

POVERTY - GENERAL

1992 - 1993

1994 - 1995

Perlman hammers Government

28/9/92
By Shirley Woodgate

Government administrative incompetence is compounding the devastating rural hunger problems caused by the worst drought this century, according to Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

Accusing the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions of inefficiency, she said last week that red tape had lengthened delays in the payout of essential funds enabling Operation Hunger to continue its work

The director of the operations room of the Consultative Forum on Drought, Len Abrams, in a paper tabled last week, alleged it had become increasingly difficult to work together with all constituents to provide relief to the starving

Referring specifically to the Water Task Force, he said: "The root causes are not only responsible for the disaster, but are also the largest obstacle to disaster relief activity.

"Not only are the interests of the people most affected by the drought not served by covering up these realities, but the drought relief activity itself becomes impossible," he said.

Quoting overseas engineers who had been withdrawn from the Water Task Force because it was alleged the problems were not "as result of the emergency conditions brought about by drought; rather they are the long-term problems of neglect", he said the engineers claimed they had never worked in a more chaotic situation.

Mr Abrams said the State had used the homeland administrations to channel public drought relief funds where they would be managed by the same bureaucracy that was responsible for the problems.

The money would in turn largely be spent by the same consultants who had designed the present systems.

Hope is all that the refugees have ²⁴¹ and the struggle goes on ²⁴¹

CARRYING one child in her arms, Rosalina Shabangu cajoled, pushed and sometimes dragged her other three youngsters to safety from Mozambique.

Their four-day journey across the Lebombo mountains was not as long as some — if it had been, some of the children might not have made it because all the dams and rivers along the route were dry.

They eventually reached a refugee camp in the north-eastern Transvaal, the first step in their search for a better life in South Africa.

Like thousands before her, 28-year-old Rosalina brought little with her besides hope — for peace, the chance to build a home, plant food and find a job.

But for those who cross the mountains into Kangwane or risk their lives traversing the Kruger National Park to get to Gazankulu, South Africa offers only a continuation of their struggle.

It is a fight against drought, homelessness and unemployment, with the added hazard of deportation.

Some find their way to Johannesburg and other major cities where, as illegal immigrants, they search for work and a place to live while trying to stay hidden from the law.

Crazy

Rachel Nsimbini, 43, supervisor of the Mangweni transit camp in Kangwane for the past six years, has never come to terms with the desperation she encounters daily.

"About 200 refugees make their way here each day," she said.

"Operation Hunger feeds more than 28 000 people in Kangwane, and other organisations like the International Red Cross and the Catholic church provide blankets, soap and clothing.

"The South African government regards them as illegal aliens, not refugees, so if they are caught on South African soil they are arrested and sent back across the border.

"It's a crazy, mixed-up situation, and all we can do is feed them and try to keep them alive."

Among the refugees are teenagers, lured from their homes by ruthless operators who promise houses and jobs, guide them across the border and then sell them as slaves.

Martha Mabunda's parents paid a guide R100 to



SURVIVORS ... Rosalina Shabangu and her four young children, who fled Mozambique

RISKING DEATH FOR A BETTER LIFE

assured them he had a job for her

"There were 16 of us," said Martha, 20. "Eight were young women and the rest were young boys. When we crossed into Kangwane, I was sold to an old man as his wife for R400.

"When the old man tried to rape me, I managed to escape and a friend brought me to the transit camp. The others were taken away in a taxi and I was told they were sold in Johannesburg."

Other refugees are mothers, who walk for up to two weeks before arriving at the camp with not only their own children, but those of family members who have been killed by Renamo troops.

"They tell me that in their country, people are dropping dead from hunger and the decomposing bodies are lying in the bush," said Mrs Nsimbini.

their 11 children and his dead sister's four-year-old son.

"Just 10 days before they started out on their journey, soldiers attacked their village in the northern part of Mozambique," said Mrs Nsimbini.

"They forced his sister to carry a bag with the last meal that the family had. She was about eight months pregnant, and as she pulled the sack on to her back, the soldiers asked her what she was hiding under her dress.

"She told them she was pregnant. Then one of them took a panga and hacked her stomach open and pulled the baby out. They threw their bodies into the bush.

Farmer

"This man was a farmer, who owned a house with eight rooms. He left it behind. He still believes he'll have a better life here, but it won't be easy."

Last month, 322 new arrivals — 115 of them children — swelled the ranks of the refugees in the Humalani camp, about 9km from Phalaborwa, to 11 252.

Operation Hunger gives the camp about 5 000 bags of mealie meal and 60 bags of soup each month, while the SA Council of Churches gives 1 000 bags of mealie



Striking it rich ... A woman fresh from Woolworths donates R10 while another digs into her purse

White women can beg — and they score too

OK, white folks can't jump so good — but man, are they learning to beg. "Collecting", as Durban's growing band of white beggars prefer to call it, is not an easy way to earn a living

In 75 minutes one morning this week, I made R30,95 standing with a polystyrene cup outside a cafe in the Durban city centre. It's exhausting, boring, humiliating work

The first 20 minutes no one paid the slightest attention to me. I felt like another advert on the shop window. To be honest, I discouraged eye contact, trying to settle my own ambivalence about being there.

An elderly man walked past and hesitated, reaching into his pocket. But his wife marched him away.

My luck changed after 40 minutes with the first R1.

Who gives money to desperate white women? Mine came from eight people: two gave R10, one person R5, one R2, three R1s and 95c from a woman who poured coins into the sticky hands of her three year old to "put into that lady's cup". Most "donors" looked well off, six were white, half were men.

Few said anything. Most poignant was an elderly woman who

CARMEL RICKARD *tried her hand at begging this week. She made more money in 75 minutes than she does as a journalist, but found it's not an easy way to earn a living*

shuffled past in broken slippers, a plastic bag with a couple of groceries over one arm. She held out an empty hand and said: "Nothing for you today I'm afraid, my dear. Things are very bad this week."

Moments before the first R10 I felt seriously scared. A good-looking young man walked past me twice, then came up close. I braced for insults, propositions or worse. Instead, he squashed a note into the cup. "Ta," he said, and carried on walking.

A woman fresh from Woolworths, plump plastic bag of goodies over her arm, donated the second R10. As she walked away, she noticed the photographer, lens trained on the "beggar", and began to chat. "What a shame," she said. "My heart goes out to these people. She seems a really decent woman."

(Thank you ma'am)

After an hour and a quarter, my body ached and I decided to find out how professional "collectors" manage.

Most of the half dozen I spoke to stand for two or three hours in the morning. That's all they can bear. "Lucy" then books into a place that rents out rooms for the day. Aged 46, she looks closer to 60.

Lucy was the only "collector" who sat on the pavement instead of standing. She said she had worked in the laundry of a Free State hospital until she lost her job because of a back problem.

"You feel very sad doing this work. It is not nice. You get a lot of horrible things said to you. Sometimes people give me money and say, 'Now you'll go and spend it on drinking'. But I don't drink at all. A lot of people come and pray with me. They stop and ask if I am a believer. When I say I am a Christian woman, they kneel down next to me and pray."

Cecilia and Albert "collect" two blocks apart, constantly worrying about each other and earning R18 to R30 a day between them. Albert is 46, Cecilia 55.

He worked for a Johannesburg firm that went bankrupt, then they moved to Durban, hoping their luck would change.

Albert "collects" on bad days, on good days, he replaces striking workers. He has Department of Manpower contacts who tip him off about strikes. "I have worked on strikes since we got here. Dulux, the railways, Union Flour Mills and a drum company. All the big strikes and the little ones — I'm there."

Like all the other women "collectors" in town, Cecilia presents a brave face, clean, neatly dressed — and sober. A qualified credit controller, she hates "collecting" but has been unable to find a job. "I would be happy to work behind a counter or even sweep the floors. But when I apply for a job, they say I'm too old or they want Indians."

"Sleeping on the beach" is the worst fear of all the women. They aim each day to get enough for a room, and only then do they think about food.

●Rickard's R30,95 was handed on to other "collectors"

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16/10 - 22/10/92

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Fishermen sick of mussels and mercy

8/11/92

Bezuiderhout

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S/Times [Cape metro] 8/11/92.

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

WEST Coast fishermen, on strike since the start of the crayfish season last Sunday, say they are fed up with living on "mussels and mercy"

"Here we don't live, we struggle to survive," says Mr David Gebuza, 59, of Lamberts Bay, who has downed tools with about 1 000 fishermen and women factory workers in several West Coast villages

The strikers are demanding that the catch rate be increased from R3,60 to R8 a kilogram and that companies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs

They hope the strike will bring relief after years of poverty

"We have grown used to hardship and poverty," said Mr Gebuza

Although several fishermen in Lamberts Bay's small "coloured" township of Sandkamp were willing to speak, only Mr Gebuza was prepared to be identified

Afford

He said the fishermen and factory workers in Lamberts Bay worked for only six months each year

During the other six months, they relied for an income on catching snoek, which "comes by our water very seldom"

"We last had an income in April this year"

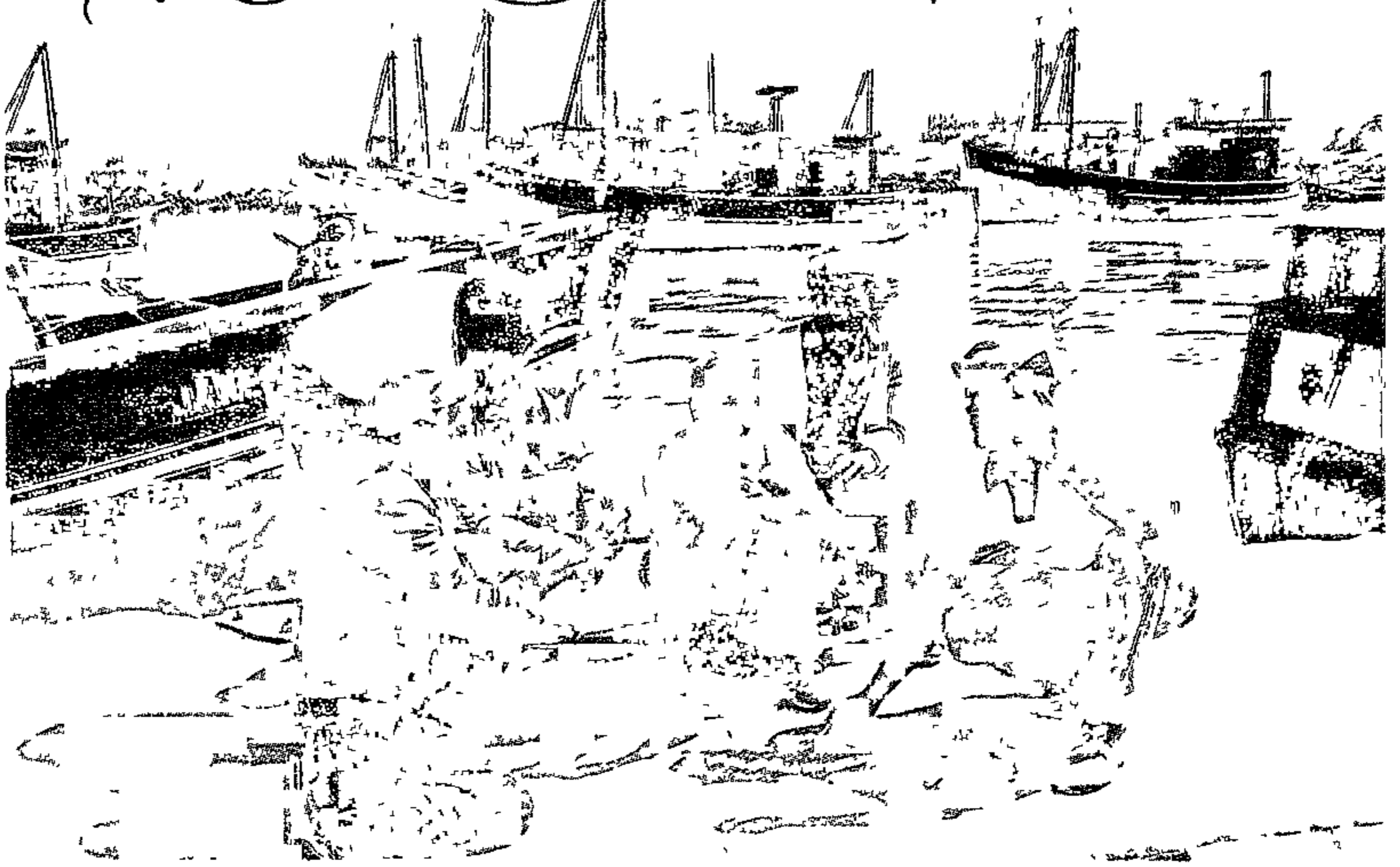
"The fishermen are literally living on mussels and mercy — God's mercy," said local Food and Workers' Union organiser Mr Jerome Bezuidenhout

In Lamberts Bay, where the biggest employer is the Oceana group, fishermen earn R3,60/kg, which has to be split among six to eight fishermen

"We catch anything from 30kg to 300kg a day — so we never get a fixed income," said Mr Gebuza

Almost 200 workers, employed by the Oceana group, have gone on strike

Mr Gebuza said most fishermen could not afford the R160 monthly rent for their council-



ON STRIKE . fishermen, from left, Willem Boois, John van den Heever and George Mbeza play a game of dominoes with Johannes Jantjies, Lukas Tietjes and Koos Miggel Picture JACK LESTRADE

owned houses

"People who cannot pay are evicted. They families then stay with neighbours and the houses stand empty until the start of the next season"

Lamberts Bay fishermen seldom have money for food and their children often go to school hungry

For many children, on some days the only meal is the sandwich they are given at school

Deprived

Mr Bezuidenhout said Fawu and the ANC's Western Cape regional office had organised food parcels last week for the people on strike at Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay, Port Nolloth, Hondeklipbaai and Doringbaai

"These people are dependent on the sea, but have been deprived of the benefits of its resources for years"

Several meetings with the industry's umbrella body, the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), have failed

Lamberts Bay fishermen are expected to meet their employers next week.

From drought, then hell

Cramped huts in water

CP Press
15/11/92

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BY JETHRO SEREISHO

THE people of Phomolong township in the Free State survived the drought with difficulty, and prayed night and day for rain.

This week the rain came and didn't stop until most of their homes were destroyed

Now 89 families will

have to start again from scratch as their homes and most of their possessions were washed away

Ironically, Phomolong means resting place, but there is not going to be any rest for a long while

"I came here five years ago hoping for peace and tranquility," said pensioner Mirram Dikole, 76, whose shack was built three months ago, "but all I have had is the worst-ever drought and now this flood"

She spoke to City Press while her four children and and three grandchildren tried desperately to salvage materials for another shack for her

There is still no electricity in some parts of the township and the schools, taken over by refugees, have only just opened their doors to pupils again

Most of them are matric pupils, and those at Bahale Senior Secondary had to abandon their studies because of the natural disaster They also had to help their parents who were trying to get their lives back to normal.

Teacher Sekhotse Rampai said: "I hope my pupils can overcome this trying stage in their lives."

Secretary of the South African National Civic Organisation's Phomolong branch, Theo Masemola, said he and the executive committee were busy organising food from the Red Cross and Operation Hunger and were also trying to get medical aid and accommodation for the homeless.

The ANC and the Phomolong Welfare Association are also lending a helping hand. The police and the Red Cross have donated 40 tents.

But more help is needed, and rescue organisations are hoping for donations in cash and kind



IT NEVER RAINS, IT POURS . . . The people of Phomolong prayed so hard for rain it came down in a flood, washing away the homes of 89 families who are now refugees. ■ PIC: ANDRIES MCINEKA

Millions below poverty line

By SOPHIE TEMA

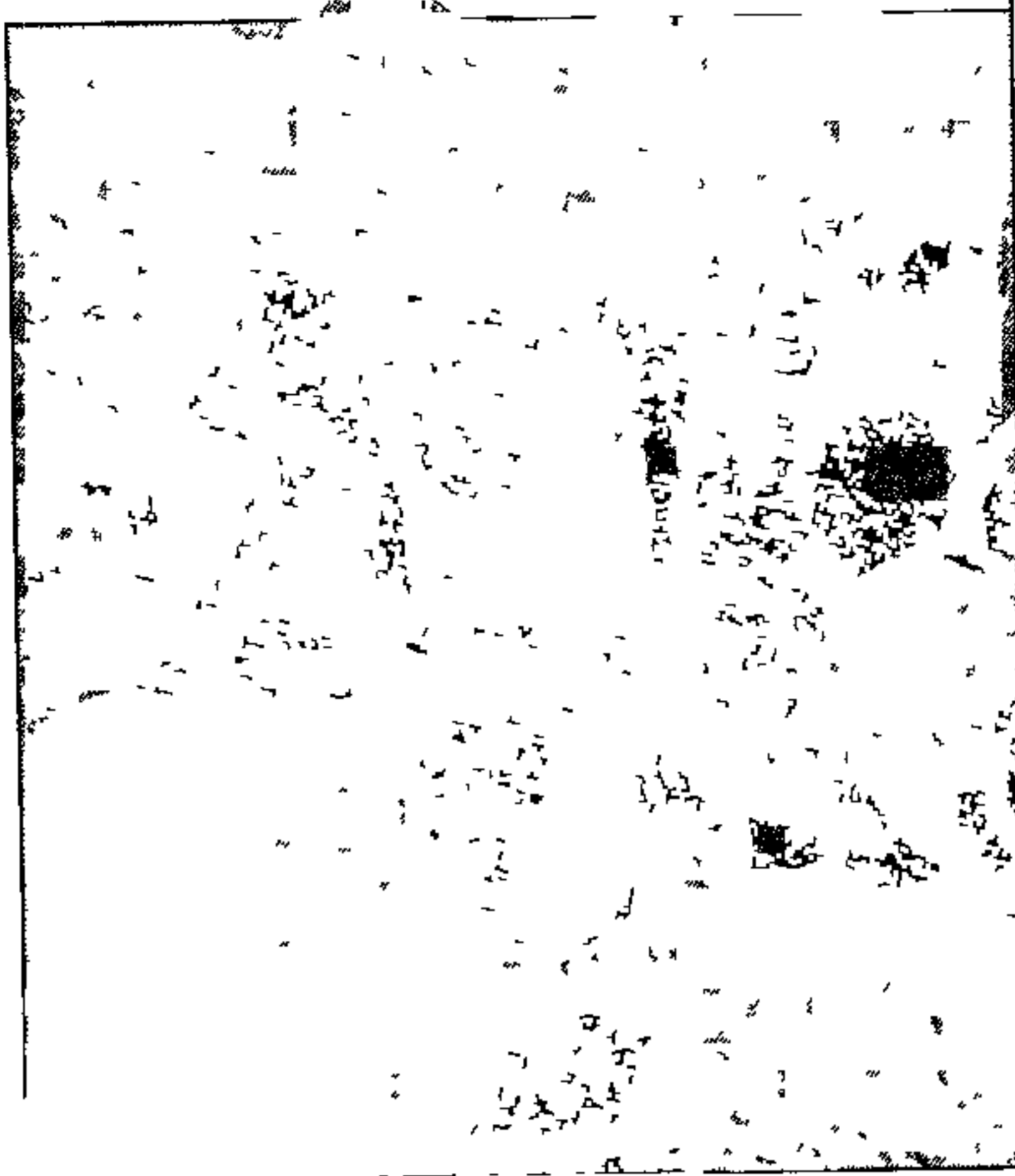
MORE than three million rural blacks in SA under the age of 15 are suffering from malnutrition, according to Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman

This problem is highlighted in the latest paper released by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) which emphasises the plight of 13 million illiterate and poverty-stricken people living in rural areas

The FRD says the misery of their degrading environment is compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world, and most rural people are living below the survival threshold.

The paper says more than 50 percent of SA's blacks are below the age of 20, and approximately the same percentage are illiterate. This fuels the vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty

Operation Hunger has calculated that in 1991 the cost of feeding a fam-



SKIN AND BONES ... Women in the rural areas bear intolerable burdens.

ily a palatable and balanced diet in Soweto (red meat excluded) was R565,87 a month, while more than 84 percent of the people in this country had a monthly family income of less than R600 00

Nutrition education must, therefore, receive urgent attention.

Children under the age of six face the greatest deprivation. For many of them depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental

degradation and an impoverished education system leave little hope for a productive adult career

"It is common knowledge that education for black children is still not compulsory in this country. Recent statistics have shown that approximately 25 percent of those who do reach the classroom fail the first grade, and many of them drop out, never to return

"There are many contributory factors including overcrowded classrooms, under-trained teachers, inappropriate curricula and pupil malnutrition," it says

FRD has revealed that only one in every 10 000 black school entrants matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics or science

The paper also emphasises the vital role that women play in rural areas

"They are responsible for caring for their children, collecting wood and drawing water, household

chores and providing the cultural underpinning of communities in which a large percentage of the men are absent

"In many instances, rural women bear an intolerable burden and are denied the opportunity to improve their skills and education," it says

According to the FRD, there is scarcely any activity among rural people that cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology. This includes university development and school and technology programmes

Urgent attention needs to be given to better agriculture, forestry and veterinary science

"The critical shortage of water in rural areas should be given the highest priority," it says.

The FRD is a major partner in joint ventures with the Department of Water Affairs and the Water Research Commission, and co-ordinates several important studies in this field.

Others are paid with job - save prostitution -
forged notes and fighting will do.

Hard times force the blind to beg

By FRED KHUMALO

WHEN 80 blind workers went on strike at an Umlazi home for the blind last May, little did they know the trouble and poverty they were courting.

Now, 11 months later, the workers from eNduduzweni Place for the Blind in Umlazi are still without work and money. They are so desperate that some of them have resorted to begging in the street.

"But people have no money to give to beggars these days," said Kenneth Majozi, a resident at the home.

"You would be lucky to come back home with three rand. It's tough." *City Press 5/4/92*

The workers embarked on a strike last year when Geoff Hilton-Barber, the director of the Natal Society for the Blind, introduced a "piece rate" scheme which meant they were to be paid according to productivity.

The workers saw the scheme as an effective reduction of their R60 weekly wages and withheld their labour, calling Hilton-Barber to the negotiating table.

No deal

Hilton-Barber refused to negotiate with the Paper, Print, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu), the union representing the workers.

He told City Press this week that when he introduced the "piece rate" he was trying to alleviate the problems of the institution which lost R500 000 in the 1991 financial year. "You can't go on paying high wages when there is no productivity"

Hilton-Barber said when the situation became desperate, he decided to hand the institution over to the KwaZulu government's Department of Welfare and Pensions.

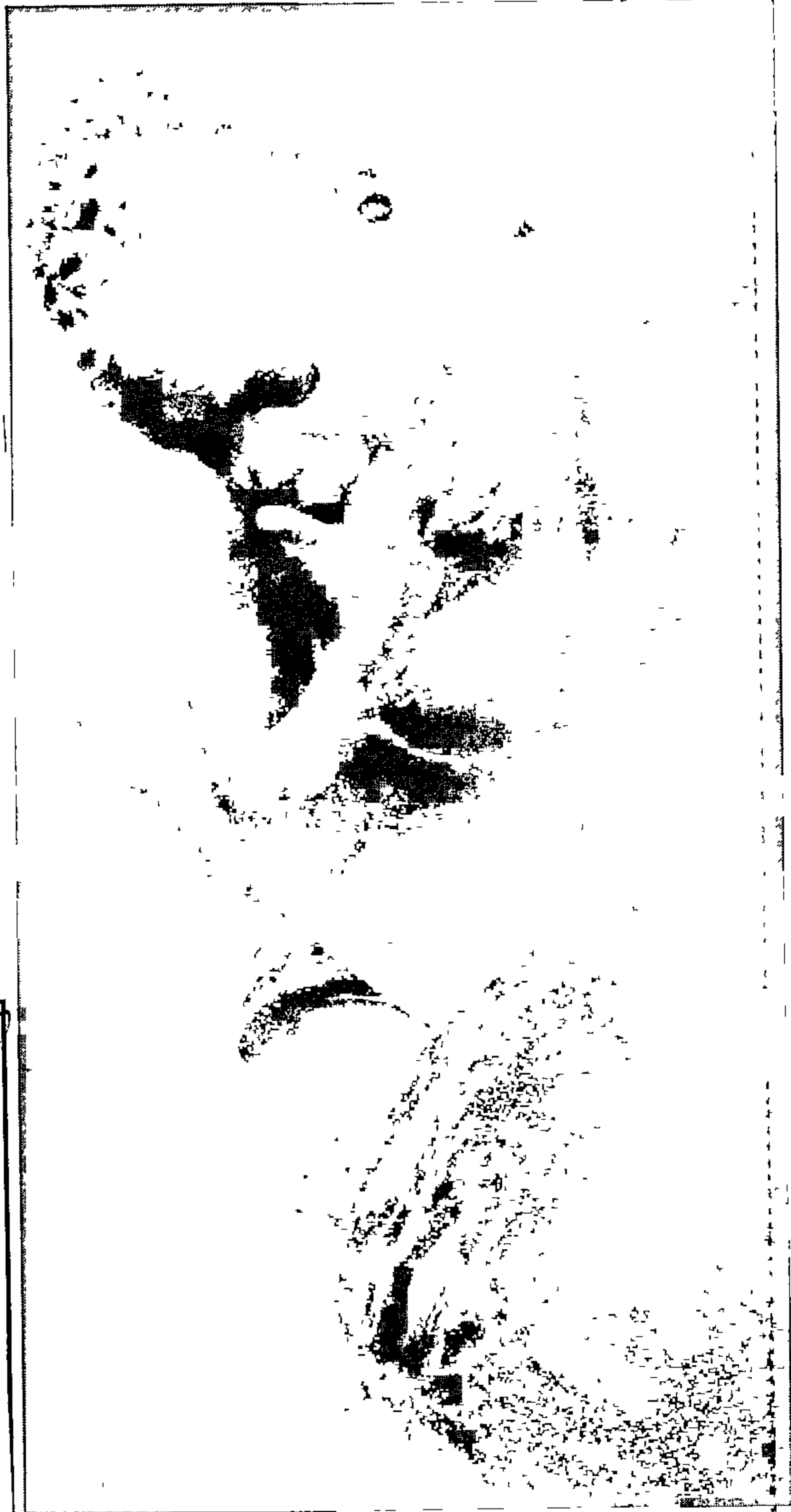
Eric Mhlongo, KwaZulu secretary for the Department of Welfare and Pensions, said he was not ready to comment on when exactly his department would take over control of the facility.

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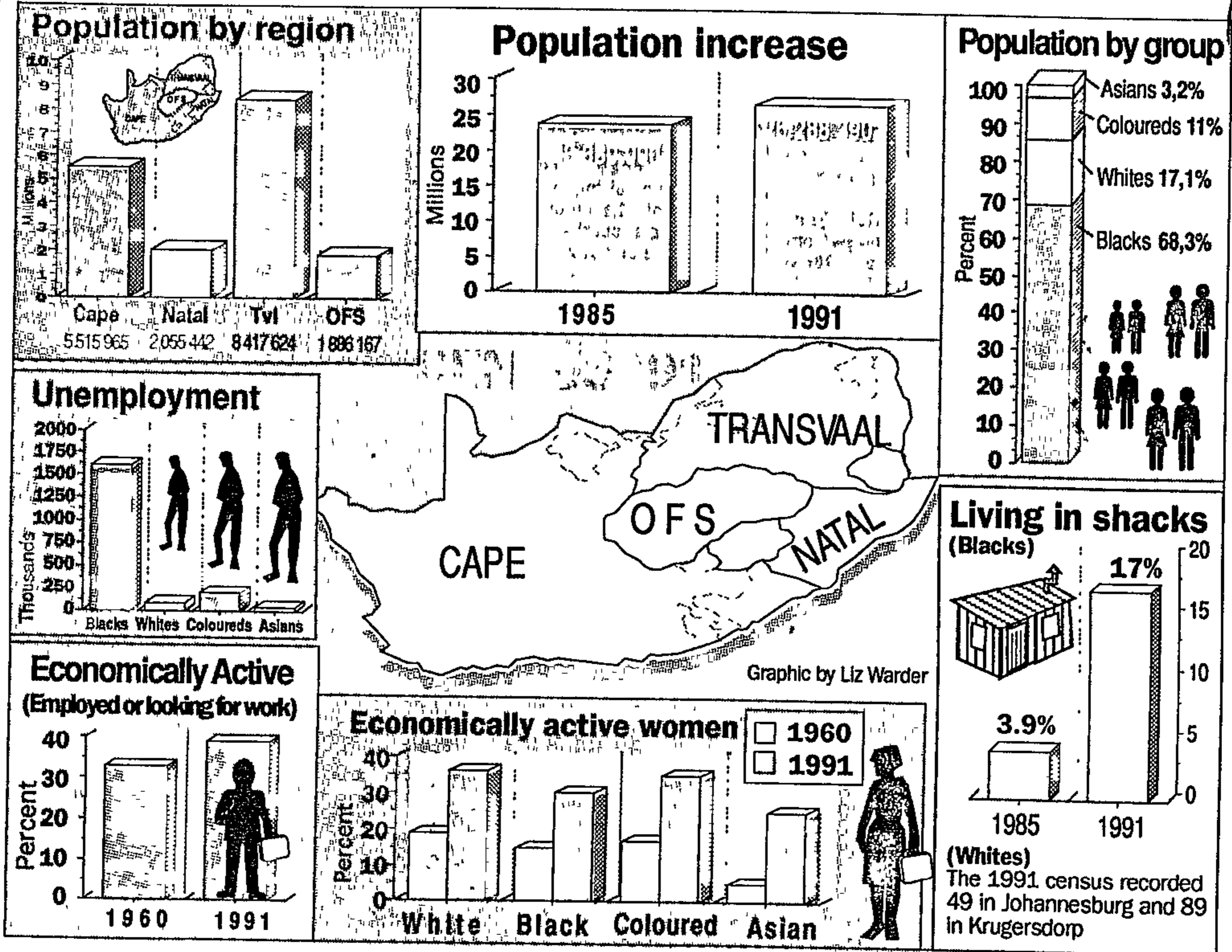
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SCRAPING THE BARREL ... The chances of this child matriculating with maths and science are one in 10 000 says the latest FRD report.

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Years of hardship take their toll

STAR 11/3/92 (241)

THE 1991 census reveals, in cold statistics, the increasingly bleak scenarios painted by economists and urban planners over the past few turbulent years.

Unemployment figures are alarming, the population spiral is worrying and cities are overburdened with poverty-stricken rural migrants.

The need for foreign investment is that much more real when considering the fact that only 39 percent of the total population was economically active in 1991 — and knowing that 1992 has already seen thousands more industry lay-offs.

Predictably, blacks are most severely affected by unemployment. There were 1 612 000 earning no income last year. Jobless whites numbered 83 000 while 202 000 coloureds and 43 000 Asians were out of work.

The stunting of commerce and industry through international isolation and economic recession has forced people into the informal sector.

More than double the number of blacks and coloureds were

Recent hard times in South Africa have resulted in a great deal of flux and change in the lifestyles of South Africans. This is starkly apparent in the 1991 census released last week by Central Statistical Services. **HELEN GRANGE reports.**

self-employed in 1991 compared to 1980, while the figure rose by 67 percent for whites and 96 percent for Asians.

The services sector still remains the most important employer in the country, with one out of every five economically active people involved in it last year. The manufacturing industry and commercial sector followed respectively.

Agriculture, which in 1985 was the third biggest employer, was in 1991 only fourth.

The largest concentration of people was in the Transvaal (8 417 624), but urbanisation was most pronounced in the Cape, where 80 percent of people were living in urban areas compared to 70 percent in 1985.

On a national scale, 17 per-

cent of blacks lived in shacks compared to 3.9 percent in 1985.

The census recorded 49 whites living in shacks in Johannesburg and 89 white shack-dwellers in Krugersdorp.

The population has increased by more than 2.9 million since 1985, standing at 26.28 million on census day (including self-governing territories).

While whites are ageing and having fewer children, blacks are continuing a strong reproductive pattern indicated in the fact that 40 percent were under the age of 20 last year.

But there are signs that the general population growth is slowing. The largest age group in the census was between five and nine, 200 000 more than the group aged five and under.

From 1960 to 1991, the num-

bers of economically active women rose substantially.

Working white women increased from 19 percent to 36 percent, coloured women working increased by half in the same period, while their black counterparts also doubled in the workplace. Asian women fitted the same pattern.

On the education front, there was also progress, even if painfully slow. In 1991 a larger percentage of blacks had degrees, the figure having almost trebled since 1985. For the population as a whole, the proportion of people with a Std 6 or higher increased by 7 percent.

One interesting trend is that of the English language. It is the Asian community, not the white community, which is most responsible for it. Some 95 percent of Asians spoke English at home. Only 39 percent of whites, 15 percent of coloureds and 0.2 percent of blacks spoke English at home.

Most blacks spoke Zulu (38 percent), followed by Northern Sotho (15 percent) and Xhosa (12 percent).

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Break this vicious circle

ART 5/6/93

MORE than one billion people around the globe — one fifth of Earth's human population — live in extreme poverty, and their plight is also having a major impact on the planet's natural environment

For many of these poor, the daily fight for survival means they are forced to live in a manner which severely degrades their environment — cutting down trees because there is no other source of fuel, or keeping destructive stock like goats because there is no other source of protein for them to eat

"A part of being poor means destroying today what could have sustained you tomorrow. Not by choice, but as a necessity for immediate survival," says Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

In an editorial in UNEP's *Our Planet* magazine marking World Environment Day, Ms Dowdeswell pointed out that poverty was not the most important cause of environmental degradation. "The poor use fewer resources, create less waste and do less harm to the environment than the rich

problem there you will find the poor sacrificing long-term benefits — what we call sustainability — to the short-term need to survive. "Thus, extreme poverty is not only a result of environmental degradation, it is also — to some extent — a cause

Ms Dowdeswell said there was a growing tide of opinion in the international community to the effect that poverty was itself one of the greatest causes of poverty. "Not until the poor are given the means and opportunity to break out of the vicious circle in which poverty holds them, will real development — sustainable development — become a possibility"

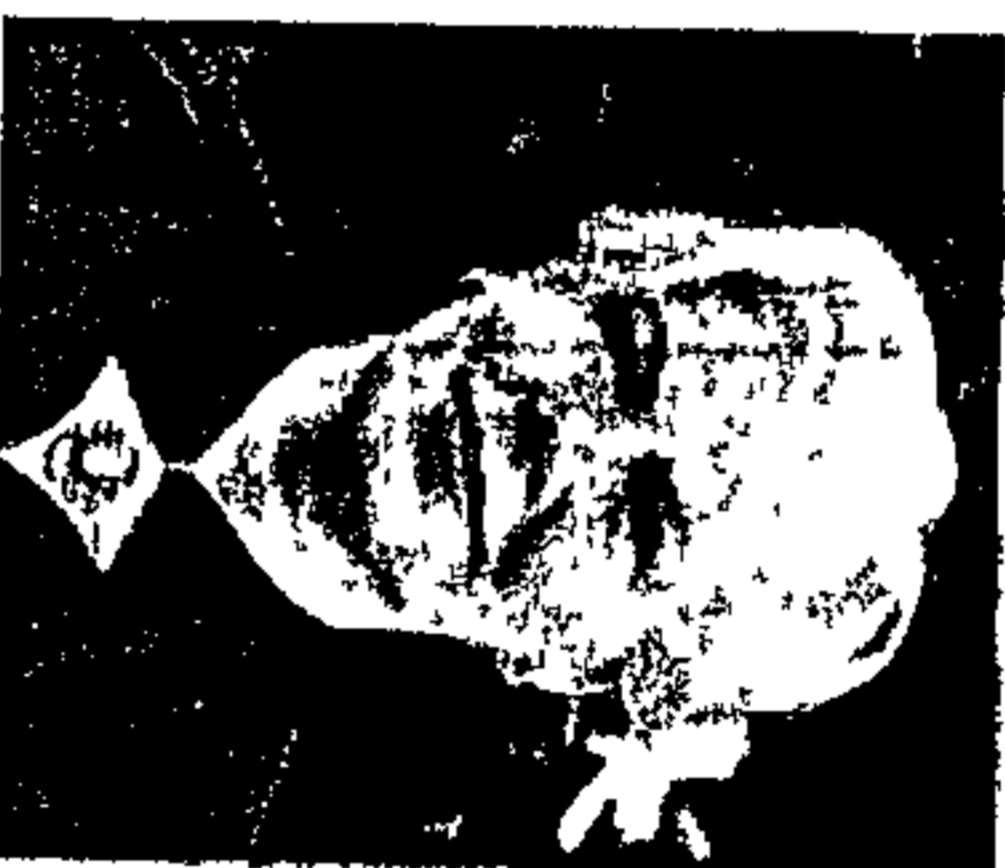
The world had the ability to end absolute poverty. Once this was achieved, a major threat to the well-being of a large and growing number of people, as well as to the world's environment would have been eliminated, Ms Dowdeswell said

"Other examples, less dramatic are being repeated around the world. "Wherever extreme poverty is a threat to the world's environment

"But there is a threshold of poverty, however, below which the poor too become disproportionately destructive

WEEKEND ARGUS SPECIAL SURVEY

Reports by JOHN YELD



Use the necessary means to match our abilities, or else this poverty and degradation will continue to affect us all

"We must find the will and mobilise the necessary means to match our abilities, or else this poverty and degradation will continue to affect us all

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Unleaded petrol will cost South Africa a packet

ART 5/6/93

SINCE the late 1920's, lead has been added to petrol to increase the octane number of the fuel and thus make possible the development of high performance, spark ignition, internal combustion engines

Led by the United States, many countries have enacted legislation to control these emissions.

of achieving required octane levels expensive refinery processes are necessary to compensate for the effect of removing lead

Practically all the lead entering the engine passes through to the atmosphere through the exhaust system, and a small quantity ends up in the engine lubricating oil.

To meet these standards, it is necessary to install catalytic converters in the exhaust systems of cars. The only effective catalysts so far developed are poisoned and rendered ineffective by lead, thus unleaded petrol becomes a necessity

The local market is thus small relative to the world market and we are dependent on technology input

Efforts have been made mainly in the United States, Japan and Europe to persuade the authorities to legislate to reduce or eliminate the lead in petrol

Lead is also naturally present in the soil in trace quantities, thus it does enter the food chain

Elimination of lead from petrol also means a reduction in octane number, and as lead addition is the most economical way

However, the progressive removal of lead has been taking place because of the need to control other motor vehicle exhaust emissions which are more serious atmospheric pollutants. These are carbon monoxide, a toxic gas, as well as nitrogen oxides and unburnt hydrocarbons — the precursors of photochemical smog

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Driven by poverty to destroy livelihood

ART 5/6/93

THIS tragic scenario in a typical environmentally degraded area described by UNEP executive director Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell has unfortunately become familiar in many countries around the globe

"Stand with your back to the water and you will see the impact of poverty on the environment.

"In the foreground is a city whose most basic services have broken down

"Raw sewage is being pumped into the bay. Garbage collection is non-existent and the carriers of infectious diseases are scurrying from one garbage pile to another

"Lift your eyes and you will see denuded hillsides, cleared by people so desperate for fuel-wood they have destroyed the forests that hold the soil

"If it's raining, you will see a river of mud — once rich topsoil — being washed through the town and into the sea

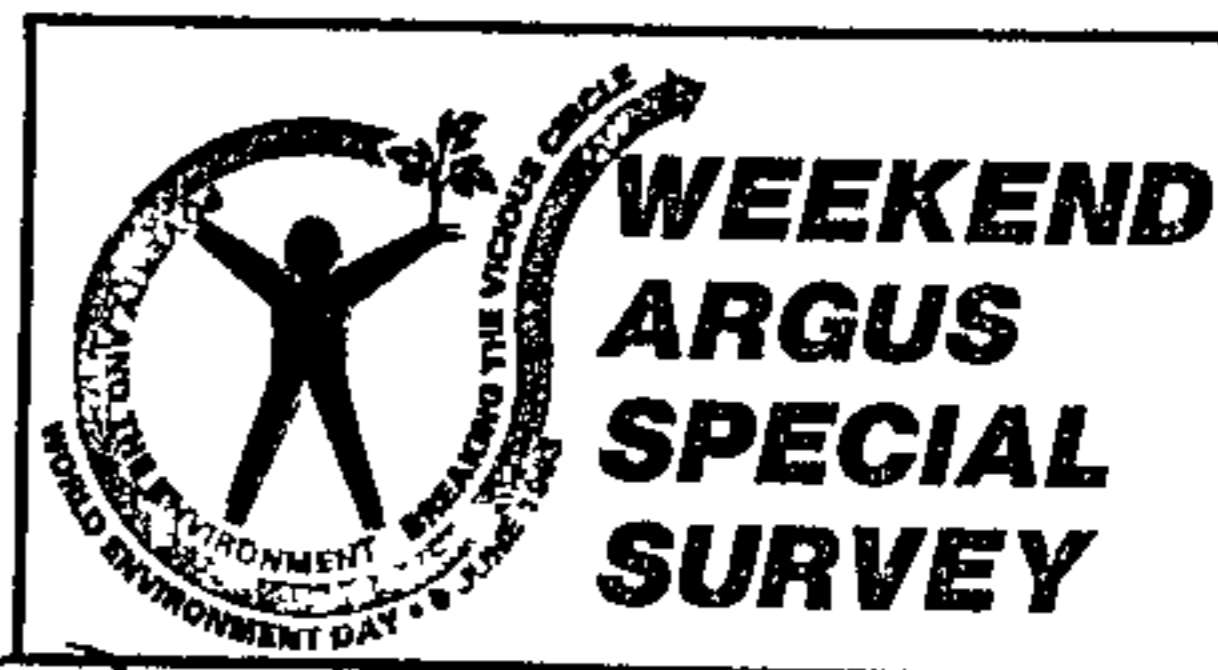
"Turn around to face the sea or on a road and you will see the effect of this destruction boats or vehicles with cargoes of refugees preparing for a journey — of people driven by poverty to destroy their own means of sustenance — is repeated in many countries



ERODED: Denuded Transkei hillside, cleared and over-grazed. Picture JOHN HANKS

Break this vicious circle

ARGUS 6/93



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Reports by JOHN YELD

MORE than one billion people around the globe — one fifth of Earth's human population — live in extreme poverty, and their plight is also having a major impact on the planet's natural environment

For many of these poor, the daily fight for survival means they are forced to live in a manner which severely degrades their environment: cutting down trees because there is no other source of fuel, or keeping destructive stock like goats because there is no other source of protein for them to eat

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UNEP is using World Environment Day this year to highlight the relationship between poverty and the environment

In an editorial in UNEP's *Our Planet* magazine marking World Environment Day, Ms Dowdeswell pointed out that poverty was not the most important cause of environmental degradation

"The poor use fewer resources, create less waste and do less harm to the environment than the rich

"Wasteful over-consumption remains the single most powerful threat to the world's environment

"But there is a threshold of poverty, however, below which the poor too become disproportionately destructive

"There comes a point when present survival means destroying resources which could have nurtured the poor for years"

The most vivid image of this was of the farmer and his family eating their next year's seed grain — as had been happening in Somalia, she said

"Other examples, less dramatic, are being repeated around the world

"Wherever extreme poverty is a

problem, there you will find the poor sacrificing long-term benefits — what we call sustainability — to the short-term need to survive

"Thus, extreme poverty is not only a result of environmental degradation, it is also — to some extent — a cause

"Extreme poverty must be eliminated, not only for humanitarian reasons but also for environmental ones"

Ms Dowdeswell said there was a growing tide of opinion in the international community to the effect that poverty was itself one of the greatest causes of poverty

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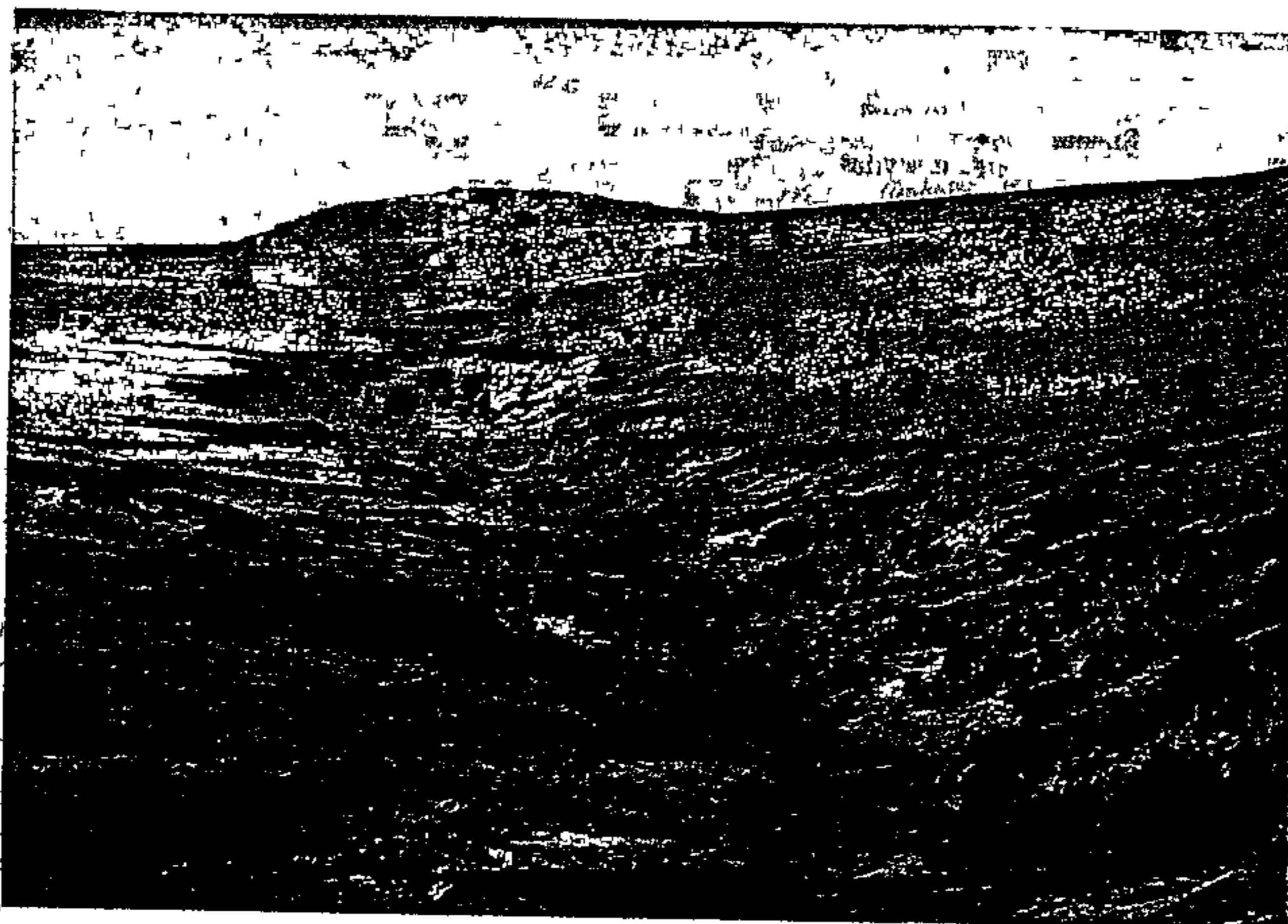
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Elizabeth Dowdeswell

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"We must find the will and mobilise the necessary means to match our abilities, or else this poverty and degradation will continue to affect us all"



ERODED: Denuded Transkei hillside, cleared and over-grazed. Picture: JOHN HANKS

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"Lift your eyes and you will see denuded hillsides, cleared by people so desperate for fuel wood they have destroyed the forests that hold the soil

"If it's raining, you will see a river of mud — once rich topsoil — being washed through the town and into the sea

"Turn around to face the sea or on a road and you will see the effect of this destruction: boats or vehicles with cargoes of refugees preparing for a journey to anywhere that will take them

"This picture — of people driven by poverty to destroy their own means of sustenance — is repeated in many countries"

Negotiators urged to include green rights in new SA

ARGUS 6/93

POLITICAL leaders negotiating a new constitutional dispensation for South Africa are being urged to ensure that sound environmental rights and principles feature prominently in any new political system that is devised

In one important initiative, the statutory Council for the Environment, which advises the Minister of Environment Affairs, has issued a two-part document aimed specifically at political leaders involved in the negotiation process

Entitled *Environment in the New South Africa and Environ-*

mental Provisions in a new South African Constitution, the document emphasises that neither a new constitution nor a new political system will be viable unless both the rights and aspirations of all this country's citizens to a clean and healthy environment are recognised

Council chairman Professor Roelf Botha said the document set out individual rights and responsibilities for such an environment

The council believed these rights should be included in the new constitution as both a fundamental right and as directive principles, he said

In a second major initiative, three

organisations — Captrust, the Habitat Council (an umbrella organisation for a number of environmental and conservation interest groups) and the Environmental Law Association of SA joined forces to organise a series of workshops in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town last month, to forge a widely acceptable proposal for submission to the constitutional negotiations

"The question of environmental rights has not been addressed in any constructive way at the constitutional negotiations which have taken place so far — neither at Codesa nor at the Multi Party Forum," ex-

plained Habitat Council executive officer Mr Wouter van Warmelo

Legal experts and environmentalists at the workshop produced a draft three-part document consisting of a *Preamble, The Fundamental Right and Directive Principles*

The principles refer to pollution control and waste management, education, administrative law, resource use and conservation, and administration

The 28 page draft is being circulated among all taking part in the workshops for comment, and a final version will be sent to the constitutional negotiations

E Cape worst hit of poor provinces

Sowetan 1/6/95

(241) (425) (425)

By Josias Charle

■ POVERTY STRICKEN Nine

million children live in dire poverty:

THE EASTERN CAPE IS the most poverty stricken region in the country and Gauteng, while being the richest in per capita terms, is fourth on the list of poor provinces in South Africa, according to a survey

The survey forms part of a study by Human Sciences Research Council based on data from the living standards and development survey conducted by the University of Cape Town

The Eastern Cape tops the list of poverty stricken provinces followed by Kwazulu-Natal, Northern Transvaal and Gauteng

In fifth place is the Free State followed by Eastern Transvaal, North West, Western Cape and Northern Cape

The study warns that in the light of the findings, Gauteng should not be left behind in the allocation of reconstruction and development programme funding

According to the HSRC, the study used a poverty gap analysis that measured the amount by which annual in-

comes of poor households had to be raised to bring all households out of poverty

"In 1993 the poverty gap in South Africa was just over R15 billion, which is less than five percent of the gross domestic product

"The poverty problem is thus small in relation to the size of the economy, but the enormous number of people involved makes its eradication a huge task," the HSRC says

Children suffer

The research also reveals that more than nine million children are living in poverty-stricken households

"This can have long-term consequences for the country since a child that experiences poverty is exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development"

Women experienced higher levels of poverty than men, with more than 48

‘The poverty problem is small in relation to the size of the economy, but the enormous number of people involved makes its eradication a huge task’

percent and just over 43 percent of men living in poverty, the study found

It was also found that less than 30 percent of the total income accrues to blacks, in spite of the fact they constitute more than three quarters of the population

SA among most unequal nations

Ingrid Salgado

(241)
THE Eastern Cape bore the largest poverty burden of all SA's provinces while Johannesburg had the largest burden of all magisterial districts, a recent Human Sciences Research Council study has found.

And although Gauteng was SA's richest province, it had the fourth biggest poverty gap, indicating the province should not be left behind in the allocation of reconstruction and development programme funding, the council warned.

KwaZulu/Natal had the second largest gap, followed by the Northern Transvaal.

Blacks earned less than 30% of total income but constituted more than 75% of the population. The income of whites was more than 12 times higher than that of blacks, 5,1 times that of coloureds and 2,5 times that of Asians.

Nearly two thirds of the poverty gap was carried by rural blacks, indicating that the

greater part of RDP resources needed be directed to rural communities.

The Gini coefficient was estimated at 0,65 for the total population - placing SA among the most unequal countries in the world

The poorest 40% of households earned less than 6% of total income while the richest 10% earned more than half. Average income of the richest 20% of households was 45 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%. *BD 2/6/95*

The research further found that:

- More than 9-million children were living in poverty-stricken households;
- Women experienced higher levels of poverty than men, with more than 48% of women living in poverty compared to 43% of men;
- More than two thirds of homes headed by a person with less than a Standard 2 education lived in poverty against 10% of households headed by a matriculant.



Succour . . . Johannesburg's hungry wait eagerly in the queues for their soup and bread. PICTURE THYS DULLAART

Helping hand for the needy on city's streets

(241) Star 5/6/95

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm hundreds of homeless and hungry people from all over Johannesburg make their way to the three outlets of a supermarket chain for a cup of hot vegetable soup and bread rolls

The soup kitchens are outside the stores in Twist Street near Joubert Park, Highpoint in Hillbrow and Jeppe Street in the city centre, which are all areas frequented by many homeless and streetchildren

General manager of Fontana Holdings Greg Xenopoulos is the force behind the soup kitchens which were launched three weeks ago

"There are so many needy people, especially streetchildren, who are simply homeless and penniless

"We want to start showing these kids there is a community that cares for them, a community that won't misuse them and a

community that will develop their potential," he said

Xenopoulos stresses that his company is not engaging in thoughtless free hand-outs but is also inculcating basic values in the children

The children are asked to gather recyclable cans and bring them to collection points in exchange for food and clothing. They thus help keep the streets clean and the money from Collect-A-Can is donated to the YMCA.

"If the children have glue or other chemical substances on them, they are refused food until the glue is disposed of. They are also taught to express thanks for the food and clothing"

He added that no effort is too small, "even if it is limited to the display of a few posters, asking customers or suppliers for contributions of food and clothing"

If anybody wants to contribute to the soup kitchens they can telephone Xenopoulos on (011) 331-9971

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Succour . . . Johannesburg's hungry wait eagerly in the queues for their soup and bread. PICTURE THYS DULLAART

Mbeki slams NP for not tackling issue of poverty

Political Correspondent

ARC 7/6/95

(241)

DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki has hit out at National Party MPs for their failure to engage in a debate on how to solve the crisis of poverty

He was speaking at the end of a debate in the national assembly yesterday on his budget vote

NP speakers attacked Mr Mbeki's handling of the Allan Boesak and Winnie Mandela issues and teased him about allegations that he had ordered that less television time be given to Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale

Opening the debate, Mr Mbeki called for the development of a national consensus on economic policy to improve the quality of life for all.

He rejected claims that there was a leadership crisis in the African National Congress

Andries Beyers (NP) said Mr Mbeki

had tried in turn to be the hero of exiles then of radicals and communists

Mr Beyers said he shared Mr Mbeki's alleged view that Mr Sexwale should not be seen on television. But instead Cyril Ramaphosa, Mr Mbeki's purported rival for the future presidency, was seen on television

Myburgh Streicher (NP) said Mr Mbeki could find himself president sooner than he anticipated

President Nelson Mandela's statement that he had given the order (to Shell House security guards) to kill if necessary could have serious implications, Mr Streicher said "Presidents have had to resign for less"

ANC speakers, among them Adelaide Tambo, chided NP MPs for speeches which were not conducive to nation-building and reconciliation

Edited by Winnie Graham

Half the population of South Africa knows what it is like to be poor, says a new study on the problem of poverty in this country. Norman Chandler reports.

Plotting the patterns of poverty

SAW 12/6/95 (241)

A new report on poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa focuses on how this country is affected by the problem of child poverty as well as the gap between rich and poor, given that South Africa is classified in international circles as being "an upper middle income country".

The opposite to that classification is probably the truth because a very large number of the population lives in absolute poverty and has very little chance of breaking the chain.

These people are mainly rural, and therefore black, but there are also huge problems in urban areas not only in the black, but also in the coloured, Asian and white communities.

"The formulation of anti-poverty policies is, however, being hampered by a lack of baseline information regarding poverty," says the report.

It has been compiled by Andrew Whiteford and Teresa Kelatwang (both of the HSRC) and Dori Posel (University of Natal), and is based on data from a living standards and development survey conducted by the University of Cape Town.

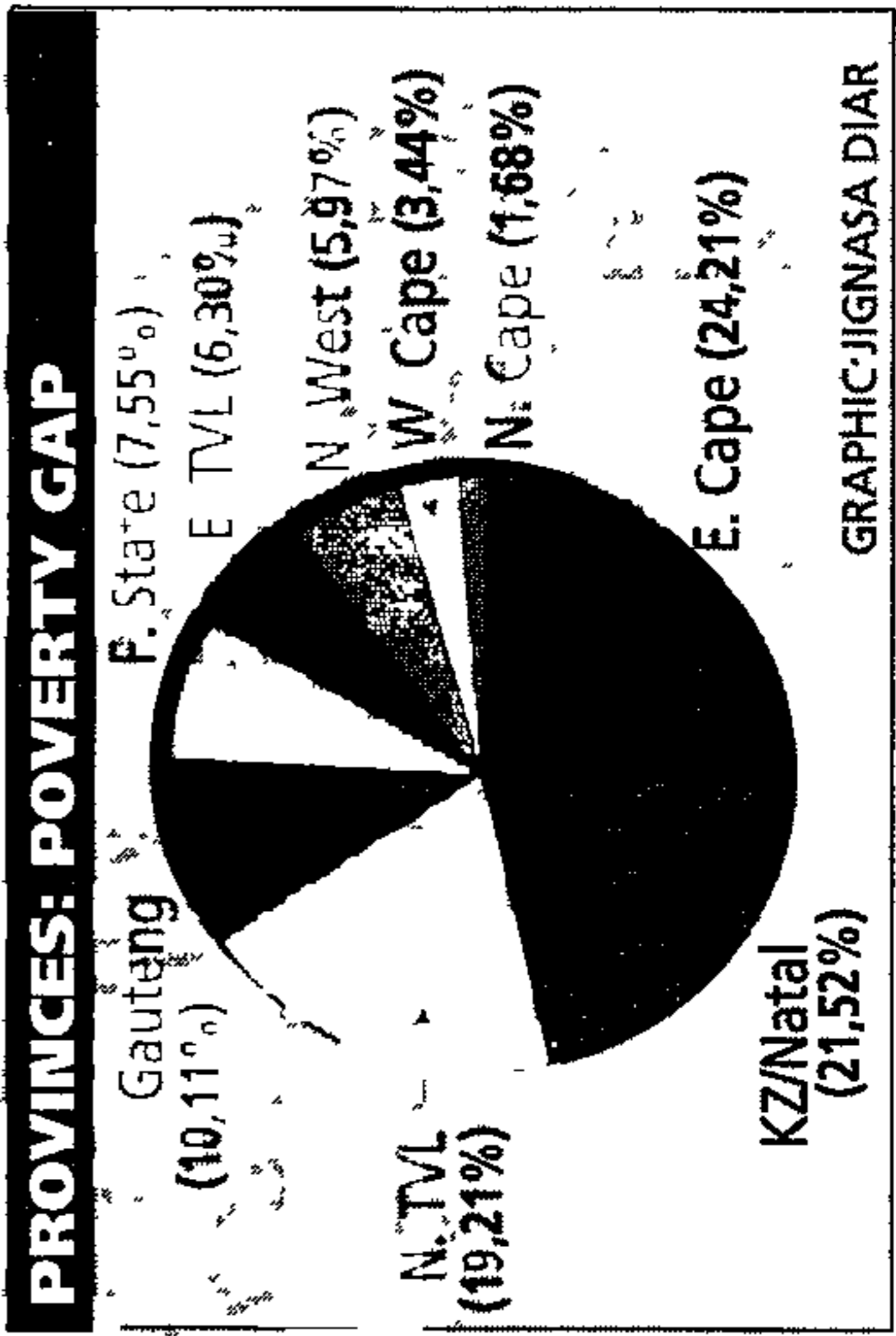
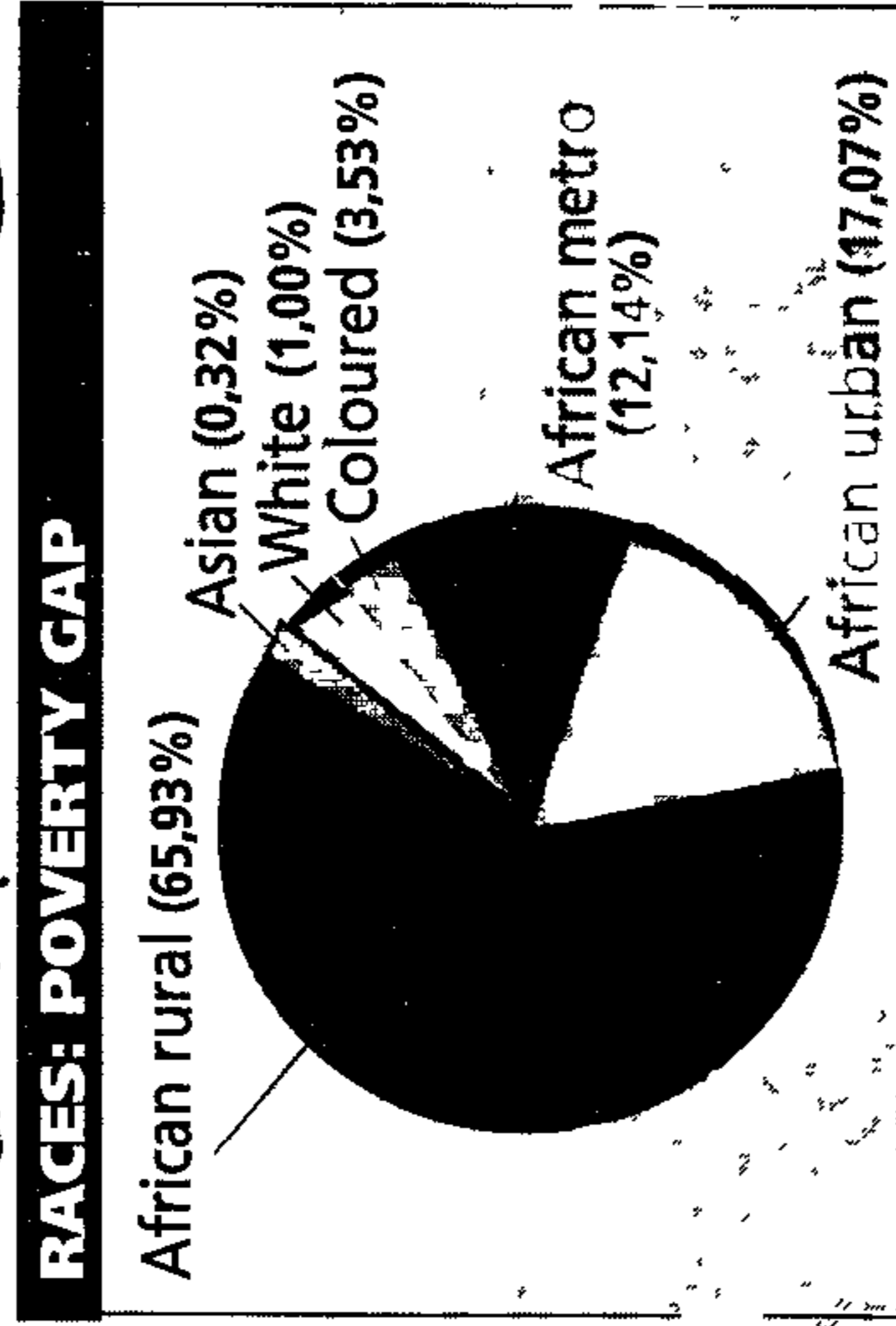
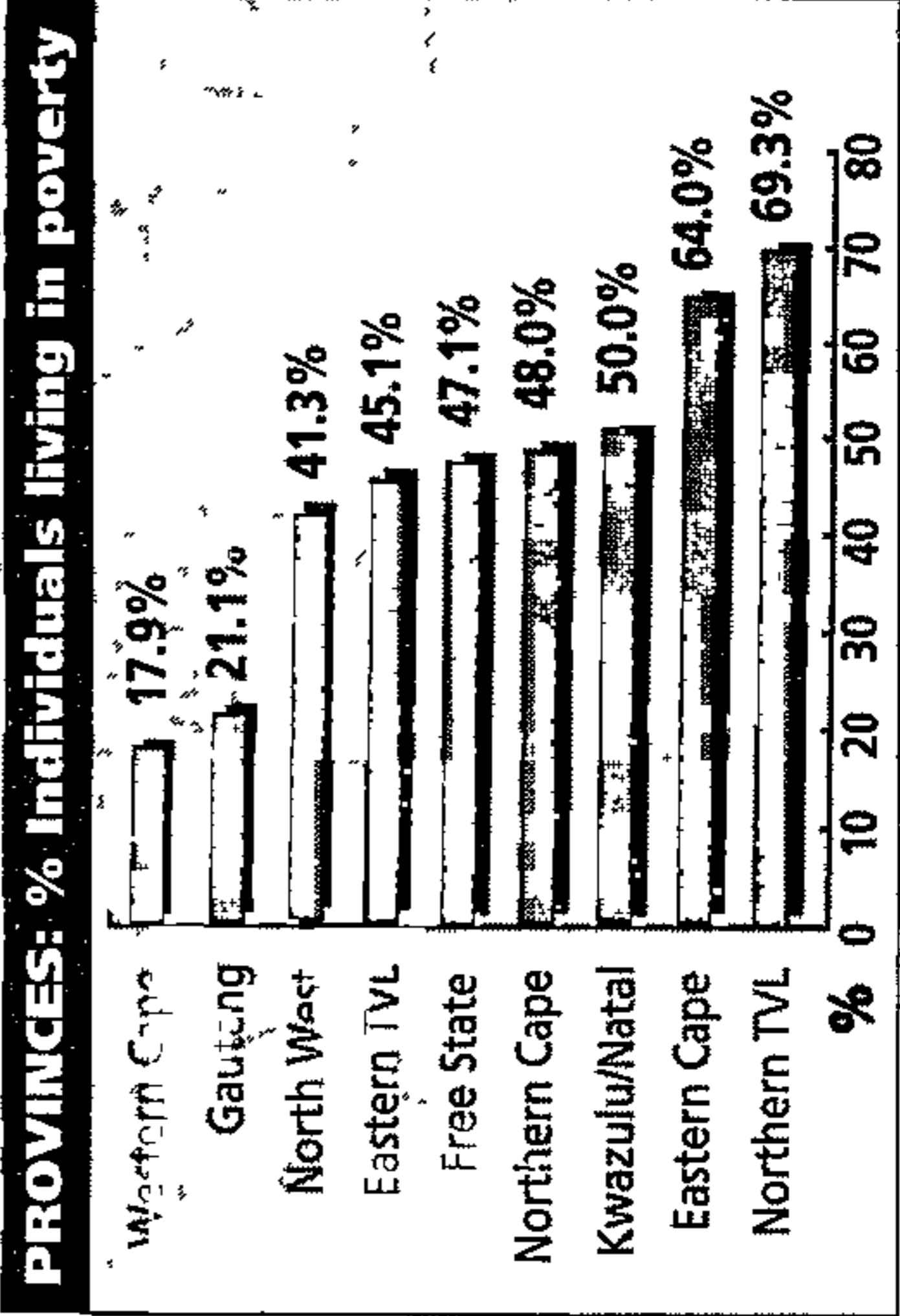
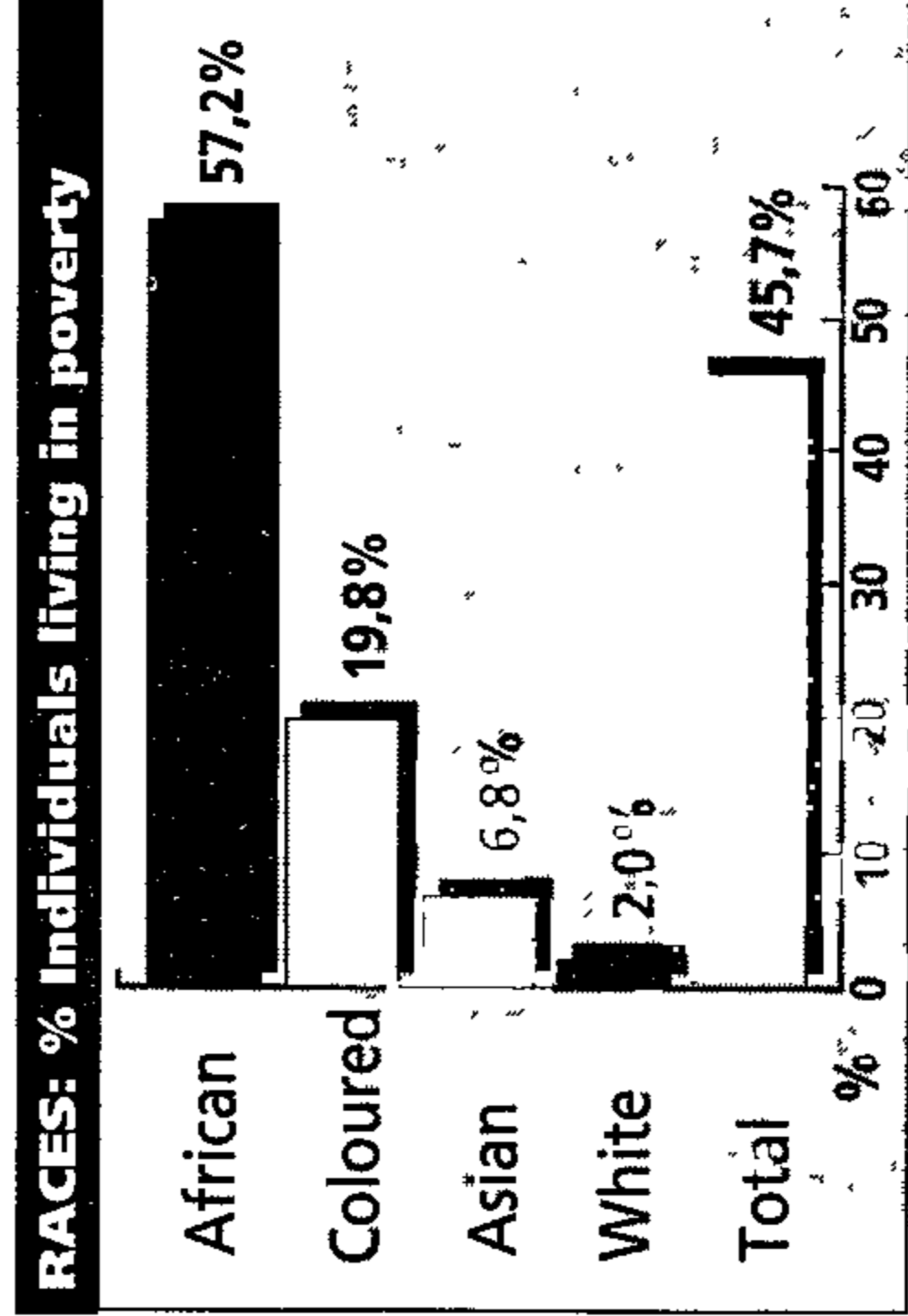
5% of the Gross Domestic Product, "and while the poverty problem is small in relation to the size of the economy, the enormous number of people involved makes its eradication a huge task".

Not too many South Africans are aware that 45,7% of the population — 18 099 652 people — live in poverty. This adds up to one-third of the 3,1-million households in the country being truly the poorest of the poor.

Worst off are Northern Transvaal families, followed by the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape. The most "affluent" poor live in the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Rural people are the real sufferers, with about 13-million on the breadline, most being black people, followed by coloureds and Asians, while 35 000 white families are staring destitution in the face.

However, women and children of whatever colour are the real victims. It is a frightening thought that half of all women in South Africa lives below the poverty line. This stems from the fact that they have a disproportionate share of the poverty burden due to their access to employment opportunities — when they do find work, it is invariably low-paying — and the allocation of resources within families is



not always fairly distributed. The risk of being in poverty is much higher in those households which are headed by women, the report notes.

"Women in rural areas, in particular, face fewer income-earning opportunities which would explain the high poverty risk among rural female-headed households."

One of the most clear-cut indicators of poverty within a family is the child. The report has found that a child who experiences poverty is exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development, and, as a consequence, could be disadvantaged for life if he or she is unable to break out of the poverty trap.

There are a staggering 2,1-million poor children in both the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal and 1,9-million in the Northern Transvaal. Other areas where children face hardship are Free State (635 735), Eastern Transvaal (686 157), North West (585 890) and Gauteng (555 426).

It is also significant that the poorest 40% of households earn less than 6% of the total income while the richest 10% earn more than half the total income of all households.

"This situation not only fuels social tension but also serves as

a constraint on economic growth," the authors say. "The challenge facing economic planners is to raise the economy on to a higher growth path and ensure that the greater share of the proceeds of growth accrue to the poorer sector of society."

In 1993, total personal income amounted to more than R279,8-billion, of which less than a third accrued to black people, despite the fact that they account for more than 75% of the population.

This is said to be a classic example, based on an international standard, of income inequality. Known as the "Gini coefficient" — a measure of inequality which can vary from 0 in the case of perfect equality to 1 in the case of absolute inequality — this standard shows that inequality here is at 0,65 compared to other developing nations such as Taiwan (0,27) and Singapore (0,42).

It is not only in the individual household that income inequalities are predominant — Gauteng and Western Cape are the two richest provinces (although between them they have 2-million poor people living within their boundaries) compared to the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape, which are the two poorest and have 7,6-million of the nation's poor.

Desperate plight of the rural poor revealed in study

(244) ARG 26/6/95
JOHANNESBURG — Unemployment in rural areas fluctuated between 30 to 70 percent in South Africa with up to 60 percent of the population living under established household standard of living levels, according to a study issued on this week.

The Independent Land and Agricultural Policy Centre (LAPC) conducted the research in all nine provinces, focusing on 18 rural districts, centre director David Cooper told a news briefing.

"The picture that emerges is of intense rural poverty and poor institutional support," said Mr Cooper.

The LAPC found the poorest province in South Africa was the Northern Transvaal where 40 percent of the rural population earned, on average, below R800 a year.

Figures for the Free State were similar, with an estimated 40 percent of rural black people not receiving a cash income, the researchers said.

According to the researchers, much of the research has shown that there is a high demand for security of tenure and for land for residential use

Poverty 'poses biggest threat to the environment'

□ *Canadian warns of urban decay*
ARG 3/7/95 (241)

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA was an environmental Armageddon in which 21 million people lived without toilets, 12 million without access to clean water, and seven million without houses, according to a Canadian environmentalist

Sewage and refuse removal systems in townships such as Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga had collapsed and it was estimated that two thirds of Cape Town's population was homeless and almost a third lived without adequate water supply, said the visiting expert, David McDonald, of the University of Toronto, who is doing a doctorate research project here about the impact of urban poverty on the environment

"Environmental issues focus too much on broader green issues relating to nature instead of the living conditions of people — the urban sprawl, the enormous poverty, the groundwater contamination and piles of refuse. This undermines the environmental integrity of the city as a whole

"Kids, inadvertently, are playing in sewage water

"Ikapa (Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa), with a population of 400 000, has 10 working re-



Picture LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

EXPERT: Canadian environmentalist David McDonald believes urban poverty affects the majority of South Africans and poses the biggest threat to the country's environment

fuse vehicles Cape Town, with a population of 1,2 million, has 300 "

• Forty percent of the water in the Cape Peninsula was being used for "watering white gardens", while an estimated

26 percent of its population had no access to clean water

The majority of people were under-consuming and the minority over-consuming

"One needs to challenge the consumption patterns of white South Africans. White South Africa has created a standard of living based on cheap labour. They are saying they can give up racism, but that they must maintain their standard of living. They're willing to give up the country, but not to give up their backyards

"The suburban middle classes want the townships to be upgraded, but when it comes to the crunch, they're not prepared to pay the bill for it. There is an enormous fear of huge rates increases

ARG Big business needs the townships developed because they need new consumers who can start buying appliances "

Strong local authorities were needed to co-ordinate services and redistribute already existing public assets in Cape Town

• Mr McDonald said he was refused access to submissions made to the Demarcation Board of the Western Cape government, which were public information

He was told by the secretary of the Demarcation Board that the matter was "too sensitive"

Poverty is on the increase ⁽²⁴¹⁾

Sowetan 24/8/95

POVERTY in South Africa has been increasing by 2 per cent a year since 1980, says National Productivity Institute (NPI) executive director Dr Jan Visser. Unless the nation successfully stops this trend, the country faces a bleak future.

Visser was speaking at the 1995 Logistics Award ceremony in Johannesburg on Tuesday night. Polifin PP, the joint Sasol-AECI venture, was adjudged the winner, with Sappi Forests KwaZulu-Natal second and Compu-Gear third. The other finalists were The Foschini Group, the 1992 winner, and Sasol's Olefin.

Dr Visser said the standard of living was in the long term probably the most important factor in the functioning of a whole country. Poverty lay at the root of many of the present problems to be dealt with in South African society. The high crime rate, inadequate housing and the overall lack of facilities to support a healthy, productive community all stemmed from the fact that South Africa had not produced and was not producing the commodities and services people wanted to consume.

First stumbling block

"The question now arises how we can turn this totally unacceptable trend around. Economists all believe that the first stumbling block we are faced with in our quest for higher economic growth is the balance of payments," he said.

The fact that the balance of payments turned negative again from the fourth quarter last year forced the Reserve Bank to increase interest rates to retard demand. This automatically dampened growth. "To avoid this trap we must become successful in the export market. More South African goods and services must find their way into foreign markets by being competitive from a price, quality and service point of view," Dr Visser said.

Becoming competitive is not easy after one had been excluded from foreign competition for a long time. South African sportsmen and women experienced this, and businesses certainly also did, he said. — Sapa



HELPING HANDS ... Pupils and their teachers at the Boltumelo School in Galeshewe, Kimberley.

Civic helps poor

sowetan 8/9/95
(241)

By Russel Molefe

THE estimated 100 000 people of Galeshewe township near Kimberley belong to a "doomed and forgotten" society, says the local civic association.

This statement makes sense to anyone who visits this dilapidated and dusty township in the impoverished Northern Cape.

When entering the township, a war zone immediately comes to mind. Yet it was never engulfed by violence, except for running battles between youths and police during the apartheid era.

The roofs and walls of many houses in the township — where the bucket-toilet system is still in use — have collapsed.

This is a township where more than 60 percent of the residents are unemployed and illiterate, according to the Galeshewe Civic Association.

The suffering and poverty being experienced by residents has also giving rise to gangsterism among

N Cape township is optimistic after years of poverty and neglect

youngsters, there is an increase in gang-related criminal activities in the township.

Civic association adviser Mr Kenneth Job said the main employers in the province are the diamond mines. But the mines are closing down and people are losing their jobs.

"Everybody knows the Northern Cape is the major producer of diamonds in this country. But the money generated by those diamonds was never used to uplift the standards of people in the region.

"All the money was used to improve the economies of other provinces."

Job said the civic association has taken full advantage of the new political dispensation and dedicating itself to working to uplift the standard of living in the township.

The Buffer Zone Development Committee is running a trust fund jointly with the Kimberley Transitional Local Council to generate money to develop the township.

Job explained that the civic association wanted to involve people on the ground in decision-making about development in the area.

"We have already applied to the Reconstruction and Development Programme Fund to develop a section called Greater Number 2," he said.

"What aggravates our situation in the township is that our province did not get a fair share of the national budget. We only got two percent of the total budget."

Nevertheless, hope is running high among residents that the township will improve under the new political dispensation.

sentences at home

Strong words on poverty

2111
sowetan
5/5/95

By Vuyo Bavuma
Political Reporter

IT was important to link free health services with proper food schemes as part of the Government's ongoing war against poverty, said Professor Sampie Terblanche of Stellenbosch University yesterday

Addressing a Parliamentary welfare portfolio committee on its Budget vote, Terblanche said there was a great need to introduce the soup and bread kitchens on a large scale

"It is shocking that people could die of hunger in such a middle-income country, yet sick people on street pavements could get medical help," he said

"We don't need this kind of double standard approach. We should have the same approach (to both issues)"

Terblanche said with 49 percent of its citizens living in desperate poverty and 67 percent of black people in abject poverty in squatter camps and the former

TBVC states and homelands, South Africa was like Belgium and India combined. Professor Pieter le Roux of the Institute of Social Development at the University of the Western Cape said a number of old people who qualified for social pensions outpaced the economic growth

The number of pensioners increased three times annually and this would lead to problems for the Government as the economic growth was smaller

Le Roux said the Government also faced the problem of corruption in the pension pay-out. This, he said, cost the Government an estimated R1 billion

Echoing the sentiments, Dr Ellen Khuzwayo, a committee member, said it was important for the Government to help the communities to run their own schemes to avoid dependence

"Many poor people have survived by using communal projects. Some of these people are still living but should have been killed by poverty"

Public enemy number one

The offences include shortening life and causing starvation, disability, mental illness, suicide, family break-up and substance abuse, writes Chris Mihill

THE world's biggest killer, the greatest cause of ill-health and suffering across the globe, is listed almost at the end of the International Classification of Diseases, the giant tome which records all ailments known to medical science. It is given the code Z59.5. It doesn't stand for cancer, heart disease, HIV or even malnutrition. It stands for extreme poverty.

Poverty is the main reason why babies are not vaccinated, why clean water and sanitation are not provided, why treatment is unavailable and why mothers die in childbirth. It is the underlying cause of reduced life expectancy, handicap, disability and starvation. It is a major contributor to mental illness, stress, suicide, family disintegration and substance abuse.

The words come not from some leftwing pressure group or Third World aid agency. They are the opening statements of the 1995 annual report of the World Health Organisation, which was published this week. WHO, not usually noted for ringing denunciations of health inequalities, states: "Every year in the developing world 12.2-million children under five die, most of them from causes which could be prevented for just a few US cents per child. They die largely because of world indifference but most of all they die because they are poor."

The report is entitled *Bridging the Gaps*. But in a relentless catalogue of facts and figures it shows how in many areas the health gaps are not closing but widening — between rich and poor, between North and South, between men and women, between employed and unemployed, between young and old.

In the time taken to read this sentence, somewhere a baby has died in

its mother's arms. It will not stem that mother's grief to know that eight out of 10 children in the world have been vaccinated against the five major killer diseases of childhood, or that since 1980 infant mortality has fallen by 25 percent, while overall life expectancy has increased by four years, to about 65.

Beneath the heartening facts about decreased mortality and increasing life expectancy, and many other health advances, lie unacceptable disparities in health. In WHO's words: "For most people in the world today every step of life from infancy to old age is taken under the twin shadows of poverty and inequity and under the double burden of suffering and disease. For many the prospects of longer life may seem more like a punishment than a gift."

The true obscenity highlighted by the report is that millions of deaths could be avoided for a few cents — yet the world chooses not to give the money. By the end of this century, we could be living in a world without polio, without new cases of leprosy, without deaths from neonatal tetanus and measles. Other old scourges could be greatly reduced. But today the money that some developing countries have to spend per person on health over an entire year is just US\$4 — less than the small change carried by most people in industrialised countries.

A person in the least developed countries of the world has a life expectancy of 43 years, in the most developed the life expectancy is 78. That inequity alone should stir the conscience of the world — but in some of the poorest countries the picture is getting worse. In five countries — Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Congo, Uganda and Zambia — life expectancy at birth is



Battle to live: Infant mortality is a curse of poverty. One in every four children in Afghanistan dies before the age of five

PHOTOGRAPH DAVID STEWART-SMITH

expected to decrease by the year 2000, whereas everywhere else it is increasing. In the richest countries life expectancy will reach 79 years. In some of the poorest it will fall to 42. By 2000, at least 45 countries will have life expectancy at birth of under 60.

The number of children under five who died in 1993 — more than 12.2-million — equals the populations of Norway and Sweden combined. If developing countries enjoyed the same standard of living as the developed, more than 90 percent of those deaths could have been avoided.

In parts of the industrialised world, such as the UK, six out of every 1,000 liveborn children die before five. In 16 developing countries the rate is 200 per 1,000. Infant mortality — deaths of children under one — varies from 4.8 per 1,000 live births to 161, a 33-fold difference.

In 1990, more than 30 percent of the world's children under five were underweight for their age. Micronutrient malnutrition is estimated to affect at least two billion people of all ages but children are particularly vulnerable. As a result of iodine deficiency — easily preventable by putting this element in salt — at least 30,000 babies are stillborn each year and more than 120,000 are born mentally retarded, physically stunted, deaf-mute or paralysed. Iodizing salt supplies costs as little as 5 US cents per person per year. Vitamin A deficiency, which can cause blindness, is controllable with capsules costing 2 US cents each, yet a quarter of children under five in developing countries are at risk.

There have been improvements in child health, and 1993 saw the number of children dying of vaccine preventable diseases reduced by 1.3-million compared with 1985. Yet around 2.4-million children under five are still dying every year from diseases such as measles, whooping cough, polio and diphtheria. The measles vaccine costs 14 US cents per dose, and the diphtheria-whooping cough-tetanus vaccine 6 US cents.

