by the Centre for Development and Enterprise

It estimated that the current population was 41,2 million.

The study's authors are the centre's executive director, Ann Bernstein, and Jeff McCarthy of the University of Durban-Westville

The birth rate was falling faster than had been expected and the population had been overcounted in previous research, the study found.

"What has surprised many demographers is the pace of decline in black fertility rates.

"Several independently researched sources have reached the conclusion that black fertility has dropped much more rapidly than was anticipated during the 1980s

"It seems that blacks have achieved an equivalent decline in fertility in a shorter period than it previously took whites

"The notion that blacks have some permanent 'cultural' disposition towards large families is patently wrong," the study said

The rate of urbanisation had also been overestimated previously, the centre said

"We now estimate that by 2000 there will be five million fewer people in the metropolitan areas than was previously expected, and by 2010 there will be 8,5 million fewer," the study said, reducing projections made in 1989 by the Urban Foundation

Greater Cape Town's projected population in 2010, at four million, has been revised down to three million

"The demands for jobs, services and infrastructure in our metropolitan areas, cities and large towns will still be large, but at a smaller scale than hitherto believed," the study said.

But the study warned. "We do not know that this slower metropolitan growth will continue — this could be only temporary

"Decision-makers should therefore see it as such and take advantage of this while it lasts"

Shock numbers could affect RDP

(237) Star 13/9/95

■ BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Vital information on population and income trends, outlined in Johannesburg yesterday, could force the Government to reconsider the thrust of its Reconstruction and Development Programme.

A report prepared by the Centre for Development and Enterprise and, based on research prepared by Professor Charles Simkins of the University of the Witwatersrand in association with Professor Jeff McCarthy, University of Durban Westville and Ann Bernstein, executive director of CDE, documents key messages for South African policy-makers

The authors are to approach the Cabinet with their findings which, if accepted, could have a dramatic impact on long-term planning

Possibly the most relevant fact to emerge is a noticeable slowing down in black population growth

This is coupled with an already perceived increase in living standards

At a press briefing yesterday, Simpkins said their model revealed that black income was not "as unequal"as that found by the recent Whiteford/-McGrath research

He also dispelled "two myths" one that all blacks were coming to the PWV and the other that black culture equalled large families

He said South Africans were urbanising, but they are not all flocking to the major metropolitan areas as many people believed

Earlier estimates of the population in the year 2010 had also had to be revised Statistics showed the figure would be 53,4-million - some 5-million fewer people than originally thought

The study revealed that cities and large towns with populations of between 50 000 and 500 000 people were growing twice as fast as major metropolitan areas, while small towns - the first port of urbanisation for most farm workers - were growing almost as rapidly as metropolitan areas

The researchers warned of the unreliable nature of available statistics used in their research, including the 1991 census, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions about their research

McCarthy said that the proportion of the country's total income for whites had dropped from 58 7% to 51 7% in the past decade

Asian households had increased their income by 20% during that time The average income for Coloureds had increased by 15%, while for blacks it had increased by 10%

White households currently had 1 5% less income now than 10 years ago

Despite the increase in living standards, the profile of poverty now is much the same as it was 10 years ago with 94% of all poor households being black, while 64% of poor people are found in small towns or rural areas

The poverty line is currently set at a household income of R12 204 a year, with 29% of black households in urban areas falling within this category

In the cities the rate is up to 56%, while in small towns and rural areas, 74% of black households are living below the poverty line

Policy is being produced in a statistical vacuum

(237)

ANN BERNSTEIN

BD 13/9/95

SOUTH Africans are loose in the way they use statistics and factual information It is a dangerous habit

For example, in 1988 on behalf of the Urban Foundation, we estimated that 7-million people lived in informal circumstances This was a very rough ballpark figure Yet, to this day, that figure is still quoted by most politicians, officials and the media as the country's squatter population No one has thought to question whether the population might have grown in the past seven years!

Another example is the ever-changing figure for the population of Soweto No one knows for sure, and this seems to give anyone who cares licence to invent whatever number suits their purpose

In 1989 the Urban Foundation provided the country's most comprehensive assessment of national demographic and income trends available at that time The key message of this work was twofold the failure of apartheid in urban and rural SA and the importance of focusing on the country's growing cities as the centres of national economic growth and development

The Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) has just completed a major new study of the country's demographic and income trends, based on a second and updated edition of the foundation's earlier demographic and income distribution models The 1995 study is the only integrated and comprehensive analysis of recent population and income trends

This means that if you say the population of Cape Town is growing by about 10 000 people a month, for this claim to have credibility you need also to explain where these people are coming from (eg the Ciskei) and more importantly demonstrate that studies there show a diminution of that rural population Statistics that neglect this are unreliable

Some important findings and conclusions emerge from the study A new SA geography is emerging in terms of which urban and rural areas can be thought about in more rational terms The CDE work classifies the population into those who live in metropolitan areas (places of more than 500 000 people of which there are eight in the country), cities/large towns (50 000-500 000 people in 45 places), small towns (1 000-50 000 citizens in 278 different towns), and rural areas

Although it is useful to impose this rational classification on SA's apartheid landscape, it is important not to ignore the anomalies of our racial legacy Botshabelo, about 50km outside Bloemfontein, is one example of this It is not part of the Bloemfontein urban area and has been excluded from their local government structures It would be misleading to call it a town, as it is an apartheid creation where people were dumped in the middle of the veldt There is no real economic base and virtually no community facilities Initially it was officially classified "non-urban", the 1991 census now regards it as urban Neither classification would seem to reflect its status accurately Similar difficulties exist in other areas What about the densely settled parts of what used to be KwaNdebele from which many residents commute to work in different parts of Gauteng?

One thing is certain many people, and probably the majority classified as rural, have no connection at all with agricultural production We need to know about these densely settled "apartheid-created" communities The next census needs to use a classification which will make their situation more visible Above all we need to ensure that "apartheid's hidden urbanites" are not ignored in the policies and programmes of the government

All our figures come with an important warning attached. There are large and important areas of ignorance and uncertainty concerning SA demographics There are no reliable statistics (and do not believe anyone who claims there are) concerning the scale of illegal immigration, and the pattern and rate of internal migration. In addition, the base of all our models is the 1991 census Although this census was better in some respects than earlier surveys, insufficient resources were devoted to capturing new and complex dynamics of an expanded population. However, to reject the census altogether is to plunge the country and decision makers into the realm of pure speculation and with all the faults the census data is better than nothing At minimum, the CDE models will need to be tested as new data becomes available

Estimates of SA's squatter population are still based on research conducted seven years ago

The analysis shows that population projections for the country as a whole are lower than those made before 1992 Earlier estimates for 2010 were 59,7-million Our new estimate is 53,4-million One of the reasons for the lower projection is that black fertility has dropped more rapidly than was expected — an equivalent decline in fertility in a shorter period than it took whites The notion that black people have more permanent "cultural" predisposition towards large families is patently wrong

In line with this will be 5-million fewer people in the metropolitan areas by 2000 than previously forecast Nonetheless the greatest share of the country's population increase is still expected to occur in the metropolitan areas, and the study forecasts there will be 7-million people in metropolitan areas in 15 years time This will have enormous consequences for how we plan, and govern our cities

The new study shows that previous work seriously underestimated the population growth and potential of SA's intermediate cities and large towns Population growth rates between 1981 and 1991 for this category were almost twice that of the metropolitan areas This is an area of opportunity for the country This finding also dispels the notion that "everyone is coming to the PWV (Gauteng) region"

With respect to income data, CDE finds that between 1985 and 1995 average per capita income rose for all population groups except whites, who suffered a small decline This translates into a gradual and widely spread improvement in black living standards despite the drop in real per capita income for the country as a whole The proportion of households in poverty dropped between 1985 and 1990 but rose slightly between 1990 and 1995 because of very poor performance between 1989 and 1993 It is clear the economic growth is the key ingredient (necessary but not sufficient) in tackling national poverty

The pattern of poverty is much the same today as it was in 1983 — 94% of all poor households were black and 64% lived in small towns or remote rural areas However, this does not mean urban poverty should be ignored There is substantial, potentially explosive, urban poverty

On the basis of its work, CDE would make the following recommendations to the government. First, it should recognise and publicly acknowledge the problem of SA's inadequate demographic and income statistics Second, it should formulate a strategy to redress this situation where no one knows for sure the scale and nature of the challenges we face Third, when in doubt about development needs, do not rely on existing macro-demographic and official statistics, but conduct new studies

Fourth, revise the system of designing and undertaking censuses in SA. This should not be done by central government alone Partnerships are required with other levels of government, with the private sector and with communities Finally, establish a computer based information system accessible to all citizens and tiers of government.

National statistics should not be influenced by political ideology (their interpretation might be but that is a different matter) and this means that the independence and analytic rigour of the national information and data collection system has to be assured.

□ Bernstein is executive director of the CDE.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

Formal launch of adult basic education and training project

118 Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister without Portfolio

(1) Whether the adult basic education and training project has been formally launched; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) in which provinces had business plans been approved as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

S226E

The MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

As this project falls within the authorisation of the Department of Education, it is recommended that the member addresses his question to the hon Minister of Education

Extent of land in SA covered with plantations

133 Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

(1) (a) What extent of land in South Africa is covered with (i) government-owned and (ii) privately owned plantations and (b) what percentage of the total land area does this amount to in each case,

(2) whether any investigation has been conducted into the continued viability of these plantations in the light of water shortages in many areas of the country, if so, (a) what were the results of this investigtion and (b) what steps have been taken or are to be taken as a result?

S259E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

(1) (a) (i) Government-owned commercial timber plantations, under control of both the South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL) and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the latter which was previously under the control of the former homelands, cover 415 079 hectares (ha)

(ii) Privately-owned commercial timber plantations cover 1 033 509 ha

(b) (i) Government-owned plantations cover 0,339% of the Republic of South Africa

(ii) Privately owned plantations cover 0,845% of the Republic of South Africa

(2) Yes

(a) Forest hydrological research has been ongoing since 1935 to determine whe continued viability of these plantations in the light of water shortages in many areas of the country and a large number of reports and papers have been published Economically these plantations contribute 1,6% to the GDP Forestry plantations provide work to 125 000 people with multiplier effect of six in the processing sector

(b) As a result of the effect of plantations on water resources, an afforestation permit system was introduced to control new afforestation which, from the beginning of the year, also requires that environmental impact assessments are carried out for any significant area of proposed afforestation The forestry industry, like other agricultural enterprises still suffer from the prolonged drought since 1988 and which explains the present water shortage With no nett tree growth for a number of years, a shortage of timber is foreseen in coming years

Persons under 16 in urban/rural areas

135 Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister without Portfolio

(a) What percentage of (i) Whites, (ii) Blacks, (iii) Coloureds and (iv) Indians is under the age of 16 and (b) how many children under the age of 16 in each category live in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas?

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S261E

The MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

(a) According to the 1994 October Household Survey the percentage of the population under the age of 16 are as follows

(i)	Whites	22,9%
(ii)	Blacks	41,8%
(iii)	Coloureds	34,3%
(iv)	Indians	30,8%

Applying these percentages to the mid 95 projections of the population result in the following figures

	Total Population	*Childeren under the age of 16*
Whites	5,2 million	1,2 million
Blacks	31,5 million	13,2 million
Coloureds	3,5 million	1,2 million
Indians	1,1 million	0,3 million
Total	41,2 million	15,9 million

(b) The number and percentage of children under the age of 16 in each category which live in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas are as follows

	Urban Percentage	*Million*	*Rurul Percentage*	*Million*	*Total Million*
Whites	92,0%	1,1	8,0%	0,1	1,2
Blacks	26,8%	3,5	73,2%	9,6	13,2
Coloureds	84,0%	1,0	16,0%	0,2	1,2
Indians	96,2%	0,3	3,8%	0,01	0,3
TOTAL		5,9		9,9	15,9

Regarding the total population (i e of all ages), the urban/rural distribution is as follows

	Urban Percentage	*Million*	*Rurul Percentage*	*Million*	*Total Million*
Whites	91,1%	4,8	8,9%	0,5	5,2
Blacks	35,6%	11,2	64,4%	20,3	31,5
Coloureds	83,2%	2,9	16,8%	0,6	3,5
Indians	96,2%	1,0	3,8%	0,04	1,1
TOTAL		19,9		21,4	41,2

Glimmer of hope on population 'explosion'

COLIN DOUGLAS
Staff Reporter

POPULATION growth is usually a subject accompanied by doom-laden expressions like "uncontrolled explosion", "mass starvation" and "disaster"

So when the Centre for Development and Enterprise released an in-depth report last week that showed slowing birth rates and smaller-than-expected future demand on state services, it was a rare glimmer of hope

The report's authors, Ann Bernstein and Jeff McCarthy, revised earlier projections that South Africa's population would grow to 60 million by 2010, predicting a figure of 53,4 million instead

(Current population is estimated at 41,2 million)

This finding was attributed largely to the unexpectedly fast decline in black fertility rates

The centre's reassessment of an expected flood to the cities was even more fundamental, with the report holding that earlier research by the Urban Foundation had overestimated the urban population in 2010 by 8,5 million people

The report revised greater Cape Town's projected population in 2010 down from 4 million to 3 million

24 HOURS NEWS WATCH

(237) ARG 20/9/95

As a result of these smaller metropolitan population projections, the report said, the pressure for jobs, services and infrastructure would be less than was previously expected

The Centre for Development and Enterprise's report also provided a piece of relatively good news on the question of poverty, contradicting other studies that had held living standards to be declining

"Between 1985 and 1995, average income per capita rose for all groups except whites, who suffered a small decline," the report said "These gains were widely diffused"

This was in sharp contrast to recent research by the Human Sciences Research Council which concluded that the poorest 80 percent of black households had a substantial decline in real income in the past two decades

The new report's estimate of average household income for poor black households was almost double that of the Research Council report

The proportion of households living under the Bureau of Market Research's "poverty line" had dropped from 41 percent to 39 percent between 1985 and 1995 — although the total number of people falling below the poverty line had increased

What accounts for the fluctuations and contradictions in South Africa's population statistics?