One of the most pernicious effects of poverty is seen in the deaths

caused by acute respiratory infections, particularly pneumonia. Four million children die from this cause every year — one death every eight seconds. They can be treated with antibiotics costing 20 US cents.

Diarrhoeal diseases, resulting from unsafe water and sanitation coupled with poor food handling practices, are responsible for another three million deaths a year in children under five — one every 10 seconds. It is another graphic example of the deadly synergy of poverty and lack of knowledge. Many deaths from diarrhoea could be prevented using oral rehydration salts, on average costing 7 US cents per treatment.

WHO estimates that the number of people living in extreme poverty is around 1.1-billion

WHO warns that HIV and Aids are having a devastating effect on young people. In many countries in the developing world, up to two-thirds of all new HIV infections are among people aged 15 to 24. Overall, it is estimated that half the global HIV infections have been in people under 25 — with 60 percent of infections of females occurring by the age of 20. "The hopes and lives of a generation, the breadwinners, providers and parents of the future, are in jeopardy. Many of the most talented and industrious citizens, who could build a better world and shape the destinies of the countries they live in, face tragically early death as a result of HIV infection."

Across the world about 51-million people of all ages died in 1993, a quarter of them children. Some 39-million deaths were in the developing countries and 12-million in the developed. Communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, and maternal and infant deaths amount for about 20-million, or 40 percent, of the global deaths. Of these, 99 percent occur in the developing world. Non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, account for about 19-million deaths, 36 percent

of the global total, divided more or less equally between the developing and the industrialised world.

External causes — accidents and violence, for example — account for some four million deaths, or 8 percent of the total. Developing countries have nearly four times the number of deaths from these causes as the developed world.

Of the communicable diseases, tuberculosis kills some three million a year, malaria around two million and hepatitis B possibly one million. HIV is spreading rapidly in many parts of the world, with 6,000 people becoming infected each day.

WHO predicts that over the next 10 years Aids and TB together will kill more people in Asia alone than the entire populations of Singapore, Beijing, Yokohama and Tokyo combined.

With the non-communicable diseases, some five million die from heart disease and four million from stroke. Such diseases are emerging as a major cause of death in the developing world. Although heart disease and stroke are perceived as Western problems, about 44 percent of deaths from these causes now occur in Third World countries.

In terms of women's health and childbirth, the differences in maternal mortality between countries are shocking. In Europe, maternal mortality is 50 per 100,000 live births. In some of the least developed countries the rate is 700 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. In developing countries, one in five deaths of women of reproductive age are due to complications of pregnancy and delivery. It means more than half a million women die every year from easily preventable conditions.

Although over the past 10 years there has been a global trend towards the democratisation of political systems, the much-anticipated "peace dividend" has failed to materialise, the report says. "Poverty has continued, and will continue, to be a major obstacle to health development. The number of poor people has increased substantially, both in the developing world and among underprivileged groups and communities in the developed countries."

WHO estimates that the number of people living in extreme poverty is around 1.1-billion. It adds: "There has been a disproportionate flow of resources from the developing to the developed world — poor countries paying money to rich ones — because of debt servicing and repayment and as a consequence of prices for raw materials that favour the latter at the expense of the former. Structural adjustment policies aimed at improving the economic performance of poor countries have in many cases made the situation worse."

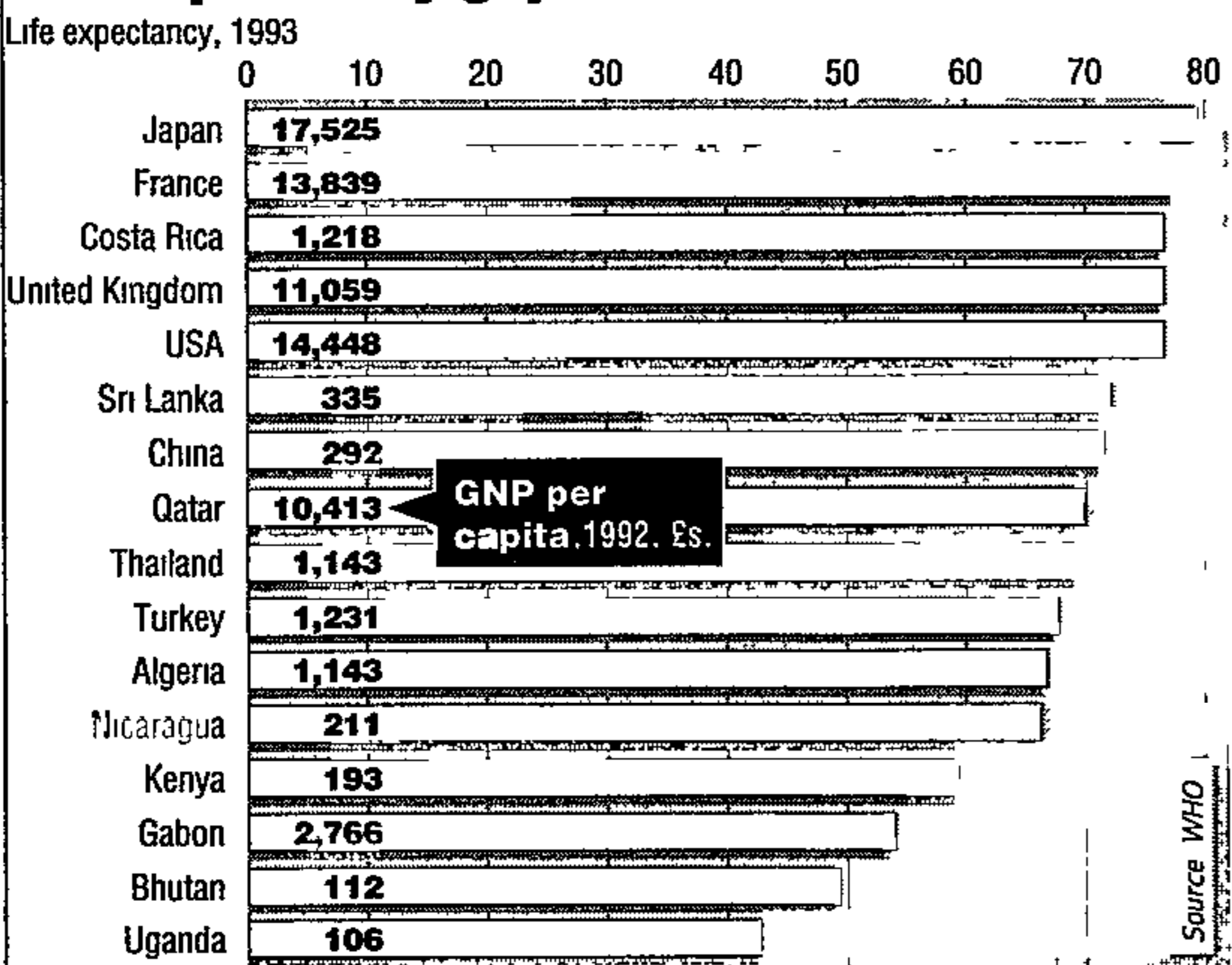
WHO warns that long-term unemployment is creating a new class of "untouchables" — by excluding a large group of people from the mainstream of society. "The unemployed are a potent reminder of the dangers of assuming that the general prosperity of a country will trickle down to all its members."

Everywhere in the report — from concerns about lack of sanitation in the expanding megacities of the Third World, to an inability to treat TB because of a shortage of drugs, to the spread of HIV because of the cost of condoms — the analysis of the real threat to health is the same: it's Z59.5.

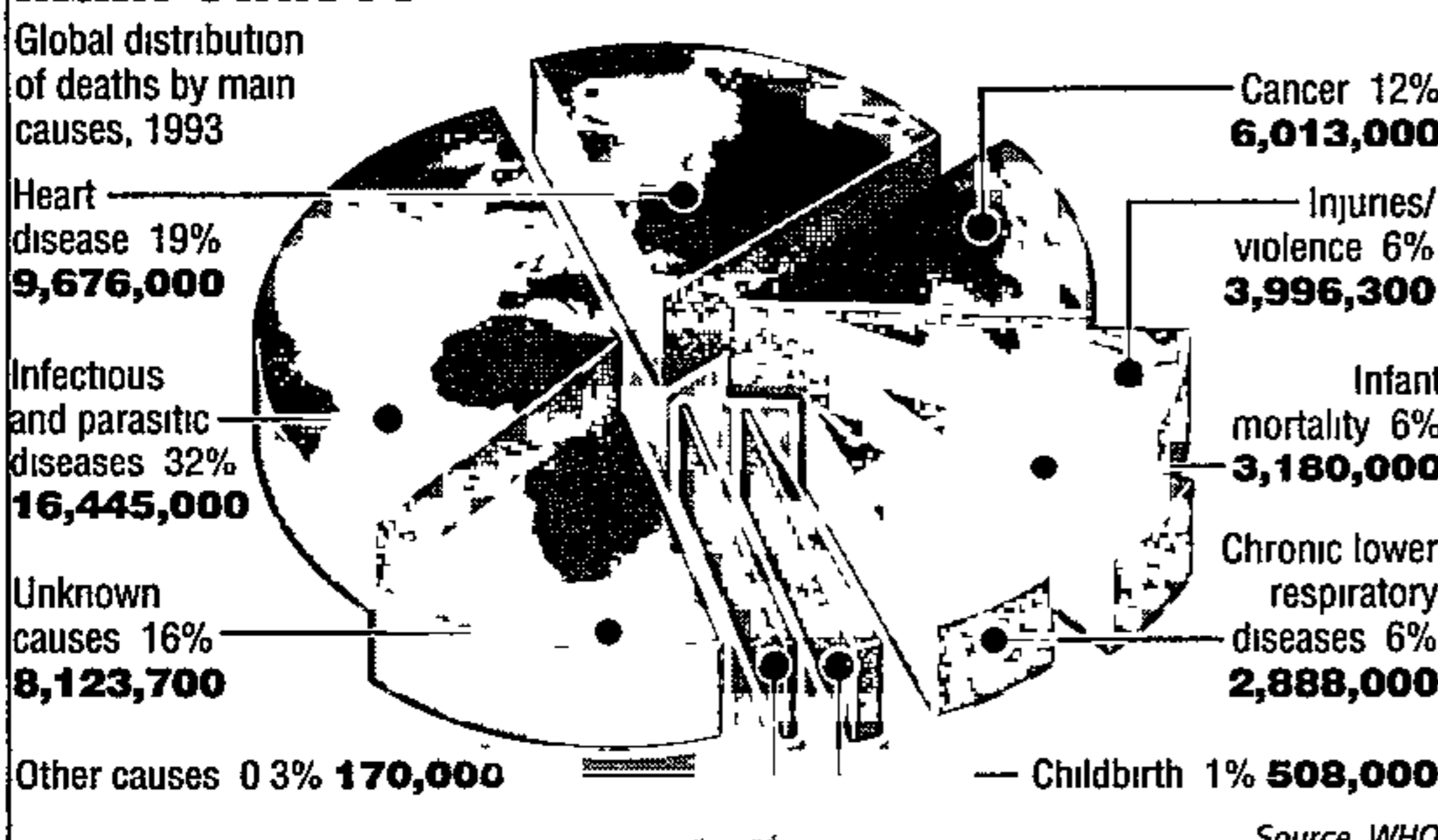
Hundreds of millions of people are dying or being left disabled, not for want of technology or knowledge but because they are poor. The real enemies of health across the planet are not viruses or bacteria or parasites, deadly though these are. The real enemies are indifference, a lack of compassion and a willingness to look the other way.

A matter of life and death

Life expectancy gap



Main causes



Take rural issues more seriously

(241) ARG 8/5/95

— Naidoo

RESULTS of a survey showing huge underdevelopment in rural areas, including unemployment of more than 60 percent among black women in the Eastern Cape, have been released by Central Statistical Services

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said today at a media conference that the figures showed the "complete inequality" in allocation of resources to urban and rural areas

"The starkness of the figures has been a revelation to me," he said

"We've got to take issues related to rural development much more seriously"

The Household Survey is carried out annually in October by CSS, but the 1994 survey, released today, was the first to include the former homelands

CSS also released the latest Human Development Index, a measurement of people's ability to live a long and healthy life, which ranked South Africa 86th of 173 countries, near Paraguay, Botswana and China.

Mr Naidoo's office said the CSS survey showed that 32,6 percent of the economically active population, or 4,7-million people, were jobless

The formal sector provided jobs to 56,9 percent of those able to work, and the informal sector 10,4 percent

The Northern Transvaal had the highest unemployment rate at 47 percent, and the Western Cape the lowest of 17,3 percent

The Eastern Cape had the highest rural joblessness rate, at 56,3 percent of the economically active population

In all race groups more women than men were unemployed. The worst unemployment for women in urban areas was 47 percent in the Northern Cape, while the highest rate in rural areas was the Eastern Cape — with 64,1 percent

The statement said the lack of easily-accessible water for household use was most severe in the Eastern Cape, where 81,1 percent of the rural population had no tap in their dwellings or on site, and the Free State, where 15,4 percent of the urban population had no tap

In the North-West province 81,3 percent of people in rural areas had no walking-distance access to a phone

The statement said South Africa's Human Development Index rating of 0,677 placed it in the "medium" category. Countries below 0,5 were considered to have a low level of human development, and those of 0,8 or more a high level

The HDI was a measurement of "people's ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate and to have sufficient means to afford a decent living"

By province, the Western Cape (0,826) and Gauteng (0,818) ranked in the high scale. The Northern Transvaal, with 0,470, fell in the low category, and other provinces in the medium

SA is 86th on human development scale ~~SA~~

ARG 8/5/95 (241)

RESULTS of the first South African Human Development Index list Northern Transvaal as the nation's least developed province and rank South Africa 86th on the world development table — alongside Paraguay

The minister in charge of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Jay Naidoo, said in Cape Town that the UN-linked human development index would be updated annually as a measure of South Africa's post-apartheid development

He said the index, based on life expectancy, income, education and literacy, provided a useful single-figure table on which to measure the impact of the five-year, R37,5 billion rand RDP

Today's results put Northern

Transvaal as the only province in the "low human development" category at 0,470 on the zero-to-one scale

The Western Cape at 0,826 and Gauteng at 0,818 were the only provinces in the "high human development" range.

Mr Naidoo said the index highlighted the gap between black and white living standards, ranking "white South Africa" 19th among the 173 countries on the international index and "black South Africa" 119th

White society rated 0,901 on the human development index, and the Asian community, also in the high development category, at 0,836 The coloured community was measured at 0,663 and black society the lowest at 0,500 — Reuter.

Figures confirm RDP priorities - Naidoo

World development index ranks SA 86th

Cape Town — Results of the first South African Human Development Index list Northern Transvaal as the nation's least developed province and rank South Africa 86th on the world development table, alongside Paraguay

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Naidoo said the figures, released with further results of the Government's benchmark October Household Survey of 30 000 South African families, broadly confirmed the priorities of his reconstruction programme

"The figures underline the extent of the problem of rural underdevelopment. We had anticipated the trends, but not the starkness of the problem," he said

"It is important that we should not be content to live in poverty," he added — Reuter.

241
MAY 9/5/75

Survey a 'stark reminder' of SA's problems

ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — The provincial breakdown of results of a nationwide survey of householders, released yesterday, was a stark reminder of the development problems SA faced, Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said (241) (241)

Conducted by the Central Statistical Service in October, the survey of 30 000 homes indicated wide disparities between living conditions, employment levels and access to resources in various provinces

It showed rural unemployment in Eastern Cape was at 56,3% and in Northern Transvaal 50,7% — compared with 16,4% in Gauteng and 4,64% in Western Cape

Urban unemployment was 32,4% in Eastern Cape, 23,3% in Northern Transvaal, 29,2% in Gauteng and 19,7% in Western Cape.

More than 80% of rural people in Eastern Cape, 61,7% in Northern Transvaal and 69,4% in KwaZulu/Natal had no tap water in or near their homes.

A lack of electricity affected 92,9% of rural residents in Eastern Cape, 90,7% in Northwest, 86,7% in Northern Transvaal and 77,1% in the Free State.

There were disproportionately high levels of unemployment for women, particularly in rural areas. The bulk of the unemployed of both genders were poorly educated and aged between 15 and 29.

Naidoo said while many of the trends confirmed earlier diagnoses, he was surprised by the low number of people working in the informal sector and the extent of rural deprivation.

About 1,5-million people — 10,4% of the 8,2-million-strong economically active population — earned a living from the informal sector.

The provincial results of the survey, which followed national results released in March, would help determine reconstruction and development programme priorities. The statistics would also be used by the Financial and Fiscal Commission to work out criteria for the allocation of central government funds to provinces.

A major national census next year would add to the data government required to implement its development objectives.

W Cape's the best, comparatively

CT 9/5/95

(241)

**BARRY STREEK
AND CHRIS BATEMAN**

THE Western Cape has the highest rating in South Africa in terms of the UN Human Development Index and the lowest rate of unemployment, Minister without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo revealed yesterday.

The Western Cape and Gauteng also rank high in world terms, he said when the results of the October Household Survey by the Central Statistics Service were released.

'Over-simplistic'

He also revealed that a survey had shown that 4,7 million of the economically-active population (32,6%) in South Africa were unemployed and 1,5m (10,4%) were in the formal sector.

Responding to the finding that the province had the lowest joblessness in the country, Western Cape Economic Affairs and RDP minister Mr Chris Nissen said yesterday it was "over-simplistic" to fear severe underfunding by Pretoria because of this.

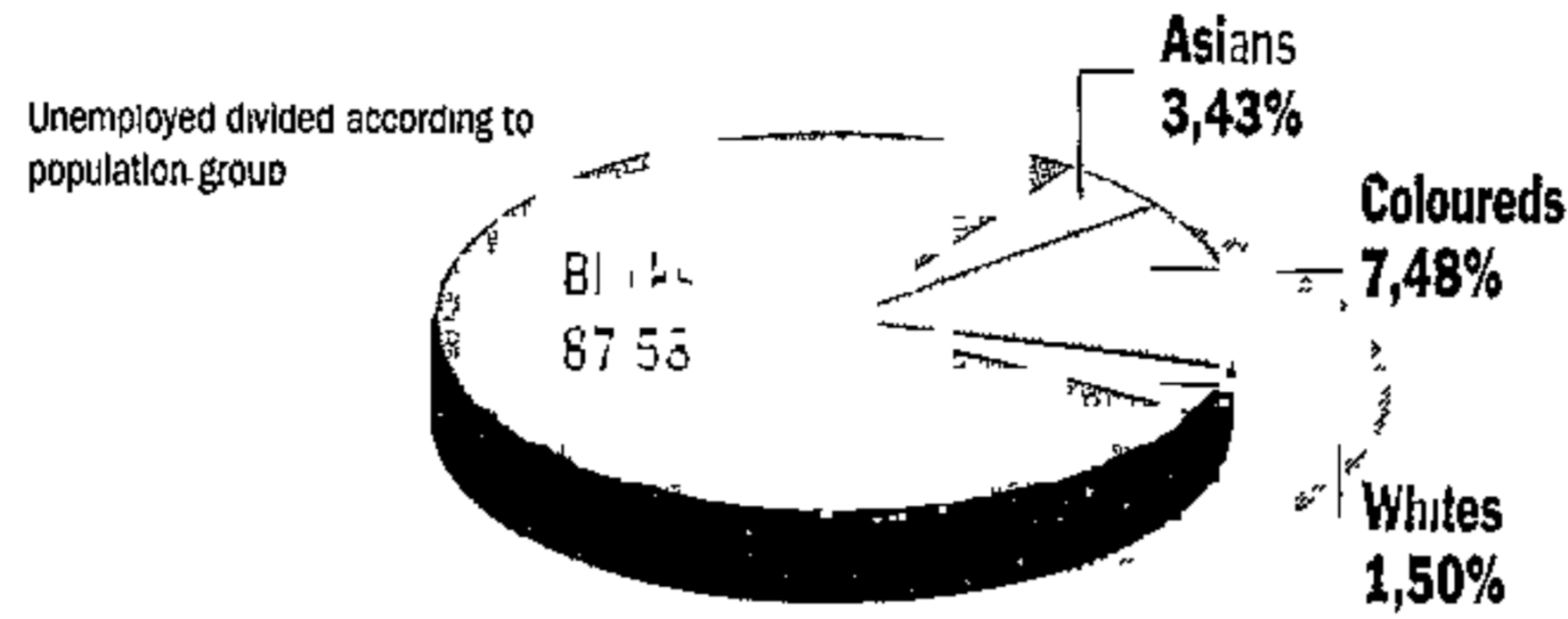
He said RDP allocations were targeted at "specific crisis areas", as needs arose in each province.

Provincial RDP co-ordinator and acting head of Economic Affairs, Mr Tony Rutgers, said that even though statistics seemed to put the province at the "back of the queue" in areas such as health, education and housing, funds would flow from Pretoria when there was a "dire need".

Mr Naidoo said the survey contained the first official results

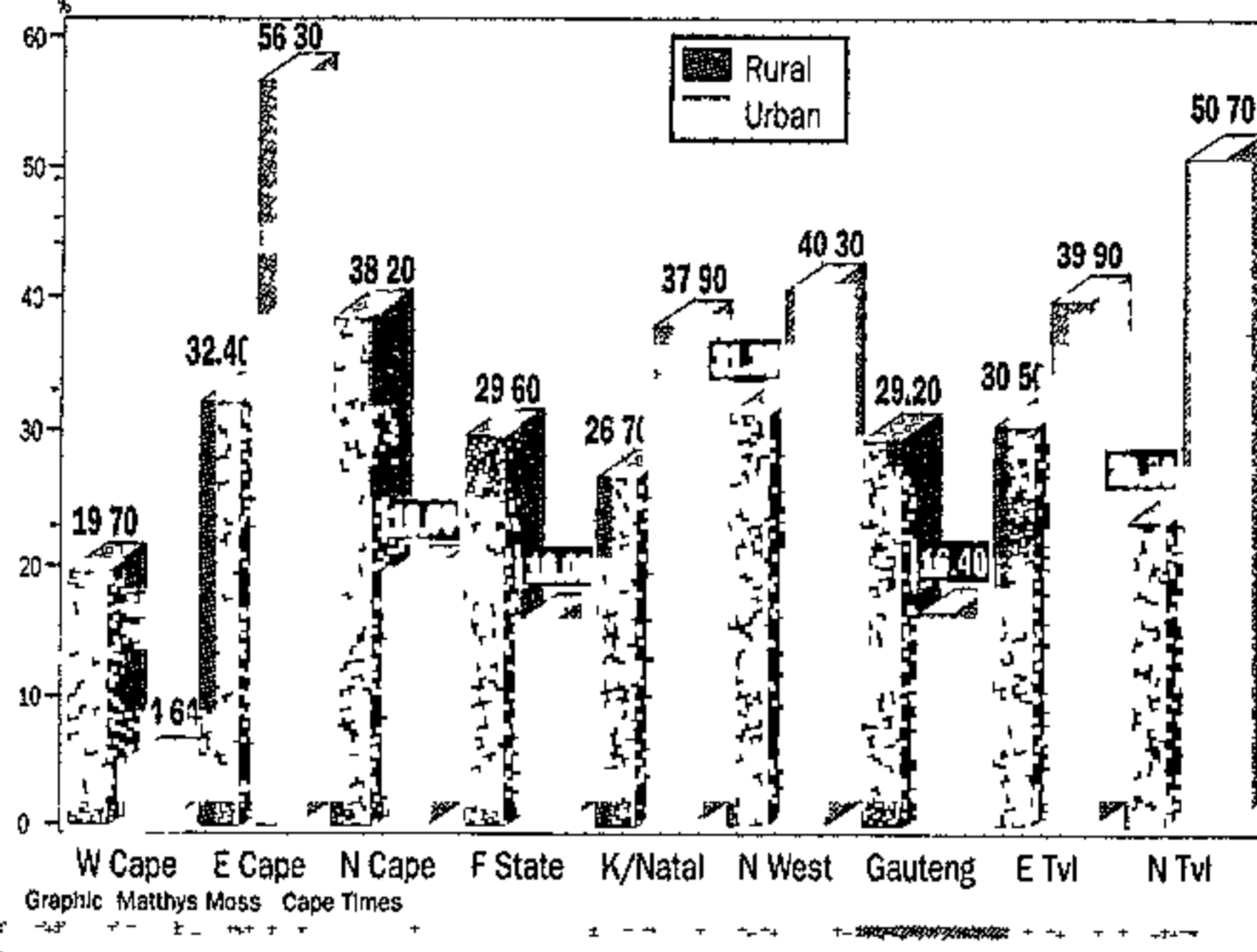
Unemployed persons:

The pie chart shows the proportional breakdown of unemployed persons by population group.



Provincial unemployment rates for urban and rural areas

Unemployment rates in rural areas are higher than in urban areas for the Eastern Cape (56.3% the highest) KwaZulu/Natal, North-West, Eastern Transvaal and Northern Transvaal. Relative to the other provinces the Western Cape shows a very low unemployment rate in both rural areas (4.6%) and urban areas (19.7%).



of the South Africa Human Development Index (HDI).

"The HDI provides an alternative method to measure the relative socio-economic development of countries, and provinces within countries.

"It is best seen as a measure of the ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate, to participate in the life of the community and to have sufficient means to be able to afford a decent living — with the basic

indicators being life expectancy, adult literacy, the average years of schooling and per capita income."

South Africa ranked 86th out of 173 countries in HDI. This placed it in the medium category.

Mr Naidoo also said there were 14,4m economically-active people in South Africa and 8,2m (56,9%) working in the formal sector of the economy.

"The highest unemployment rate in the provinces occurred in the Northern Transvaal (47%) and the lowest in the Western Cape (17,3%)."

Mr Naidoo said the Eastern Cape had the highest rural unemployment rate (56,3%) and the Northern Cape the highest urban unemployment rate (38,2%).

"Relative to the other provinces, the Western Cape shows a very low unemployment rate in both urban areas (4,6%) and the rural areas (19,7%)."

Arrears

A high concentration of unemployment occurred in the age group 20-24 for all population groups but in the age group 25-29 for Africans.

More females of all population groups than males were unemployed.

● Reacting to a public announcement he made last week that coloured people's rental arrears would be scrapped on the same terms as those of Africans, Mr Nissen said President Nelson Mandela had agreed to the principle that Pretoria would not exclude coloured people's debts being written off.

Looking at poor-white face of SA poverty

Star 11/5/98 (24)

Nikki Whitfield and photographer Andreas Teichmann spent a day in Jan Hofmeyer recently and discovered an area fraught with poverty but filled with some of the nicest people you'll ever meet

Johnny Hawthorn sat sadly on the spotless front seat of his red Mazda RX2, parked with a flat tyre in the unkempt front yard of his house. In the night, the back window of his beloved car had been smashed.

I don't know why people would want to do a thing like this he said, shaking his head. "The car is never locked and there's nothing to steal in it."

Johnny talks of how he built the car up from scratch after buying it for a song a year ago.

Johnny, who has TB, is unemployed, but he hopes to start his own paper recycling company once he's better. He lives with his girlfriend, Sylvia, her son, George, who attends a special school nearby, seven dogs and two cats. They pay R122 a month rent which they get from the maintenance Sylvia is paid from her ex-husband.

Johnny gets help from the TB clinic, but in the form of food parcels, not money.

Proud

Sylvia is proud of her animals. They are kept in the grim kitchen behind a wire mesh, and she periodically interrupts the conversation to mop up puddles.

"You can see they're very well fed," she said. She pointed out a



Puppy love . . . Johnny Hawthorn and his girlfriend, Sylvia, with two of their beloved dogs, peer out of the bedroom window of their Jan Hofmeyer home.

Tannie Swannie. She runs a soup kitchen on every weekday about blocked drains and leaky roofs that they saw they are paid more than that in rent over the years the house can be

PICTURES ANDREAS TEICHMANN

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"You can see they're very well fed," she said. She pointed out a tiny puppy staggering around on three legs. "Her mother bit off her other leg when she was cleaning her after birth. People say I should put her down, but I don't want to. She's still a bit stupid now, but I think she'll get used to it."

Later, Johnny poses happily for the photographer. He sits on his bed holding one of the dogs below a picture of a naked woman tacked on the wall. He looks older than his 43 years, he has deep lines in his thin face and he has no teeth.

Across the park, Gertruida van der Bergh chatted to a neighbour over the fence.

Van der Bergh has lived on the same street in Jan Hofmeyer for 22 years and has buried both her husband and one of her two sons. She now shares her small house with her second son Andrew.

She said she had heard the council wanted to sell the houses in the area.

"A lot of people don't pay the rent, you see," she said. "I think they want about R6 000 for my house. I would like to buy it, if I can get the money."

She pays R115 a month for the house, which is cluttered and dark and reeks of damp.

The Guardian angel of Jan Hofmeyer and its neighbouring suburbs of Vredepark, Vrede-dorp and Pageview is Johanna Swanepoel, better known as



Puppy love . . . Johnny Hawthorn and his girlfriend, Sylvia, with two of their beloved dogs, peer out of the bedroom window of their Jan Hofmeyer home.



Home, sweet home . . . Gertruida van der Bergh outside the Jan Hofmeyer house she shares with her son and large dog

Tannie Swaname. She runs a soup kitchen on every weekday.

Tannie Swaname laments the closing of the clinic in Jan Hofmeyer. The clinic used to be next door to her house and would offer treatment for venereal diseases, birth control pills and devices, inoculations and cheaper milk for babies.

"There is a doctor nearby who offers a very reasonable service, but that's not the same as having a clinic. The people now have to walk to Mayfair or Crosby if they have to go to the clinic, and because they're not that close, people often don't bother to go."

Asked what people in the area thought about the new Government, Tannie Swaname said politics was hardly ever discussed.

"People here are more worried about the rising prices of food. I'm worried too — how am I supposed to make pap and worts when mealie meal is going to go up by 40% soon?"

Her soup kitchen is provided for by donations from the private sector. A supermarket gives her a lot of shop damaged goods.

Creeping into the area are the black squatters, who make their flimsy shelters out of sheets of cardboard and scraps of tin. There is no running water nearby, no toilets and nowhere to dump the mounting heaps of rubbish.

In the surrounding municipal flats and houses, people complain to health officials daily

about blocked drains and leaking roofs, but they say they are lucky if problems are attended to quickly — if at all.

Dr Stan Nadoo, acting director of health, said Jan Hofmeyer's clinic had been closed down as a cost effective measure. The number of patients visiting the clinic each day — between 10 and 12 — were not enough to warrant employing two to three people to run it.

But there are people who disagree with the closure.

A clinic is desperately needed," said a social worker. "Venereal diseases are often found in these areas and birth control measures are essential — people living there can't afford to keep having babies."

Asset

Residents in State-owned houses are being urged to buy their homes, as much to end the non-payment of rents as, the transitional local council says, to provide an asset to the people.

Dr Erich Buch, executive director of the Health, Housing and Urbanisation Directorate, said in terms of the national housing policy, people legally renting State-owned houses were being encouraged to buy them.

"The price is worked out on the construction price of the house. If the house was built for R5 000, and the tenants have

paid more than that in rent over the years, the house can be transferred to them at no cost."

He said it cost the State money to contribute to the upkeep of the homes, funds which could be used to help people who had no homes at all.

"If the people own the houses, it's their responsibility to fix the plumbing and unblock the drains. Often it's something they can easily sort out themselves but because they are council houses, they call us out."

He said that once people had bought the houses, they would not be allowed to sell them for five years to avoid speculating.

"If we can afford our house, we would love to buy it," said Johnny Hawthorn.

"We're like a family around here," Sylvia added. "We help each other out."

Edith sits in a shelter in the Johannesburg station, laughing at three ragged men having a mild argument in the opposite corner. With her is her husband, Hans, and a pile of luggage in an assortment of packets and bags.

The luggage is all they possess. They lug it around from station to station in the Transvaal Krugersdorp is the place they call "home" but they have no possessions.

"One day we had jobs, money, a home, the next day we'd lost everything. And it can happen to anyone so easily."

But, said Edith, she and Hans



Home, sweet home . . . Gertruida van der Bergh outside the Jan Hofmeyer house she shares with her son and large dog

are not "outies", the name used to describe tramps. "We're clean. We wash our clothes in the laundromat and we don't drink all the time." She admits to having "a little beer" every now and then, but she's right — her clothes are clean and her hair shines faintly in the dull light.

She laughs a lot but almost hysterically, and her eyes fill with tears when she talks about her four children who live with her first husband and know nothing of her plight.

"None of my family do. When I phone my mother, I say everything's fine. I'll bring the children to visit soon. I don't want them to know about us."

She gets about R300 a month standing with a board at traffic intersections asking for money. Hans earns a bit from washing cars in supermarket parking lots.

People have no idea what it's like to live like this, she says. "They just don't know. They have their baths, eat their dinners, kiss their children good night and don't think twice about how lucky they are."

Sowetan 18/5/95

Call to end poverty

By Isaac Moledi

SOUTH AFRICA is likely to be sent back to the dark ages if the prevailing poverty is not addressed and eradicated, says the chairman of Gauteng's standing committee on finance, Leon Cohen

Cohen was speaking at the official launch of the South African Grant-makers' Association in Johannesburg this week

SAGA, an association comprising 32 corporations that are funding development projects, was founded six months ago

Its aim is to link together those involved in funding, making it possible for member organisations to communicate with each other, and identify areas where joint efforts at policy development can be of assistance

Cohen told the gathering which included a delegation from the United States Council Foundation, major corporations and government representatives that it was necessary that business becomes aware that poverty which exists had become pervasive, deep rooted and a fundamental threat to civil society

"This threat has the potential to neutralise all the gains over the last five years and send South Africa back to the dark ages," said Cohen

He called on business to play its role in the preparation of a platform for sustained economic growth and for them to assist in the management of the short-term potential crisis

"Corporate social investment has, does and will provide a number of key resources including money, skills development and skills transference, training, access to resources facilities, to a very wide range of communities and organisations," he said

Targeted resources

He said that the resources and the extent that they could be optimised in conjunction with the targeted resources of government, would ensure that the next five years deliver the tangible benefits of a remarkable political process

SAGA, according to its chairperson Eunice Sibiyi, aims to maximise the efficiency of social investment and not to draw away funding that should be spent on development

"SAGA is not a new funding organisation or grant maker. We are not a cartel that will have the power to either support or sink individual projects," Sibiyi said

"Our aim is to deepen understanding of the ethics of grant making, to discuss general policy guidelines for funding and to sharpen our appreciation of how social investment can best be utilised," she added

Women warn on poverty

Kathryn Strachan

AN INTERNATIONAL women's coalition has warned against structural adjustment policies and international trade agreements which aggravate poverty, especially the poverty of women.

Marking International Women's Day on Sunday, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, which is based in Amsterdam, said trade agreements which sustained the dominant position of the north had aggravated poverty in countries in the south.

These policies had led to the unemployment and marginalisation of an increasing number of groups

For example, because of the rising costs of health services in Zimbabwe, attendance at rural health clinics decreased by 39%.

Two years after the introduction of structural adjustment programmes in Zimbabwe, maternal mortality rates doubled from 104 to 206 per 100 000 live births. Africa's average maternal mortality rate was around 600 per 100 000 births, it said.

More than 70% of women in Africa were illiterate and lived below the poverty line.

The network said women did two-thirds of the world's work, earned 10% of its money and owned 1% of its property.

The Wits University

Women's Project said there was no excuse for women dying from childbirth or a pregnancy complication in present times.

SA estimates of the maternal mortality rate ranged from eight for every 100 000 live births for whites to 258 for every 100 000 births for blacks.

Many deaths were caused by excessive bleeding during delivery — because women had not been able to get to hospital. Unsafe abortions contributed to the high death rate.

The project said the International Day of Action for Women on Sunday was a reminder of the conditions under which many women lived, and the need to improve their rights, their health and their control over their bodies.

It would be an advantage to have relevant and supportive policies on reproductive rights, so that women could make relevant decisions.

It proposed the new constitution be more decisive on the issue of abortion. It was necessary also to target subsidised health services at the large number of women who constituted the poorest of the poor.

Cape man wins survey

CAPE TOWN — University of Cape Town surveying department head Prof Heinz Ruther has been commissioned for survey one of the world's most important archaeological sites.

The 3.5-million-year-old Laetoli hominid footprints, preserved in volcanic ash, will be conserved in a collaborative project involving the US-based Getty Conservation Institute and the Tanzanian government.

The footprints in north-western Tanzania are said to be the earliest indication of man's ancestors having walked upright. They are considered to be one of the most important discoveries in the study of the human evolution hypothesis.

"I am very excited that such a major project has been awarded to us in the face of stiff international competition," said Ruther.

Ruther said UCT had been commissioned to do the surveying part of the research project. The job would take two years.

He would use state-of-the-art techniques, including digital photography, automated mapping and the Geographical Information System. — Sapa.

School feeding in disarray

own correspondents

EAST LONDON — Primary school feeding schemes in the Eastern Cape might have to be suspended because of widespread corruption and maladministration.

Provincial health minister Dr Trudy Thomas said the scheme might be temporarily stopped until proper business plans from schools and more stringent controls were in place. "An investigation was planned," she said.

The scheme was initiated by President Nelson Mandela last year to combat malnourishment among young children. R113m had been budgeted this year to feed more than 2-million pupils in the province.

A decision was taken to feed all primary school children rather than targeting the malnourished because of the extent of poverty in the province, Dr Thomas said. "This is costly but it would be less so if the programme wasn't open to abuse. Allegations of corruption involving suppliers, officials and community members are rife."

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Over 9m children living in poverty

CT 31/5/95 (241)
PRETORIA: More than nine million South African children live in poverty-stricken households, a Human Sciences Research Council study has found.

Expressing concern about the long-term implications of this figure, the HSRC said children growing up in poverty "are exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development".

The findings were based on figures from the Living Standards and Development Survey conducted in 1993. Other sources such as census statistics were also used.

A report on the study, released here yesterday, said there was "extreme inequality" in incomes.

The average income of the richest 20% households was 45 times that of the poorest 20%, the report said.

An analysis of income patterns found that the per capita income of whites was 12 times that of blacks. Blacks earned less than a third of the total income although they accounted for more than three-quarters of the population.

Less than five per cent of those living in poverty were in white, coloured and Asian groups.

Tension

"This not only fuels tension, but it also serves as a constraint on economic growth," the report said.

Nearly two-thirds of those living in poverty were rural blacks, indicating that the "lion's share" of reconstruction and development projects should be planned for rural communities, the HSRC said. — Sapa

9-m children starve — report

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Less than five percent of those living in poverty originated from white, coloured and Asian groups.

Fuels tension

"This not only fuels tension but also serves as a constraint on economic growth," the report said.

Nearly two-thirds of those living in poverty were rural blacks, indicating that "a lion's share" of reconstruction and development projects should be directed at rural communities, the HSRC added. — Sapa

Act on ⁽²⁴⁴⁾ poverty now, says UN chief

STW 7/3/95
Copenhagen — UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened the United Nations World Summit for Social Development yesterday with a plea to political leaders to take action against widespread poverty and social injustice

Opening what will be the biggest gathering of international leaders, Boutros-Ghali said extreme poverty, suffered by more than 1.3 billion people throughout the world, was a direct cause of war and it was therefore in the interests of all governments to care for their people

Battle

Despite the summit's lofty goals — eradication of world poverty and social injustice and a battle against unemployment — few expect the Copenhagen assembly to change the world

A poll published at the weekend in the Danish newspaper Politiken said three out of four Danes doubted that the week-long summit, to be attended by about 120 heads of state or government, would achieve tangible results in bridging the gap between the world's haves and have-nots

Just staging the event is costing Denmark about R108-million, with the United Nations providing a further R10-million — Sapa-Reuter

Poorer nations oppose anti-poverty scheme

(241)

BD 8/3/95

COPENHAGEN — Poorer nations all but rejected firm targets on anti-poverty spending yesterday, dealing another blow to concrete action by the world poverty summit meeting.

The meeting — attracting nearly 9 000 delegates from 193 countries — will likely end up with a watered-down promise by rich and poor countries to work out adjustments in social spending on their own.

Two days into the \$28m assembly, delegates were still trying to agree on any firm commitments for ending poverty, unemployment and social inequalities — an unwieldy swath of topics being lumped together for the first time.

The summit aims to hammer out a final document to be signed on Sunday by nearly 120 national leaders.

The meeting got a boost yesterday from US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who jetted in offering words of support and an initiative for fighting female illiteracy. "Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity, and I am glad that this summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women," she said.

But even as she spoke, an ambitious anti-poverty plan to set a target of 20% for social spending by aid donor and recipient countries was faltering in closed-door meetings. The plan, dubbed "20-20", faced trouble since it was proposed months ago. Some UN officials said the fact that it might be approved in any form could be seen as an achievement.

The "20-20" proposal ran aground in a caucus among delegates from about 130 developing countries who are resisting any conditions set on aid money, said Venezuelan minister Mercedes Pulido de Briceno.

She said the plan might still be preserved in principle but limited to bilateral negotiations. That means it would not be subject to global or UN pressure.

With the likely sidelining of the 20-20 targets, the remaining tangible proposals centred on calls for debt relief and adjustments in foreign aid.

The World Bank, IMF and regional lenders have borne much of the criticism at the summit for sometimes forcing strict fiscal policies. "They are forming social policy in the interest of creditors and not of society," said Michel Chossudovsky, an economics professor at a tandem conference of private aid groups.

But bank officials said they have "thick skin" when it comes to such complaints.

"When they say the World Bank recommends cuts in health and education expenditures, that is pure rubbish," bank vice-president Armeane Choksi said. "We are now explicitly telling governments that if you cut your fiscal deficits and expenditures, you must take care of the poor."

IMF MD Michel Camdessus suggested one solution could be taking "new steps to improve the daily co-operation in particular with the UN family". But he said more co-operation on financial issues would not replace more discipline by governments themselves. — Sapa-AP.

Applications for Nedlac

JOHN BLUDIN

THE National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) had received more than 40 applications from community and development organisations for representation on the executive council, programmes director Debra Marsden said yesterday.

She said the applications would be assessed this month by a special committee to be chaired by a representative from Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo's office.

The successful applicants would represent community and development constituencies on the Nedlac executive council which would meet quarterly.

A newly constituted development chamber would represent community and development interests.

It would operate within the broad framework set out in the reconstruction and development programme White Paper, Marsden said.

Sources speculated that the development chamber representatives were likely to be drawn from the ranks of the SA National Civic Organisation.

BD 8/3/95



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DDO projects cannot afford

Poorer nations oppose anti-poverty ⁽²⁴¹⁾ scheme

BD 8/3/95

COPENHAGEN — Poorer nations all but rejected firm targets on anti-poverty spending yesterday, dealing another blow to concrete action by the world poverty summit meeting.

The meeting — attracting nearly 9 000 delegates from 193 countries — will likely end up with a watered-down promise by rich and poor countries to work out adjustments in social spending on their own.

Two days into the \$28m assembly, delegates were still trying to agree on any firm commitments for ending poverty, unemployment and social inequalities — an unwieldy swath of topics being lumped together for the first time.

The summit aims to hammer out a final document to be signed on Sunday by nearly 120 national leaders.

The meeting got a boost yesterday from US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who jetted in offering words of support and an initiative for fighting female illiteracy. "Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity, and I am glad that this summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women," she said.

But even as she spoke, an ambitious anti-poverty plan to set a target of 20% for social spending by aid donor and recipient countries was faltering in closed-door meetings. The plan, dubbed "20-20", faced trouble since it was proposed months ago. Some UN officials said the fact that it might be approved in any form could be seen as an achievement.

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IMF MD Michel Camdessus suggested one solution could be taking "new steps to improve the daily co-operation in particular with the UN family." But he said more co-operation on financial issues would not replace more discipline by governments themselves. — Sapa-AP.

GOVERNMENT TO CALL FOR WORLD SUPPORT

SA's poverty shock

(24) CT8/3/95

SOUTH AFRICA will tell the world this week that the industrialised nations have an obligation to help developing countries but "the RDP is a commitment by the government and civil society, working together, to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps". **By BARRY STREEK**

A GRIM picture of poverty and deprivation in South Africa is being presented by the government this week to the international community at the World Social Summit in Copenhagen. The government's call for international support to tackle these problems will be bolstered on Friday by the attendance of President Nelson Mandela at the conference.

The South Africa Report, which was released last night by the Reconstruction and Development Programme office, says the industrialised nations have an obligation to developing countries. "However, the developing nations cannot simply sit back and expect to be helped. What we do ourselves will ultimately determine whether we can lift ourselves up. "We in South Africa have realised this. The RDP is a commitment by the government and civil society, working together, to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps." The 40 page document also

says donor nations should be committed to avoid putting pressure on recipient countries "for prestige, high cost capital projects or arms purchases, ensuring skill and technology transfers in all projects, channelling aid into programmes prioritised by the recipient government and its people".

The government will tell the conference that the RDP is essentially a development agenda for South Africa.

Corruption-free

"It aims to eradicate poverty to attain full employment, to build a free and democratic society, and create national unity. "We have committed ourselves to allocate our resources to achieve these goals, and to building the transparent participative and corruption free democracy which is essential to underpin development." The report said the government realised it had a large role to play in addressing the existing economic problems, which were mainly structural, and in this way create

an environment conducive to investment.

The new government had inherited a huge deficit, with government consumptive expenditure more than 20% of GDP and interest repayments more than 17% of the budget.

The document said South Africa had a population of between 40 million and 43.5m, with children under the age of 15 years making up more than 37% of the population.

Asian South Africans had per capita disposable income only 40% of that of whites, while that of coloureds was 27% and blacks 13% of white disposable incomes.

The report added that 26% of households were headed by women, and only 17% of these did not have dependents.

Only 34% of Africans had access to flush toilets.

South Africa produced more than 50% of the electricity in Africa, but only 30% of the population had access to electricity in their homes.

Although 17% of the population lived in the rural areas, they were served by only 2% of the telephones.

If the population was 41m it was estimated that 12.5m people, 30%, were illiterate.

The document also said 2.3m South Africans suffered from malnutrition.



PROTEST: One of 750 puppets hung in Copenhagen this week. The puppets represent children around the world who will die of preventable diseases during the World Social Summit being held there. President Nelson Mandela will address the summit on Friday. **PICTURE: AP**

Reserve Bank 'reviewed'

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

THE Reserve Bank's role is being reviewed, the government has said. "The role of the central bank in the economy is under review," it said in the South Africa Report for this week's World Social Summit in Copenhagen. "Aspects being considered include its functions of maintaining the value of the currency, keeping inflation relatively low, ensuring the safety and soundness of the financial system. "At the same time, the monetary policy must be developed to

advance the aims and objectives of reconstruction and development." The document was released last night by the Reconstruction and Development Programme office. It said government policy objectives were employment generation, improved labour relations, skills development and technology transfer to enhance productivity and break reliance on primary commodities. "These goals can be promoted by the identification of new areas of industrial development," it said. Economists and business leaders said an suggestion that the independence of the Reserve Bank

CT8/3/95

was under threat or that South Africa might abandon financial discipline would discourage badly needed foreign investment. Sanlam chief economist Mr Johan Louw said the report was worrying. It would create uncertainty which would make it risky to abolish the financial rand. He said some government members felt that the Reserve Bank's power should be reduced as the government was not keen on higher interest rates. "Interest rates are becoming a political issue now that lower-paid workers are buying houses with mortgage loans."



HOMELESS: A homeless man sits in the street outside an illuminated entrance to Copenhagen's famous 150-year-old Tivoli Gardens amusement park. The Danish capital has an estimated 5 000 homeless people.

PICTURE: AP

Poverty summit argues over money

CT 10/3/95 (241)

COPENHAGEN A proposal by Third World countries for a new development fund to finance recommendations from the UN Summit on Social Development remains the major obstacle in completing negotiations here, officials said yesterday.

The summit is due to end on Sunday when 116 heads of state are expected to approve a 10-point declaration and 65-page programme of action aimed at wiping out poverty, creating jobs and increasing social integration.

The demand for an International Bank for Social Development was expressed on Monday, the first day of the conference, by Ms Cielito Habito of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of 131 developing countries.

The proposed bank would be an alternative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund,

which have been attacked here for imposing severe conditions on finance for the Third World.

Ms Habito, secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, also called on rich countries to cancel the crippling debt of Third World nations.

The US delegation said yesterday it was in favour of debt cancellation, but African nations said they were afraid they would go home empty-handed.

The rich countries are watering down the document so much "that they will leave enough flexibility to allow countries to do whatever they want," a representative of a non-governmental delegation from Senegal said.

The non-governmental sector is holding a conference at the same time as the week-long summit at the Bella Centre in the city's outskirts — Sapa-AP

Common cause elusive

Copenhagen — World governments struggled to finalise a UN blueprint for eradicating poverty and injustice before a weekend summit billed as the biggest gathering of leaders in history

Facing criticism that the summit will produce little real action to help the world's 1,3-billion poor, delegates worked late into the night to overcome differences on the summit's final declaration

The debate highlighted real differences between rich Western nations and the developing world over debt, trade and human rights

It also underlined the huge task facing governments as they try to deal with the root causes of wars and disease, especially in the poorer regions of Africa and Asia.

Several thousand officials

have been working at the UN social summit in Copenhagen this week.

About 120 government leaders are expected to attend the final weekend session. Many, including President Mandela, were due to arrive today.

Presidents Fidel Castro of Cuba, Francois Mitterrand of France, US Vice President Al Gore and Chinese Premier Li Peng are due to attend. Russia's President Yeltsin is not

Charity, aid, peace and religious groups criticised the UN conference yesterday for not going far enough to rid the world of poverty

They blamed rich Western nations which were cutting aid and were unwilling to cancel the debts of developing countries —

Sapa-Reuter

(241) star 10/3/95

SA will not go cap in hand - Naidoo

241
SAW 10/3/95

The Government says Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, is taking a "hopeful picture" to the summit.

His report indeed spells out in heart-breaking detail the grim picture of poverty inherited by the democratic Government — but the Government also details its goals to eradicate poverty within a defined timetable.

The Government says its report is an indication to the world and to the people of South Africa of the Government's commitment to move beyond apartheid and social integration to people-centred, people-driven, sustainable human development.

Naidoo points out that South Africa is part of the developing world, and as such is not ask-

FOR the first time, statistics — now also incorporating the former homelands — reveal the extent and distribution of South Africans' poverty. Political Correspondent Esther Vaughn looks at the Government's report to the United Nations Social Development Summit taking place in Copenhagen

Instead, it wants coherent and co-ordinated development.

"Given world history, it is clear that the industrialised nations have an obligation to those which are still developing. However, the developing nations cannot simply sit back and expect to be helped," the report states.

This is a principle South Africa has realised, with the

Reconstruction and Development Programme being an attempt to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps."

Spelling out its vision of social development, the Government says a commitment is required from recipient countries "to democracy, open and transparent government, an end to corruption and depots, on-budget funding of all ongoing maintenance, major

investment in human resource development, improved efficiency, proper financial systems and avoidance of show-piece projects.

But South Africa will, on the other hand, caution industrialised countries at the summit not to pressure recipient countries for high cost capital projects or arms purchases.

They should rather ensure skill and technology transfers in all projects and the channeling of aid into programmes determined as priorities by the recipient governments.

Although the report details the most comprehensive statistics ever released by a South African government, Naidoo says more figures were needed for the Government's attack on poverty.

He says the Government is committed to obtain the best possible statistics on poverty levels in order to ensure that the correct resources are made available.

These statistics will provide the basis for the division of Government resources and will allow for more systematic planning.

Furthermore, these figures will allow for more accurate monitoring and evaluation of programmes combating poverty.

But, the Government still needs to measure aspects of South Africans lives which have never been measured before.

Sadly the real statistics can provide a picture more grim than the one presented in the report, says Naidoo.

From the report

Government expenditure on expenditure is more than 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and water and electricity are more than 17% of the budget.

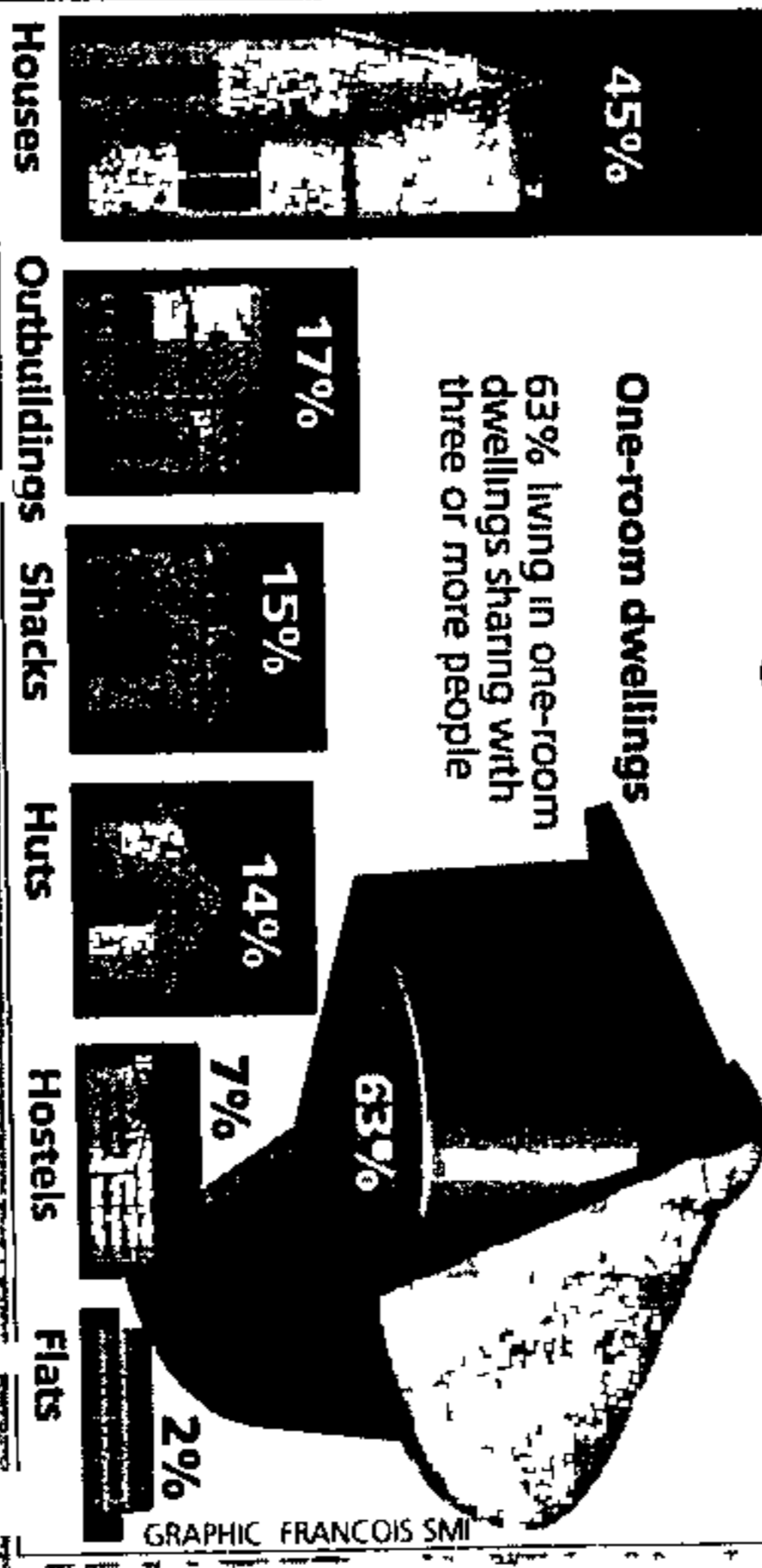
The population has been estimated between 40 million and 43.5 million. The average population growth rate is at 2.26% per year while the estimated fertility rate is 3.74. Children under the age of 15 comprise more than 37% of the population.

Although South Africa is working towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination the effects of past policies which divided the population into different groups make it impossible to collect and compare statistics to be made for racial lines in order to monitor change and the success of efforts at social integration.

An estimated 76% of the population is classified as African, 12.8% as White, 6.5% as Coloured and 2.6% as Indian.

At least 48% of the population lives in urban areas. The average per capita income for whites is R8 000, for blacks R2 000, for Coloureds R2 000 and for Indians R2 000.

Current figures on black housing



One-room dwellings
63% living in one-room dwellings sharing with three or more people

Houses
45%

Outbuildings
17%

Shacks
15%

Huts
14%

Hostels
7%

Flats
2%

GRAPHIC FRANCOIS SM

Some within all race groups are significantly poorer than the average household. The figures indicate that the human total household aid in the country is R1 141 a month compared to R2 000 for all households. Only 12% of all households have access to all water, electricity and telephone services.

The poverty gap, the size of income transfers required to bring the incomes of those with incomes below the poverty line up to

the poverty line, amounts to R18 billion in 1993.

The majority of African households in urban areas have access to piped water on their property but rural households and townships, especially among Africans in semi-urban and rural areas, still lack access to water, electricity and telephone services. Sixteen percent have no access to electricity, 43% to piped water and 34% to telephones.

South African producers

more than 50% of the electricity in Africa but only about 30% of the population has access to electricity. Wood accounts for more than 75 percent of the consumed in rural areas and 40% in general. It is estimated that 10 million tons of fuel wood are used in rural areas.

In 1993, 17% of the population was served by only 2% of the country's telephone lines. In general there is less than one telephone line per 100 people, among

Americans, 12.5 million were literate.

The infant mortality rate in 1991 was 43 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1994 is 52 per 1,000 live births.

The report of rate of teenage pregnancy is 330 per 1,000 women under the age of 19 years.

Forty percent of applied units for at least one are successful in 1994 and approximately 71% of 11 legal abortions were performed in white women, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 illegal abortions occurred each year.

An estimated 2.3 billion South Africans suffer from malnutrition and an estimated 40 percent of the number are below six months and five years of age.

There is one doctor for every 700 people in many urban areas, one for every 1,900 in non-urban areas, and in the former homelands there are between 10,000 and 30,000 people per doctor.

In 1993, the labour force comprised 14.8 million. Approximately 45% of the labour force is female.

South Africa's labour force is relatively young and has a low overall skill level. About 50% of the labour force has no skills or high-level skills.

SA takes 'hopeful picture' to summit

ARG 10/3/95.
(241)
COPENHAGEN. — President Mandela arrived here today for a UN summit on poverty which has been billed as the biggest gathering of world leaders in history

He was met by Danish officials and a police escort.

● Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo says the government is taking a "hopeful picture" to the summit

Its report to the summit spells out the grim picture of South African poverty inherited by the present government — but also details government goals to eradicate poverty within a defined timetable

Mr Naidoo says South Africa is part of the developing world, and as such is not asking for charity. Instead, it wants "coherent and co-ordinated" development

"Given world history, it is clear that the industrialised nations have an obligation to those which are still developing. However, the developing nations cannot simply sit back and expect to be helped," the report states

South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme was an attempt "to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps"

The report says industrialised countries at the summit should ensure skill and technology transfers in all projects they assist and channel aid into programmes determined as priorities by recipient governments

Although the report details the most comprehensive statistics ever released by a South African government, Mr Naidoo says more figures were needed for the government's "attack on poverty" — Reuter, The Argus Correspondent

Mandela's message of hope

(241) ARCT 11/2/95

COPENHAGEN. — President Mandela's address to the World Summit on Social Development has called for the transformation of the world to make it a better place for all

"Humility, induced by the heavy responsibility which rests upon all of us, demands that we cannot postpone the decisions and concrete programmes which will set us on a path which sees the world transformed into a better home for all," Mr Mandela told the summit yesterday

"It is my profound wish that the UN world summit on social development will go down in history as one which made a difference to the quality of life for millions around the world"

Mr Mandela's speech concentrated on efforts his government was taking to improve the lives of South Africans but pointed out there were many

■ President Mandela, speaking at an international conference, has appealed to the nicer side of world leaders and called on them to improve the quality of life of all people.

obstacles in the path of moves to change

"It would be idle to pretend that in the transition, there were no problems. Indeed, we believe that we owe it to the international community not only to celebrate our victories, but also to be open about our difficulties," Mr Mandela told delegates

About 120 world leaders, including Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Kim Young Sam of South Korea and Alberto Fujimori of Peru were among those at the conference in the Danish capital

But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha, target of a coup plot

earlier this month, cancelled plans to come to Denmark. Mr Arafat was too busy with Middle East peace problems. Nigeria gave no formal reason.

Mr Castro, asked by reporters at the airport what he expected from the summit, replied in Spanish, "Lets wait and see"

The Copenhagen conference, billed as history's biggest gathering of world leaders, seeks to eradicate poverty, slash unemployment and battle social inequalities — aims that critics say are overly ambitious and too broad

The drafters of the nearly 90-page resolution, which will not be legally binding, say the summit can make the world a better place

President warmly received

Mandela pleads for unity at UN summit

13/3/95 (241)

Copenhagen — President Mandela told fellow world leaders to rise united in humanity's name, across boundaries, when he addressed the UN summit on social development yesterday.

"Either we rise together as humanity, or together fall," Mandela said in his speech on the final day of the week-long summit.

He said world leaders had gathered in the Danish capital to ask themselves one vital question: "how does humanity co-operate to build a better life for all?"

Saying the question appeared

PRESIDENT Mandela urges world leaders to rise together in the name of humanity, at the UN summit

simple enough, Mandela said it was still a centuries-old challenge.

"We in South Africa have learned through bitter experience that security for a few is in fact insecurity for all," he continued.

He added that the recent suc-

cessful transition to democracy in his own country did not mask the fact that disorder still had to be eradicated.

Mandela said the summit represented a "major effort to re-order world affairs" and an attempt to listen to the "voices of the peoples, who are uniting across artificial boundaries for real and lasting security".

People were "asserting themselves more and more, particularly in structures of civil society", so that "the choice before us is either to bend to that will or continue to flounder in the morass of circumlocution", he went on.

Mandela also insisted on the need to find ways of "ending the marginalisation of Africa. The measures that are required to do this must be addressed urgently by all of us", he said.

Taking South Africa again as an example, Mandela concluded that "we are perhaps better placed, and even duty bound, to ask the question — how do we emerge from here, inspired not merely to attend future summits, but, under the aegis of the UN, to implement programmes that the world and its inhabitants demand and deserve?" — Sapa-AFP.

► Programme against poverty — Page 4

Mbeki to report on Winnie today

BY JUSTICE MALALA

President Mandela will get a report from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki today on the controversy surrounding Winnie Mandela, said presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenze yesterday.

Mbeki has been charged by the president with resolving rows over Mrs Mandela's departure to West Africa without permission, and allegations of corruption against her.

The corruption controversy

follows a police raid on Mrs Mandela's Soweto house two weeks ago in which policemen searched for evidence that she used her position as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology to secure low-cost housing contracts for a building firm.

Mrs Mandela's attempt to get back papers taken by police from her home during the raid resumes in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Both Mrs Mandela and Mbeki have been tightlipped about their meeting on Friday.

Copenhagen raises the hopes of world's poor

(AP) CT1413195 (241)

By Nicholas Dought
REUTERS

Copenhagen — It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty before making a lofty pledge to transform the human condition.

Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities including a lavish banquet, fireworks and laser displays, a simple question hangs in the air.

Was the UN social summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring change to a world where one in five of the inhabitants — more than one billion people — lives below the breadline?

From the streets of Mexico City to the slums of Manila, hopes have been raised that the week-long summit will help bridge the growing divide between rich and poor.

Chile's ambassador to the United Nations, who led the way in preparing the UN conference on social development, said the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

"It has told the poor that we will do something about their problems," Juan Somavia said. "The summit has delivered and put ordinary people back into the picture." Echoing warnings from many leaders that real change would take time, Somavia said he was hopeful

because previous UN conferences on issues ranging from women's rights to the environment had helped bring change over the years.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue", a disease that results from increasingly frequent top-level meetings called to discuss the world's ills.

Last year, it was Cairo for the global population explosion, while 1992 saw the UN environment summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Threat

In Copenhagen, what underpinned many speeches was the fear that the gap between rich and poor is now so wide that it has become the major threat to security in the post-Cold War era.

The summit declaration, which contained general commitments to help developing countries but no binding promises, touched indirectly on the fear that governments might lose control.

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we make their needs our priority," it said.

But an equitable sharing of the world's resources that would create stable, prosperous countries with little inclination to go to war still seems to be a distant dream.



SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Fidel Castro at the UN summit

PHOTO AP

Behind the rhetoric of unified action lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the bitter tensions between Western nations and the countries they once colonised.

Cuba lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others planned the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries.

Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves and underlined the importance of human rights.

Although the end of the Cold War has offered a rare chance for global co-operation, there was also a recognition at the summit that, with the old certainties of East-West division gone, ethnic conflicts and other problems pose new threats.

There seemed to be few common interests. Countries are either keen to hold on to their wealth or increasingly desperate to get a slice of shrinking foreign aid budgets.

The United States and Western Europe are considering cutting foreign aid rather than increasing it, their governments preoccupied with unemployment and the ills of urban society.

Concern

The countries of Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics want more help and openly expressed concern that they could be left out if all the cash goes to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

With the United Nations celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, serious questions have already been raised about its ability to secure global peace and justice.

UN peacekeepers, deployed in record numbers around the world, are in trouble in Bosnia and have just abandoned Somalia.

The summit cost more than \$30 million. Depending on your viewpoint, that's either a lot of money or the cost of a single fighter plane.



James Gustave Speth, administrator of the United Nations' Development Programme, talks to the media during a Press conference in Copenhagen on Sunday. PIC: AFP

UN summit calls to end poverty

(241)
Sawyer
14/3/95

■ **EPIC SESSION** *A clear message of hope for the poor of the world:*

COPENHAGEN — It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty before making a lofty pledge to transform the human condition.

Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities including a lavish banquet, fireworks and laser display, a simple question hangs in the air:

Was the UN social summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring change to a world where one in five of the inhabitants — more than one billion people — lives below the breadline and where millions have neither jobs nor dignity?

From the streets of Mexico City to the slums of Manila, hopes have been raised that the week-long summit will help bridge the growing divide between rich and poor as the world stumbles towards the 21st century.

Chile's ambassador to the United Nations, who led the way in preparing the UN conference on social development, said the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

Back in the picture

"It has told the poor that we will do something about their problems," Mr Juan Somavia told *Reuters*. "The summit has put ordinary people back into the picture." Echoing warnings from many leaders that real change would take time, Somavia said he was hopeful because previous UN conferences on issues ranging from women's rights to the environment, had helped bring change over the years.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue", a disease that results from increasingly frequent top-level meetings called to discuss the world's ills. Last year, it was Cairo for the global population explosion, while 1992 saw the UN environment summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In Copenhagen, what underpinned many speeches was the fear that the gap between rich and poor is now so wide that it has become the major threat to security in the post-Cold War era.

"It is important to avoid the arrival of the boat people," UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a television interview during the summit.

No binding promises

The summit declaration, which contained general commitments to help developing countries but no binding promises, touched indirectly on the fear that governments might lose control.

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we make their needs our priority," it said.

But an equitable sharing of the world's resources that would create stable, prosperous countries with little inclination to go to war still seems to be a distant dream. Behind the rhetoric of unified action lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the bitter tensions between Western nations and the countries they once colonised.

Cuba lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others blamed the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries. Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves.

They underlined the importance of human rights in the presence of several leaders who have been widely

criticised in the West for abusing their positions.

Although the end of the Cold War has offered a unique chance for global cooperation, there was also a recognition at the summit that, with the old certainties of the East-West division gone, ethnic conflicts and other problems pose new threats.

There seemed to be few common interests. Countries are either keen to hold on to their wealth or increasingly desperate to get a slice of the shrinking foreign aid budgets.

The United States and Western Europe are considering cutting foreign aid rather than increasing it, their governments being preoccupied with unemployment and the ills of urban society. The countries of Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics want more help and openly expressed concern that they could be left out if all the cash goes to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Serious questions

With the United Nations celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, serious questions have already been raised about its ability to secure global peace and justice.

UN peacekeepers, deployed in record numbers around the world, are in trouble in Bosnia and have just abandoned Somalia. The summit cost more than \$105 million to stage. Depending on your viewpoint, that's either a lot of money or the cost of a single top-of-the-line fighter plane.

"Our task here is not to convince cynics," said Chile's Somavia. "Cynics will not change the world." — *Sapa-Reuters*

Questions hang over UN poverty summit

It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty and made lofty pledges to transform the human condition

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Cuba lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others blamed the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries.

Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves. They underlined the importance of human rights in the presence of several leaders who have been widely criticised in the West for abusing their positions.

There seemed to be few common interests. Countries are either keen to hold on to their wealth or increasingly desperate to get a slice of shrinking foreign aid budgets.

The United States and Western Europe are considering cutting foreign aid rather than increasing it

The countries of eastern Europe and former Soviet republics want more help and openly expressed concern that they could be left out if all the cash goes to Africa, Asia and Latin America. — Reuter.

STAN 15/3/95

New hope for inner-city homeless

STC 21/3/95

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Johannesburg's inner-city homeless could soon have shelter as a newly formed trust investigates ways of providing transitional housing and employment for people living on the streets.

Central Johannesburg Partnership housing project co-ordinator Tudor Maxwell said the Johannesburg Trust for the Homeless was focusing on raising funds to provide shelter for the homeless.

"We are looking at affordable housing which would fall between the shelter homes and commercial housing. Most of the homeless people earn less than R800 a month and we want to find something they can afford," said Maxwell.

The trust was considering turning existing unused offices in the inner city into homes.

Maxwell added that funds were available to initiate the project but there was not enough money to provide homes for about 5 000 homeless people estimated to be in the city.

The trustees are from the homeless community, business, the city administration and community organisations. Maxwell said the trust would be formally launched at Johannesburg's Park Station in May.

(241)

Blacks are on the breadline in the Western Cape

THEO RAWANA

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MORE than 78% of black households in the Western Cape earn less than R800 a month, and only 9,8% earn more than R1 000, the Black Township Market Review says. *BD 28/3/95*

The survey on black township demographics, published last month by research consultant Group Marketing, says 72% of the 91 000 black dwelling units in the Western Cape are informal (shack) dwellings.

The total annual income of all black households in the Western Cape is projected to grow from R1,24bn in 1994 to R1,32 in 1995.

The four black townships in the province are located in the four magisterial districts of Wynberg, Paarl, Stellenbosch and Kuils River.

The review provides provincial, regional and township data on the population from 1989 to 2010, age/sex profiles and the number of dwelling units/households. It gives information on household densities, monthly/annual household income levels, total annual expenditure levels and annual expenditure per head/adult.

Researcher Bill Donald says his company provides commerce and industry with "a competitive edge" by identifying the real needs of the marketplace, isolating the key strategic issues, translating these into practical and "actionable marketing programmes", and by harnessing company resources to maximise the identified marketing potential.

The review says the black population in the Western Cape is projected to increase by 62% (413 000) from the present 669 000 to 1,08-million between 1994 and 2010, with the prime population growth pressure point being Wynberg. Ninety-four percent of the present provincial population lives in the Wynberg magisterial area and no significant distribution change is forecast.

The average population density per black household in the province has been put at 7,7 people — with Stellenbosch reflecting the highest average density factor at 11,3 people per household.

Heartbreak Years — and (241) the task of tackling poverty

ARL 8/4/95

THE release of South Africa's first set of comprehensive statistics to include the former homelands and rural areas show the enormity of the task of tackling poverty in South Africa

The October Household Survey (OHS) contains statistics which paint a heartbreaking picture of the direct results of 46 years of racist policies

It accurately shows the skew access to social services, the unequal status of South Africans, the severe lack of infrastructure in rural areas and the desperate plight of women

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, responsible for the implementation of the reconstruction and development programme, told Weekend Argus that these statistics would enable the government to more accurately plot the allocation of money between government departments as well as between central and provincial governments

In addition to facilitating better planning, these figures would also allow the government to monitor the impact of state expenditure on its socio-economic goals

Turning to the use of statistics in planning policies, Mr Naidoo said it was difficult for any one of the nine provinces to shift its resources from, for example, tertiary health care to primary health care without knowing how many people lived in each province.

But, Mr Naidoo added, the OHS was a test-run for the important census next year. He said 50 000 people were being trained to go into every household to conduct the census

Every year the government would use the OHS as an important indicator of South Africans' quality of life.

The survey, he said, would be an instrument to test the success or failure of government policies

Furthermore, it would provide greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of government policies as well as expenditure, Mr Naidoo said

The survey shows that South Africa has a population of 40,7 million people

In terms of access to services, figures showed that 100 percent of white households had their refuse removed as opposed to 80 percent of black households. All the white households had a flush toilet, but in black households, only 34 percent had such facilities.

Measurements of access to electricity showed that 98 percent of white households had electricity versus 31 percent of black households.

In white households 98 percent have access to tapped water as opposed to 27 percent of black households

This trend continued with 87 percent of white households with access to telephones as opposed to 12 percent of black households

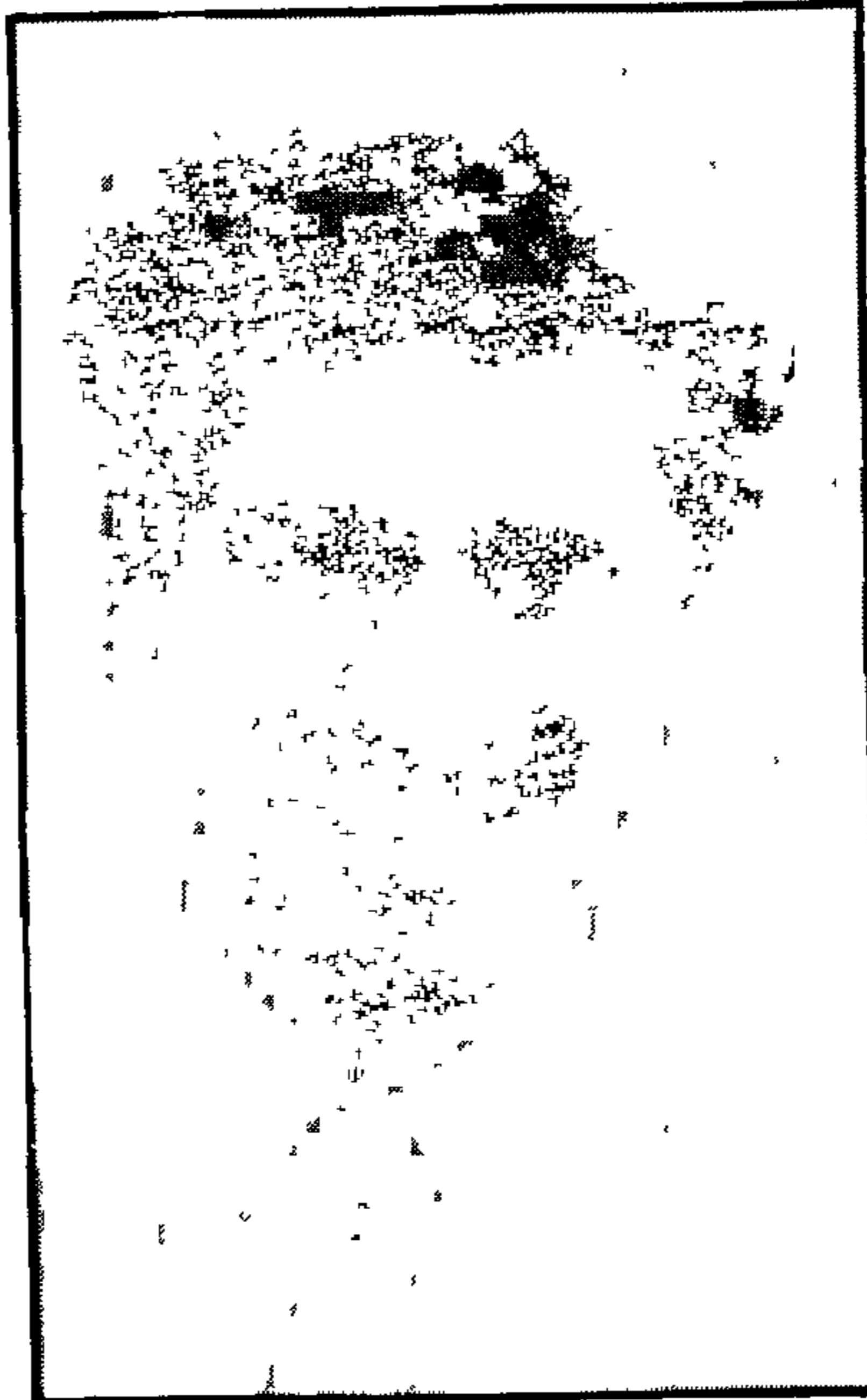
The disparities between rural and urban households were worse when the figures for black households were considered

Although 86 percent of urban houses had tapped water, only 29 percent of the rural black households had similar access

While 80 percent of urban black households had their refuse removed, the same services was only available to 5 percent of rural households. As far as flush toilets were concerned, the figures dropped from 72 percent in urban areas to 7 percent in rural areas.

Unsurprisingly after decades of apartheid-

■ The government of national unity has its work cut out addressing poverty — a job it is acutely aware of. A report by **ESTHER WAUGH** of the Weekend Argus Political Staff.



□ **RDP CHIEF:** Jay Naidoo will look to the October Household Survey for some direction

based education, the survey found whites the most educated with 60 percent having had secondary education as opposed to Asians (55 percent), coloureds (41 percent) and blacks (32 percent)

Figures showed that 78 percent of whites have access to medical aid as opposed to 15 percent of blacks

While 19 percent of whites had to travel 5 km or more for medical services, 41 percent of blacks fell into the same category.

Gauteng had the highest urban population with 6,9 million people and the second lowest rural population at 300 000

Unemployment rates were found to be the highest in the Northern Transvaal (47 percent), followed by 45 percent in the Eastern Cape. Gauteng had the third lowest unemployment rate (29 percent).

These rates, analysed in terms of gender, showed that more women than men were unemployed. The highest figure — 50 percent — was found among black women followed by coloureds (28 percent), Asians (24 percent) and whites (9 percent)

Figures on transport to work showed that 33 percent of blacks went to work on foot as opposed to 14 percent. On the other hand, 62 percent of whites travelled to work by car or motor bike versus 12 percent of blacks

Figures reveal white and black chasm

ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — New statistics released by the Government graphically demonstrate the disparities in the quality of life of blacks and whites.

The October Household Survey, the first set of comprehensive statistics ever to include the former homelands and rural areas, contains statistics which paint a heart-breaking picture of the direct results of 46 years of racism.

It accurately shows the skew access to social services, the unequal status of South Africans, the severe lack of infrastructure in rural areas and the desperate plight of women. Reconstruction and Development Minister Jay Naidoo told WeekendStar these statistics

would enable the Government to plot more accurately the allocation of money between various government departments as well as between central and provincial governments.

In addition to facilitating better planning, these figures would also allow the Government to monitor the impact of state expenditure on its socio-economic goals.

Turning to the use of statistics in planning policies, Naidoo said it was difficult for any one of the nine provinces to shift its resources from, for example, tertiary health care to primary health care as they had not known until now how many people lived in each province.

The survey showed that SA has a population of 40,7-million

people. In terms of access to services, figures showed that 100% of white households had their refuse removed as opposed to 80% of African households. All white households had a flush toilet while only 34% of African households had such facilities.

Measurements of access to electricity showed that 98% of white households had electricity versus 31% of African households.

Some 98% of white households had access to tapped water as opposed to 27% of African households.

This trend continued with 87% of white households having access to telephones versus 12% of African households. The disparities between rural and urban households

were worse when the figures for African households were considered.

Although 86% of urban houses had tapped water, only 29% of the rural African households had similar access.

While 80% of urban African households had their refuse removed, the same services was available to only 5% of rural households. As far as flush toilets were concerned, the figures dropped from 72% in urban areas to 7% in rural areas.

Unsurprisingly, after decades of apartheid-based education, the survey found whites the most educated, with 60% having had secondary education as opposed to Asians (55%), coloureds (41%) and Africans (32%).

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Country is 'ready to address poverty'

(241) (S) BD 28/4/95
SA's improved economic performance, coupled with the reconstruction and development programme, had put the country in a much stronger position to address poverty and unemployment, the SA Chamber of Business said yesterday.

Considerable progress had been made since elections brought democracy to SA, and the economy had made its contribution to reconciliation and nation-building, a Sacob spokesman said in a statement to mark Freedom Day.

Renewed access to foreign markets for trade and capital, both of which were

vital for economic prosperity, were among the most fundamental changes to the country's economic position.

And business confidence, as seen in fixed private investment, reflected a positive view of economic prospects.

The challenge of the next year, Sacob said, was to pursue the right policies to consolidate political and economic gains.

Existing expectations left no room for complacency, and escalating crime and low productivity were major problems which urgently needed to be tackled, Sacob said. — Sapa.

Relief to the ravaged of Riverlea

■ SAD PLIGHT *(241) secretary 16/11/95*
Neighbourhood is

ravaged by poverty and squalor:

By Tyrone August

WHEN you hear the name Riverlea, it conjures up pleasant images of lush grass fields and gentle streams of water. But the township bearing this name looks very different from that.

This neighbourhood south-west of Johannesburg, especially the part called Riverlea Extension, is ravaged by poverty and squalor.

A group of concerned women in the area have come together under the banner of an organisation called Riverlea Women for Peace to try to provide a helping hand.

"It's always been my desire to help the needy," says chairwoman Mrs Lily Slinger. "I also love working with children."

The pitiful sight of needy children on their way to school so moved her that she started collecting clothing for them.

"Now in the new South Africa, I decided that we as women should organise something," says Slinger.

That was how their organisation was formed in May last year. High on their list of priorities is to raise sponsorship to help them feed the poor.

"But the idea isn't just to feed, feed, feed," Slinger adds. "Because people can stand in a queue day in and day out,

getting and getting. We want to teach them to help themselves."

They plan, for example, to teach unemployed people to sew and knit (they do not have the necessary funds or facilities to do so yet).

They estimate that 60 to 70 percent of Riverlea's population of 14 000 is unemployed (even those with matric). As a result, crime is disturbingly high in the area.

"House-breaking is a terrible problem," says Mrs Ethel Kaye, the organisation's public relations officer. "Everybody's crying out about it. But," Slinger adds, "in the line of murder and that kind of violence, I can't really say Riverlea is bad. It only happens once in a while. People are stealing to survive."

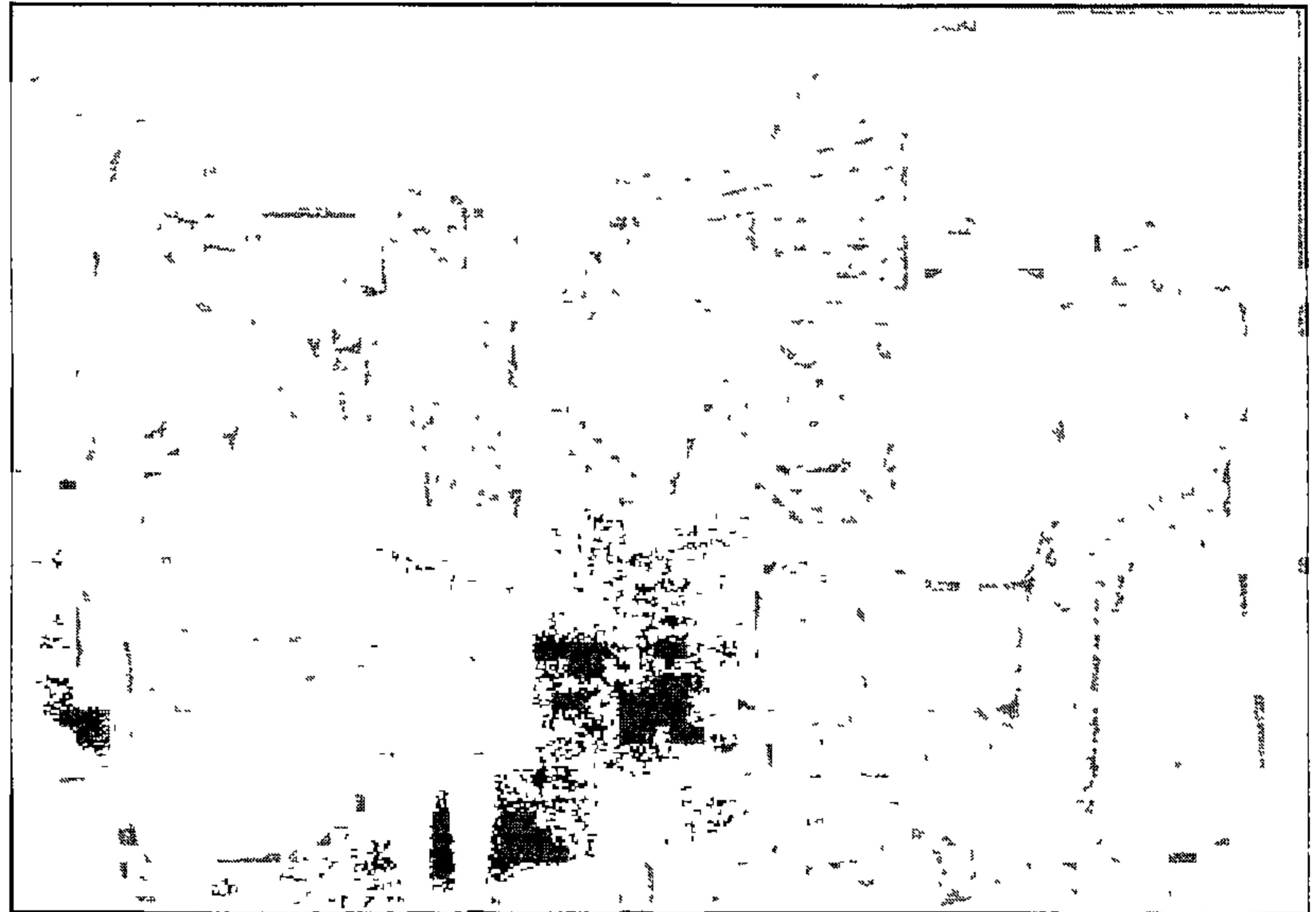
For example, she says, they will steal a portable radio worth R500 and sell it for just R30 to buy a meal to have something to eat.