A key problem, the report said, was the unreliability of the 1991 census, which was an imperfect survey of South Africa's population

"In some respects the 1991 census may have been worse than those in previous years," the report said, arguing that the resources in the hands of the census-takers had not increased at the same rate as had the population

The "surprising finding" that cities were growing more slowly than previously thought, needed to be examined in greater depth on the basis of more data

"An urgent priority for government is to ensure that new, reliable data is gathered — this is the only way to check the census findings and understand the trends"

When the government was in doubt about local development requirements, it should not rely on existing demographic sources, but should conduct new, local research, the report said

In the long term, the method of conducting censuses should be revised, giving communities and the private sector greater opportunities to take part

A modern, computer-based information system should be established, widely accessible to all citizens, to store and analyse population data.

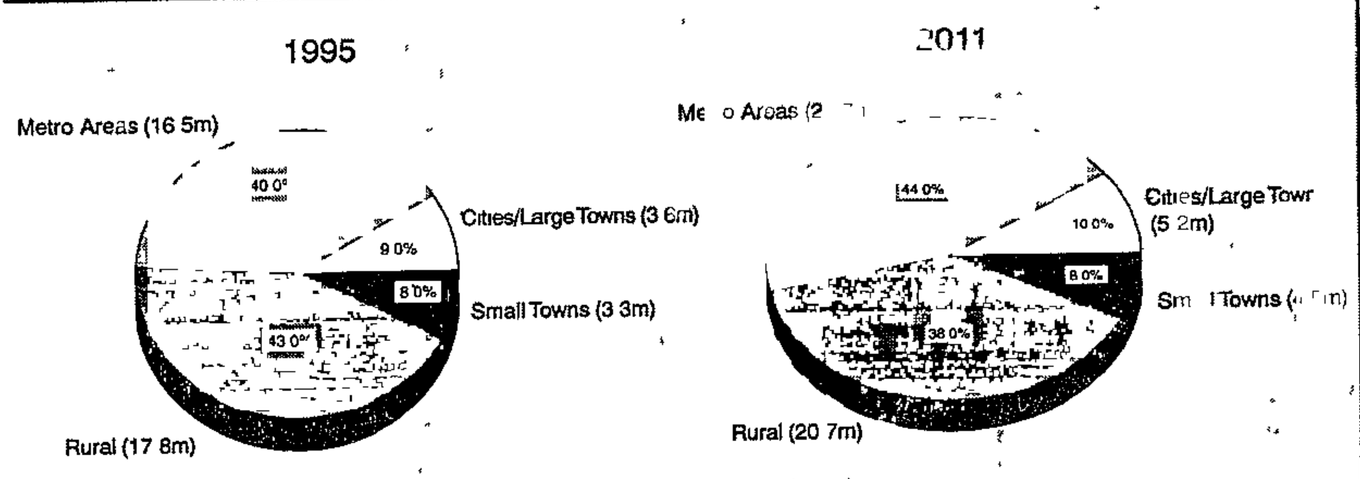
"The most important implication for national and urban policy makers concerns scale," the report's authors said, emphasising the importance of accurate demographic statistics

"Every project, every programme, every budget has to be tested against this key criterion — will it deal with the challenges we face on the scale required?

"How we manage the cities, how we deal with every area of sectoral concern — from health, to schooling to transport — has to be assessed according to the numbers of people we have to reach"

FIGURE 3 : SOUTH AFRICAN POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

	1995	2000	2011
Metropolitan	16 5m	18 7m	23 7m
Cities/Large Towns	3 6m	4.1m	5.2m
Small Towns	3 3m	3 7m	4.5m
Rural	17.8m	[illegible]m	[illegible]
TOTALS	41.2m	45 4m	[illegible]



GROWTH CHART: South African population estimates and projections.

'NOT IN KEEPING WITH WILL OF GOD', BUT ...

Church for abortion choice

CT 21/9/95
(237)

THE METHODIST church has adopted a pro-choice position on abortion after a lengthy debate at its annual conference. **LISA TEMPLETON** reports.

ABORTION at any stage of pregnancy was against the will of God, but women should be allowed the choice, the Methodist Church has decided

The position was adopted after a lengthy debate at the Methodist annual conference in Johannesburg this week

The church stated that abortion at any stage of pregnancy was not desirable or in keeping with the will of God, but that the church should be non-judgmental and provide counselling

The national president of Pro-life South Africa, Dr Claude Newbury, said he was "appalled" by the statement and that the most basic of all evils was to remove life

He said any moral system that decided the murder of a child was the choice of the mother was distressing "If a church does not judge the murder of a child before birth, how can it judge that murder after birth "

Monsignor Donald de Beer, Vicar General for the Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Town, said his faith believed human life was sacred and started at conception He added that a woman having an abortion would be disobeying God.

The Anglican Church will debate abortion at its synod on Friday A spokeswoman said it had become a very "hot" issue within the church

The Very Rev Colin Jones, Dean of the Anglican Church, said religion trod a very difficult path between acknowledging life was precious and very real situations

He said it was very important that women be given the choice "With much theology men tend to be the ones who decide " He said that in an imperfect world, where rape and backstreet abortions occurred, it was important that compassion and not theology dominated

Pope John Paul II, who visited SA at the weekend, made no direct comment about abortion but said it was woman's duty to protect life, from conception to natural death

An appeal signed by 2 000 South Africans was presented to the Pope asking him to ensure "that the state fulfils its obligation to protect the lives of all South Africans — born and unborn "

Demographers upbeat as black birth rate dips

(237) Star 23/9/95

By TROYE LUND

South Africa's population growth has been overestimated and fears of a massive future demand for jobs and services are unfounded, according to research by the Centre for Development and Enterprise.

The study pegs South Africa's population at 53-million in the year 2010, a 7-million reduction from previous estimates of 60-million

According to the study's co-ordinators, Ann Bernstein and Jeff McCarthy, the birth rate is falling faster than policymakers expected.

Demographers concluded in the study that the fertility rate among blacks is declining, a finding which stands in direct contradiction to figures compiled in 1980.

"It seems blacks have achieved an equivalent decline of births in a shorter period than it previously took whites," says the study, which adds how "patently wrong" the notion is that blacks have some permanent "cultural" disposition towards large families

It appears too that the level of urbanisation will be 5-million less than it is now by the year 2000 and 8,5-million less by 2010

"The demands for jobs, services and infrastructure in metropolitan areas, cities and large towns will still be large, but will develop at a smaller rate than it has been thought," the study claims

"In many respects this is a fortunate conclusion to have reached Despite considerable recent effort, the rate of delivery of urban housing, jobs and services has not kept pace with the current population. Current projections make the metropolitan development challenge as essential as ever but also make it appear more manageable," says the study

It does not, however, rule out the possibility that this slower metropolitan growth may be a temporary respite.