Her main concern remains the children. "I believe some children faint at school because of hunger. A child must eat before going to school."

Plight of pensioners

"You can miss lunch, but not breakfast. If you don't even have a slice of bread and you go to school, how can you concentrate on your schoolwork?"

Sometimes Slinger uses her own transport to take pensioners to the pay-out point. The group desperately needs a minibus to transport pensioners and



Riverlea Women for Peace ... Mrs Irene van der Haar (treasurer), Mrs Maud Bhandia, Mrs Lily Slinger (chairwoman), Mrs Martha Brown (assistant treasurer), Mrs Doreen van Rayne and Mrs Ethel Kaye (PRO).

help them to carry out their other work.

They are also thinking of serving coffee and tea to pensioners in the morning when they go to collect their pensions. A Riverlea resident is already donating bread rolls to the group.

Teaching pensioners how to budget is also on their list of plans. They are, quite clearly, serious about enabling people to help themselves.

But, of course, a hungry stomach cannot wait for long-term plans for self-help and training. So, in the interim, the organisation is scrounging around for help.

They need basic items like bread, soup, groceries, soap, shoes and clothing. Closer to winter they will also be looking for blankets.

But, besides material necessities, the

Riverlea community also clearly needs assistance with counselling, therapy and other welfare services.

While the intentions of Riverlea Women for Peace are certainly noble and praiseworthy, they need assistance. Parts of the area have slowly been bleeding to death.

This is obvious even from a cursory visit to the area. The suffering and despair, especially in Riverlea Extension, is almost tangible.

At one house, a pensioner sat forlornly in the sun. Inside his house, the ugly scars of poverty were clear. It felt as if all hope had been drained from the place. Nearby a widow, Mrs Lorraine Moosa, battles to support her eight children by doing casual work. Recently she even took in a boarder to provide some kind of income for her family.

There is, unfortunately, no easy solution in sight to ease the plight of Riverlea's poor. The community has taken that all-important first step: to help themselves.

As Slinger emphasises, "You must help yourself. Because people can't sponsor you for the rest of your life. You must also help yourself."

But, until they get there, they need all the help they can get.

● Anyone who can help should please contact Mrs Kaye at (011) 474-4725; secretary Mrs Devi Khan at (011) 473-1122; or assistant treasurer Mrs Martha Brown at (011) 474-5214.

'We know rural areas like the backs of our hands'

Operation Hunger is still relevant

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

In a place called Ten Morgen, north-west of Pretoria, there is a humble vegetable garden overhung by a stately "moselha" tree.

You would never find it unless you were taken as we were by Operation Hunger's Mpho Mashinini, through the capital city, then out to Mabopane, Soshanguve, on to the Winterveld, and finally through winding dirt roads to the rural plots demarcated and named in the old British style.

Arrive at Dolphina Magano's site, House 745 where she has lived since her father bought his 10 morgen in 1939 for 750 pounds, and she will proudly show you the garden at the back.

Fenced by Operation Hunger and supplied with borehole water pumped by hand from 60 m below the surface, it is the place where old women dig and plant and harvest against all odds every year.

"The tree is where we pray, for anything from peace to rain or successful crops of beans, carrots, beetroot and cabbage that the 50 women use to augment their pensions of R390 a month to feed their families.

"That is why we did not remove it when we made our garden," she said.

Prayer is their only hope against the odds — summer heat up to 35 deg, biting winter cold, lack of water, and poverty brought on by a 60 percent unemployment rate. It is just one of Operation Hunger's projects country-wide over the past 13 years linked this year to sponsor-



Feeding the family... Mpho Mashinini prays daily for rain, and supplements her meagre pension by growing vegetables in her garden in the drought-stricken Winterveld

PICTURE JODI BIEBER

ship to instal 120 hand pumps in three separate regions. The question is whether NGOs like Operation Hunger are still relevant in the new SA and whether the R20 million budget can be justified.

Mashinini watches a gaunt woman working the pump to fill a watering can. She repeats the process until her vegetable patch is saturated.

She looks 70, she says she is 60 and happy to be alive. But poverty does that to one. Yes, we are still relevant firstly to continue acting as watchdogs on the new Government, says Mashinini.

"We know the rural areas like the backs of our hands. Now that the Government is playing a role in school feeding, we still have our targeted schemes. But mainly we have been

freeed to change from relief to development of places such as this. That is our new role — sustainable development. The vote did not remove any of those needs, he added.

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Spare a thought for those ⁽²⁴¹⁾ who can't even afford bread

STAR ZINGISA

BY ZINGISA MKHUMA
CITY REPORTER

When next you throw that mouldy piece of cheese into the rubbish bin, spare a thought for the poor Greef family of Riverlea Extension, who cannot afford even a loaf of bread

The shocking thing is that this family lives just a few minutes from the heart of wealthy Johannesburg

Signs of poverty are all over the semi-detached two-roomed house, home to eight people, none of whom is employed. The head of the family, Sarah Greef, is a sickly woman who looks much much older than her 48 years

She sits on a mattress covered with brown prison blankets. The mattress is elevated by bricks and serves as a bed as well as a chair. A two-plate stove is also standing on bricks and next to it lie a few slices of dry bread

Bread is what this family lives on, and Greef's bony body shows that she is undernourished. Greef says through an interpreter she has tuberculosis and her applications for a disability grant have been turned down for three years

According to Lily Slinger, chairman of Riverlea Women for Peace — a non-political organisation that helps destitute families in the area — the Greefs are among scores of poverty-stricken families in Riverlea Extension.



Grinding poverty . . . close to the heart of wealthy Johannesburg people are malnourished.

Although members of the group — Slinger, Irene van der Haar, Maud Bhandia, Martha Brown, Doreen van Rayne and Ethel Kaye — are pensioners, they work tirelessly to ensure that the poor families are comfortable

They use their transport and resources to take elderly people to pension pay-out points

"We started by giving out bread to poor families. Then

there were children without shoes, in winter people had no warm clothing, so we moved on to organise food and clothing

"We have a mammoth task in our hands and we need people to come forward and help us"

Anyone who can assist should please contact Kaye at (011) 474-4725, Devi Khan at (011) 473-1122 or Martha Brown at (011) 474-5214.

BUSINESS MAIL

BUSINESS AND
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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 34 FEBRUARY 10 TO 16 1995

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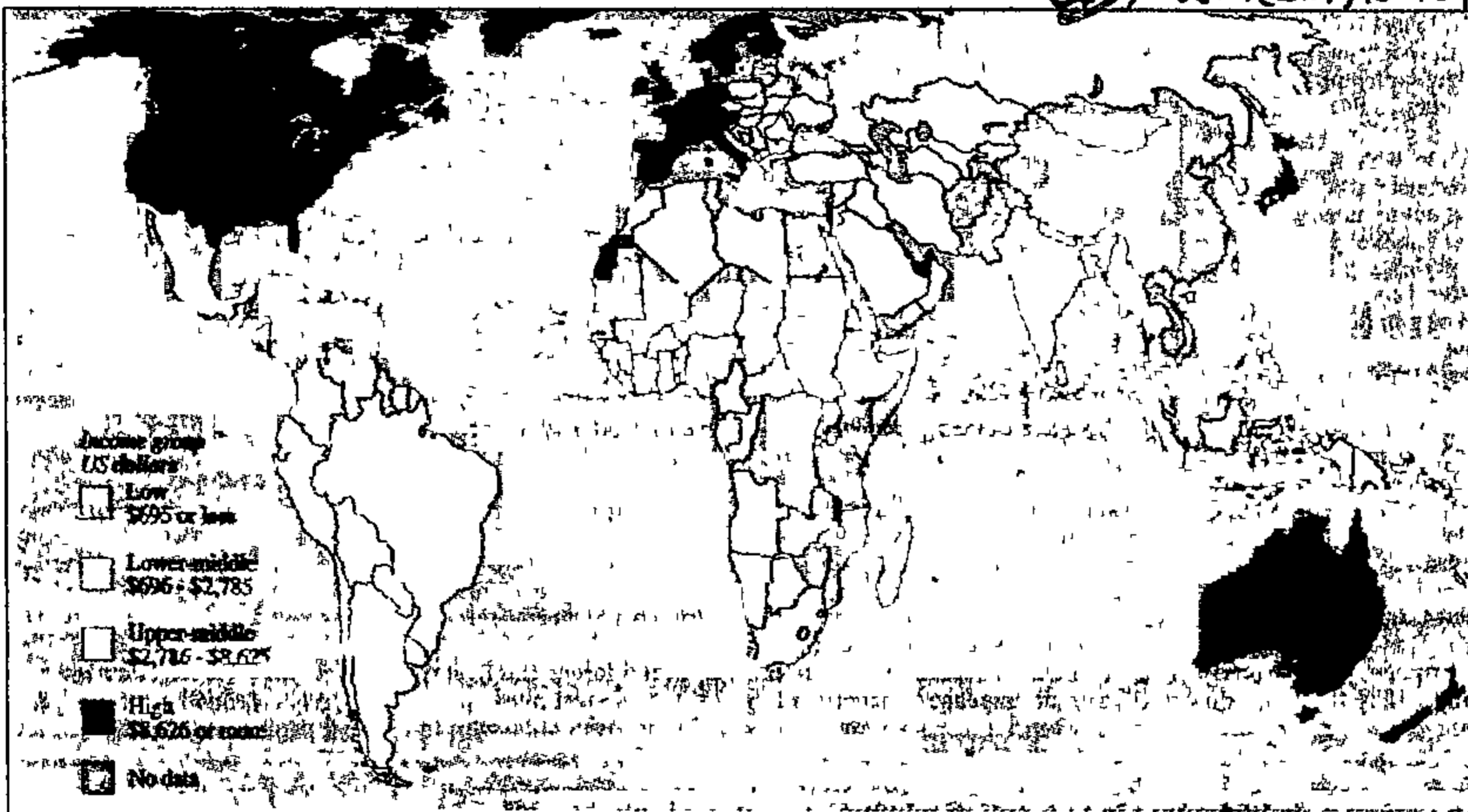
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SA's wealth amid poverty

(241) WM(BM)10-16/2/95



The colour of money To be in the red in the World Bank Atlas is to be fortunate indeed

South Africans are among the richest people in Africa, but figures hide the unequal distribution of wealth, reports **Reg Rumney**

APPROPRIATELY for an economy where gold is still so important, South Africa is coloured yellow in one of the economic maps of the just-published World Bank Atlas

Yellow denotes an upper-middle-income classification. The only other yellow country in Africa is Libya — and that's a World Bank estimate

The bank classifies a country as upper-middle-income if its per capita gross national product, the main measure of a country's economic prosperity, is between \$2 786 and

\$8 625. South Africa just scrapes in with a per capita GNP figure of \$2 900 for 1993, up only nominally from the 1992 figure

Since the per capita GNP is calculated by dividing the GNP, the total value of a country's output of all goods and services, by the number of people living in the country, it's not surprising that Libya, an oil-producing nation with a small population, is the only other country to fall into the same bracket as South Africa.

Switzerland's 1993 GNP is roughly double South Africa's at \$254 066-million. And Switzerland's GNP is one-twenty-fifth of the giant US economy's \$6 387 686-million. Yet it is the richest country in the world, in per capita terms, with a figure of \$36 410 for every Swiss citizen. That is almost 13 times the South African figure

After Sweden, little Luxembourg with a figure of \$35 850 is the next

richest, followed in order by Japan (\$31 450); Denmark (\$26 510); Norway (\$26 340); Sweden (\$24 830), the US (\$24 750), Iceland (\$23 620), Germany (\$23 560), and Kuwait (\$23 530)

South Africa far outstrips the rest of Africa in production of goods and services, with a 1993 GNP of \$118 057-million. Next-door neighbour Zimbabwe's 1993 GNP is around five percent of that at \$5 756-million.

Also next door, impoverished Mozambique's \$1 375 GNP is spread so thinly each citizen has a mere \$80 share in the country's prosperity or lack of it. Its 1993 per capita GNP figure makes Mozambique the poorest country in the world, even though the 1993 figure is 15 percent higher or \$10 more than it was the year before

Most of the other dirt-poor nations, according to the World Bank Atlas,

are in Africa: Ethiopia at \$100 per capita GNP; Tanzania \$100; Burundi \$180; Uganda \$190; and Chad and Rwanda with \$200 each.

Other poor countries are in Asia. The poorest include Bangladesh with a per capita GNP of \$220, India with \$290 and Vietnam with \$170

In Latin America, Nicaragua has a per capita GNP figure of \$360, and the figure for Haiti is estimated at under \$250.

Such averages by no means tell the whole story. What is not shown in the atlas is the inequality of the way national wealth is distributed. For this reason the per capita GNP can be misleading. In South Africa huge inequalities give rise to a distorted picture

The per capita income may be higher than most African countries, but in areas such as infant mortality and child malnutrition we match several African and Asian countries

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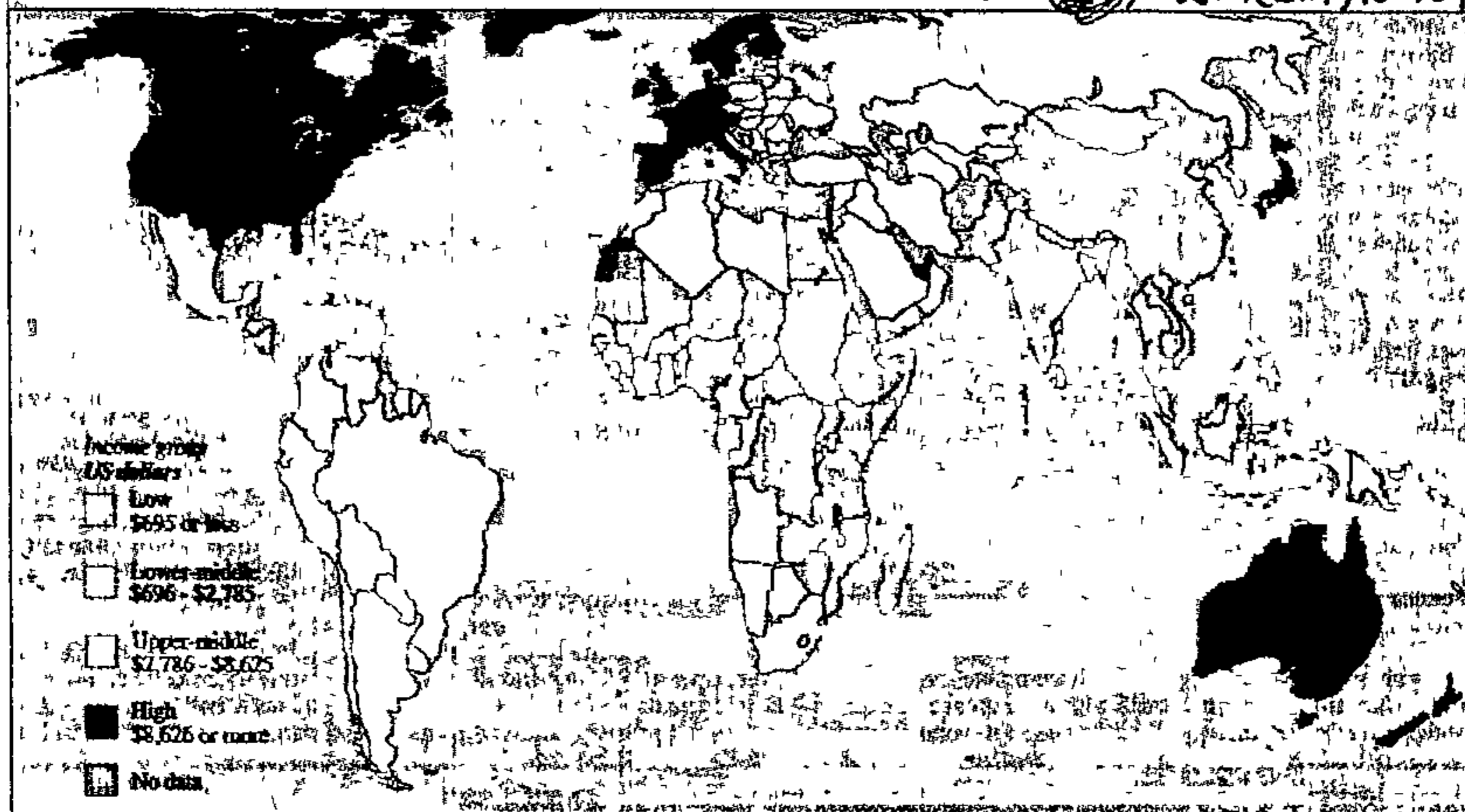
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Paper offers a fast track off skid-row

Affluent pay for an inside view of poverty

ARC 27/2/95 (241)

JOHANNESBURG. — Some of South Africa's homeless are finding that telling others about their woes can be a fast track out of the skid-row.

Homeless Talk, the country's first newspaper of its kind which is written and distributed by homeless people, has gone from a print run of 10 000 to 50 000 in just a few months.

An eclectic mix of news, views, advice and poetry, Homeless Talk sells on the streets for about R1, with 80 percent of that being kept by the seller.

Diane Wicks, an organiser of the St George's United Church community outreach programme and one of three founders of the paper, said she came up with the idea after a

friend told her about a similar paper in Chicago.

"In the support group I've been running at St George's, a number of people were interested in writing, so I just thought it would be a great idea, both being able to write and to generate income," she said.

For David Khumalo, who has been homeless since he left KwaZulu-Natal in April last year to find a job in Johannesburg, the paper has meant more than that.

"The biggest change is that I can afford to study," he said.

Khumalo has started a three-year diploma with the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, where he pays R120 a month to study three subjects.

Sellers have been most successful in the affluent northern

suburbs of Johannesburg, where people pay well for a vicarious look into a lifestyle so alien to their own.

Top sellers can make up to R1 600 a month.

The number of people selling the paper fell when a code of conduct was strictly enforced and only registered sellers received a badge certifying their status.

"Sellers are not allowed to be under the influence of alcohol when they are actually selling and a lot of the regular sellers were alcoholics," said Judy Bassingthwaite, a co-founder of the paper and a lay pastor at the Central Methodist mission.

About 200 sellers are registered, of whom 30 to 50 sell at any given time. — Sapa-Reuter

ANC unveils plan to tackle poverty.

Document proposes changes to the fabric of South African society

ARG 14/1/94 (24)

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — The African National Congress today unveiled its Reconstruction and Development Programme, which proposes far-reaching changes to the fabric of South African life to tackle poverty and deprivation

The most controversial aspect of the sixth draft of the programme is its economic plan, which includes a proposal for a reconstruction levy. The document still contains elements of nationalisation and emphasises state intervention in certain circumstances

The 61-page document was released at a press briefing today and looks set to form the basis of many policies of a future ANC-dominated government

The programme will be tabled at a major ANC conference next week where it is likely to be ratified as official ANC policy

One of the programme's major goals in the next five years is to "redistribute a substantial amount of land, build one million houses, provide all with clean water and sanitation, electrify 2.5 million new homes and provide health care and phones to all citizens"

While the ANC does not envisage a major rise in government spending to finance its proposals, Cosatu's Jay Naidoo, one of the major drafters of the document, said a reconstruction fund would be established to generate "income streams in the future"

This fund should draw on specific reconstruction levies, including "levies on capital transfers, land and luxury"

The head of the ANC's economic unit, Trevor Manuel, said that the present level of borrowing by the government would not be raised above its current level of six percent of gross domestic product (GDP)

Mr Manuel proposed changing key aspects of the tax system to develop a more progressive, fair and transparent structure. Priorities included reviewing personal income tax, rationalising company tax breaks and zero-rating VAT on basics

Turning to economic strategy, Mr Manuel said "The balance of evidence will guide the decision for or against various economic policy measures"

The democratic government must consider increasing the public sector in strategic areas through, for example, nationalisation, purchasing a shareholding in companies and establishing new public corporations or joint ventures with the public sector"

The programme also contains a plan for the mining industry which was leaked earlier this week and has raised alarm bells in the private sector. It has been described as de facto nationalisation, and proposes that mineral rights be held by the state and not private individuals

The document emphasises the need for land reform and calls for a "demand-driven" national land reform programme to be in place within a year of the April election. The aim is to redistribute 30 percent of agricultural land within five years

The two aspects of the programme are redistribution of land to "those who need it but cannot afford it, and restitution

Contd column 1, page 4

From page 1

for those who lost land because of apartheid laws"

The redistribution programme includes a provision for "land acquired by corrupt means from the apartheid state"

Where applicable land would be expropriated and compensation paid, but "land acquired from the apartheid state through illegal means must be recovered after due process of investigation"

A land claims court should restore land speedily to people dispossessed by discriminatory legislation since 1913

With regard to housing, the document calls for a single national housing department and a programme that generates employment, skills and economic activity

Land for housing must be suitably located and "the democratic government must intervene to facilitate access to such land"

Government funds and private sector funding must be blended to make housing finance affordable. A national housing bank and national home loan guarantee fund should be initiated

The document calls for legislation to outlaw "redlining" — where financial institutions refuse to provide loans to areas they consider too high risk

Hostels should be upgraded and integrated into broader communities

The building materials industry should be examined and cartels should be stopped. Consideration must be given to public, worker and community-based ownership where the market fails to provide a reasonably-priced product"

The programme also stresses the need for improved education and training programmes, with particular emphasis on the need to give equal opportunities to women

P.T.O.

ANC's plan to tackle poverty

An affirmative action policy is called for to address the problem of marginalisation

The document acknowledges the economy has many strengths but said urgent attention must be given to inequalities in ownership, employments and skills

Much of the money needed for the programme is already budgeted for, but better management of these resources is needed. The document, however, does call for improved and reformed tax systems and adds that "new funds will be raised in a number of areas"

Job-creation programmes should be linked to public works programmes, says the document.

With regard to other problems such as water, the document calls for the restructuring of the Department of Water Affairs and other institutions and updating of the Water Act "to ensure the right of all to water security".

With regard to energy, the document says energy efficiency and conservation should be regarded as pivotal. An electrification policy should aim to provide electricity to another 2,5 million households by the year 2000 — and it is estimated this will cost R12 billion. This should be financed by "cross-subsidies from other electricity consumers

"Where necessary the democratic government will provide concessionary finance for the electrification of poor household in remote rural areas"

Create new wealth, urges report

'More than 17-m poor or jobless'

Star 25/1/94

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

More than a third of the country's estimated population of 40 million are either poor or out of work.

This estimate has been reached by a Unisa Bureau for Market Research report on poverty and distributional issues, which also found that proposed redistribution of wealth policies in the future would not counter poverty.

The report, by Professor A A Ligthelm, combines household income and expenditure data and related poverty and distributional data in a bid to help identify the causes of welfare disparities

It says there are an estimated 17 million people who can be classified as "poor" with another 6 million who do not have jobs in the formal sector. (241)

The report sketches the typical socio-economic characteristics of poor households as being those lacking in land, financial resources and other income-generating assets, and a large proportion relying on pensions.

In addition, the poor are mainly families headed by women, with family members who are poorly educated and poorly paid, who have many children, and who are mainly concentrated in the rural areas of the national states such as Gazankulu, Lebowa,

QwaQwa and KwaNdebele.

The report says that in 1990 the household income of whites in metropolitan areas averaged R71 598 a year, Asians R26 916, coloureds R22 642 and blacks R11 682

Changes in income per capita for the Asian, coloured and black population groups indicate the rise of an affluent elite, a fairly large middle-income group and a growing poorer class.

The report says redistributive policies alone will not counter poverty: the creation of new wealth through employment-creating growth involving people in mainstream economics is needed.

World poverty conference will provide forum

Opportunity for SA to prove its worth

Stan 10/2/95 (241)

BY ROSS HERBERT

Banks, non-government organisations (NGOs) and a number of developing countries have begun a wave of aggressive lobbying in preparation for a world poverty conference to be held March 6 to 12, a meeting which may significantly affect how South Africa is viewed among emerging markets

The UN-sponsored World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, promises at a minimum to scrutinise all the world's development and lending institutions with the goal of finding solutions to seemingly intractable poverty in the developing world.

Developing nations hope it will shift the global balance of economic power.

Already there are press conferences, NGO resolutions, conferences and back-room lobbying — all part of a global political campaign

Two weeks ago, a coalition of 1 000 NGOs presented resolutions to the UN asking for the world body to investigate the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the Third World, arguing that they should be fundamentally revised at the development summit and that all the international

finance bodies be revamped.

Charity representatives from 42 African nations met in Maputo to call for increased donation to Africa.

South Asian NGOs met to protest being sidelined by world development organisations.

The Commission on Global Governance chimed in with a 400-page report calling for the replacement of the UN Security Council with an economic security council to address world development needs

Another group put forth a UN resolution to forgive \$1,4 trillion in developing world debt

International activists argue that the Third World is being crushed by its debt burden.

In many cases, countries have stopped paying at all

So, the argument goes, why not acknowledge reality, cut debt entirely and institutionalise a process of redistributing wealth from the industrial to the developing world?

"If debt relief is applied in a very easy manner, such assistance will not be coming any more. That is Japan's position," said Hiroshi Hirabayashi, a Japanese development official who visited South Africa recently

The debt relief resolu-

tion was blocked on January 17 by the US, Japan and the European Union

However, the fact that a global poverty conference is being held is evidence that all sides agree developing-world problems are so severe they cannot be ignored or treated with the same old approaches

The capital markets are not as charitable. Economists say the markets have lost their zeal for emerging markets, a trend which could be accelerated by an acrimonious global political atmosphere

The fear is that, just as Mexico's peso crisis caused an immediate sell-off on the JSE and a rise in the interest premium on SA bonds, the development summit could change how SA is perceived

"I think the emerging market boom certainly is ending," said Tim Hacker, economist and bond-market analyst for Fergusson Bros "US interest rates are up and the global economy is growing faster and that means there will be a pull-back from the emerging markets I don't think 95 will be as good as 94"

As global security trading has expanded and emerging market securities have been marketed to unsophisticated inves-

tors, the JSE has been increasingly affected by negative news in other emerging markets.

"Because investors get burned, they make a global judgment," said Nico Czypionka, group economist for Standard Bank.

"Some of the people who own these bonds may be film producers in Hollywood who don't have very much investment knowledge."

At the development summit, SA has the potential to play an influential role, tapping President Nelson Mandela's prestige to temper the developing world demands and, in the process, casting a favourable light on the stability of the SA economy

Depending on how shrill the development summit gets and how shrewdly SA plays its hand, SA could, in contrast, be viewed as the safe bet among otherwise turbulent emerging markets

SA's fundamentals are strong, particularly when it comes to lending. Debt is roughly 15 percent of GDP, compared to about 40 percent for Australia.

By bringing out such strengths and taking the high ground as mediator, SA has the opportunity to emerge a notch above its emerging-market peers in the eyes of the capital markets

Economic plan is unveiled

AN ANC plan intended to stimulate economic growth and eliminate poverty in the Western Cape was unveiled over the weekend

The National Party's proposals for the development of the region are due to be released tonight

The ANC plan says the region has the potential both to satisfy the basic needs — food, clothing and shelter — of all its people and to increase jobs and income through expanding exports

Its plan calls for 50 000 new houses to be built in the ANC's third year in office and the creation of 225 000 new jobs through public works, such as building houses, clinics, schools, dams and roads

The document says that although the region's economy has serious problems, considerable potential exists for sustained economic recovery and growth, coupled with social development

It says strong potential for sustained growth exists in agriculture, and the region's full potential to attract tourists has never been properly exploited

W Cape poverty shocker

Reports by
BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SHOCK details of poverty in the Western Cape were revealed by the ANC over the weekend

This included 495 000 people unemployed, half a million living in squatter camps and a shortage of more than 300 000 houses

The tuberculosis rate was three times higher than the national average

More than 300 000 people did not have adequate water supply, 400 000 had inadequate sanitation and about 160 000 of urban houses and a third of farm worker houses were without electricity

These statistics were disclosed in the ANC's draft Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), which it released over the weekend

"We produce fruit and wine renowned throughout the world. Our garment industry produces clothing sold in London and Paris

"Yet many of our people do not have enough to eat and children roam streets in rags," it said

"Acute problems of poverty, unemployment and lack of basic needs characterise our region"

Although the labour force was one million, 168 000 Africans, 157 000 coloureds and 26 000 whites were unemployed and 144 000 were involved in "survival activities" in the informal sector

Resources

"In attacking poverty and deprivation, the RDP aims to set the Western Cape firmly on the road to eliminating hunger, providing land and housing to all our people, providing access to safe water and sanitation for all, ensuring the availability of safe, affordable and sustainable energy sources, eliminating illiteracy, raising the quality of education and training for children and adults, protecting the environment, and improving our health services and making them accessible to all

"Given its resources, the Western Cape can afford to feed, house, educate and provide health care for all its citizens," the document said

(24)

CT 28/3/94

Call to focus on rural poor ⁽²⁴¹⁾ 'Compensate land returns'

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE transformation of the lives of people living in the rural areas should be the major focus of any reconstruction and development programme after this month's election, the Social Change Assistance Trust (Scat) said yesterday

A report on the impact of Scat rural advice offices across the country also urges foreign funders not to downscale support for rural development projects as

the majority of South Africans still live in the rural areas and that those in the homelands remain the poorest of the poor

"They don't have clean water, they don't have electricity, they don't have water-borne sewerage and they usually don't have adequate housing

"These rural people bore the brunt of the apartheid system by being subject to oppressive bantustan governments and by being denied resources for development," the report notes

Scat noted that its 33 rural advice offices were the only rural agencies which had the infrastructure to take up the issues of local communities

The report said that a study of the operation of rural advice offices had found them to have had a significant impact in three main areas. CI 7/4/94

- Standing up for justice
- Calling local authorities to account, and
- Gaining improved facilities

'Compensate land returns'

JOHANNESBURG — Land restitution without compensation was confiscation, which is unacceptable, African Christian Democratic Party leader the Rev Kenneth Meshoe said at a party conference yesterday

Redistributing land should be regulated through proper legal processes, he said — Sapa

POLITICAL ROUNDUP *No stories about this area can truly prepare you for experiencing it*

Journey of discovery in Soweto

Sowetan 18/4/94

TOWNSHIP SQUALOR *British*

journalist shocked by conditions:

By Richard Adeshiyan,
a British journalist covering the elections

ELECTION FEVER MAY HAVE a firm grip on South Africa but for millions of black people living in the abject squalor of the townships, the April 27 poll has no great significance

My visit to Soweto, along with a journalist from *Sowetan*, brought home the desperate plight of South Africa's discarded people

As we head towards Soweto, posters of the late Chris Hani are being put up in preparation for the following day when a series of rallies will be held to mark the anniversary of the slain SACP leader's death

As we enter Soweto a funeral entourage drives by while a wedding party heads in the opposite direction

It is a typical hot, sunny Saturday afternoon, but for millions of Sowetans life goes on

The numerous tales that have emanated from this area have often shocked those of us who live outside the country

I can safely say that not even those particular stories can truly prepare you for this experience

We stop by Adolphous Masithe, a 39-year-old fruit seller and local church evangelist. Adolphous is very typical of the people who live in Kliptown, an area of Soweto. He barely makes living from selling the little fruit he has, but like so many of his contemporaries it is at least an honest living

He isn't going to vote on April 27 because he says the National Unity government will not change anything, although Nelson Mandela and the ANC will be at the helm

Adolphous is to take me on a journey of discovery that I never thought I would witness

The sprawling area which makes up part of Soweto, is just a mass of corrugated iron shacks which houses thousands of the 3 million or so people who live in Soweto. However, this I am told, is only a conservative estimate because no one really knows the exact figures

We pass the church where a funeral service is being held. A group of women are huddled together outside holding umbrellas to shield them from the midday sun. A little further on there are women preparing food in heavy, black iron pots for mourners when they return from the burial

However, it is the overwhelming stench of stale urine and excrement and sewage that is the pervading smell that dominates the area

Sanitation in the area is now almost non-existent. Four years ago the Soweto City Council introduced Easy Loos into the area after much pressure from the local residents. But today these blue portables have become icons of the township

The Reverend David



Mngomezulu, chairman of the residents of Kliptown between 1986 and 1990, points to three Easy Loos just across the way from his own shack "Look at them," he says frustratingly, "they are a disgrace. We have no toilets, no facilities"

The 61-year-old Sowetan adds that he has heard all the promises from the Government but has more faith in a future administration

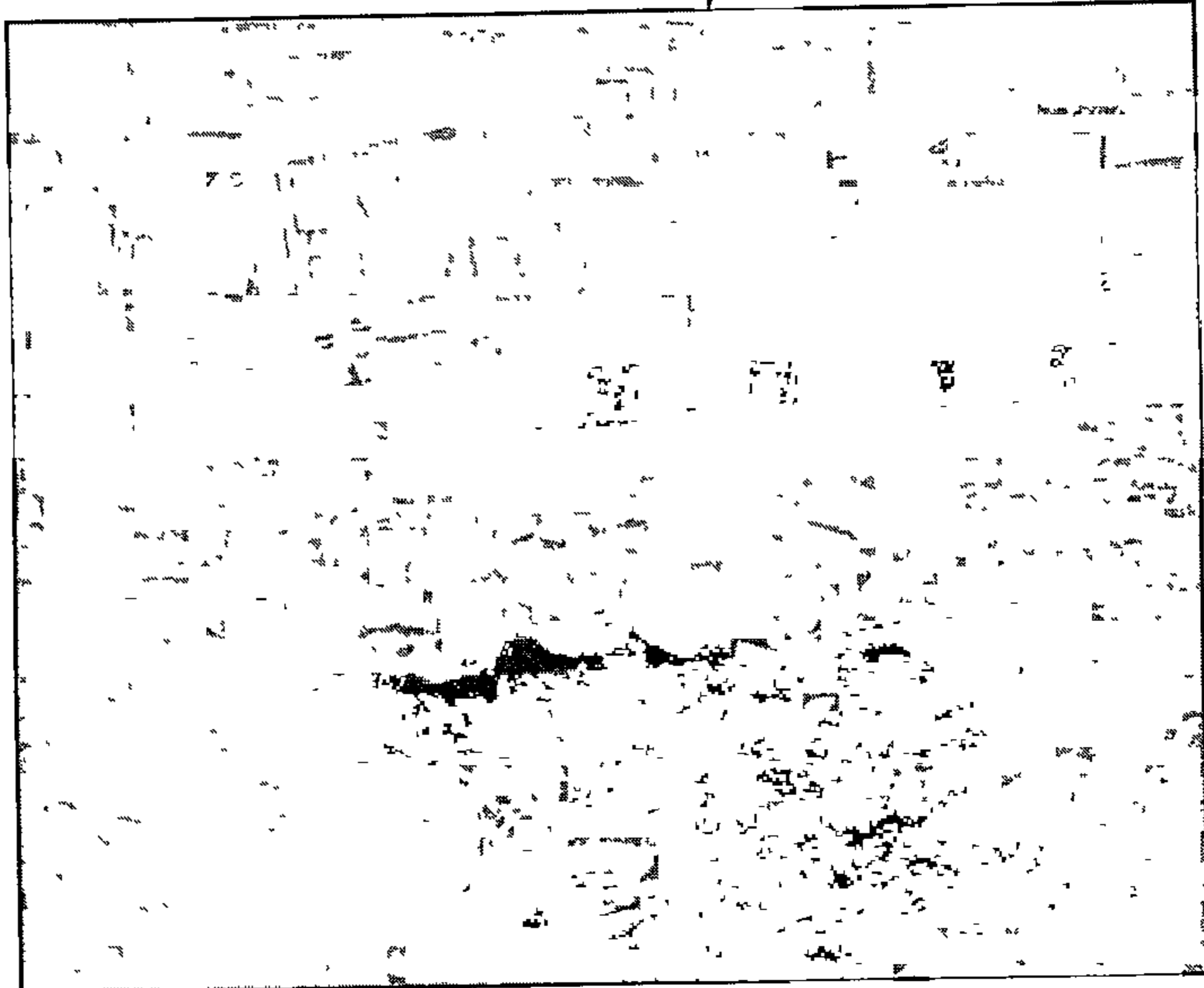
Meanwhile, the three Easy Loos, that were supposed to be emptied every two months, stand idle and unoccupied surrounded by flies. Mngomezulu duly informs me that they have not been touched for three years

The long winding muddy paths that run between the shacks are narrow and make movement between shacks awkward

Nelson Mandela's face looks down from ANC election posters, strategically placed on walls around the township. But for all the election promises, the future seems a long way away. The needs of the present are a lot more pressing

The ANC are doing their bit in the township by numbering the shacks and putting them into specific blocks

This I have been told will help a



Lack of proper housing and poor living conditions are pressing problems that will face a new government.

future government calculate the numbers of people living in the area and provide statistics that can be used for new housing. This numbering exercise must finish on April 22

While some would say it smacks of cheap electioneering, it is at least a genuine attempt to address the ever present housing problem

Along with education — there are no schools in the vicinity — poor sewage removal and non-existent sanitation, the lack of habitable housing is high on the list of priorities

The women attend the water taps — the only source of fresh drinking water in the area — filling their plastic water containers and then returning to their homes

Adolphous acknowledges several people as we head towards his own

home. However, despite his status, his small metal shack is no different from the rest

In the tiny yard his seven-year-old daughter, Muuma, plays with her friend. I greet her with a hello and she reciprocates with a hello and flashes a cheeky smile

Inside the shack, which cannot measure more than six feet in width and length, the wife of Adolphous's brother sits on the bare floor with her very young child covered with a blanket

The conditions are cramped and the only furniture is a wooden bench on which we sit. The arresting smell of the shack has an air of permanence and the lack of light adds to the general feeling of depression

It was these conditions that led to the death of his young son through constant

sickness just over a year ago. This is no place for an adult, let alone a defenceless child

Walking back to the car, Adolphous points to a creche, which like the Easy Loos, is no longer being utilised. Adolphous tells me that the creche used to be surrounded by fencing, but when that was taken away, the creche went rapidly downhill

On returning to the car, which is parked in front of Adolphous' fruit pitch, we are met by his four-year-old son, Moses. His disarming, cheeky smile and playfulness brings a smile to my face

He is the future of a new South Africa. One day, hopefully, he can look back on April 27 1994 as the day that went some way to addressing his plight and the lives of millions of other township dwellers

The sprawling area which makes out part of Soweto is a mass of corrugated iron shacks housing thousands of people

This is no place for an adult, let alone a defenceless child

Rastafarians causing noise and 'pollution', claim Elsie residents

Staff Reporter

(241) APR 25 14 94

THE safe, clean and quiet atmosphere of Clare and Owen streets in Elsie River has been disturbed by the partying and unsanitary conditions of rastafarians

Residents claim that they are kept awake at weekends by loud music and that a stench is permeating the air because there are no toilet facilities on the land occupied by the Rastafarians

"We are unhappy because our children can no longer use the land as a safe playing space," said one resident

"Our neighbourhood used to be clean, but since the squatters moved in the place is dirty and very unsanitary. The structure they put up is also unsightly," he said

Although residents claimed their complaints to the Regional Services Council fell on deaf ears, the RSC said they had re-

ceived two complaints from residents and were investigating

"After the investigation has been completed a decision in regard to remedial action will be taken," said D van den Berg of the RSC

He said the Rastafarian Culture Group had permission to occupy the land on a temporary basis, subject to the condition that they entered into negotiations with the council for a permanent site on which they could construct a permanent cultural workshop

Another condition was that their existing structure be demolished when the new site was allocated

Mr Van den berg said the group would be moved once the new site was allocated

"Ratepayers and residents can lay charges for disturbance of the peace and matters like that with the police"

Jobs and poverty at top of agenda

Star 22/4/94

The most pressing issues facing South Africa's new political and economic dispensation are the creation of sufficient work opportunities and the fight against poverty, says Johan Louw, Sanlam's chief economist, in the company's latest economic survey.

This, he said, will place great demands on the management of the real and financial sectors of the economy.

"In order to satisfy these needs the country requires, inter alia, a sustained high real economic growth rate — one considerably above the current ceiling rate of about 3 percent a year, which is determined mainly by restrictions on the balance of payments."

Louw said the progressive weakening of the economic growth rate and the associated impoverishment of the population could, in turn, largely be ascribed to the lack of, and unproductive use of, capital sources.

According to the SA Reserve Bank, the gross domestic fixed investment as a percentage of the gross domestic product was only 14,5 percent in 1993, against 26,9 percent in 1970-79, when it last rose above 25 percent (24) (1993)

"What is even more worrying is the fact that net domestic fixed investment (that is, investment after provision has been made for the replacement of existing assets), was negative in 1993."

No growth

"This means that for the first time since the second world war, the country's fixed capital stock showed no growth last year," he said.

"The message to South Africa is clear: to achieve a considerable higher economic growth rate and be able to maintain it for long periods, a strong and sustained increase in domestic and foreign investment and a reversal

in the current unfavourable relationship between investment and government consumption expenditure will be essential.

"South Africa needs direct investment — capital expenditure which contributes to large-scale job creation and development of the community without placing too great a burden on the repayment of the investment."

There were strong indications, said Louw, that foreign investors were ready to invest even larger sums in both South Africa's financial markets and real economy as soon as the political situation stabilised after the election, violence decreased and it became clear that the new government was adhering to free-market principles.

"If these become a reality, they will make a significant contribution to the reconstruction and development of South Africa and the prosperity of its people."

Population explosion (241) causing 'terrifying' poverty, experts warn

NEW DELHI — One third of the world's population — nearly 2 billion people — are below the age of 15 and facing an uncertain future because of structural unemployment and widespread poverty, experts have said here

They were speaking at the end of a three-day meeting on ways to tackle these and other problems stemming from rapid population growth

The Paris-based Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life is to come up with recommendations for the world summit on population to be held in Cairo in September

The 20-member commission will publish a report next year with concrete proposals on reining in the population explosion

In south Asia — Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — 39 percent of the population is below the age of 15, say United Nations studies. The figure is 26 percent in south-east Asia while in sub-Saharan Africa, a staggering 45 percent of the population is under 15

In developing countries, where 95 percent of the world's population growth is happening, an improbable 38 million jobs will need to be created each year just to keep pace with the number of people reaching working age

In Africa, 7.5 million young men and women flood the job market each year in nations that already have unemploy-

ment and shortages of food, housing, education and health care

In addition, notes Pierre de Senarclens, executive secretary of the independent commission, "activities requiring an abundant and largely ill-trained workforce are becoming more scarce"

Professor Senarclens, a professor of international relations at the University of Lausanne, adds "This is bound to exacerbate social divisions within developed societies and even more so between rich and poor countries"

He added "This question of employment cannot fail to be associated with the phenomenon of poverty, which has assumed terrifying proportions."

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, the former Portuguese premier who is president of the independent commission, said there was an added urgency because young people in developing nations were adopting "consumption patterns similar to those of industrialised countries"

But, their wishes were unlikely to be fulfilled unless there was a sea-change in the lifestyles and economies of the developed north, said those taking part in the conference

This wealthy minority of about 25 percent of the world's population used up three-quarters of the resources of the planet, they added — Sapa-AFP

Shocking picture of South Africans' poor quality of life

Survey exposes low level of health care for blacks

241

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ARG 9/3/94

JOHN VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

A SHOCKING picture of the poor quality of life of millions of South Africans has emerged in an independent survey

Millions are living in unsanitary conditions without a toilet, without clean drinking water, without access to basic health care and under a constant threat of violence

The disturbing information is contained in a nationwide poll conducted last month by the Community Agency for Social Inquiry at the request of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network

The network, an independent non-governmental organisation, said the poll was one of the most significant assessments yet of basic health conditions among South Africans

The poll findings are based on 800 face-to-face interviews

Thirty-one percent of those

polled said there had been times when they could not afford to feed a child aged five or younger

The poll showed unemployment among Africans to be 61 percent of those available for work

Among Africans, 12 percent, or 2.1 million people in rural areas and 7 percent, or 1.5 million in informal settlements, have no toilets at all — no flush toilets, pit latrines or even bucket systems.

Only 10 percent of Africans, compared to 75 percent of coloureds, 97 percent of Indians and 99 percent of whites, have a flush toilet inside their dwellings

Only a third of Africans have regular refuse removal, compared to all whites

Fifty-four percent of Africans and 5 percent of coloureds — but no Indians or whites — have to fetch water for daily use from a source outside their home or yard.

The survey shows that some South Africans are refused medical treatment on financial grounds

Almost one in five respondents said they had been refused treatment because they could not afford to pay. This had happened to 22 percent of Africans — and, 36 percent of those living in traditional huts — and to 28 percent of retired and disabled people

Almost one in five poll respondents do not buy prescription medicines because they are too expensive

The poll shows that worry over the cost of health care crosses colour lines

Two-thirds of whites said they were worried about the cost of treatment — 83 percent of whites have medical aid coverage compared to just 11 percent of Africans

Twenty-eight million Africans have no medical aid coverage

Relatively high rates of

immunisation reflected the success of public education campaigns

Three-quarters of the respondents with a child under five years old have a record of their child's immunisation

Political violence has prevented 11 percent of Africans from reaching health care, but others are not affected

Twelve percent of Africans reported that someone in their family had been killed or injured in violence

South Africans view health as a key political issue, with 86 percent of respondents saying it should be an important election issue — 77 percent believe parties should be talking more about health policies

A minority of South Africans enjoy state-of-the-art health care, but the majority live out their lives without the most basic elements of health, according to Elise Appel, the network's regional co-ordinator

(241)

JOBS

No money, no work

A Development Bank report on the eastern and northern Transvaal describes a desolate economic landscape, writes KEVIN DAVIE

A STUDY by the Development Bank (DBSA) in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal discloses extensive poverty, with up to 75% of people in the homelands receiving no income. About 75% of black women and 60% of black men in the Northern Transvaal have no income.

"The employment situation deteriorated markedly between 1980 and 1990 and is still on the decline," says the report, Statistics on living standards and development. Regional poverty profile Eastern and Northern Transvaal. The survey is part of a World Bank-funded exercise to quantify the extent of poverty in South Africa.

The quantification is intended to serve as a yardstick so that the effectiveness of development programmes can be assessed. SA has undertaken poverty studies, but they have been mainly of a qualitative nature. The DBSA survey says the rural population of the study area is particularly affected by poverty, but "the situation is by no means hopeless". The Eastern Transvaal, one of the major employment providers

in SA, could offer formal jobs to less than 60% of its potential labour force in 1990. Most of the Northern Transvaal provided jobs for less than a third of the labour force.

Lebowa and Venda employ less than 25% of their potential workers and Gazankulu a dismal 19%. Most jobs are available in agriculture or government-supported community and social services.

The public sector is the major employer in the Northern Transvaal, a situation which is unlikely to persist, says the survey.

Barriers to wage-market entry are formidable for rural workers. They include lack of transport, cash and information.

Farm workers in the Transvaal are mostly poorly paid, cash earnings averaging R175 a month with R55 in-kind remuneration (R3 000 a year).

Women are the poorest, facing severe obstacles when trying to find work.

The Eastern and Northern Transvaal regions are at the opposite ends of the economic spectrum, the former being one of the most prosperous, with a strong economic base.

In the Northern Transvaal, socio-economic conditions "leave



POOREST OF THE POOR women in particular

much to be desired", says the report. The worst poverty occurs in Lebowa, where 74% of people receive no cash income. Two-thirds of adult blacks in the Northern Transvaal receive no cash income. The figure for the Eastern Transvaal is less than 50%. Although real disposable in-

come increase 1985, people r poor. In 1992, minimum living I head. A survey than R1 560 a t Social gran creasingly im Welfare paym by 41% a year year in Lebowa

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Autonet appointments Peter Mogeza, executive manager, Tours Express, Prathma Nar communications manager, Stax Masango, personnel manager, Translux, Bheki Shongwe, manager

Herman Pieterse has joined the board of Basil Read Mining
Neil Harding has been appointed managing director of SPL Group
Keith Anderson has been appointed managing director of Kärcher
Tjaart K appointed director Breeder

Sellout success for society's rejects

241

MIKE SMITH, Cassius Plaaitjes and Chris Diamann are all involved with a major sellout — and they're very proud of that. "It was all sold in three weeks, 10,000 copies," says Smith of Homeless Talk, a newspaper for homeless people they have helped to write and produce. "Now we have printed another 20,000."

IT WAS written by the homeless for the homeless. It has given street people a voice, and has installed pride in a community battling to make a comeback from a fall from grace. Chief Reporter JOHN PERLMAN reports on a bold venture.

Smith and Diamann live at Park Station with about 1,300 other people. Plaaitjes lives on a pavement in downtown Johannesburg.

Last month, Weekend-Star profiled this bold venture which gives homeless people a voice and puts money in the pockets of Johannesburg's most destitute people.

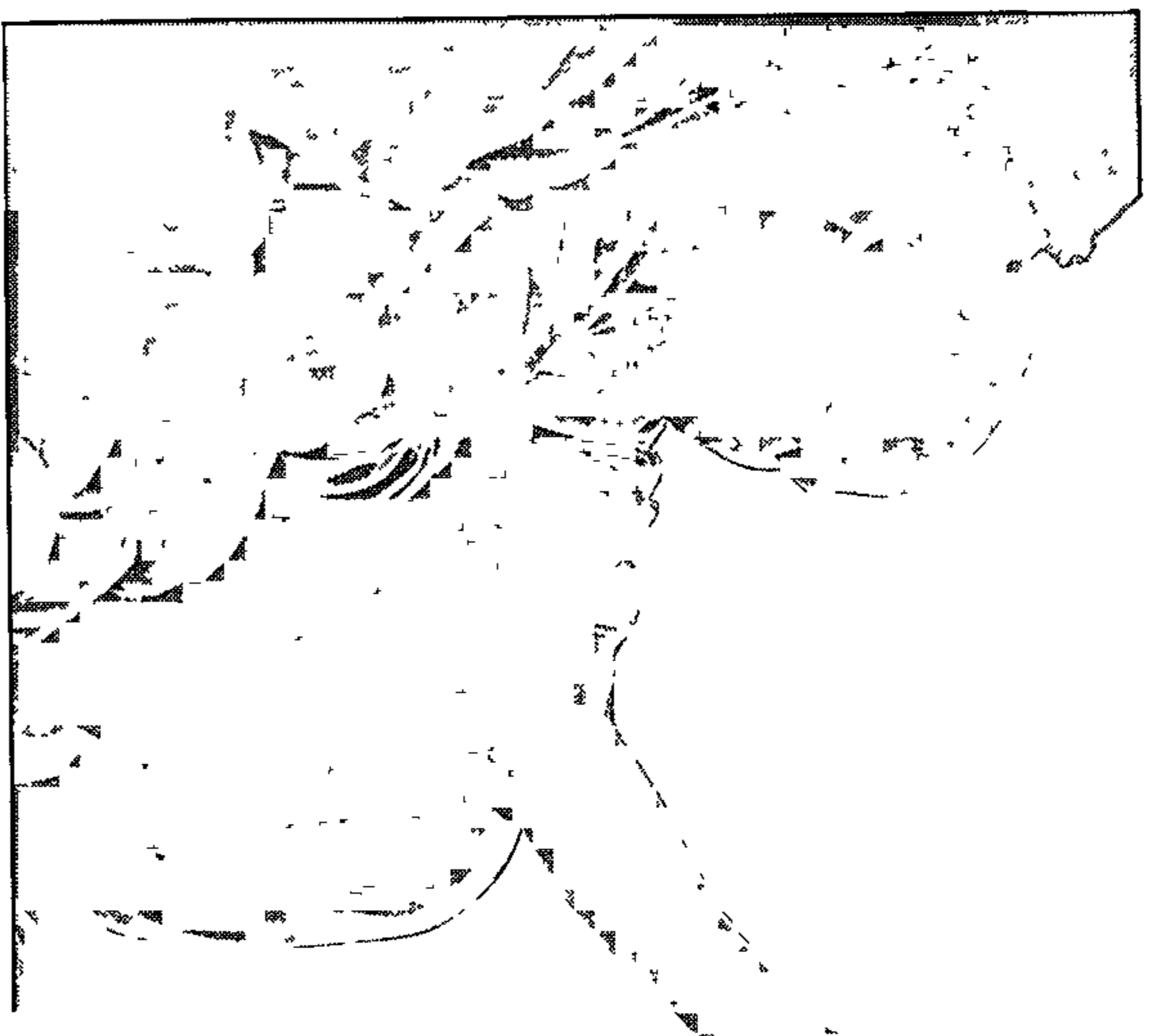
"It's sold to members of the homeless community for 10c," says Smith. "They then sell it for R1."

Diamann (21) wrote a story describing a young orphan he met at Park Station who had never known his parents. "He was like an island, all alone surrounded by water, like weeds in the field that moved side to side as the winds blew."

Diamann completed matric but "never took myself as someone who could write well. When I heard about the newspaper I went back to the station, and I couldn't sleep. I had so many ideas. The next day I asked for a pen and paper and wrote it in 10 minutes."

Skilled at paralyzing, Diamann is determined to keep the promise he made to his family when he left Umlazi. "It's not easy to just go back home, because, with my mother not working, I then become a bigger problem," he says. "That is why I stuck on here trying to change my life, so that when I go back home I don't go empty-handed."

Diamann never really got a foothold in Johannesburg, but Smith at one time held a senior job, training kitchen staff for a major restaurant chain. After falling out with his employers, he went in search of a better job. Instead, he found himself fumbling down the lad-



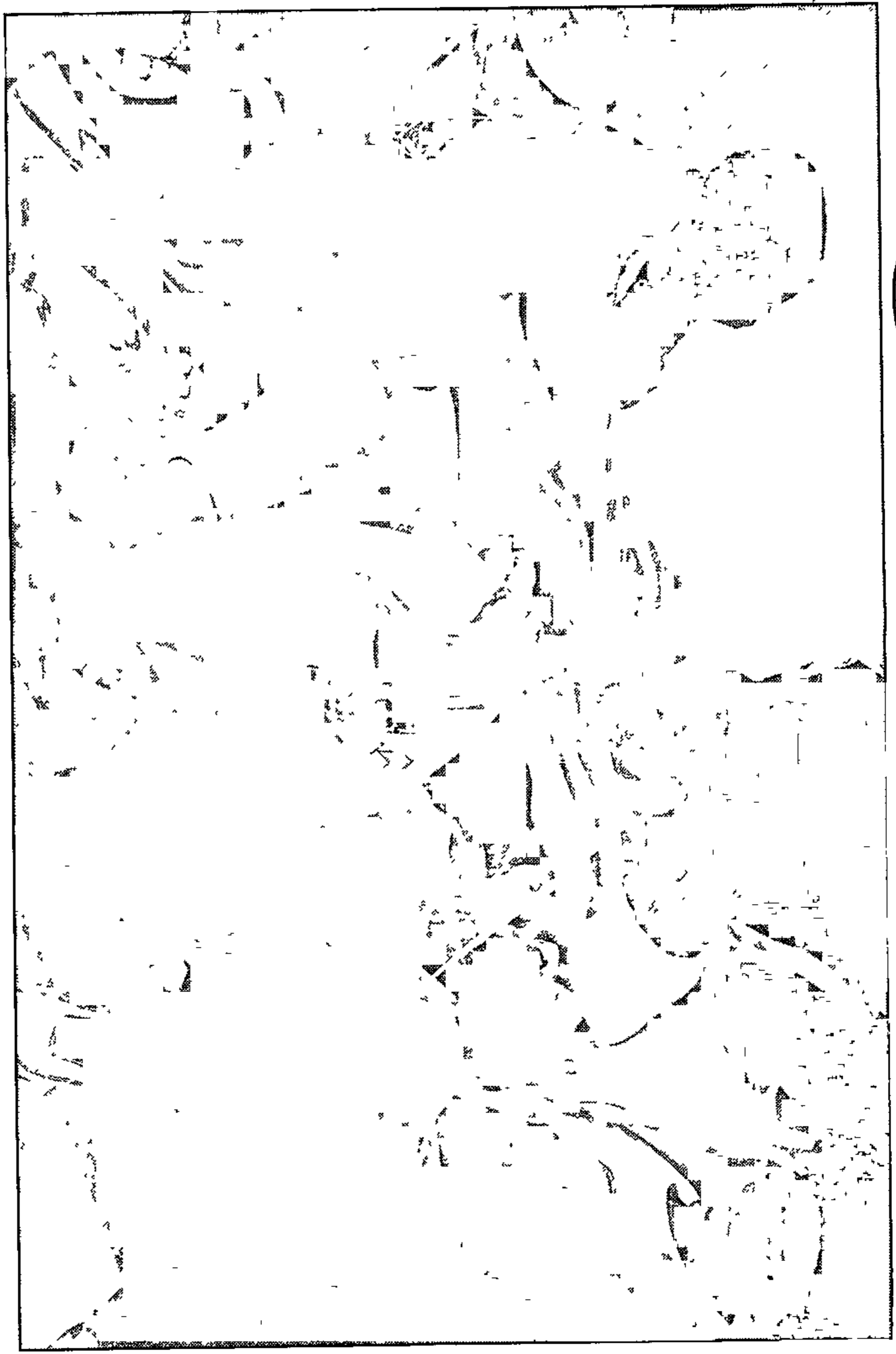
LEFT: Youngsters in Twist Street sell the paper that tells their stories and puts money in their pocket.
RIGHT: Cassius Plaaitjes, who has written a poem in Homeless Talk, in the shelter he has cobbled together on a downtown street.
BELOW RIGHT: Mike Smith turns newspaper material at the Central Johannesburg Partnership's offices in the Carlton Centre.
PHOTOGRAPHS: RUVAN BOSHOFF and NATASHA PINCUS

der, ending up with a job so menial that he "couldn't afford a place to stay, couldn't buy a pair of shoes."

He too took refuge in Park Station, and reflects his astonishment at falling so far, so fast, in a poem entitled *The Newcomer*: "I took my friend, he's surprised at all this activity, Seeing all of us scurrying like mice in haste from a pursuing car, in our haste for space for us to lay down our weary bodies, For him it's funny, for us it's reality, The boxes, rubbish bags our salvation, Today he's observing, tomorrow he'll be participating."

Contact with groups helping the homeless led to his enrolment in a computer course. "I attended classes and slept at night on my books," he says. "I would then go to a centre in Bertrams every morning to wash. One of the churches was helping me with clothing so that I could at least look respectable among other students."

Smith says the idea for Homeless Talk came from the Rev Diane Wicks, a minister at St George's United Church across the road from Joubert Park. "She mentioned to me that in America the homeless have a newspaper called Street Voice. Smith had been doing work with the Central Johannesburg Partnership, which has a project for homeless people. "They agreed to offer us office



space and the hardware we needed."

There was some debate about the name. "There were suggestions like 'Cry of the Destitute' and 'Suffering of the Forgotten.' But we didn't want to come forward as people begging for sympathy," Smith says. "We want to show the broad society that we are human and that we have feelings, and that we are only here because of social pressure. We were giving the homeless an opportunity to speak, to talk out to society."

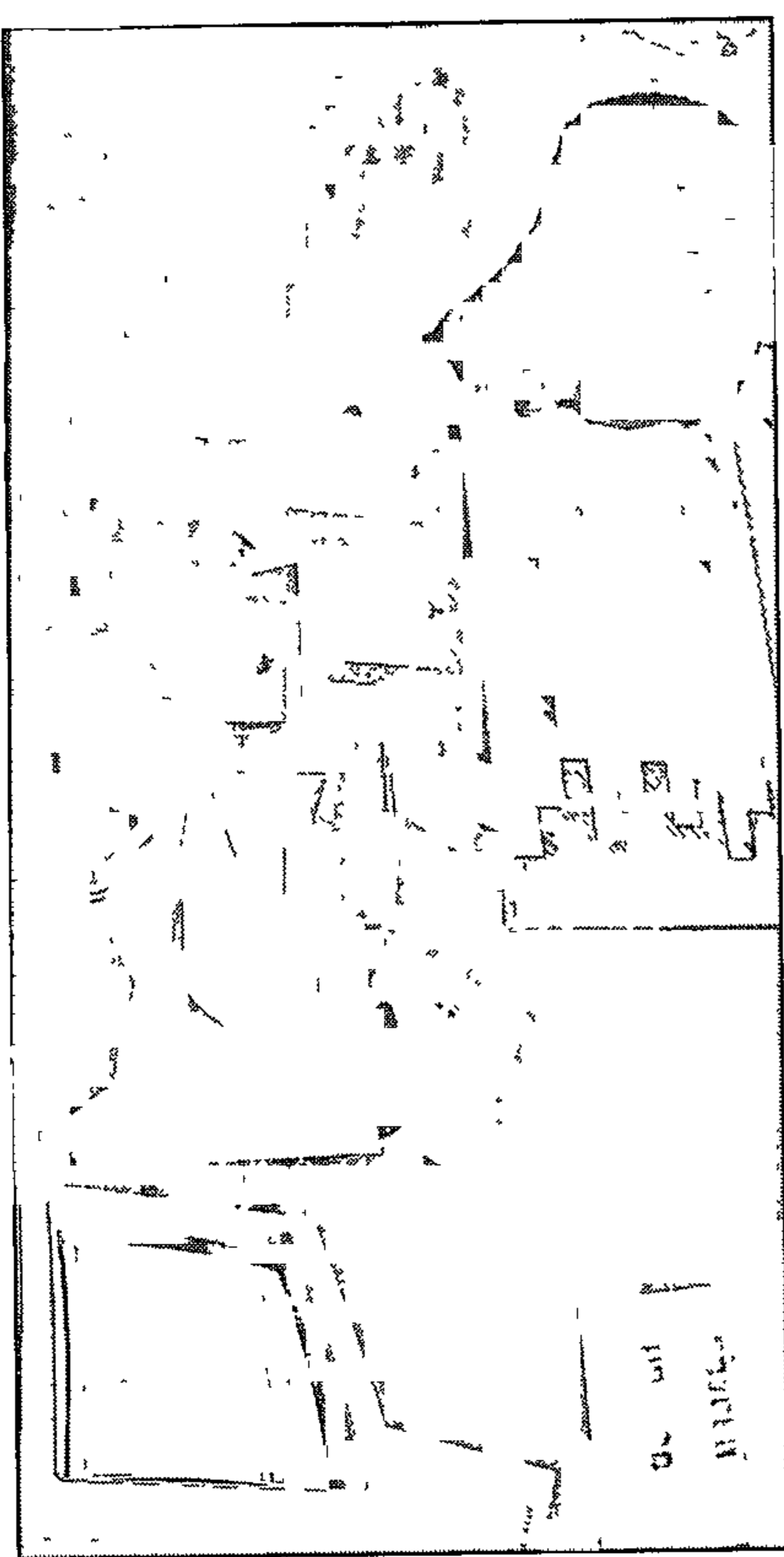
That's a view Plaaitjes echoes enthusiastically as he stands outside his "home", a roofless shelter made of thrown-away plywood, clinging tenaciously to the pavement. He has been there since 1992.

"Through this newspaper everything is possible. We took a chance and now we see it working," he says. Plaaitjes wrote a poem for the paper, entitled *Die Muis Eet Vleis*. "I never wrote anything before, he says. "It took me just a minute. It just came up in my mind. I was sitting right here with the people when I wrote it."

A soldier in the South West African Defence Force, he left Namibia after independence and found work in an armed response company. "Circumstances turned against me and I lost that job," he says. "Since those times I've turned to Rastafarianism, so I can't work with firearms."

As we stroll through the area behind Park Station, Plaaitjes points to a cardboard box and says: "That's a bed, that's a blanket."

There are people everywhere — cooking, doing washing, loading up on warmth from a pale winter sun in anticipation of another icy night. "We understand that it's not nice for a city to look like this," he says



"But where must the people go? They can't go to heaven because they are not dead yet."

In the middle of a cardboard-and-plastic shackland near the road leading on to the platforms, a group of young men are gathered around a big canvas bag, rummaging for socks, boots, jerseys and shin pads. One of the projects among the homeless has been the establishment of the Central Johannesburg Strikers, a soccer team which plays in an YMCA league.

"These are the kinds of things that put us together as human beings again," says Plaaitjes. "There are a lot of homeless people who have talent. But they need jobs, money and a place where they can put their things."

If you would like to assist Homeless Talk, or other projects for the homeless, contact Thodor Maxwell at (011) 331-2551 or Diane Wicks at (011) 487-3241.

focus on SOWETO

IN THE COLDEST DAY of the South African winter, squatter Hester Motata, who lives at a settlement near Bloemfontein, scavenged a rubbish dump to feed herself and her four children

An icy gale blew up clouds of ash and dust from the refuse dump in Freedom Square, a sprawling shack settlement on the outskirts of Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State

The ash swirled around the hunched squatters, bent over to scratch deep into the rubbish with hooks fashioned from wire coathangers

"This is what I will feed my children tonight," said Motata, opening a plastic bag to show the sheep's heart she had salvaged from the filth of the dump

Motata's fellow squatters, their faces pale with a coating of ash, displayed their own pitiful gleanings — a handful of congealed rice, lumps of hard, mouldy bread, some green potatoes softening with age

"We soak the bread in water, then we stir it to make a kind of porridge," said one squatter, Miriam

About 100 squatters were sifting through the rubbish, competing for scraps of food with dogs and a small herd of cattle. The cattle, urinating and defecating as they browsed, pulled mouthfuls of old cabbage from the pile

The squatters filled bags with bones, bottles and tin cans which they sell to recycling companies. With luck, a squatter can make R6 a day

Before bagging the bones, they chew off any remaining meat or tendons

They collect used coals from old fires which they burn in their shacks to stave off the minus 10 degree Celsius cold of the Bloemfontein winter night

"We have no blankets," said Motata. "Some days we eat, some days we don't. We get sick from breathing the dust and ash here."

The Freedom Square squatters could hardly be more desperate — the dump they work through contains not the jetsam of Bloemfontein's affluent white areas, but of a poverty-stricken black township

Black township residents do not waste much

In the dump, insecticide cans lie alongside the skins and entrails of beasts slaughtered in township backyards

An illiterate child, huddling from the wind in the shelter of a bag filled with bones, pages through a torn magazine

"There's nothing sexy about cellulite," reads one headline

"Mother, your place is in the home," reads another. "Your children need you more than the office does."

The squatters complain that they can find no work

They get some food and clothing from a charity office in the squatter camp, but say staff at the charity take the best of the donated supplies for themselves

Against this background, some charity work-

With so much hardship in South Africa itself, many people are disturbed by plans to help the suffering elsewhere in Africa. **Sapa-Reuter** takes a hard look at the situation: Sowetan 15/7/94



Poverty-stricken squatters scavenge for food in a black township.

ers have criticised the Government of President Nelson Mandela and local churches for plans to send about 120 000 tons of relief supplies to Rwandan refugees this month, saying the supplies are needed equally urgently at home

Mrs Ina Perlman, founder and former director of the South African feeding scheme Operation Hunger, said Freedom Square was a symptom of a widening problem

She said that in the past she had not expected the white minority government to act effectively against hunger and poverty whose effects are generally felt most deeply by the black majority

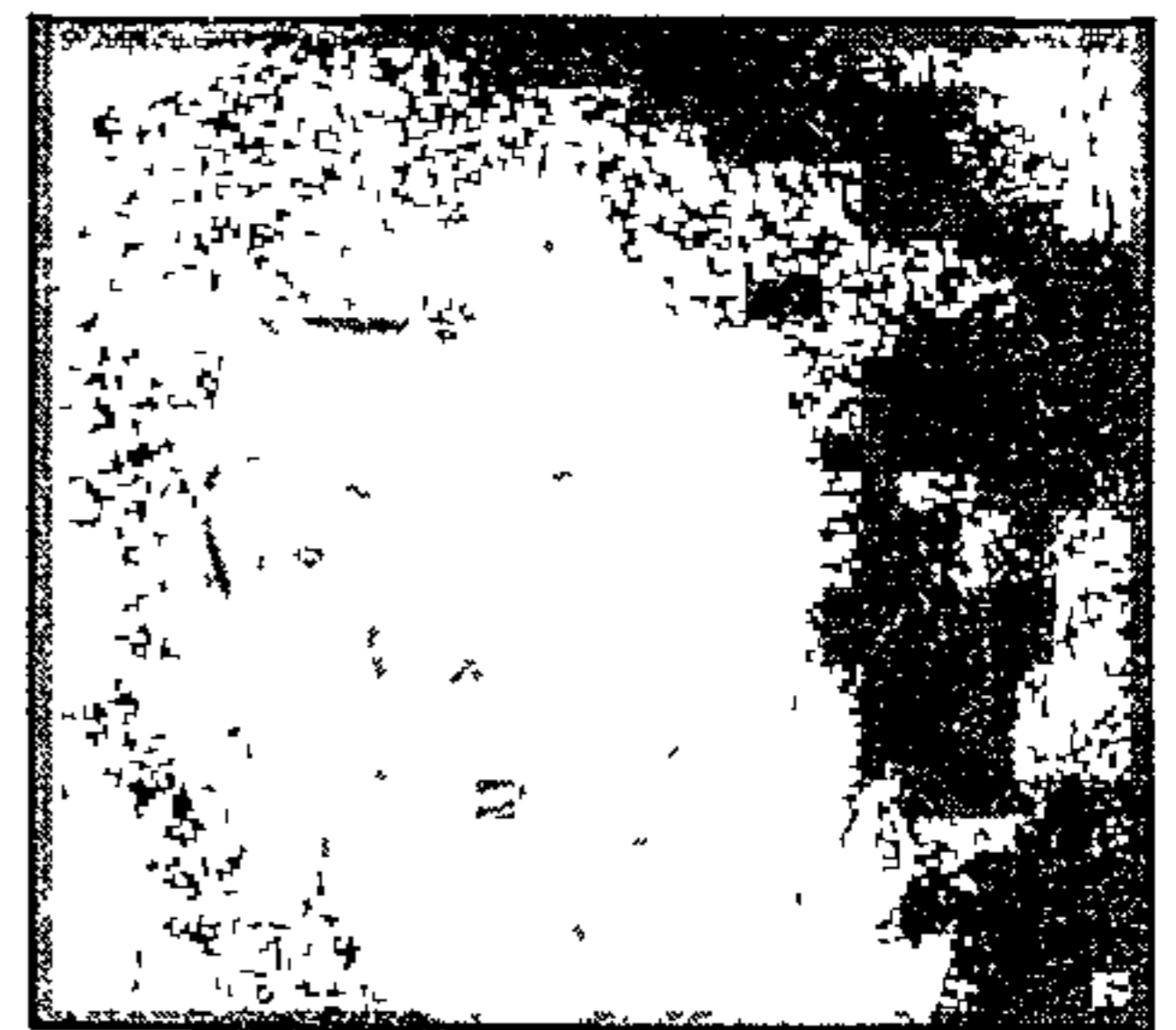
"It is, however, unforgivable that the first government democratically elected by all South Africans should be looking beyond our borders before it deals with the plight of our own wretched of the earth," Perlman said

"That the churches, the shepherds of their flock who should know best of all the suffering of the people right here, have joined in this campaign, is uncondonable," she said

But church spokesman Ron Steele said all the churches involved in the Rwanda project were already providing relief for deprived South Africans and none of this aid would be diverted to Rwanda

"Rwanda is an absolute, total tragedy, one of the worst things that has happened on the face of the earth," he said

"South Africans feel they are part of Africa now, and I think it's important that they can demonstrate it like this"



Ina Perlman ... charity begins at home.



President Nelson Mandela ...criticised.

Driver gunned down near his home

Fighting poverty

By Joshua Raboroko

THE South African Chamber of Business has handed the Government a document recommending that it get rid of poverty and large scale unemployment

In a document submitted to Minister Without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo and various Government departments, Sacob said a united effort was required to repair the damage brought about by apartheid and sanctions

At a Press conference in Johannesburg this week, Sacob economist Mr Bill Lacey appealed to the private sector to work closely with the Government to make the RDP a success

He said business believed that the role of the RDP in future policy would be very important in shaping the environ-

ment within which business would operate in South Africa

Sacob was making a contribution to the formulation of a White Paper on the RDP which was requested by Naidoo from various groups, including business

Lacey said Sacob shared the concerns which were outlined in the RDP regarding the social and economic problems facing South Africa.

It said poverty was a destabilising element for society and the RDP must be seen as a strategy for its alleviation and elimination

Sacob said it supported the development of an adequate skilled workforce. It also accepted that state intervention in modern industrial economies was unavoidable

Getting poorer all the time

(241) WM 8-14/4/94

The lot of the poor in South Africa has worsened since 1975.

Andrew Whiteford argues it is too big for a trickle-down approach to economic policy

ALMOST half the households in South Africa lived on an income below the poverty line in 1991. Although this proportion has not changed much over the past decade and a half those households already in poverty have sunk even deeper into destitution.

The Human Sciences Research Council and the University of Natal have found the average income of poor households declined from around R5 000 a year in 1975 to just over R3 500 in 1991, in 1991 prices.

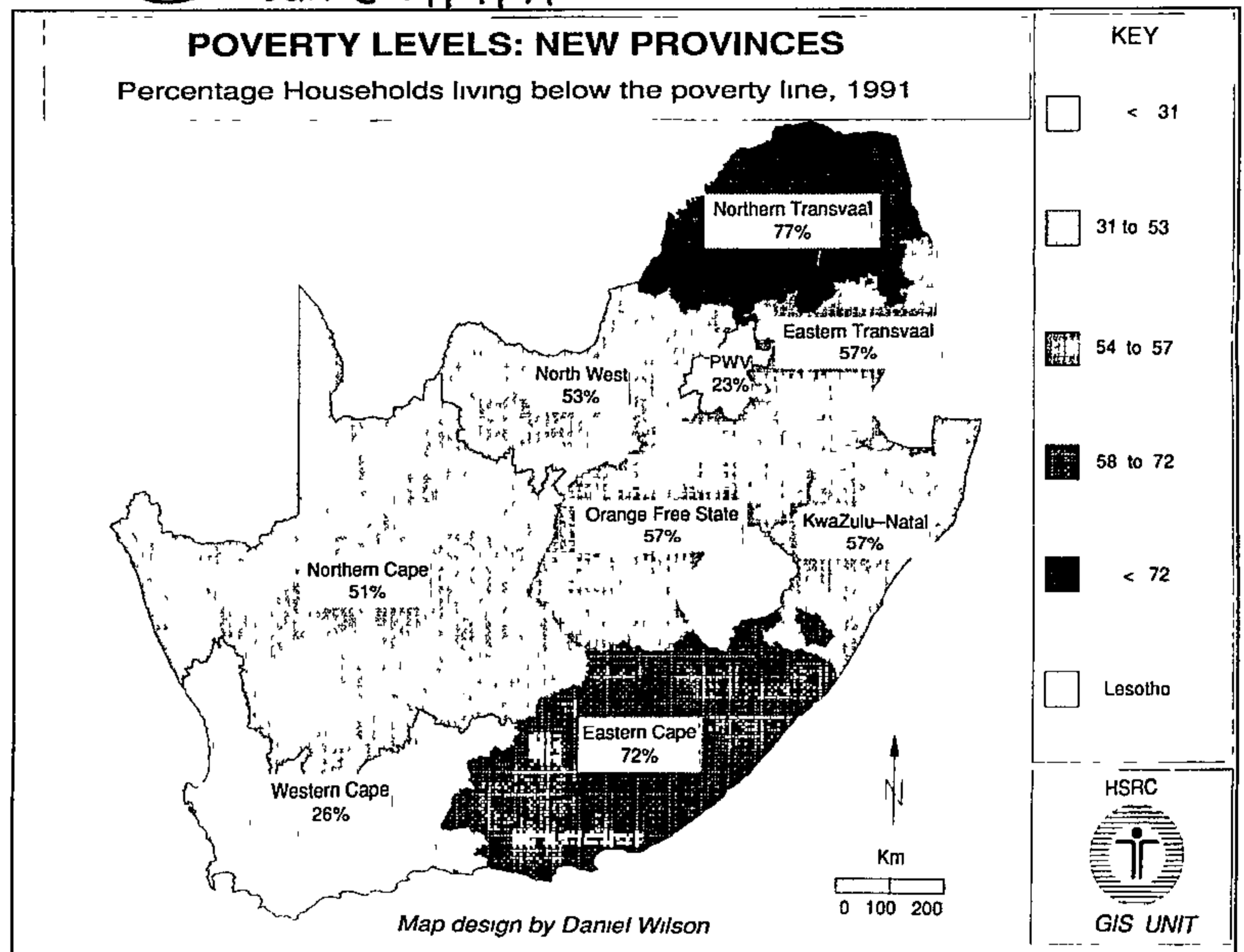
The Bureau of Market Research has calculated the bare minimum income for long-term survival for the average sized family at about R9 000.

Further illustrating the depth of poverty in South Africa is that one quarter of all households live on an income of less than half of this poverty line income.

Poverty is concentrated within the black community and much of black poverty is concentrated within the former TBVC states. That over 85 percent of households in the Transkei and Ciskei are living in poverty debunks the myth of these homelands' economic viability.

The incorporation of these two states into the new Eastern Cape province means this province inherits an overall poverty level (72 percent) which is only exceeded by the Northern Transvaal (77 percent). The PWV (22 percent) and the Western Cape province (26 percent) have by far the lowest levels of poverty.

Poverty within the white community has risen from an overall level of three percent in 1975 to seven percent in 1991. The incomes of the



The poverty map . The PWV area is the wealthiest, while the Eastern Cape has the highest poverty levels

poorest 40 percent of white households were whittled away by 40 percent, while the income of the poorest of these, the bottom 10 percent, was slashed by almost three quarters. Around 100 000 white households were living in poverty in 1991.

Poverty has reached chronic proportions in South Africa and a new government will be stretched to alleviate it. In absolute financial terms this task is not enormous — in 1991 it would have cost under R8-billion to bring every household out of poverty. This amount is less than six percent of the total income earned by all South Africans. In simplistic terms if the mean income of the richest 10 percent dropped from R137 000 to R126 000, and this money all went to the poorest households poverty could be eliminated. However, the real challenge lies in bringing about redistribution without retarding the growth poten-

tial of the economy and causing an exodus of white wealth and expertise.

Proponents of free-market policies argue poverty will best be alleviated by maximising economic growth, the benefits of which will "trickle down" to the poor.

It has been calculated, however, that if the incomes of the poor grew at the same rate as the overall economic growth rate, South Africa would have to have a growth rate of five percent for 24 years for the average income of households living in poverty now to be pushed above the poverty line.

This level of growth is virtually impossible and if a more realistic growth rate of three percent is used then the process would take 40 years.

This is clearly not an attractive prospect for any government in a hurry to uproot poverty. The trickle-

down option is just not politically feasible in the present context of high expectations, and the punitive redistributive option is not feasible if the growth potential of the economy is not to be undermined.

A new government will have to embark on an active anti-poverty programme funded within the confines of fiscal discipline.

This will entail, on one hand, giving poor people the capacity to earn an income through education, training and small business support, and on the other hand creating opportunities for people to earn incomes through employment-creation and rural development in a vibrant and expanding economy.

■ This article is based on original research conducted by HSRC researcher Andrew Whiteford and Natal University economist Mike McGrath.

Poverty reduction the focus

By Mzimkulu Malunga

THE World Bank has conducted another study on South Africa, this time focused on poverty reduction

This United States based financial institution has been conducting studies on this country almost every third month since October 1992, not to mention numerous papers on a variety of issues

Using quiet diplomacy, the bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, have been influencing a number of economic issues in South Africa

Unconfirmed reports suggest the two institutions are eager to ensure that they are part of South Africa's expected "economic miracle" so that they can at least be credited with

Sowetan
having played a role in producing an economic "tiger" in Africa.

After producing a number of economic "tigers" in Asia, the fund and the bank have yet to produce one in Africa

The "test case" that has been going on for over a decade in Ghana appears to be a long way from producing the desired results

However, South Africa, with its relatively advanced economy, presents an ideal chance for the bank and the fund to wash their "blood-stained" image in Africa.

The bank's latest study advocates the broadening of the wealth ownership through support of small business

The suggestion includes ensuring that private sector investment be-

118194
comes the fuel for economic growth

Small businesses, the bank says, are more labour intensive by nature and therefore create more jobs than the high tech projects which are normally associated with big companies

The Government should play a facilitating role rather than seek to deliver the services itself, the bank says

(241)
Disparities in wealth ownership are more complicated by the wealth gaps between the nine provinces

For instance, the rich provinces like PWV have a revenue base which is almost 20 times that of poorer regions like the Northern Transvaal

The central government could play a bigger role in this sphere, the bank says

SA's largest poverty profile released today

~~ART~~ (241) ART 25/8/94
ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

THE largest, most comprehensive profile of poverty in South Africa is to be released today, offering hard statistical information about how South Africans really live

The findings are expected to underpin much of the Reconstruction and Development Programme

Data for the multimillion rand project, funded by the Dutch, Danish and Norwegian governments through the World Bank, was gathered throughout South Africa, covering all races and income groups

Results include a 13-volume report on regional poverty profiles and "cross-cutting studies" on energy, nutrition, urbanisation and housing and water supply

The central piece of work is entitled *South Africans Rich and Poor* and flows from a survey of 9 000 households in the nine months leading up to the April elections.

Only two areas on the East Rand were not covered, due to violence. All the former homelands were surveyed.

The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) at the University of Cape Town, which conducted the Carnegie inquiry into poverty a decade ago, managed and organised work in South Africa.

Saldru director Francis Wilson said the statistical findings of the project would enable the RDP to "set out on a journey with a map of the terrain".

"For the first time we have data which is statistically significant for the entire country."

"We have some real information both in terms of people's wishes and in terms of what they have and have not got."

The study confirmed what was known — that poverty was widespread, particularly in the rural areas. Clean drinking water and access to energy were pressing needs.

The project was conceived in April 1992 when Thabo Mbeki — now deputy president — met World Bank officials and expressed a need to find effective strategies against poverty.

Social scientists from all three universities in the Western Cape were involved in the steering committee.

World Bank consultants helped in the drafting of a questionnaire which went through 12 drafts before a final version was agreed on by people inside and outside the country.

The final draft was piloted three times in the country and then professional research companies were contracted to cover areas in which they had expertise.

Professor Wilson said it was the first time that an integrated household survey had been done, enabling researchers to correlate information such as the educational status of the mother with the health of her children and family income.

"We hope this will be the first of a series to monitor what is happening in the country."

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, spearheading the RDP, will address 200 guests, including World Bank representatives, at the start of a three-day conference at UCT tonight.

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The great divide — SA-style

ANDREA WEISS,
Staff Reporter

DECADE ago, the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) at the University of Cape Town jolled the nation's conscience with information gathered for the second Carnegie Inquiry into poverty.

Yesterday, Saldru released *South Africans Rich and Poor: Baseline Household Statistics*, revealing more than ever before about the socio-economic gulfs dividing South Africans.

In 1984, the second Carnegie inquiry became the subject of heated debate, pinpointing as it did the urgent needs of South Africans. It highlighted basic needs such as food, water, shelter and the political questions of in-

flux control, land reform and citizenship.

In the past 10 years, those basic needs have not changed much. But now, because a political settlement has been reached and problems of citizenship and influx control are history, there is an urgency about addressing those basic needs.

It is worth recalling that the original Carnegie Commission (also known as the Poor White Commission) in the early 1930s was instrumental in helping the government of the time to come to grips with poverty then.

Those involved in the latest work, both locally and abroad, are hoping the newest project will do the same for this government.

The multi-million rand project was funded by the Dutch, Danish and Norwegian governments through the World Bank, following a meeting be-

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South Africans Rich and Poor is a statistical summary of the results of a survey of 9 000 households in the nine months leading up to the April elections.

As companion pieces, there are also 13 other volumes focusing on each of the nine regions and on energy, nutri-

tion, urbanisation, housing and water supply.