"Decision-makers should therefore see it as such – for now – and take advantage of this while it lasts," conclude the demographers.

Make abortion a little easier — Tutu

(237) ARGUS 23/9/95

KIMBERLEY. — Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called on the Anglican Church to "affirm reverence for life" but at the same time to support changes to the law which would make abortion "a little more easily procurable".

Opening the church's ruling provincial synod in St Cyprian's Cathedral, Kimberley, he also implicitly criticised both the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party over their roles in KwaZulu-Natal.

Outlining his views on abortion ahead of a debate on the issue at the synod, the archbishop said he was sad the public discussion of the issue had tended "to generate more heat than light".

"The views of women should be taken very seriously. We should avoid misleading slogans such as, for example, 'Abortion on demand' or 'Abortion is murder'.

"If your teenage daughter is raped and she becomes pregnant I doubt that one would lightly shout 'Abortion is murder'.

"I would hope that the woman seeking an abortion would receive counselling, for it is not just a personal and individual matter. The foetus is not like a tooth. Whenever my wife Leah was pregnant it was something that affected us all in the family and we shared the joy and tried to share the anguish as well.

"I hope that we can affirm reverence for life and yet be willing to have a law that makes abortion a little more easily procurable — especially for poor, rural, uneducated women and to combat the incidence of backstreet abortions."

Referring to disagreements between the ANC and IFP, he said: "If an undertaking to have international mediation betwe.. the ANC and IFP was given before the elections, then it must be honou..d."

Dealing with the ANC's view that clarity was needed over issues in dispute, he said: "Let those mediators determine whether the issues cannot be resolved by, for example, the constitutional assembly."

Turning to the IFP, he continued: "In such a volatile situation where violence has been virtually endemic, it really does not help to use inflammatory language, even about peaceful resistance, when people attend rallies and demonstrations carrying arms.

Methodist stance on legal abortion praised

Star 25/9/95

(237) 226

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The Methodist Church has become the first major South African church denomination to approve free choice for women on the issue of abortion, while the Anglican Church seems set to follow suit this week

Women s groups have praised the Methodist stance, taken at an annual denomination conference last week, which states that the final decision on abortion should rest with the pregnant woman

In a statement issued after the conference, the Methodist Church said women should consult "as inclusively as possible with all others directly involved" and that the decision placed "a grave responsibility upon individuals to inform their consciences as fully as possible"

THE law should place certain limits but the final decision rests with the pregnant woman, says church

It was decided that the church would not take "a dogmatic or absolute position on abortion", and that "legislation, especially in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy, should permit freedom of conscience for those affected"

The conference decided that access to abortion should be provided "only in a context of a comprehensive health system" which should provide family planning education

The Methodist Church has opposed abortion becoming "simply another form of birth control". Abortion is necessarily more a matter of conscience than of law because of the absence of consensus in South African society on what is moral or immoral, the conference decided

The law should place limits on the period and conditions within which an abortion may take place, it should decide on what consultation is necessary and who may perform the abortion

"Beyond that, the law should be silent," the statement said

People Opposing Women Abuse (Powa) praised the "forward-thinking" attitude of the Methodist Church

"Their statement shows a deep understanding of the reality women face in their daily life by recognising that while abortion may not be something that is in harmony with the 'Will of God', one might be faced with the choice," a Powa spokesman said

The group did express reservations, however, about a clause in the statement urging MPs to vote "according to their consciences and not according to party politics"

"This is in contradiction to the fact that we voted for political parties and their ideas, and not individuls," the Powa spokesman said

"But we are very impressed with the church statement," she said

The Anglican Church, meanwhile, will debate the issue of abortion at its provincial synod in Kimberley this week amid indications that this denomination could also declare itself in favour of free choice on abortion

SA 'behind' in family planning

(237)
Star 2/10/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Sub-Saharan Africa has important family planning lessons for southern Africa, according to representatives of Africa's Planned Parenthood bodies.

Southern Africa's isolation has left telling gaps in two main areas of family planning, leaders of the African region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) said after a 12-day visit to the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA).

The first was including men in the process "There's no point in providing only women with family planning information and products," said IPPF regional director Marc Okunnu "In most areas, it is the men who make the decisions about family size"

The second key area was community-based distribution (CBD), which entailed getting the community to identify a local person to be trained to distribute family planning products, and information

CBD programmes have been running in parts of Africa since the 1970s, and have proved an effective way to reach people who cannot easily get to traditional sources of contraceptive measures such as doctors, clinics, hospitals or pharmacies, Okunnu said

By contrast, South Africa launched its first two CBD pilot programmes only this year, in Orange Farm near Johannesburg and Khayelitsha near Cape Town

RDP best way to control population growth — Kader

(237) ARG 9/10/95

Environment Reporter

THE reconstruction and development programme (RDP) is South Africa's best contraceptive against an increasing population, says Water Affairs minister Kader Asmal

Speaking at the National Water Conservation Campaign conference last week, Professor Asmal said South Africa was expected to have at least one million additional people this year

In terms of water supply, this would mean an additional 220 million cubic metres of water a year

The proposed Palmiet Phase Two dam, which would only deliver about 80 million cubic metres, would cost R500 million in capital expenditure alone.

"All this implies very strongly that population growth is a serious issue facing water conservation, and it is, but there are two extremely important considerations.

"The problem is not population growth as such, but rather the causes of population growth, and these are well documented, including poverty and the low status of women.

"It is surely these causes that we are to confront if we are to address population growth, and this is precisely what the RDP is striving to achieve

"I strongly contend that the RDP is our best contraceptive. Population growth in South Africa will not contain itself unless the RDP works."

Also, the problem was not population growth as such but the resources like water which the additional population consumed and the pollution they generated.

"That's a question of equity, a question of how we cut the pie ..

"Surely we must ensure that over-consumption of water is effectively discouraged, and that there is an appropriate investment against the inadequate consumption of water?" Professor Asmal asked.

The economic or true price of water was substantially higher than the tariffs which all sectors — agriculture, mining, industry and domestic — paid, and all these sectors used water inefficiently.

There was little chance of having sustainable development in South Africa without a comprehensive plan to improve dramatically both the management of the country's water sources and the equity of allocation, Professor Asmal said.

"Bold but considered change is needed in the way in which we supply and use water in South Africa."

The conference had to help find measures to ensure South Africa moved rapidly towards equity, efficiency and sustainability in its supply and use of water, Professor Asmal said.

This could not be done mainly through punitive measures, he warned.

Pro-lifers claim they were ignored

By GARY COLLINS

THOUSANDS of letters and petitions from anti-abortion groups are streaming into the Health Department's Pretoria offices two months after recommendations for legalised abortions were published

Prominent anti-abortion lobbyist Dr Claude Newberry accused the department this week of ignoring opposition to abortion

"They (committee members) did not take into account the number of submissions by pro-life organisations to the ad hoc committee in Cape Town, they only heard submissions of the abortionists

"When we gave evidence, only a handful of committee members were present"

Health Department spokesman Lorna Twomey said "By August we received 157 000 letters calling for a ban on abortion and more boxes of letters arrive each month However, these letters are meaningless The committee has finished its report Who are we going to feed this information to?"

The chairman of the committee on abortion legislation, Dr Abe Nkomo, said "We are not dealing with numbers here but the quality of contributions and submissions Many pro-choice submissions came through federal structures, representative organisations and affiliated groups We are not able to say how many people they represent, but they represent the broad spectrum

"We have passed the era of inquisition Organisations had enough opportunity to make oral representations"

● Meanwhile, CAS St LEGER reports that a commonly used anti-cancer drug has been found to provide a cheap and quick end to unwanted pregnancies — but local importers say they have no plans to apply to change the drug's registered use in South Africa

US scientist Dr Richard Hausknecht conducted research on 178 pregnant women seeking abortions at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York

He found that abortions occurred in less than a day in most of the women — at a cost of only $10 (about R35) each Side effects in the women were only a little pain or nausea in some patients

An injection of the drug was followed up in the study with a dose of an ulcer drug that caused contractions, expelling the dead foetus

According to Alfonse Vercuiel, director of Lederle Laboratories, the local agent for the drug, said it comes with a special warning that it should not be used by pregnant women

He said he was not aware of the American research and the safety of the drug had not been established for other uses

(237) ST 22/10/95

15,9 million in SA under 16

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

NEARLY 40% of South Africa's population — 15,9 million — is under the age of 16, the Minister without Portfolio, Mr Jay Naidoo, has disclosed

He said more than half of the population — 21,4 million — lived in rural areas and nearly two thirds of these people were black.

Mr Naidoo gave these figures, based on the 1994 October household survey, in reply to a question tabled in the Senate by Mr William Mnisi (Democratic Party)

Of the total population of 41,2 million, 15,9 million were children under the age of 16, he said.

Of the country's black people, 41,8% were under 16 years, 34,3% of coloureds were under 16 years, 30,8% of Indians and 22,9% of whites

Of the country's 31,5 million blacks, 13,2 million were under 16 years Of the 3,5 million coloureds, 1,2 million were under 16; and of the 1,1 million Indians, 300 000 were under 16 There were 5,2 million whites, of whom 1,2 million were under the age of 16

Mr Naidoo said 92% of white children under 16 lived in the urban areas, as did 84% of coloured children and 96,2% of Indian children Of black children, 73,2% or 13,2 million lived in the rural areas

Urban areas

Of the country's whites, 91,1% lived in the urban areas, 35,6% of blacks, 83,2% of coloureds and 96,2% of Indians — a total of 19,9 million people. Of the country's black people, 64,4% lived in rural areas, 8,9% of whites, 16,8% of coloureds and 3,8% of Indians — a total of 21,4 million people

CT 30/10/95 (237)

DEMOGRAPHICS (237) FM 3/11/95

Who's keeping count?

Aside from its social and political iniquities, apartheid left SA's demographic and statistical records in a mess

The Northern Province's recent discovery that it inherited 40 000 more homeland civil servants than it thought existed, the emergence of hundreds of thousands more voters than expected in last year's democratic election and the abiding confusion over the extent of illegal immigration are but symptoms of the statistical dark age into which the country has sunk.

Recently an independent think-tank warned that SA cannot develop or plan effectively unless government acts urgently to ensure national data be collected and analysed reliably, objectively and independent of political interests

Ann Bernstein, head of the newly formed Centre for Development and Enterprise, successor to the defunct Urban Foundation, says many of SA's socio-economic statistics are unreliable because censuses tended to undercount the population — especially blacks, who often withheld information because they distrusted government

Racial and political classification of census data, says Bernstein, also influenced many socio-economic analysts to make skewed interpretations of society Meanwhile, changing of census districts and boundaries from one census to the next made it difficult to plot trends

"Without reliable census data and firm income statistics, no politician, official, pol-

Continued on page 55

The accompanying table shows the variance that exists among demographic institutions in estimating and projecting the population now and into the next century, despite their having had access to official census data

Nonetheless, the centre this week published what it called "the country's only integrated analysis of recent population and income trends within the new post-apartheid landscape" The study was conducted by noted Wits University demographer Charles Simkins based on updated models drawn from the Urban Foundation's 1989 study of population trends It shows

- The population growth rate is lower than projected before 1992,
- Black fertility rates have declined in the late Eighties and early Nineties — having dropped faster proportionately than those of whites,
- Metropolitan areas are growing more slowly than expected, with 5m fewer metro residents than previously predicted by the end of the century Nonetheless, the combined metro population will grow 7m in the next 15 years Why the decline and whether the trend will be sustained requires further data and research,
- Despite urbanisation, 43% of South Africans still live in rural areas,
- Large towns and cities are growing faster than metro areas and faster than previously believed, providing hope for balanced population distribution,
- The black share of national income continues to rise but growing inequality and the rise of population within the black community undermines the benefits for individuals,
- The pattern of poverty in 1995 is much the same as in 1985 94% of all poor households are black and 64% live in small towns

Continued from page 51

icy analyst or businessman can predict with any confidence the scale of resources required in relation to population size and need," says Bernstein

"An SA geography is emerging in terms of which metropolitan areas, cities, large towns, small towns and rural areas can be thought about in more rational terms than has been possible for almost half a century"

The centre's concerns are timely as government appears to have done nothing to revamp Central Statistical Service other than to appoint a new head and reposition the agency within the RDP bureaucracy — hardly the prescription for independent thought Replacing the corrupt old order with a democratically elected government — however fine its ideals — cannot alone overcome the culture of "damn lies and statistics"

SA's POPULATION PUZZLE

Source	1995	2000	2010
Central Statistical Service (1986)	40,1m	43,9m	52,6m
Central Statistical Service (1992)	42,3m	48,8m	64,6m
Central Statistical Service (1994)	41,7m	—	—
Urban Foundation (1989)	42,3m	47,6m	59,7m
Centre for Dev. & Enterprise (1995)	41,2m	45,4m	53,4m
Bureau for Market Research (1989)	42,3m	47,6m	53,4m

or remote rural areas, while urban poverty is "substantial and potentially explosive"

For all its predictions, the centre reiterates that "large and important areas of ignorance and uncertainty" remain about SA statistics This is especially true with regard to the scale of illegal immigration (reported variously to be between 2m-8m), pattern and rate of internal migration, accuracy of the 1991 census — all of which "could have enormous significance for the numbers"

'Two-child family must be promoted'

(237) BD 28/11/95

Mduduzi ka Harvey

ENVIRONMENTAL issues could not be discussed without reference to the effect of the human population and, as government was nervous about taking a strong position on population issues, it was up to civil society and non-governmental organisations to promote two-child families, said Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger

Addressing the award ceremony of the Free Market Foundation in Parktown yesterday, Ledger said the public could not turn a blind eye to the burgeoning population of Africa It was essential to realise there was a problem that had to be addressed.