The body of information is vast, ranging from how long it takes people to gather firewood or to get to work to how much debt people have, how much money is spent on education, what kind of dwellings people live in, who has flush toilets, who employs whom, what sort of agriculture is practised by whom and who owns the land.

One section alone deals with remittances or money sent to support families, particularly in the rural areas. Data from this section is expected to inform policy mak-

ers about how the poor are coping, given the prolonged economic crisis in the country.

Professor Francis Wilson, director of Saldru and chairman of the steering committee drawn from all three universities in the Western Cape, describes it as the country's first body of "hard statistical information" on the state of play in the country as a whole.

The statistical report, for instance, is able to pinpoint that in the Northern Transvaal, piped water is what people want ahead of jobs, electricity and roads.

Housing in that province, which is shown to be the poorest in the country, is only seventh on the list of priorities. Food aid and schools are seen to be more important.

By contrast, perceived priorities in the Western Cape, are jobs, housing and then an end to violence.

All provinces, bar the Northern Transvaal, put jobs as the number one need. It shows that those provinces which have to incorporate old homelands, which were massively underdeveloped on the ground, will have the greatest amount of catching up to do.

The study also breaks down information by race, revealing the disparities which exist in the wake of apartheid. Whites own land, can raise bank loans and are more worried about crime.

Blacks are dispossessed, have debt relating to hire

purchase and grocery purchases and are predominantly involved in unskilled labour and the informal sector. Perceptions are also interesting.

Whites said they wanted an end to violence more than anything else. All the other racial groups said "jobs".

Whites felt they would become poorer under the new dispensation. Everyone else believes their lot will improve under the new government.

The report fires a salutary warning to any complacency on the part of government.

The most dissatisfied group of people in the country are Africans, both urban and rural. 40 percent of whom said they were "very dissatisfied" with their quality of life.

Professor Wilson believes the report is a vital tool for reconstruction and development in South Africa.

COMMUNITY VALUES

The great divide — SA-st ^{style}

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New values for W Cape police

CT 29/9/94 (241)

From CHRIS BATEMAN

A NEW "mission statement" for a more businesslike Western Cape police force, committed to service excellence, impartiality, respect for human dignity, honesty and valuing its members, was unveiled by its top management yesterday

Local Police Services Minister Mr Patrick McKenzie, speaking near the end of a week-long strategic management workshop in Plumstead yesterday, said the Western Cape was "way ahead" in community policing plans

Asked about acceptance of his police force, Mr McKenzie said communities were bringing more suspects into police stations and

more crime was being reported "In Guguletu I've actually been invited to address the community, who are unhappy with the service they are getting — the result of ongoing problems with two rival police unions," he said

The workshop, which ends today, is being attended by Divisional Commissioner General Nic Acker, his top staff officers, Scotland Yard community policing expert Chief Superintendent Peter Stevens, corporate image marketing specialists, Dr Ria Hugo-Burrows of Stellenbosch University's Business Management Department, and local management consultant Mr John Penberthy, who is the co-ordinator

They have formed a "provincial change team" to decide how to improve police image, allocation

of police stations, crime prevention, investigation and forward planning to the year 2002

Mr McKenzie said a draft discussion document outlining the key values had been faxed to all police stations and police/community forums to keep them abreast and to "get input"

Of impartiality he said "We want someone who lives in Khayelitsha to be treated the same by our men and women as someone who lives in Constantia"

He said the new approach would be directed as much internally as externally "As we realise that our staff are one of the most important cogs in this whole exercise, we have to address the uncertainties and fears of our members to carry out the culture change"

60% have no electricity, a quarter earn less than R300

Blacks worse off — SURVEY

(241) Star 4/10/95

BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A new health study handed to the Department of Health yesterday has underscored how dramatically worse off the majority of the black population in South Africa is in almost every aspect of their life.

A national household survey of health inequalities in South Africa was commissioned in June 1994 by the private United States philanthropic trust, the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation.

It was carried out by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE).

Among the findings of the survey were that only about 20% of black households have a water tap inside the home, 16% have no toilet of any kind, and nearly 60% have no electricity.

NEARLY half of all South Africans are dissatisfied with public health services, study finds

Almost two thirds of all black households (and more than three quarters of black households in rural areas) have monthly incomes below the minimum living level of R900. Nearly a quarter have a monthly income below R300.

Nearly two thirds of white households have a monthly income in excess of R2 000. Most South Africans report for their first treatment at a public hospital, or private doctor, probably because clinics were scarce, inaccessible, had restricted hours and were thought to offer a poorer quality of care.

While nearly half of all South Africans are dissatisfied with public health services, dissatisfaction among black people is much higher (46%) than in the case with other population groups.

About one third of black South Africans in rural areas travel more than one hour to their closest health facility, and wait for more than two hours, and are then consulted for five minutes or less.

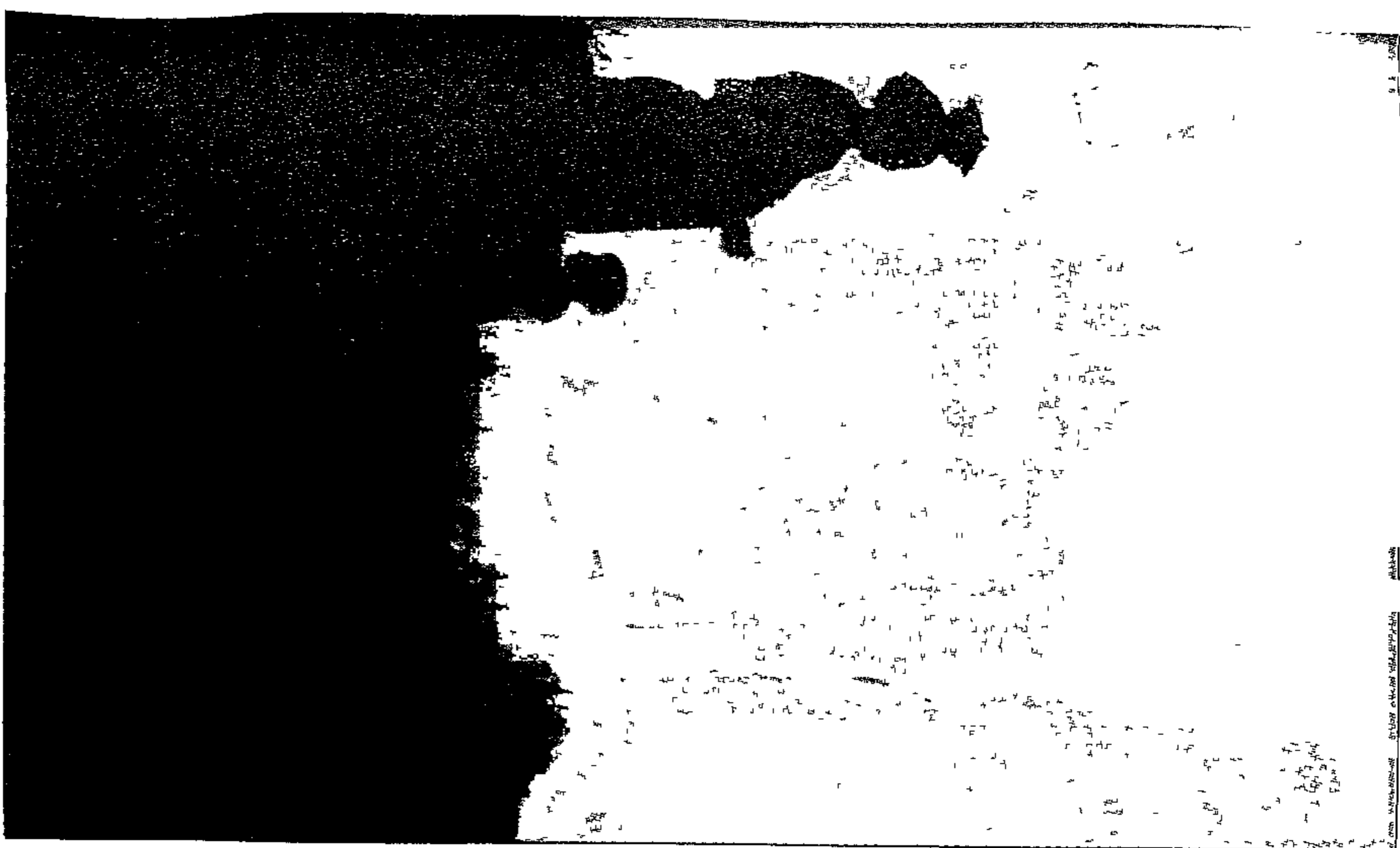
Immunisation rates of all children under five was low, but the health of black children under five was most at risk, the study showed. Almost a quarter of blacks said they were too poor to properly feed their pre-school children, but only 8% reported receiving food supplies from a health facility.

Close on 60% of black children do not have a birth certificate.

Most respondents (92%) had heard of the Government's introduction of free care for children under six and pregnant women.

Blacks and coloured people reported this had made access easier and improved quality of care, although those in urban areas said services had worsened because of increased congestion.

The Government's primary school feeding programme is not reaching a substantial portion of the children from the 75% of rural black households with incomes under R900. About 85% of South Africans believed community health workers would help improve the health service, the study found.



Long walk ... a new health study has found that about one-third of Africans in rural areas travel more than one hour to their closest health facility.

SA blacks (241) (5) worst off

says survey Sowetan 5/10/95

By Sowetan Correspondent

A STUDY handed to the Department of Health yesterday underscored how much worse off the majority of the black population in South Africa is in almost every aspect of their lives

The national household survey of health inequalities in South Africa was commissioned in June 1994 by a United States philanthropic trust, the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation. It was carried out by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE)

Among the findings of the survey were that only 20 percent of black households have a water tap inside of the home, 16 percent have no toilet and nearly 60 percent have no access to electricity

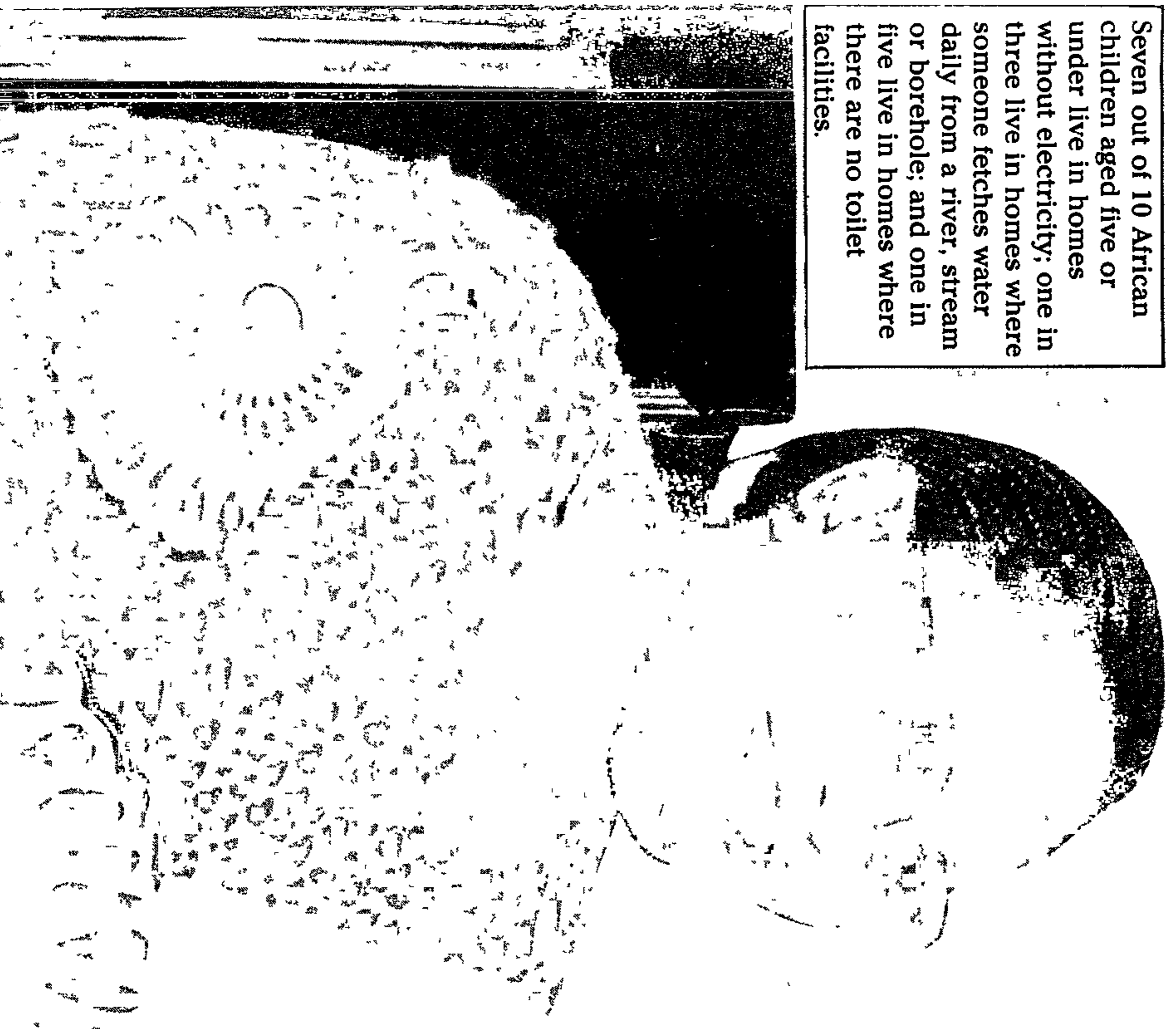
Nearly two thirds of all black households (and more than three quarters of black households in rural areas) have monthly incomes below the minimum living level of R900. By contrast two thirds of white households have monthly incomes in excess of R2 000

A third of rural inhabitants travel more than one hour to the closest health facility, wait for two hours, and are consulted for five minutes or less

Legacy of shockingly statistics

(241) 298/10/95

Seven out of 10 African children aged five or under live in homes without electricity; one in three live in homes where someone fetches water daily from a river, stream or borehole; and one in five live in homes where there are no toilet facilities.



By JUSTICE MOHALE

MORE than 2,7 million African children aged five years or less in the country's rural areas live below the breadline.

This startling fact was revealed by the first survey conducted of living conditions in South Africa.

The survey was carried out on behalf of the philanthropic US-based Kaiser Family Foundation by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE).

The survey found that 70 percent of 5 147 000 African children aged five or under lived in rural areas, and that 76 percent of these lived in households that lived at below the minimum fam-

A first-ever survey paints a tragic picture of the miserable living conditions which the majority of African kids have inherited

ily subsistence level of R900 a month.

Only three in 10 African children below the age of five live in metropolitan areas, where they are normally better fed and have greater access to health services, while the majority of whites, Indians and coloureds live in urban areas.

One in four of the young children living below the breadline live in the rural areas of KwaZulu/Natal.

About one in five live in the Eastern Cape and

Northern Transvaal, and about one in 10 live in the Gauteng rural areas.

The Northern Cape has only one in a hundred living children in such poor rural conditions and the Western Cape has one in fifty.

Whereas most of the white, coloured and Indian children live in formal brick houses throughout the country, a little more than one in two African kids do.

The reason for this is the high proportion of African children living in rural areas, according to the survey.

Almost one in three African children live in traditional dwellings and 11 in 100 live in shacks.

Almost two-thirds of African children and more than half (57 percent) of coloured children live in overcrowded households, while fewer than one in five Indians (17 percent) and one in 100 whites do likewise.

Nearly two-thirds of traditional dwellings are overcrowded.

Seven out of 10 African infants and young children live in households without electricity, one in three live in households where someone fetches water daily

from a river, stream or borehole, and one in five live in households where there are no toilet facilities.

Only one in five African households have indoor running water while all white households have it.

The survey revealed that one in four of all African households have a monthly income of less than R 300, and that close to two thirds of African households have monthly incomes below the R900 minimum living wage.

This can be compared with white households where nearly two thirds of them have a monthly income of more than R2 000.

Public health care

Most Africans rely on the public health system while whites and Indians rely almost entirely on private care.

More than four in ten South Africans — in the case of Africans nearly half — believe the existing health service serves them badly. Olive Shisana, director-general of the Health

given breakfast in the morning to help them build up their health and concentrate on their school work.

According to the survey, most African children in the Western Cape and KwaZulu/Natal received free food at school, but this was not the case in the Northern Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

Free food

The survey also revealed that children living in traditional huts were more likely to receive free food at school than those in other dwellings.

Michael Sinclair, vice-president of the agency, said that most Africans had difficulty reaching health services and were treated very shabbily when they did.

He said more than one in three Africans reported that they had to travel more than an hour to the nearest health care facility and had to wait long periods for a consultation that often lasted less than five minutes.

"Most people of all races are dissatisfied with the present health services. "Ambulance services and services for the aged and poor are bad for all groups, and are almost non-existent for blacks," said Sinclair.

OLIVE SHISANA...
Wants free health care for all. **Picture: THULANI SITHOLE**

MILLIONS WITHOUT WATER, SANITATION

Rural poverty shock

THE URGENT NEED for rural development was spelt out in a paper the government released with its development strategy yesterday. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

GRIM realities of life in South Africa's rural areas, particularly the former homeland areas, were spelled out when the government outlined its strategies for rural development yesterday.

The Minister in charge of the RDP, Mr Jay Naidoo, said the rural areas housed the bulk of the country's poor. An estimated 67% of "absolutely poor" people were living in these areas.

Mr Naidoo also released a document which said 2,6 million households, 65% of all those in the rural areas, did not have water and

3,9m households, 95%, did not have sanitation.

There were also shortages of 16 170 schools, 29 556 classrooms, 565 clinics and 100 000km of roads while 3,49 million households did not have electricity.

Water supply

An average of 189,5 minutes a day was spent fetching water — 21,1% of households were more than 500 metres away from their water supply.

An average of 79,9 minutes a

CT 13/10/95
day was spent fetching wood

Women carried out 90% of these activities.

"In South Africa, the poorest 10% of the people, of whom 77% are Africans living in rural areas, control just one percent of consumer spending."

Mr Naidoo said an integrated rural development strategy in targeted areas could boost jobs and incomes through a well-defined land reform programme, market development, small-scale agricultural development and infrastructure.

The plan released yesterday represented a positive strategy to provide investment in the poorest areas of the country.

"Ordinary South Africans will

(241) (241)
be the architects of development planning and their efforts at local level will be the driving force of local economic development."

Diversity

In terms of the strategy the government wanted to see a more diverse agriculture by the year 2010, with farms of many sizes providing incomes or part incomes to more people, more diverse commercial and service sectors in country towns and the countryside, and greater integration between towns and the rural areas, much greater access by rural government support and information, and close availability to water, sanitation and fuel sources.

Street people open window on their world

'We want a future — like everyone'
(241) ~~(241)~~ ARG 18/10/95

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

"THERE are two types of policemen — the good ones and the bad ones. The good ones always look after you."

This was the observation of Lucas, one of a group of street people who addressed a conference on homelessness at the Cape Town Civic Centre yesterday.

The aim of the conference, which has been organised by the Cape Town City Council and other roleplayers, is to formulate a policy for the city in its dealings with street people.

Talking through an interpreter, Lucas kicked off the session with the greeting "Good morning, people. It's Lucas from Guguletu."

Of the "bad" policemen, he said they seemed to be pursuing a double agenda, on the one hand demanding co-operation, but on the other "ill-treating us like dogs."

"My hideout is Claremont. I'm a stroller in Claremont. I go around asking for money from people, but when the police see me they chase me away. They say I don't belong to Claremont."

"I go around asking for money so that I will be able to reconstruct my life. The money I get from people I use for buying food. I also have a little bank book. I'm doing that because I'm looking at the future."

Lucas said that he wished to acquire skills so that it would "no longer be necessary for me to go begging in the streets."

"We want to build a future for ourselves like everybody else."

He said he left Guguletu because he feared the gangsters and it was safer in town.

Asked by former councillor Eulalie Stott why he had not gone to a shelter in Claremont, he responded that he was too old. Murmurs from the audience indicated that he had hit on a key issue.

Next up was Charles Fredericks, who chose to speak in Afrikaans, and also took up the theme of the police.

He said street children were "chased, hit and beaten", and sometimes dropped far away from where they normally "worked".

He appealed for people to recognise his humanity.

"I'm a person. People must see that I am also a person. I want a better life. I also want to become something."

Michael, a Cape Town stroller, said he left home because his mother wasn't there and his father had died.

"There are many things we see in Cape Town which aren't right."

He said they slept at the station and were woken up early by the security guards who "hit us with the batons."

"They say we break into cars. But we don't. We're not all like that."

"They take us to the mountain and say we must walk back. That's not right."

In his keynote address, Dean Colin Jones observed that the street children had already made the most important speech of the day.

"It is their voices we need to hear. Not mine."

He said that of all the "bright, intelligent" observations that would emerge from the conference, they would not have half the power or half the demand for human recognition as the voices of those street people who had spoken.

Poverty is not just an accident

(241) Star 7/11/95

Capitalists throughout the ages have perpetuated conditions of inequality, writes Pallo Jordan



On October 16 a multitude of African-American men, estimated variously as 400 000 and 800 000, congregated in Washington DC

The event catapulted a man who had until that moment been regarded as little more than an anti-Semitic street corner demagogue to the status of a national political figure. In all likelihood his voice will prove decisive in determining how African-Americans vote in the 1996 presidential elections

Apart from the organisational skills Louis Farrakhan demonstrated, one other fact stood out: the alienation of the vast majority of Americans of African descent from their white compatriots

I shall not recount the depressing social indices that have filled editorial columns for the past two weeks. Suffice it to say that 30 years after President Lyndon Johnson signed the most far-reaching Civil Rights Act into law, the social and economic distance between white and black in the US is wider than ever.

I consequently found it bewildering and disheartening that a black South African acade-

muc, whom one assumes should have given some thought to the meaning of all this, could pen an opinion along the lines written by Professor Thamba Sono (The Star, October 31)

According to him, it is not institutionalised inequality but the pursuit of equality that poses the greatest threat to freedom. Only a black South African who has lived incommunicado on Mars for the past 90-odd years could utter such a statement.

It is clear that the meaning of the term "equality", as it has been employed in political discourse at least since the French Revolution, eludes Sono

He takes issue with "equality" by offering us the banality that human beings are unequal - endowed with talents, capacities and aptitudes. No proponent of equality has ever claimed otherwise!

"Equality", as it has been employed as a category of political-economic discourse, has always sought to address the issue of the inequalities occasioned by human agency. That much should be clear to anyone not blinded by dogma.

Sono appears to inhabit a planet with no history. To him the inequalities among people are the inexorable outcome of a process akin to natural selection, which causes the cream to rise to the top.

The chronicle of plunder conquest, dispossession, mayhem and enslavement which has been the lot of humanity in every part of the world is of no consequence. That millions of human beings have for centuries been deprived of the most basic requirements for life - clean water, decent shelter, adequate food - is of equal irrelevance.

That most of these brutalities and the consequent inequalities they cause are neither acts of God nor the burden of nature might escape Marie Antoinette, but surely not a black South African!

"Equality" in the mouths of men and women of 1789 in large measure referred to equality before the law, and was directed precisely at the institutionalised inequality of the ancien regime. In most South African political discourse this century, it has targeted the equally pernicious institutionalised racial inequality. In the France of Talleyrand and Robespierre, it was thought that legal equality

would itself create circumstances of equal opportunity, thus enabling each person to rise to whatever heights his or her talents allowed.

Experience, however, which Sono seems to consider an irritating distraction, taught that this was not the case.

Victor Hugo and Honore Balzac, two of France's greatest writers, portrayed this paradox, from the left and the right respectively, in their works.

Anatole France, with a more stinging sense of irony, pillories legal equality with the words "The law, in its majesty, decrees that neither the poor nor the rich may sleep under the bridges of the Seine."

The truth which these literary men came to see is that wealth and its acquisition in most instances has not been the well-deserved fruit of enterprise and ingenuity, let alone greater intellectual endowment.

History, more especially that of South Africa, teaches us that wealth has often been the reward for ruthlessness, crooked dealings, theft, piracy, outright plunder and brigandage. Why else did American historians dub the

entire generation of the founding fathers of today's capitalist dynasties the "Robber Barons"?

Is it because of some conspiracy that almost without exception historians refer to Cecil John Rhodes, the founder of what has become JCI, as a less than honest freebooter who cheated Lobengula and his people, plotted a coup against Kruger and robbed his benefactor, Barney Barnato?

Virtually every "great" capitalist family has such skeletons in its cupboard. One might say the older the money, the more shocking the scandal.

Professor Sono, with the fervour of an African Thaddeus, passes over these known facts in silence. Those of us who insist on equality - not merely in law - are not, as Sono absurdly suggests, attempting to legislate equality of skills, talents and aptitudes, but are alive to the disparities created by social, political and economic arrangements that are intrinsically inequitable.

After all, even conservative Benjamin Disraeli recognised that poverty was neither an act of God nor of nature, but the effect of human action.

Call for southern African cops' unity

(241) Sowetan 7/11/95

ALL AFRICAN states will have to cooperate with southern African states if the crime wave sweeping the continent is to be checked.

This was the stern message national Police Commissioner George Fivaz delivered yesterday to the police chiefs of 11 southern African states attending a three-day workshop of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation in Midrand.

Opening the workshop, Fivaz said the recent inter-state defence and security committee conference in Cape Town had endorsed the perception that crime had reached alarming propor-

Joint operational and cross-border plans to crack down on major crime

tions in the entire region.

"The fact is that the crime rate is threatening to rip our civilised world apart and the time has come to put into practice resolutions adopted at our previous meeting at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe," he said.

Drug trafficking, illegal firearms, illegal immigrants and cross-border crime will have top priority during the closed discussions, and it is intended the workshop will formulate joint operational plans and cross-border

operations to crack down on crime.

Fivaz said factors which hampered effective inter-state cooperation included the size of border areas to be policed, differences in legislation and differing legal requirements.

"With the wealth of experience we have in this room I am confident we can make a difference because if we fail, nobody else on earth will be able to tackle these problems," he said. — *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Poverty will cloud summit

Sowelan 10/11/95

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AUCKLAND - When the 52 leaders of the Commonwealth gather for a summit in New Zealand today, one nagging item will dominate the political agenda of many - poverty.

With most of its members concentrated in Africa and the Asian sub-continent, the Commonwealth contains about 1.8 billion people, nearly a third of the world's population, according to the Commonwealth Secretariat. Its members account for roughly half of the world's poor children and half of the global population considered to be living in poverty.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku said in his annual report just ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) the alleviation of poverty was a major part of the organisation's drive to promote democracy in former one-party or military-ruled states.

"For as long as their economies remain fragile and exposed, their fledgling democracies will be under threat," Anyaoku said.

"The promotion of sustainable economic

development and the alleviation of poverty will remain the indispensable partner of democratic progress and good governance."

The debt burden continues to be a millstone for many Commonwealth developing countries, he said.

Debt relief measures agreed to by the World Bank and the Paris Club, an association of the rich nations owed money by Third World countries, did not go to the heart of the problem for poor Commonwealth members, Anyaoku maintained.

Multilateral debt

"For the poorest of these countries, the heart of the problem is the multilateral debt which is the highest proportion of their external debt," he said.

Anyaoku noted that the June summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Halifax, Canada, agreed that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should assist developing countries through flexible implementation of existing instruments and the introduction of new

mechanisms where necessary

The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March had also shown a growing readiness to rethink the debt issue.

At the Auckland meeting, he said leaders would want to carry forward the momentum.

"All too often, despite restructuring and its attendant social hardships, the necessary external resources do not materialise," Anyaoku said.

"The greatest need is for foreign direct investment, yet this is precisely what many developing countries, especially in Africa, fail to attract."

The organisation's operational arm, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), has an annual aid budget of about R168 million, making it one of the smaller multilateral aid groups.

Anyaoku said the CFTC, now in its 25th year of operation, had been a particular success in developing countries, mobilising people in self-help schemes and developing a volunteer scheme to draw on the resources of retired people - *Sapa-AFP*



Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku ... alleviating poverty is a major part of the organisation's drive to promote democracy.

Over half of SA children in poverty

Political Correspondent

MORE than half of all South African children live in poverty.

About a third of all South African households are living below the poverty line.

African households, those in rural areas and households headed by women in rural areas are hardest hit.

These are among the harsh facts which form the context of the government's draft white paper on social welfare, approved by the cabinet this week.

Welfare spending would rise too slowly in the short term to meet expectations.

About half of the services in the voluntary welfare sector which is state-subsidised are accessible to whites only.

The social service delivery system was fragmented among 14 different departments, and organised on specialist lines which caused inefficiency.

There was an over-emphasis on institutional care. Anti-poverty programmes had been ineffectively target-

ed and had been inappropriate in addressing needs.

The white paper says that social and economic development are interdependent.

Economic growth had to be accompanied by an investment in human and social capital, and the provision of social support for poor and vulnerable groups.

A key new direction would be the promotion of productive employment. Strategies would be designed to help people increase their ability to earn a living.

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This would be done through employment creation, skills development, access to credit, and — where possible — by assisting a change from informal to formal employment.

Urging an increase in government contributions to social welfare, the white paper says the government and its partners should develop criteria for joint financing of development social welfare programmes.

Financing of welfare programmes would have to be phased in over five years.

Mr Chauke, who works as a delivery driver for a

Poverty 'is increasing' in spite of aid projects

Louise Cook

BY 2010 there would be 710-million undernourished people in the world, International Federation of Agricultural Producers president Graham Blight warned at the weekend.

Speaking at the federation's first conference in SA, he said poverty was on the increase despite efforts by international organisations such as the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation to fight the problem.

International Fund for Agricultural Development presidential advisor Donald Brown said apathy in donor countries about development assistance was likely to cut resources further. "A number of emergencies around the world have led to substantial diversion of donor assistance to emergency relief — even as overall donor resources are being reduced

"Unless the public and decision makers feel they are being used effectively, it could lead to greater reductions, even a withering away of donor finance. We must be able to demonstrate we can overcome hunger and poverty," he said.

Many governments had moved out of agricultural aid or cut back services to rural communities

"These services were often inadequate to meet the needs of the poor. Now they often do not exist at all."

Brown said the answer was for the rural poor to form common interest groups to secure finance and to actively participate in planning and implementation of projects intended to help them.

The federation warned that next year's UN World Food Summit should not "recycle yesterday's ideas with today's jargon to establish an empty programme for tomorrow's agriculture". It warned that past mistakes would be repeated if farmers and farmers' organisations were left out of planning.

"By focusing the world's attention on food and agriculture, the main objective of the summit may end up being a spectacular fund-raising event. Farmers and their organisations are being completely neglected to the extent that the world has forgotten it is the farmers who grow the food."

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said SA was vital to fighting poverty in Africa. SA had a "significant" advantage over other nations in food production know-how, he said. "For this reason, SA is better suited to assist other African states rather than countries or organisations outside of Africa."

POVERTY - GENERAL

1996 - 1997

BRIEFS

70% in SA earn less than R301

ET 23/11/96

PRETORIA: More than 70% of South Africans are poor, earning less than R301 a month, according to a study released yesterday

Of the 31 million poor people, 95% were black, according to the report released by Minister without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo

The Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa study was prepared by the World Bank and based on a 1993 survey by researchers at the University of the Western Cape

In terms of the survey, poor was defined as those earning below R301 per month, while ultra-poor was the term used for those earning less than R178 a month.

Other findings in the report were that the unemployment rate among blacks stood at 38%, compared to the four percent among whites. Unemployment among the coloured population was at 21% and among Indians 11%

~~ET 23/11/96~~ (24) ~~ET 23/11/96~~ (12)

Most South Africans in poverty — report

□ Apartheid leaves legacy of massive inequality between whites and blacks

Political Staff

PRETORIA — The inflation rate might be declining and the economy booming, but more than half South Africa's 38 million citizens live in poverty, earning less than R300 a month, according to shocking statistics revealed by Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo.

The report said South Africa's average total monthly wage was between R281 a month among the "poorest of the poor" in black households to over R5 000 a month among white homes

The unemployment rate among blacks is 38 percent whereas it is four percent

among whites, 21 percent among coloureds and 11 percent among Indians

Launching the *Indicators of Poverty Report* — a study commissioned by the RDP Office and done jointly with the World Bank and the Southern African Labour Development Research Unit — Mr Naidoo said South Africa had worse records of social indicators of poverty in areas such as health, education, safe water and fertility than other comparable middle-income countries

The country also had "among the highest income inequality in the world"

Mr Naidoo said "The apartheid era has left a legacy of poverty and inequality in

South Africa

"In spite of the wealth of the country a large share of the population has not been able to benefit from the country's resources"

He said the report would help guide the government's social and economic policies.

The report showed that in terms of spending, the lowest 40 percent of households, equivalent to 53 percent of the population, accounted for less than 10 percent of total consumption while the top 10 percent of households, representing 5,8 percent of the population, accounted for over 40 percent of consumption

About 61 percent of South African children live below the headline.

The report defines poor people as those whose cut-off expenditure level is below R301 per month per "adult equivalent", and the poorest or ultra-poor as those whose cut-off monthly expenditure is below R178 per "adult equivalent".

Mr Naidoo said "This is a major problem for South Africa as gross inequality like this is unfair and (could be) a source of instability"

"Also the poor literally cannot afford to pay for services, although it is accepted that we cannot provide services unless there's some user-charge. So affordability has to guide the provision of services and infrastructure. The consumption patterns also impede the growth of the domestic market for SA and inhibits economic growth"

He said the 37 percent of South African households which are headed by women were among the poorest, indicating the need to implement special measures to boost economic opportunities for women

The report found that to address the poverty, the government would have to apply different emphases in the metropolitan, rural and urban areas.

While jobs were a priority for all, housing and peace were more pressing for the metropolitan poor

For the rural poor, piped water was as important as job creation

(241) ARG 24/1/96

BUSINESS

13 million in South Africa live in abject poverty

(241)
Sowetan
25/11/96

By Joshua Raboroko

ABOUT 13 MILLION of South Africa's population lack basic necessities such as water, electricity, housing and work, a World Bank survey says

The survey, based on South African living standards and prepared for use by the office of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, says more than a third of South Africa's 40 million people are poor, live in shacks with no access to electricity, running water and are out of work

The report describes key indicators of poverty in South Africa to help the RDP to work out mechanisms of

how best it can deal with poverty in the country

The main findings of the survey are

- Among comparable middle-income developing countries, South Africa has one of the worst records in terms of social indicators – health, education, safe water, fertility – and among the worst record for income inequality

Indeed, the report says, the country's social indicators are not very different from those of some low-income sub-Saharan African countries

- Poverty in South Africa has a strong dimension. Nearly 95 percent of the country's poor are African, 5

percent coloured, less than 1 percent are Indian or white. Africans have nearly twice the unemployment rate (38 percent) of coloureds (21 percent), more than three times the unemployment rate of Indians (11 percent), and nearly 10 times the unemployment rate of whites (4 percent)

- Poverty in South Africa has a strong rural dimension. Some 75 percent of the country's poor live in rural areas, concentrated in the former homelands and TBVC states

The burden of poverty is largest in rural areas. Compared to the poor in urban and metropolitan areas, rural people suffer from higher unemployment rates and lower educational attainment

WE HAVE become so deadened by apartheid that we are used to such phrases as "South Africa is two societies, two countries" That, after all, was the purpose of apartheid, but, seen through outside eyes, it is striking that the standard of living of the white 12 percent of South Africa is on a par with Canada (ranking 24th in the world), while that of the black 75 percent ranks 123rd, just above Congo South Africa is one of the most unequal societies in the world

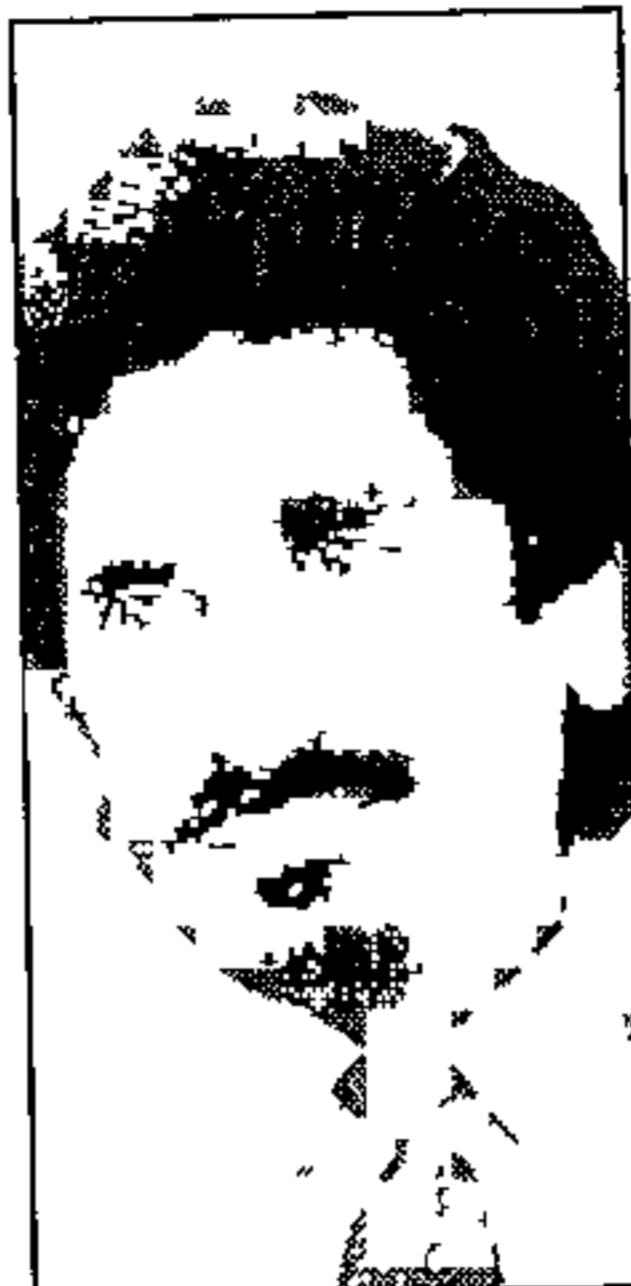
Since the black population lives in such poor conditions, the overall performance of the country is abysmal in terms of average living standards, welfare and human development Key social indicators for South Africa (such as life expectancy, infant mortality and adult illiteracy) are not very different from those in many low-income sub-Saharan countries, such as Kenya and Nigeria, that have about a 10th of our per capita income. However, other middle-income countries have much better social indicators

What does this mean in concrete terms for South Africa's poor? For the first time we have reliable, nationally representative data that helps us understand better the size of the problem how much poverty is there in South Africa, who are the poor, where do they live, what are the most important problems they face, and what help do they need most from the government?

The data is based on a survey of 9 000 households all over the country, co-ordinated by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town At the request of the office of the reconstruction and development programme, the World Bank carried out an analysis of the survey, which is now available in a document we recently published, *Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa*

It is no surprise that, according to the analysis, 95 percent of the very poor (the lowest 20 percent of households in which income earners receive less than R178 a month) are African About 75 percent of the very poor live in rural areas, concentrated in the former homelands and independent states of Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and Venda In fact, about 92 percent of Transkei's population is poor

Nearly two thirds of South Africa's poor live in three provinces The Eastern Cape (24 percent), Kwazulu Natal (21 percent) and the Northern Province (18 percent) The unemployment rate in rural areas is nearly double (about 40 per-



Reliable new data has revealed the appalling plight of the nation's poor, writes JAY NAIDOO, the minister responsible for the RDP

Bridging chasm to create one SA

cent) the rate in metropolitan areas (21 percent)

Unemployment and poverty are intertwined the poor have unemployment rates of about 50 percent, compared with about four percent for the richest 20 percent of households The result is that less than 30 percent of poor working-age adults are actually working and less than 23 percent of the very poor (who account for 29 percent of the population)

Incidentally, one of the symptoms of this splintered society is a high crime rate — and the only long-term, sustainable solution is to heal the rifts, to bring the two societies closer together, by reducing the inequalities

Nearly half of poor households are primarily dependent on a state pension

(25 percent) or remittance from relatives (23 percent)

The burden of poverty is greater on women, and the children are the victims Households headed by women have a 50 percent higher poverty rate than those headed by men And although they account for just over a third of the population (36 percent), women represent nearly half (48 percent) of the poor

Women suffer from substantially higher unemployment than men (35 percent against 25 percent), and over 80 percent of the people responsible for fetching water and wood are women Over 45 percent of the poor are children and about a third of poor children are stunted by malnutrition

It is hard for the poor to be productive when they have so little to be productive with

The average size of farm land used in poor families is 0.4ha, compared with 64ha for the top 20 percent of households Over 80 percent of the land used by the poor is communally owned, and much of it is of poor quality Almost no poor farmers have access to irrigation water, while nearly half of the top 20 percent of households do.

Much of their time is taken up with unproductive tasks women in most poor rural African households spend more than four hours a day (28 hours a week) fetching water and firewood A third of the poor live in shacks or traditional dwellings and the vast majority have no access to basic services

Among the very poor, 85 percent have no access to electricity, about 80 percent no access to piped water on the premises and nearly 90 percent no access to modern sanitation

About half of the poor have no education or only incomplete primary education Only seven percent have completed secondary education or higher Furthermore, the quality of education in the schools accessible to the poor is much worse than for the more privileged groups

The poor also lack affordable basic health care, over a quarter seek no treatment because they cannot afford it, or there is no transport, or they cannot take the time off work needed to travel vast distances for treatment

When asked where the government could help them most, more than half the poor say that jobs are their top priority; followed by piped water and housing

Although the road is long and difficult, there is no alternative for South Africa but to begin seriously to heal the rifts of the past, to pull together as one society

	COMPARATIVE SOCIAL INDICATORS: SELECTED COUNTRIES								
	Middle income countries						Sub-Saharan Africa		
	Thailand	Poland	Chile	Brazil	Malaysia	Venezuela	Kenya	Nigeria	Tanzania
Per capita US\$ (1992)	1 840	1 910	2 720			2 41			
Infant mortality rate (1997)**	26	14	17	57	14	33	66	84	92
Total fertility rate (1992)	2.2	1.9	2.7	2.8	3.5	3.6	5.4	5.9	6.3

* The South African data is an average of all races. There are large differences between the races in the population.
 ** Deaths of infants under 1 year old per 1 000 live births (1997)
 *** No comparable data is available
 Sources: WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1994; AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS

ST 11/2/96

(241)

(241)
'Radical solutions required on poverty'
A.R.G. 12/2/96,

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

RADICAL solutions are needed to solve the poverty crisis, says the African National Congress national executive committee

The committee met for three days from Friday, expanding into a full "lekgotla" for the weekend to discuss strategy for the year, and reflected on President Mandela's opening speech to parliament

"The committee and lekgotla affirmed the central role of the ANC in helping to build a new patriotism and overcome racism and sexism, and to ensure overall co-ordination of growth and development," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The committee called for a more developmental emphasis to be placed on the ANC's work, including the Masakhane Campaign, underlining the need to mobilise people as active participants in the process of transformation

The NEC reiterated the ANC's responsibility to provide leadership in nurturing humane values, "especially when popular sentiments are whipped up on the basis of real fears and insecurities"

It hit out at attempts to disguise the preservation of privilege as a defence of language and cultural rights

Competition for scarce resources and high unemployment had resulted in unfortunate trends toward xenophobia and ethnicity, said the statement

The ANC had committed itself to combat these by mass mobilisation and education campaigns

The committee underscored the need for all sectors of society, government, business, labour and other sectors of civil society, to harness all national resources and make a commitment to co-ordinated strategy for the social upliftment of the poor

Alarming figures released by the United National Development Programme (UNDP) revealed more than half of the African population lived in poverty

"This in fact constitutes a national crisis and requires radical solutions to address it"

SA places low on social order

CAPE TOWN — SA's social indicators and income inequality record were among the worst in the world compared with similar middle-income developing countries such as Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand, a World Bank report says.

The study found that social indicators such as health, education, safe water and fertility were not very different from those of some low-income sub-Saharan African countries. Moreover, if SA's indicators were limited to only Africans, black SA social indicators were worse than a much poorer country like Kenya.

The report — made available yesterday to delegates at an international workshop on alleviating poverty in southern Africa — said also that between 36% and 52% of South Africans were poor, with at least 45% being children below 16 years. Nearly 95% of the poor were black, 5% coloured and less than 1% Indian or white, it said. — Sapa

BD 20/2/98

Technology and credit 'a must' for small farmers

Kathryn Strachan

MAKING technology and credit available to small-scale farmers was essential if southern Africa was to break its cycle of poverty and hunger, the International Food Policy Research Institute said last week.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director-general of the Washington-based institute, said that two decades ago China's crop yields were the same as yields in southern Africa. But through investing in technology and producing better hybrids, China's yield per hectare was now four times higher than that of southern Africa.

The institute was involved in producing varieties of maize that were more resistant to drought and insects. It is estimated that an investment of \$30m over 10 years in southern Africa would produce a crop which yielded 25% to 50% more during droughts. A new hybrid had been successful in Mexico, but had to be tested locally. Southern Africa was also in a worse position than many other underdeveloped regions as its people had no access to land.

BD 20/2/98

India was another developing country which had gained through investing in technology, and now had surplus food. However, starvation was still high as people did not have the money to buy food.

"If small-scale agriculture is improved through credit and better technology, this spills over into the larger economy," he says. While the larger farmer depends on imports such as tractors, the small scale farmer needs locally produced things such as a hoe or a bicycle, and the local spending pattern creates an economic engine which brings the rest of the economy along.

While small-scale farmers needed access to credit, this did not mean the credit had to be subsidised. Government subsidisation of farmers was far too expensive and it was far more important to remove trade barriers which tried to keep prices down by prohibiting exports.

For this reason, the institute was critical of SA's decision not to export maize and proposed instead that local farmers should be paid the price they could get on the export market.



Southern Africa's policy of prohibiting exports to keep prices low had backfired. In comparison, Asia allowed free trade which enabled farmers to get higher prices and in turn gave them an incentive to produce high yields.

The answer was not to keep farmers' prices down through trade controls but to keep their production costs low through technology and research, and in this way to bring down prices.

Over the past decade, the US had been steadily cutting agricultural aid to Africa's poorest countries. But the institute was trying to impress on US donors that giving foreign aid was in fact "a good investment and not a handout". Every \$1 given for agricultural research boosted the recipient country's economy and, from its new export market, the US got \$2,5 back. When the job creation generated in the US through the new export market was brought into the equation, the \$1 now yielded four times its original worth. This argument held true for SA as well, said Pinstrup-Andersen, because the rest of the region held such greater export opportunities.

UN: Poverty threatens regional economic advances

FROM SAPA AND AFP

Cape Town.—Recent economic and social advances in southern Africa were being threatened by increasing poverty, Fawzi Hannad al-Sultan, the president of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development, said yesterday.

"The number of poor has increased in recent years and will continue to rise unless decisive steps are taken even the more fortunate countries cannot insulate themselves from the effects of poverty in their neighbours," al-Sultan said.

He was speaking at the opening of a four-day international workshop on alleviating rural poverty. The workshop was organised by the fund, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the World Bank.

Past agricultural and rural development policies had failed to stem the rising number of rural poor, while some policies had made their conditions worse, he said.

Other policies had failed because they had been unsuccessful

Cape Town.—South Africa's social indicators and income inequality record were among the worst in the world compared with similar middle-income developing countries such as Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand, a World Bank report said.

The report was made available yesterday to delegates at an international workshop on alleviating poverty in southern Africa.

The study found that social indicators such as health, education, safe water and fertility did not differ much from some low-income sub-Saharan countries

in mobilising resources commensurate with the problem or because policies such as subsidies had been financially unsustainable.

A clear policy commitment to rural development, particularly small scale agriculture and a commitment of sufficient resources, was needed to overcome the problem, he said.

Katherine Marshall, the south-

If South Africa's indicators were limited to black, the country's social indicators were worse than a much poorer country such as Kenya.

The report said that between 36 and 52 percent of South Africans were poor, with at least 45 percent being below 16 years of age.

Almost 95 percent of the country's poor were black, 5 percent coloured and less than 1 percent Indian or white.

About 66 percent of the poor lived in rural areas concentrated in the former homelands and self-governing territories of the Eastern

ern African director of the World Bank, called for action rather than talk from the governments of southern Africa.

Governments needed to make rural poverty the focus of their national policies if poverty was to be alleviated.

She said evidence of their lack of commitment could be seen in the low budget allocations for socio-

Cape (24 percent), Kwazulu Natal (21 percent) and the Northern Province (18 percent).

Compared with the poor in urban and metropolitan areas, rural poor suffered higher unemployment rates and lower education, and had less access to services, such as water and electricity, and productive resources.

Households headed by women had a 50 percent higher poverty rate than male-headed households, while a higher proportion of working-age women lived in poor households, the report said.—Sapa

economic development of the poor.

Earlier, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki told delegates it was obvious that an integrated approach was needed to deal with the challenge of poverty alleviation.

On small-scale agriculture, he said it was necessary to ensure land tenure systems did not discourage agricultural growth.

The issue of communal land and

the role of traditional leaders needed to be addressed in this context, he said.

Mbeki stressed that "if we succeed in meeting the challenge of development in the rural areas, we would have taken a decisive step in meeting the challenge of poverty in the country as a whole."

The fund's figures showed that 80 percent of impoverished people in sub-Saharan Africa lived outside the towns.

In South Africa, between 36 percent and 52 percent of the population lived below the poverty threshold and 55 percent of those were black.

The unemployment rate in rural areas was 40 percent compared with 25 percent in the towns.

"Countries of the region share a common destiny," Mbeki said "All of us are confronted by the big challenge of rural poverty."

The SADC member states include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

ET 20/2/96
Southern African poor 'increasing'

THE number of poor in Southern Africa had increased and would continue to rise unless decisive steps were taken, the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development president, Mr Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, said

Speaking at the opening yesterday of a four-day workshop at the Civic Centre on rural poverty alleviation in Southern African Development Community countries, Al-Sultan said recent economic and social advances in the region were being threatened by increasing poverty

He said "even the more fortunate countries cannot insulate themselves from the effects of poverty in their neighbours" (241)

Experts focus on rural poor

Staff Reporter

THE Workshop on Approaches to Rural Poverty Alleviation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is being held in the Cape Town Civic Centre until Thursday.

The workshop is an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in fighting hunger and poverty by forging a coalition with civil society for alleviation of rural-poverty.

It is sponsored by SADC, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

Its aim is to provide a forum for financial institutions to share experiences and tested instruments - which have been used successfully in addressing rural-poverty - with governments, grassroots organisations and farmer representatives.

Participants include managers of rural development projects, representatives of local and international non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and aid agencies.

Together with the ministers of agriculture and/or finance of SADC countries, the workshop will review the policy and procedural issues that influence the effectiveness of practical action at field level.

Discussion will centre on case studies of IFAD projects in SADC countries.

ARC 20/2/96

Schoolings The Key to Rural Progress

ARC 20/12/96
(241)

ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

POLITICIANS may talk about the reconstruction and development programme until the cows come home. But, for rural children, bringing the cows home keeps them out of school.

By teaching rural communities to grow fodder for their cattle, the children are freed to go to school, thus raising the general level of development in rural areas. This is one of the examples which is being used during a four-day workshop on alleviating poverty in rural areas in the Southern African Development Community countries where the gap between rich and poor is among the highest in the world.

The workshop is being run by the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development, supported by the World Bank and the SADC. It is being held at the Cape Town Civic Centre and was opened yesterday by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki who stressed that the countries of the region shared a common destiny and that meeting the challenge of development in rural areas would be a decisive step towards meeting the challenge of poverty in the country as a whole.

Among the areas Mr Mbeki stressed were basic education, health care and childhood nutrition, empowering small farmers through effective land-tenure systems and micro-lending to develop rural economies.

striking features of poverty was that it was a predominantly rural phenomenon. And of Southern Africa she said "The gap between the rich and poor may be wider in this region of the world than any other". Barriers faced by rural people included limited access to land, markets and basic services with the consequent impoverished effects such as malnourished children who quit school early as their mothers struggle to make ends meet. The answers, Ms Marshall suggested, lay in focusing government attention and funding on alleviating rural poverty, narrowing the gap between "plans and dreams and actual results", giving the poor a voice and ensuring a stable macro-economic environment. "As economic growth returns to South Africa, we have to focus on the quality of that growth," she said.

Only recently admitted to IFAD, South Africa's rural poverty profile is as serious as many of its neighbours. According to a fact sheet compiled from, among other documents, a 1995 World Bank report, nearly 95 percent of South Africa's poor are African and some 75 percent of the poor live in rural areas. Nearly two thirds of the poor are found in the provinces of the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Province, the vast majority of whom live in the former homelands. Homes headed by women also have a 50 percent higher poverty rate than male-headed households and women account for a higher proportion of the poor elderly, while working-age women are more likely to be

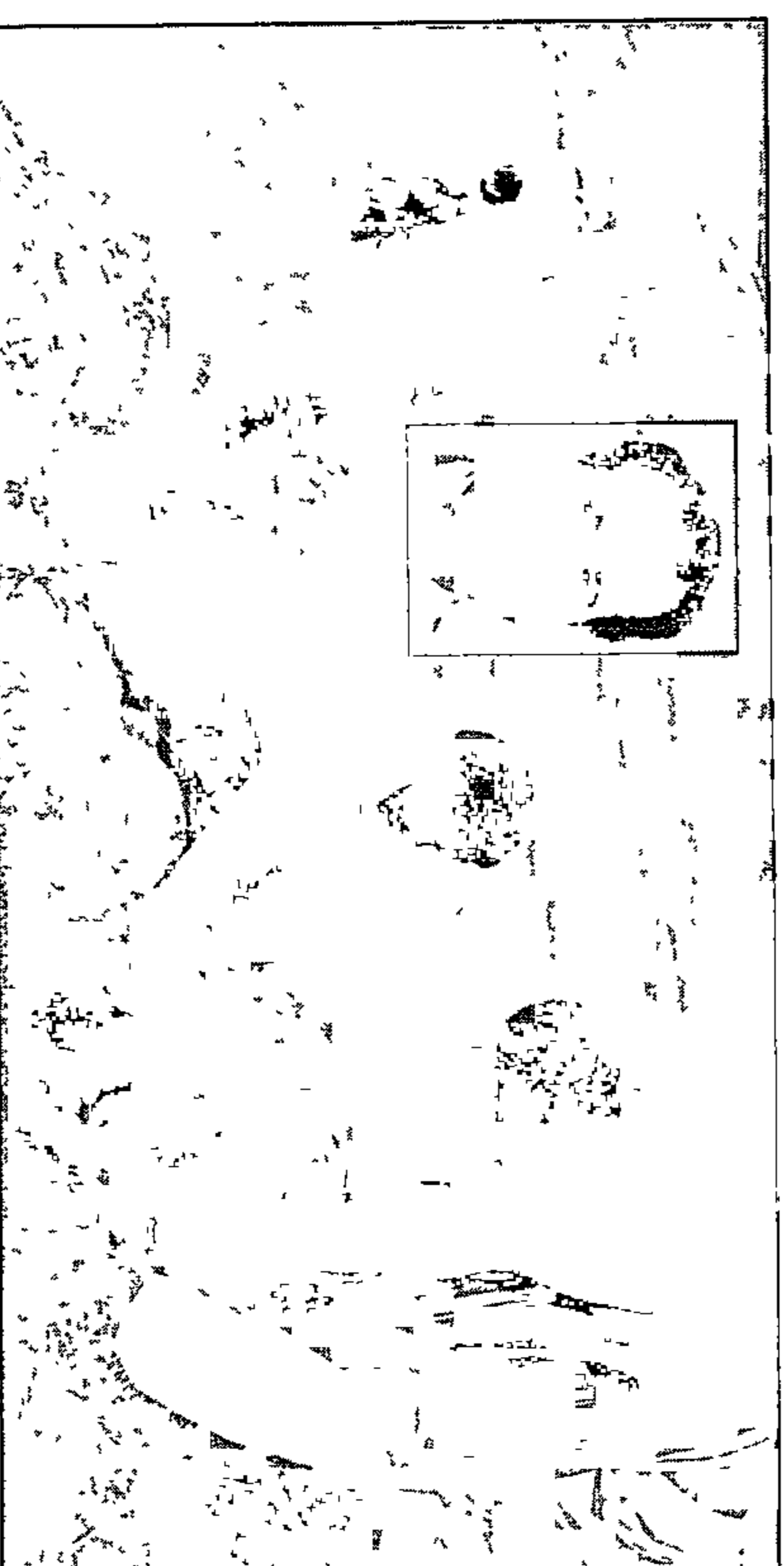


RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Women working in Lesotho, above, are dwarfed by magnificent meales. They are part of a project aimed at increasing household income through improved agricultural development. South Africa may also benefit soon from the expertise of the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development

DELEGATE: Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, inset right, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development which is hosting a four-day workshop in Cape Town on alleviating rural poverty. The World Bank and Southern African Development Community are also participants

unemployed. More than 80 percent of the rural poor households have no modern sanitation, no access to electricity and no piped water. On average, rural households spend 4.5 hours a day fetching water and firewood.

While the workshop is expected to focus on strategies within Southern Africa, it may also deliver direct results for South Africa in the form of aid from IFAD. While IFAD has pioneered sev-



WATER SUPPLY: Villagers work at placing pipes for the installation of a water supply to a village in the Quthing region of Lesotho

eral projects in neighbouring states. South Africa only officially came back into the fold early this year. The example of the young herders being released from their rural treadmill of tending cattle thanks to improved agricultural production comes from IFAD's president Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan. Next week, he and his delegation will gather in Pretoria for discussions on the kind of aid the UN organisation can give to

South Africa. "We are very happy that South Africa has been able to join us. One of things we would like to do is sit down and talk to the government about the many areas in which we can help," he said. South African deputy director general of agriculture, Bongwe Nyobe-Mbuli, said IFAD had a wealth of technical expertise and experience which could be useful to several government departments. The meeting in Pretoria

next week would take the form of a "round-table" discussion to determine how South Africa and IFAD could work together. One problem South Africa might be putting to IFAD will be the development of farmers' working with impoverished urban areas. "In South Africa urban agriculture is a common phenomenon. We have recognised this as an important element. Ms Nyobe-Mbuli said

Listening to the voices of the poor

Real action, not rhetoric, is needed to counter the problem of rural poverty in Southern Africa, reports **Lynda Loxton**

MTG (BWW) 23-29/2/96

(244)

THE top-down approach by governments and development agencies in dealing with rural poverty came under attack this week at the first regional conference to deal with the issue

Katherine Marshall, World Bank director in charge of the region, asked whether Southern African governments were relying on rhetoric rather than real action on the ground to deal with the problem

President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, warned that this could be a short-sighted approach as it was contributing to the endless migration of poor people from rural to urban areas. "It is the lack of opportunity in the countryside that pushes the migrants out, adding to urban unemployment and straining urban civic services to breaking point," Al-Sultan said

"Poverty is increasing but we know we have the knowledge and the means to end it ... If we fail, the poor will tell us themselves and if we wait too long, their judgement will not be gentle."

Marshall said that in South Africa, 81% of the poorest people live in rural areas; in Lesotho, the figure is 91%, in Malawi 95%, in Zambia 76% and in Zimbabwe 92%. "The gap between the rich and the poor may be wider in this region of the world than in any other," she said.

She attributed this to the persistence of barriers bred in colonial times that still blocked the rural poor's access to fertile land and resources, as well as their isolation from major markets and poor access to social services

Both she and Al-Sultan believe the answer lies in a more sustainable programme to make small-scale farming productive; and improved infrastructure and social services. Opening the work-



Passive actors: Malawi has one of the highest ratios of poor people in rural areas in Southern Africa

PHOTOGRAPH HENNER FRANKENFELD

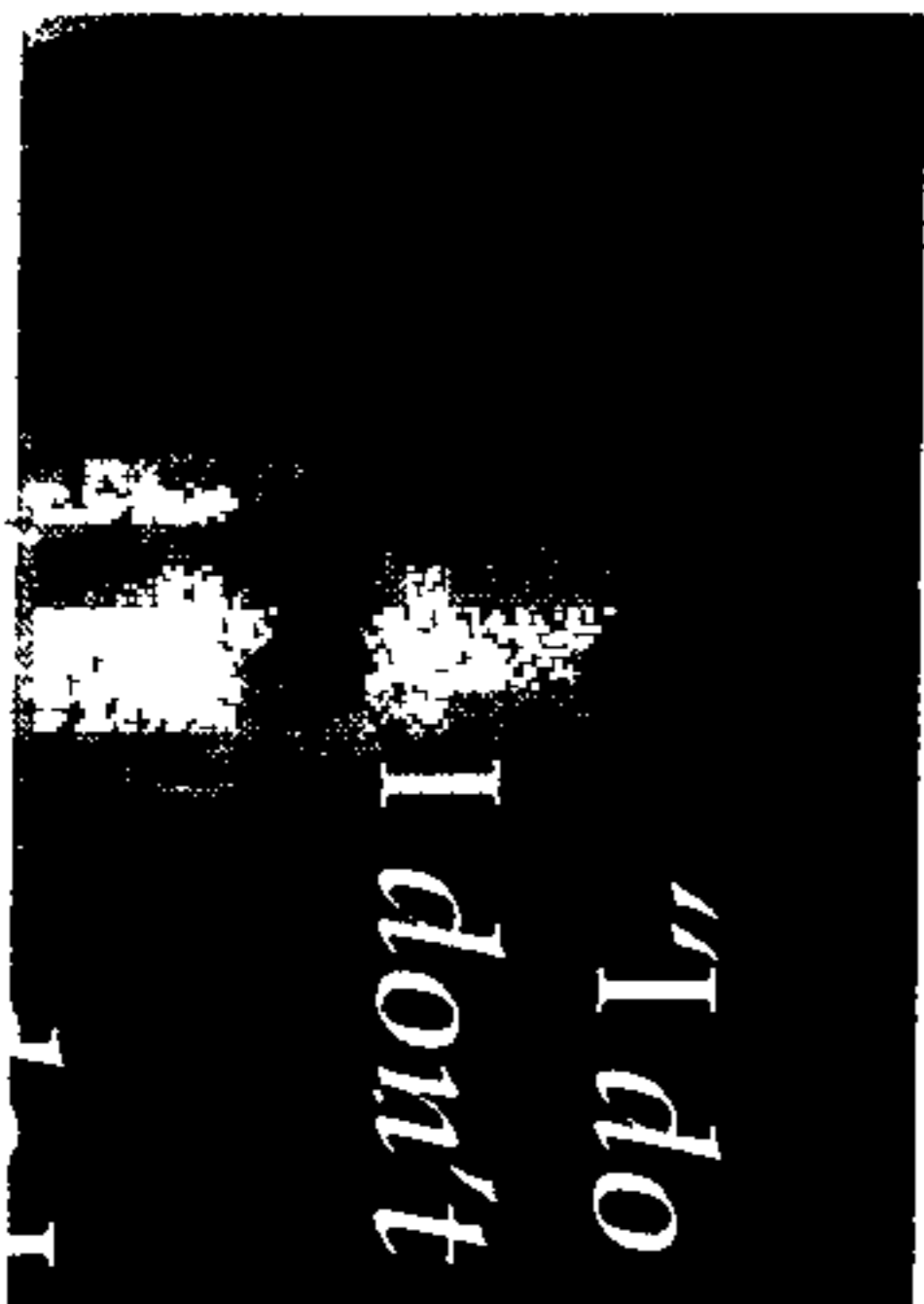
shop, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said an integrated process was needed that took all these factors into account, plus skills development.

All speakers, however, stressed the need to "hear the voices of the poor" and involve them in all planning and implementation

Marshall said the poor could not continue to be "passive actors" in their development if attempts to improve their lot were to succeed. This could be more costly and time-consuming than "old ways of doing business, but it is the only way of guaranteeing that our efforts are effective and successful"

As a representative of the World Bank, Marshall talked about the need for macro-economic balance and especially the need to ensure that the "myths" surrounding the kinds of painful structural adjustment programmes undertaken by many countries in the region did not undermine political leaders and development programmes.

"As economic growth begins to return to Southern Africa, we need to turn our attention to the more difficult policy issues by focusing on the quality of that economic growth, to ensure that the poor are not bypassed, so ensuring they are not treated as some sort of economic afterthought," she said



**"I do
I don't**

**bank offshore
have instant access
to my money**

... ..

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'Big govt salaries keeping SA poor'

ARG 23/2/96

(241) (228)

Argus Correspondent

MARITZBURG -Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon said that unabated inefficiency, dishonesty and corruption had undermined progress to a non-racial, winning society, almost as much as the apartheid past.

He told a lunch-time meeting of more than 100 people in Pietermaritzburg yesterday that the Government squandered the taxpayer's money - there was no such thing as government money; it belonged to the taxpayer - in many ways.

For instance, R700 000 of the Eastern Cape primary school nutrition programme was taken from the mouths of school-children to finance the house of one of its administrators.

In the Eastern Cape some health services had collapsed so that TB sufferers came to KwaZulu-Natal for treatment.

The Northern Cape, the smallest province, required a provincial legislature of 30 members, each earning R184 000 a year. Their legislature sat last year for 25 days, passing six bills.

"Assuming each member was on the job and doing his duty, this means each was paid R7 392 a day, or R30 800 a bill passed. How does the Government explain this to a population earning on average R2 865 a year?"

"In Northern Province, 95% of the provincial budget was devoted

to paying salaries. There are 325 MPL's in total, paid R5 million a month.

"This is not an argument against federalism. The Texas State Legislature meets only every second year. Its members are paid on a part-time basis but the state has genuine powers.

"In Arkansas when Bill Clinton was governor he received a widow's mite of a salary - less than \$50 000 a year.

"Here in poor South Africa the ANC starves our regions of powers at the same time pilaging the public to bestow patronage on its members.

"The Labour Relations Act is so hostile to business that employers are reluctant to hire," Mr Leon said.

"Almost R500 000 goes to maintain the 800 vehicles owned by the Department of Finance.

"The Government paid consultants more than R1 billion last year with no discernible results.

More than 600 cases of irregular sales of Eastern Cape government property have been reported.

Farms, houses and vehicles have been bought by government officials and their associates for "R200 and a bottle of brandy".

Traffic officers in Mpumalanga have sold more than 3 000 fraudulent drivers' licences.

Low-life on the skids...

(241)

AKG 24/2/96

The new breed of beggars

With no alternative, many unemployed and desperate people have had to endure the humiliation of begging.

ADELE BALETA and PETA KROST Staff Reporters

ST George's Mall, teeming with pedestrians, traders and buskers, is becoming increasingly popular for a breed of beggars — the "boardbiters".

Destitute women and men with boards proclaiming their poverty stand or sit for hours in the hope that passers-by will give them money.

They say they are forced to boardbite to keep hunger at bay and would rather be working

The term "boardbiting" was invented by André and Beatrice Rademeyer of Johannesburg who began begging three years ago. They prefer this term because they see the word "begging" as being loaded with negative connotations. And in their eyes holding up cardboard signs declaring their plight is not the same as overtly begging for money.

Magda Nieuwoudt, 51, stands outside a popular clothing store in St George's Mall. Neatly dressed, with a little make-up, she could go unnoticed but for the piece of cardboard she holds close to her chest.

Eyes downcast she only looks up to thank a man who puts money into her hand.

"I cannot explain how embarrassed I feel. It is so humiliating I get abused often. People are aggressive towards me. Yesterday, a man told me I was useless and should go and get a job."

"If only he knew how hard I have been trying."

Mrs Nieuwoudt, who is divorced, said she began begging in December after she lost her job. A nurse for 28 years, she injured her back and left the profession.

She had to leave her last job as a child-minder as her employee got retrenched and could no longer afford to pay her. She makes between R20 to R25 a day.

"Friends have helped me find work, so from March I will be looking after a 90-year-old lady," she says.

Ernest Rutherford, 30, has no qualifications and does odd jobs whenever he can. Meanwhile, he boardbites in the mall.

He says he left the railways after he severed the nerves in his left wrist during an accident.

"My biggest worry is finding R300 maintenance for my two children. My piece of board does not say anything about money."

"I have asked for help in whatever form I can get it. Someone offered me work the other day and I will be starting next month," he says.

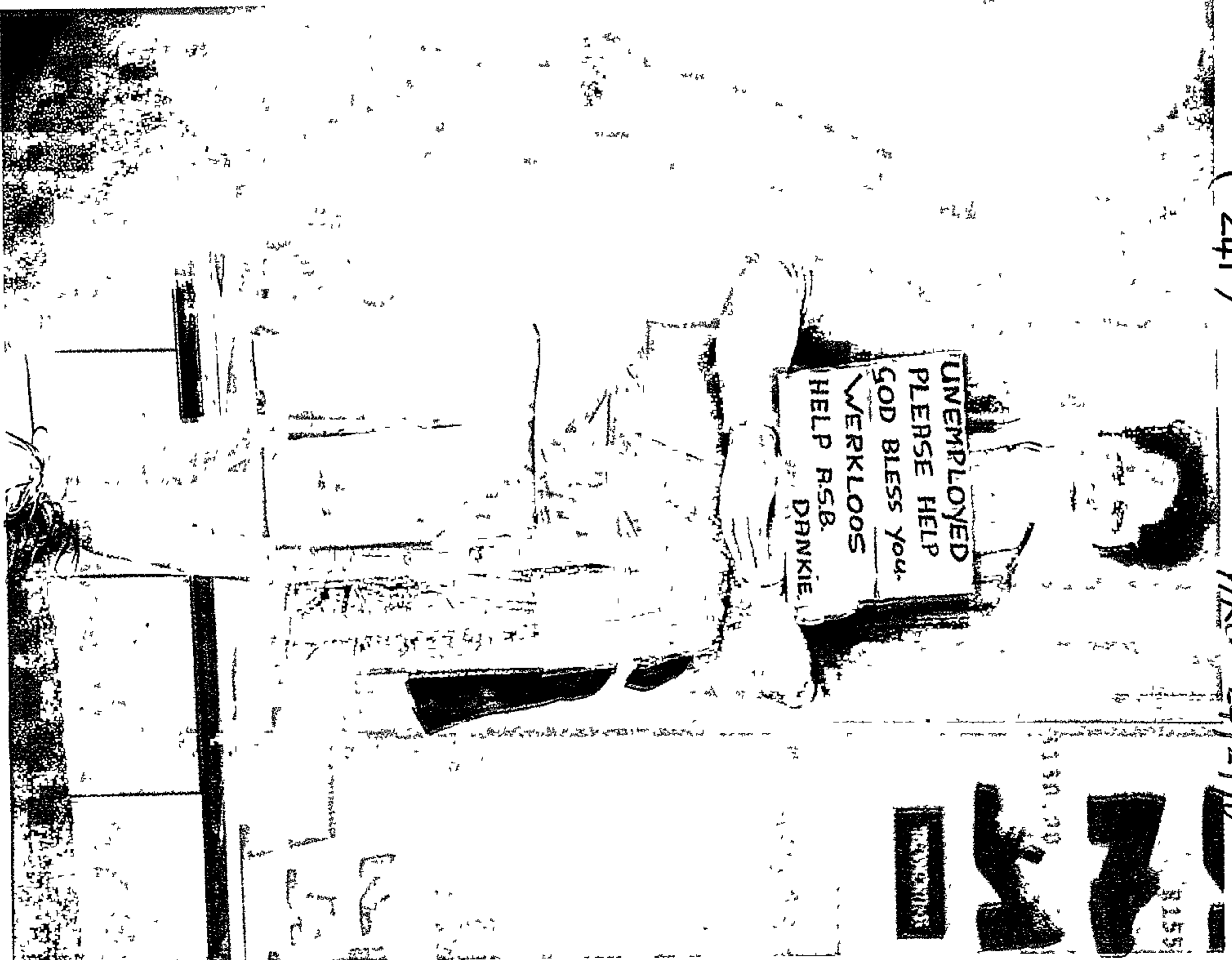
The Rademeyers, who usually boardbite around Eastgate in Bedfordview on Fridays and Saturdays, have three children, aged six, eight and 14.

André is a trained paramedic. He was a paratrooper in the army and he installed alarms and worked as a boilermaker. He also came close to completing a civil engineering diploma.

Since 1990, however, he has not had a regular job. Out of desperation, the couple took to asking for help in supermarket car parks. As crime increased, they were chased from parking lots and began boardbiting in the road.

"When we started, we had to drink to do this," Beatrice said. When André first suggested begging, she was not interested.

Once he bought a bottle of cologne to cover the smell of alcohol, they chewed on gum. Only then did they have "the



Picture BRENTON GEACH Staff Reporter
□ **RETRENCHED:** Magda Nieuwoudt says she was forced to beg after she was retrenched.

guts to do it!"

"After six months, you develop a rhinoceros skin so you don't need to drink anymore."

Beatrice explained "I would not wish this life on my worst enemy," said André. They say their son knows how

collect, sometimes making up to R75 a week.

Their line of work also entails having to put up with harassment.

Last year André was beaten up and he regularly has to fight to defend their corner.

Beatrice has endured a child spraying teargas in her face, being spat on and being jeered and sworn at.

The couple claim "we cut our own throats" by alerting other poor people to boardbiting and now there are dozens of "copycats" all over the northern suburbs of Johannesburg and the East Rand.

At the end of this month, the Rademeyers are "retiring". They have both found "real" jobs.

Not so lucky is the neatly dressed, slim 62-year-old woman boardbiter who also works Eastgate intersections.

After surgery to remove part of her stomach, she was unable to work, but had to feed her husband who had had a stroke. She has been board-biting since September 1995.

Every morning, she takes two buses to Eastgate from Newlands, on the West Rand, so that nobody she knows would see her begging.

"If anyone I knew saw me, I would die of humiliation," she said asking to remain anonymous.

"I feel so bad about having to do this, I could never tell my friends. If my late mother could see me, it would break her heart because we were always poor but we were respectable."

For 10 years, she and her husband have been on a list for a council house. For now, they are sharing a R400-a-month room in a young couple's flat.

"Some people are kind to me, others spit on me and hurl abuse."

She said it hurt when black people laughed at her after asking if she would work in their homes. In spite of the humiliation, she would "rather beg than steal."

Young women and pensioners are the most generous, she said. People in luxury cars seldom give.

Earning a bite of bread with a board

PETA KROST

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Some people are forced to start earning their daily bread on the streets when a family member dies.

Boet Ross, 52, began "boardbiting" in Jan Smuts Avenue in Rosebank and Parkwood last August after his wife died of cancer and he could no longer find work.

His only remaining family is a married daughter, who lives in New Zealand and has no idea about his lifestyle.

"I could not tell her, but I had to do something other than steal. This is degrading, but at least it is honest," said Boet, who stays with a friend in Yeoville.

"Twice a week Boet job-hunts and, unlike many beggars, he does not drink. "If I can't do this sober, then I mustn't do it."

On a good day he makes R70, on bad days as little as R10.

Outside the Fourways Mall in Rosebank stands Magreta Smut, a 48-year-old widow and mother of two teenagers who carries a board reading, "Unemployed, alone, two children — any help will do."

She and her children live with friends in Brakpan and she began boardbiting after her husband died a year ago.

"I am not a hobo — I am just poor and I do this for my children," said the woman who receives R500 a month from the welfare department. She makes an average of R75 a day and often people give her groceries and clothes.

"I am afraid of black people swearing at me, which they often do," she said.

She catches a R30 ride from Brakpan with the husband of a woman who boardbites in Bryanston. "I know many people from the East Rand who do this to make money. There are too many in that area, so we come here," she said.

At first she was embarrassed to beg but now she is used to it and knows that many others do so rather than turn to crime.

Unesco call to end poverty

Mduduzi ka Harvey

(241) BD 28/2/96

The UN and all its member states had designated next year as the year for the elimination of poverty with particular attention directed at less developed countries and the numerous poor people excluded in developed countries, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation director-general Federico Mayor said.

Addressing the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace, Mayor said that at the dawn of the third millennium, people all over the world should call on elected representatives and governments to forbid any and all threats to human life.

Mayor called for the strengthening of the UN's peace building and conflict-prevention capacities to effectively confront transnational economic, political and cultural problems, and said elected representatives should ensure their budget priorities fitted in with the terms of a moral world contract.

Township life

'Is improving?'

29 3/3/96
(241)

Bright lights, big cities — now not so attractive

BLACK South Africans were becoming more educated — and were viewing city life less favorably than they did in the 1980s, according to the Urban Black Household Survey released on Friday.

The survey, done in 1995 by Market Research Africa (MRA), sampled 1 000 people for each of its questions and focused on adult female housewives living in both urban and suburban (township) areas in South Africa's nine provinces.

"In order to establish how best to deal with poverty and inequality in South Africa, we need to understand the problem and how much poverty there is in South Africa," said Deputy Minister of Welfare and Population Development Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi — at the MRA survey launch in Johannesburg.

Compared to 1975, five percent of township housewives had post matric education and more than 25 percent had at least finished Standard 9 and 10. In 1975, virtually none had completed Standard 10.

Black men were also becoming more educated but some had slipped at the Standard 9/10 level. Only 21 percent thought cities had better health facilities compared to 1987's 29 percent. Two out of ten people viewed city schools in a better light. In 1987, it was three in ten people.

Home ownership had almost doubled in the last ten years from 35 percent to 65 percent, and most people said utilities in the township had greatly improved in the last ten years.

Electricity had replaced candles and paraffin for lighting, from 16 percent in 1975 and 42 percent in 1985, to 72 percent last year.

About 31 percent of households were considered well furnished. In 1975, it was 17 percent.

One complaint, about township unemployment, had dramatically increased. More than 44 percent said it was a problem compared to four percent in 1975.

There was a small increase in complaints on township crime. Compared to 1975's 35 percent of people who thought crime was out of control, 42 percent said the same thing in 1995.

Even though legally married couples had declined over ten years from 80 to 70 percent, more black South Africans were entering into marriages of convenience. This had increased from 21 percent to 31 percent. In most marriages, lobola was paid.

The decreasing amount of leisure time was evident in the number of blacks who had never taken a vacation — up from 14 percent in 1985 to 33 percent in 1995.

Health was perceived by housewives as getting better in the townships. More households were serving brown bread, fresh fruit and eggs over mealie meal as a staple.

The survey was estimated to have a five percent margin of error — Sapa

Blacks face up to greater hardship

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

ONLY 35 PERCENT of the total South African population is employed. According to the Central Statistical Services, this means that 65 percent of all people in the country depend on that 35 percent for their survival and wellbeing.

Blacks, as can be expected, have to bear the brunt of unemployment.

"Unemployment affects Africans more severely than it affects members of other population groups," a new CSS report shows.

Economically active

"Half of all economically active African females and one in every three economically active African males are unemployed, compared with one in 10 economically active white females and one in every 20 economically active white males."

The average monthly incomes are also revealing. Among the unemployed, it was found that 36 percent live in households with an average monthly income of R410 or less, while only eight percent live in households with an average monthly income of R2 573 or more.

It was also found that varying education levels are an important factor

among the unemployed. "The lower the level of education of the individual, the more likely he or she lives in a low-income household," the CSS found.

Forty six percent of those with no education and unemployment live in the R410 a month or less households, compared with 25 percent of those with matric or higher education who are unemployed.

On the poverty front, as with unemployment, African people are also the worst hit. In terms of the CSS's racial breakdown, African households have a lower income on which to live than coloured, Indian or white.

"More than half of African households were surviving on R726 or less on average a month in 1994, compared to 34 percent of coloured, 21 percent of Indian and 12 percent of white households."

The top income category is white households with an average income of above R2 752 a month compared with 32 percent of Indian, 20 percent of coloured and nine percent of African households.

In as far as the provinces are concerned, it was found that the poverty indicators were unequal. Eastern Cape and Northern Province is where poverty strikes the hardest.

The Government needs to focus on two priority areas in setting up programmes to alleviate the problem, the CSS recommends. The rural areas and households that have a female figure as head.

It further recommends that the Government should focus on areas which contained the former bantustans like

(241) Sowetan 6/3/96
A new Central Statistical Services report reveals frightening disparities

Northern Province and Eastern Cape. "Safety nets for the poor can be set up by ensuring that low-income households have access to education and training, to income-generating activities or to formal employment and to adequate infrastructure," the CSS says.

Interesting statistics were released by the CSS on the country's demographic profile as well.

In 1971 there were about 23.4 million people in South Africa. Between then and now, the proportions of Africans rose from 71 percent to 76 percent of the population, while the proportion of whites dropped from 17 percent to 13 percent.

Surprisingly, it is not Gauteng that has the largest concentration of the population. KwaZulu-Natal has the biggest concentration with 8.6 million inhabitants, followed by Gauteng with seven million people.

Influx of people

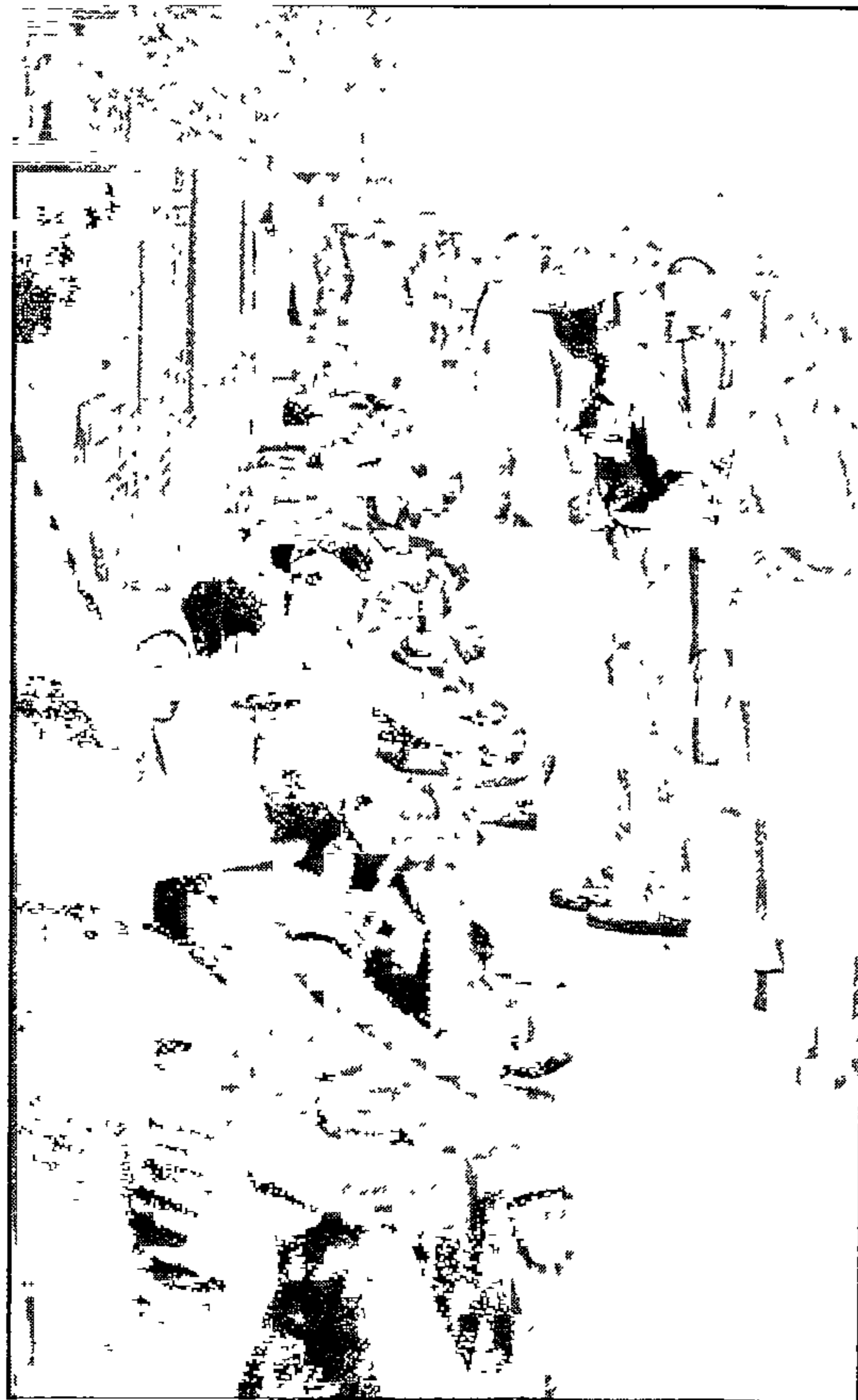
Also surprising is that, while there is an influx of people to urban centres in search of employment, most South Africans live in non-urban areas. However, Gauteng and Western Cape are the most urbanised areas, while North West and Northern Province are largely rural.

The cost of living between rural and urban dwellers is also on different scales. "Households in traditional dwellings and in hostels tend to survive on a lower income than households in shacks or in formal housing," the CSS reveals.

Another revealing statistic is the difference in the age distribution between blacks and whites.