He said most African states had a population increase of between 2,5% and 3% a year, an effective doubling time of 25 to 30 years.

Ledger said the most densely populated countries on the continent were Rwanda with 3 157 people a 1 000ha and Burundi with 2 337 people a 1 000ha. SA had 334, Zimbabwe 282, and Zambia 120 people a 1 000ha.

He said the environmental affairs department lacked a strong leadership role in dealing with SA's protected areas It was a priority for the department to re-evaluate its protected areas and identify those which deserved the status of national park.

He said provincial conservation bosses who were trying to defend their own turf needed their heads banged together because they were playing games with SA's heritage.

Although government was engaged in a drawn-out consultative process in an effort to develop a national environmental policy, there were signs of a weak environment ministry being manipulated by environmental radicals with various agendas, he said

Ledger called on the public to beware of "super greens" as mobilising international support for local causes could be a dangerous game. Many environmental groups in the northern hemisphere had agendas which did not suit the situation in Africa.

Moves by SA to raise funds overseas for elephant relocation were sending a signal that SA was aligning itself to the animal rights movement rather than to its neighbours, who were looking to SA for leadership in sustainable wildlife management, he said

Will the new pregnancy policy in schools work?

Sowetan 28/11/95 (237)

The new education policy has divided the community already

By Khathu Mamalla

A 19-YEAR-OLD STANDARD 10 schoolgirl at Seshego Secondary School in Pietersburg, sitting for her final examination requests permission to go to the toilet

She goes to the toilet to relieve herself – of a baby After giving birth, the girl dumps the baby in a toilet pit

She then rushes back to the classroom and tries to continue with her exam Some pupils hear the baby crying from the pit and alert their teachers The mother is then traced and arrested

In another incident, in Booyne, a heavily pregnant schoolgirl faints in the middle of an examination The invigilator has no first aid and refuses to touch her The pupil then goes into labour and is removed from the class

These two incidents occurred shortly after the education department in the Northern Province granted pregnant schoolgirls permission to continue attending school

Before this, girls who gave birth lost at least a year of schooling. But this is now all history

Ironically, the education department's new policy was guided by compassion to save young girls from contemplating abortion or killing their new-born babies in order to continue with their education

"The idea is to allow pregnant students to write their examinations without undue hindrance," said education chief director Mr Rally Sekole.

Dropouts

This point was echoed by another education official, Mr Tshivhangwaho Ntsandeni He believes that even if a pupil is forced to drop out of school, he will still be the department's responsibility as she will still require class accommodation the following year

The two officials also pointed out that they have no legal grounds to expel pregnant pupils from schools.

"We are not winning any of the court cases regarding the matter,' said Ntsandeni. He added that this was not only costly for the government but also embarrassing

Will this liberalisation of regulations degenerate into moral decay? Sekole agrees that it is a catch-22 situation He said a balance must be struck so that the rights of both groups are accommodated

"While the pregnant student will be within her rights to attend class, the other students also have a right to a climate condusive to learning," he said. "We have to find a balance in order to cater for both groups"

The new regulation has divided communities on the issue Conservatives maintain the new regulation lowers the moral standards of communities Others vow to physically remove pregnant girls from schools

In several villages in the former Lebowa homeland, communities have hounded pregnant girls from schools in open defiance of the new education policy

However, one of the victims, Miss Audrey Mojela (19), said it was unacceptable that the boys responsible for impregnating schoolgirls were not victimised

Mojela said she has been turned into an outcast by members of the local civic association, who refuse to allow her to be part of the school She said three other girls in her class dropped out this year because they fell pregnant

African National Congress spokesman Mr Ian Madikoto said his organisation supported the education department's decision to allow pregnant pupils to continue their education

"The ANC does not differ from the government on this matter We are, however, mindful of the fact that many parents are concerned about misconduct, which could increase because of this regulation," said Madikoto

African Women's Organisation general secretary Ms Nkeke Pitje said society needs to look at moral standards which discriminate against women and change them

Bad influence

"Girls should not be prejudiced because they are pregnant If they are forced to drop out of school, they waste a whole year of learning Nobody talks about the boys who made them pregnant"

However, Azanian People's Organisation president Mr Mosibudi Mangena is opposed to the regulation which allows pregnant pupils to continue attending class

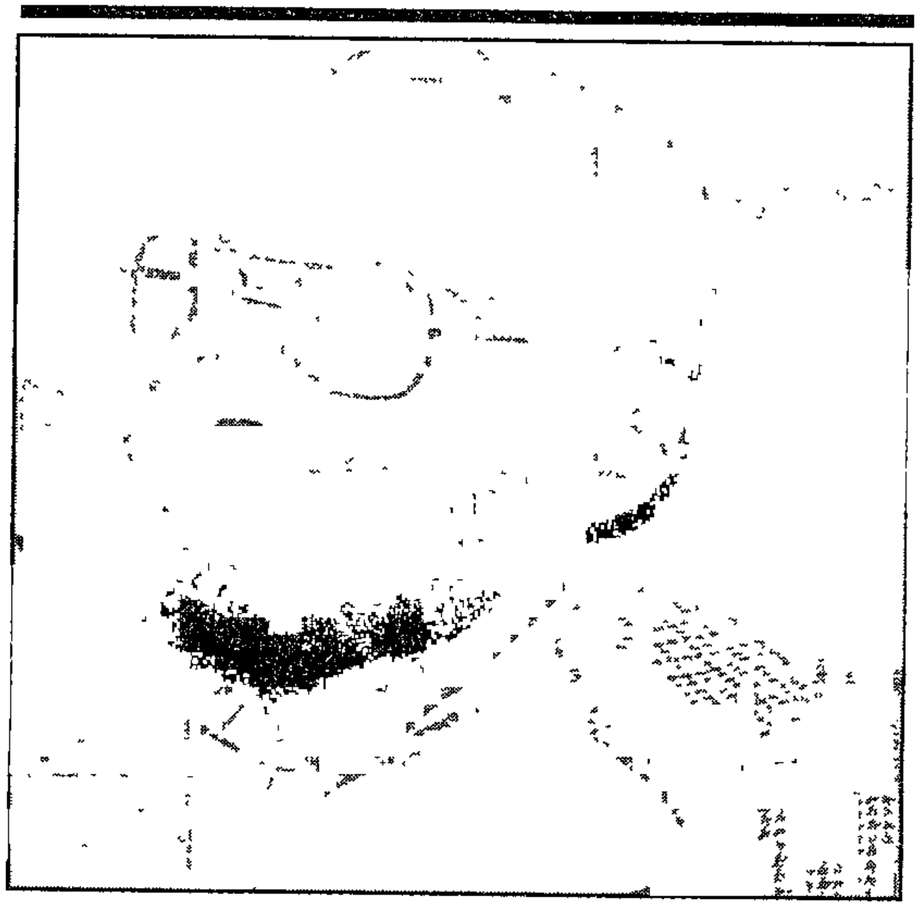
He argues that pregnant pupils will be a bad influence on other girls, who should be preoccupied with their education