Fifteen percent of all black males and 14 percent of all black females are aged between birth and four years. Black people, it appears, have a shorter lifespan than their white counterparts. Three percent of black males and four percent of black females live to be older than 65 years.

On the white side, it was found that seven percent of both males and females are aged between birth and four years, while eight percent of males and 11 percent of females - double the proportion of the black population - are aged 65 years or more.



Report says unemployment in South Africa affects Africans more severely than it affects other population groups.

EU bid to eject poverty

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FLORENCE - The European Union (EU) and six Central American nations met here yesterday to discuss ways to consolidate the region's fragile democracies, alleviate poverty and promote regional economic integration.

Mr Mendel Goldstein, who is the European Commission's official in charge of Central America, said structural adjustment policies followed by Central American governments had had a "very negative" impact on the poor and notably the Indians.

Poweran
involvement
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He said this was one reason why the EU wished to pursue its involvement in Central America within the framework of the so-called San Jose dialogue - so named after the venue of the first meeting in the capital of Costa Rica in 1984.

The 15 EU countries particularly want to see improvements in the field of human rights and the rights of indigenous Indians and in the role of trade unions.

In 1995, EU economic aid to the six Central American nations - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama - came to 175 million ECUs (228 million dollars).

- Sapa-AFP

Star 8/4/96
(241)

Plans to help strife and poverty-stricken families in the pipeline

By PRISCILLA SINGH

One of the most significant days on the calendar every year is Family Day, which is being celebrated nationally today

The UN has also declared 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

The Department of Welfare said that in keeping with the theme it was focusing on helping families in need this year

It has already established a developmental programme for unemployed women with chil-

dren under five years old

Increasing economic stress facing households has been highlighted as a major contributor to family problems

Those living below the poverty line, as well as poor single-parent families - which are predominantly female-headed households - were the worst affected, said Department of Welfare spokesman Michael Fumarola

Although urbanisation was a major cause of family troubles, it was poverty which probably had the most profound effect on the

stability of a family, he said

In South Africa, poverty has a marked rural dimension, and it has been estimated that about 75% of the poor live in rural areas

"Family dysfunction sets in when poverty is combined with environmental stress and feelings of powerlessness and frustration," said Fumarola

He added that, as stated in the Draft White Paper for Social Welfare, families in need of special support would be offered the necessary assistance, and family-centred programmes would be devel-

oped in rural areas and underserved urban settlements

In addition, the Lund Committee on Child and Family Support, appointed by the Ministry of Welfare, is investigating the possibility of increasing parental support through the private maintenance system with the Justice Department. It is also completing a critical appraisal of the existing system of state support to single families and is exploring an alternative policy in social security for families and other economic empowerment strategies

Challenge of poverty in SA

John Diudi

BD 16/4/96

(241)

(257)

GOVERNMENT has called on its partners in the international donor community to generate higher levels of economic growth to address problems of poverty and underdevelopment in SA

Opening a donors' conference — organised by the SA International Development Forum — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday the greatest challenge facing SA today was to solve the country's "scourge of poverty and underdevelopment"

"This demands that the government of national unity, in partnership with yourselves, the international as-

sistance community, continues to pursue policies and programmes which will deepen the development process and engender high levels of economic growth"

In a reference to the sudden closure of the RDP office two weeks ago, the deputy president, who spearheads government's growth and development strategy, said the RDP "was not and cannot be reduced" to the activities of any single ministry

He said after the shifting of the RDP fund into the finance department, government departments would continue organising their budgets to achieve the goals of the RDP

'WE DESPERATELY NEED DONATIONS'

Poverty knows no colour as whites queue for soup

(241) 21814/92

MANY WHITE South Africans who were formerly privileged and protected are now feeling the harsh effects of both the economy and unemployment. **DIANE CASSERE** and photographer **BENNY GOOL** went to a community near Milnerton where for most the only meal of the day is from the soup kitchen.

At 3pm every weekday, at the Communicare offices at a housing development in Sanddrift East, a ragged line of children and women gather with plastic jugs, old ice cream containers and tins to collect soup and bread from Mrs Kitty van Zyl.

South Africans are accustomed to soup kitchen queues comprising members of the coloured and black communities — but these people are those formerly classified white. They are people who once had a better lifestyle but who for socio-economic reasons, such as unemployment, illness, a poor economy and job cuts, have been forced to live on welfare.

The soup kitchen is run on a voluntary basis by Van Zyl, who, because her husband has a pension and she has work two days a week, is better off than most of her neighbours.

The housing development belongs to the Western Cape government (formerly the Cape Provincial Administration) and Communicare has the contract for social work in the area. The Sanddrift East housing estate was built just over three years ago.

In the queue yesterday was Mrs Juliana Reid and her two children, a baby aged three months and a five-year-old son. She counts herself lucky that her husband recently found some work. With her was Mrs Charlene Fourie who has three children. Both she and her husband are unemployed and she has no hope of finding work again because she was "boarded" on account of nervous problems.

Also in the queue was Faith, a 40-year-old divorcee with two sons who declined to give her surname. "My son wants to be a prefect at his school and he is embarrassed to let them know he is on welfare," she explains.

"I don't get the soup and bread for myself. I come and get it for my little dog." Faith has not been at the develop-

"There is a lot of poverty here, these people have no real hope of finding work ... but they are mostly people who have known better times."

ment long and hopes to leave as soon as possible. "It's a terrible place, people fight all the time because this one is having an affair with that one's wife. They have nothing to do but talk about each other."

"Recently a man was stabbed and another one shot himself. It is no place to bring up sons."

She showed us round her small house which is touchingly neat and filled with pictures of her boys.

People pay anything from R50 to R400 for their houses per month, depending on their income. The small, brown structures stand on a windy plain in streets with pretty flower names

Children play as they do anywhere in a small park with swings and a roundabout.

Mrs Penny Leza is widowed with three children and has a welfare income of R790 a month. She understands that she is not likely to find formal employment again. "I only have a Std 6, no one wants me. But I am not unhappy in the new South Africa I like it," she says optimistically.

Mrs Bess Meyer, team manager at Communicare, says the organisation was formed nearly 70 years ago to help poor whites. They operate in many areas and communities today, including Bishop Lavis, Thornton and Kraaitfontein. "We are facilitators of developmental social work," she explains. "Our contract at Sanddrift East is to provide housing social work once the brick and mortar structures were up."

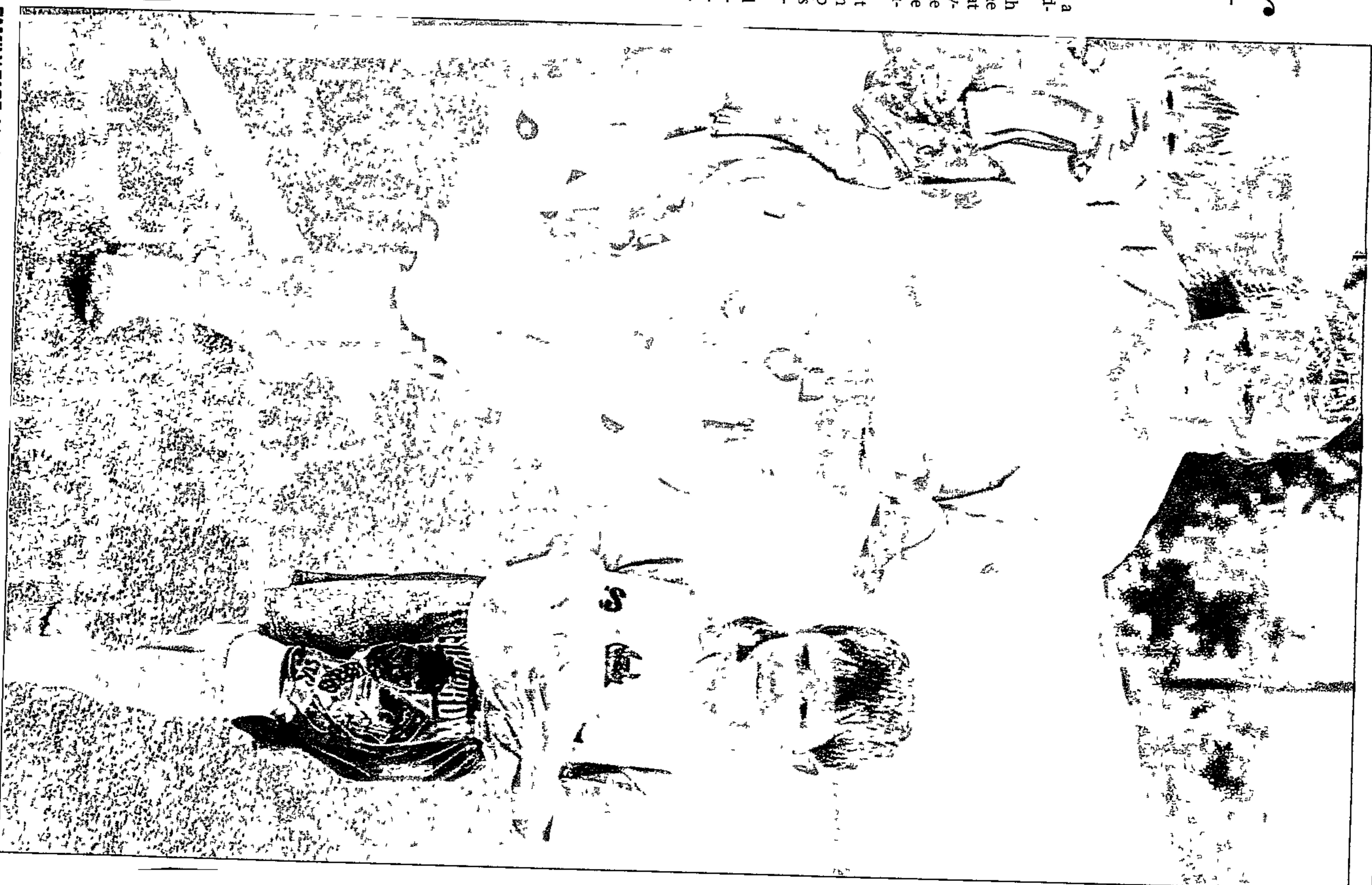
"There is a lot of poverty there, these people have no real hope of finding work in the present economic climate, but they are mostly people who have known better times."

Van Zyl was approached by Communicare in December to start a soup kitchen with a committee of 12 women. Today she is the only one still operating, with occasional help from Mrs Catherine Munnik when she is at work.

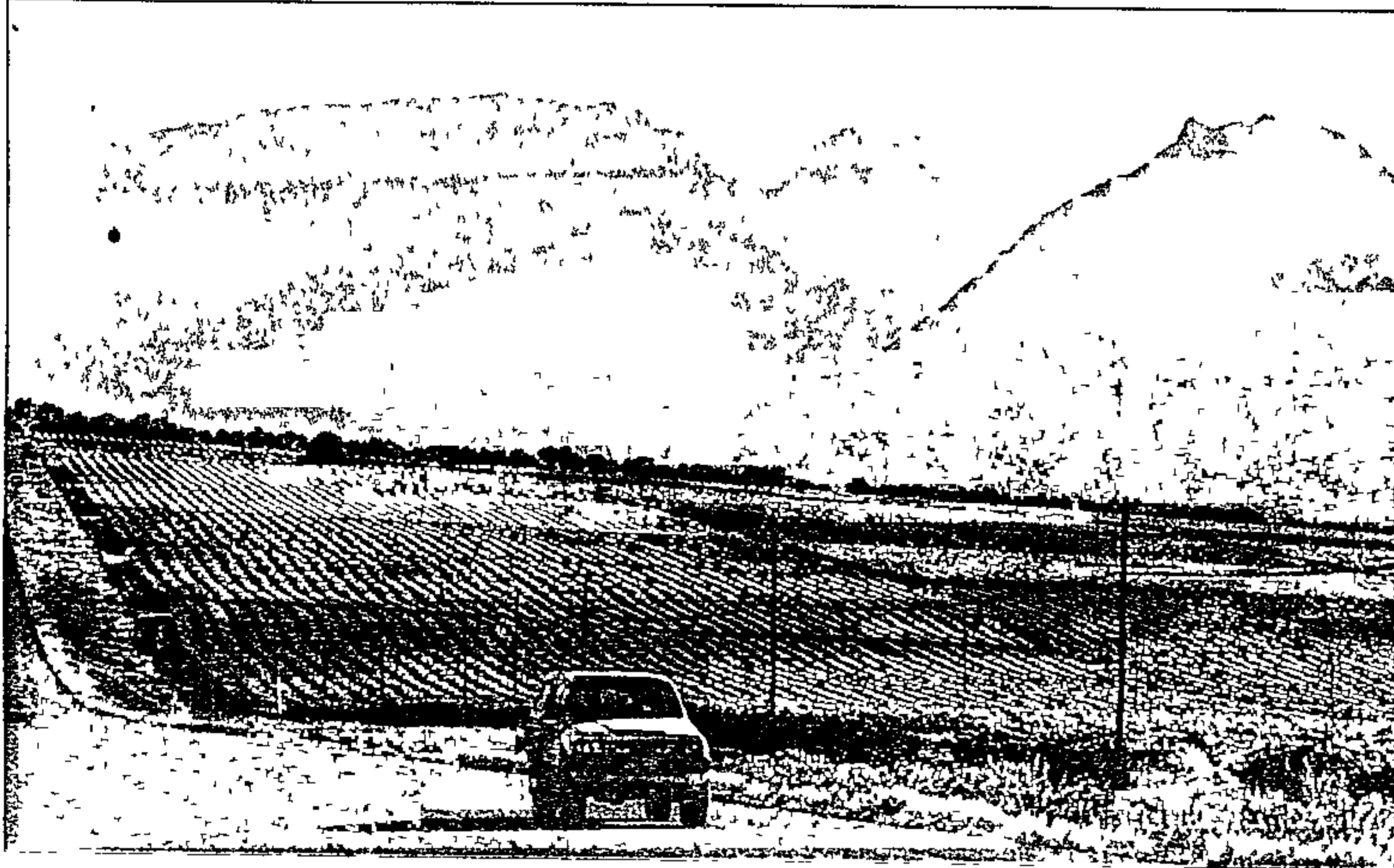
"We desperately need donations. I find all the food myself from factories and people bring me bread rolls and sometimes buns."

"I use my own petrol to fetch the food. I also write letters to people. We need everything, including sometimes sweets and cool drinks for the children."

But Van Zyl says she soldiers on because the hot soup and bread she feeds to the 40 to 50 children is often the only real meal they get. For some of the adults it is the only food they see in a day.



FAMILY FARE: Mrs Karen Engelbrecht with her children, Marc, 4, and Natasha, 1



POSTCARD PICTURE: The Hex River Valley and the town of De Doorns is a picture of beauty and prosperity, but behind the vineyards there is hardship and poverty

SEVEN OR MORE PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

Battling hunger in the Hex

ET 24/4/96 (241) (2125)



THE Hex River Valley and the town of De Doorns on the N1 is pretty and prosperous. It's the kind of scene we use to boost tourism to South Africa — but poverty is rife alongside the beautiful vineyards. Specialist Writer DIANE CASSERE and photographer BENNY GOOL visited Operation Hunger's pilot scheme at De Doorns.



JUST beyond the pretty town of De Doorns, in that lovely valley situated just before start of the Klein Karoo where people catch their breath at the beauty of it, is a squalid, poverty stricken settlement

As we pulled into the township at 2pm, an Operation Hunger truck fitted with loudspeakers was urging inhabitants to come and have their children weighed. Inside were field workers Mr Clement Summerton and Mr Joe Kulu

Operation Hunger, that stalwart of the malnutrition battle, has two pilot schemes at De Doorns and Klipfontein. The organisation is moving towards a new style of assistance for the hungry, one of making a community self-sufficient and nutrition literate before gradually moving out to resume the fight on another front

There are three areas of poverty at De Doorns Ekuphumleni, Haslesdorp and Die Woonbuurt. In the latter there is formal housing, but in the other two there are only shacks

Operation Hunger's community assessment says "Households are on the whole very large with 49% of respondents having seven or more members per household. The average household size is eight with some having as many as 22 occupants. Seventy-five percent of the respondents have only one or

two rooms in which to sleep"

The assessment continues further on "The overcrowded living conditions expose children to various diseases and it affects the general health of the community

"Job opportunities in De Doorns are very limited. The main economic activity in the Hex River Valley is the production and exporting of table grapes. The De Doorns municipal area serves as a labour reservoir for grape producers. For most of the target community employment opportunities only exist during the 'season' which lasts for four to five months per year (roughly mid-October to mid-March)

"There is no economic back-up for the survey community in the remaining seven or more months of the year. Work opportunities are limited to the agricultural sector and wages are said to be very low. The target community has no access to agricultural land for their own exploitation. Very little new work opportunities have been created in De Doorns in recent years"

The report continues to outline a bleak situation, in which many people scratch for food in the municipal dumps, resulting in illness. Others admitted to resorting to theft and shebeening

Summerton says getting the scheme off the ground in De Doorns was difficult because of

problems among community leaders. He and Kulu formed a liaison group and together they are inching forward. This year in February they were able to start the first stage, which is the weighing of all children from birth to six years. If their weight goes down in the target periods, they will be fed by Operation Hunger. Later the malnourished adults will be fed and nutrition education for the parents will start

The day of our visit, weighing was being done at the school at Ekuphumleni. The area is home to some 800 families, and babies, some led or carried by children scarcely older than themselves, appeared at the scales in a seemingly never-ending stream. Clement and Kulu, assisted by Ms Eunice Mangaliso, a member of the liaison committee, coped admirably, bawling out weights and names

When the stream slowed down to a trickle late in the day, Summerton, with interjections from Kulu who continued to weigh babies, outlined the plan for the area. "Firstly, if you address malnutrition you have to deal with the basic causes. After the problem of dietary intake is addressed, we will start nutrition and health education

"We will then implement self-help programmes, schemes that

will help the people during the winter season. For instance we want to start (building) block making. There is a plan to build more formal housing in the area and the builders could buy the blocks from this community

"Basically if you combat malnutrition, the community eventually takes off. Once it does and the self-help schemes are in place, we will implement a strategic withdrawal"

● Operation Hunger offers support in the following areas: Locally managed nutritional surveillance systems, targeted food support, water supply, sanitation facilities, health/hygiene education and promotion, income generation and livelihood programmes, agriculture, food and livestock production, advocacy and facilitation, internship programme, and staff training and development

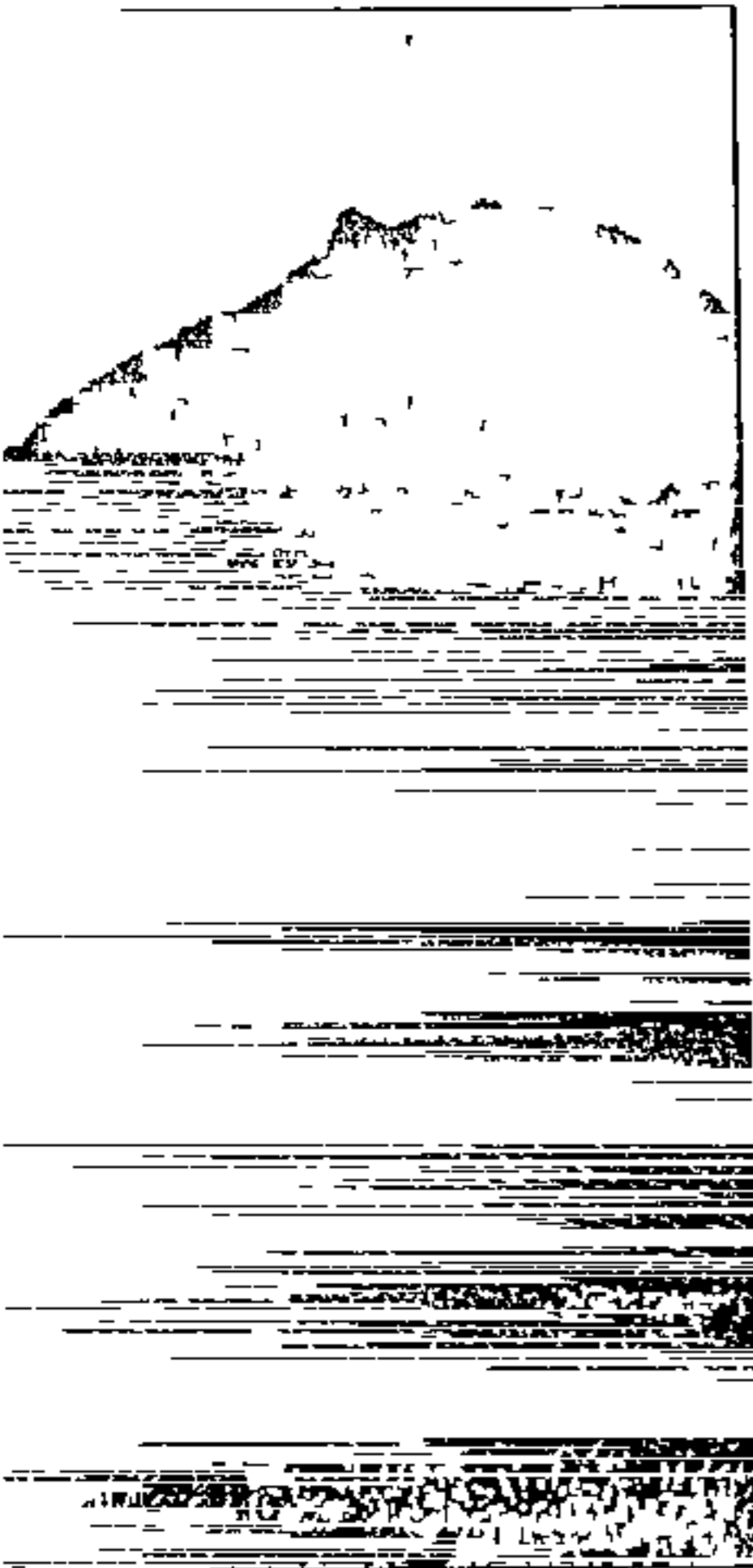


WEIGHT DOWN: Simnikwe Mathumba, age seven, three months his weight went down from 13,78kg

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10 mg tar 1,0 mg nicotine As per Government





but behind the vineyards there is hard-



WEIGHT DOWN: Simniklwe Mathlumba, age seven years and five months, did not pass the weight test. In three months his weight went down from 13,78kg to 13,60kg. He will be one of the children fed by Operation Hunger.

the Hex

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will help the people during the winter season. For instance we want to start (building) block making. There is a plan to build more formal housing in the area and the builders could buy the blocks from this community.

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Call to protect poor from globalisation

BD 29/4/96 (241)

John Dlodlu

WORLD leaders and international financial executives have called for multilateral efforts to protect the world's 2-billion marginalised people from the harsh effects of globalisation of the economy

Giving a summary of debates by heads of state and agencies at the ninth UN Conference on Trade and Development at the weekend, UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said there was apprehension that globalisation without control would create "disequilibrium", frustration and insecurity among member states.

He called for guidelines to protect developing nations. These should encourage regionalism and take into account the political effects of globalisation. Regional trading blocs should, however, be a step to multilateral trading

Boutros-Ghali said there was a

call from panellists, who included President Nelson Mandela, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and Jordan's King Hussein, that the logic of competition should be replaced with solidarity

Mkapa called for the renewal of highly preferential trade concessions, steps to reduce ballooning debt and the retention of aid to least developed countries. Tanzania spent \$2 on health and \$5 in servicing its debt burden

President Mandela said his administration, which had inherited a R250bn debt burden, serviced at an annual R34bn, wanted to avoid the spectre of growth without human resources development

Costa Rica President José-Maria Figueres said that although his country had achieved wealth, the challenge was to distribute it equitably

See Page 8

UN in R100-bn anti-poverty plan

NAIROBI – UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was due to launch a R100 billion plan yesterday to wrest Africa from poverty and under-development

Boutros-Ghali was presiding over a meeting of executive heads of UN agencies to launch the initiative, which centres on improving education and health care across the continent

Funded mainly by the World Bank, the project also proposes to help government reform, accelerate economic growth and improve food and water supplies

It will be backed by about 20 UN agencies, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Called "Special Initiative on Africa," the project is the result of a 1994 decision by Boutros-Ghali to mobilise the resources of UN agencies and the international community to help the world's only region where poverty is set to worsen over the next decade

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the UN development programme's assistant director for Africa said the initiative aimed "to bring Africa back to the forefront of the development agenda"

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She said the initiative would concentrate on five major priority areas – education, health, water, food and government

Johnson-Sirleaf said the joint nature of the programme would make it more effective than previous measures

The meeting, which ends tomorrow, follows the publication of a UN report on world resources which warns that the population of Africa will double between now and 2025

The UN aims to cash in on recent developments in Africa including the arrival of democracy in several states, economic growth in more than 20 nations and the resolution of some of the continent's conflicts

The project aims to provide basic education for all African children, in particular girls and women. Half of African adults are illiterate

Education will consume more than half the R100 billion budget over the next 10 years

The initiative also includes a renewed battle against death and disease – the key enemies being malaria, sexually transmitted diseases, Aids, tuberculosis and the main childhood illnesses

Other themes will be the establishment of peace, with a larger role for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) – Sapa-AFP

Anti-poverty projects are slated

ANC man attacks underspending on what he says should be a war on poverty to shift attitudes and give something back to the community

By **KARIN SCHIMKE**
Gauteng Reporter

The Gauteng social welfare department spent just over R500 000 helping the poor help themselves during the 1995/96 financial year but this was not enough, an ANC member of the provincial legislature has said.

Questions directed to the former social welfare MEC Sakke Blanche by Ignatius Jacobs of the ANC revealed that 36 projects "aimed not only at poverty alleviation but also skills training and capacity building" were running in Gauteng. The amounts ranged from as little as R513 for a food garden project in Thokoza to

R100 000 for the Pretoria Job Creation Co-operative which buses itself with sewing, baking, catering and motor repairs.

Jacobs said that although it was clear a framework for supporting such projects was in place, social welfare had not declared war on poverty.

"It's a good thing that the department is linking job creation with human capacity training, but the money spent so far is not enough."

Jacobs said that once debate on the new budget had been completed by the end of June he, as chairman of the social welfare committee, would lobby for the cabinet to set up a committee to look at new approaches to tack-

ling poverty. This committee would straddle the social welfare, education and economics ministries.

"They should bring about shifts so that people who are in projects do not stay there forever, but move on and join the ranks of the employed."

"We need a clear re-orientation towards development approaches," Jacobs said.

People who had been through such projects needed to give something back to the community and in this connection it was necessary to establish community co-operatives.

"If someone has come from a project which has taught him or her to make furniture, the desir-

able thing is that the community then buys furniture from that person, thus investing in themselves."

He said it was necessary to find ways in which government could help welfare organisations establish some sort of business outlet to generate money for themselves.

"These organisations must be helped to overcome budget cuts and be shown ways to avoid the ripples of such cuts in future. We cannot let them die because of a lack of money. If independent welfare organisations go under, the role of looking after the community will simply fall more heavily on the provincial government."

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Losing the war against poverty

W MORE THAN a year after the World Summit for Social Development in the Danish capital of Copenhagen, fewer than a dozen nations are following up on commitments made at the summit to develop detailed anti-poverty strategies, a new study reveals.

"An initial survey shows that by the end of 1995 very few countries were actually preparing national anti-poverty strategies, as agreed upon," reports Social Watch, a study published this month by the Institute del Tercer Mundo of Uruguay.

Social Watch - which is supported by the Dutch development organisation Novib - released the first edition of an intended ongoing study of countries following the March 1995 Social Summit.

Although the authors acknowledge that this is only "year zero" of the follow-up, they say action has been lagging so far.

Only two countries - Cameroon and Djibouti - have already developed the social development plans agreed to at the summit, the report says.

Nine others - Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Laos, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Vietnam and Zimbabwe - have drawn up anti-poverty plans, while Syria and Tunisia have developed partial programmes.

Another Social Summit goal, to reduce infant mortality by the year 2000 to one-third of its 1990 levels, has also eluded many countries.

Dozens of developing nations, including Egypt, Cuba, Namibia, Panama, Singapore, and Turkey, are

New study focuses on the battle the UN faces in the fight against poverty

well on their way to reaching the infant mortality rate goal. Several others - among them Argentina, El Salvador, Kenya and the Philippines, are progressing on schedule.

But nearly 70 nations from both the rich North and developing nations - ranging from the United States to Tanzania - are behind schedule on the infant mortality issue.

In the worst cases China, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Lesotho, Papua-New Guinea, and Sierra's infant mortality rates are now higher than at the beginning of the 1990s.

Gained little

Individual country reports reflect that so far, efforts to reduce or eliminate world poverty have gained little over the past year. From Bangladesh to Brazil, the Social Watch report says efforts to close income gaps and reduce poverty have yet to get off the ground.

Meanwhile, the authors note, structural adjustment programmes advocated by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund continue to skew the economies of developing countries, often sharpening poverty rather than alleviating it.

A coalition of non-governmental organisations last year warned the World Bank of "a growing body of evidence that structural adjustment programmes have exacerbated poverty, income inequality and gender

inequities, while further eroding the status of workers, food security, local productive capacity and environmental conditions."

But Ricardo Carrere, one of the Social Watch authors, notes that World Bank President James Wolfensohn has denied that the language of the social summit ties his organisation to any specific policies to mitigate the costs of free-market reforms.

"I don't want to carry out my business according to some resolution made at the United Nations," argues Wolfensohn.

The multilateral banks, says Carrere, are particularly responsive to industrialised governments who hold a majority of "shares" at the World Bank. These interests have backed

(241) *Sowelew 3/16/96*
policies which have a clear cost in terms of daily unemployment and misery

The conflict between structural adjustment and social policies has been a highlight of last week's meeting of the commission for social development which was held at the United Nations.

Widen divisions

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), a Belgium-based labour coalition, warns that "simply balancing the budget and liberalising the market will not reduce social inequality and in many cases will widen divisions between a fortunate few who are able to exploit new opportunities and the mass of people, who are locked in a cycle of poverty."

In a statement to the commission, the ICFTU said "The trade union movement is particularly concerned about the increasing number of export

processing zones where millions of workers, mainly young women, are employed in repressive conditions."

Another worry, says Caroline Wildeman, policy adviser to Novib's general secretariat, is whether the governments of the North will invest in basic social programmes for developing countries.

"People will only be able to break the vicious cycle of poverty if they have access to basic social provisions such as education, health care, clean drinking water and sanitation," she argues. "At present, too much of aid is spent on large-scale and often prestigious projects."

The Social Watch report praised the recent '20-20 compact', by which industrialised countries agreed to earmark 20 percent of their official development assistance for social provisions, if developing countries agree to set aside 20 percent of their national budgets for such social programmes - *Sapa-IPS*

'Resources must be redistributed to overcome poverty'

Battle inequalities, Cape Town municipality is urged

ARLT 11/7/96

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JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

THE Cape Town municipality must redistribute its public resources and switch its spending priorities to overcome the inequalities and poverty prevalent in the council area, says assistant city administrator Roy Gentle

Mr Gentle, who was addressing the council's new reconstruction and development programme policy unit, told members that in the past the council had problems implementing RDP projects due to shortcomings in the standing committees.

"The idea of the RDP is to transform local societies and change the mindsets of those in authority because it is no longer business as usual

Local government must deliver basic services, extend local control and give communities a say in the planning of their future

"We need to encourage and manage

local economic development and redistribute public resources - and even freeze inappropriate projects - in order to overcome the inequalities and poverty that exist in the municipal area"

Mr Gentle said the municipality should make sufficient resources available for extending and upgrading municipal services and needed to get a clear perspective on the infrastructure of other areas like Pinelands and Ikapa that now fell under its jurisdiction

He told the members they had a vital role to play in ensuring that the RDP took off in the city

"The previous RDP standing committee was poorly attended and hardly supported by other line departments largely because it was a new concept and there was a lot of uncertainty about the future boundaries of the council.

"Each substructure will now have its own RDP forum which will fulfill a watchdog role ensuring that planning at a local and municipal level is taking

place.

Expectations of communities are high and we must see how we can meet their expectations with our limited resources."

He said there were several community-based RDP forums which were seeking accreditation and recognition from the council, and that the RDP policy unit needed to liaise with these groups and should also become part of the Municipal Development Forum (MDF).

The unit agreed to make inputs on the MDF and agreed to a policy for accrediting local RDP forums as long as they met the criteria of representivity, inclusivity, transparency, accountability and political neutrality as laid down by the provincial RDP office.

RDP unit chairman Saliem Mowser said that by accrediting the local RDP forums, the council could now award them an annual grant-in-aid not exceeding R5 000 to cover their running costs

Watchdog to oversee RDP projects

Municipal Staff

THE Cape Town municipality has established a watchdog body to oversee the implementation of the council's reconstruction and development programme (RDP) projects, and to ensure the projects are not bogged down in administrative red tape

The RDP Policy Unit, which met under the chairmanship of Saliem Mowser and which includes the chairmen of the council's standing committees, has the task of directing the relevant community RDP projects to the standing committees for implementation.

Mr Mowser, who is also the council's deputy executive committee chairman, said the unit's task was very important as the expectations of the communities within the municipality were very high, and it was time their concerns and the inequalities of the past were addressed

"We will have to develop RDP policies and a framework to address these needs which the different standing committees can implement.

Through this we have to raise the living conditions of the communities we represent" He said the unit would set in motion a programme which would ensure that there were no unnecessary hold-ups in the implementation of the

RDP projects

Urban planning committee chairman Leon Markovitz said it was the task of the unit to ensure that the standing committees were doing their jobs and that there were no delays in getting the work done

"We must place extreme pressure on the standing committees to make sure that the RDP becomes part of their lives and the life of the city

"This unit must get rid of the red tape and must short cut the processes so that the delivery process goes on"

He said the unit should monitor and put mechanisms in place to ensure that the work was done

N

JOBS

UN report shows SA's poverty line is growing

ST(M) 21/7/96 (241)

IN JUNE the government unveiled its macroeconomic blueprint, underpinned by the government's commitment towards achieving a 6% economic growth and creating 450 000 jobs by 2000.

The foundations on which the government hopes to build its programme are, however, getting weaker. This week the United Nations Development Programme released its annual Human Development Report, based largely on 1993 statistics.

It shows that since the new government took control in South Africa, poverty levels have got worse.

The report's human development index (HDI) places South Africa 100th out of 174 countries, well below African countries such as Botswana and Mauritius.

In 1995 the report ranked South Africa 95th, based on 1992 data.

More worrying is the large discrepancy between rich and poor that the report uncovers.

The poorest 40% of SA households earn a mere 9% of the country's income, compared with, for example, 15% for Zambia and Singapore.

Furthermore, the richest 20% earn 19,2 times more than the poorest 20%, one of the largest in-

By **THABO KOBOKOANE**

come discrepancies in the world.

As Nedlac executive director Jayandra Naidoo said at the launch of the report "South Africa is two countries in one."

The UN finds that while 21% of the people in developing countries are below the income poverty level, 37% face "capability" poverty. In all countries, "poverty cannot be eradicated merely by boosting income. It will take a broad expansion of basic capabilities and the productive use of those capabilities," notes the report.

The HDI measures and

ranks the countries on the basis of the population's life expectancy at birth, educational attainment and adjusted real income, to see how well countries' citizens achieve basic human capabilities.

The capability poverty measure (CPM), however, goes further and looks at a measure of poverty that recognises that human deprivation occurs in a number of dimensions, including lack of income. To this effect it is composed of three indicators that reflect the percentage of the population with capability shortfalls in three basic dimensions of human development: living a healthy, well-nourished life, having

safe and healthy reproduction and being literate and knowledgeable.

Overall, South Africa ranks 45th out of 101 countries on the CPM. A detailed breakdown shows that the percentage of births unattended by trained personnel in South Africa was estimated at 29% between 1983 and 1994, while 43% of children under the age of five are underweight.

Female illiteracy is put at 19,2% of the total. Taking the per capita income and subtracting the CPM rank, the report gives South Africa a negative 6, which means that the CPM rank is not better than the real GDP per capita.

Though there are no statistics provided on the percentage of people in poverty in rural and urban areas, the placement of 100 on the human development index suggests South Africa is not close to addressing the problem.

The report shows that between 1960 and 1993 life expectancy grew to 63,2 years from 49 years while in the same period infant mortality declined to 52 per 1 000 births from 89. Adult literacy is at 81% and between 1990 and 1995, 70% of the population had access to safe water. There are no figures available on access to health services and sanitation.

The report shows the wage gap has remained stagnant between females, whose share of income is 39,1% while males account for 60,9%.

While the wage gap between the sexes has not narrowed, the high percentage of women in senior managerial and political positions places South Africa 20th out of 104 countries measured in terms of gender empowerment.

This is the country's best showing among the numerous statistics contained in the report.

Economically the UN also reveals some interesting trends. Real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 1993 was \$3 127 on a purchasing power parity basis, while gross national product (GNP) per capita was \$2 980.

Yearly earnings growth (after inflation) a worker fell from 2,7% between 1970 and 1980 to a mere 0,2% between 1980 and 1992. The percentage of the labour force working in agriculture has slumped dramatically from 38% in 1960 to 14% in 1990.

The agricultural labour force has been taken up by the service industry — 55% of the workforce were employed in services in 1990 compared with 35% in 1960 — and by industry (27% and 32% in 1960 and 1990 respectively).

1996 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT			
	Income shares Lowest 40% households (%) (1981-93)	Income shares Ratio of highest 20% to lowest 20% (1981-93)	
High human development			
Medium human development			
Low human development			

Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

Source: UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NP to launch anti-poverty drive

(241) Star 2/8/96

By PATRICK BULGER

Cape Town - The National Party would launch a new anti-poverty initiative as part of a plan to prepare a set of policy alternatives to the ANC in time for the next election in 1999, NP leader F W de Klerk said last night.

He made the announcement at the opening of a three-day federal congress of the NP which is meeting to chart its opposition role one month after walking out of the Government of National Unity.

De Klerk, in a stinging attack of the ANC's handling of the RDP, said the ANC had failed to manage the programme "as a comprehensive and cohesive anti-poverty action plan".

"This is simply not good enough. The NP has consequently decided to launch a new initiative to address the issue.

"While we will continue to support that which remains of the RDP, including all steps aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor, we will immediately start working on an alternative, comprehensive, meaningful and workable anti-poverty strategy."

The NP would convene a national anti-poverty conference within nine months. A "basic framework" would be compiled in conjunction with experts in various disciplines. There would also be a process of consultation at grassroots levels within the party and with non-governmental organisations.

By 1999 the NP hoped to be able to give the voting public clear policy alternatives to reverse the country's decline and to build confidence.

"The NP is going to do something really worthwhile in the fight against poverty and deprivation," De Klerk said.

De Klerk warned the ANC that his party was "ready for the future and raring to go".

Outlining the NP's adopted slogan "Opposition with a Mission", he alleged that SA had last had a "dynamic and vibrant opposition party" when the NP itself was in opposition before it came to power in 1948.

"That South Africa now needs a fearless and vibrant opposition, need not be argued."

De Klerk alleged that "the danger lights are flashing", and that in spite of "some admirable efforts from President Mandela", the ANC was beginning to lose its grip.

The relatively moderate Free State Premier Patrick Lekota's "head is on the block", "the hot-headed Peter Mokaba" was a rising star, Cosatu and the SACP were "bulging their muscles", corruption was growing and Justice Minister Dullah Omar "wages war against the police".

Living standards are on the way up, survey finds

Big increase in durable goods among black consumers

ARL 17/8/96

(241)

LEWELLYN JONES
Business Reporter

LIVING standards are on the increase for the majority of South Africans, according to results contained in the AMPS 96 survey released this week by the South African Advertising Research Foundation

The All Media Product Survey is the largest annual research study conducted in this country. The 1996 survey interviewed just under 16 000 adults from all parts of the country to determine both their media and product usage and their lifestyles

The 1996 survey found that, in comparison with AMPS 95, the average black household income had risen 10,1 percent to R1 252 a month, and that for whites by 9,5 percent to R7 108. The income gap between blacks and whites had therefore not changed significantly, although household incomes had grown faster than the seven percent inflation registered over the period

Household incomes for coloured and Indian communities, on the other hand, grew by 13,1 percent and 16 percent respectively. Further evidence of improved living

standards was shown by the improvements in the provision of basic services such as access to electricity and water

The number of households with mains electricity in the black community rose to 51 percent compared to last year's 46 percent, and the number of households with water supply rose to 59 percent from 54 percent

The survey also recorded an increase in the overall level of education attained. An AMPS index which allocates points for different levels of education showed that the average level of education for black adults had risen 8,2 percent, compared with 2,5 percent for coloureds, 5,1 percent for Indians and 1,4 percent for whites

The ownership of durable goods among black consumers had also risen, the fastest growing items being electric stoves and hotplates, freezers, television sets, video recorders and hi-fi sets

Among coloureds, whites and Indians, the biggest growth had been in tumble dryers, video recorders, home computers and hi-fi sets

The AMPS 96 figures also reflected some of the changes that affected the local media world during the past 12 months. While the general decline in readership continued for English-language

newspapers, the Afrikaans press succeeded in holding their ground. Magazines aimed at Black readers showed significant growth

Radio listenership rose among all groups, with the biggest increase - 58 percent to 62 percent - occurring amongst blacks

Community radio stations made their appearance, with 74 being measured in the AMPS 96 survey. Some four percent of all adults claimed to have listened to at least one community radio station over the previous seven days, with the highest regional figure of nine percent in the Western Cape

Television viewership, however, showed mixed results as black viewership rose to 40 percent from 36 percent and viewership among whites, coloureds and Indians slipped to 77 percent from 81 percent

Of the 8,5 million households in South Africa, just over 5,2 million had television. While the majority owned colour sets, 28 percent of all households possessed only a black and white television set. This was most prevalent in black homes, with 45 percent of total black households and 71 percent of rural black households viewing in black and white only

State urged to beef up anti-poverty policies

BUSINESS EDITOR

The government will have to beef up its anti-poverty strategy as the economy slows, warns Gavin Lewis of the University of the Western Cape's Centre for Southern African Studies.

In the RDP Monitor, he says voices are being raised by unions and political groups that with high levels of unemployment, an anti-poverty strategy "should receive as much attention as belt-tightening"

Even if the government meets its 6 percent annual growth target by the year 2000, Dr Lewis warns, unemployment and poverty levels will remain high by international standards

"This is a fact that will not go away

"Political pressures to reduce past racial inequalities and present poverty will increase, especially in a democracy. Perceptions of foreign investors are important - but so too are perceptions of voters

"As the dust settles, the new arrange-

ments for the RDP are emerging with greater clarity," says Dr Lewis

"The focus is shifting away from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office to Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus, a highly regarded and capable person "

But, he says, "the RDP has always been plagued by the problem of delivery, and this remains true"

"Tighter financial controls over the RDP are to be welcomed, but its profile will have to grow"

ARL 7/9/96

Chasm between poor and rich nations widens

(241) B017/10/96

Kathryn Strachan

POVERTY has soared despite unprecedented growth in the world economy in the past 50 years, with the gap between rich and poor nations becoming ever starker, the UN Development Programme said yesterday.

The programme released the figures to mark World Anti-poverty Day today, and used the symbolic day to urge rich nations to boost their development aid contributions to poorer countries.

The UN agency said between 1960 and 1991, the chasm between the poorest and richest fifths of the world doubled, with the average income of the richest fifth now 61 times that of the poorest fifth. The 50 poorest nations account for 20% of the world's population but consume just 2% of its income, while the richest 20% absorb 83% of its income.

However, poverty is not a Third World phenomenon; it is spreading to industrialised nations

Five-million out of 100-million homeless people live in so-called wealthy countries, as do 35-million of the 120-million people who

are without work

"Poverty is no longer contained within national boundaries. It has become globalised," said Mahub ul Haq, special adviser to the programme administrator

The programme also highlighted the knock-on effects of destitution, such as drug trafficking, sickness, terrorism, war and environmental degradation.

"Growing poverty and joblessness, population pressures, environmental decay and the widening gap between the haves and have-nots will breed despair and instability," said programme administrator James Gustave Speth

"We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of confronting tomorrow the tragic consequences of our negligence today. It is better to land development today than troops tomorrow"

However, there had been progress in certain areas, he said. Life expectancy in developing countries had risen from 17 years to 63 in the past three decades and the infant mortality rate had halved in the same period.

The agency called on rich coun-

tries not to shrink international aid contributions, which have largely fallen victim to overall budget cuts

"Any credible attack on world poverty must include a large increase in development co-operation — and some increase in development assistance — at its core," said Speth.

"Our world today needs more development assistance, not less, whatever the trend might be."

He said that each minute, 47 people in the world joined the ranks of the poor families, and that the yearly toll was 25-million people

One person in five — almost 1.3-billion in total — survive on \$1 a day, the extreme poverty threshold defined by the World Bank

Another 60% of the world's population is hardly better off, eking out a living on \$2 a day

Against this backdrop, the UN agency is urging the international community to create new ways to co-operate, saying private and public sectors, business, debt management, investment and technology all have roles to play in fighting poverty

'47 people a minute plunge into poverty' (241)

GENEVA • Nearly 50 people plunge into poverty each minute, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said, launching a crusade to help the needy and urging rich nations to boost their development budgets.

"Each minute in the world 47 people join the ranks of the poor families," UNDP administrator Mr James Speth said yesterday, adding that the yearly toll was 25 million.

One person in five, almost 1,3 billion in total, survive on \$1 (R4,50) a day, while another 60% of the world's population is eking out a living on \$2 a day, says the UNDP.

It is urging the international community to create new ways to co-operate, saying private and public sectors, business, debt management, investment and technology can all help to fight poverty.

It is also calling on rich countries not to shrink from international aid contributions, which have fallen victim to budget cuts.

"Any credible attack on world poverty must include a large increase in development co-operation, and some increase in development assistance," Speth said.

The plea for rich countries to dig deeper came on the eve of World Anti-Poverty Day today.

Between 1960 and 1991, the chasm between the poorest and richest fifths of the world doubled, with the average income of the latter now 61 times that of the former. The 50 poorest nations account for 20% of the world's population but consume two percent of its income, while the richest 20% absorb 83% of its income, the UNDP said. — Sapa-AFP

CT 17/10/96

Residents turn to crime as poverty hits Elands Bay

Forced to steal to survive

ARC 21/10/96

(241) (4993)

JOSEPH ARANES
MUNICIPAL STAFF

Poverty in the West Coast town of Elands Bay is reaching such proportions that local residents are surviving by stealing vegetables from farms and smuggling crayfish and fish.

Elands Bay community leader Cyril Walker said although people were stealing food from the sea to feed their families, children scavenging through the town's refuse bins were also a common sight.

"Most of the town's men are fishermen and they earn real money only during the first two weeks of the crayfish season. But even then they struggle to survive because they need to pay back the loans they make during the off-season"

Mr Walker said it was common during the off-season for men, without any income, to borrow money from factory owners. By the time the season opened many owed hundreds of rands.

"This has forced many to dive illegally for crayfish during the off-season and sell them to make money," he said

Local African National Congress

chairwoman Christine Newman said less than five percent of the community was employed and parents were feeling inadequate because they could not put food on the table for their children

"Some of the women work on potato farms during the first six months of the year and many take some of the crop home because they cannot afford to buy potatoes. Others go down to the beach and remove black mussels from the rocks and hide them between their breasts."

Legally, the women were entitled to remove only 25 shellfish at a time: "They use the mussels and cockles to make stews although most of the time they have nothing else to add to their pots."

"The children go around the town scrounging for rotten vegetables to add to the pot."

"How can we blame the parents for allowing their children to do this when they don't have any food or money?" Ms Newman said.

She said about 90 percent of the houses in the community had no toilets and most people relieved themselves in bushes, which was adding to already emerging health problems.

1,3bn of world's people live below the breadline

Nov 21/10/96 (241)

UN launches campaign to tackle impoverishment among the developing nations where one in five goes hungry every night

By HELEN GRANGE

Poverty in the world is reaching unprecedented levels - with an estimated 1,3 billion of the 5,7 billion people on the planet living below the breadline, research by the United Nations has revealed

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed this year (1996) as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and has launched a wide spectrum of programmes to facilitate economic development in poorer countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa

A recently released UN report - outlining its research on poverty - shows that Africa has about 16% of the world's impoverished - making up over half of the continent's total population. Because of this, people in sub-

Saharan Africa rarely survive beyond the age of 50, as compared to 80 in Japan.

In the developing world, according to the UN Human Development Report 1994, a fifth of the population goes hungry every night, a quarter lacks access to safe drinking water and a third lives in a state of abject poverty.

"Such persistent poverty in an otherwise progressive world is a result of a backlash from the failed 'trickle-down' development assumptions of the 1960s, the frustrated hopes of a new international economic order in the 1970s, and the 'lost decade' of the 1980s," the report says

The greatest at risk are the young, with 13-million children under five worldwide dying every year from easily preventable diseases and malnutrition. Economic hardship and exploita-

tion force up to 160 million youths into child labour and an estimated 2 million into child prostitution.

By the year 2025, young people will account for only 16% of the global population, the report says. In total, 80% will live in developing countries, where they are at great risk of poverty.

Also at risk are women, who according to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1994, bear the brunt of poverty's burden partly because of discriminatory tradition. This is especially so in the rural areas, where women's access to health and education and to such productive resources as capital, technology and land is severely limited

In rural areas alone, more than 550 million women (over 50% of the world's rural population) live below the poverty line

Millions live in poverty

Sowetan 24/10/96 (241)

By Isaac Moledi

ON AVERAGE, 45 to 50 percent of sub-Saharan Africans live below the poverty line – a much higher proportion than in any region of the world except South Asia

In its report on *Taking Action for Poverty Reduction*, the World Bank says the depth of poverty – that is, how far incomes fall below the poverty line – is greater in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else in the world

About 50 percent of these people are from five East African countries and Nigeria

“Beyond low income, a principal indicator of poverty is inadequate access to social services,” the report commissioned by the bank’s Africa Region says

Currently, the availability of social services in most countries in the region is the lowest in the world. The report adds that the average gross primary school enrolment rate is presently only 67 percent compared with 94 percent for South Asia and 100 percent for East Asia

Health services are falling behind demand in most of these countries. This is reflected by an average infant

mortality rate of 93 per 1 000, which is higher than the South Asia’s 84 per 1 000, Latin America’s 46 per 1 000 and East Asia’s 36 per 1 000

The growth of income in the sub-region during recent years has been dismal, the report says

Between 1970 and 1992, average per capita gross domestic product grew by nearly R255 in relation to purchasing power parity

In contrast, during the same period, South Asia’s per capita GDP increased by nearly R1 400 (2,3 percent a year) and East Asia’s by R3 100 (3,1 percent a year)

Reduce poverty in SA - Ramaphosa

By Shadrack Mashalaba

FOR as long as the vast majority of South Africans remain locked in a daily battle against poverty, the South African economy will remain constrained, New Africa Investment deputy chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday

Addressing the South African Management Forum in Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said although South Africa was an economic engine for the Sub-Saharan region, its developmental role was being impeded by what it inherited from the past

"The new South Africa inherited an economy which was flawed and inequitable and addressing these inequalities is not merely a political imperative but an economic imperative. If we resist change, we will fail

"But if we rise up to challenges, we will be carving up a secured place for South Africa in a world in which we are destined to play a leading

role," Ramaphosa said

The Top Management Forum meeting, which ends today, was organised by Damelin Management School in partnership with American Management Association International

"While crime is a threat to South Africa, there is a need to root out corruption from the top brass lest we collapse into a pit. In arresting crime, we need to develop entrepreneurial talent," he said

Change

South Africa was undergoing change which to some extent was causing anxiety, said Ramaphosa, adding that change was necessary and inevitable

"People who do not have shelter cannot be productive and above all, people who do not have land cannot produce," he said

Ramaphosa added that the "big bang" approach to the removal of exchange control was not a "mickey mouse" business

Sowetan 24/10/96

Big steps to fight poverty

(241) sametan 24/10/96

Government has taken lead from the President

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

ALTHOUGH South Africa does not score all that well on human development at present, according to the latest Human Development Report of the United Nations, exceptional steps have been taken by the Government to tackle the poverty problem head on

Speaking at a seminar on poverty in Parliament this week the Minister of Welfare and Population Development Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said that the Government had taken its lead from President Nelson Mandela and the Reconstruction and Development Programme "which to this day serves as the government's beacon in its war on poverty"

"It is an integrated people-centred programme that seeks to address basic needs, develop South Africa's human resources, build the economy and democratise the state and society," she said

Some of the ideals of the government are already being recognised, she said

There are 340 clinics currently being built and nearly three million people are being reached by "the Mandela sandwich" - presidential lead projects

She also lists as an achievement in the war against poverty that 920 000 households have been electrified

But, she said, while the Government is making an impact, the extent of poverty is nevertheless enormous. One of the problems in the fight against poverty is large-scale corruption and fraud



A rural Venda woman ... among the more poor of the country.

"In fact, it is the tightening of controls over the school nutrition project due to fraud which has led to a decline in the number of primary school children being reached. There have also been poor co-ordination, low capacity and funding limitations," she said

Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa, a report compiled last year, revealed that South Africa has one of the worst records as far as health, education, safe water and other social indicators are concerned

Fraser-Moleketi said that the report's findings confirmed what had long been suspected about the nature and extent of poverty in South Africa - that it is worst in rural areas and in some provinces and that more black people, women and older people are

poverty-stricken

One of the key elements associated with poverty throughout the world is poor economic growth and the resultant lack of employment opportunities

Meeting aspirations

Speaking on poverty eradication strategies, the UN Development Programme's Richard Jolly said in his human development report that it was in the interests of all countries to ensure that the top policy objective was to ensure that economic growth expanded employment opportunities to meet people's aspirations

Meeting this challenge, he said, has become more difficult in recent years and the determination to meet the challenge had also become less sure

"All this is cause for public concern and debate from Harare to Paris to Beijing. Politicians promise action but have found it difficult to deliver"

He praised President Mandela for the pragmatic approach he had adopted

The President says in the report that the potential for economic growth and development is better than it has been for decades but it was also time to be brutally frank when it came to South Africa

Mandela states "Despite the welcome growth, very few jobs have been created. In fact, against the backdrop of new entrants into the job market, there has been a shrinkage in opportunities. We need a national vision to lift us out of this quagmire"

Failure of the public and private sectors to act together to implement this national vision, Mandela said, led to the danger of the attained growth petering out in a matter of a few years

It would, he said, be caused by the strains on limited capacity, skill shortages and balance of payments and other constraints would start to gather momentum "as increasing unemployment and accelerating poverty bear down on our society"

It was the task of Government to harness energies of the people "into a material force for growth and development"

But what also had to be halted in the quest to create employment in the poverty chain was the unjust employment of children, Jolly's report argues

The statistics he gives for the number of employed children throughout the world are frightening

Figures for children holding full time jobs are between 14 and 100 million in India, two to 19 million in Pakistan, five to 15 million in Bangladesh, two to seven million in Brazil, up to 13 million in Mexico and some 12 million in Nigeria

"In Africa more than 20 percent of children are considered to be working and in Latin America between 10 percent and 25 percent

Widespread

"Some of the most widespread forms of child labour - domestic help, agricultural and bonded workers, especially of girls - are largely invisible," the report reveals

One of the recommendations for strengthening economic growth and human development, the report suggests, is to create better opportunities for women

"Investing in women's capabilities and empowering them is the surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall development"

Women tell Parliament of heartache

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

THE devastating effects of poverty were laid bare at a seminar in Parliament on Tuesday when two women described how starvation drove her to attempting suicide and crime

Thembisile Mhlongo of Umlazi outside Durban, poignantly described how the pangs of hunger drove her to making almost all the major decisions in her life, including a serious attempt at suicide

Vanessa Matthews described her life of hell when at the age of 16, she had to become a mother to her six siblings, and did not hesitate stealing from her bosses to survive

Throughout most of Mhlongo's life she was ill-treated by men, including her brother, after the death of her parents

Failed attempt

"I even had to be attached to a male at an early stage in my life because of hunger," she said

When she delivered her baby, she was released from hospital with her baby and she had practically nothing with which to support herself and her child

"One day I decided to take an overdose of Welconal tablets and end it all because I could not take care of my child and myself"

The attempt failed but her misery continued. A department store had her arrested for failing to pay her accounts

and, although at the time she had a job, she could not go back to work as she was afraid

But she had hope "I blame myself for trying to commit suicide because now I can see that you can survive if you have hands and a mind and you use them"

Matthews, a gritty and spirited woman from the fishing village at Hout Bay, said that poverty only meant one thing to her. It meant, come hell or high water, she would not let it beat her. Her solution to her plight was quite simple

"Poverty for me was something real but I decided I was not going to go hungry. I would find ways and means to survive"

And survive she did

At the age of twelve she was forced to leave school and work in a factory in Hout Bay. At the age of 16 her mother committed suicide because she could not handle the pressures of poverty

This left Matthews with the task of taking care of her six younger siblings

Exploiting

"I knew the bosses in the factories were exploiting us so I decided to exploit them back"

She helped herself to garments from the factory "and I sold them on the Parade". The Parade is one of the central market areas in Cape Town

During the period of struggle, strife and fighting the bosses she started developing an understanding of "the struggle" and politics. She

described how in that period of her political involvement she became a fugitive from the police in her fight against forced removals

"We were constantly on the run from the police and once we even had to hide out in the mountains"

She said that the squatters in the area had to live in the most appalling conditions and depended on a dirty river as their only source of water

Matthews told the seminar with pride that one of her achievements was to teach squatters how to steal clean and fresh water from whites

An ardent African National Congress supporter, she looks to the new government with hope. She described how people in Hout Bay - particularly women - were living through poverty and fighting to keep their children and themselves alive

'Children sell bodies'

"There are mothers diving in the waters at night to see what they can get out of the waters. Many of them still get arrested and go to prison for their efforts"

Children in her area, she said, still had to sell their bodies to get money to feed their families. That, she said firmly, is not right

"When I left school I knew I would be no one. I only got educated when I joined the struggle," she said

Now, she said, like Martin Luther King, "I too have a dream. That dream is in the RDP and how it will free me and my community"



Toiling on a tobacco farm ... child labour is used in most developing countries, the UN reports says.

PIC VICTOR MATOM

Poverty still a big problem in SA

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

CONSTITUTIONAL rights and the country's democracy will remain fragile until the lives of those South Africans who have to bear the burden of poverty and inequality improve

Speaking during a snap debate on poverty in Parliament this week, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said that while South Africa was said to be a middle income country, most of the people lived like those in the poorest countries in the world
"Poverty brings hunger, disease,

inadequate shelter and homelessness. It hinders the education of children

"As a caring society, we cannot fold our arms and leave this blight on the lives of millions of our people. As a Government we have declared war on poverty"

The debate on poverty was scheduled in Parliament to commemorate the United Nations' declaration of 1996 as the year of "Eradicating Poverty"

However, Mbeki said there was no easy path to sustainable social development as the international experience had shown
But the debate should not be about a

choice between economic growth and poverty reduction, he pointed out

"It is about how we can move South African society on the parallel tracks of growth and poverty reduction

"Growth on its own and however brisk, is not sufficient for making a serious dent in the problem of poverty"

He said the Government rejected that path of growth which made the inequality problem worse and weakened employment

"Growth that confers its benefits on a minority and impoverishes the majority is not morally, politically or economically acceptable

"We therefore seek the twin goals of growth and equity and will not choose one over the other"

Mbeki said the Reconstruction and Development Programme remained the cornerstone of the Government's commitment to development

He said the argument that state interventions are unnecessary and wasteful was wrong

Nor did advocacy for active public policy mean that the efficiency of public spending was belittled

"Without these interventions we could never address adequately the questions of poverty eradication and equity"

24/10/96 Sowetan 24/10/96

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Poverty, growth must be tackled together

CAN it be that our real economic debate has at last begun? On World Poverty Day last week, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki declared that a section on "human development" — in other words, an anti-poverty plan — would be added to government's macroeconomic strategy.

One report suggested that this promise had irked Finance Minister Trevor Manuel. The implication was either that government was retreating from its economic policy promises — or at least that Manuel thought it was.

At least some who read the report may well have decided, with a shudder, that we were about to begin one of those feared social experiments which drown economies in a welter of slogans and waste.

It should not mean that at all. For part of this year, corporate business, represented by the SA Foundation and the union movement, have been locked in a sterile, five-year debate about our economic options which fundamentally musses the point.

The argument is familiar: do we need to concentrate on growth so that we can one day reduce poverty, or do we need to focus on poverty so that we can one day achieve growth?

What both views miss is that our only real option is to concentrate on both — at the same time.

That seems like yet another attempt to duck hard choices, but both international experience and logic show that it is not

It should be obvious, but is sometimes forgotten in our debate, that growth is a means, not an end in itself, and that the end is reducing poverty.

The object of the exercise is to raise the living standards of all and growth is valuable to a society only if it achieves that.

On the other hand, it is hard to see how the living standards of the poor, let alone anyone else, can

about any other economic issue. Eastern miracles to support anything from an unfettered free market to state control of everything is a popular pastime.

However, at the risk of falling into the same trap, it is worth recalling that not one of these countries achieved success by ignoring poverty or leaving it to grow alone to sort out the problem. At the same time, of course, all of

It should be obvious that people can function productively only if they are healthy enough to do so, have at least some skills and are encouraged to make their own choices.

So, if growth is a means to fight poverty, tackling poverty is also an essential route to growth. This is why this year's business-labour debate has largely been a waste of valuable time: the issue is not

possibilities for the poor.

If, for example, we have competitive companies which do not create many jobs, does it make more sense to try to make them create them — or to use the revenues they generate to enhance the capacities of the poor through skills training or business loans?

If we are to achieve that, more is needed than a government commitment to write an extra chapter

If we measured our progress by gauging our ability to reduce poverty, we would be forced to tackle the real issues of society, argues Steven Friedman

rise if the economy does not grow.

A brief scan of the developing world will show that there are societies which have done well in addressing poverty, but have not achieved growth. Inevitably, the progress fizzles out.

There are also societies which have achieved, for a time, high levels of growth but have done little or nothing to tackle poverty. Their successes, too, have lost steam.

And then there are societies, particularly in east Asia, which have tackled growth and poverty at the same time: they have achieved sustained progress on both fronts.

It is probably fair to say that more nonsense is written or spoken about the east Asian economies in this country than

them saw growth as a parallel priority — some would say obsession.

The point is not to suggest that we should slavishly follow some East Asian "model"; there are elements in all of them which South Africans would probably find hard to swallow. It is, rather, to suggest that it is entirely logical to see fighting poverty as a crucial ingredient in achieving growth.

Being poor is not simply a matter of lacking money. It also means being trapped by limited skills, poor health — and by an inability to make choices. Successful anti-poverty programmes do not, therefore, simply dump money (or other material goods) on the poor: they are designed to give people the capacities they need to act as independent individuals.

whether we are to focus on growth or reducing poverty, but how we are going to address both.

Is this not simply a platitude, a bit like those "win-win" solutions of which we often hear?

Surely everyone can comfortably agree that we need both growth and anti-poverty programmes and then get back to that familiar pursuit of insisting that their interests come first?

Not necessarily. If we accept fighting poverty is about enhancing people's choices, much the same is true of achieving growth.

It is, therefore, possible to devise a set of policies which allow more than enough scope for those who are able to generate growth through running formal businesses to do so — and also provide new

into a policy document. It requires, among other things, that we find new ways of measuring our progress.

Several successful developing societies, for example, do not use growth rates alone — or even primarily — to measure their progress. They use progress in reducing poverty, measured in rising incomes, health and education standards. Malaysia, for example, boasts less of its 6%-plus annual growth rates than of reducing poverty from 60% of the population to single digits.

Since these societies also turn in hefty growth rates, the difference may seem cosmetic. It is anything but that, because it shifts attention to new priorities. This is particularly important

in a society like ours because it prevents elites, whether they are in government or business, from passing off their priorities as those of the rest of society.

At present, poverty is rarely an issue in our society unless it can be used as a slogan to justify some elite's agenda, and anti-poverty programmes have far more to do with boosting the self-esteem of elites than with fighting poverty.

We all should know by now that "black empowerment" is about who will own which shares, not about whether the black poor will learn new skills or enjoy new opportunities. "Redistribution" is about what will be shuffled from one elite to another, not about whether squatters will be able to feed their families. "Standards" are about suburban lifestyles, not about whether the public service works for everyone — including the poor.

We need only observe politicians, civic associations and housing companies arguing over how they are to dump on the poor houses which they do not want to illustrate the point.

A different measure of our performance — one which forces us to consider what progress we have made towards actually reducing poverty — might not change that miraculously.

But it would, at least, force us to concentrate on the real issues and to measure whether we are addressing them.

□ *Friedman is director of the Centre for Policy Studies*

Poverty imminent in Africa

(241) *Sowetan* 28/11/96

By Abdul Milazi

AFRICA could plunge deeper into poverty if the rate of employment in the modern sector does not improve, warns International Labour Organisation's (ILO) executive director Michel Hensenne

Writing in the ILO's latest report on employment, Hensenne says "Few development countries outside south-east Asia have experienced strong growth in productive employment over the past two decades"

He says workers' aspirations for more productive and better paying jobs have not yet been met

"The key requirements for meeting these aspirations is the high rate of employment creation. Without this, overcrowding in low-productivity employment in the rural areas and urban informal sectors will intensify"

The overcrowding in low-productivity employment would lead to low incomes and increased poverty, he says

The ILO report also argues that rapid industrialisation plays a pivotal role in generating high productivity manu-

facturing jobs

Chile, Jordan and Mauritius are the only countries outside Asia which have achieved strong employment growth in the manufacturing sector over the past two decades

"Although none of these countries matched the combination of strong employment growth with rising labour productivity and real wages that was characteristic of the dynamic Asian economies, they all owe their success to the same formula"

This formula, Hensenne says, is export-led industrialisation which generates jobs in the manufacturing sector

"It could be said that it is only the rapidly growing economies of south-east Asia that are solidly on the path to full employment. For most countries in the other regions of the developing world, the

serious problems of unemployment and low productivity are not being reversed," Hensenne argues

The ILO singles out the failure by the developing countries to recover fully from the international debt crisis of the early 1980s as being one of the major causes of deteriorating employment conditions in most parts of the world

Workers' aspirations for more productive and better paying jobs have not been met

Survey shows up SA's legacy of inequality

Majority of top jobs in white hands

KURT SWART
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg – Despite an increase in electrification and improved access to water, housing and clinics, the new South Africa still faces the challenge of correcting the disparities in living standards between black and white South Africans, disparities entrenched by apartheid rule.

Essop Pahad, Deputy Minister in the Office of the Deputy President, said these realities had been brought to focus by the latest statistics from the October 1995 annual household survey

Announcing the results of the survey, he said "Not only is South Africa challenged with correcting these racial disparities, but also gender disparities in most aspects of living"

In response to a question, Central Statistics Services (CSS) chief director of research Ros Hirschowitz said there had been an improvement in living standards since the 1994 household survey

"There has been an increase in electrification of households since 1994 and an increase in the number of people having access to clean water, clinics and schooling," he said.

Despite this, said CSS head Mark Orkin, the "race effect was still firmly impacting on South Africa" Black incomes were closing in on those of whites in the upper strata of society, but at the bottom the gap was increasing

The 1995 survey, undertaken by the CSS to augment the census information gathered every five years, quantified the inequalities between blacks and whites in income, employment, education and other spheres of life

While blacks were disadvantaged in general, black females were having to endure the worst living conditions

Under apartheid, access to education was not available equally to all.

"What is perhaps not widely acknowledged is just how this has affected educational attainment among South Africans South Africa is faced with a situation where only six percent of black males and females have received post-school qualifications

'Only six percent of black men and women have received post school qualifications'

In stark contrast, 73 percent of white males and 67 percent of white females have attained matric or a higher level of education," said Dr Pahad

The report stated that among blacks 29 percent of those aged between 50 and 54 years, and 40 percent between 60 and 64, had received no education at all

In terms of income, there were huge differences between blacks and whites Among blacks, 26 percent earned less than R6 839 a year.

Only two percent of white households were in this category Among higher income jobs, whites had the largest share with 64 percent, while only nine percent of African households were in the same category

The survey found that of the estimated

42 million population, 32 million (76 percent) were black, of whom 20 million lived in rural areas Nearly half (47 percent) of economically active black women were unemployed, as opposed to 29 percent of the males In total, 23 percent of male South Africans were unemployed compared to 38 percent of females

In the informal sector, eight out of every 10 females were in elementary occupations such as street vending and domestic work

Black females had the country's lowest educational attainment, followed by black males

White males and females had the highest attainment

Another revealing statistic was that 20 percent of all black females had received no education at all

"The race effect (of apartheid) becomes entwined with the gender effect It has become evident through the survey that the legacy of racism is combined with the legacy of sexism," said Dr Orkin

The statistics gathered by the household survey demonstrated the extent of the problems facing South Africa, said Dr Pahad

"A new South Africa cannot undergo social and economic change if its progress is monitored against outdated information

"Our fledgling democracy requires a revamped set of statistics providing accurate information on infrastructure, health care, education, housing needs, services, unemployment and poverty

"The annual household survey combined with a census every five years will ensure that we can consistently monitor the progress and development of all South Africans and effectively plan for our nation's future"

(241) (225) ARG 30/11/96

Survey reveals shock racial disparities

By KURT SWART

Despite an increase in electrification and improved access to water, housing and clinics, the new South Africa still faces the challenge of correcting the shocking disparities in living standards between black and white South Africans

Dr. Essop Pahad, deputy minister in the office of the deputy president, said these disparities had been brought into sharp focus by the latest statistics from the October 1995 household survey.

Announcing the results of the survey in Johannesburg yesterday, he said: "Not only is South Africa challenged with correcting racial disparities but also gender disparities

Access

"There has been an increase in electrification of households since 1994, and an increase in the number of people having access to clean water, clinics and schooling"

While blacks in general were severely disadvantaged, at the bottom of the pile were black females

"South Africa is faced with a situation where only 6% of African males and females have received post-school qualifications. In stark contrast, 73% of white males and 67% of females have attained matric or a higher level of education," Pahad said

Among Africans, 29% of those aged between 50 and 54 years, and 40% between 60 and 64 had received no education

In terms of income, there were huge differences between black and white

Among Africans, 26% earned less than R6 839 a year. Only 2% of white households were in this category

Among higher-income jobs, whites had the largest share with 64%, while only 9% of African households were in the same category

Nearly half (47%) of economically active African women were unemployed as opposed to 29% of the males

In total, 23% of male South Africans were unemployed, against 38% of females.

The statistics demonstrated the extent of the problems facing the country, Pahad said

Jan 20/11/96

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Pay the citizens of SA

MG(BM) 24-30/197(241)

Imaginative alternatives are needed to deal with poverty, argues
Jeremy Baskin. And he has a particularly bold one to offer

UNEMPLOYMENT and poverty are arguably the biggest challenges facing South Africa. And yet there is a startling paucity of ideas on how to tackle them. Certainly there are lots of specific ideas that could make a difference — ending state subsidies of capital-intensive farming, promoting small, medium and micro-enterprises, encouraging tourism, to name only a few. But one hears about few big ideas, major structural innovations that could have an impact.

The only serious idea is the call for deregulation of the labour market. Reduce the cost of hiring and more will be hired, is the simple version of the argument. More generally, the government is urged to increase labour market flexibility, push down the level of unskilled wages, and make it easier to hire, fire and retrain employees.

But it is hard to see this idea as practical. It seriously overestimates the current inflexibility of the labour market. And it only makes sense if it is not watered down. To work, it would require the government to take on and "name" the labour

movement, and, in doing so, increase the level of conflict in society.

Is it really practical to pursue policies which promise the long-term possibility of employment and economic growth but, in the short and medium-term, increase earning inequalities, income disparities and social conflict? Are policies which do not also encourage the re-integration of our divided society, which do not build social cohesion, really sustainable?

It is relatively easy to critique the labour market deregulationists. But, in truth, few progressive alternatives have emerged. We need to heed the warning of the Indian philosopher Ashis Nandy when he says "the surest guarantee of oppression is the inability to imagine alternatives".

So imagine the following — a basic income for all. Every adult citizen of South Africa (18 years and older) is given a monthly transfer of, say, R150 from the fiscus. This amount is given to all citizens, is not means-tested, and comes with no strings attached. It is a social entitlement linked to the general obligations of citizenship. This

R150 is paid monthly into the bank account of each citizen.

It is a modest sum, to be drawn and used by the individual as needed. It is paid to all citizens, partly for practical reasons (to avoid bureaucracy, inspectors, and the possibilities of corruption etc), but mainly to give expression to the notion that citizenship is also about the obligations each South African has to every other. It can be a glue helping bind South Africans, and assisting the development of a common national purpose.

Can we afford it? Is it practical in rural areas or if people don't have bank accounts? Why should Harry Oppenheimer also get it? These questions are partly answered by listing some of the advantages of the basic income idea.

● First, it will help alleviate the most extreme forms of poverty. Households have an average of three or four adults. For the most destitute households, and there are many, this is a form of direct income transfer that will at least keep some of the worst effects of hunger from the door. The amount is modest but will make a real impact on poverty and malnutrition.

● Second, by beginning to reduce absolute poverty and tackle inequality, a basic income should contribute to social cohesion and the

reduction of crime. The extent to which it does so would, of course, depend on the amount of the transfer. Indirect effects, such as the promotion of productivity gains, might also be expected.

● Third, the amount suggested is low enough not to stop anyone looking for a job, but significant enough to make people willing to work for less than they might have. This means it should not act as a disincentive to employment. And it should moderate pressure on labour costs, but without reducing incomes at the bottom end.

● Fourth, it should change the power balance within the family and increase its social cohesion. The individual autonomy and self-respect which the basic income system encourages should empower women and younger people within the family. In many ways the aim is to replicate some of the positive effects seen in the transfers of state pensions to the elderly.

● Fifth, it would bring all citizens into the financial system and could act as a disincentive to unregistered economic activity and associated evasion of taxes.

● Sixth, it could result in a range of direct savings by, for example, reducing the size of the civil service (removing means-testing and making electronic transfers allows for leaner and cheaper delivery), cutting some existing transfer payments (although this is not inherent in a basic income system), avoiding the duplicate costs of other citizenship systems (such as election voting rolls and identity documentation), and improving the revenue system. Indirect savings from enhanced social stability could also be substantial but are harder to measure.

● Seventh, it is an attempt to develop a basic safety net for all citizens in a situation of limited state bureaucratic capacity. It recognises that it is not affordable or sustainable to attempt to develop and expand existing transfer systems on the West European welfare model. These systems are, in any case, under pressure and there is widespread agreement they must be reformed. Nor do we have the state capacity to deliver a complex and means-tested system of transfers efficiently and effectively, even if this were desirable.

● Eighth, it should boost the level of demand for basic commodities and, if responded to by domestic manufacturers, this should act as an economic stimulus. The economic multiplier effect could be significant.

Before looking at costs, let us tackle some obvious queries. This "crazy" idea is not entirely new. It has been promoted internationally by a range of progressive economists, including two Nobel Prize winners. It has been referred to variously as a basic or citizenship income.

The basic income idea need not substitute for all existing welfare transfers. There is clearly a case for retaining some specific transfers which are conditional or means-tested. Indeed, in principle, a basic income transfer can co-exist with other welfare transfers, although there are cost implications in maintaining multiple systems. And a basic income system could be introduced incrementally. It could be phased in by age cohort, by region, or in other ways. Gradual implementation may make the system more affordable.

Our problems need radical solutions and the basic income proposal is clearly a radical one. But there is one major and obvious question that it must confront. How much will it cost? Detailed costs would depend on the details of its design — whether it is implemented gradually, the amount of the transfer, whether it replaces existing welfare transfers, and so on. And it would be essential to adjust the income tax of those earning above, say, R1 000 per month in order to neutralise the effect of the transfer on second and third quintile income earners. For those in the middle-class and above (say earning R4 000 per month upwards) it would be essential to reclaim more than the R150 transfer in order to help pay for the transfer system as a whole. If one assumes there are 20-million South Africans above the age of 18 years, and that one would reclaim the transfer and half the cost of the balance in the form of taxes from the wealthier 50% of citizens, then a transfer of R150 per month would amount to R9-billion per annum (10-million times by R1 800 per annum = R18-billion divided by two = R9-billion).

This figure can be reduced to the extent that existing welfare transfers and associated administrative personnel are reduced. Clearly a basic income system does not come cheap and detailed costs are needed. But the potential benefits for society, the sealing of a social contract between citizens and between generations, clearly merits further exploration.

Jeremy Baskin is writing in his personal capacity. He is currently employed in the Department of Labour and is a former member of the Comprehensive Labour Market Commission.

Department vows to fight poverty

Star 21/5/97 (241)
BY PRISCILLA SINGH

Gauteng has declared war on poverty, with the province's welfare department earmarking R8,5-million - 8% of its current budget - to fight and win the struggle

In his budget speech yesterday, the MEC for welfare and population development, Ignatius Jacobs, said he intended using his department's 1997/98 budget allocation as one of the means to end poverty in the province

He reiterated the earlier announced national increase in social pensions from R430 to R470 per month with effect from July 1

The department received R2,3-billion this year compared with last year's allocation of R1,7-billion

Jacobs' speech received all-round applause in the legislature. When he took office last year he declared that eradicating poverty was the foundation of the new vision he had laid down for the province

Jacobs said the old welfare paradigm failed the majority of citizens in not redressing the plight of the poor, especially women and children

Before the debate began dozens of pensioners gathered outside the legislature build-

be made to bring government, civil and business stakeholders on board to complement what limited resources the department has at its disposal," Jacobs said

He also announced a new financing model for the department and innovative approaches to make the budget work

These include transforming the current system of subsidies to old age and children's homes and other institutions, community development funds, community-owned business ventures and franchises, and development of the small, micro and medium enterprise sectors

Jacobs also proposed a lottery scheme whereby all social beneficiaries contributed a minimal amount of R1 and a certain number of "eligible members received "winnings" from this scheme

"The ultimate challenge here is to focus on employment and production as opposed to providing handouts"

“
The ultimate challenge is to focus on employment, production
”

ing. When he reiterated the pensions increase, the packed gallery let out a whoop of joy

"Whilst both the current and new budgets are unable to realise all of the new, innovative plans that have been developed in this area, attempts will

Whites 'still much better off'

New UN report points to inequities

South Africa ranks 90th out of 175 countries on this year's Human Development Index (HDI), which provides a country-by-country measure of achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income.

However, the rating covers "two worlds" as no distinction is made between "advantaged" and "disadvantaged" population groups, says David Whaley

of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

"As usual, South Africa is very difficult because of the inequities and inequalities."

He was speaking before the official release of the UNDP-commissioned Human Development Report in Cape Town, which incorporates the HDI

According to last year's HDI, South Africa ranked 100th, with white South Africans ranked 24th overall

and black South Africans were put at 124

The position was similar this year, with white South Africans falling into the high human development category and blacks into the lower-end of the medium human development scale, Mr Whaley said

Of the 175 countries included in this year's HDI, Canada, France and Norway top the rankings followed by the United States and the Netherlands.

Among developing countries, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Barbados lead, with Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Niger the lowest-ranking countries

The report found that the HDI values of 30 countries fell compared with previous years, largely because of drops in life expectancy or per capita gross domestic product. Contributing factors included HIV and AIDS, violent conflict and economies in transition - Sapa

Extreme poverty 'can be eradicated'

Extreme poverty across the globe could be eradicated in the first two decades of the 21st century, says a United Nations Development Programme report.

Launched at Parliament in Cape Town by - among other African dignitaries - Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, the report found that poverty had fallen faster in the past 50 years

than in the previous 50 decades. The report is regarded as the most comprehensive and reliable collection of data on human development UNDP director of public

affairs Djibril Diello said South Africa was an island of hope in the continent, but the report warned that eliminating world poverty remained a daunting task - Sapa

LIVING STANDARDS

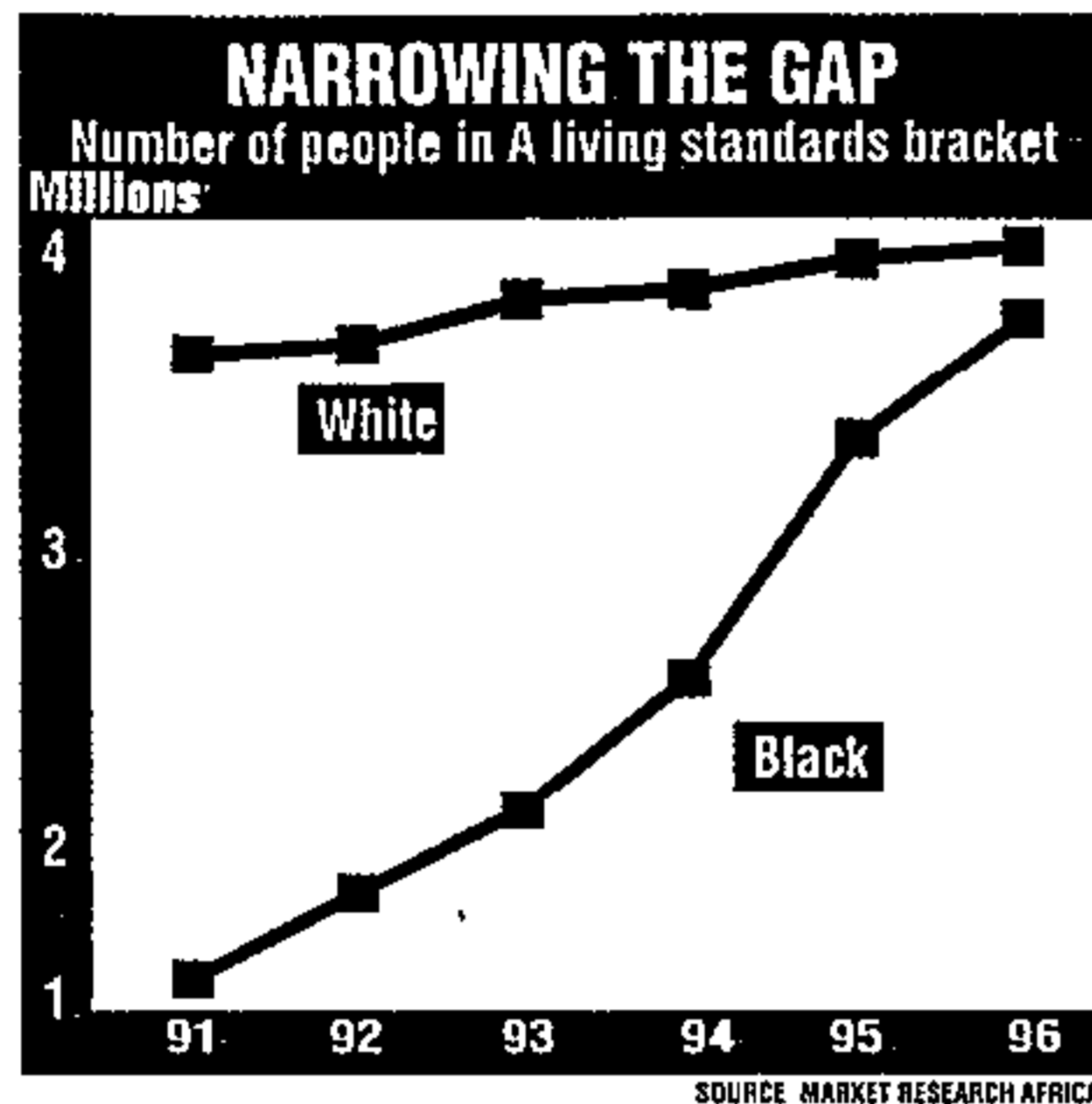
FM 13/6/97

Suddenly whites don't own all the goodies

(EOP)

Latest research shows fast-growing black middle class is catching up with its white neighbours

(241)



SA's social hierarchy is changing radically as the emergent black middle class starts to displace its white counterpart

The number of black families owning houses, cars and M-Net decoders has soared. Between 1995 and 1996, 12% more black consumers entered the A living standards bracket, bringing their total to 3,8m and within striking distance of the 4m whites enjoying similar lifestyles

This is according to Market Research Africa's latest living standards measure (LSM) survey. It recognises eight levels, the top three of which make up the A bracket

But the study shows that black entrepreneurs made no inroads into the millionaire class last year. And white individuals still account for more than 81% of the category

About 80% of the people on the top LSM level earn more than R4 000/month and own cars, 10% of which are either BMWs or Mercedes-Benzes. They also constitute half the M-Net and satellite television audience and employ most of the domestic workers in the market

But the real movement has taken place in the second and third levels from the top

People in the second group earn an average monthly income of about R4 200. They tend to spend money on home improvements such as swimming pools, security services and garden walling. Most households own a car

They also use a broad range of financial products and own a significant number of home appliances

In 1996 there were almost 13% more blacks and 9% fewer whites in this group

Members of the third group often fall into a fairly low income category, averaging incomes of about R2 000/month. But about half of households own a car, and ownership of kitchen appliances, television sets and audio equipment is high. Use of ATM cards, savings accounts and insurance is high and has grown significantly

This LSM level also saw significant change over the year — 3% more blacks, but 8% fewer whites

This suggests black consumers are overtaking their white counterparts. There was only small growth (0,1%) in white membership of the top LSM group, but sizeable falls in the two levels below. The implication is that white consumers are falling into the lower LSM groups rather than upgrading their lifestyles

It's uncertain whether black living standards will continue to rise at this rate. The economic upswing that started in mid-1993 is slowing while the consumer credit boom that fuelled much of the improvement in living standards is also reaching a ceiling

Some also argue that affirmative action in the civil service catapulted many people into the middle class — a one-off stimulus

Only an estimated 4,2% of blacks earn more than R4 000/month. It indicates affluent blacks are still a tiny minority. And economists are arguing that as some people's living standards improve, the poor are getting even poorer. But it also shows that even a small percentage improvement in black wealth constitutes a great deal of buying power

The LSM index is based on factors such as the utilities households have access to, where they shop, the financial services they use, car ownership, type of housing and household appliances. The results are ranked by group from one (subsistence) to eight (including top income brackets). The A living standards bracket covers LSM groups six to eight

Adrienne Roberts

NEWS



MAKING A POINT: Deputy President Thabo Mbeki speaks yesterday at the Cape Town launch of a UN Development Programme report on poverty

PICTURE-BENNY GOOL

SA's fight against poverty 'uneven' (241)

CT 13/6/97

PROGRESS in the country's fight against poverty, with one in four South Africans living on less than R4,50 a day, remains uneven and stark disparities still exist between different race groups, according to the United Nations Human Development Report for 1997 released yesterday

The report, which includes the human development index, ranks South Africa 90th out of 175 countries in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income

However, the rating covers "two worlds" as no distinction is made between advantaged and disadvantaged population groups, Mr David Whaley of the UN Development Programme said

The per capita income of the richest 20% in South Africa was 19 times that of the poorest 20%, the report said

Statistics also showed that

17% of South Africans were not expected to survive to the age of 40. While only three percent of white South Africans were not expected to live to 40, the corresponding figure for black South Africans was 18%

About eight percent of white South Africans lacked an education, as opposed to 16% of black South Africans

The report notes that while only four percent of children do not enrol in primary school, 24% are not reaching Grade 5

On life-expectancy, it said the average in South Africa of 63,7 years, exceeded the world average of 63,2 years and the sub-Saharan African average of 50 years

On educational attainment, SA had an adult literacy of 81,4%, higher than the world average of 77,1% and sub-Saharan Africa's average of 55% — Sapa

Mbeki, Tutu call for war on poverty as UN releases report

Charlton said

DD 13/16/97 (241)

CAPE TOWN — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday again urged the world's industrialised nations to practise debt-forgiveness when dealing with Africa, while in a related plea SA Nobel peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu called on the international community to unite to end the scourge of poverty, as they once did to fight apartheid.