Serious problem

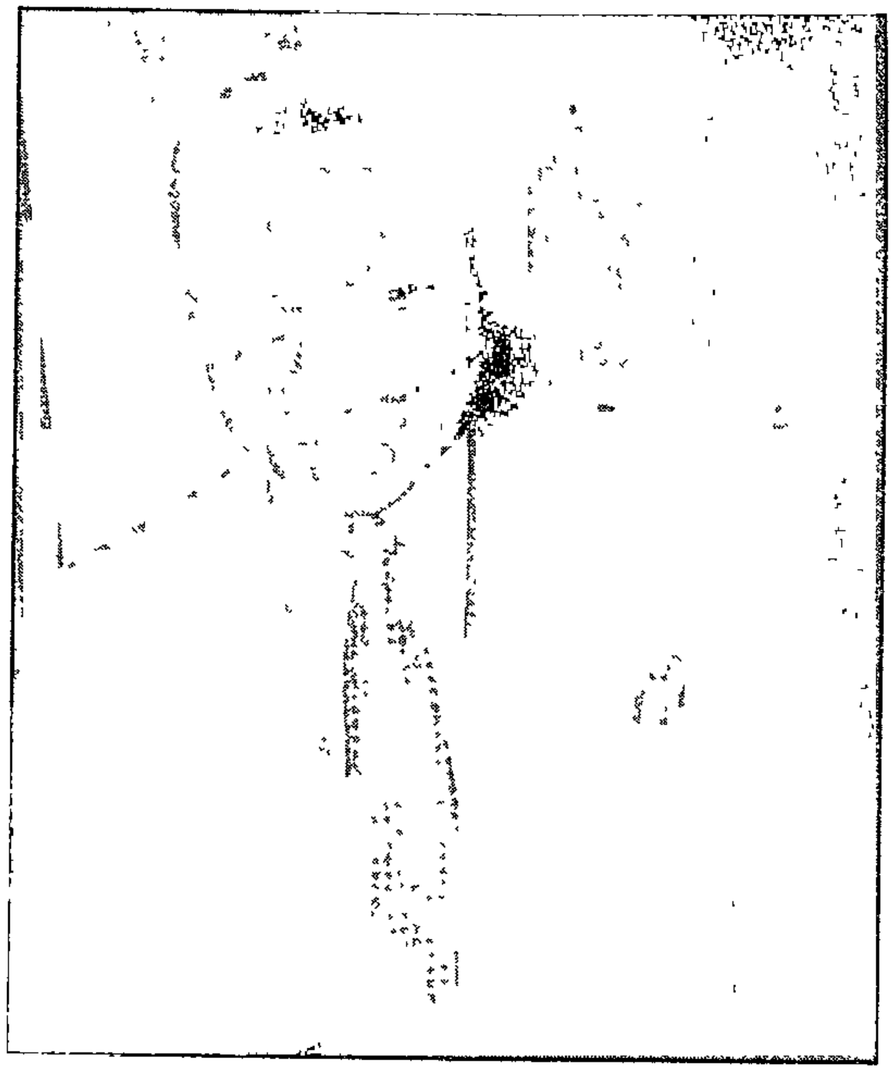
He said the pregnant schoolgirl and the schoolboy responsible for the pregnancy should be made to continue their education in a different way

"It could be arranged that they write (exams) with adults, keeping them with young schoolchildren will create serious problems at school," argued Mangena

"It will be very difficult for teachers to discipline pupils who think they are mothers and fathers and this will destroy the moral fibre of our society," he said



Azapo's president Mosibudi Mangena is opposed to the regulation allowing pregnant girls to attend school.



Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi his administration cannot expel pregnant schoolgirls.

"Girls should not be prejudiced because they are pregnant. Nobody talks about boys who made them pregnant"

Voluntary sterilisation: It's the safer option

(237) (98)
ARG 30/11/95

A PLANNED family is a strong family, with better options for a brighter future

In the Western Cape, population growth is threatening our natural resources, such as water, plants and living space. The loss of these resources will, in turn, threaten our way of life

For many reasons, smaller families prosper, and it is therefore important that parents plan for the future and decide the correct number of children their family should have. Once the family is complete, the partners must decide on a form of contraception that suits their lifestyle while preventing unwanted pregnancy.

Many options exist and women can make use of a contraceptive pill or injection, a female condom, an IUD (intra-uterine device) or spermicide foam Men have fewer options, but both partners can also undergo safe and simple contraceptive surgery, which is more reliable than regular contraceptive methods.

Tubal occlusion, or "having the tubes tied", is the term used to describe the permanent female contraceptive surgical operation.

The operation is simple and involves blocking the fallopian tubes, which carry the female eggs from the ovaries to the uterus. When the tubes are blocked the man's sperm cannot swim through to meet with and fertilise the woman's egg. In this way, pregnancy is prevented.

The operation can be performed under local or general anaesthetic and, as no organs are removed, female hormones are still produced by the ovaries, maintaining the woman's femininity and sexual desires.

Only a few days will be needed for rest and recuperation, although the operation is effective immediately.

As with the male vasectomy, the operation is considered non-reversible, and both partners should therefore be sure they will not wish to have more children.

The contraceptive procedures for men are more limited, but often more practical, and offer a welcome option for both partners

Among the popular methods of contraception available to men, the condom is probably the most widely used These simple latex sheaths comfortably surround the penis and prevent sperm entering the woman's uterus (womb) during sex

The device must be used correctly to ensure success and to provide the most realistic feeling of physical contact Condoms can, however, be used incorrectly, which may result in an unexpected pregnancy

The surest form of male contraception available in South Africa is the male sterilisation operation, or vasectomy

This operation, which is free of charge in many state hospitals, involves the cutting of a small segment of the sperm-carrying tubes – the vasa deferentia The tubes are then tied to prevent any sperm escaping.

The operation takes about 15 minutes but is only effective some time later A few days will be needed for rest.

The man's sperm count should be tested by a doctor after a few weeks before the sterilisation can be considered a success.

Vasectomy is the nearest thing to 100 percent effective contraception but nothing can be guaranteed and one should consider that the operation is irreversible.