Both men were speaking at the launch of this year's United Nations Human Development Report. Released at the same time in Bonn and Cape Town, it said sub-Saharan Africa had the highest incidence and most rapid growth in human poverty.

It also called for immediate debt relief for indebted poor countries.

SA ranked 90th out of 175 countries on this year's Human Development Index, which provided a country-by-country measure of achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income. However, the rating covered "two worlds": no distinction was made between advantaged and disadvantaged people, David Whaley of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said yesterday.

"As usual, SA is very difficult because of the inequities and inequalities," he said, speaking ahead of the official release of the UNDP-commissioned human development report which included the index.

According to last year's index, SA ranked

100th, which was the average between SA whites (ranked 24th overall) and SA blacks (ranked at 124)

The position was similar this year, with SA whites falling into the high human development category and blacks into the lower end of the medium human development scale, Whaley said

Of the 175 countries included in this year's index, Canada, France and Norway top the ranking, with the US and Netherlands next

Among developing nations, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Barbados lead, with Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Niger the lowest-ranking

The report found that the index values of 30 countries fell in comparison to previous

years, largely because of drops in life expectancy or per capita gross domestic product. Contributing factors included HIV/AIDS, violent conflict and economies in transition.

In sub-Saharan Africa, SA had done relatively well because of its per capita income rate. It ranked third after Seychelles (52) and Mauritius (61) in terms of the index.

According to the report's gender empowerment measure, SA's percentage of women in Parliament (23,7%) was higher than the average for other developed nations (12,7%) and even industrialised nations (13,6%). But on women administrators and managers, SA women made up only 17,4% against the 27,4% average in industrialised countries. — Sapa.

R100-m set aside to fight poverty

By Simon Zwane
Political Reporter

THE Ministry of Welfare and Population Development is to spend R100 million on programmes to alleviate poverty throughout the country, Welfare and Population Development Minister Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday.

The amount has been endorsed by provincial MECs and welfare heads of department at a two-day *lekgotla* held in Mpumalanga on Thursday and Friday.

Fraser-Moleketi said the war on poverty would be launched soon with the assistance of the South African National Non-governmental Organisations Coalition, the South African Council of Churches, the Homeless People's Federation and other stakeholders.

She reported that the Free State had become the first province to eradicate

social grant 'ghosts' who had been fraudulently collecting social security benefits.

A new system of paying the grants had been introduced in the province, beneficiaries re-registered and new identity documents issued in a process that started in April.

The ministry pays social grants to 2,9 million people each month and this is considered to be the Government's biggest poverty reduction programme.

The ministry also aims to complete the rebuilding of at least one child and youth care facility in each province by the end of October.

The *lekgotla* also endorsed the Not-for-Profit Bill scheduled to be placed before the parliamentary portfolio committee and the National Council of Provinces select committee soon. The Bill will seek to repeal provisions of the Fund Raising Act relating to granting organisations authority to raise funds from the public.

Source: 4/8/97

(24)

WHEN THE WAVE OF SUCCESS BROKE

Down and out at 'The Funny Farm'

CT 14/8/97

(24/1)

WITHOUT THE PROTECTION they had under apartheid, whites who enjoyed a gypsy lifestyle are increasingly joining the unemployed as squatters. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

IN 1968 Sylvia Cusens was Miss Mini-Skirt SA, riding the wave of success that launched her into a modelling career.

Today, divorced and with a son to support, she lives under the trees in a makeshift home near Noordhoek's Site 5 squatter camp, and ekes out a living by taking in laundry at R5 a basket.

Sylvia is one of a growing number of white people who, no longer under the economic protection of apartheid, have fallen on hard times and joined the shack-dwellers living on the edge of poverty.

The locals call it "The Funny Farm". The inhabitants jokingly refer to it as "Site 5 and a Half".

The 40 people, all whites, who live on the five-acre property between Noordhoek and Kommetjie, are not strictly squatters, because the landowner has given them permission to put up dwellings and he charges them rent. He is overseas, and the Porsche and two Landcruisers in the driveway show he is no pauper.

Some people live in the main building's outhouses or in converted garages, some in caravans and tents, some in shacks they have built themselves. One family lives in the minute scullery in the courtyard.

The inhabitants are a mixture of people, but as Ms Niki Pynappels said: "We're all here because of reduced circumstances." In the apartheid days, when job

reservation favoured whites, finding work was fairly easy. Now that they are no longer economically protected, more and more are joining the unemployed.

Five years ago it was unheard of for whites to live in shacks. Today, as Mr Martin Pynappels said: "If they (black squatters) can do it, why not us?"

Some of the inhabitants at "Site 5 and a Half" have always lived gypsy lives, others have been forced into their new lifestyle by economic circumstances.

Said Sylvia: "I moved here out of desperation. I was divorced two years ago and had nowhere to go and no job. I drove all around with a caravan and a tent asking for a place I could put it up; then I met a woman who told me to come here.

"I'm building a wooden shelter over the tent because the canvas won't last. I take in washing for R5 a basket. One guy pays me a packet of cigarettes.

"My ex-husband owes me thousands in maintenance but he's gone bankrupt. It's a hard life here — I tell you I prayed to God to save my shelter in those storms last month — but it's OK."

Mrs Sarie du Plessis lives in a room in the backyard. She used to work in Namibia and is divorced and unemployed. She has osteoporosis and is in constant pain, but has not been able to get state aid and has no medical insurance. In desperation, she has resorted to

being a domestic worker for nearby houses.

"I clean houses, do a bit of ironing, but I have no transport and that makes it difficult. Circumstances drive a person to live like this. But still, I manage to eat every day, and that's something."

Martin and Niki Pynappels live in a room tacked onto the outside of the main house. He is a carpenter and she works part-time as a waitress.

Said Martin, as he sat outside chopping onions for the evening's curry: "We got wood for the building from the sawmill next door. This place was a mess, but we've cleaned it up. There's no running water, so we have to store it in plastic bottles. I do odd bits of carpentry here and there. Niki's not working now so she's my 'hand-langer'."

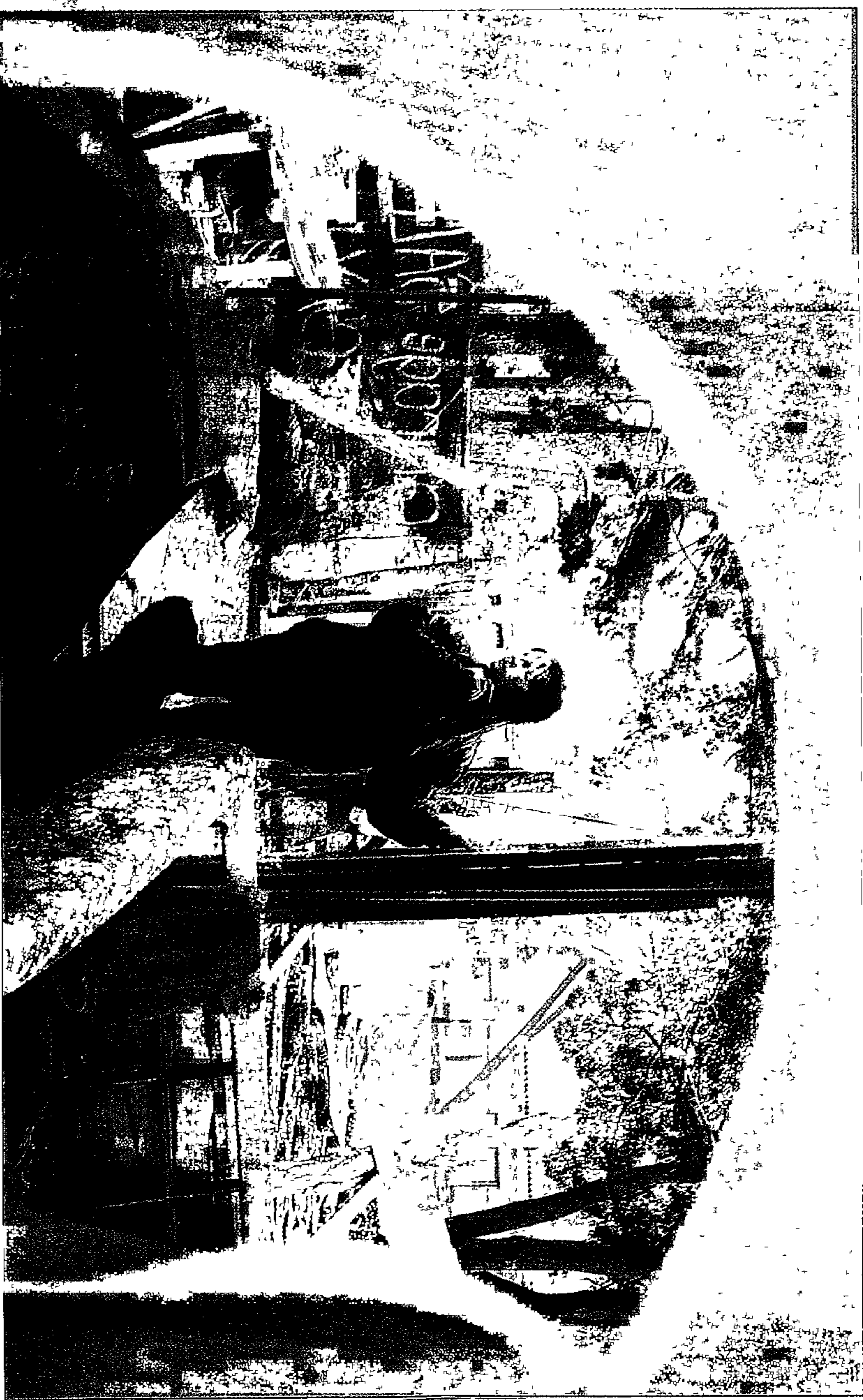
Niki dug a pit and installed a long-drop loo.

"There is one shower and two loos for 40 people, so I dug my own, just to pee in at night really. The backrest is a bit wonky. Nearly fall off it the other day."

Clive Barber has cast a concrete slab and built a shack, complete with shower and flush lavatory, and a workshop area.

A committed surfer, he lived for years in Jeffreys Bay, where he designed and made surfboards. After he developed severe conjunctivitis from exposure to glass fibre, he was forced to give this up.

"I was penniless. I came down here and started working under these trees, doing panel-beating on cars. I asked Chris (the landowner) if I could put up a shack and he said 'go for it'."



HARD TIMES: Sylvia once had a successful modelling career. Divorced and unemployed, she now lives in a makeshift home near Noordhoek, where 40 other white people who have fallen on hard times have set up home in tents, outhouses and shacks.

"It's a sign of the times that so many people are living like this. But I think in the end it's people living like us that will make the grade.

"Other people are getting bogged down by bills they can't pay. As a surfer, I say if you travel light you catch the waves.

"I tell people, even if you've only got a block of wood, it's a start, you can make something. It's a survival scene all of its own here, but you can make it work."

● See Page 10

PICTURES: GARTH STEAD

It's war as attack on poverty launched

Stan 21 8/97

The fight against poverty in South Africa will move into high gear today with the launch of the War on Poverty campaign in Cape Town.

The project, unprecedented in the scope of organisations driving it, aims to focus energy and resources on poverty-relief programmes.

Organisations involved are the NGO Coalition, the Department of Welfare, the Congress of SA Trade Unions, the SA Council of Churches, the Homeless People's Federation and the UN Development Programme.

One of the campaign's ini-

tiators - the Welfare Department's chief director of social development Graeme Bloch - says the campaign will focus the nation on fighting poverty. "We want to make poverty the number one agenda item. If it is relieved it will enable us to live together as a more peaceful and prosperous society," he said.

The campaign will also highlight issues that arose when President Mandela committed South Africa to eradicating absolute poverty at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995. - Staff Reporter

(241) (277)

NEWS POLITICS

SACC declares war on poverty

(241) *Samuelan 21/8/97*

By Oupa Ngwenya

THE South African Council of Churches will along with its partners, sign a document today declaring war on poverty

Its partners include the Ministry of Social Welfare and Pensions, the South African NGO Coalition, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the Homeless People's Federation and the United Nations Development Programme

The signing ceremony, in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, will mark the first in a series of activities organised by partners to take the campaign forward

The alliance provides a framework for partners to focus their ongoing work as well as to launch new initiatives

The declaration ranks poverty and inequality as South Africa's most important priorities. It says their eradication is essential to consolidate democracy

It also notes that South Africa is

"today burdened with unacceptable levels of inequality between rich and poor" and that many people live below the breadline, and are exposed to persistent hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and hopelessness

While conceding that much has been achieved through the commitment of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to address basic needs, it says there is still long way to go

Globally, the document says campaigns against poverty will need to be responsive to both opportunities and dangers presented. Necessary steps include fighting unemployment and landlessness, increasing credit access for the poor and encouraging small-scale production and entrepreneurship in the formal and informal sectors

Government strategies must sustain wealth distribution through coordinated cross-sectoral programmes and infrastructural development

Fighting the war against poverty

Sowetan 21/8/97

241

Women and children in rural areas are the worst hit

By Joe Mdhlela

NOW THAT apartheid has been defeated and democracy is the order of the day, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) is focusing its attention on combating poverty

As it did in the past, when the SACC mobilised churches and other institutions in the war against apartheid, the SACC is now addressing poverty together with other important community needs

These include the South African Non-Governmental Organisations' Coalition, the Homeless People's Federation, the United Nations Development Programme, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Department of Welfare and Population Development

In an interview with *Sowetan* this week, the head of the Development Ministries of the SACC, Dr Mongezi Guma, said the church had once again to take up the war against poverty as its priority cause

But to achieve its objective of eradicating poverty, Guma said, the SACC needed partners

"It is not strange that the partners we are embracing are the same organisations that were vocal against apartheid and helped to defeat it," said Guma

"Like the fight against apartheid, fighting the scourge of poverty needs commitment and we think with such movements as the trade unions, we cannot fail in our endeavour to better the lives of our people"

He said the church recognised the rampant poverty faced by South Africa's people as a threat to "our newly acquired democracy"

Survival

Almost one in four South Africans live on less than R5 a day, and 17 percent of the population is not expected to survive beyond the age of 40

Only three percent of whites are not expected to reach 40, but the corresponding figure for blacks is a massive 18 percent

The per capita income of the richest 20 percent in South Africa is 19 times that of the poorest 20 percent

The real per capita Gross Domestic Product of the richest 20 percent is about R45 000. The corresponding figure of the poorest 20 percent, on the other hand, is just R2 500

Guma said some sections of the community were so poor "they attended funeral services not because they sympathised with the bereaved families, but as a way of alleviating their hunger"

This might seem like a joke, "but it is shows what poverty is capable of doing - stripping a person's dignity and self-esteem"

"The war on poverty is South Africa's most important priority and our greatest challenge. Eradicating poverty is essential to consolidate the gains of our new democracy"

"It is a precondition for social justice, peace and security in our land"

Guma said apartheid was largely to blame. The policy of segregation had contributed to the poverty that was devastating the country, and had burdened the country with "a legacy of economic and social distress"

Describing poverty, Guma said it manifested itself in the lack of access to resources, a lack of income to make choices, and an inability to take advantage of opportunities

"All of society needs to be involved in the struggle for social development

"The very fabric of our society, the soul of our communities needs to be rebuilt," he said

Guma said poverty manifested itself mostly in the rural areas, and affected both women and children

But he was confident that poverty could be eradicated through collective effort

He said while the Government should have a role to play in the fight against poverty, communities should also take the responsibility to uplift themselves and help to end the scourge of poverty

He said the church would continue to make the Government sensitive to the issues of poverty, and hoped to ensure that government policy addressed the alleviation of poverty "as a matter of priority"

He said the church would also encourage communities to engage in people-driven projects that would show that ordinary citizens were capable of empowering themselves without government intervention.

"People-centred strategies to fight poverty must directly involve the poor in finding solutions to their problems"

"The energy, creativity and assets of the poor are key human and social resources that will give people hope"

He argued that women, who understood poverty better as they usually managed the household, had an important role to play in alleviating the plight of the poor

Invest in women

In line with the call by the Copenhagen Declaration drawn up at a United Nations conference on poverty in 1995, Guma said it was critical to invest in women

He quoted from the declaration "The most productive policies and investments are those that empower people to maximise their capacities, resources and opportunities"



Dr Mongezi Guma ... the war against poverty must once again be the church's first priority.

PIC LEN KUMALO

But he repeated, poverty can only be alleviated if all society's stru-
c- participate in the fight against the scourge

"In that respect we will utilise our different institutions and organisations, separately and together, and seek partnerships and solutions that will better the lives of all South Africans," he said

Some of the strategies that the SACC will employ in its fight against poverty include

- Using publicity to focus the attention of the nation on the millions of people that go hungry on a daily basis,

- Encouraging local action and developing local programmes,

- Encouraging volunteers to mobilise and organise communities to engage in programmes to alleviate poverty,

- Focus government programmes and legislation on poverty,

- Build partnerships and coalitions, and

- Ensure that the voices of poor people are heard and not ignored.

Having declared August as the month of compassion, the SACC Ecumenical Commission on Poverty will also ask the nation to forgo a meal, "in order to give another a chance to live"

"It is time we lived up to our Christian convictions by helping those who are in need. By contributing towards the alleviation of poverty, we will be showing solidarity with the less privileged in our society"

He said proceeds from the "skip-a-meal" programme to give others a chance to live will go towards a fund that will help to alleviate poverty countrywide

- The SACC will sign its declara-

It is time we lived up to our Christian convictions by helping those who are in need. By contributing towards the eradication of poverty, we will be showing solidarity with the less privileged

War on poverty now official

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 21/8/97

South Africans will formally declare war on poverty today with the signing of a declaration to eradicate hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and homelessness.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, and representatives of the Congress of SA Trade Unions are among those who will sign the pledge in Khayelitsha.

It forms part of the War on Poverty campaign, which is backed by a wide range of government and non-government organisations

(241) (241)
Brian Sokutu, a spokesman for Ms Fraser-Moleketi, said the signing created an "atmosphere of collaboration" between the Government and NGOs.

"The most important message the declaration is getting across is that poverty alleviation is a challenge for all of us," he said

Projects planned for later this year as part of the War on Poverty included Masakhane Week, the Cosatu jobs summit and an International Volunteers' Day

NGO hearings were in the pipeline for next year covering poverty, government relief programmes, budget allocation and programmes around church land as a means to increase food production

Organisations draw swords (241) for all-out war on poverty

STW 22/8/97

STAFF REPORTER

The War on Poverty campaign, launched in Cape Town yesterday, is the first concerted effort by all sectors of society to focus the fight on poverty, said the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Njongonkulu Ndungane.

"As representatives of the church, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, government and the international community, we are recognising today that each of us, on our own, will be unable to make an impact on this modern-day scourge," Ndungane said.

The campaign aims to focus South Africa's attention on poverty so that it becomes a national priority and encourages local development programmes.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said that this year had seen a shift in programme financing to more developmental social services, with the emphasis on

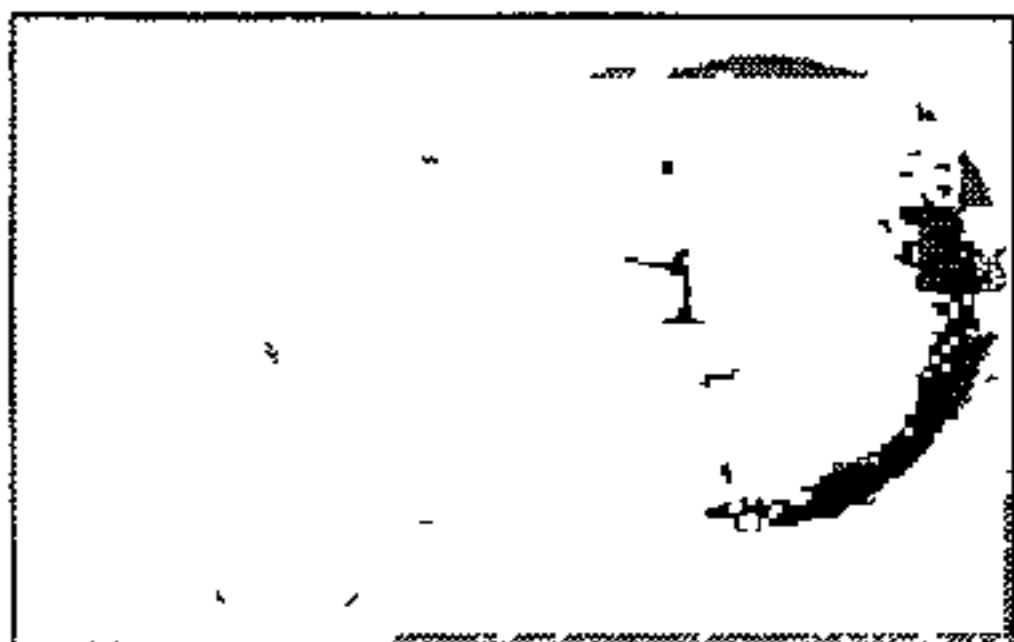
community-based action and support.

She said the launch of a flagship programme earlier this year, benefiting unemployed women with children under 5, had resulted in programmes that provided education and training, linked to various economic-empowerment initiatives, in all provinces.

Fraser-Moleketi said steps to access a portion of the R300-million set aside for poverty alleviation by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel would encourage a range of small development programmes, especially among women in rural areas.

This would build on already existing projects and funding channels through the provinces and national councils, Fraser-Moleketi said after signing the historic war on poverty declaration.

Ndungane announced that a major summit would be held to put in place practical and sustainable strategies to eradicate poverty in southern Africa by 2006.



It's time for a war on poverty

Three years into transition, SA remains one of world's most unequal societies, writes Graeme Bloch

667

The war on poverty and inequality is South Africa's most important priority and our greatest challenge."

These words from the Declaration of the War on Poverty are a call to action

About 2,3 million South Africans are malnourished. A quarter of schools have no running water within walking distance, half have no electricity. While 66% of Africans are poor, only 2% of whites are. South Africa, three years into the transition, remains one of the most unequal societies in the world.

The figures are not only unacceptable. Social peace, justice and security require that we tackle the task of social development.

At the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, President Mandela and other leaders committed themselves to eradicating absolute poverty by a target date set by each country.

In launching the War on Poverty Campaign, Archbishop Njongkulu Ndungane recognised that "each of us, on our own, will be unable to make an impact on this modern-day scourge. It will only be as we join forces and act in concert with one another that we will reach our goals."

The South African Council of Churches, Cosatu, the SA NGO Coalition, the Homeless People's Federation, the UNDP and the Department of Welfare, represent a spread of sectors that have resolved to make poverty and inequality the number one agenda item in the country as we approach the new millennium.

he campaign aims to:

- Focus the nation in the fight against poverty,
- Encourage local action, local programmes, and mobilisation of communities;
- Co-ordinate and focus government legislation and programmes,

education and training to economic empowerment for women with children under 5. The campaign hopes to generate a national debate, and a national consensus. The campaign is not short-term. But it requires the short-term actions of all of us.

Ensure grassroots responses and the voices of the poor themselves are heard. Poverty is about lack of access, lack of power, lack of income and resources to make choices and take advantages of opportunities.

Broad-based partnerships are important to building a national consensus and co-ordinated actions.

Other priorities include tackling unemployment and landlessness, increasing access to credit, encouraging small-scale production and entrepreneurship, focusing on wage gaps and the working poor, and giving special attention to vulnerable groups such as children in poverty, the disabled and also older persons.

Some of the landmarks in the campaign include marking of Masakhane Week, where the Department of Welfare for example will highlight the achievements of rural women at village level in the Northern Province.

NGO Week in September will see the launch of a good practice award for NGOs. October 17, the International Day

for the Eradication of Poverty, will see debates in provincial legislatures focusing on poverty, and NGO exhibitions around the country.

The Poverty and Inequality Report (PIR) will be published soon, focusing on Government's achievements and shortcomings. Commissioned by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and chaired by Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the PIR is likely to make major recommendations on increased co-ordination, targeting and monitoring. The 1998 budget will be a focus of attention.

This is in addition to specific ongoing programmes - for example, the Department of Welfare pays out over 3-million grants worth R14-billion in 1997/8, with a major impact on poor rural families.

Three million children will gain access to a cash grant of R100 per month when the new child support benefit is fully operational. The flagship programme in all provinces has piloted inter-departmental initiatives linking ed-

Star readers can volunteer their time, and give money to organisations combating poverty. They can get to know poor people whom they meet in their daily life and find out about their problems. They can raise the issue of poverty with others, in religious organisations, cultural or sports groups, and work out concrete steps. They can adopt the declaration as a starting point and use it as a commitment to generate action.

The emphasis of the campaign is on implementing achievable objectives by different stakeholders that result in the improvement of the quality of life of all South Africans.

Graeme Bloch is the chief director of social development at the Department of Welfare and a member of the War on Poverty steering committee.

Star 29/8/97 (241)

SA warned on poor urban underclass

Belinda Beresford

THE lack of improvement in the income of the poorest fifth of the population in SA meant the country risked creating a "large underclass of marginalised people in the main urban areas of the country", the Central Statistical Service (CSS) said yesterday.

Income disparities between households in the 12 major urban centres decreased between 1990 and 1995, but the poorest 20% of households still earned only 2% of total income.

Comparisons between the 1990 and 1995 survey rely on households in the 12 major urban centres, because the former covered only those areas. Households in these areas tend to be wealthier than those in rural or small suburban areas, with an average income of R83 000 in 1995 compared to R41 000 for an average household in the country as a whole.

The middle 50% of households

earned 13% of income in 1995, compared to 10% five years earlier. The most affluent fifth of the population earned 60% of income in 1995 — a 10% drop from 1990.

The net result was a decrease in overall income disparity among urban households, with the Gini coefficient falling to 0,55 from 0,63 in 1990. The Gini coefficient is a measure of equality of income distribution ranging between 1 — extreme inequality — to zero — total equality.

However, analysis by race showed that while white households had recorded a fall in income disparity, all other race groups had shown an increase.

For example in 1990 34% of black households were in the bottom 20% of income, but this rose to 38% for 1995.

The number of black households in the top fifth of the population rose to 6% in the latest survey from 2% in 1990.

Only 33% of white households

BD 16/9/97 (241) (428)
were in the top fifth of income in 1995, down from 51% in the earlier survey.

Black, coloured and Indian households showed the typical pattern of increasing average income, with proportionately less expenditure on food and more on income tax, insurance, transport and housing.

The average household spends about 18% of income on food, 16% on housing, 15% on income tax and 10% on transport. The poorest fifth of the population spend just over R2 000 a year or 51% of total expenditure on food, with more than a third of this spent on grain products. The top fifth of households spent about R13 000 a year or 12% of expenditure on food with meat and fish accounting for about a third of this.

Confirming economists' concerns, the CSS said in general 2% of expenditure was spent on investment and savings, with another 2% going to pension funds.

NGOs gear up for battle on poverty

(241) Hundreds of ~~representatives~~ from non-government organisations (NGOs), the Government, the labour sector and public stakeholders are to meet in Bloemfontein this weekend to round off the "Uniting to Fight Against Poverty" NGO Week '97.

The South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco), which was formed two years ago as an umbrella body, hopes that the Bloemfontein conference will develop a clear programme of action for NGOs.

Sangoco executive director Kumi Naidoo said. "The South African NGO sector should emerge out of NGO Week '97 more confident, united and ready to meet the challenges of poverty eradication and alleviation with courage."

He said he expected NGOs to make plans at the conference to fight poverty and inequality with "the same determination that characterised the fight against apartheid". - Staff Reporter

Stat 18/9/97



Needed: 'a key' to eliminate poverty

Sowetan 24/9/97

241

By Mokgadi Pela

POOR communities need profound social change rather than affirmative action to address their plight, a leading academic has said

Addressing about 100 members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) at the *Sowetan* offices in Johannesburg yesterday, chief director of higher education Professor Itumeleng Mosala said "The poor are not to blame for their poverty and the rich are not the best and brightest who managed through unusual ability to rise to the top and shine"

Mosala, whose theme was Empowerment or Liberation? Why Affirmative Action Fails to Work, said affirmative action was not a solution to poverty but a measure to address it

Its limitations were that it 'reinforces dominant ideology of possessive individualism and strips communities of their intelligentsia', he said

The history of affirmative action had a biblical ring to it "To those who have, more shall be given, to those who do not, even the little which they have shall be taken away from them"

Mosala said this concept was littered with stories in which "the able are rewarded and the less able are damned"

"It is a story of competition, of winners and losers, where winners are given everything - the big prize, the social acclaim. It is a story of stardom and winning lottery tickets, where one person gets much more than any human being could ever need while many have to scrape along with much less than is necessary for minimal comfort and dignity"

He said the solutions lay in economic growth, political commitment and technical know-how

South Africa needed a key to open the door that "leads to the elimination of poverty"

inside trains as well as the general level of crime cleanliness of toilet facilities at stations was also identified as a matter needing attention

(2) Detailed monitoring of commuter perception through a complaint monitoring system is however performed regularly and improvements in service delivery can be deduced as follows

Complaints as measured from 1995 to 1996

Complaints related to security, station cleanliness and attitude of staff have all decreased from 1995 to 1996, indicating an improvement in these service elements

Complaints related to station toilets have increased by 5% from 1995 to 1996

These results should be seen in the context of a constantly improving reporting system (more complaints are being reported than before)

UJF: income/expenditure

*28 Dr F J VAN HEERDEN asked the Minister of Labour [Written Question No 978]

(a) What was the annual (i) income and (ii) expenditure of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) in (aa) 1995 and (bb) 1996 and (b) what was the state of the UIF's reserve as at the latest specified date for which information is available? N1683E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR

(a) The annual income and expenditure of the Unemployment Insurance Fund is as follows

	1995	1996
(i) (aa) Income	2 057 015	2 404 328
(i) (bb) Expenditure	2 021 287	2 312 334
(b) Reserve as at 21-08-97	748 217	

NB 1996 figures are unaudited and thus not final figures

*29 Mr I J PRETORIUS - Home Affairs [Written Question No 979] [Removed]

*30 Mr B C BESTER - Home Affairs [Written Question No 980] [Removed]

*31 Mr I J PRETORIUS - Home Affairs [Written Question No 981] [Removed]

Minister/Deputy Minister: present/absent on sitting days

*32 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance [Written Question No 982]

Whether (a) he and (b) his Deputy Minister were present at Parliament on each sitting day during the first six months of 1997 if not, (i)(aa) on how many sitting days was he or she absent from Parliament and (bb) on how many of these days was he or she absent (aaa) on State business, (bbb) on leave and (ccc) on grounds of ill-health and (ii) on how many of the days on which (aa) he and/or (bb) his Deputy Minister were absent on State business was he or she in (aaa) Cape Town or (bbb) any other specified city? N1687E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

Minister Manuel

(a) No

	(i) (aa)	(i) (bb)	(ii) (aaa)	(ii) (bbb)
(1) (aa)	28	28	None	None
(1) (bb)	None	None	1 day	27 days
(1) (aaa)	None	None	1 day	27 days
(1) (bbb)	None	None	1 day	27 days

(9 days in Jhb/Pta, 2 days in Cape Town, 1 day in Bisho, 2 days in Washington, 2 days in Harare, 3 days traveling to, and in, Abidjan, 1 day in Edinburgh, 1 day in London, 1 day in Bonn, 3 days in Tokyo, 1 day in New York and 1 day in Chicago)

Deputy Minister Marcus

(b) No

	(i) (aa)	(i) (bb)	(ii) (aaa)	(ii) (bbb)
(1) (aa)	3	3	None	None
(1) (bb)	None	None	3 days	3 days
(1) (aaa)	None	None	3 days	3 days
(1) (bbb)	None	None	3 days	3 days

(2 days in Johannesburg and 1 day in Durban)

Note

Presence in Parliament is per decision of Cabinet that members of the Executive be present for own legislation on Wednesdays and Thursdays

The balance of each week is spent fulfilling executive functions, primarily in Pretoria

*33 Mrs E J CHAIT asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development [Written Question No 985]

(a) How many children were and (b) what percentage of the total child population was living in poverty in South Africa in 1996? N1690E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

(a) Approximately 9.6 million children and

(b) this figure constitutes approximately 60% of the total child population

Ladysmith floods: amounts paid out from fund

*34 Mr J W MAREE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development [Written Question No 986]

(1) What amounts were paid out by the Government from the Disaster Relief Fund in each of the past ten years to support individuals in Ladysmith who suffered losses as a result of floods,

(2) whether the Government will be prepared to make funds available for individuals who suffered losses as a result of floods this year, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? N1693E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

(1) Ladysmith was declared a disaster area in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1994 and 1996. The following amounts were paid out

Year	Number of Applications	Amount
1987 + 1988	19 032	R 19 938 000
1989	455	R493 000
1994	1 947	R9 964 342
1996	1 135	R5 678 898
Total	22 569	R 36 074 240

(2) Ladysmith has not been declared a disaster area during 1997 and no funds will therefore be paid out to individuals. In terms of Section 26 of the Fund Raising Act No 107 of 1978, financial assistance is given to individuals when the President has declared the area a disaster area

Northern Province:
constructing/reconstructing/maintaining roads

*35 Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister of Transport [Written Question No 987]

What amount (a) has been budgeted for the current and (b) was budgeted for the previous financial year for (i) constructing, (ii) reconstructing and (iii) maintaining roads in the Northern Province? N1694E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Out of the National Road fund the following amounts were budgeted

Year	Maintenance (R million)	Reconstruction (R million)
1996-97	15 335	8 900
1997-98	17 658	89 693

Note

The construction of the new toll road from Kranskop toll plaza to Pietersburg was financed by private sector funds and did not appear on the National Road Fund Budget. The amount spent on construction of this road in the 1996-97 financial year was R300 million

Minister: trips outside RSA

*36 Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister of Health [Written Question No 988]

(a) How many days in 1995 did she spend outside the borders of the Republic, (b) what was the (i) purpose, (ii) destination, (iii) duration and (iv) cost of each visit and (c) who accompanied her in each case? N1695E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH

I regret that I am unable to answer this question at this time

The information will be provided as soon as the records for 1995 have been obtained from Pretoria

Collection of training levies

*55 Comdt A BLAAS asked the Minister of Labour †

- (1) (a) How much is it anticipated will be collected annually from training levies as referred to in the draft Skills Development Bill, should it be fixed at a notch of 1% and (b) what is it anticipated the administration costs attached to the collection of this training levy will amount to
- (2) whether this training levy can be justified when taking into consideration the administration costs attached to the collection of the levy, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details? N2099E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR

- (1) (a) According to the Central Statistical Service, (Statistical Release P0200 of 29 April 1997), the total gross wage and salary bill for the economy, in 1996 was R210 billion. The figure includes overtime earnings and bonuses. The public sector wage and salary bill including employer's contributions to personnel funds such as pension provident medical aid, sick pay and other funds, is part of this figure.
- The precise formula for collecting the levy is still not worked out, but if we take this gross figure then the potential revenue to be collected from a 1% levy on payroll would be of the order of R2.1 billion.

- (b) According to the South African Revenue Services the total cost they would incur in order to collect the levy revenue would be between 0.7% and 1% of total revenue collected. This would translate into administrative collection costs of between R14.7 million and R21.0 million. An administrative cost of 1% of total revenue for the collection of a payroll levy is comparable with other international experiences where payroll levies for training have been implemented.

- (2) Assuming that the payroll levy for training generates R2.1 billion, the amount of money left once these costs are subtracted, for training and the development of the institutional capability to implement high quality and

Howard

WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1997

2700

relevant industrial training, will still be over R2.0 billion. The payroll levy for training will improve the levels and quality of training in industry especially among small and medium sized enterprises that do little or no training. It will contribute to the development of our industrial capability through the strong links between rising skills levels and technological development and reduce problems of non-training firms poaching skilled labour from those that do train, which reduces the overall incentive to train in industry. It will provide the resources and incentives to revitalise apprenticeship-type training through the proposed new learnership scheme, as well as the resources to establish the infrastructure for introducing the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework in industry.

Our country has an extremely poor skills base, which compares poorly with other developing and developed nations, as well as with the growing skills content of jobs across the economy. The training levy is an effective instrument for improving the competence and knowledge of our present and future workforce, which is a prerequisite for increasing productivity and contributing to declining unit costs and therefore greater international competitiveness. Furthermore, by encouraging firms to provide training and workplace experience for those currently outside of employment, it will improve the skills profile of this out-of-work population and their ability to compete for jobs in the labour market.

The relatively small administrative costs of collecting the levy revenue are completely justifiable given these benefits from introducing the training levy.

Projects to alleviate poverty

*56 Mrs T J MALAN asked the Minister of Finance †

- (1) Whether any projects to alleviate poverty have already been initiated with the amount of R300 million voted for that purpose in the budget, if not, (a) why not and (b)(i) how and (ii) when does he or his Department envisage spending the funds, if so, (aa) what are the nature and extent of the projects, (bb) which institutions or

state departments manage these projects and (cc) how do the poor get access to these services.

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1919E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

- (1) The R300 million set aside in the 1997/98 budget for poverty alleviation has not been allocated as yet. A proposed allocation is to be submitted to Cabinet shortly. It is envisaged that the funds available this year should be allocated to the following existing programmes or already designed projects in order to ensure that the funds are utilised effectively.

A The Department of Public Works' *Community Based Programme* (CBP) was adopted in 1994 and focuses on the creation of infrastructural assets. Its method of delivery is labour intensive construction, especially targeting women. It thereby creates temporary jobs while providing needed assets mainly in rural areas. The aim is for assets that can directly and indirectly lead to sustainable income generation and therefore sustainable poverty alleviation. It concentrates on categories of assets that improve accessibility, are directly productive or labour saving and promote social cohesion.

B The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's *Working for Water* (WFW) is another RDP-related poverty relief programme that has contributed to job creation. This programme clears invading alien plants such as wattles, pines and gums in a labour-intensive way. There is a strong correlation between the occurrence of alien plant invasion and the occurrence of extreme poverty. Employment creation is sustained through the restoration and maintenance of cleared areas. The programme has embraced many partners in both government and the private sector. It has further potential for additional links to associated activities (e.g. rehabilitation of degraded farmland, small-scale agriculture, the building of access roads, nature trails that facilitate eco-tourism and social

security in terms of managing floods and fires).

C The Department of Welfare's *Income Generation Programme* (IGP) is a new proposal. The beneficiaries of the strategy will be women, children and youth. The following two-fold strategy has been agreed between the national Department of Welfare and its provincial counterparts.

- Community based organisations and welfare organisations that work with communities living below the poverty line will receive funding for once-off expenditures. The purpose is to kick-start sustainable income generation programmes. Only projects with a strong skill-training component and without recurring expenditure will be considered.

- Fixed or movable capital will be purchased to promote income-earning initiatives. Funding will take place through existing organisations that have infrastructure and management systems in place and are currently involved with development programmes. The purpose is to assist in the promotion of sustainable development through micro-enterprises. The close to 2 000 NGOs currently funded by Welfare will be utilised.

- (2) A statement on the matter will be made once allocations have been finalised.

WHO: 47th session of Regional Committee for Africa at Sun City

*57 Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister of Health †

Whether Cabinet gave approval for the 47th session of the World Health Organisation's Regional Committee for Africa to be held at Sun City, if so, (a) why was the meeting held in South Africa, (b) what was the cost to the taxpayer of the (i) proceedings and (ii) gala dinner and (c) against which budget votes were the costs of these functions recovered? N2084E

Howard

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1997

2702

AVERAGE ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN EACH PROVINCE

PROVINCE	AFRICAN	COLOURED	INDIAN	WHITE	TOTAL
Eastern Cape	R17 000	R24 000	R58 000	R90 000	R24 000
Free State					
Mpumalanga	R20 000	R30 000	R78 000	R82 000	R30 000
Northern Province	R26 000	R43 000	-	R140 000	R31 000
KwaZulu-Natal	R24 000	R41 000	R61 000	R98 000	R37 000
Western Cape	R22 000	R30 000	R48 000	R98 000	R53 000
Gauteng	R37 000	R53 000	R111 000	R118 000	R71 000

Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

- Number of household in the survey was too small for the data for



Income chasm divides rich and poor

A report by the Central Statistical Service on earning and spending in SA has revealed some unexpected trends. SVEN LUNSCHE reports

A RECENT comprehensive report on the earning levels of SA's various racial groups confirms what is already conventional wisdom — the income inequality between rich and poor in the country is among the biggest in the world

The report, Earning and Spending in SA, 1991—1995, by the Central Statistical Service, shows that the richest 20% of SA households earn as much as 65% of all income while the poorest 20% have only 3%

The CSS's conclusion is that SA ranks along with countries

such as Ecuador and Brazil among those with the widest income disparities between affluent and poor

Nothing new there. But the report does uncover some new statistics which require a fresh analysis of the reason for the income inequality

Two figures stand out firstly, there are many more wealthy, middle-class black, In-

dian and coloured people than at the height of apartheid, and, secondly, the disparity between rich and poor is widest in the black community

Other findings include

- Households in urban areas have more than double the average yearly income (R55 000) of those living in rural areas (R23 000)
- Families living in informal or

traditional dwellings (R15 000) have a far lower income than those living in houses (R52 000)

- Not unexpectedly, households where the head is in a managerial, professional, technical or administrative capacity have the highest income (R101 000). There is a steep decline among those families where the head is in a clerical

or sales position (R41 000) and an even further decline where the household is led by a production, transport or services worker (R38 000)

- Income differences vary from province to province (see table). The average income for Gauteng is R71 000 a household, compared with R24 000 in the Eastern Cape

Whites in the Northern Province are the wealthiest, with annual earnings of R140 000, followed by Gauteng (R118 000). At the other end of the spectrum are blacks in the Northern Cape (R13 000) and Free State (R14 000)

(241)

ST(BT) 12/10/97

Poverty hinders development in rural areas — Moosa

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Moosa
2411

Deborah Fine

MAFIKENG — The amalgamation of underdeveloped rural areas with more affluent urban local authorities was a "politically sensitive" issue, but integration could be a positive step towards alleviating endemic rural poverty, Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Affairs Minister Valh Moosa said on Sunday.

Addressing a local government conference on rural financing, Moosa said although "extensive attention" had been given to the restructuring of SA's cities, the same could not be said for the countryside, home to about 40% of the country's population.

Moosa told the conference, which was sponsored by Africare, Gencor, John Semida Associates, USAid, both the national and North West provincial local government departments and the SA Foundation for Public Management, that about 74% of rural people were classified as "poor". Also, 72% of rural African households lived in conditions that could only be described as "intolerable". Rural areas were

characterised by minimal or no access to basic resources, Moosa said.

Compounding the problem of poverty in rural areas was the high cost of providing services, which was usually far more than in urban areas. This was because of sparse population distribution, greater distances and a lack of basic infrastructure in the areas.

Given the poverty rate in rural areas, incoming revenues from municipal service charges were "seriously limited", Moosa said. Rural municipalities were therefore far less able than their urban counterparts to finance the creation of municipal infrastructure and effect social upliftment.

Despite serious financial constraints and, in many cases, "non-existent" administrative capacities, rural councils were still obliged to give priority to the basic services needs of their communities, he said.

In order to realise this, "urgent strategies needed to be developed to ensure that rural "own revenues" were increased and financial capacity was sustained.

One of the challenges which had to be addressed was the identification of new sources of revenues for rural municipalities. Various existing and potential new sources were being discussed in the white paper on local government transformation currently being circulated for comment.

The proposals contained in the white paper included the introduction of a controversial agricultural or rural land tax, which would be of crucial importance to the future viability of rural local government.

Unlike their urban counterparts, which levied property assessed rates as an important part of their income, rural councils did not levy any taxes on immovable properties.

Moosa said a rural land tax would give greater fiscal autonomy to rural councils, which were at this stage heavily dependent on grants and subsidies from both central and provincial government.

Other possible taxes included a "betterment tax", which could be levied on residents benefiting from development projects.

Integration with urban local councils could also hold "numerous advantages" for rural areas, he said. Amalgamations could make it possible to pool resources across wider areas, and also promote economies of scale, especially in underdeveloped rural areas with no capacity at all.

Moosa warned, however, that amalgamations could only be successful if a committee system was developed which gave different groups majority voice on matters affecting exclusively rural or urban areas.

He said that there was "no way" that rural municipalities could meet all of their constitutional obligations without the significant involvement of private sector funds and management expertise.

Appropriate steps should therefore be taken to improve the relationship between local authorities and the private sector, which at this state had "very negative" perceptions about the risks associated with local government lending, in particular to rural local councils, Moosa said.

Statistics show the poor most often black

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

TODAY is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and South African statistics on poverty are nothing to write home about

A total of 45,7 percent of the population lives in poverty and, as expected, most are black.

Ninety-eight percent of those who are poverty-stricken are black, while the remaining two percent are white.

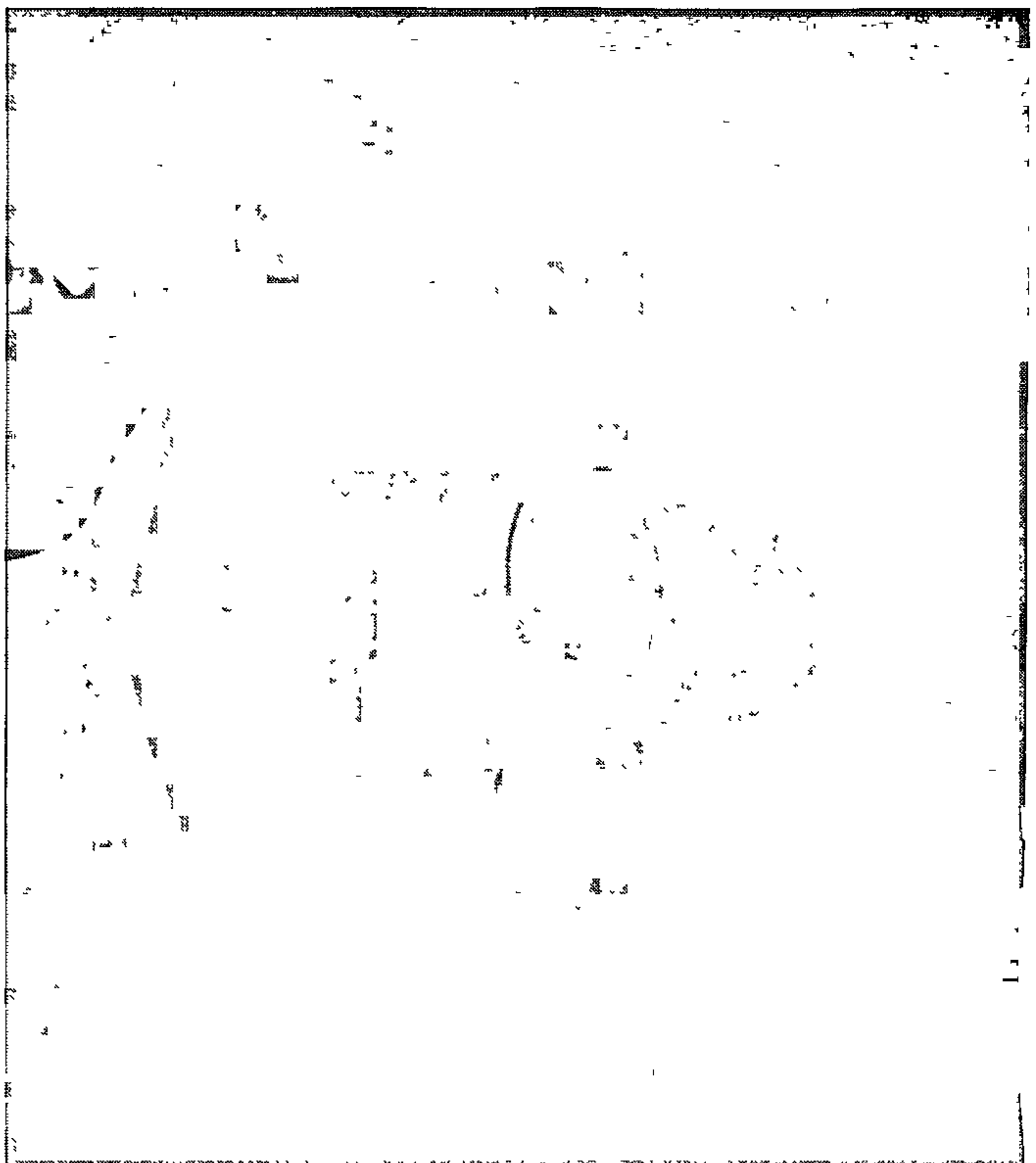
These are statistics based upon research conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) up

17/10/97 (241)
The findings form the basis of a National Party report, called "Development, empowerment and strategy", which was released in Parliament yesterday ahead of today's Poverty Day commemorations

The province with the highest figure is Northern Province with a 69,3 percent poverty rate, followed by the Eastern Cape with 64 percent, KwaZulu Natal with 50 percent, Northern Cape with 48 percent, Free State with 47,1 percent, Mpumalanga with 45,1 percent, North West with 41,3 percent, Gauteng with 21,1 percent and the Western Cape with 17,9 percent

War on poverty is still a black and white issue for most people in South Africa ⁽²⁴¹⁾

CP 19/19/97



CAUSES of and solutions to the problems of poverty in South Africa continue to be viewed in terms of black and white, as a conference organised by the Gauteng government on the issue demonstrated on Friday

The conference, with the theme "War on Poverty" and held to mark the International Day on War Against Poverty, once again showed wide differences in the understanding of the causes and the steps that are needed to alleviate poverty

Political parties, representing a wide sections of South Africa's divergent populations, echoed different perceptions held by the country's population on the eradication of poverty

While members of the African National Congress in the Gauteng legislature emphasised the need for more government intervention to wipe out poverty, the National Party, the Freedom Front and the Democratic Party argued for less involvement in the fight

Gauteng MEC for Health, Amos Masondo, said the government reaffirmed the people's constitutional right to access to health care and said his department had worked towards achieving this goal

Masondo said his department had built 14 clinics during the 1996/1997 financial year to address some of the problems faced

MAKING PROGRESS

Gauteng MEC for Health Amos Masondo says life has improved for many

by people in underserved areas

The primary school feeding programme, part of the Mandela Children's Fund, had ensured that more than 240 000 pupils in 955 schools in the province had something to eat during school hours

"The programme has improved attendance and pupils now concentrate better in their classes," Masondo said

National Party representative Teresa Wessels said urbanisation and the influx of immigrants worsened poverty in the province

She said women, who supported most households, were paid less than men and that contributed to poverty

Government's policy on the eradication of poverty should allow women access to land, education, child welfare as well as technical and financial aid

Freedom Front MPL Wessel Cronjé said government should concentrate on education because educated people would steer themselves out of poverty

He said government's policy on poverty should give poor people the means to look after themselves

Welfare MEC Ignatius Jacobs said in the fight against poverty his department was giving social grants and had started programmes targeting vulnerable groups such as women and children

These programmes were aimed at creating an alternative economy that was community-based and ploughed created wealth back into the community

Jacobs said the programmes were meant to eradicate state dependency - Sapa

People should look after themselves and stop regarding the state as their economic guarantor, NP MPL Greg Wessels said

"We should stop being a welfare state in trying to solve our problem of poverty,"

Wessels said for the economy to grow and poverty to be eased, the labour unions should allow labour flexibility to reduce unemployment

He said even if there was state interference, there should be strict control of the funds earmarked for poverty eradication

Welfare MEC Ignatius Jacobs said in the fight against poverty his department was giving social grants and had started programmes targeting vulnerable groups such as women and children

These programmes were aimed at creating an alternative economy that was community-based and ploughed created wealth back into the community

Jacobs said the programmes were meant to eradicate state dependency - Sapa

'SA on road to ending poverty'

(241)

THERE is a real need for southern African states to work together to fulfil poverty Deputy Minister in the Deputy President's office Essop Pahad said yesterday.

Pahad told the United Nations Seminar on Poverty Eradication in Midrand north of Johannesburg that SA was committed to all UN programme aimed at addressing the problem.

The fight against poverty could only be won by the cooperation of government and other stakeholders.

Such a development Commission of Southern Africa said the government could not take root or culture in an environment of the magnitude of people who could be rejected people without a total human requirement.

The three-day seminar to promote education on economic development decision made at UN international conference aimed at eradicating poverty.

BD 4/11/97

CAPE ARGUS INQUIRY

Abject poverty and wealth two sides of the same coin in SA

AR 20/11/97
(241)



THEY SAY

It is a pity that neither Democratic Party leader Tony Leon nor Dr Theo Alant, National Party finance spokesman, took the trouble to avail themselves of the analysis I made in my testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa's political and economic history during the last 100 years for their 'Have Your Say' articles.

The thrust of my argument was that a symbiotic relationship (a very close co-operation) had existed between the system of white political dominance and the economic system of racial capitalism, since the first decades of this century.

The exploitative nature of the racial systems did not only create undeserved (mainly African) poverty, but also undeserved (mainly white) wealth. The central point to grasp is that the abject poverty and the extravagant wealth are structurally linked. They are the two sides of the same coin.

Both Mr Leon and Dr Alant missed this point completely. Can it be that conceptual blockages, typical of the old South Africa, still prevent them from seeing and appreciating this obvious truth about South Africa's most serious socio-economic problem?

Poverty and wealth are structurally linked in South Africa and until this changes there can be no long-term security, says Professor

SAMPIE TERREBLANCHE of Stellenbosch University in his response to the debate **On a wealth tax**

For what other reasons are they pulling up old-hat arguments with no other purpose than to protect the sectional interest of (mainly) the whites - completely as if we are still living in the old South Africa? No wonder they cannot appreciate the dire need for restitution.

What has become clear to me over the past week is that there still remains a mammoth task of adult education before we can bring about

the needed change in the mindset of the majority of white South Africans.

Mr Leon's article was yet another unconvincing attempt to prove that business (and its white shareholders) did not benefit from the racist systems - as was also the case with the testimony of business before the TRC last week.

Although the interaction between racial oppression - in all its ramifications - and capitalism is indeed complex, there can be little doubt that they were mutually supportive systems during the first three quarters of the century.

During the 40 years from 1934 to 1974, the average growth rate was 4.5% annually. In a growing economy, the (structural) mirror images of African deprivation, exploitation and discrimination were inevitable, the enrichment and the empowerment of the whites.

During the crisis years of the racist system (1974-1990) - during the struggle against it, the NP government's and a large part of business' relentless resistance against the struggle - serious harm was done to the economy and people of South Africa.

During these years, the income of 60% of the Africans - already desper-

ately poor in 1974 - declined by 35%. We, therefore, can put forward a strong case that the poorest half of the Africans are not only the victims of racial exploitation and apartheid, but also of the struggle and resistance against it. Their upliftment, therefore, should be our highest priority.

A British researcher put it as follows: "Within the imposed framework of apartheid policies, institutions and laws, market forces had acted as a 'malevolent' Invisible Hand to produce increasingly racial inequalities of income."

The most conspicuous feature of both Mr Leon's and Dr Alant's articles is that neither of them had anything to say about the widespread and inhuman poverty in which at least 40% of the population is living.

Their arguments show no empathy for the hard fate of the desperately poor. For Mr Leon to allege that my proposal will not be redistributive, but retributive, is shocking.

Mr Leon and Dr Alant represent political parties which are dependent on the support of those who will be adversely affected by a wealth tax or, for that matter, any other measure of restitution.

Therefore, I can understand the vehemence with which they deem it

fit to try and squash my proposal.

Apart from the shortsightedness of their reactions, as far as the future of our country is concerned, they are actually undermining the viability of their own struggling parties.

Do they really think that vast numbers of black voters will ever entrust their interests to politicians and policies showing no signs of compassion with the dire and heart-rending plight of the structurally impoverished masses?

Both of them referred to the GEAR macro-economic strategy. After 18 months of GEAR strategy, it has not delivered the projected economic growth and job creation.

It is time to acknowledge that, from scratch, GEAR has been too narrowly economic in its approach.

The strategy was framed in terms of the ideological tradition of liberal capitalism of the British-American countries (and the World Bank), while South Africa's circumstances demanded that it should be framed in terms of the ideological traditions of social democracy of Continental countries.

GEAR took as its point of departure that the lack of economic growth and unemployment should be regarded as South Africa's gravest problem

In fact, the most serious problem facing South Africa, after centuries of conflict, strife and exploitation, is the absence of a proper social structure. GEAR, unfortunately, neglected the decisive importance of society-building, social stability and social justice as preconditions for growth and job creation.

The GEAR plan should be complemented with a comprehensive poverty relief programme and redistributive strategy financed through a wealth or reconstruction levy.

Dr Alant's article is so unimaginative and so full of insulting remarks against my personal integrity, that I do not know if it would be worthwhile reacting to it.

What he should realise is that no tax system is sacrosanct.

If the prevailing tax system proves not to be instrumental in solving our most pressing socio-economic problems, then certainly it is the responsibility of Parliament to adapt it.

A 1992 IMF publication on South Africa remarks as follows: "In South Africa, individual income tax and corporate income tax collectors substantially exceeded those in other middle-income countries. In contrast, other countries raised substantially more revenue through social security

and wealth taxes than did South Africa."

It is clear that the Government still is struggling to come to grips with the almost bankrupt socio-economic legacy it inherited after 46 years of NP mismanagement.

How an NP parliamentarian can have the audacity to be so obstructive towards my proposal to clear up the mess the NP government created, is difficult to understand.

We should better not forget that during its existence of more than 80 years the NP never put forward a policy to address African poverty - on the contrary.

If both Mr Leon and Dr Alant think we can create a socio-economic climate conducive to sustainable growth over the long run without first restoring a satisfactory degree of social justice and social stability, they are clearly living in a fairytale world.

Given the historically close connection between abject poverty and extravagant wealth, the obvious thing to do is to use the fiscal powers of government to bring about - on behalf of the long-term interest of every South African - a larger degree of equity, justice and stability into the body politic of the South African nation.

Campaign to fight ⁽²⁴¹⁾ poverty

Sowetan 11/12/97

By Khangale Makhado

THE South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the South African Non-Governmental Organisations' Coalition launched a campaign yesterday aimed at fighting poverty

Addressing a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday, SAHRC chief executive officer Advocate Louisa Zondo said the campaign would culminate in the hosting of a series of hearings on poverty throughout the country

This, Zondo said, would ensure that decision-makers would be able to take note of "peoples' voices"

The hearings will be able to check on the impact apartheid had on poverty which resulted in the inability of people mainly from poor communities to realise their full potential

Sangoco president Advocate Rams Ramashia said that his organisations had declared total war on poverty as the second phase of the struggle

He warned that while the Government had begun putting in place programmes to address the legacy of poverty, too little had been done and "we need action before it is too late"

"The poverty hearings, to start in March next year, will make explicit recommendations to decision-makers as they outline an election agenda from the perspective of the poor

"We have an opportunity to reverse the process of apartheid and poverty and ensure that our country becomes a peaceful and prosperous land deserving of the blood, sweat and tears shed for it," Ramashia said

He called on the communities and their representative organisations to come forward and tell their stories, saying "we call upon politicians for once to keep quiet and listen to peoples' experiences and suggestions"

SAHRC commissioner Advocate Pency Tlakula said the hearings would highlight the problem of poverty and the protection of socio-economic rights

PAC calls on Govt to help fight poverty

Movement favours the establishment of the development fund from existing income tax

By Mbulelo Baloyi

THE Pan Africanist Congress has called for the establishment of a special development fund, derived from the existing income tax, to assist in the eradication of poverty in the country

This was one of the decisions at the PAC's annual conference at the University of Durban-Westville yesterday

PAC MP Mrs Patricia de Lille told a media briefing that five percent of the existing income tax should be put aside for a development fund

She said the conference had also resolved that the Government should cut down on expenses by closing some of its missions abroad and merging certain ministries

"We feel that as a cost-cutting measure, the Government should redistribute some of the revenue generated through income tax by putting aside this five percent for poverty eradication programmes," said De Lille

There should also be a review of the statutory commissions which were established during the past three years

"The Human Rights Commission has up to

Sowetan 15/12/97
now, not served its purpose and we feel some of its work could be done with the help of some of the non-governmental organisations," she said

Meanwhile, the three-day conference was marred by the unexpected arrival of its former president Mr Clarence Makwetu on Saturday

Makwetu, presently under suspension for three years for allegedly bringing the party into disrepute, surprised conference delegates when he arrived unannounced with a few supporters

During a press briefing on Saturday, PAC president Bishop Stanley Mogoba said Makwetu's case was not an issue

"Presently his membership of the party is suspended and his situation is a delicate one for us," said Mogoba

He said Makwetu had been informed that he could not participate in the conference

Makwetu told *Sowetan* that he had come to the conference to appeal to the PAC's national executive committee to hear his case

"I am here to appeal for my case because I do not think that I was treated fairly, and I am denied my right to be in Parliament. I did not smuggle myself into Parliament," said Makwetu

PAC's blueprint to end poverty

CT 15/12/97

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(241)

DURBAN: The Pan Africanist Congress has proposed several measures which it believes could be implemented by government to eradicate poverty in South Africa

PAC chief whip Ms Patricia de Lille said yesterday at the party's annual conference at the University of Durban-Westville that a percentage of income taxes could be channelled into a special development fund to assist the poor

De Lille suggested five percent of taxes could be redistributed for development needs

"Part of what we are already paying in taxes should be put aside," De Lille said. The government should also consider reducing the number of foreign missions, the PAC said

Another suggestion was that some ministries, like the Public Enterprises Ministry, be removed and that others be

merged to reduce costs. The number of commissions should also be reviewed and some of them closed down or be incorporated into other commissions, the PAC said

Travel expenses and cellphone accounts should be more closely monitored, De Lille said

She added that these proposals had been presented to the government in March, but that the government had not yet acknowledged receipt of them

During the conference, delegates affirmed their overwhelming support for De Lille, who had been suspended for 15 working days of the new parliamentary session

She was suspended for asking the African National Congress to confirm perceptions that some ANC leaders had spied for the former government

The PAC said De Lille's suspension was a blatant violation of her constitutional rights, her freedom of speech and her parliamentary privilege

De Lille was considering taking legal action against Parliament through the Constitutional Court

PAC president Dr Stanley Mogoba said delegates at the conference had felt a resurgence of the party. He was confident the PAC would perform well, if not win the 1999 election

De Lille said the PAC was the only organisation, given its history and policies, that posed a real threat to the ANC

She said for the PAC to grow it was necessary to take an independent stance from the ANC

"We need not be confrontational, but more questioning and challenging," she added — Sapa

Mbeki means business

New ANC leader vows to tackle unemployment and poverty

RAY HARTLEY, CYRIL MADLALA
and CRAIG DOONAN

NEW ANC president Thabo Mbeki has made turning the tide of joblessness and the war against poverty his most urgent priorities

Mbeki was speaking shortly after delegates to the ANC conference in Mafikeng endorsed his government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gear), and voted Finance Minister Trevor Manuel into the top 10 of the party's national executive committee

"It is true that the rate of job creation is not what we want it to be," he said in an interview yesterday

Outlining his approach to fighting unemployment, Mbeki said

- The public service would be reduced to increase the amount of money that could be spent on job-creating construction projects,

- Small businesses would be boosted by improving state aid in the form of start-up financing;

- A more focused bid to attract foreign investors would begin;

ST 21/12/97 (4) (241)
● More partnerships between the private sector and government corporations like the Airports Company would be introduced, and

- Encouragement of export-oriented businesses would continue

Mbeki said the government needed to spend less on public service salaries and more on investment in building new roads, schools and hospitals because this would mean more jobs being created by private-sector contractors "We are saying we won't create jobs by expanding the civil service. Jobs are going to come from the private sector"

Mbeki closed the conference with a speech calling for a stepping up of the ANC's transformation agenda "We must transform the machinery of state as speedily as possible to ensure this becomes an instrument that serves the interests of the people. We must continue the struggle to devote greater and greater amounts of public resources to the goal of meeting the social needs of the people"

Earlier, a resolution backed the government's economic policy, saying "The conference endorses

the basic objective of macroeconomic stability. Gear provides a basis for achieving such stability"

It described Gear and the RDP as "mutually reinforcing policy instruments" It also called on the ANC and its allies to "spearhead a national campaign to fight against waste and corruption in the management of public resources"

In a resolution on education, the ANC called for an education summit to discuss the budgetary crisis in education. It also called on the government to talk to teacher unions "to avoid retrenchment and the negative effects"

A gender policy resolution made it impossible for men "with interdicts against them because of abuses towards women", child abusers and those who had not paid maintenance to divorcees to hold office in the ANC or the government

President Nelson Mandela told journalists at a rally in Mafikeng yesterday that Mbeki's most important task was to win a two-thirds majority for the ANC in 1999

● See page 23

POVERTY - GENERAL

1998

R85m rural anti-poverty programme is

BD 9/1/98

(241)

Stephane Bothma

PRETORIA — An R85m rural anti-poverty programme to be launched by the public works department at the end of the month would create 12 800 temporary and 3 840 sustainable jobs over the next four months in the poorest communities in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Province, Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe said yesterday.

At a news conference, Radebe described the "fast-track" programme as a "people-centred and people-driven project". Local communities would be directly involved in defining, planning and implementing the programme, he said.

It was aimed at the poorest rural communities, and especially at rural women.

"The programme supports improved access to trade opportunities such as roads, bridges and markets and aims to promote the direct productive process in the community like food production, irrigation, refuse collection, replenishment of building materials and maintenance of community assets," Radebe said.

Other aims included labour-saving mechanisms such as water and fuel supply, social cohesion of the community in the form of multipurpose halls and sport facilities and environmental protection such as erosion protection, bush clearing and sanitation.

Radebe said the priority areas were Quthu and Tsolo in the Eastern Cape, Empangeni, Shobashobane and Nongoma in KwaZulu-Natal and Ha-Mulima, Ga-Modjadi, Ga-Ramogale and Ga-Mamabolo in the Northern Province.

In addition to creating temporary and sustainable jobs, of which 8 320 would be for women, Radebe said about 100 projects would also facilitate training.

He said typical projects included building access roads, livestock dipping and handling facilities, micro irrigation schemes, village bridges, wood lots, livestock dams, shearing sheds, markets, storage facilities, fencing of grazing and arable lands, facilities for bus and taxi ranks, multipurpose centres and classrooms.

"The project listing is not exhaustive in terms of the needs of the communities, but is an indication of the type of projects that would bring about significant socioeconomic improvement in the targeted areas," he said.

Radebe said his department had appointed a programme management team and an auditing firm which would provide support to ensure adherence to treasury instructions of the office of the Exchequer.

The project would be implemented from January 29 to June 30 this year through a process of tendering, design, project plans and construction, he said.



Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe at a news briefing in Pretoria yesterday where he announced a community-based public works programme

Picture TYRONE ARTHUR

Planned

Government allocates R85-million for alleviation of rural poverty

By HOPWELL RADEBE
Political Staff

The Government has approved R85-million to create 17 000 jobs

in rural areas as part of its rural poverty relief programme, Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe said yesterday. Speaking in Pretoria, Radebe said the projects, which

would start on January 29, would create about 12 800 temporary and 3 840 permanent jobs.

He hoped that women would comprise at least 65% of the labour force in about 100 projects that would concentrate on the development of rural community infrastructure. The projects involved, the

building of roads, livestock-dipping facilities, micro irrigation schemes, dams, shearing sheds, markets, storage facilities and classrooms.

The areas targeted were Empanjeni, Shobashobane and Nongoma in Kwazulu Natal, which are mostly Inkatha Freedom Party strongholds. Radebe said the develop-

ments would go a long way towards reducing the polarisation of communities.

Qumbu and Tsolo in the Eastern Cape would also be developed. Unemployment in the area was a major contributing factor to the appalling living conditions which often created conflicts over stock theft. Northern Province villages

targeted by the scheme include Ha-Mulima, Ga-Modjadji, Ga-Ramogale and Ga-Mamabolo in the Pietersburg area.

Radebe said the programme would emphasise vocational training such as building and plumbing skills for those participating in the projects. The department, which would act as the project man-

ager, would also seek to develop the management skills of local authorities to enable them to take over and successfully run the projects.

A programme management team and an auditing firm had been appointed to support local authorities to adhere to treasury instructions from the office of the exchequer.

Star 9/11/98

(241)

City to host probe on poverty

BUSINESS EDITOR

Cape Town will host hearings on housing and urban poverty in June as part of a national poverty hearings programme convened by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Human Rights Commission.

The hearings are

designed to make the voices of the poor heard by decision-makers and will cover social security, health, housing, land and rural development, the environment, employment and income

Representatives of the Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission and the South African

National NGO Coalition (Sangoco) will listen to the evidence and debate the role of policymakers

A report will be published on June 26, just before a national poverty summit. The Western Cape NGO coalition will host the hearings on housing and urban poverty from June 1 to June 7.

(241)

Making poverty a priority

(241) MHC 23-29/1/98

Charlene Smith

Barely a week after the pensions crisis in the Eastern Cape, a nationwide, million-rand inquiry into poverty is to be launched, where the poor will be asked to testify about the gravity of their situation. This will follow the first government report on poverty, which will be released by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office in the next six weeks.

In a separate move, three human-rights groupings, with the co-operation of most government departments and the backing of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will launch a three-month commission to each province as part of their "War on Poverty", manned by six to eight commissioners.

Government ministers and Mbeki, alarmed by the social security crisis in the Eastern Cape which saw 600 000 pensioners go for a month without being paid and some welfare organisations collapse, met this week to discuss possible solutions for other regions, especially in the Northern Province, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, which are all struggling to supply social services.

Many rural schools in the Eastern Cape and provincial offices are without electricity as the province has run out of funds in so many areas and still has three months left be-

fore the 1998 budgetary allocations from central government. Questions are being asked about whether or not some poverty alleviation programmes fulfil that function, or make matters worse.

Ann Githuku, assistant president and representative of the UNDP poverty programme, which has set aside R250 000 for the new commission, said the UNDP had also helped to fund the report from the deputy-president's office.

"But it is mainly philosophical. The researchers were academic and did not necessarily have a strong grounding in the issues, not having lived or worked in poor communities. That document will be a useful reference, but civil society organisations did not participate in the process," Githuku said.

"There is a major vacuum concerning poverty in this country. We tried to analyse where poverty eradication is on the government agenda — there is lip service, but it needs to be clear what the real issues are and what people can do. South Africa has dealt with all the issues of rights, but not the right to development."

Githuku said the hearings would be followed by a summit on poverty in mid-June, but it was not yet known which organisation would host it. According to Goolam Abu-Baker,

economic adviser in Mbeki's office, the government poverty report was first planned by the former Reconstruction and Development Programme office. After that closed, it fell under the authority of Mbeki.

The report tender was won by Data Research Africa.

"The report tries to look at the extent of poverty, who the poor are and where they live. It examines various poverty alleviation programmes and draws some conclusions," said Abu-Baker.

He added that "although poverty is already extensively documented in South Africa", the 300-page report generated "valuable information and insights and may influence government responses to poverty".

Poverty researcher Professor Lawrence Schlemmer said that although almost 40% of adults are unemployed, in many families someone is employed, but in many others there are people with no income.

"If you take the level above that, there are people earning R700 or R800 a month. Telkom is marketing telephones to them, Eskom has supplied electricity and there are irresistible temptations to buy on credit."

"These people have huge debts and huge electricity accounts and there is no family budget to pay ser-

vice charges. They have to make a trade-off, and one of the things lacking in the Masakhane campaign is a careful calculation as to how many people are in this situation.

"We have to adjust. In the Philippines, as an example, people may have electricity but seldom running water. There are more economical refuse and sewerage charges, which means that service charges are lower than ours."

"The emergent middle class is growing rapidly, but the poverty class is growing at half the rate of that again."

The World Bank paints a rosier picture of our economic capacity than many South African researchers, with a gross national product (GNP) of \$130.9 billion in 1995 and a per capita GNP of \$3 160. But this is seriously skewed as massive wealth is held in the hands of a few.

The Congress of South African Trade Union's September report, released late last year, stated that 95% of African households live in poverty, the poorest 53% of the population have no access to electricity, while 70% have no access to piped water.

Nuresh Ranklass of the National Welfare, Social Service and Development Forum noted: "Although we talk about social development in this country few resources have been put forward. Gear [the growth, employment and redistribution strategy]



Thabo Mbeki: To release a report on poverty in South Africa

says cut down, make the civil service efficient. That is good, but no one deals with ways to assist the unemployed, who account for almost half of the population.

"The absolute number of rural poor, and poor generally, is increasing, while the physical circumstances for the survival of our people is decreasing. I have not seen sufficient houses being built to cope with the numbers of people squatting, even when houses are built few can afford them. We need economic opportunities for millions of people, especially those in rural areas."

But a year before national elections we can expect more speeches about poverty, and not a whole lot of action, while the situation of the poor deteriorates.

Plan to alleviate poverty ⁽²⁴¹⁾ ~~(247)~~

By Shadrack Mashalaba and Abdul Milazi

SOUTH Africa has to promote the small and medium business sector to alleviate poverty and unemployment, Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin said at the weekend

Erwin was speaking at the official opening of the Mogwase Entrepreneurial Support Centre which will be the hub of business activity in North West

He said local governments had a major role to play in addressing the needs of the community because the national Government could not attend to all the problems of the country

Business loans

Erwin said South Africa did not fare well when it came to small and medium businesses

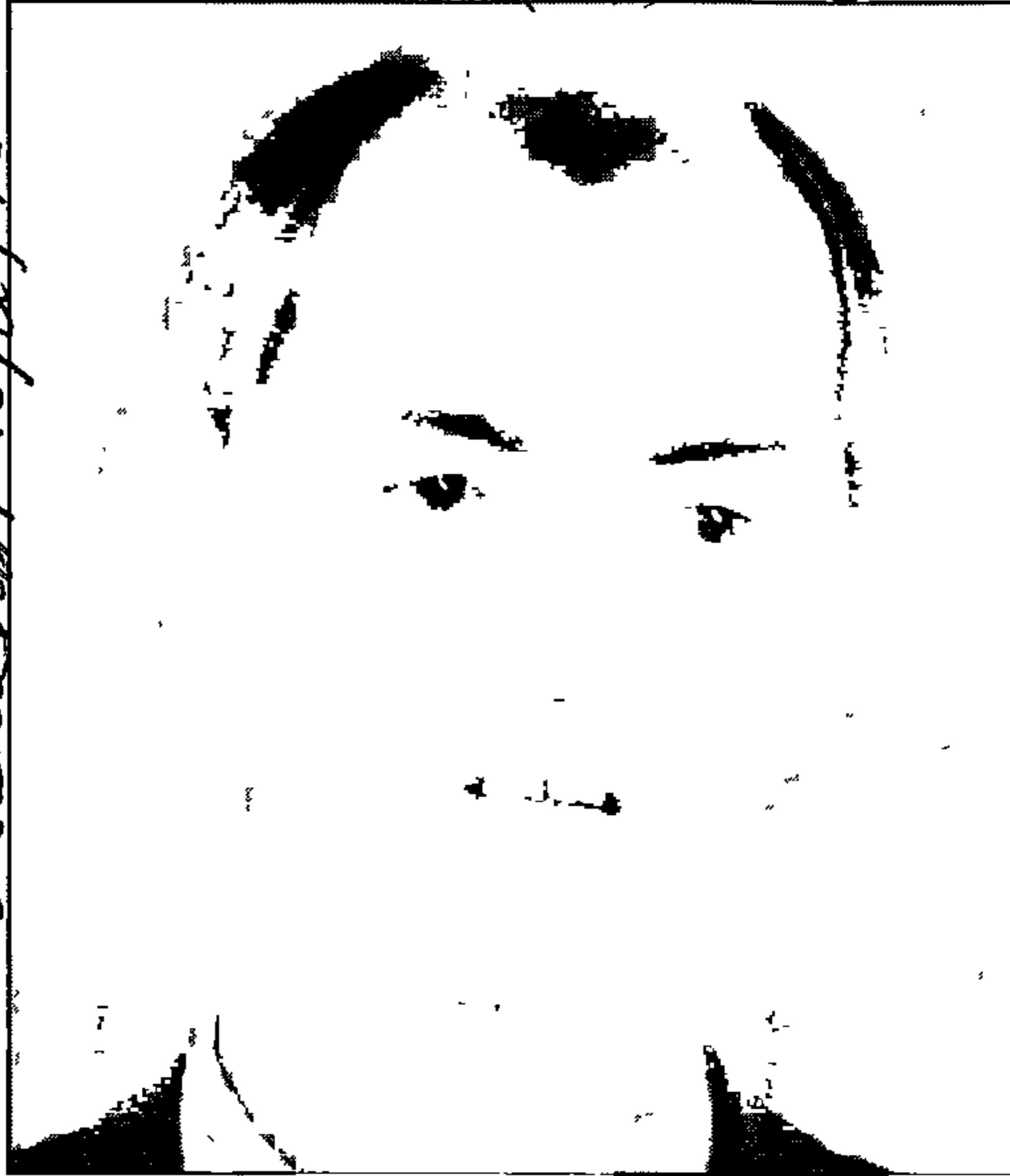
"We are worse off than most countries when it comes to the small and medium business sector," he said

He attributed this to the apartheid system in which blacks were systematically prevented from owning their own businesses, and the fact that banks were still reluctant to give business loans to blacks

Interest rates

Erwin said the Government could not subsidise business as that would cripple those businesses and also push up interest rates

"If you subsidise business, as the previous government did here (in the former Bophuthatswana), the business dies when you withdraw the subsidy," he said



Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin.

He said the development of the small and medium business sector could boost the economy and help the Government deal with some of the country's problems

"In the Maputo Corridor, which is the biggest business development so far, we are looking at R34 billion," said Erwin

He said the Mogwase Centre was the first phase of what would be known as the Platinum Corridor, a project that will connect North

West business with the Maputo Corridor and ultimately form a business highway aligning Mozambique and the rest of South Africa

North West MEC for finance and economic affairs Martin Kuscus said the small and medium business sector generally was a complex sector to deal with. It was therefore important to devise a comprehensive plan to address problems faced by the sector



Chris Ribelo was assaulted and allegedly pistol-whipped by a white motorist during a confrontation in Pretoria this week.

PIC LEN KUMALO

Govt's commitment to fight poverty reaffirmed

By Claire Keeton

MINISTER of Welfare and Population Development Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to fight poverty at the launch of a "Speak Out on Poverty" programme yesterday

The Government is one of the partners in this programme spearheaded by the South African NGO Coalition (Sangoco), the South African Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE)

Speak Out will be holding poverty hearings from March to June in all nine provinces, with most hearings focusing on a specific issues like education or health

The Minister said the process would highlight the role all people can play in alleviating and eradicating poverty.

She said the hearings would give the poor a platform to fight poverty and build access to opportunity and choice

Working together

"Change is not restricted to the Government. We need the corporate world to work with us to ensure access to credit, houses and land," Fraser-Moleketi said

"We will see how we can use our partnerships to roll back the scourge of poverty."

Sangoco president Mr Rams Ramashia said the programme would

work towards making the rights enshrined in the South African Constitution a reality for its people

"(These) rights are empty and democracy is fragile if it does not bring an improvement to the lives of those who bear the brunt of poverty," Ramashia said

Fifty three percent of South Africans earn less than R301 a month, which amounts to only 10 percent of the total earnings. Most of these people do not have access to work, land, safe drinking water, adequate housing or education

GCE chairwoman Ms Thenjwe Mthintso highlighted how women in particular suffered from poverty and inequality

(241) *Sowetan 25/2/97*

Special hearings aim to alleviate poverty in SA

About 53% of South Africans live below the R301-a-month poverty line and more than nine million live in shacks

These figures were released in Johannesburg yesterday at the launch of a four-month series of poverty hearings designed to document the experiences of South Africa's poor

The hearings start on March 17 in Bloemfontein. They will be conducted by the SA Human Rights Commission,

(241) ~~241~~
the Commission on Gender Equality and the SA Non-governmental Organisations Coalition (Sangoco).

Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said the aim was to give poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions to poverty.

This information would be used to devise a development framework and would be included in poverty monitoring programmes. - Sapa

Star 25/2/98

Poor will get platform to help them fight poverty

(241)

Star 26/1/98

By RYAN CRESSWELL

The national Poverty Hearings launched in Johannesburg this week will have far-reaching consequences for the plight of the poor, according to organisers.

The South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) and the South African NGO Coalition will hold 10 nationwide poverty hearings called "Speak Out on Poverty: Your Chance to be Heard".

The hearings will give the poor and their advocates a chance to speak out and will lead up to a report, a summit in June, a pro-poverty macro-economic plan and the Poverty Forum which will be attended by church groups, unions, government and non-governmental organisations.

Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said during the launch at the Worker's Library in Newtown that the macro-economic plan would probably be put forward as an alternative to the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (Gear) strategy, which the coalition saw as being a watered-down version of original RDP aims.

"It's time for poor people to set the policy agenda. This is what we mean by people-centred development and

participatory democracy," he said.

Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said the hearings were an opportunity to "strengthen the ability of the poor to fight poverty". She promised that the Government would "listen" to what the speakers had to say.

Professor Philip Alston, who chairs a UN committee that looks at economic and social human rights, said these rights were often overlooked because there was a tendency to only regard rights in terms of torture or killing.

Thenjiwe Mtintso, chairman of the CGE, said it was mostly women who were poor and a change in power relations between men and women would be needed before their poverty was truly eradicated. Each hearing will deal with a different issue.

Education on March 17-21 at Bloemfontein, land and rural development on March 31 to April 3 at Pietersburg; open hearings on April 24-25 at Mafikeng, on April 27-28 at Nelspruit and on May 1-2 at Kimberley, economics on May 7-9 at Johannesburg, health on May 11-17 in KwaZulu Natal, social security on May 18-23 in East London, environment on May 25-29 at Port Elizabeth and housing and urban development on June 1-4 in Cape Town.

SA hearings on poverty a first

Journalist 26/2/98

By Claire Keeton
Feature Writer

SOUTH Africa's poverty hearings, starting in March, could lead the way for the world in promoting social and economic rights as fundamental rights, no less important than civil rights

Organised by the South African NGO Coalition (Sangoco), the South African Human Rights Council (SAHRC) and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE), the Speak Out on Poverty campaign will hold hearings in all provinces from March to June

Although the United Nations has recognised that social, economic and cultural rights are indivisible from civil and political rights, they are not universally recognised as basic human rights

Greatest challenge

"Our greatest challenge is to integrate (these) rights and make it a reality that rights are not divisible," said SAHRC chairman Dr Barney Pitso at the campaign's launch this week

He said the right to development was not yet seen to be as important as the right not to be tortured "South Africa must take the lead in promoting social, economic and developmental rights"

Speak Out aims to do exactly this - highlight the experiences of the poor and look for solutions to the vast inequalities that divide South Africa

Chairman of the UN committee on economic social and cultural rights Professor Philip Alston said South Africa has come halfway with a demo-



SAHRC chairman Dr Barney Pitso... South Africa must take the lead in promoting social, economic and developmental rights.

cratic Government

"The next half is harder, to put social and economic rights into practice," he said at the launch "We need to see people who are homeless or have no food as people whose human rights are violated

"The fact that South Africa is start-

ing on this path is an enormous achievement, not only for it but for the international community South Africa can show the way"

The organisers of Speak Out are hoping this campaign will gain support to become a mass movement to alleviate and eradicate poverty "We ended apartheid We can end poverty," their slogan urges

In South Africa 53 percent of the population earn less than R301 a month, over nine million people live in informal shacks and 2.3 million children do not have enough to eat

Most of the poor do not have access to work, housing, land, drinking water or education

Sangoco president Mr Rams Ramashaba said this country is still divided by the heritage of apartheid - the inequalities between blacks and whites

Black South Africa rates next to the Democratic Republic of Congo as the 116th country in the world economically, while white South Africa stands

at No 14th with Spain

Six percent of South Africans earn 40 percent of the income, and the ratio of a managing director's salary to a worker's salary is 100:1 in South Africa, compared to 7:1 in Japan

These inequalities are further aggravated by traditional inequalities between men and women

"Poverty affects men and women in different ways," CGE chairwoman Ms Thengwe Mntso said She said most of the poor are women, particularly in rural areas, informal settlements and domestic employment

Male-headed households

Three in every 10 male-headed households are poor compared with six in every 10 in which women are heads

The average annual income of male-headed households is nearly double that of women, averaging R48 000 a year compared to R25 000 for women-headed households

Only 46 percent of women 15 years or older are classified as economically active, compared with 63 percent of men (according to a Government survey in 1995)

One of the reasons is the heavy responsibility women bear for household duties, with about half of all adult rural women collecting water for close to two hours every day

It is South Africans with these experiences who will be welcome at the poverty hearings Speak Out will

be a platform for them to talk about everyday struggles for survival and to give their recommendations on how to improve their lives

It will listen to the voices of the poor in developing a programme of action for the Poverty Forum (a partnership between trade unions, churches, non-governmental and community-based organisations and Government)

The hearings submissions will be used to inform an economic summit in June to develop a poverty budget for 1999 and to challenge political parties in the run-up to the 1999 election

Welfare and Population Development Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said the Government supported the Speak Out campaign although it would pose a direct challenge to it

"We need a broad coalition and the Government has a clear focus on poverty alleviation and eradication and promoting pro-poor growth," she said at the launch

Fraser-Moleketi backed Alston's suggestion that the Government set "benchmarks" - concrete targets for tackling poverty "We must look at benchmarks"

But she said that all players in society, including business, will need to contribute to achieve the eradication of poverty

● People who want to speak at the poverty hearings can contact Sangoco at 0800-11-40-10



ARCHBISHOP TUTU: Contribute to reparation for reconciliation

Recipe for turmoil is poverty — Tutu

(241) CT 27/2/98

THE surest recipe for unrest and turmoil in South Africa was if the vast majority had no proper homes, clean water, electricity, good education and adequate health care, Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday

Addressing the Pretoria Afrikaanse Sakekamer, he called on Afrikaners to invest in transformation and said this was not just being altruistic, but was, ultimately, good business "For your own sakes, there has to be stability, otherwise the economy will suffer (and) business confidence will take a knock.

"Contribute to reparation for reconciliation, through community development, scholarships If the disadvantaged, the poor, the homeless and unemployed become desperate, they may use desperate means to redress the imbalance

"Be willing to share lest you end up with nothing to share We don't want any more Vryburgs," Tutu said

"You are a splendid people and South Africa needs you " However, there did appear to be a significant segment which was quite vociferous, egged on by two major newspapers, *Rapport* and *Die Burger*

"They want to recall a past when they, the Afrikaners, were in charge, even though they now claim never to have supported apartheid

"I admire *Beeld* newspaper immensely They are quick to praise the good things the new government does and so when they criticise it the government really takes notice

"Those who are forever whining are dismissed and totally discredited," Tutu said — Sapa

South Africa's poor to have their say

By Ryan Crosswell



In South Africa there is a word that whispers from under tattered blankets, glistens darkly in the eyes of abandoned children and screams in colour from graffiti-covered walls. But who is listening and how often is it really being heard?

The word is poverty, and perhaps for the first time ever the poor are going to have their say, anyway they want, from statistics to verbal pictures painted in shades of pain.

The poverty hearings called "Speak Out on Poverty: Your Chance to be Heard" have already been launched by the South African National NGO Coalition (SANCO), the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE). There will be ten nationwide hearings covering everything from educational issues in Bloemfontein on March 17 to the environment in Cape Town on June 4.

Six commissioners, three from the NGOs involved, and three from other organisations, will hear the poor speak out on the injustices of the past, what a right to a better life means for them, and to ideas that will form a basis for reviewing policies and programmes.

The organisers have promised the people "will speak" and Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi has promised the Government "will listen". There are millions who will hold them to their word.

The outcome of the hearings will probably have far-reaching repercussions as a report will go to government, a pro-poor macro-economic blueprint will be put forward as an alternative to the Growth, Employment and Redistribution programme (GEAR) and a large poverty forum will be held.

Welfare organisations and some NGOs feel they are being marginalised as the developing society, mortally wounded by apartheid policies that entrenched poverty for sectors of society and ran the coffers dry through corruption, stop-gap economic practices and war, struggles forward.

However, there are indications that the Government has realised the scourge of poverty is South Africa's greatest challenge in the run-up to the 1999 elections. The issue could also be a deciding factor for voters.

President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki now mention empowerment, transformation and redistribution whenever they get an opportunity.

The statistics of poverty in South Africa are a persuasive call for radical change. About 53% of the country's people earn less than R301 per month, which amounts to just 10% of total earnings. About 74% of the poor live in rural areas.



(211) (211) Star 5/3/98

MAZSHA PINCUS

Alms for the man .. every day .. thousands of impoverished South Africans take to the streets to beg for their survival.

Bloemfontein on March 17 to the environment in Cape Town on June 4.

Six commissioners, three from the NGOs involved, and three from other organisations, will hear the poor speak out on the injustices of the past, what a right to a better life means for them, and to ideas that will form a basis for reviewing policies and programmes.

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The statistics of poverty in South Africa are a persuasive call for radical change. About 53% of the country's people earn less than R301 per month, which amounts to just 10% of total earnings. About 74% of the poor live in rural areas.

Most of these people have very little access to land, work, safe drinking water, adequate housing or education.

Nearly 25% of schools do not have access to water within walking distance and half have no electricity.

As many as 500 000 children under 18 are forced to work, instead of learn and play. About half of these are probably under 15.

About 23% of children under the age of six suffer from chronic malnutrition or stunting. Poor teacher to student or doctor to patient ratios are also a serious problem for the poor.

The Eastern Cape - a province known for high levels of corruption - is one of the worst-off areas with research showing an average of one teacher to 51 students and one doctor to 10 000 people.

Estimations of adult literacy figures range from about eight million to 15 million. Only 41% of all rural clinics have an ambulance within an hour of an emergency call.

Authors of a recent survey on Johannesburg found a large proportion of crime victims were the urban poor, but the impact on this sector of society was less visible than what happened to the middle classes. It was also found that only 47% of



There will be 10 hearings nationwide, covering everything from education to the environment. The organisers have promised the people 'will speak' out and the Government has promised to listen

crime victims in informal settlements reported the incidents to the police.

Statistics indicate massive differences between races and genders. The middle-class and wealthy, mostly whites, have an average living standard equal to Spain's, while the poor, mostly blacks, have an average living standard similar to that of Brazil.

The ratio of a managing director's salary to that of the lowest paid worker is 100 to one, compared with seven to one in Japan.

Economic growth is just as important for the poor as for anybody else but to a large extent they are cut off from any influence on business and serious trade. About 6% of the population earn 40% of the total income.

South Africa has one of the widest wealth gaps in the world.

Meanwhile, the employment rate for potentially economically active women was found to be 46% at the end of 1996, compared to 63% of men. Only 3% of all

South African women who earn money are managers or senior officials. Over a third do unskilled work and over one million are domestic workers.

In rural areas many women still spend long hours carrying water which prevents them from carrying out other pursuits.

In 1993 it was found that just under half of all women were carrying water and the average time spent each day doing this was just under two hours.

Thelma Mtshozi, chairperson of the CGE said "Through 'Speak Out', the voices of the poor, most of whom are women, will be heard across the length and breadth of South Africa."

She said women would not really be free from poverty until they were also empowered in their own homes.

The industrious poor outbuild the private sector at a rate of 30 to 1, although the scale of the projects built by these two sec-

tors are usually very different. The Homeless People's Federation has about 1 000 housing schemes linked by ten regional federations and most of the leadership and membership is female. The housing schemes are groups that undertake daily savings programmes and then build houses together.

The pro-poor macro economic programme, which will be put together after the hearings, could be the centre of some heated debate later in the year. Some NGOs feel Gear is a watered-down version of the aims of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and want a new project in its place.

They also feel that a desperate attempt to legalise development in totally formal areas, bureaucracy that is rule-bound and driven by finances.

Jacqui Boule, programmes director for Sanroco, said the more formal and refined a process becomes the "less accessible" it becomes to the poor.

She said when they find out the formal route is not working, they turn solely to the informal sector.

Most NGOs feel more communication between the poor and almost everybody else is needed to help solve the problem of isolation for those who live in informal urban settlements and distant rural areas. NGOs have used national and international exchange programmes between settlements and talking newsletters in the form of cassettes and workshops with success.

In 1991 these methods were used to help organise the Southern African People's Dialogue on Land and Homelessness, which had 63 settlements from around southern Africa participating.

The Bill of Rights guarantees all South Africans a better life but it places new and difficult responsibilities on the state. Are these responsibilities being met, and if not what can be done to improve things? The poor are about to tell to anybody who will listen.

Invitation to send in ideas

The Speak Out on Poverty hearings will be held in all nine provinces and will cover a broad range of issues.

A national education hearing will be held on March 17 to 21 in Bloemfontein, land and rural development issues will be heard on April 31 to May 3, open hearings on April 24 to 25 in Mafikeng, April 27 to 28 in Nelspruit and May 1 to 2 in Kimberley, economic hearings on May 7 to 9 in KwaZulu Natal, social security issues on May 18 to 23 in East London, environmental issues on May 25 to 29 in Port Elizabeth and housing and urban development issues will be heard on June 1 to 4 in Cape Town.

Experiences, ideas and requests for oral presentations can be sent in writing or on cassette tape, in any of the 11 official languages to Speak Out, Sanroco, PO Box 31471, Bloemfontein, 2017 and fax 011-4088703, or email speakout@sanroco.org.za

The written submissions must not be longer than 10 pages and oral presentations should not be longer than 10 minutes.

Pressure group to tackle poverty ~~(241)~~

David Greybe

BD 5/3/98

(241)

CAPE TOWN — A national campaign to put pressure on government to make poverty eradication a priority was launched yesterday by churches, trade unions, government watchdog bodies and non-governmental organisations.

"Poverty is the cruellest legacy we inherited from apartheid and its eradication should be a top priority on everyone's, including government's, agenda," Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Njongonkulu Ndungane said. "We have had political liberation in SA. Now we need economic and social liberation."

Poverty could be eradicated "within a generation" if South Africans displayed the will necessary to do so. But, Ndungane warned, SA would be heading for "another abyss" if it believed peace and stability could be attained without eradicating poverty.

The "speak out on poverty" campaign has been convened by the SA Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality and the SA NGO Coalition (Sangoco), backed by the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the church leaders' forum. The three month campaign will begin in the Free State on March 17 and end in Cape Town on June 4. Hearings across the country will focus on housing and urban development, land and rural development, education, the economy, health, social security and the environment.

"The hearings will break the silence on poverty by giving poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions," Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said.

Human rights commissioner Pansy Tlakula said: "Our wonderful constitution will remain meaningless to those who live in abject poverty and squalor unless it translates into reality."

Poorest get turn to testify on apartheid



OBED ZUMWA
Poverty expert Ramn Ramasha visits the people who have built homes at 'Cardboard City' under the Western Boulevard

Hearings to focus on plight of poorest

BLACKMAN NEILBO (A11)
STAFF REPORTER

South Africa's poorest citizens will describe how apartheid caused their poverty when they appear at hearings in Bloemfontein this month.

The hearings have been organised by non-government organisations, churches, trade unions, the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality.

The chief executive officer of the NGO Coalition, Ramn Ramasha, said the aim was to do for the poor what Archbishop Desmond Tutu had done for victims of apartheid violence.

The hearings will focus on education, housing and urban development, land, health and general economic issues.

Those who will tell their stories include businesspeople, clergy, teachers, farmers, farmworkers, the unemployed, children, men and women. Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane said the hearings

were being held to redress the legacy of apartheid.

While the Government's achievements were being assessed, the hearings would show that more needed to be done to alleviate the lot of the poor than Government achievement showed.

Government departments had been sent questionnaires by the Human Rights Commission for information on what they had achieved.

The departments had been given until February 15 to respond, but some had not yet done so and had asked for more time.

Pansy Tlakula, co-chair of the Human Rights Commission, said workshops were to be held with departments which had failed to return the questionnaires in time.

"This is a new thing and some of the departments may need help." Statistics from the United Nations Development Programme's human development index showed that if South Africa were to be divided into two countries, Black South Africa

and White South Africa, White South Africa would rate 14, next to Spain, and Black South Africa 116, next to Congo.

The message seemed clear that any political party that failed to commit itself to the human rights of the poor would be failing.

"We don't want the rights of the poor to be treated like second cousins to political and economic rights or second-generation rights, as some have said," said Ms Tlakula.

Conne September of the Congress of SA Trade Unions said that although her organisation had been critical of the Government's macro-economic policies, Cosatu expected to take part positively.

"This does not mean that we are going to fight with the Government. It doesn't mean that the hearings will be confrontational to the Government."

"We want to redress the legacy of apartheid. Some of our members who are poor are supporting five others," she said.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Break the silence on poverty, destitution

CT 5/3/98 (241)

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to give the "silenced poor" the opportunity to speak out on poverty at public hearings. **ANDRE KOOPMAN** reports.

A NATIONAL campaign to give the poor a voice on the issue of poverty and to realise economic empowerment for South Africa's destitute was launched in Cape Town yesterday. Called *Speak out on Poverty*, it is organised by the South African Non-Government Organisations' Coalition (Sangoco) and the Human Rights and Gender Equality Commissions.

The campaign will consist of 10 public hearings throughout the country.

Fifty-three percent of South Africans earn less than R301 a month (the poverty line) while 6% of the population earns 40% of the national income, according to statistics released by the campaign. About 38% of poor children suffered from stunted growth and 23% of those under the age of six suffered chronic malnutrition or stunting.

Sangoco president Mr Rams Ramashia said the hearings "will break the silence on poverty by giving poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions to the problems of poverty".

"We are calling on policy decision-makers to show respect to poor people by listening to what the poor have to say," he said.

Hearings start in the Free State on March 17 and end in Cape Town on June 4 and will deal with

The great SA salary divide

ORGANISERS of the *Speak out on Poverty Campaign* said that in South Africa the ratio of a managing director's salary to that of the lowest paid worker was 100:1 compared with 7:1 in Japan.

It was estimated that 65% of SA's adult population was illiterate while at least 12 million did not have access to drinkable water inside their dwellings or on site.

In startling statistics released yesterday it was noted that:

- 6% of the population earn more than 40% of the income
- 53% of SA's population live below the R301 a month poverty line
- More than two million South Africans are nutritionally compromised — including 87% of all African children under 12

- Some 38% of poor children also suffer from stunted growth

- An estimated 200 000 children between the ages of 10 and 14 are engaged in various forms of labour, representing 4% of all children in this age group

- An estimated 270 000 learners with disabilities are outside the formal specialised school system

- 81% of schools in the Eastern Cape have no telephones

- 57% of schools have no electricity

- 53% of the population are poor but they receive only 40% of education resources

- Over nine million people live in informal shacks

- Only one black in 2 000 was at university, compared with one white in just 30

education, land, economic policy and health. Results will be sent to Parliament for debate.

"They (results) will be used as a basis for drafting a poverty budget and election commitment," Ramashia said.

Cosatu would influence its alliance partners, the ANC and the SA Communist Party, to ensure that the issue of poverty was part of next year's election manifesto and "election platforms", said Cosatu vice-president and one of the campaign commissioners, Ms Connie September.

Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Winston Njongonkulu Ndungane, also a commissioner,

was recently involved in a row with President Nelson Mandela over his persistent criticism of the government's failure to house the poor.

He refused to be drawn on the issue yesterday. Referring to the Christian injunction about good neighbourliness, he said that Mandela was his neighbour and that he would be talking to the president about good neighbourliness when he meets him today.

Churches of all denominations had organised a national summit on poverty in June to which they had invited all decision-makers so that an "attainable, sustainable and measurable" strategy for eradicating poverty could be devised.

DP calls for rise in VAT to help relieve poverty

(241) (299)

By JOVIAL RANTAO

Cape Town

5/3/98
The Democratic Party has proposed a 1% increase in VAT, from 14% to 15%, to generate at least R3,1-billion which will be targeted at poverty relief programmes.

The DP has also proposed a cut in corporate tax, tax deductions for security-related expenses, tax rebates for tertiary education and a reduction of the Cabinet to 16 ministers.

In Budget 98/99 proposals unveiled in Parliament yesterday, the DP's finance spokesman, Ken Andrew, argued that an increase in VAT would not necessarily disadvantage the poor.

"The wealthy benefit more from lower levels of VAT than the poor, particularly as basic foods are zero-rated.

"The very poor can pay only 8% of VAT collected. An increase of 1% would cost the average, very poor household an extra R6 a month above the R84 a month they're paying at present," Andrew said.

On tax rebates for tertiary education, Andrew has proposed that a rebate equivalent to one-third of

tertiary institution fees be given to students or their parents for a maximum of four years of successful study. Medical students could apply for a rebate for a maximum period of six years.

"Students who have student loans should be given a tax rebate of up to a maximum of a third of their tuition fees to be claimed within 10 years of commencing their studies.

"This measure would lighten the burden for first-time employees with study-related debt obligations," Andrew said.

He has also proposed a reduction in the number of teachers and proposed that independent schools should receive a subsidy per pupil in line with the full cost of education in government schools.

"The DP also proposes that an extra R250-million be made available to provide student loans for tertiary education, on condition that repayment requirements are strictly enforced," Andrew said.

The DP has also suggested that a two-year voluntary national service in the police service for matriculants and graduates should be considered as a cost-effective way to increase police numbers.

Govt to lend an ear to plight of impoverished

(241) ~~241~~

Man 5/9/98

Results will be submitted to Parliament and used to draw up a 'poverty budget'

SAPA
Cape Town

About 53% of South Africa's population live below the R301-a-month poverty line, according to statistics released yesterday at the launch of a nationwide campaign to give a voice to South Africa's poor.

The Speak Out On Poverty campaign, organised by the Hu-

man Rights and Gender Equality commissions and the SA NGO Coalition, will consist of 10 public hearings throughout the country starting in the Free State on March 17 and culminating in Cape Town on June 4.

Its results will be submitted to Parliament and used to draw up a "poverty budget".

SA NGO Coalition chairman Rams Ramashua said the hearings were meant to "break the silence on poverty" by giving poor people a chance to share their experiences and propose solutions to poverty.

"We are calling on policy-makers and decision-makers to show respect to poor people by listening to them," he said.

"This is what we mean by people-centred development and participatory democracy." The hearings would highlight the extent to which apartheid policy continued to hamper access to social and economic rights.

"But it will also look at concrete suggestions and solutions to eradicate poverty." The findings would be submitted to Parliament for debate and discussion and would also be used to inform the platform of action of the Poverty Forum.

"They will be used to draft a poverty budget," Ramashua said.

The hearings would cover education, economics, health, social security, housing, land, urban and rural development, and the environment.

Organisers said that in South Africa the ratio of a managing director's salary to that of the lowest-paid worker was 100:1 compared with 7:1 in Japan.

It was estimated that 65% of the country's adult population were illiterate and at least 12 million South Africans did not have access to drinkable water.

Some 2,3 million people were "nutritionally compromised" - including 87% of all African children under 12 years old.

About 38% of poor children suffered from stunted growth and 23% of those under the age of six suffered chronic malnutrition or stunting.

Sowetan 5/3/98

Moves afoot to address poverty in South Africa

(241) (298)

ABOUT 53 percent of South Africa's population live below the R301-per-month poverty line, according to statistics released yesterday at the launch of a nationwide campaign to give a voice to South Africa's poor

The Speak Out on Poverty campaign, organised by the Human Rights and Gender Equality Commissions and the South African NGO Coalition (Sangoco), will consist of 10 public hearings throughout the country, starting in the Free State on March 17 and culminating in Cape Town on June 4

Results will be submitted to Parliament and used to draw up a "poverty budget"

Sangoco chairman Mr Rams Ramashia said the hearings were meant to "break the silence on poverty" by giving poor people a chance to share their experiences and propose solutions to the problems of poverty

"We are calling on policy and decision makers to show respect to poor people by listening to what the poor

have to say," he said. It was time for poor people to set the policy agenda

The hearings would highlight the extent to which apartheid policy hampered access to social and economic rights. The findings would be submitted to Parliament for debate and discussion and would also be used to inform a platform of action

Campaign organisers said that in South Africa the ratio of a managing director's salary to that of the lowest paid worker was 100:1 compared with 7:1 in Japan

It was estimated that 65 percent of South Africa's adult population was illiterate and at least 12 million South Africans did not have access to drinkable water. Some 2.3 million South Africans were "nutritionally compromised" - including 87 percent of all African children under 12 years old. About 38 percent of poor children suffered from stunted growth and 23 percent of those under the age of six from chronic malnutrition - *Sapa*



Chance to break silence ... grandmother Elizabeth Sithebe (front), Ellen Sithebe (behind), Portia Mahlo, Jane Sithebe (hat), Eispeth Mahlo (front), Sithebe could become a spokeswoman for the poor.

Poor get ready for their very own 'summit'

Stuart 9/3/98

(241)

Battling pensioner is one of the many impoverished waiting to speak out

By Mike Masipa

It is almost an insult to suggest that Elizabeth Sithebe (70), of Orlando West, Soweto, makes ends meet on the R470 pension she gets every month, considering that she has to feed a family of eight, including three mentally retarded dependants

With the money, Sithebe has to pay for clothing, food, rent and other services, in addition to ensuring that her two grandchildren are educated

She also takes care of her ailing sister and her three retarded children, Jane, Ellen and Sipho

And the members of her desperate family are just a tiny portion of the 53% of the South African population that lives on less than R301 per month each.

Perhaps, for the first time yet Sithebe and millions like her are to have their say, anyway they want

Poverty hearings called



We often

have our

electricity,

water cut



"Speak Out on Poverty Your Chance to be Heard" have already been launched by the South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco), the South

African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE)

There will be 10 nationwide hearings covering several issues, from education to the environment, starting in Bloemfontein on March 17 and ending in Cape Town on June 4

Six commissioners, three from the NGOs involved, and three from other organisations, will hear the poor speak out on the injustices of the past and what does a right to a better life mean to them, and present ideas which will form a basis for reviewing policies and programmes

The organisers have promised the people "will speak" and Welfare and Population Development Minister

Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi has promised the Government "will listen" There are millions who will hold them to their word

The outcome of the hearings will probably have far-reaching repercussions a report will go to government, a pro-poor macro economic blueprint will be put forward as an alternative to the Growth, Employment and Redistribution programme (Gear) and a large poverty forum will be held

"Things really get bad sometimes," Sithebe said from her home said last week

"We often have our electricity and water cut off because I can't always manage to keep up the payments My elder daughter does domestic chores once a week, earning R80 at a time.

That only manages to keep us going until the next pension payout," Sithebe said



He chased

me. I don't

have money

to go home



Lesotho national Nthobisieng Nthobi who lives in a derelict building in the Market Theatre precinct in Newtown in downtown Johannesburg

Nthobi (23) has two children, aged seven and five, and is pregnant. She sells cardboard boxes to factories and shops in the area to provide for herself and her family Their home is a plastic and cardboard shack inside the derelict building.

"I left Lesotho eight years ago to look for a job here. I met a guy who promised me marriage and took me to his village in Hamanskraal. He chased me away at the end of last year when I fell pregnant again. Now I don't have money to go back home," she said

On a good day Nthobi and other women in the building, most of whom are pregnant, make at least R10 a day selling cardboard boxes but often sleep on empty stomachs after a bad working day

R50-m for poverty relief

(241) (299)

Securam 10/3/98

By Ido Lekota

COMMUNITY-BASED organisations fighting against poverty and unemployment yesterday received support when Welfare and Population Development Minister Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi gave them funding amounting to R50 million.

In all 1 139 projects will be funded throughout the country under the National Poverty Alleviation Programme

An amount of R2 million will be distributed to 53 projects in Free State

Another R4,4 million will be given to projects in Gauteng

Also to receive funding are the School Uniform project and the Cottage Bakery project in Kwazulu-Natal run by unemployed women

The funding, Fraser-Moleketi said, was part of her ministry's commitment to alleviate poverty and unemployment, especially among women and the youth

She said the success of such efforts lay with the various departments who were working together to fight poverty

CHRISTINE NESBITT



Unemployed but busy ... these are some of the men and women in White City, Soweto, who have volunteered their services to clean schools and maintain gardens without cost to the community.

Deafening silence greets call to help poorest of poor

(241) (~~241~~)

The poor are to air their views on poverty in hearings entitled: 'Speak Out on Poverty: Your Chance to be Heard'. Here pastor Isaac Silas speaks of his experience

Star 11/3/98
BY WINNIE GRAHAM

The mothers and grandmothers of Soweto weep when they speak to pastor Isaac Silas.

They sob when they tell how their angry, hungry youngsters assault them because there is no food when they come home from school.

They cry when they talk of their daughters who sell their bodies in exchange for a meal. And the pain becomes almost unbearable when they confide that their children have become victims of this century's most despicable sexual disease ..

But what, ask the women, are they to do when they can't find jobs? When their men have been retrenched - and remain unemployed? When their sons turn to crime as an escape from joblessness and hunger?

Isaac Silas has lived in

White City, Soweto, long enough to share in the pain of his people. He is doing what he can to help - but it is not nearly enough.

About a year ago, he and members of Look and Live Ministries decided they had to do something about unemployment. Some 2500 people, mainly parents, attended a meeting where many of the jobless agreed to work at local schools without pay.

"Rather than sit around doing nothing, the women agreed to clean the classrooms and the men to work in the grounds," Silas said this week. The community started organising raffles and competitions to raise money for projects where people could be taught skills. A number of unemployed university and technikon graduates took on the administration of the project.

Silas wrote to the Government. He asked the Department of Education to pay the women cleaners a basic wage of R35 a day and the men R45 for tending the grounds and looking after the schools, which are often vandalised.

The answer came back we have no money. So he wrote to the Department of Manpower and the Department of Public Works. No answer.

Was someone out there listening? Would someone come to the rescue of these desperate people?

"The middle class people of Soweto have either escaped to the suburbs or can afford to send their children to the old Model C schools in the city," he said. "The unemployed are trapped. They are in a terrible situation - specially the old grannies who are often left to look after the children. You can-

not believe how bad the picture is"

Pastor Silas once lived for himself, he says. But when his daughter Thembi was five he listened to her singing songs of praise and he knew what he had to do. He gave his life to God and started working for the community.

When he saw the extent of the problem in White City, he registered a welfare organisation - the Zkhene Skills Development Project (number 01101690004) - and tried to raise funds. But times are tough and the lot of the poor in White City has not improved.

He came to The Star to appeal to churches, the private sector - anyone, in fact - for help.

"Surely someone out there cares?" he asks. If anyone does, he can be phoned him at (011) 982-5810, extension 209.

Poverty the focus of increase in welfare and social grants

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Pensions and other social-security grants would increase by 4,3% or R452m on July 1, Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced yesterday.

Nearly R19bn — 12% of noninterest spending — would go on welfare and social grants in the 1998/99 financial year, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said in his budget speech. This meant a nominal increase of 15,8% in the welfare budget.

Fraser-Moleketi said the increase underscored government's "dedication to care for those of us in need of support, and a realisation of the contribution of welfare to human and long-term economic development".

Old age, disability and care-dependency grants would increase from R470 to R490 a month, Fraser Moleketi said. Foster-care grants would increase from R340 to R350 and grants-in-aid from R80 to R90 a month. War veterans' grants would increase from R488 to R508.

The new child-support grant of R100 a month — to be paid to primary care givers of children under the age of

seven once the conditions of a means test were met — would come into effect at the beginning of next month.

The programme was intended to reach about 3-million children in poor households in five years. The grant would replace the state-maintenance grant, which would be phased out over three years, Fraser-Moleketi said.

Manuel announced that allocations for poverty-relief projects would increase from R500m in 1997/98 to R800m in 2000/01. "Welfare and social-security spending represents government's primary investment in poverty alleviation," he said.

Government had subsequently increased spending on welfare from R14bn in 1995/96 to R19bn in 1998/99, and it had budgeted for an increase to more than R21bn in 2000/01.

In a drive to "uproot corruption and eliminate fraud", the welfare department and provincial authorities had embarked on a project to re-register about 3-million beneficiaries of social grants and pensions.

"This process will enable us to eliminate duplicate claims, ghost beneficiaries, syndicates and cross-provincial payments," Manuel said.



Old-age and disability grants go up R20 a month

How 19 people live on R490 a month

(241)

ARG 12/3/98

CAROL CAMPBELL
SPECIAL WRITER

For a Lavender Hill grandfather helping to support 12 grandchildren, the 4,3% increase in social pensions announced in the Budget is not much to smile about.

Jacobus Classen's pension will increase from R470 to R490 a month, not much when you live with the constant battle of finding enough food to feed the family.

His grandchildren, all under 15, depend on him for their daily meal, a roof over their heads and clothes on their backs.

His five children, who also live with him in his two-bedroomed flat, contribute to the family income when they can find work. But none has a full-time job.

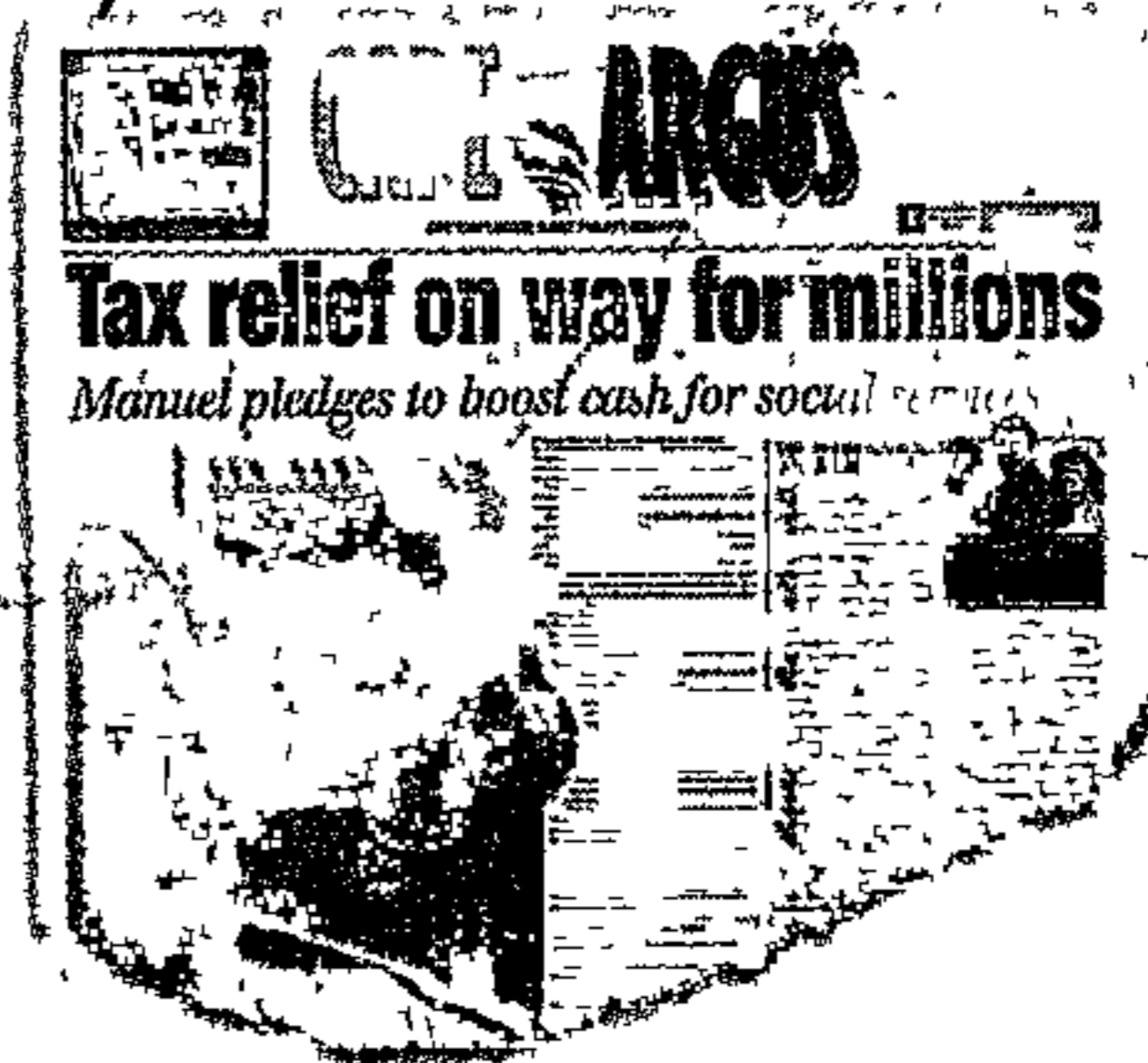
"You cannot say no to a hungry child - after all, a father is a father, a mother is a mother. Children can't live only on water and even that costs money," he says.

Social worker Llewellyn Jordaan administers Mr Classen's "expenses" so that he meets his monthly bills - rent R72,78, electricity R161,42, water R38,18 and burial insurance of R30. After deductions, he has R167,62 left "for living". "This way, at least, the family will not be evicted from their flat," said Mr Jordaan.

Every day, every member of the family is involved in the hunt for food.

The women go from church to church begging for hand-outs of discarded supermarket vegetables. Yesterday, the Catholic Church in Retreat gave the family a basin of vegetables - two onions, four pock-marked apples, some leeks, half a green pepper and a packet of furry asparagus. Water was set to boil. There would be soup for supper.

Mr Classen's partner of 50 years, Sheila



First bite: the Late Final of yesterday's Cape Argus

Serenge, "chars" occasionally for a neighbour at R5 a day.

The old man collects scrap metal and sometimes makes R5 or, on a good day, R10. "My legs are getting sore and I find it difficult to walk now," he says. A few months ago, hooligans attacked him and hurt his arm. It still feels lame.

At night, foam mattresses are strewn across the lounge floor for the children to sleep on and in the morning before school, grandpa irons their clothes.

In the late afternoon, as the sun sets over Constantiaberg, the old couple like to sip tea and watch their grandchildren play in the courtyard in front of their flat.

Mr Classen spends hours reflecting. "When I think about my life, I get the sorrows. It's been so hard," he says.

"Wouldn't life be easier in an old-age home?" asks Mr Jordaan.

"No, I can't go now. Who will look after the children?"

Pictures and Budget reports, page 3

Government gets serious on tackling poverty relief *R500-m bonanza*

DI CAELERS
SPECIAL WRITER

News that R500-million has been set aside in the Budget for poverty relief - R200 million more than last year - has been hailed all round as proof of the Government's commitment to uplift the poor.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel also promised the figure would rise to R800-million in 2000/01.

"This isn't the food parcel way either. This shows a commitment to dealing with poverty in a proactive way, a way that doesn't only take in welfare, but other departments, too. It's an approach that gives people greater control," said Guy Preston, special adviser to Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, whose department was allocated R150-million for poverty relief last year.

Water Affairs used the money for 240 Working for Water programme projects across the country, securing jobs for 7 660 people in the Western Cape alone, of whom 60% were women and 20% were aged between 16 and 25.

Each worker generally supports at least another five people.

The workers remove alien vegetation in a countrywide water-saving initiative.

"On top of the jobs created there is also the enormous value of the water that would be wasted by these trees. Invading alien plants cause massive economic damage to the country,"

said Dr Preston

The welfare department, allocated R50-million in poverty relief last November, handed out cheques for this amount earlier this week.

One hundred cheques totalling R5,7-million went to projects in the Western Cape.

Among those to benefit were the Zwelihle food garden project in Worcester, the Sinthemba disabled group, the Towerkop farmworkers' upliftment project in Oudtshoorn, Catholic Welfare and Development in Guguletu and Elsies River, the Council for Black Education in Khayelitsha, the Franschhoek Adult Education Centre, the Quaker Peace Centre in Mowbray and the Atlantis Resource Centre.

A sum of R85-million went last year to the Public Works Department and Zaid Nordien, spokesman for Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, yesterday praised the Government for this year's total increase of R200-million for poverty relief.

"It is a reflection of the Government's commitment to ensure increasing investment in infrastructure as well as community-based public works development projects," said Mr Nordien.

Their poverty allocation last year was directed to the country's three poorest provinces, KwaZulu Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Northern province where individual communities were targeted for upliftment.

Mr Nordien said about 12 000 jobs were created as a result.

Lobbyists plead for poor before speech

CT 12/3/98 (247) (10/1)

ZUBEIDA JAFFER
PARLIAMENTARY EDITOR

ON the morning before Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel delivered his Budget speech, about 50 church and community lobbyists descended on Parliament to discuss the plight of the poor

Ms Julia Mokgwetsi, a creche teacher from the Northern Cape, sat on a bench at the Poorthuis entrance to Parliament next to the Rev Jeff Lengoabala from the South African Council of Churches (SACC) in the Free State

The two, with a number of others, were waiting to see the chairperson of the Health Committee, Dr Blade Nzimande

Other groups organised by a powerful NGO/church coalition were on their way to talk with MPs Ms Janet Love, Mr Ben Turok, Mr Moss Chukane and Mr Kandlo Mcumisa

"I am coming here to discuss the problems facing the children in the Northern Cape," said Mokgwetsi. "More than 40 creches are without any resources," she said "We want the government to help."

Coinciding with Budget Day, the South African National NGO Coalition, the SACC, the South African Catholic Bishops Conference and trade union affiliates of Cosatu are holding an Anti-poverty Budget Week workshop in Cape Town for three days.

The director of Esset, Dr Molefe Tsele, on his way to speak with MPs, said that the initiative was part of the churches' efforts to draw closer to Parliament and policy making.

"We have come here to listen, but will then spend the rest of the day analysing the budget and making our views known," he said.

"We see ourselves having a role in articulating the needs of the poor and believe that the budget should be as responsive to the issues as possible"

Organiser of the event, Ms Shirley Gunn, said that the lobbyists are calling for Parliament to have the right to amend the budget

"There is no legislation that allows Parliament to amend the budget and this is unconstitutional," she said

'We see ourselves having a role in articulating the needs of the poor.'

The Constitution says that Parliament can amend the national budget. In November, the Ministry of Finance submitted a draft Money Bill to the Portfolio Committee on Parliament's role to amend the budget. This was rejected by the committee. A new sub-committee made up of MPs, the Ministry of Finance and representatives from civil society was to be convened in January to develop a new draft. "This has not happened," said Gunn.

The lobbyists also insist that they did not agree with the government's approach to the repayment of debt.

They say that the Civil Service Pension Fund, to which the government owes most of its money, has grown more than R150 billion. "Between R15 and R20 billion a year could be released from this public pension fund and no pension would be in jeopardy," said Tsele

At 11am this morning, Tsele and others will announce their assessment of Manuel's speech



'More funds needed for poor'

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Finance Minister Trevor Manuel should have restructured SA's debt in his budget speech on Wednesday to make more funds available for poverty relief, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, said yesterday on behalf of a coalition of civic organisations.

The repayment of national debt, Ndungane said, continued to drain the country's resources.

The coalition of the Congress of SA Trade Unions, SA Council of Churches, the justice and peace department of the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference and

the Nongovernmental Organisation Coalition believed the debt owed to the Public Service Commission could have been restructured to release up to R15bn a year to eradicate poverty and develop infrastructure

The coalition also expressed disappointment that Manuel's budget was one of restraint.

"While we welcome the Umsobomvu Fund, we look forward to a concrete strategy to combat joblessness," the coalition said.

It expressed alarm over the significant cuts in several reconstruction and development programme departments such as housing.

Scheme for poorest of poor abused

Some even built business premises

By Sello Seripe

THE Mpumalanga government has enlisted the help of the SA Police Service after uncovering a scam in housing subsidies

MEC for provincial local government Mr Craig Padayachee said that most suspects had tried to abuse the subsidies for the building of a second house or business premises.

The subsidy scheme is meant to help prospective first-time homeowners earning less than R3 500. The subsidy limit is R15 000.

Padayachee called in police to investigate criminal charges against people who abuse the local government housing subsidy scheme on the recommendation of a task team appointed by the MEC last year to investigate allegations of abuse.

A week ago the task team informed the MEC that most cases of abuse occurred in the former self-governing states of KaNgwane and KwaNdebele.

In a statement earlier this week the

MEC said the recommendations that all individual subsidies to KaNgwane and KwaNdebele should be stopped pending further investigations was because these areas did not have accurate records of title-deeds.

This created potential for large-scale abuse.

Padayachee said the task team would work closely with the SAPS to investigate allegations of abuse in the province.

"Where these cases come to light, fraud charges will be laid and the subsidies recovered by a special police unit working directly with the department of housing," he said.

He added that police would investigate professional institutions most to blame for large scale abuse in the past.

"The department has so far recovered R4 million from conveyancers' trust accounts," he said.

Provincial local government spokesman Mr Leon Mbangwa told *Sowetan* yesterday that those who used their grants to extend or build business premises would have to repay "loans"

Sowetan 13/3/98

(241)

War on poverty stepped up as alarm bells ring

HENRY LUDSKI

ST 10/3/98 (241) (241)

THE government has pledged to spend millions more on poverty relief and job creation in the face of continued criticism of its delivery in these areas.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi earlier this week set Budget Week in motion by allocating R50-million to 1 139 special poverty alleviation projects throughout South Africa.

Then, on Wednesday, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel set aside R500-million for poverty relief, R200-million up on last year's allocation. He also announced his Umsobomvu ("New Dawn") job creation initiative, to be funded by a 2,5 percent once-off levy on beneficiaries of the demutualisation of life insurers Sanlam and Old Mutual.

All this has, however, not satisfied his critics, who remain unimpressed with the government's alleged poor delivery record and restrictive fiscal policies.

Poor service delivery, the general failure of the government's Masakhane campaign and the admission last month by President Nelson Mandela that it was not in a position to meet its 1994 election promise of a million homes by 1999, have contributed to the ANC-led government being sensitive to criticism about non-delivery.

Manuel has been tasked with steering the economy through difficult waters. Criticism of a lower than expected growth rate and a lack of synchronisation in his growth, employment and redistribution (Gear) strategy has opened him up for attack by the ANC's alliance partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Cosatu maintains the economy is being straitjacketed by a "contradictory" fiscal and monetary policy that is making it impossible to meet employment, growth and social targets.

It is vociferous on the area of job creation and poverty relief, saying a more comprehensive social security system needs to be put in place to provide an important lifeline to the poor.

It accuses Manuel of following an economic policy that stifles job creation.

Manuel has responded by saying there are "no short cuts" to achieving

sustainable growth, because the government's resources are finite. However, the attack which most riled the government came from Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, who accused it of slackening commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities to the poor.

Ndungane yesterday described poverty as the "greatest legacy" of apartheid, and said poverty alleviation needed to be addressed "much more vigorously". He said he had found encouraging signs in Manuel's budget, which suggested the issue was being taken seriously.

However, he added it was imperative that the budgetary allocation be seen to be making a discernible difference to the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Poverty, education, housing, health care and social welfare were just a few of the matters that required urgent attention, Ndungane said. "Faced with the harsh realities in which many of our people live, we continue to look for signs of hope for the poverty-stricken."

The issue of service delivery or, rather, the lack of it, has already emerged as a key electoral issue and it should be patently clear to the government it is likely to be the central issue around which next year's general elections are fought. It has also been taken up by the South African NGO Coalition, churches, labour, the Commission on Gender Equality and the Human Rights Commission.

Fraser-Moleketi, who is compiling a special poverty and inequality report for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki that is expected to be ready by April, said the government was trying to attain the broadest possible social security system.

The government had limited resources, she said, but significant strides had been made, particularly in respect of its special intervention on free health care for children under the age of six. Her department would also be extending the R100 child support grant to another 178 000 children.

Describing proposed new welfare legislation as "a war on poverty", Fraser-Moleketi said her focus was on areas of greatest vulnerability, and particularly on putting a comprehensive system in place for care at an early age.

Poverty war goes on

THE South African National NGO Coalition, South African Human Rights Commission and Commission on Gender Equality recently launched hearings on poverty

This is not specific to South Africa. Many countries have put the reduction of global poverty at the top of their development agenda. And there is a note of optimism that it can be dramatically reduced.

The Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has set the target of eliminating absolute global poverty by 2015 – just 17 years away.

The question, however, remains: How can global poverty be reduced and ultimately eliminated, considering that 1.3 billion people, most in Africa and South Asia, live in poverty, surviving on R5 a day for all their needs?

History tells us that in the last 50 years more people in the developed countries have escaped from poverty than in the previous 500. Since 1960, child death rates in developing countries have been cut by more than half.

People have more food to eat and the percentage of the population with access to clean water has doubled to 70 percent.

This suggests that history has equipped us with better instruments of intervention on which to focus our efforts in combating poverty. We have also learned economic growth plays a significant part in reducing poverty.

Under existing policies, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa need at least eight percent, 12 percent and five percent average growth respectively for four to six years if poverty is to be reduced significantly.

But the complex relationship between economic growth, income distribution and their impact on the reduction of poverty varies from country to country.

Because growth is linked to income distribution, it will only have minimal impact in societies where inequality is higher.

The uneven distribution of the benefits of economic development diminishes the impact of growth on poverty elimination. Appropriate development is likely to be achieved more easily where resources are distributed fairly.

This suggests that economic growth should be inextricably linked to social justice. There must be equality of opportunity and the possibility for everyone to benefit from economic growth.

In the African situation, the high growth which a number of countries are experiencing has not been proportionate to income distribution as many people are in the informal sector.

Much of the success of poverty reduction in the past was built on agricultural improvements,

Eliminating poverty cannot be achieved by economic growth and macro policies alone. Public action is needed to help the poor. **Claude Kabemba** explains ...

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SAHRC chairman Barney Pitso Moseneke. The organisation launched hearings on poverty in South Africa recently.

and small incremental gains based on intensive use of labour, low capital and technological input.

Here the approach is to have an integrated view of economic endeavour, embracing the simultaneous and interacting development of agriculture, industry and socio-economic infrastructure.

Poverty elimination targets cannot be achieved by economic growth and sound macro policies alone. Complementary direct public action to provide a safety net is required to help the social and human development of the poorest sectors of society.

Support both for sustainable economic development and social development now need to be inextricably integrated by all actors in poverty reduction.

Other elements play an important role in enabling people to have access to resources and should be seriously considered in poverty policy formulation: education, race, age, gender and religion.

Education plays a crucial role in human development and OECD targets aim for universal primary education by 2015. The education of women is viewed as a key element in any poverty reduction strategy.

The value of empowering women in poorer regions, enabling greater self-reliance, and the impact of this on households has been well

demonstrated. There is also a need to invest in new knowledge to really understand the world we are living in.

Land reform, for instance, will only be beneficial if backed up by agricultural and technological reforms (as happened in India with the Green Revolution or the Philippines through crop development).

The poor, then, will need access also to formal markets.

This, in turn, requires good roads and appropriate infrastructure.

Development cooperation can also play an important role in eliminating poverty. Today, however, the climate surrounding foreign aid programmes is heavy with disillusionment and distrust.

On all sides we sense a weariness amid a search for a new direction. Much has been said about building genuine partnerships between the donor community and the recipient countries.

The conventional wisdom in both donor and recipient countries emphasises trade and investment as more important than assistance given to poor countries, but aid is still a relevant option in fighting poverty.

Economic growth alone will not resolve the problem of the bottom 10 percent. Northern NGOs can play an invaluable role working alongside their counterparts in developing countries, and can often reach the poorest.

Growth supporting the poor can be encouraged by recipients and donors to empower the poor to become producers, in turn contributing to wider economic growth.

To succeed, the poor need greater access to credit, investment, technology and assets.

The real challenge is to ensure that aid recipients can take the driver's seat, while recognising the need for donors to maintain some control of how their taxpayers' money is spent.

The West can indeed help poor countries. But it is not an easy matter, expressible in terms of money alone.

It demands a deep respect of African needs, traditions, initiatives and decisions.

There is a need to equalise relations between donors and recipients. The principal objective should be to help the poor to rid themselves of poverty by their own efforts.

(The writer is an international relations researcher at the Centre for Policy Studies, Johannesburg.)

SA's poor not benefiting from spending — Idasa

Linda Ensor

DD 17/3/98

(241) (241)

CAPE TOWN — SA's poor were not benefiting sufficiently from social spending despite the greater resources allocated by government since 1994, Institute for Democracy in SA (Idasa) researchers told Parliament's portfolio committee on finance yesterday.

"SA's social expenditure budgets are relatively large relative to other middle-income developing countries. Yet our socioeconomic indicators are poor. This is related to the inequality and ineffectiveness of spending," Idasa's Shirley Robinson said in a presentation to the committee on the recently announced budget.

"Although data is sparse, recent reports indicate that the incidence of social spending in SA is not geared toward the poor, "despite the shares allocated to education and health expenditure". Spending on the poor and "ultra-poor" was much lower than their share of the population, she said.

Robinson said that while the poor comprised about 53% of the population, they received only about 40% of the education budget. The "ultra-poor" formed about 29% of the population, but received only about 20% of the education budget.

These trends highlighted the need for finer expenditure targeting. Idasa recommended the policy co-ordination unit in deputy president Thabo Mbeki's office monitor the situation.

Robinson said the real decline in social assistance grants this year, the projected decline in the welfare vote over the next three years, and the decline in the social services element of the welfare vote would affect SA's poor.

Robinson blamed the poor use of resources on the lack of an integrated policy to alleviate poverty, with initiatives being fragmented across sectors.

She called for an urgent relaxation of the deficit targets of government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gear) to release more resources for development. This was especially justified, Robinson argued, in view of the fact that economic growth was lower than expected.

Economists representing the SA Chamber of Business, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut and Business SA agreed that finance minister Trevor Manuel's 3% growth target for the 1998/99 fiscal year was rather optimistic. Sacob, for instance, had forecast 2,3%. However, business supported his disciplined budget and his commitment to Gear targets.

The Federation of Unions of SA attacked government plans to increase public service salaries by only 4% in contravention of its three year agreement and announced that it would not participate in any further discussions on transformation until the obligations under the agreement had been met. It predicted further industrial action and a deterioration of labour relations.

R4,8m to help
relieve poverty

Non-governmental and community-based organisations in Gauteng will today receive R4,8-million from the province for poverty alleviation.

The welfare and population development department yesterday said selected programmes would help the poorest sectors of the community. Amounts allocated to each organisation will range from R800 to R242 000. - Sapa

Tradition's lord

THERE is nothing remarkable about Johannes Ngoepe's stamp, a rectangular box about 3cm by 2cm with his name, the name of his district, Bochum in the Northern Province, and the head of a small local bird inscribed on it in red ink.

Yet it is his proudest possession, and for a good reason.

With it, Ngoepe controls the lives of "his" people in an isolated rural village called Schoongezicht, some 400km northwest of Germiston, where he works as a senior licensing inspector.

On Tuesday, 40-year-old Casbertina Mashamaite led a delegation of six women 150km from Schoongezicht to Mankweng outside Pietersburg to tell the Speak Out on Poverty hearings that this time-honoured arrangement was a major contributing factor in their impoverishment.

Sitting in the shade of a maroela tree the next day, the people of the village gave vent to feelings which Mashamaite had touched on only briefly.

When they wanted to initiate a self-help scheme, they said, the induna Ngoepe, refused permission until they paid him a fee.

For three years they had been wanting to build a 100m² garden on the outskirts of the village. The problem was not a lack of financing for irrigation and seeds. This was obtained easily enough from the private business sector. What held them back was their refusal to pay Ngoepe the fee of around R50 he demanded from each project member.

The villagers say agricultural officers from the provincial government refused to help with the project until the community got Ngoepe's permission.

Quite why the villagers should allow one man with no army or police force at his disposal to stand in their way is hard for outsiders to understand. But efforts at resistance there have been.

In 1979 they set up a new village 8km from the one that had been ruled by Ngoepe's father and his father before him. It is called Schoongezicht B, but the villagers never neglect to add the name Motsemoswa, which is northern Sotho for "new settlement".

This verbal distinction is all that remains of their stab at independence. In 1986, the chief of Bochum ordered them to obey their headman, Ngoepe.

"The chief told Ngoepe that from now on he was in charge, this was his place," said Elizabeth Mokobane, 39, a member of Mashamaite's delegation.

The villagers' only successful act of defiance was in 1992, when they built a three-classroom school in the teeth of opposition from Ngoepe.

His ostensible objection was that there already was a school in Schoongezicht A. The real reason, more probably, was that they refused to pay him for his permission.

"We went to the induna and told him we wanted to build this school," said Mashamaite. "He demanded a contribution. We refused to pay."

In 1995 they went to the chief, about 90km away, to complain about Ngoepe's autocratic rule.

'We cannot promise pennies will come from heaven,' Archbishop hearings in the Northern Province this week. But for many village. Efforts to help themselves are being frustrated by an anachronism.



SPEAKING OUT: Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane and Human Rights Commission head Barney Pitso Moseneke at the poverty hearings.

Ngoepe fined each offending household R500, but this has been negotiated down to R50.

Ngoepe denies he has ever asked the villagers for anything except an R80 contribution to a "building fund" from parents with children at school. "If they cannot afford it we chase the child away," he admits.

Evidence before the poverty hearings so far leaves no doubt that the government's boast of providing free education is a figment of its imagination. Even in the poorest rural areas, of which Schoongezicht is a good example, children whose parents cannot pay fees are not allowed to attend school.

Payments or not, Ngoepe makes no bones about his authority.

"I own all the land around here, and so," he says, as if explaining a self-evident law of nature, "people have to get my permission before they can do anything."

As well as being the headman, he is the only remotely accessible commissioner of oaths. Without his red stamp of approval, the villagers cannot get married, register the birth of a child, get identity documents or get buried. If they want to apply for a loan or a government pension or grant, they have no option but to go through him.

If they anger him, for instance, by refusing to pay him a fee for some "service", he has the power to make their daily lives well nigh impossible.

"I don't feel this is the correct

way," says Mashamaite. "I don't like it, but there is no way we can change it."

She is reluctant to say more. "She is concerned her remarks might be reported to the induna, who might make life difficult for her and charge her a penalty," explains the translator.

Outwardly, Ngoepe, who looks younger than his 55 years, seems genial enough. But it doesn't take much for the steel to show. When he learns about the delegation to Mankweng, he is clearly furious and wants to know their names. The women had no right, he says, to tell any hearing anything without his express approval.

"It is not the way things should be done," he says, with

an edge to his voice that no doubt they'll be hearing him shortly.

According to Thelma Makhura from the Northern Province Rural Development Forum, the situation

ords of poverty

n,' Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane said at the first poverty
or many villagers, writes CHRIS BARRON, this is not the issue.
an anachronistic system that makes a mockery of democracy
(241) ST5/4/98



Ngwana at the poverty hearings

Picture: RAYMOND PRESTON

edge to his voice that leaves
doubt they'll be hearing from
shortly.

According to Ngwanamat-
Makhura from the North-
Province Rural Develop-
Forum, the situation in

Schoongezicht is repeated
throughout the province. At
least 80 percent of the popula-
tion live in rural areas, she says,
their welfare dependent to a
frightening degree on the
whims of chiefs and headmen

They put up with it because it
is the only way they know.
Added to the force of tradition
is the fact of isolation.

The closest these people
come to democracy is electing
local councillors. Once elected,

the councillors, who in rural
areas get paid R2 300 a month,
are seldom seen. If the villagers
know their names, they rarely
know where they are to be
found, or how

"They don't visit their
wards," says Ngoepe. "They're
vrot, useless."

Ngoepe's opinion is under-
standable. He sees them as a
potential threat to his author-
ity. According to Makhura, the
councillors see Ngoepe and oth-
er headmen as a threat. In their
disputes over turf, the needs of
the villagers are incidental.

Listening intently to the wom-
en, but saying very little them-
selves, are a group of men

When young and fit, the men
play little part in the community
because they live and work in
the cities, usually in Gauteng.
By the time they return to their
villages to stay, they are spent
forces — too sick, tired or old to
be much use to anyone.

They become an additional
burden to their wives, already
hard-pressed to find food for
their children's bellies.

They are penniless because,
for the most part, companies
they have given their lives to
have sent them packing with lit-
tle in return. In effect, they come
back to their villages to die.

Caros Mpebe, 59, worked as
a municipal policeman in Rand-
fontein for 20 years. He says he
was sent home in 1982 because
he had tuberculosis.

"I was sick and so they told
me to come home until I was
better," he says. He gets no pen-
sion or disability grant. He has
five children.

Gideon Stumu, 77, worked in
a factory in Gauteng for 35
years. When he retired he was
given R4 000. His only income is
a R470 monthly pension from
the government.

Amandus Sekonyane, 72, was
retrenched after 24 years with a
Johannesburg firm. He was giv-
ing R11 000, and now his only
income is R470 a month from
the government. So it goes on.

"I have said what I wanted to
say to the world," said
Mashamaite, after her submis-
sion. Now it is up to the
government to hear.

Great potential to rally against poverty

South Africans, still divided on a range of issues, should at least unite over the issue of poverty, writes Steven Friedman

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A woman rummages through a dump could a national anti-poverty campaign unite the nation?

poor indeed, one repeated attack on the union movement is the claim that its ideas would benefit the employed rather than the unemployed poor.

Many on the left see these arguments as self-serving (just as those who advance them see the union arguments in the same light). Even if they are, the fact that the argument is about how, not whether, to tackle poverty does present an opportunity.

Focusing on poverty also has one powerful virtue — we can measure progress. While there is no way of deciding who is right when we differ over "justice", it is possible to measure whether people are escaping poverty. And, if self-serving policies are being pursued in the name of the poor, their fig-leaf can be more easily stripped from them.

It is worth contrasting a focus on the poor with some of the goals which now divide us. "Transition" or "empowerment" or "redress" may describe part of the need to end a racial past. But they are divisive — no one has any doubt about who is to offer redress to whom — and vague, providing a field day to any selfish interest with a minimum of imagination. Personal enrichment, or diverting public funds for personal purposes, can be, and often is, dressed up in these phrases, however fine the intentions of their original authors, because they are so vague. It is harder to dress either up in anti-poverty garments.

The fact that poverty can be measured makes it easier to tail the phoney solutions from the real ones. Despite our divisions, there are few South Africans who would claim it is desirable for their fellow citizens to go without food or clean water or schools. There is, therefore, great potential for a campaign which would rally all of us, despite our differences, behind a fight against poverty. And if it includes measurable targets, it can produce social progress without setting us to fighting.

An SA whose leaders commit themselves to fighting poverty, and to allowing the results of the battle to be measured, is likely to be far more workable than one which concerns itself with the baggles between its elites.

□ Friedman is director of the Centre for Policy Studies.

THE great South African "miracle" unravelling? There seems to be abundant evidence that the racial co-existence which the settlement seemed to promise is in trouble.

Vryburg: the conflict between white-led rugby and white military chiefs on the one hand, black-led government on the other, white rugby fans cheering at news that the mainly black national soccer team is losing; racial tensions at a Durban cricket test.

All tell a similar story — that we are not getting along with each other as well as we seemed to be doing in 1994. How worried should we be?

On one level, not very. Many of the incidents reflect tensions which have always been there, but were buried for a while. Given the nature of race relations in country towns, the real question about Vryburg may be not that it happened, but that we have not had more incidents of this sort.

It was inevitable that, in a society in which government is controlled by the majority, but many other important institutions are run by members of the minority — from the military to sports organisations — tensions between the two were going to surface.

We could also argue that we have made considerable progress in handling our conflicts in a way which ensures that racial divisions remain contained. Whether we look at Vryburg or sport, people are less inclined to appeal to crude racial prejudice now than they were a few years ago.

Nor do conflicts always polarise along racial lines as we might expect. Publicly-expressed white opinion is not rallying behind Louis Luyt as he probably hoped — nor is it likely to rally behind white generals accused of producing an inept intelligence report.

All the contending groups continue to accept the authority of key conflict-setting instruments such as the courts. If we accept, as this column has argued before, that the dewy-eyed claims about racial reconciliation in 1994 were overblown and that it is unrealistic to expect historic differences to disappear soon, our ability to contain differences remains more significant than the fact that they are emerging in public.

Mary South Africans will continue to see most issues through

racial lenses. The key question is how much progress we are making towards finding common ways of settling conflicts — and, given our history, we are not doing badly.

That said, we could do much better not necessarily to prevent the conflicts mentioned here, but to come up with common goals which can transcend race and other divisions and win the support of people across those barriers. It is easy to criticise the idea of trying to come up with objectives which just about everyone can accept.

We can all agree that "fairness" or "justice" are good ideas but so what if we disagree about what those terms mean? Will we not end up with a meaningless goal which everyone can interpret in their own way, leaving the divisions unchanged? We have had one such example

the reconciliation and development programme (RDP). Just about everyone who spoke in public agreed that reconstruction and development were excellent goals — and then set about interpreting them in ways which advanced their interests. In the first years after 1994, for example, hawks were fond of pointing out that more military hardware would advance the RDP.

One answer is that this would not have been a problem if we had seen the RDP as a national goal rather than a programme. A common goal reduces conflicts because groups are at least arguing over means, not ends. So even a vague and fuzzy goal can help to bind the society. Another is that the goal can be more specific than "reconstruction and development", making it harder for some

to divert it into self-serving paths. It can be translated into measurable targets, leaving less room for doubt about whether we are moving towards it.

There is a South African goal which may unite people across the barriers and which is specific enough to prevent the selfish campaigning against poverty. Those who overestimate or misunderstand our divisions will find this idea absurd. Is a large part of our problem not that some want to hang onto wealth while others go without the basics? And, if it is, surely poverty is the last issue on which we might expect South Africans to unite?

No, for two reasons. Firstly, we will never tackle poverty if we assume doing so is simply a matter of taking resources from the rich and giving them to the poor. Effective action against poverty entails sacrifices from the well-off, but they can be manageable.

It is also impossible to fight poverty unless the economy grows, offering benefits for the affluent as well as the poor. While it is now fashionable to write off East Asian economies after last year's "meltdown", the fact remains that several achieved major gains in reducing poverty while their businesses grew. Their methods may now be in doubt — but they have shown that effective action against poverty need not mean a war against the rich.

Secondly, we have evidence that the unacceptableity of poverty is a unifying idea. Business representatives or free marketeers often invest energy in explaining why their ideas would help the

Programme to alleviate poverty

By Charity Bhengu

6/4/98
Sowetan
THE Department of Welfare and Population Development recently introduced a flagship programme called Unemployed Women with Child Under Five to alleviate poverty

Department spokesman Kgati Sathekge said the focus was mainly on rural women who were previously excluded from social services and developmental and economic opportunities

He said "The programme will provide them and their young children with the opportunity to reduce their potential dependency on the state

"It will increase education and training opportunities for women and will also provide their children with appropriate education if they are under the age of five years"

Various national and provincial government departments as well as welfare and community-based organisations have participated in the design, planning and execution of the programme

The Department of Welfare has earmarked R4,3 million for the first year of implementation and has committed itself to giving R400 000 to each province

Last week *Sowetan* conducted a snap survey in Johannesburg to find out more about the plight of unemployed mothers with children under the age of five

Among those we spoke to was Smangele Ndlovu, a 29-year-old unemployed mother

"I used to wake up at dawn to prepare food for the family I would later go to trade on the streets, buy food and clothes for the household," she said "My man rarely appreciated all the hard work He is gone now"

Ndlovu, who is originally from Mariannhill in KwaZulu-Natal, came to Johannesburg a month ago after the father of her two children, Nokubonga (3) and Zandile (eight months), abandoned them

Today she lives in a dilapidated flat without any electricity, and sometimes goes without a proper meal

But she is not alone in her plight Alicia Sgongela of Umtata in the Eastern Cape also came to Johannesburg with her four children to find a better way to take care of them

However, she now sells vegetables and fruit in Market Street to earn a living She



Smangele Ndlovu with her two children, Nokubonga and Zandile, in Pritchard Street, Johannesburg.



Alicia Sgongela feeding her baby while she sells fruit and vegetables to survive.

PICS CLEMENT LEKANYANE

takes along her 10-month-old baby Sbanjalo and leaves the others with a neighbour every morning

Countless other women make the same heroic sacrifices to ensure their children have enough to eat They work long hours and bear heavy workloads with their babies on their back

Miners, farmworkers speak out on poverty

IT was a heartbreaking session when farm dwellers and mineworkers related their misfortunes at the poverty hearings in Kanyamazani, near Nelspruit.

Miners were the first to present their experiences to the hearing convened by the South African Non-Governmental Coalition (Sangoco).

Mr Josiah Magula was allegedly dismissed for ill-health by his employer. He said his health had been damaged by drinking contaminated water.

"We have to drink water from a river. The neighbouring mine dumps dangerous chemical waste into the river. That makes us continuously sick," Magula said.

Mr Thomas Mpolwane claimed that mines exposed employees to haz-

ardous chemicals like sulphuric acid and benzene. "Yet when we get sick, we are dismissed. Our trade union has not made progress in its negotiations with the mine."

Mr Aaron Mavimbela alleged that he was hospitalised after being injured in a mining accident. "The mine denied any knowledge of me. I received no compensation."

Mr Timothy Motau complained about his eviction twice from a farm and the ongoing evictions.

"We are suffering on the farms and nobody is eager to help us. Even at mobile clinics and churches we are dismissed as being dirty. We want to be treated like human beings," said Motau.

Motau - Sowetan Reporter

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'Poverty still hurting blacks in South Africa'

Sowetan 8/5/98

By Saint Molakeng

DESPITE four years of democracy, blacks in Gauteng still experience more poverty than whites and the situation is worse for black women, the "Speak Out on Poverty" hearings at the Johannesburg Central Methodist Church heard yesterday

Unemployment, which led to various forms of poverty, was 34 percent among blacks and only four percent among whites, according to statistics released by the South African National Non-Governmental Coalition (Sangoco), which has coordinated the national hearings

The hearings started in March and end in June

The hearings were presided over by Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane and five commissioners, including chairman of New African Investment Limited, Dr Nihato Motlana

"While the unemployment rate in Gauteng is the second lowest in the country after Western Cape, it is still high and masks stark disparities," Mr Nicol Colling of Sangoco said

Colling said that among white employ-

ees in Gauteng, 69 percent of men and 31 percent of women earned gross incomes of more than R4 000 a month, while only six percent of Africans earned incomes in that range

Only four percent of African men and two percent of African women held management positions at work. Forty-two percent of the women were gardeners and domestic servants, while men constituted 23 percent in this category

The situation became vivid when people testified about poverty in their lives

Ms Christine Hlongwane of Mohlakeng, Randfontein, said poverty bred prostitution, crime, alcoholism and rape as people tried to alleviate their suffering

Mr Sibusiso Magasela, a retrenched Soweto resident, blamed the high unemployment rate on privatisation and racism by white employers

"Affirmative action has failed blacks who are still marginalised by employers. Blacks in better posts are only tokens"

A delegation from Diepsloot squatter camp near Randburg complained about lack of water, electricity and personal security.

Report on poverty calls for transformation plan

Reneé Grawitzky

(~~SECRET~~) (~~SECRET~~) (241)

INHERITED structural problems in the economy coupled with government's macroeconomic policy framework posed major constraints to job creation and poverty eradication in SA, a report prepared for the United Nations Development Programme said

The report, compiled by the National Institute for Economic Policy, has called for a "pro-poor transformation strategy" to stimulate job creation and alleviate poverty

The research is intended to provide an analysis on employment creation and sustainable livelihoods and assist the development programme in formulating its programmes, in relation to the government, on priorities and strategies for poverty reduction in SA

To achieve this, the research project focused extensively on who the poor and unemployed are, their location and sources of income

The report found that sources of income were extremely diverse, with poor households being dependent on a wider range of income sources than wealthier households.

The poor and ultra-poor relied heavily on the state through remittances and social pensions. This had major policy implications for government and "policy shifts regarding pensions must be considered for the broader impacts they will have on rural households and economies"

National Institute for Economic Policy research director Asghar Adelzadeh said a "pro-poor growth strategy" was central to any policy as it could expand employment, improve productivity, ensure better income distribution, increase the economy's long-term growth and generate domestic demand with a "gradual and careful approach to integration into the world economy"

It would also ensure that government became actively involved in extending social services, improving the infrastructure and transforming the labour market

Foreign affairs 'crippled by budget cuts'

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The foreign affairs department could not continue effectively to pursue SA's national interests abroad with the funding levels provided in the medium-term expenditure framework, Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said yesterday.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by his deputy Aziz Pahad, Nzo — who is ill — said 10 foreign missions were in the process of being closed down and staff cuts were being implemented because of the budget cuts.

He warned that the spending levels for the three years of the framework meant that further closures and cut-backs in staffing were planned.

Nzo said the funding shortage also meant that specifically targeted priority areas in Africa and Asia could not get SA missions. SA was also playing

an increasingly important role in international organisations such as the United Nations, putting strain on the department's staffing. The shortage of funds had also effected the department's affirmative action programme.

He said missions abroad were, in concert with the trade and industry department, playing an increasingly important role in attracting foreign investment and warned that "we will not be able to maintain present levels of investment and assistance if we have to decrease the efficiency and capacity of our diplomatic missions".

He said demands on missions by government, the private sector and by the volume of high-level visitors had increased dramatically. "During a ministerial visit to a Latin American country last year, our embassy arranged 310 separate appointments for the 50 business representatives who formed

part of the delegation."

The department's actual expenditure for the 1997/98 financial year, including additional appropriation and improvement of conditions of service, was R1,303bn. This had been reduced in the new budget to R1,211bn — a reduction of R92,209m, or about 7%.

With inflation, this meant a real decrease of more than 12%. In the 1999/2000 year it was expected the department's allocation would fall even further to R1,197bn, and to R1,154bn in the third year of the framework.

Highlighting some of the department's achievements internationally, he pointed to the role played in achieving a "peaceful" transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; interventions in the conflict in East Timor; and assistance given to the parties in the Northern Ireland peace process when they visited SA last year.

Unions 'do not represent unemployed'

Reneé Grawitzky

ORGANISED labour had no right to talk on behalf of the unemployed, a group representing the jobless in a number of East Rand townships said at the Speak Out on Poverty hearings in Johannesburg yesterday.

The Malamulela Social Movement for the Unemployed criticised trade unions for their opposition to government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gear), saying the unemployed had a right to decide if they wanted to accept low-paying jobs.

The organisations' general secretary, Mohlolo Kgopane, said Gear's call for flexible labour markets, which endorsed a low-wage strategy, could ad-

dress the growing unemployment problem.

People should have access to jobs as enshrined in the constitution.

Under apartheid, organised labour was supported as it championed the struggle for democracy. However, its role after 1994 was illegitimate as it operated to the detriment of the interests of the unemployed, Kgopane said.

He said he was not attacking organised labour as such, but it could not adequately address the interests of the unemployed which differed to the interests of union members.

Labour federation Cosatu deputy general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi, a commissioner at the hearings, was told "You will continue to represent

the interests of the employed and I will continue representing the interests of the unemployed."

Government officials also came under sharp attack for perceptions of mismanagement and corruption.

Alexandra resident Grace Biyela raised the problems in her community and requested government assistance. New Africa Investment Limited chairman and commissioner at the hearings, Nthato Motlana, asked Biyela if people at local level had given thought as to how they could address some of the problems, as government was poor.

She expressed her confusion over Motlana's statement as "we hear (on television) that people are misusing money at a high level".

Poverty report will put Government efforts into gear

ESTELLE RANDALL

A major Government initiative to tackle poverty kicks off next week with the release of a report evaluating the extent and successes of state programmes launched to ease the poverty syndrome.

The publication of the report is the first stage in the Government's plan to devise a coherent strategy to fight poverty in South Africa.

The report, scheduled for release in Cape Town on Wednesday, will be followed by a conference in June

where the framing of the poverty-alleviation strategy will begin.

Pundy Pillay, head of the co-ordination and policy unit in Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office, said the report would evaluate what Government had done to address poverty as well as make recommendations for improvements.

The Government commissioned a firm of consultants to compile the report in 1995, when the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) operated as a separate ministry. The RDP's goals have

since been absorbed into all ministries and departments.

Mr Pillay said the Government would present its response to the report at the June conference, to which non-governmental organisations and academics would be invited. After discussion at the conference, and its own assessment of the report, the Government would develop a strategy with specific programmes to deal more effectively with poverty.

Mr Pillay said his unit would be involved in driving such a strategy

ARL 9/15/98 (241)

"We'll do work on recommendations coming out of the report. One area would be to develop poverty indicators and monitoring mechanisms and to ensure the strategy is developed across all departments," Mr Pillay said.

He said the poverty alleviation strategy would be backed by programmes arising from the Presidential Jobs Summit, also scheduled to be held during June. The Minister of Labour, Tito Mboweni, has indicated that Mr Pillay's unit will have to play a pivotal role in

ensuring that practical programmes from the Jobs Summit are implemented.

The 15-person unit was established in January to co-ordinate and evaluate Government policy. Mr Pillay said the Cabinet decided to create the unit because, while departments were "very good" at developing policy, they were less able to co-ordinate this with other departments. The unit has also been charged with assessing the effectiveness of policies which Government has agreed to implement.

Poor want better deal, soon

Marginalised people speak out at Johannesburg hearing on poverty

By RYAN CRESSWELL

There was a clear message in the Speak out on Poverty Hearing, dealing with economic issues and held in Johannesburg poor people want a more equitable slice of the pie, and they want it soon.

The event was one of a series of poverty hearings being held around the country recently. They were organised by the SA National NGO Coalition, the Human Rights Commission and the Congress of SA Trade Unions.

Speakers representing sectors of the youth, miners, the unemployed, agricultural workers, people with HIV and the homeless all asked for more help at the hearing in the Central Methodist Church.

It was not only apartheid history and big business that were blamed for the slow

pace of poverty alleviation, some speakers were also critical of the Government and organised labour.

Gerald Mthembu, representing a youth development initiative called the Joint Enrichment Programme, said young people made up the largest section of society but only a third were employed full time.

Mthembu said it was not easy to get Government information about job initiatives and very few young people were equipped for self employment. He said unless jobs were created and conditions improved, the country would fail the youth.

Morris Toyi of Hillbrow described how he came to Gauteng from the Eastern Cape and was forced into a life of burglary.

"My education in the Eastern Cape was inadequate to equip me for a de-

cent future. I am grateful for the skills I learnt in jail."

(Toyi was trained as a construction worker in jail.)

A young Soweto woman with HIV said accommodation was needed for people like herself because many sufferers were evicted from their homes when their illness was discovered.

Angelina Ramoeti, a woman who lives on the streets of Johannesburg, said she had been sexually abused since the age of 7. She said when she went to the police for assistance she was again forced to have sex and she was even turned away by a church.

A senior member of an agricultural union said some workers earned only R84 a month while farmers "made millions".

He said 70% of rural households were poor and unless services were im-

proved, programmes were sorted out and demographic trends were considered, things would get worse.

Frank Mahlangu, a National Union of Mineworkers spokesman, said 300 000 black workers had a pension fund of only R3-billion because they were allowed to set it up only in 1989, whereas 30 000 white miners had a R20-billion fund.

He said his grandfather worked on a coal mine for many years and left with only R1 000 from the fund and R200 from the company.

A spokesman for a group of unemployed people from Katorus said they believed in the Growth, Employment and Reconstruction programme and its ideal of a flexible labour market.

He said organised labour was wrong to go against flexibility as this had a negative effect on the unemployed.

Star 11/5/98 (241)

Govt to rethink poverty alleviation

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — Government should reassess the use of monetary policy to contain consumption and inflation, as it seemed to have a negative effect on job creation, growth and access to home ownership, a report has said

Commissioned by government and called "Poverty and Inequality in SA", the report said fiscal policy, through appropriate public invest-

ment expenditure, could ensure the poor and unemployed benefited from job- and income-creating opportunities. Supply-side incentives could direct investment to more labour-intensive industries. The report, compiled by independent researchers, was presented to the cabinet yesterday. Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said it would be discussed at a conference on poverty on June 12. The report said that

government emphasised social spending. However, the problem was that high- and middle-income groups had, until recently, benefited more than the poor from this. It warned the long-term success of the spatial development initiative programme was "far from assured". The programme concept could not be implemented throughout SA, creating the risk that it might divert resources to a limited number of areas.

BD 14/5/98

Eradicating black poverty 'key to reconciliation'

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — The eradication of poverty among blacks was the key to reconciliation in SA, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

During a parliamentary interpellation, Mbeki said all political parties, and not only government, had to contribute to achieving reconciliation.

National Party (NP) leader Marthinus van Schalkwyk

said President Nelson Mandela had done well to achieve reconciliation at a symbolic level. Mbeki, when he took over from Mandela, would have the more difficult task of giving concrete effect to reconciliation. The rights of the minority and majority would have to be balanced.

Sapa reports Mbeki said he was concerned about the anger which was threatening reconciliation. "I am personal-

ly very concerned that there is beginning to develop a certain rage within our society."

Mbeki then cited examples, which he said were fuelling this anger and not helping the reconciliation process. "When President Mandela ends up in court, that produces a particular response of rage; when somebody says, 'do not touch rugby because it is an Afrikaner sport', that produces rage."

In a broadside at the NP,

which called for debate on the issue, Mbeki said reconciliation could not be dealt with in the context of party politics.

"It requires very, very serious discussion among ourselves, so that we can say what it is that we can do together to address this question."

Mbeki said he and Freedom Front leader Gen Constand Vilioen were involved in a process to deal with perceptions about the truth commission.

(241)

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They were involved in detailed discussions on "what to do to remove that element of rage around (former president) PW Botha and the commission", he said.

The Freedom Front's Pieter Mulder said he wanted to feel that there was space to be himself in SA as an Afrikaner "if it is expected of me, for the sake of nation-building, to be less of an Afrikaner, then the price is too high."



W Cape's poorest get chance to be heard

Urgent action on housing sought

MOSES MHLITHELELI MACKAY
STAFF REPORTER

Single mother Rose Khumalo, 36, lives in a cramped, damp five-roomed shack in Site B, Khayelitsha, with her four children, pensioner mother and another relative.

Ms Khumalo, who lost her job as a domestic worker in Welgemoed last week, is due to testify at the Western Cape Speak Out poverty hearing in the Site B Hall in Khayelitsha today.

The first of the Western Cape hearings was held in George yesterday. There will be hearings in Athlone tomorrow and Ceres on Thursday.

In the Western Cape, Speak Out will focus on urban poverty and housing. About 55% of South Africans live in urban areas and of these 24% live in abject poverty.

ART 2/16/98 (24/1)

"Much of this poverty can be traced back to the long history of the state removing and relocating blacks from prime land to less and less desirable locations," said Faried Essack of the Commission on Gender Equality and a Speak Out commissioner.

An integrated strategy and substantial resources were needed to tackle the legacy.

In its report on poverty and inequality, the Government identifies housing as a crucial asset and buffer for the poor. Secure housing meets a basic need and opens up a range of other opportunities, it says.

Brian Moholo of Urban Sector Network said "Recognising that the costs of apartheid were borne by the urban poor provides a starting point for acknowledging the legacy and developing strategies to eradicate poverty."

Other commissioners at the hearings are Louisa Zondo of the Human Rights Commission, Anglican archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, Joel Bolenick, Josette Cole, Nobom Sonto and Brian Moholo.

Ms Khumalo, who has two daughters and two sons at school, also supported her mother Peggy Spondo, 68, and relative Linah Jansen, 70, until she lost her job.

"I was very ill when I was fired. My former employer doesn't like sick people. I lost my job because of my condition. The Government should speed up the delivery process, especially the housing in Khayelitsha. We live under unfavourable conditions. We continue to be the victims of floods and disasters."

She said the father of her children refused to support them unless he had custody.



Below the bread line: Rose Khumalo, 36, left, will testify at today's poverty hearings in Khayelitsha.

Khayelitsha speaks on effects of poverty

ISSUES raised yesterday during the Khayelitsha leg of the nationwide Speak out on Poverty hearings included the abuse of women and children stemming from poverty and unemployment

"Alcohol abuse is a problem that leads our men to abuse us and our children," said Nomathise Tsobleyo

"Weekends were like a war zone in our home. My children would always cry because they knew that when my husband was around there would be war"

Tsobleyo said she stayed with her husband for the sake of her children, but after leaving home her children were happier and felt free

Another issue raised was the endemic gangsterism on the Cape Flats.

Rose Clasen, the mother of a gangster, said: "No mother wants their child to be a gangster. My child grew up in an abusive home where his father abused me and the children" She said violence was an everyday occurrence and she believed this had led her son to gangsterism.

Clasen said corruption was rife in the police and local police took sides in gang wars, exacerbating the situation

Many of those who testified at the hearings said improved access to government information and legal support and services was necessary for poor people to use their rights under the new Constitution

The hearings continue in Athlone today. — Sapa

Increased joblessness could sink UIF by 1999

THE unemployment insurance fund (UIF) could run dry next year

if the demand on it continued to increase, unemployment insurance commissioner Shadrack Mkhonto said yesterday

He was speaking after the release of the fund's 1997 report, which recorded a deficit of R254 million on an outlay of R2 793m.

The deficit in 1996 was R158m after a R36m surplus in 1995. "If things get worse we might go to cabinet to ask for rescue," Mkhonto said.

International Labour Organisation actuaries had predicted in 1996 that the fund would run dry by the year 2000, but if present trends continued, he did not believe the fund would last even that long.

The UIF had commissioned actuaries Alexander Forbes to advise on the reasons for the deficit and what was needed to keep the fund afloat, he said.

"We may have to consider increasing contributions or relying on the state, which is something I don't think the taxpayer will be happy about."

Mkhonto also said the UIF was waiting for the go-ahead from Labour Minister Tito Mboweni to begin looking at amendments to the UIF Act.

Possible changes might include forcing employers who had not contributed to pick up the tab for

former employees' claims, going an administrative rather than criminal route to claim arrears, and reviewing who should control and who should benefit from the UIF.

Mkhonto said the fund had enough figures to show that fraud in the system was not the real cause of its problems. The current deficit was caused mainly by the general increase in unemployment.

Joblessness figures for 1997 had been up 71 000 on 1996, and in the first half of this year alone the formal sector had shed 62 000 jobs. These figures were "not really encouraging", he said. — Sapa

We may have to consider increasing contributions or relying on the state



When a cave is your home: the poor speak out

BLANKMAN NIBRO
SUE REWTER

Sally Kroitz is a cave woman. She lives in a crevice in the rock in the Skurweberg near Ceres where rain, bitter cold, wind, hunger and loneliness are constant companions and the threat of being stabbed is as real as the scars on her body.

She is one of many so-called "bergies" who used to live on farms in Prince Alfred Hamlet.

A well beaten path leads from the cave where she and others live. Over that opening in the rock hang old rafter's covered by rusty iron sheets and old stained cloth.

This is "home sweet home" to Ms Kroitz whose weather-beaten face breaks into a smile, showing gaps where teeth should be - the results of fights with men in her life, she later explains.