The advantage of having a vasectomy is that while you can continue to enjoy sex, with no lost masculinity or vigour, you will never again have to worry about unforeseen pregnancies

A NEW STRUGGLE

■ **For more information about voluntary sterilisation contact the Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa at 18 MASA House in Central Square, Pinelands or on (021) 531 1665.**

■ **For information on reproduction or contraception don't hesitate to visit your local clinic or write to Family Planning, Private Bag X4, Carl Bremer, 7531 or 'phone (021) 418 2200.**

The Star .... Friday December 1 1995

50 babies abandoned every week

Star 1/12/95 (237)

By Lara Smith

The four-day-old baby girl found in a plastic bag on a city bus last week is only one of dozens of newborn babies abandoned in Greater Johannesburg every week.

An investigation by Thea Jarvis, author of a soon-to-be-released book on the problem of abandoned children, found that in Gauteng 50 newborn babies a week were abandoned during 1993 – 3 000 in total for that year

Jarvis, who is currently fostering seven such babies herself, said in most of the cases they had been abandoned as a result of socio-economic circumstances

"It is mostly young girls who find themselves homeless and jobless after the birth of their babies that resort to abandoning them They usually don't have the means or a support system in place to care for the babies. Out of desperation they leave them."

Although the majority of the babies are black, Reva Goldsmith, child care manager at Cotlands, said they had been found in every conceivable part of Johannesburg, not only in the townships.

"Sometimes we find the babies in dustbins, sometimes in storm water drains, in bushes, in the veld, the suburbs, everywhere Some are so young they still have the umbilical cord attached when they are found."

Although Cotlands takes in mainly HIV-positive babies, this was not the main reason for their abandonment

"Most of the mothers don't know the babies are HIV positive," Goldsmith said. "It is usually their economic situation that causes them to leave their babies."

Of the 42 children currently staying at Cotlands, 70% had been abandoned All are younger than 18 months

According to the assistant director of social work at Baragwanath Hospital, Lea Smith, the hospital dealt with 38 abandoned babies between March 1994 and May this year Of these, five had been left in the hospital's maternity ward after birth The others were discovered in Soweto and taken to the hospital by the police All were younger than two weeks.

Smith said she found the majority of urban women were aware of contraceptive methods and used them, but the problem arose with women coming from the rural areas.

"Often they get here, don't have accommodation, move in with a man and before they know it they find they are pregnant and no longer have a place to stay."

New Act causes dual citizenship shock

ARG 2/1/96 (237)

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

SOUTH Africans who have dual nationality could lose their South African citizenship if they travel — or vote — abroad on a foreign passport

It is by no means automatic, but, while the South African Citizenship Act — which became law three months ago — does not go as far as prohibiting dual citizenship, South Africans using a second passport would be advised to take care

Travel agents report that they have had scores of inquiries about the new legislation.

Dual citizenship became a popular — and informally sanctioned — expedient during the 1980s when South Africans' options for travel were severely curtailed.

In many cases, allowing dual citizenship gave sanctions-busters a way of circumventing diplomatic restrictions and undermining the international community.

The South African Citizenship Act seeks to tidy up these murky arrangements, but there is no clear prohibition, and nor would anyone be summarily deprived of his or her citizenship

The Act says the Minister of Home Affairs "may by order" deprive a South African citizen of his or her citizenship if they have dual nationality "and has at any time made use of the franchise or the passport facilities of that country or performed such other voluntary act which, to the satisfaction of the minister, indicates that the citizen has made use of the citizenship or nationality of that other country".

However, the deprivation order is reversible, and there is provision for an application to the minister to retain dual citizenship

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has the power to review any ministerial decision, call on the minister to give reasons for his or her decision and confirm, vary or set aside any decision.

GLOBALISATION 'IS INCREASING POVERTY'

IMF calls for more aid to poor nations

CT 29/12/95 (241)

PARIS: The head of the International Monetary Fund says greater solidarity between rich and poor countries would enable economies to withstand financial crises more easily.

RICH countries must increase their aid to the poor as the globalisation of economies is casting the poorest countries and weakest people by the wayside, the director-general of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr Michel Camdessus, says.

Globalisation marginalised people and increased the isolation of countries that were unable to integrate themselves into the world economy, Mr Camdessus told French radio yesterday

"These countries are in danger of falling by the wayside," he said.

"Today, this is the great danger facing Africa, particularly as the countries that provide development aid are concentrating their aid increasingly on those countries which they see as performing the best"

This trend was already being seen within nations The people with the least qualifications, or those who were unable to adapt to an open economy, were declining into poverty

Mr Camdessus urged state and local authorities to take action.

"We must promote solidarity between those who do well and the losers"

In world terms, greater efforts had to be made to strengthen solidarity to prevent the exclusion of the poorest countries.

Recession

This meant that the richest countries should "manage their affairs as well as possible because nothing is worse for countries which are falling behind than recession in the richest countries", Mr Camdessus said.

Reducing the fluctuations in exchange rates would be helpful. Also, development aid should be continued.

Because of the preoccupation with reducing budgets, there was a tendency to challenge development aid. "I say 'Danger'!"

International institutions should do more to prevent the poorest countries from being excluded.

"It is quite clear that we must give ourselves much greater financial means," Mr Camdessus said, referring to the scope of crises that could arise

The financial crisis in Mexico in January had been contained because the IMF had mobilised huge amounts of funds, averting "dramatic consequences for other developing countries"

"My problem today is to ensure that when the next crisis arises, and another follows, we will still have the means to cope"

It remained to be seen, however, if "countries will agree to give the institutions the means they need", Mr Camdessus said — Sapa-AFP

Objections over move to train nurses to assist with abortions

ARG 30/12/95 (237)

Staff Reporter

NURSES will in future be trained in assisting with abortions — if the government goes ahead with plans to enact legislation to allow abortion on demand.

The issue is set to become a political, educational and social hot potato, with organisations like the South African Nursing Association (Sana) saying it will not force nurses to train for abortion operations.

Sana's acting-director, Eileen Brannignan, said members had objected to abortion in the nursing curriculum.

"The issue has raised ethical and moral dilemmas," she added.

National Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said once people had more access to legal abortions, provincial health services would be responsible for the education of health personnel.

"Health workers such as nurses and doctors need to be trained in abortion. Currently nurses have no training in performing abortions. They are equipped to deal only with botched back-street abortions, which are often fatal."

Dr Zuma said funding for any education on abortion should also be provided by provincial health services.

After an emotional debate in August parliament accepted recommendations by the standing comittee on abortion and sterilisation that women be allowed abortion on demand up to the 24th week of pregnancy.

Churches and pro-life lobbyists have protested against the issue on a number of occasions since, but there has been no indication that the government intends to drop plans to legislate.

Medical sources say that the changes to nursing training curriculums would be "inevitable" if the abortion laws are passed.

However, a number of institutions involved in nursing training, said they had heard nothing so far about proposed changes.

The Nursing Council registrar, Frank Germishuizen, said the council was not responsible for prescribing syllabuses for the nursing colleges and universities. He said it would be up to institutions to introduce abortion in their curriculum if they thought it necessary.

"Institutions submit proposals to the council for approval only," he said.

Stellenbosch University's medical faculty said it was not aware of curriculum changes and referred queries back to the Nursing Council.