For six years, she has lived with the stench of the municipal sewerage works in front of her "shelter".

Her boyfriend, Jan, threatened her with a beating if she continued talking to the Cape Argus team. But she ignored him.

Their water supply comes from filthy slow moving streams that flow from the mountain.

Most of her neighbours, if one could call them that, say they are victims of unfair evictions from surrounding farms.

This is denied by Agriculture-Western Cape representative in Ceres Izak du Toit who said he was not aware of any unfair dismissals resulting in homelessness.

"I'm not aware of that. If one leaves my farm it is his choice. It is my responsibility to give him housing when he is working with me. It's a sensitive case. One person can tell you a story. You have to make sure it is true. If it is so, we have to go and look at it."

Mr Du Toit, speaking as a farmer, said, "We try to treat everybody fairly, according to the law. I can't say that that is what everyone is doing."

Miriam Sifile of the Ceres Advice Office, which will be hosting Speak Out poverty hearings tomorrow in the area known as "Little Switzerland" said she would be taking the case of William Harris, a refuse collector living in the mountains, to the Commission for Conciliation, Media-



Cold comfort: Maria Harris, 38, in her shack in the area known as 'Little Switzerland'

tion and Arbitration. When we visited Mr Harris, his live-in lover, Maria, lay on her makeshift bed with a swollen and dislocated knee. He said his employer fired him when he could no longer work and he took to the streets of Ceres. He approached the Ceres municipality for housing and was told to go and live among the boulders up in the hills.

Spokesman for Agriculture-Western Cape Freek Bosman said, "I don't know of any individual who has been

kicked off a farm.

"I have extended an invitation to civic offices and non-government organisations to contact me whenever they have been kicked off a farm illegally. We can assist."

Ms Sifile said, "Farmers in this area treat their workers like dirt. We get cases that make tears run down your cheeks."

Now, many people like Sally Kroitz will tell their stories to the poor people's truth commission this week.



Mountain dweller: Sally Kroitz, who used to live on a farm, in front of the cave she now calls home

ARG 3/6/98 (241)

MARILYN MARRAS

Woman claims abuse in her childhood

So determined she begged lift from police to reach hearings

(A11) AKA 3/6/98

A mother's plea for a place to stay

MAMMA MNTAKAMA
SPEAK CORRESPONDENT

Alicia Nkkelo, 58, who lived in Nyanga Extension until she lost her shack, pleaded with the commissioners at the poverty hearings to help her look for a house where she could live in peace.

Weeping bitterly, she told the story of her battle to find a place to live when she was kicked out of her house by her drug-abuser son. Mrs Nkkelo said she had been assaulted regularly by her son and had to seek refuge with neighbours. Her son had also fought and chased away local street committees.

When she reported the problem to the Nyanga police they had refused to do anything, telling her they dealt with cases involving guns, not common assaults.

In December last year her son had kicked her out after pouring hot water over her.

He had then demolished the shack and sold the building material.

She said she had had to go to relatives in Strandfontein for help.

She claimed that police arrested her son but freed him soon afterwards.



Commissioner Archbishop Mngoni and Faried Essack listen to evidence

We are faced with the legacy of apartheid. "Something must be done to improve our socio-economic conditions." She also called for the safety and security of residents, especially on the Cape Flats.

Ms Billings alleged there were corrupt officials in Mitchell's Plain municipality, and that this should be addressed as elections approached. She also called on the community to fight the abuse of women. After testifying, she went for counselling with Nozipho Ncapayi of Hitha Labantu, an organisation that deals with abuse and violence against women. Ms Ncapayi said they had to conduct sessions during the hearings because it was painful for some people to come to terms with their difficult experiences.



In vain: Nombulelo Stemele, left, and Nontombi Ngodwane wait to testify at the hearings in Khayelitsha, but never get the chance

Destitute mum on ropes over home loan

MAMMA MNTAKAMA
SPEAK CORRESPONDENT

Nontombi Ngodwane, 43, a destitute mother-of-three from Mandela Park in Khayelitsha no longer pays off her housing bond. After the death of her husband she could no longer afford it. Her house is in poor condition with cracked walls, a leaking roof and damp rooms.

She had hoped to give evidence at the Speak Out poverty hearings in Khayelitsha yesterday, but there was time to hear only a few people. Mrs Ngodwane, whose husband Vukile died in 1988, worked at a factory shop in Lansdowne but lost her job two months ago. "I pretended to be a sick to have time to try to deal with my social problems. As a result I lost my job."

She bought the house with a bond of R18 000 from NBS and had to pay monthly instalments of R223. "I could not afford to pay after the death of my husband," she said. Her neighbour, Nombulelo Stemele, 40, bought her house with an R30 000 NBS bond at R312 a month but was evicted in October for non-payment.

Ms Stemele, a single parent, has two sons at school. She works on Thursdays as a char in Goodwood and earns R260 a month. She was told by Servcon Housing Solutions, acting as a facilitator between NBS Bank and home owners, to pay R70 a month if she could not afford the full instalment. Ms Stemele has appealed to the Government for grants for her children.

Poor miss a chance to be heard

BLACKMAN NGONO
STAFF REPORTER

Many of the poorest of the poor did not know about the poverty hearings in Khayelitsha, where they could have aired their problems, mainly about housing or the lack of it. Evelyn Mqikela, 51, lives in a shack just 100 metres from the venue,

the Site B hall, yet had no idea they were taking place yesterday. She said she was surprised she had not been told about them. Students at Matthew Goniwe High School also professed ignorance of the poverty hearings. "If we were invited we would have spoken about the problems we have with transport," said 16-year old Uthab Mthiyedwa.

Bomkazi Sogaxa, 18, left Transkei a year ago to look for a job in Cape Town. She claimed she did not know about the poverty hearings in spite of having a radio. The hearings are taking place before the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Mngoni Ndungane, who said they would result in a report to be presented to Parliament.

A



APPEAL - Kwanele Kolose, who led the Khayelitsha delegation, yesterday pleads with the commissioners to ask the Tygerberg Municipality not to remove people who occupied land near Monwabisi beach

PICTURE - MANDLA MNYAKAMA

A place where the poverty-stricken can speak out

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA and ERIC NTABAZALLA

SEVERAL forums will be launched in the Western Cape to address the fight against poverty

According to the Speak Out on Poverty campaign co-ordinator Jacqui Boule, submissions on poverty at the hearings would be reported to Parliament through

Human Rights and Gender Com-missions

Boule said while people who have made their submissions would not necessarily be provided with jobs or food, they will now have a platform to air their grievances and efforts will be made to refer them to places where they can get help

"The hearings will be used to

ensure the fight against poverty and inequality is the priority of the government, churches and every South African

"We hope to lobby key decision-makers at the Economic Summit this month to take action against poverty and to engage Parliament in discussion and debate on poverty," she said

A Poverty Commitment Forum

will be launched where MPs and the private sector would be asked to commit themselves to eradicating poverty

Boule said that from the submissions and hearings, it was clear that the communities already had structures in place to address poverty

The hearings have been heard in seven provinces so far, including

the two most poverty-stricken provinces, the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal

According to poverty statistics three million South Africans are "nutritionally compromised", including 87% of all African children under 12 years old

More than nine million people live in shacks in the Western Cape, 52% of all Africans live in shacks

Priorities of needy - job, house, education

STAFF REPORTER

(241) ARG 4/6/98
Charity worker and Steenberg resident Norma Oliver, 59, told the Athlone Speak Out on Poverty hearing she had searched Cape Town for a job for five years.

Mrs Oliver, a voluntary worker for the New World Foundation in Lavender Hill, said "Five years ago I could not get a job because of my age. The employers said I was too old and I did not have skills. Many people lost their jobs due to retrenchments"

Mrs Oliver opted for skills training at the New World Foundation when she was offered a job as a voluntary worker. She also earns R400 a month as a switchboard operator.

She has four children who are married and independent

She decided to testify because she and her family were forcibly removed from District Six in 1976

"My son was only nine when we were removed. What is happening now in our communities? Today we have broken families and the siblings stay far apart and it is difficult to visit one another because of financial constraints"

"Drug abuse and gangsterism were common in schools. The main cause of gangsterism was poverty

She blamed the former and present governments for her problems. "The African National Congress government has inherited the legacy of the past and socio-economic problems but it should also take the blame for that."

Mrs Oliver said Minister of Welfare Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi had to reassess grants. She asked why grants for children had been reduced.

The Government should improve the quality of life speedily, especially in the previously disadvantaged areas, by creating jobs, constructing decent houses and ensuring better education

Another widow, Nobubele Hashe, also 59, from Site B in Khayelitsha, told the hearing that in 1976 her family moved from the Eastern Cape to Cape Town to find work

She worked as a domestic in Kenilworth until 1985 but had been unemployed since

Mrs Hashe, a mother of four, said that although her daughter, Vuyokazi, 28, worked as a domestic and was the breadwinner, they struggled to make ends meet

Mrs Hashe, whose husband, Mandla, died in 1995, said she previously got a monthly R700 grant for her children but this had been reduced to R530.

She blamed the present Government for the reduction in grants.

Poor explain how they try to build future for themselves

STAFF REPORTER

Many people are no longer waiting for the Government to assist them with housing and are helping themselves.

The Speak Out on Poverty commission has heard community survival strategies from poor people who testified at hearings in Cape Town this week

Brian Moholo of the Urban Sector Network said "The people who are testifying at the hearings are determined to improve their lives

"They don't wait for others to solve their problems, they want to improve their lives themselves"

African National Congress councillor Wilburforce Kutta has claimed the hearings were not as well-attended as expected

But Vukani Thintso, programme

officer, said they wanted to cover as wide a spectrum as possible, with limited resources and a small budget.

Mr Thintso said there was a wrong perception that some people spoke only about personal problems, such as domestic violence, at the hearings. "Domestic violence, abuse and violence against women are linked to poverty."

Jacqui Boule, co-ordinator of the hearings, said they were going well in the Western Cape "The poor are defining their poverty as a lack of opportunities, a lack of choices and a lack of skills. A lot of work has still to be done. Many spoke about not having access to land and lack of facilities in their areas."

They had learnt that many women could not leave abusive partners because of economic dependency.

Complaints had been heard from people about forced removals, when they lost possessions and other assets.

The poor speak out about their suffering

Access to phones, but no houses

ANNES MITCHELL MACKAY

STAFF REPORTER

Speak Out on Poverty commissioners have been told that forced removals to the former Transkei and Ciskei denied people access to opportunities and jobs

"I lost all my belongings when I was forced to leave Cape Town. I was forced to live in Transkei. When I tried to come back home to Cape Town in search of a job, I was arrested for not having a pass," a Khayelitsha resident said at hearings this week.

The squalor of Cape Town's informal settlements was another issue raised

Dalina Tywana, a resident of Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain and a member of Homeless People's Federation was a major challenge

"Each toilet in our area serves 20 people. We have only recently received access to water. HIV/AIDS and TB are major problems in our community."

Mrs Tywana said their children were resorting to drugs, gangsterism and crime. People now had "access to electricity and telephones - but no houses."

Race-based development was still the order of the day in the Western Cape.

"Houses are still built for some and not for others. We are expected to

move from shack to shack while others have houses."

She said the City Council built shacks with no doors or windows. People put up with this because they were told they would be the ones who would get houses first. There was still no sign of houses.

On Tuesday 17 people testified at hearings in Khayelitsha and another 17 in Athlone yesterday.

Commenting on the Khayelitsha hearings, Faried Essack, of the Commission on Gender Equality and a Speak Out commissioner, said:

"Given the racial politics in the Western Cape it is encouraging that we heard from coloured women who crossed the tracks to testify in Khayelitsha."



Testimony: counsellor Nozipho Mcaohlay, left, comforts Nobubele Hashe, of Site B, Khayelitsha, during yesterday's hearing in Athlone

Monwabisi squatters' plea for talks

STAFF REPORTER

A delegation of Khayelitsha residents occupying land near Monwabisi asked the commissioners at the poverty hearings in Athlone to help them negotiate with the landowners.

The Tygerberg municipality They want to own the land and get basic services.

About 1 500 squatters from Khayelitsha invaded the bushy site near Monwabisi beach and built shacks in April last year. They had lived as tenants in backyards in the Harare area of Khayelitsha.

Tygerberg municipality served eviction notices in September last year but the squatters refuse to move.

At yesterday's Speak Out on Poverty hearings, squatter leader Kwanele Kolose pleaded with the commissioners to help them.

Mr Kolose asked the commission to set up negotiations with the Tygerberg municipality.

Government looks for key to unlocking poverty traps

CAROL PATON reports on a study which evaluates the government's response to the poverty crisis in SA

ST (MT) 7/6/98

GOVERNMENT policy-makers are uncertain of how best to tackle poverty and inequality says the Poverty Index Report, a study commissioned by the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki

Although the government is "undeniably committed to poverty reduction and a more egalitarian distribution of income and wealth", progress has not met expectations, says the report

Using data provided by the 1995 October Household Survey and the 1993 Saldru study, the report says that millions of people are caught in poverty traps which, because of distortions in the economy created by apartheid, could become self-perpetuating

The poorest 40% of households — about 19-million people — have a monthly expenditure of R353 per adult

SA remains one of the most unequal societies in the world and the gap between rich and poor, measured by the Gini coefficient as 0.58, is second only to Brazil

In addition, the report says there has been a very rapid stratification of the black population and inequality levels between rich and poor blacks are now almost as big as the national average

The report also says government spends more on middle and high-income groups than it does on the poor

The report, edited by researcher Julian May and funded by the government, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and Dutch and British governments, argues that in order to break out of the poverty trap both economic growth and redistribution are needed

It takes the approach that poverty alleviation is best achieved by improving the access of individuals to assets and that having established macro-economic stability, government should place increasing emphasis on redistributive measures

The report contains a range of recommendations which will be discussed next week at a conference on poverty and inequality convened by Mbeki's office

These include

- Increased expenditure on social services,
- Increasing the resources available for the redistribution of assets such as land reform,
- Maintaining social pensions,
- Adopting a labour-intensive approach to the construction of infrastructure,
- Public works programmes,



- ➔ receive 11% of total income
- ➔ household expenditure of R353/month
- ➔ 72% live in rural areas
- ➔ 61% of Africans are poor (1% of whites)
- ➔ three children in five live in poor households

- Making micro-finance available to the poor,
- Directing resources to needy schools,
- Increasing capacity of local government, and
- Establishing a system to monitor the impact of govern-

ment policy on the alleviation of poverty

The report is critical of the government's macro-economic policy framework, Gear

While recognising that fiscal prudence is an essential element of sound economic man-

agement and that fiscal policy aims to improve the performance of the economy, the report says "specific approaches within Gear need to be considered in relation to prevailing patterns of poverty and inequality in South Africa"

Sensible advice on how SA can get out of the poverty trap

(211) (A) ST (97) 146 198

Picture: BRETT ELDER

Amartya Sen, regarded as a world authority on poverty, paid a fleeting visit to South Africa last week. CAROL PATON spoke to him

AMARTYA Sen's stature as one of the world's most influential thinkers was underlined by the presence of a half-shaven British photographer who followed the professor around, recording his every move, during his recent visit to South Africa.

Sen, an esteemed academic and development economist with a growing list of honorary doctorates from across the globe, is to be the subject of a documentary film, part of a series on British opinion-makers.

Sen, born in India and now Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Harvard professor, has also extensively influenced teaching and research in South Africa. His acceptance of an invitation by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office to address a government meeting on poverty — on his only free weekend in the year — was a coup.

The problem of poverty is becoming increasingly pressing for the government. While the political transformation has been hailed by the world as a success, the Poverty Index Report prepared for Mbeki this month reveals 19-million people remain trapped in poverty, surviving on a household expenditure of R353 per adult.

South Africa is second only to Brazil in the size of the gap between rich and poor, measured as 0.58 by the Gini coefficient.

While some black people have benefited from the transition — levels of inequality within the blacks population are almost as high as the national average — 61% of blacks are still poor.

Many of Sen's views have a direct bearing on the debates within the ANC and in parliament over how to deal with economic and social transformation. The poverty report also draws heavily on his approach to poverty and inequality.

Crowded into the backseat of a taxi bound for Johannesburg International with the professor, the ever-present photographer and an assortment of battered briefcases at the end of his three-day visit, Sen is immensely optimistic about South Africa. "There are three things SA should do in tackling the prob-

lems of poverty and inequality, he says. Firstly, it should pursue policies that will bring economic growth, as growth is the mainstay of economic development.

Secondly, it must tackle the deprivation of black people in particular, on a broad range of fronts. This means providing a range of social and economic opportunities simultaneously which will allow them to break out of the poverty trap.

Thirdly, wealth must be used or redistributed in a way directed towards opening up such opportunities. Education, health care, micro-credit and land reform all have a role to play.

The notion of using the national wealth to provide the poor with new opportunities underlies much of Sen's thinking on poverty. While this entails redistribution, it is not just redistribution that is important. It is using redistribution to empower powerless people, he says.

"When you have an income to transfer you can do it in different ways. You can simply transfer it to some poor people to relieve poverty. But there are other ways. You can transfer that money to expand education, in particular elementary education, or expand health care, or use it for subsidising employment or giving incentives which can reduce unemployment."

One of the greatest reasons for optimism when comparing South Africa with other poor nations of the world, is that it has some wealth to redistribute. In what appears to be his typical fashion of looking at a question from at least two angles, Sen says "One way of looking at South Africa is to say that in terms of income levels, quality of life should be much higher. Life expectancy is lower than it should be for its income, levels of morbidity are too high, educational levels are not as developed as they should be."

But another way of looking at it is to say "for the same levels of underdevelopment, SA is a relatively richer country. So it has opportunities of using income transfers."

But I think if income transfers are used then it is better to use them in a way that regenerates more economic and social op-

portunities, rather than pure transfers of income."

To these three things, Sen adds a fourth particularly South African ingredient into the mix of the poverty medicine.

"Having had the special history of national struggle, of fighting apartheid and introducing a psychology whereby the country seems at peace and quite united, the period of co-operation could be put to greater use to bring about a changed development perspective."

Harnessing the patriotism of the rainbow nation before it dissipates and addressing inequalities was placed on the agenda by Mbeki in his recent budget vote speech to parliament.

Addressing poverty, said Mbeki, was essential if the people the ANC set out to liberate were to see the fruits of their liberation if they did not, the government and the privileged would be certain to be on the receiving end of their anger.

Development should be seen as an expansion of human freedom, says Sen, whose new book — number 20 — focuses on the relationship between the two.

"South Africa has gone from being a very repressive regime to being a democratic and free regime. It's very important to extend these political freedoms to social and economic freedoms," he says.

In practical terms, this means things such as land reform, which has been part of "every successful economic development in the world", and incentives to generate employment, to small and big enterprises.

Social opportunities, on the one hand, and economic incentives on the other should be part of a "balanced package".

But implementing many of these measures requires an active "developmental" state — a concept which has lost popularity with growing consensus that the market should be placed at the centre of attempts to create efficiently functioning economies.

While the big ideological debates on the role of the market are over, Sen says its important to "take a balanced view". "Certainly, markets will expand opportunities in different



MORAL VICTORY .. Amartya Sen believes SA can achieve peaceful economic transformation in the way it reached a collaborative political settlement

ways. Markets give people the opportunity to move and is very important for economic mobility. So markets are needed.

"At the same time it can't be adequate on its own because one of the legacies of apartheid is very unequal social development with very unequal education, land holdings and other enabling conditions."

"The market on its own cannot cure it," he says.

State intervention requires state resources — which are in short supply with attempts to rein in government spending and push the budget deficit down.

Policies aimed at financial stability are valuable in themselves, says Sen. "I think SA is keen on keeping the inflation rate down and the inflation rate has come down from about 20% to 5%. That is in itself an attractive policy because the stability of prices can be quite helpful from the point of view of economic expansion. But it's a question of balancing that against other objectives one has to look at employment and at economic growth — just keeping prices down will not expand wealth on its own."

It is a balance that has gone badly wrong in other parts of the world, he says. "With the debate on the budget deficit a political hot potato, Sen declines to comment on whether South Africa has got the balance right. This requires more detailed knowledge of the South African economic and financial situation than he has so far been able to acquire."

The poverty report, however, has questioned the extent of government saving, required, saying there is a potential trade-off between the objectives of low inflation and higher levels of employment and output.

There is also evidence, says the report, that fiscal constraints have already forced government to moderate its redistributive approach in the areas of health, education and land reform.

"Since poor people are already marginalised and have little capacity to persuade government to provide an adequate level of services, this puts the country at the risk of social instability and has the potential to undermine economic growth," says the report.

But while these dangers are extremely real, Sen believes that South Africa's miracle transition stands it in good stead to overcome the apartheid legacy.

"This is a tremendous moment that South Africa has achieved. It is the red-hot hope of the world and has achieved almost the unachievable. It has won a very big moral victory in the political struggle and the moral standing of SA is possibly the highest in the world. And that is a very major thing."

"It is on SA's experience that quite a lot of reading of the future of the world depends — namely, whether races could live in harmony and whether big inequalities could be brought down by consensus and by processes that are co-operative, just as political change has been achieved through non-violent and collaborative methods."

"The question is whether this cannot be done in the economic and social field. I'm a great optimist about SA — and I'll come back again to celebrate it," says the professor.

Government expenditure 'does not help the poor'

ET(MR) 22/6/98

(241)

(M) (M)

THABO LESHILO

BUSINESS EDITOR

Johannesburg — South Africa's prosperous minority benefit more from government expenditure than the poorest households, a study commissioned by the deputy president's office has found

The Poverty and Inequality in South Africa report shows that high- and middle-income groups benefit significantly more from government expenditure

The researchers, comprising economists and social scientists, found that though the country had the per capita income of a middle-income country, "the experience of most South African households is that of outright poverty or of continuing vulnerability to the poor"

About 19 million people, just under half of the population, live in poverty, with a monthly household expenditure equivalent to R353 an adult

Many households still have unsatisfactory access to education, health care, energy and clean water

"This situation is likely to affect not only the country's social and political stability, but also the development path it follows," the researchers warned

The survey estimates that 1,2 million people eke out a living in the informal sector. Of these, 86 percent are Africans and 7,6 percent are "Coloured"

Analysis of the extent to which government expenditure offset the tax burden on households indicates that fiscal activities in 1993/4 tended to redistribute income from the highest-earning groups to the middle-income groups, but not to the poorest

Rural people were found to constitute 72 percent of the country's poor, with the poverty rate the highest in the Eastern Cape and the lowest in Gauteng

It further indicated that poor people — especially African women — were relegated to secondary labour markets, which were less regulated, required lower skills and paid less

"Much of the employment in this sector is informal, characterised by home-based micro-enterprise and reliance on informal skills," said the report. "The level of income generated by these activities tended to be low because of the highly competitive environment, with clients drawn largely from low-income households." Small, medium and micro enterprise development funding was too concerned with manufacturing, to the detriment of the most vulnerable group in the services sectors

The researchers found that the government's fiscal prudence was essential in the light of the effect of global conditions on national economies. International experience showed that a low and stable level of inflation could protect poor people against further erosion in their standard of living

"It said, however, that the extent and duration of the economic contraction must be considered, because the "socio-economic costs thereof may offset the anticipated gains from low inflation"

It also warned that monetary and exchange rate policies, aimed at maintaining low inflation, encouraging private-sector investment and ensuring a competitive real exchange rate, might actually hurt investment

The report said high interest rates negatively affected investment, economic growth, development of the small, medium and micro enterprise sector, and homeownership. But they could also strengthen the value of the rand and undermine export competitiveness

Poverty in SA: report-back at Anglican church conference

(241) ARG 25/6/98

Johannesburg - The initial report on poverty hearings conducted over the past three months will be presented at a conference in Midrand at the weekend, the office of the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town said yesterday.

The preliminary report was prepared by Professor Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town School of Economics.

The conference, at the Eskom Conference Centre from tomorrow until Sunday, is expected to attract about 100 delegates and was organised by the Anglican church. Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane and Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe are expected to officially open the conference tomorrow night.

Other speakers include Clem Sunter of Anglo American and Natal Technikon vice-chancellor Professor Bennie Khoapa. - Sapa

'Give poor place in Gear, Budget'

(241) (241)

CR 29/6/98

MIKE MASIPA

JOHANNESBURG: Church leaders have appealed to the government to re-examine its Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) and the Budget and to place greater emphasis on the needs of the poor.

Addressing the media after the Poverty Summit in Midrand yesterday, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, said there was a need to "accommodate the poor" in the next Budget.

Sheena Duncan, president of the World Council for Religion and Peace, said "Gear is clearly not doing anything to eradicate poverty" Some aspects of Gear needed to prioritise the poor, she said.

Gear has been criticised by opposition parties and the ANC's allies, Cosatu and the SA Communist Party, for its perceived failure to resuscitate the economy.

More than 100 representatives of a range of denominations and independent church groups attended the summit. It is expected their resolutions will be released today.

Ndungane said that although the United Nations had targeted the year 2015 for the elimination of poverty worldwide, South Africa had the capability to eradicate poverty well before then.

"South Africa possesses the resources and the technology," he said. "All that is required is the political will and the economic commitment."

That the government had the

will was illustrated by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's report on poverty and Minister of Labour Tito Mboweni's announcement that R1 billion would be set aside to create jobs.

A partnership between the government, the labour movement and the private sector was required to turn the tide, Ndungane said. However, the church was under no illusion that eradicating poverty would be child's play.

"Tackling poverty in South Africa is like eating an elephant — where do you start?" Ndungane said.

"Our emphasis should be moving from words to action. People need to put their money where their mouths are.

"We have taken special note of the way in which poor people have spoken (at the Poverty Hearings) of their willingness and initiatives to help solve (their) plight. They do not look for handouts. What they require are the resources and the capacity to be equal partners with all others involved."

State tenders should be reviewed to ensure that the poor benefited, Ndungane said.

Church leaders would try to persuade the government and the National Economic Labour and Development Council to allow unemployed people and their representatives to attend the jobs summit.

Ndungane appealed to political parties not to use poverty as a political football in the elections.

"What we want is commitment from all sectors of society."

Churches call for sensitivity to plight of poor people

(24) (40)
BY MIKE MASIPA

29/16/98
Church leaders have appealed to the Government to place greater emphasis on the needs of the poor by re-examining its economic masterplan — the Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) — and the Budget.

Addressing the media after the Poverty Summit in Midrand yesterday, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Rev Njongonkulu Ndungane, said there was a need to "accommodate the poor" in the next Budget.

Sheena Duncan, president of the World Council for Religion and Peace, said. "Gear is clearly not doing anything to eradicate poverty." She said some aspects of Gear needed to place a greater emphasis on people, especially the poor.

Gear has come under much criticism from ANC allies Cosatu and the SACP, as well as opposition parties, for its perceived failure to revive the South African economy.

Over 100 church representatives from denominations including Methodists, Catholics, Dutch Reformed, Congregationalist and independent church groups yesterday attended the Midrand summit to discuss ways to eliminate poverty. Resolutions taken at the meeting were expected to be released today.

Ndungane said although the United Nations had targeted the year 2015 for the elimination of poverty worldwide, he felt South Africa had the capability to eradicate poverty well before then.

"There is no reason why this should not occur. South Africa possesses the resources and the technology. All that is required is the political will and the economic commitment."

He said the Government had shown the will, as indicated by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's report on poverty and Labour Minister Tito Mboweni's recent announcement that R1-billion would be set aside for job creation.

Ndungane said that what was required to turn the tide was an active partnership between government, the labour movement and the private sector. The church, however, was under no illusion that eradicating poverty would be easy.

"Tackling poverty is like eating an elephant. Where do you start? Our emphasis should now be moving from words to action. People need to put their money where their mouths are," Ndungane said.

"We have taken note of the way in which poor people have spoken of their willingness and initiatives to help solve the plight in which they find themselves. They do not look for handouts. What they require are the resources and the capacity to be equal partners."

Little work at hand for rural poor

By Simon Zwane

W hen Meshack Mawasha lost his job as a factory worker in January this year, he was compelled to leave Johannesburg and return to his family in the poverty stricken village of Ramogale in Northern Province.

For his wife, three children, mother and grandmother - who were all relying on his meagre earnings for a living - this was the beginning of hunger and gloom.

About 60% of people in this village of 4 000 people are unemployed. They live in grinding poverty in an area where even small-scale crop farming is inhibited by dry and rocky conditions.

But a glimmer of hope emerged for Mawasha and other villagers a few months later when the Greater Mankweng transitional local council began labour intensive anti-poverty projects in the village, using funds from the department of public works.

The department has allocated R5,2-million to the area to build sports facilities, access roads, a multi-purpose hall, additional classrooms to a local school, a community garden and a brick-making yard.

When Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe visited this area to launch the projects, Mawasha was standing right at the back dutifully looking after the electricity generators used for the function.

Gratified that he was again able to earn some money by working on the construction of the access road to the village, he said. "I think it is better to work closer to home although this work will also come to an end some day."

A sum of R85-million was allocated to the department of works by the Cabinet last year to fight poverty in the country. It is esti-

ated that 19 million people in South Africa live in poverty and most of them are in rural areas.

Radebe, speaking at the launch of the anti-poverty programme in Ramogale village, said his department had decided to target the three poorest provinces - Northern Province, KwaZulu Natal and Eastern-Cape to maximise the impact of this poverty-alleviation initiative.

Radebe - who has visited other desolate areas in the forgotten corners of Northern Province - such as Ga-Modjadji/Bolobedu and Ga-Mamabolo, where people struggle to make ends meet - said the project was placing focus on women and households headed by women.

He has allocated R21-million for relief in Northern Province and the project is expected to create 3 733 jobs of which 2 427 will be for women.

"Through the revival of small-scale agriculture and community entrepreneurship, 1 200 sustainable jobs will be created," he said.

"Nationally the rural anti-poverty programme is delivering 12 800 temporary and 3 840 sustainable jobs," Radebe said. "Of these most will go to women who represent 65% of the target group."

His approach is in keeping with the findings of the Poverty and Inequality Report released in May which found unemployment tended to be highest among Africans in rural areas, among women and the youth and among those with no previous work experience.

"In 1995 the rate of unemployment was 59% among the poorest quintile (fifth) of the population, compared with 5,5% among the richest quintile," the report said.

"With respect to the characteristics of the people in the poorest quintile, 93% of the unemployed are Africans, 56% are female, 70% are below 35, and 59% are from



Mawasha 8/7/98

rural areas."

Compliers of the report believe that dedicated public works programmes for poverty relief are problematic as their job-creation benefits are usually not widespread or long term.

"This seems to be the case with programme launched by Radebe where more than three-quarters of the jobs created are only short-term."

"These (programmes) run the risk of providing infrastructure or amenities that are already provided

via line function budgets," the report said.

In addition, the report said, the programmes lacked adequate provision for ongoing management and maintenance.

However, the report acknowledged that public works "constitutes an important short-term poverty alleviation programme for marginalised communities, and should be reinforced at least as a

stop gap measure until the pace of job creation in the public and other sectors increases."

stop gap measure until the pace of job creation in the public and other sectors increases."

Most of the jobs will go to women (65%) of the target group

Job creation the strongest plea from poverty talks

8/9/78
Dustin Chick

(241) (SPEAK Out Against)

Poverty, a joint programme between the human rights commission, the gender commission and the SA NGO Coalition, said yesterday that it would release two reports from the poverty meeting held earlier this year at Regina Mundi Church in Soweto.

The reports, entitled People's experiences of the Bill of Rights and The People's Voices, are based on key obstacles to poverty eradication which were identified at the nationwide hearings held before the Soweto summit.

The reports will be released today.

The strongest theme which emerged from the hearings was a call for job creation, with suggestions for volunteer programmes to enable unemployed youth to gain experience.

Parents testified that the youth needed to be kept off the streets and out of gangs.

Land, housing, transport and water were identified as being critical concerns for the poor.

Many of those who testified at the hearings said they believed that government's economic policy contributed to unemployment.

School fees, uniforms and the proximity to schools were major obstacles to education, with many children being excluded from schools because their parents were unable to pay the fees.

Eastern Cape is the worst-off

(241) APR 10 17 198

Poverty, defined as less than R800 a month for a family, is distributed unevenly among the nine provinces

The Poverty and Inequality Report says provincial poverty rates are highest in the Eastern Cape where 71% of the population are destitute

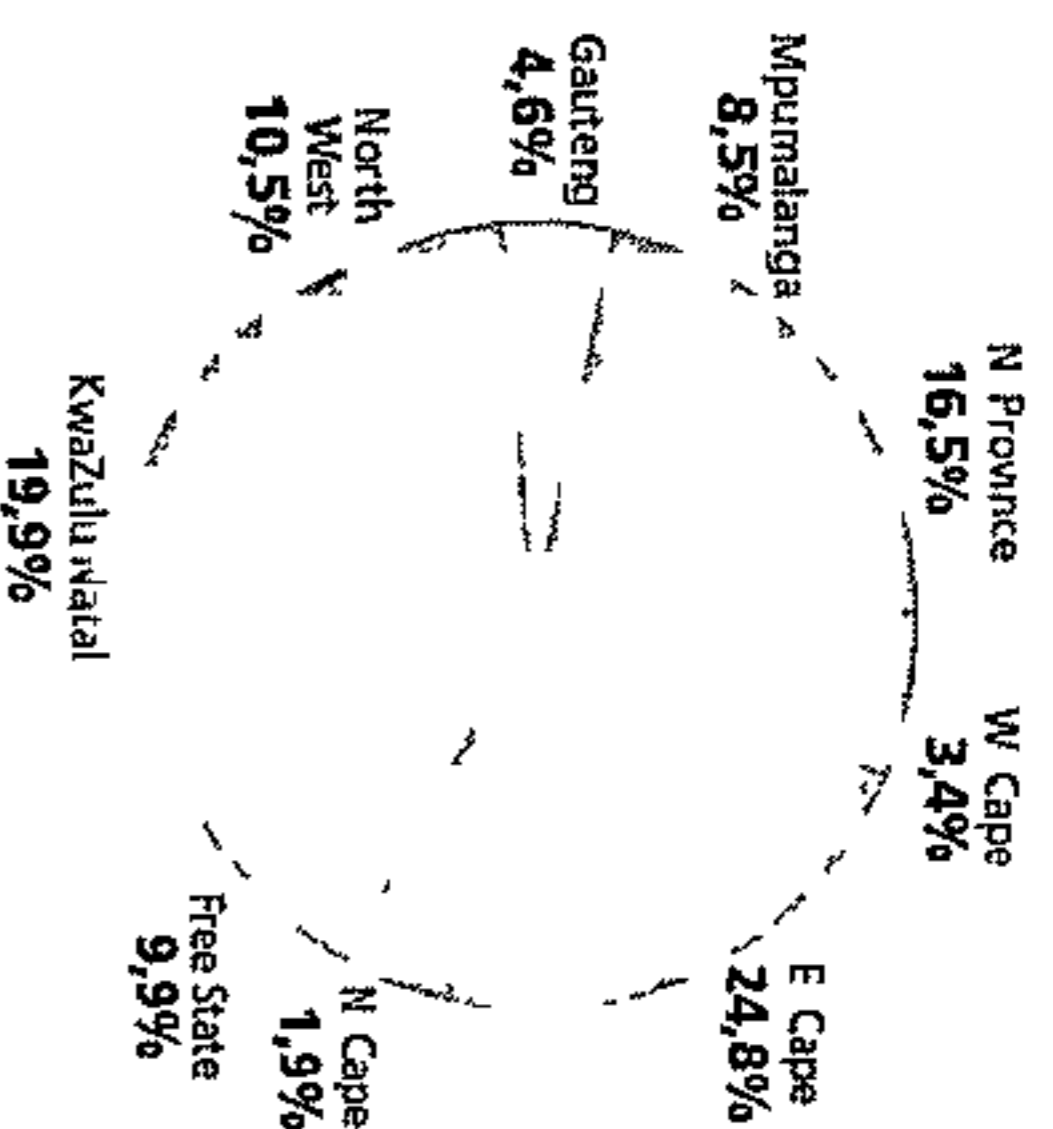
The Free State is second with 63%, followed by North West (62%), Northern Province (59%), Mpumalanga (57%), Northern Cape (55%), Kwazulu Natal (52%), Western Cape (28%) and Gauteng (17%)

Report says provincial poverty rates are highest in the Eastern Cape where 71% of the population are destitute

Gauteng and the Western Cape make up only 8%, in spite of being home to 26% of the population. Provincial percentages of the national total of those living below the poverty lines are:

Eastern Cape 24,8%, Northern Cape 16,5%, Kwazulu Natal 19,9%, North West 10,5%, Free State 9,9%, Mpumalanga 8,4%, Gauteng 4,6%, Western Cape 3,4% and Northern

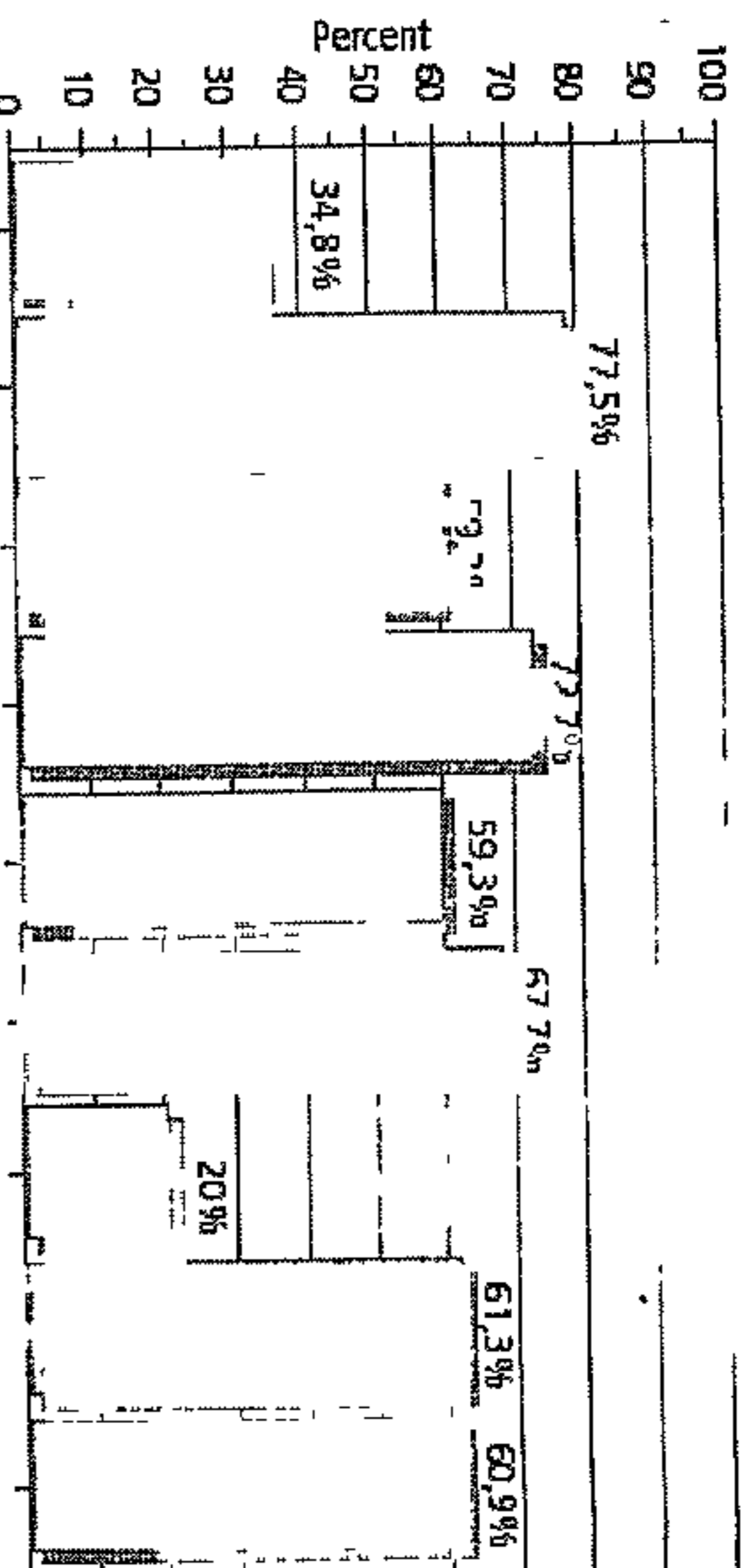
Provincial shares of poverty



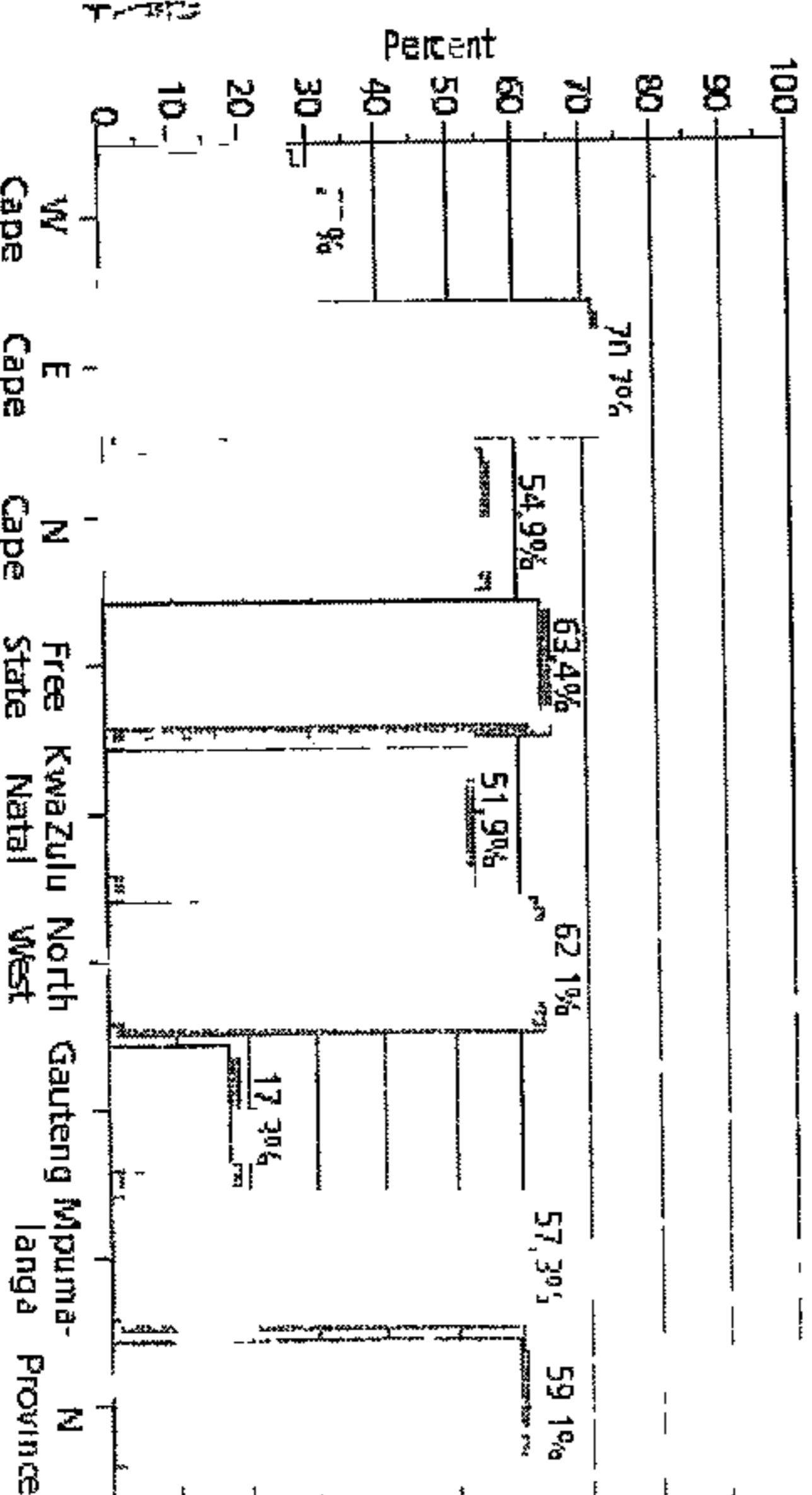
Cape 1,9%
Three children in five live in poor households and face abuse such as
■ Sexual abuse, including rape and children being forced into prostitution
■ Fractured and unstable families where step-parents often are men-

Children living in poor households

toned as a source of abuse
■ Alcohol abuse by parents which leads to child abuse
According to the poverty report, female children are more vulnerable and are often the negative dependents of their male peers and their mothers.
One of the reasons that the home is not a safe place for many children



Provincial poverty rates



who opt instead to leave and to live on the streets," says the report
Children are not continuously parented or schooled and, in many cases, are not well nourished
The pensions, state aid (which) times otherwise, received by these parents and great-grandparents often the source of survival for these children

Voices of the poor heard at poverty hearings

VARIOUS ISSUES affecting poverty and survival were identified and discussed by those most affected by them, reports MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

NEARLY 10 000 people came forward to tell their stories and those of their communities in the nationwide "Speak Out on Poverty Campaign" hearings that were held between March and June in the nine provinces. The hearings, according to Jackie Boule who co-ordinated them, gave poor people a chance to discuss possible solutions to their poverty.

"The poor are defining their poverty as a lack of opportunities, a lack of choices and a lack of skills," said Boule.

"They do not want handouts but are asking to be given the means to support themselves."

The South African Non-Government Organisation Coalition, organisers of the campaign, in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality, have submitted a draft summary report to Parliament.

One of the important themes to emerge was that the government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) is doing nothing to alleviate poverty.

Njongonkulu Ndungane, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, said that government must re-examine Gear to accommodate the poor.

"We have taken special note of the way people have spoken at the Poverty Hearings, of their willingness to solve their plight, and that what they need is not handouts but resources and a commitment from government to help them eradicate poverty," he said.

The findings of the campaign, submitted to the government, encompass:

● **Economics**
The strongest theme was unemployment, where submissions were nothing else but pleas for the government to create jobs.

● **Urban development**
These hearings bore testimony to the suffering caused by pass laws and the Group Areas Act.

According to the report, urban poverty in post-apartheid South Africa stemmed, at least in part, from the fact that neither the segregationists nor the apartheid governments acknowledged the fact that Africans lived permanently in towns.

Morris Toyi, an ex-prisoner said "Here in Gauteng, without accommodation, there is nothing you can do. Jail is better because in jail you can eat and drink and you have somewhere to stay."

● **Access to services**

Access to virtually all services was skewed in terms of race, class, and geographic location. These contrasts existed between rural and urban areas, and within urban and peri-urban areas.

There were reports that schools and clinics lacked important services such as water and electricity. Another main concern was that even if people had water and electricity, they could not pay for them because they were unemployed.

Masakhane says we must pay for electricity and water but that is impossible if we are unemployed," said Constance Mbele.

● **Health Issues**

Ill-health, powerlessness and poverty reinforced each other in many ways, and these interrelations were verified by people as they spoke about poverty related illnesses such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. However, there is still a great secrecy regarding this disease.

"When people die we say they died because they ate something poisonous. We won't say it's HIV even though all the signs were there," said Adelaide Ngidi from Kwa-Zulu Natal.

● **Educational**



POVERTY STRICKEN Khohlisile Busakwe with three of his children outside his squatter home in Nduli, Ceres. His only request to the government is that they be given resources and the means to survive. **PICTURE: KASISIF HANKE**

Abuse spiral puts children on street

THREE children in every five live in poor households and

'Last hope' for a desperate family

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

Busakwe sev. 1

The findings of the campaign, submitted to the government, encompass:

● Economics
The strongest theme was unemployment, where submissions were nothing else but pleas for the government to create jobs.

A paper by the National Labour and Economic Policy Initiative pointed out that the primary focus of the Gear strategy was to stimulate growth that would create jobs and redistribute income.

The general feeling was the strategy had been anything but successful in creating jobs. Instead there had been increased retrenchments and job-slitting growth, which mainly hit mine workers and rural people.

"People are desperate for jobs," said Ephraim Legole of Mogwase in the North West.
"Even those with education and training are unable to use their skills."

"People get so many bovtrends in order to get food because they cannot find employment anywhere and this is worsening the spread of Aids," said Kei Shezi of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

● Rural development
People who gave testimony were clear about the importance of land for their survival. But they said that land alone was not enough.

They also needed seeds, fertilisers, implements and tools in order to work the land.
"We need land so that we and our children can survive," said Paulina Machan of the Northern Province.

"And perhaps the government can provide us with a tractor or two."

However, there is still a great secrecy regarding this disease.

"When people die we say they died because they ate something poisonous. We won't say it's HIV even though all the signs were there," said Adelaide Ngidi from Kwa-Zulu Natal.

● Education Issues
There were repeated stories of children not attending school because of poverty. Several people spoke about the hardships that disabled children faced and the lack of support for women who looked after them.

In the rural areas schools were reported to cover only the years of primary school, and children in higher levels were reported as having to travel for several hours to get to school.

Parents were saddened by the fact that their children passed matric but could not get jobs on because of lack of funding, confidence with their education.

"My brother is in standard eight but he is going to abandon his studies because he does not see the need to go to school when he knows he is not going to get anywhere," said Patricia Rabela of the Northern Province.

● Social security
Many people, particularly in the Northern Province, Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal, complained about social security grants that have been stopped without notice, and the hardships they faced because whole families were dependent on these. Disability grants and accessing pensions was also a major issue where people were less clear about the required criteria.

There were reports of mothers applying for child grants being told to find the child's father before receiving assistance, and unmarried mothers being refused assistance.

● Environmental issues
There was a common thread running through all the submissions, namely that the apartheid government had ensured that many poor black people lived surrounded by waste.

Waste dumps, waste incinerators, mining dumps and air polluting industries had all been located near black communities.

Many of the oral submissions on the environment concerned lack of legal assistance to address environmental injustices.

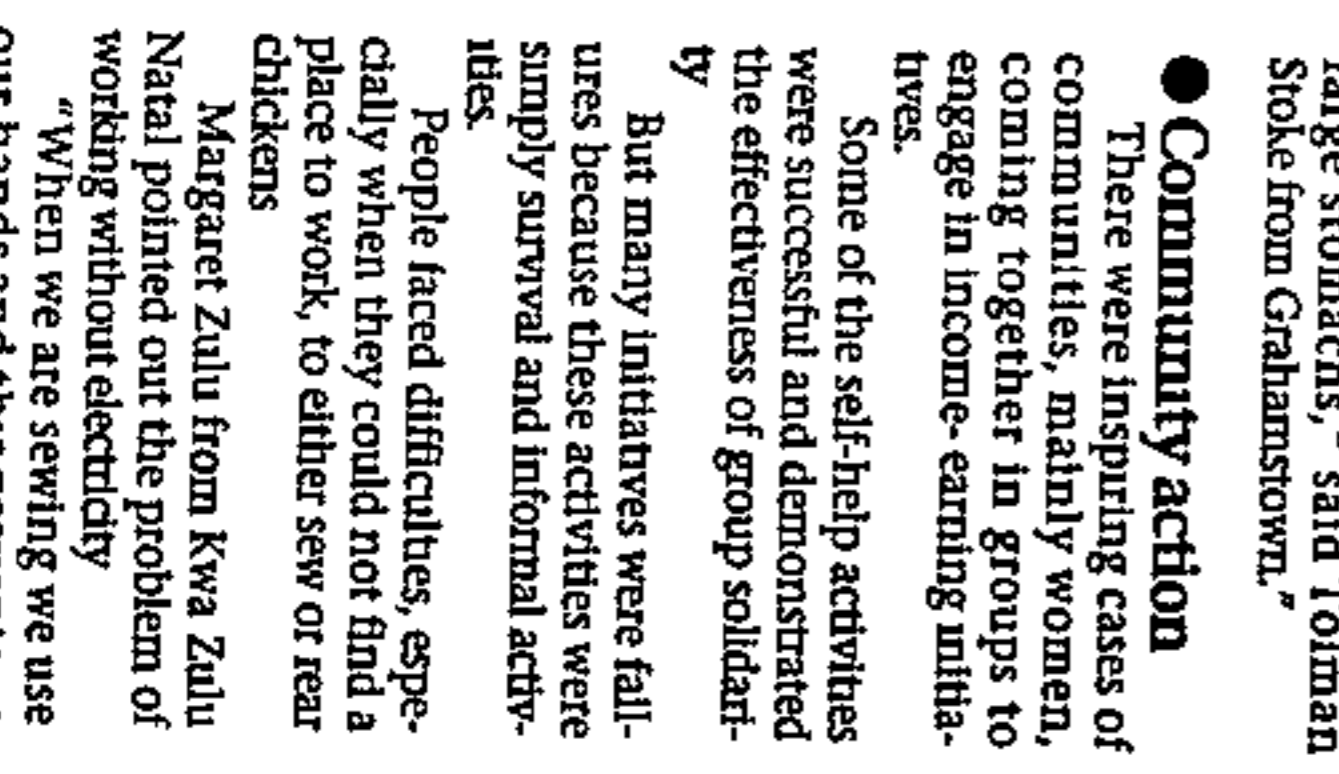
"Environmental laws are not properly implemented. They cater for certain sections of our society and forget about the poor who live with the waste all their lives," said Nomhle Thabata of Soweto on Sea.

● Governance
In all the provinces there were long and complicated stories of how people's expectations have been disappointed after promises from both government and non-government organisations.

There was a lot of misunderstanding due to information not being properly passed down from national, provincial and local government, to the ordinary person.

LATEST REPORT ON POVERTY STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR EACH PROVINCE

Western Cape	28%
Northern Cape	55%
Eastern Cape	71%
North West	62%
Northern Province	59%
Mpumalanga	57%
KwaZulu-Natal	52%
Gauteng	17%
Orange Free State	63%



There were also a lot of complaints about councillors being interested only in their own well-being.

"Since we have elected the councillor he has done nothing for us and he does not know us," said Casperina Mashamale from the Northern Province.

"They've got big necks and large stomachs," said Tolman Stoke from Grahamstown.

● Community action
There were inspiring cases of communities, mainly women, coming together in groups to engage in income-earning initiatives.

Some of the self-help activities were successful and demonstrated the effectiveness of group solidarity.

But many initiatives were failures because these activities were simply survival and informal activities.

People faced difficulties, especially when they could not find a place to work, to either sew or rear chickens.

Margaret Zulu from Kwa Zulu Natal pointed out the problem of working without electricity.

"When we are sewing we use our hands and this prevents us from getting tenders from large

PLEADING FOR RESOURCES Dalina Trawana of the Homeless People's Federation in Tsefaisig pleaded with the organisers of the Speak Out on Poverty Campaign to find an organisation that could fund a project to put water and sanitation in their squatter camp. **PICTURE: MANDLA MNYAKANA**

Abuse spiral puts children on street

THREE children in every five live in poor households and face abuse, including:

- Sexual abuse, including rape and children being forced into prostitution.
- Fractured and unstable families where step-parents are often mentioned as a source of abuse.
- Alcohol abuse by parents which leads to child abuse.

According to the poverty report, female children are more vulnerable and are subject to the negative dependency on their male peers and men.

"One implication is that the home is not a safe place for many children, who opt instead to leave and live on the streets," the report says.

The children are not continuously parented or schooled and are in many cases not well nourished. Pensions received by grandparents and great-grandparents are often the source of survival for such children.

Environmental issues
There was a common thread running through all the submissions, namely that the apartheid government had ensured that many poor black people lived surrounded by waste.

Waste dumps, waste incinerators, mining dumps and air polluting industries had all been located near black communities.

Many of the oral submissions on the environment concerned lack of legal assistance to address environmental injustices.

"Environmental laws are not properly implemented. They cater for certain sections of our society and forget about the poor who live with the waste all their lives," said Nomhle Thabata of Soweto on Sea.

'Last hope' for a desperate family

MOTSHIDISIMONKVENA

KHOLISILE BUSAKWE, 57, lives with his family in an informal settlement in Nduli, Ceres. He faces a daily battle with poverty and the future looks bleak for him and his family.

"It's a struggle to get by and sometimes I cannot look my children in the eye because I have nothing to give them," he said. Busakwe has four children ranging in age from 11 months to 13 years.

"My wife is threatening to divorce me unless I get a job soon. I cannot work anywhere because there are no jobs and people don't want to hire someone as old as me."

Busakwe left his home town, Her shel, near Allwal North, in 1963 and came to Cape Town to find work. He worked for contractors and farms, but these were never permanent jobs.

Busakwe says that he does not blame his wife. "I understand how she feels. It is worse for me. I just feel trapped and inadequate all the time," he said.

There is no hope that he will ever find a job. Unemployment is rife and like many other poverty stricken communities, the people of Nduli have very few choices. "We look forward to the days when the food stores come to dump their expired food in the pits because at least we are sure of a meal for the day even if the food makes us sick afterwards," said Busakwe.

"People get sick and die here from eating rotten food and the clinics do not have enough facilities to help everyone." Busakwe made a submission to and

appeared before the Speak Out on Poverty hearing organised by the SA Non-Government Organisation Coalition.

He said that he could not stand the suffering, not only his own but also that of the people around him. He believed that the campaign was his last hope.

"I did not know where else to turn and thought that the organisers of the campaign can make our plight known and the government might do something to alleviate our problems of lack of food and proper housing," he said.

"When strangers come to Nduli, we always hope that they are here to put our names down for houses. We are so helpless and disillusioned that we tell our story to anyone who is willing to listen."

Busakwe left his home town, Her shel, near Allwal North, in 1963 and came to Cape Town to find work. He worked for contractors and farms, but these were never permanent jobs.

"We were always paid very little. But what could one do because when you complain, you were told to go look for work elsewhere. So we stayed on and worked under bad conditions. When you thought of leaving your job, you always asked yourself where you were going to get another job. And you stayed on because you had no other alternative," said Busakwe.

"These hearings are our last hope. We pray that something will be done about our problems," he said.

"We are beginning to see a lot of resentment and bitterness and a social fabric that is weakening. We are dealing with a cynical nation that has been let down," Eggek said.



institutions because our production is very slow."

BOULLE said that the hearings were just the beginning of a broader campaign to ensure poverty becomes the nation's priority.

Dr Farid Esack, one of the commissioners at the hearings, said that the long-term social consequences of poverty were disastrous and that the prevalent abuse of women and children, gangsterism and alcohol abuse emerged as a key result of living in poverty.

And, he said, until poverty is dealt with these would continue.

"We are beginning to see a lot of resentment and bitterness and a social fabric that is weakening. We are dealing with a cynical nation that has been let down," Eggek said.

Modest requirements from the poverty stricken

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

BD 17/7/98
THE people who testified at the nationwide hearings between March and June had modest expectations. They only wanted the government to send their children to school, to receive their R470 monthly pension and to have access to water.

Commission for Gender Equality chairperson, Phumelele Ntombela-Nzimande said: "Nowhere we went were people waiting for a big spoon to feed their mouths. People want obstacles removed during their own attempts at improving their lives."

Ntombela-Nzimande said that the information gathered helped the Commission on Gender Equality, the SA Non-Government Organisation Commission (Sangoco) and the Human Rights Commission identify the main obstacles.

Ntombela-Nzimande said that many people were too poor to pay the bare minimum for new water installations and the reports suggest that user fees for basic life-line services should be discontinued.

Presenting "The People's Voices", two reports on the Speak Out on Poverty Campaign organised by Sangoco, in Soweto yesterday, the Human Rights Commission chairperson Barney Pityana said that poor people were treated badly by government officials; and corruption in local government deprived the poor of valuable resources.

(241)
"Government must be strict with public servants who treat people disrespectfully," Pityana said.

Public servants must realise they had to put themselves out to meet the needs of the public, as people who use these services were already vulnerable, he said.

Echoing Pityana's criticism of the public service, Ntombela-Nzimande said government officials must understand and adhere to the code of conduct drawn up for them — the Public Service Code of Conduct.

"Pensioners have been kicked out of offices and doors closed to the community while staff have tea," she said.

The report calls for a three-month limit for government officials to respond to queries and requests, and the establishment of a complaints hotline for non-delivery by officials. Investment and job creation in rural areas, the introduction of a pollution tax and environmentally friendly production

methods in industrial areas near houses, were also called for.

One of the biggest problems poor people faced, the report said, was the inability to get small bank loans to start their own businesses.

Pityana said that there was a need for the co-ordination of all poverty relief programmes and a commitment by the public and the private sector to alleviate poverty.

● See Insight, Page 17

People want obstacles removed during their own attempts at improving life

Poverty reports released

(241) *sewelan 17/7/98*

By Claire Keeton

"WE must not define poverty as a problem of the Government but as a time-bomb on which we all sit," South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco) president Mr Rams Ramashia said yesterday

He was speaking at the launch of two reports on poverty compiled from the nationwide Speak Out on Poverty hearings, organised by Sangoco, the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE)

More than 10 000 people - over 65 percent of whom were women - took part in the hearings and the reports capture some of their

survival strategies, as well as making recommendations on what all South Africans can do to eradicate poverty

"Many of the things requested at the hearings are achievable. The lack of action is a source of collective embarrassment," Ramashia said

The two reports - "The People's Voices" and "Poverty and Human Rights" - conclude that the poor, an estimated 19 million South Africans, do not want handouts but rather support for their efforts

"Those who live in poverty are already doing all they can," SAHRC chairman Mr Barney Pitjana said yesterday

He urged officials to treat the poor with

respect and dignity

The hearings had exposed many problems with bureaucracy and corruption, Pitjana said adding "Corruption is violence against the poor"

CGE acting chairperson Ms Phumelele Ntombela-Nzimande called on officials to assist people by implementing the Public Service Code of Conduct and responding to all requests within three months

The "People's Voices" report concludes "Let us not push the poor to the point where they tear apart our hard-won democracy. Let us ensure that people enjoy freedom from poverty, as well as political freedom"

● See page 13.

Poverty commissioners Rams Ramashia and Connie September at a hearing in Johannesburg in May

New approach to poverty needed

Sewetan 17/7/98 (241)

By Claire Keeton
Feature Writer

THOUSANDS of South Africans gave the Government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution (Gear) policy a resounding vote of no confidence during the nationwide Speak Out on Poverty hearings recently

Yesterday the organisers released a report which reflects the experiences of the over 10 000 participants, *Speak Out on Poverty - The People's Voices*, which calls on politicians to reverse Gear, increase social spending and improve the Government's role in meeting basic needs

This is needed not only by the people waging a daily battle to survive in extreme poverty - estimated at more than 19 million South Africans - but also by those trying to initiate self-help activities to escape poverty

The report, launched in Soweto, is clear - people do not want handouts. They want to be independent and are resourceful. They need assistance in the form of jobs, access to markets and credit, training and other opportunities to succeed

"Poverty," the report says, "is not only about a lack of money, but more centrally about a dearth of opportunities and choices which allow people to build decent lives for themselves"

This is why every sector of society - the Government and politicians, the private sector, the public, civil society and the media - are now being challenged to support a National Poverty Commitment to build an enabling environment to eradicate poverty

What this means was captured by Peter Chauke from Northern Province during the hearings "If you give money, then I see it in my hands. But if you give me land and help me to buy seeds and tubing for water and you help me with bookkeeping and ensure money is not wasted, there is no problem

"With money in my hands, someone can kill me. If you kill me and I've planted my lands, then my family can take care of the lands"

The National Poverty Commitment embodies recommendations arising from the 10 poverty hearings which took place from March to June in all nine provinces

Representatives of the coordinating organisations - the South African National Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition, the Human Rights

Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality - and the poverty commissioners drew up the recommendations along with monitoring mechanisms

The commitment declares "Together we ended apartheid, together we can end poverty"

The introduction explains that during the poverty hearings "the poor identified a range of obstacles to the eradication of poverty"

"This commitment calls for action to remove these obstacles. In reviewing progress each year, the commitment will be revised and updated to take forward the struggle to end poverty"

The commitment calls on every sector in South Africa "to take individual responsibility" to make the fight against poverty a national priority

First it calls on the public to volunteer their time to communities and organisations fighting poverty, and to mobilise to give a voice to the "poorest of the poor"

Other ways for individuals to support this commitment include contributing to a national Poverty Fund being set up and refraining from violence against women and children

Government officials, who came in for the brunt of criticism in people's submissions, are urged to adhere to the Public Sector Service Code of Conduct

They are required to treat all individuals with respect, and to respond to all queries and requests within three months of their being lodged

Politicians are the next group asked to support the commitment

Apart from reversing Gear and increasing social spending, they are called on to ensure their policies do not prejudice the unorganised poor (as happened with the welfare review process)

They are also challenged to

- Renegotiate the apartheid debt and release this money for poverty eradication,

- Discontinue user fees for basic lifeline services (such as water and electricity) for those who cannot afford payment,

- Establish a non-market related credit facility accessible to the poor,

- Prioritise resources for a social safety net;

- Provide incentives for investment in rural areas (identified as a strong theme in the hearings),

- Introduce a pollution tax,

- Establish a hotline for the public to report problems and non-delivery by

officials, and

- Swiftly implement a law requiring employers to deduct child maintenance from the wages of fathers

The private sector, another group which came under fire for putting profits above people, are also encouraged to support the commitment

The commitment calls on them to establish a poverty eradication fund and contribute a percentage of the cost of all land sold or purchased as a voluntary development tax (to meet the needs of the homeless)

The private sector was urged to build partnerships with Government to create jobs in rural areas and partnerships with non-governmental and community-based organisations to implement tenders awarded

Another challenge is for the private sector to invest in environmentally friendly production methods

Civil society, which includes labour and religious institutions, have a broader role. They are required to form strategic alliances against poverty and prioritise resources for rural areas

Auditing all resources (especially land) and encouraging the redistribution of these resources to meet the priority needs of the poor is also seen as important

Civil society is tasked with gathering accurate information about poverty eradication programmes and making it widely available to communities

This is similar to the challenge facing the media, which is called on to provide regular and prime space for information about poverty eradication

Statutory bodies, like the Human Rights Commission, will monitor this commitment together with individuals who endorse and sign it

They will contribute to a consolidated report to be released on October 17 (International Poverty Eradication Day) every year

While many problems related to poverty reflect the legacy of apartheid and will take decades to redress, the report concludes that it is possible to solve problems and end poverty - if there is determination to do so by all South Africans

Speak Out on Poverty - The People's Voice is an attempt to mobilise this commitment

As one poverty commissioner told participants during the KwaZulu-Natal hearing, "In Xhosa they say that the child that doesn't cry, dies on the mother's back. We have heard your cries."

Officials accused of treating the poor without care or dignity

SAHR 17/7/98 (241)
Poor people are treated disrespectfully by government officials, and corruption in local government deprives the poor of valuable resources, SA Human Rights Commission chairperson Barney Pitjana said in Soweto yesterday

Pityana was presenting "The Peoples Voices", two reports on the Speak out on Poverty campaign run by the SA Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition (Sangoco), the Commission for Gender Equality and the Human Rights Commission

The forum heard testimony from over 10 000 poor people at 35 hearings countrywide from March to June.

Government urged to spend more on social spending and youth training

"The most painful part of being a commissioner at these hearings was to hear the stories of the lack of care and the refusal in local government to treat people with basic decency," Pitjana said

He called for an information campaign to tell the poor how to access resources available to alleviate their suffering, and slammed corrupt officials who prevented allocated resources from reaching the poor

Commission for Gender Equality chairperson Phumelele Ntombela-Nzimande said "Nowhere where we went were people waiting for a big

spoon to feed their mouths

"People want obstacles removed during their own attempts at improving their lives"

She echoed Pitjana's criticism of officials and said they should understand and adhere to the code of conduct drawn up for them - the Public Sector Service Code of Conduct

"Pensioners have been kicked out of offices, and doors have been closed to the community while staff have tea," she said

The report calls for a three-month limit for government officials to respond to queries and requests, and the establishment of a complaints hotline for non-delivery by officials

The Speak out on Poverty campaign joined the mounting call for the reversal of the Government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution economic policy and an increase in government social spending

A major hindrance for people setting up home industries was having no access to small bank loans.

Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said most of the people who testified had only modest expectations from the Government. These were to send their children to school; to receive their R470 monthly pension and to have water

"People made it clear they weren't looking for handouts"

The Speak out on Poverty organisers had planned to present the two reports, "The People's Voice" and "People's Experiences of the Bill of Rights" to a representative of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office but no one from the office arrived to receive it

The full report is available from Sangoco at (011) 403-7746 - Sapa

Poverty group in favour of ditching Gear strategy (241)

Dustin Chick

17/7/98

(241)

SPEAK Out Against Poverty, organiser of the poverty summit, has joined the ranks of organisations calling for the reversal of government's growth, employment and redistribution (Gear) strategy, as a central recommendation emerging out of its hearings

This is despite an unequivocal "no" by President Nelson Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki at the SA Communist Party's (SACP's) national congress in Johannesburg earlier this month

Mandela and Mbeki lambasted the ANC's alliance partners, the Congress of SA Trade Unions and the SACP, for their criticism of Gear

Speak Out Against Poverty — representing the Gender Equality Commission, the SA Nongovernmental Organisation Coalition (SA NGO Coalition) and the SA Human Rights Commission — yesterday released its report on the nationwide hearings at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, following the testimony of about 10 000 people between March and June this year

The reports said that "to date, it was clear that the Gear strategy had been anything but successful in creating jobs", with unemployment emerging as the strongest theme of the hearings

Other recommendations include the renegotiation of apartheid debt to free up money for poverty eradication, the introduction of laws protecting the poor and the prioritisation of resources for the creation of a "safety net" for all South Africans

SA NGO Coalition programmes director Jacqu Boulle said this safety net would involve a system to prevent people from heading towards complete poverty. It was important that government had a greater role in creating a social safety net because in real terms, the welfare budget was decreasing, and testimony had shown that in many cases more than one family was surviving on a social welfare grant.

The recommendations in the reports culminate in the establishment of a national poverty commitment outlining action which needs to be taken up by the public, government, politicians, private sector, civil society and the media to eradicate poverty in SA.

Speak Out Against Poverty said it would approach all these role players for their endorsement of the poverty commitment.

Rooting out

Poverty

The poverty hearings are over, so where do the poor go to from here? **Julia Grey and Ferial Haffajee report**

(241) MAG 31/7-6/8/98

Now what? That's the question on many NGO lips after the microphones have been packed away, and the portable platform from which the poor had a chance to speak has been taken down.

The poverty hearings are over. The government's *Poverty and Inequality Report* is out. South Africa now has the most accurate and telling snapshot of the extent of poverty ever. In addition to the hearings, there have been summits, workshops and press conferences.

Were the stories and statistics of the poor anything more than a curiosity and a talk shop? While some provincial governments — like the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal — attended the hearings in their provinces, others (like the Western Cape) paid little attention.

Jacqui Boule from the South African Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition (Sangoco), one of the key NGOs involved in setting up the hearings, concedes that "all we can offer to the government are recommendations".

Although the hearings may have raised expectations about the ability of NGOs to alleviate poverty, their main role now will be to lobby government. Plans afoot include producing an "anti-poverty budget", and developing an alternative macro-economic policy to the growth employment and redistribution strategy.

The real solution to the problems of the poor, say many in the NGO world, lies with the poor themselves. A key challenge is for poor people to mobilise themselves and create a pressure group that will force government to take their needs seriously.

Such peasant movements have been very effective in parts of Asia and Latin America.

Grassroots organisations are instigating such a movement, forming caucus groups in deep rural communities around key issues such as land, agriculture and livelihood.

An area that government needs to scrutinise is the existing legislation in relation to the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution. So says Sue Tilley, director of the Regional Consultative Forum on rural development, an NGO working in deep rural areas. Legislation needs to be oriented towards the effective delivery, and protection, of people's rights.

There is little doubt that the NGO-inspired campaign called "War on Poverty" is reverberating in government circles. That and the fact that government's poverty alleviation programmes are not meeting their targets has seen Deputy President Thabo Mbeki get innovative.

The Co-ordination and Implementation Unit based in his office has the task of identifying why some programmes like public works have not had the desired effect on poverty. It is headed by Dr Pandy Pillay who says that "poverty programmes will be accelerated this year".

His confidence stems from two factors. The first is that the unit has identified the glitches in the delivery system. And the second is that government's policy development process has peaked.

Most White Papers have been completed and legislation is in the pipeline. It's just a short hop to legislation and implementation, say Pillay.

The government's *Poverty and Inequality Report*, released almost in tandem with the final report on the poverty hearings, made several recommendations for poverty alleviation. Pillay says the government will now begin to consider those recommendations.

One of the key recommendations is that government should continue its emphasis on social spending. It's going to be a costly initiative which could conflict with government's cuts in spending to cut the budget deficit. In 1995, a conservative price-tag of R28-billion was suggested to bring all South Africans above the poverty line.

Help us, say

rural poor

MTG 3-8/4/98

Ann Eveleth

South Africa's rural poor gave a stern warning to the government this week as the first round of Speak Out on Poverty hearings opened in the Northern Province.

Dozens of rural participants from across the arid, sun-drenched province crowded into church halls and community centres to tell their stories of desperation and survival in the face of extreme poverty.

Many of those who descended on Pietersburg's Mankweng township and travelled through Elini's sprawling green hills to discuss the topic of land and rural development blamed government inefficiency and indifference for their worst problems.

Casperina Mashamate and two neighbours from her village of Skoon-geest B, near Bochum, told commissioners lead by human rights commission chair Barney Pitsoana that a local government councillor who is "always in a hurry and doesn't know us" and local traditional leaders who

refuse to help are their biggest stumbling blocks to progress.

"Where I stay we don't have water, roads or electricity. When we go to town, we have to walk 3km to get a taxi. About the roads we tried to do something, but the local government said we must go to the king. When you go to the king, you are told you are not supposed to be there.

"We formed a water committee, but the local councillor is always in a big rush and he has never done anything for us. Since the new government, we have never had anything delivered to us," said Mashamate.

At times, Lydia Hlahla related, unscrupulous officials — or at least people feigning to be officials — had crushed women's self-help projects by taking away crucial seed money.

"We were sewing sheets and pillow cases. But this woman came and said she was from the government and took us to Nedbank to withdraw our money. Now we are crying because we haven't done anything since they stopped us. We don't have mon-



Poverty hearings: Casperina Mashamate pointed to a hopeless government councillor and local traditional leaders who refuse to help as their biggest progress blockers

ey to buy material now," said Hlahla. Stories like Mashamate's and Hlahla's made clear that women have been, and remain, the real driving force behind development in their communities.

Despite a lack of infrastructure, most female participants could recount at least one group effort they had joined to alleviate poverty.

Some male participants also expressed a strong sense of community. Daniel Motsele pleaded for the government to help his community fight unemployment. Motsele survives on piece jobs and doesn't know how he

will pay for his children's education. "During the apartheid government at least I was able to get about R100, but now I sometimes go three to four months with nothing," he said.

"This government has got a chance of beating the old government by far, but only if we can get some jobs. If it doesn't help us, some of us will try to kill and steal to get something to eat."

Men like Thompson Ngobom (69), who has not held a steady job since 1984 due to mining injuries, have learnt to scrape a living from the good will of friends and family.

Ironically, while the hearings centred on land-based poverty, with subsequent hearings intended to target other issues, the collective cries of this week's participants laid bare the extent of rural poverty in all areas of development.

As the KwaZulu-Natal-based Rural Consultative Forum argued, "Rural areas need water, housing, land and everything else more than anywhere else [We] celebrated the birth of the new South Africa, but very soon after realised that the promises of the government were only being made for the people in the cities."

Poverty is growing, not diminishing, wars continue unabated and the gap between rich and poor net wealth of the 10 largest fortunes easily exceeds the total income of all of the least advanced

Going backwards into

(241)

Are we ready for the 21st century? Four major challenges have to be met in good time if humanity wishes to survive to 2100

First challenge will the 21st century lead to the development of growing inequality and unprecedented poverty while generating unparalleled fortunes hidden behind the bullet proof glass of social and urban apartheid?

Between 1980 and the present crisis, some 15 or more countries experienced remarkable economic growth and most of their billion and a half inhabitants, representing over a quarter of the world population, have seen their income rise.

During the same period, some 100 countries experienced economic decline or stagnation, with a consequent fall in income for 1,6 billion people, representing also more than a quarter of humanity. In Asia, a series of financial crashes has now brought about dramatic recessions in countries whose development was only recently cited as an example

At the dawn of the 21st century, more than 1,3 billion people live in absolute poverty and their numbers are increasing constantly. Some experts even believe that the figure is closer to 2 billion people

According to the United Nations Development Programme, "the 20% of poorest people on Earth must now share the paltry fraction of 1,1% of global income, as against 1,4% in 1991 and 2,3% in 1960

Today, the net wealth of the 10 largest fortunes amounts to \$133 billion, which is equivalent to more than one and a half times the total national income of all the least advanced countries"

Today, over 800 million individuals are suffering from hunger or malnutrition, more than a billion do not have access to health care, basic education or drinking water, 2 billion are not connected to an electricity supply and 80% of the world population, or more than 4,5 billion people, are deprived of basic telecommunications, that is to say, of access to the new information and communication technologies, which are the keys to distance education

The future itself seems in jeopardy. It is absent, elusive, or unpredictable in the North, where most of the rich countries now have a negligible birthrate. It is spoiled and already mortgaged in the South, where children and women are the ones who most suffer from poverty. Two-thirds of the world population living in absolute poverty are under 15 years of age and more than two out of three of them are women

While the old social contract of

1945 - that of the welfare state is crumbling and disintegrating in the face of world market pressures, the new phase of globalisation and the third industrial revolution which underlies it have not yet been accompanied by the new social contract that they require.

It will have to be invented, and lifelong education for all should be one of its foundations.

Second major challenge sustainable development. Are not our modes of development, based on the squandering of non renewable resources, putting a strain on the development of future generations?

Three planet Earths would be necessary if the whole of the world population were to have access to the North American modes of develop-

“
Is it fair poor countries should finance rich ones?
”

ment and consumption

As underlined by Federico Mayor, director general of Unesco at the organisation's 1997 international conference in Rio on the ethics of the future, human beings throughout the world today are assuming rights over the human beings of tomorrow, and we are beginning to realise that we are in the process of jeopardising the exercise of their human rights by future generations

Third major challenge the drunken boat syndrome. Admittedly, as the wisdom of mariners and philosophers has it, "there is no favourable wind for he who knows not where he goes" But nor is there a favourable wind for he who has broken his rudder

In other words have we set ourselves a course for the 21st century? And do we have the instruments to keep ourselves on course? Politics, sovereignty, democracy itself, which in many areas of the world is still but a fresh coat of paint, seem to have lost their hold on events as if history had fallen into the hands of "anonymous masters", abstractions such as financial markets, interest rates, exchange rates, commodity prices and statistics of all kinds

What is more, most of the problems today extend beyond national borders. Water is becoming an international issue, to such an extent

that the 21st century might be that of wars for water. Financial transactions, pollution, epidemics, organised crime and money laundering do not quietly stop at the customs post.

They carry no passport, they are nomadic, borderless. Solutions must therefore be found which also extend beyond borders. The conclusion of a number of multilateral agreements and the holding of world conferences such as the Earth Summit in Rio, or the Kyoto Summit on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, are a first step.

Should we not, however, go much further in the next 10 or 20 years?

There are those who reply sorry, we can't afford it. Yet the Cold War is over, and we still invest massively in insecurity instead of investing preventively in building peace.

Defence expenditures worldwide represent \$800-\$900 billion annually. According to former secretary-general of the Summit on Cities Wally N'Dow, "resources are now available to provide a roof, drinking water and basic sanitary facilities at a cost of less than \$100 per person, for every man, woman, and child on this planet" This would amount to \$130-billion for those 1,3 billion poor registered in international charts"

The key issues of regulation, governance and aptitude for government on an international scale will lie at the centre of the world debate in the next two decades. Given the scale of the three challenges referred to, can we or not assume we are moving towards a planetary democracy?

Without going into the vexed issue of world sovereignty, can we imagine a mode of international integration or is it merely a dream?

In the face of the development of a worldwide market economy, do we need to devise, as Jacques Attali suggests, a democracy "which, like the market, is not confined to a specific territory, but rather a democracy without frontiers?"

Fourth major challenge peace. As Boutros Boutros-Ghali recalled at the 21st Century Talks, which Unesco organises periodically, peace is the precondition for solving the first three challenges. Unfortunately, scores of wars have taken place since the end of the Cold War, and some 30 conflicts are going on at present mostly within states

The euphoric illusion according to which the collapse of the Berlin Wall was going to lead instantaneously to perpetual peace and usher in a new era of development has vanished

In several parts of the world, a fourth category of countries has emerged alongside the developed



State of play in too much of the world - two abandoned children in the Bahr El Ghazal Province of southern Sudan. The province has civil war continues to ravage Sudan

countries, the developing countries and the countries in transition the countries at war, or recovering from a conflict, we are witnessing an unprecedented phenomenon - the collapse and disappearance of states in bloodshed and tragedy

Faced with the risk of contagion

from policies of ethnic cleansing and genocide, it is vital we, as emphasised by Unesco, a coalition of peace through education, of tolerance and cultural pluralism and a dialogue between the components of society. Peace is not merely the

abated and the gap between rich and poor has reached a point where the total income of all of the least advanced countries, writes Jerome Bindé

rds into the future

(241) Star 31/8/98

ALESSANDRO ABBONIZIO



of play in too much of the world two abandoned children comfort each other in the village of Acumcum, Bahr El Ghazal Province of southern Sudan. The province has been hit by a devastating famine, while a war continues to ravage Sudan

the developing countries the countries in transition the grips of war, or recovering from we are witnessing an un-phenomenon - the col disappearance of states in and tragedy with the risk of contagion

from policies of ethnic cleansing and genocide, it is vital we promote, as emphasised by Unesco, a culture of peace through education, promotion of tolerance and cultural pluralism and a dialogue between all the components of society Peace is not merely the absence

of war, or order imposed by hegemony Authentic peace is the positive peace which, according to the philosopher Spinoza, "is born out of the strength of the soul, concord and justice" It is based on genuine values and principles and not merely on the policies of laissez faire or on

the agreements of realpolitik. The General Assembly of the UN subscribed to this vision by proclaiming the year 2000 International Year for the Culture of Peace.

If we truly want tomorrow not to be already too late, anticipation must take precedence over adaptation, the ethics of the future must overcome the tyranny of emergency, and the notion of sharing - in space as regards our contemporaries but also in time as regards future generations - must override the blind selfishness which is the principal source of new forms of apartheid.

It is with this prospect in mind that Unesco will be organising the Dialogues of the 21st century from September 16-19, in order to light up the paths of the future through encounters between leading experts, and that Federico Mayor will publish a white paper on the 21st century in 1999

Is it normal that investment should flow from South to North? Is it fair, as is the case today, that poor countries should finance rich ones through the refunding of their debt? Is it acceptable that the gap between them should widen and that new barriers be erected within each nation as between nations?

The issue is clear enough Ethan Kapstein, member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, referred to it in the following terms "The world may be moving inexorably toward one of those tragic moments that will lead future historians to ask, why was nothing done in time? Were the economic and political elites unaware of the profound disruptions that economic and technological change were causing? What prevented them from taking the steps necessary to prevent a global social crisis?"

Let us nevertheless lend an ear to what the prophets and poets have to say "As danger grows so grows the path to safety", Hölderlin wrote.

Solutions do exist: the awareness of problems has become more acute; what is really missing today is political will, which is now a prisoner of short-term interests. Globalisation cannot be confined to the worldwide expansion of telecommunications, computers, the media and markets.

It must be founded on greater international democracy and on an anticipatory conception of democracy, the main pillars of which are a new social contract for the 21st century, sustainable development, a new international contract encouraging worldwide regulation and integration, a culture of peace and ethics and lifelong education for all.

Bindé is director of Unesco's Analysis and Forecasting Office.

'SA has potential to be economic hub of Africa but lacks poverty eradication plan'

Cape Town - It is clear that South Africa has no national poverty eradication plan, with the social deficit remaining enormous four years after the 1994 general election, the chairperson of the South African National Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition said yesterday.

Delivering his keynote address at Sangoco's third annual conference in Cape Town, Rams Ramashia said the country had the potential to be the economic hub of Africa, but competed instead with Brazil, which had the highest level of inequality and poverty in the world.

"We have malnourished, emaciated children on our streets trembling under cover of newspapers, while other children are driven to schools in luxury cars.

"We have teenage girls getting cars for their birthdays, co-existing with others who have to sell their bodies to support their parents," he said.

Ramashia said the national debt inherited from the apartheid government seriously affected the Government's capacity to spend more money on poverty eradication efforts. He warned that the globalisation of world markets would result in the globalisation of poverty.

Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe said the Government hoped to increase funds for poverty relief from this year's allocated R817-million to R1-billion in the next few years. - African Eye News Service

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NGO Week focuses on ways to end poverty

By ZOLILE NQAYI

STRATEGIES to eradicate poverty was the main topic of discussion at NGO Week which ends in Cape Town today

The conference which started on Thursday brought together trade unionists, government officials, politicians, NGO and church leaders

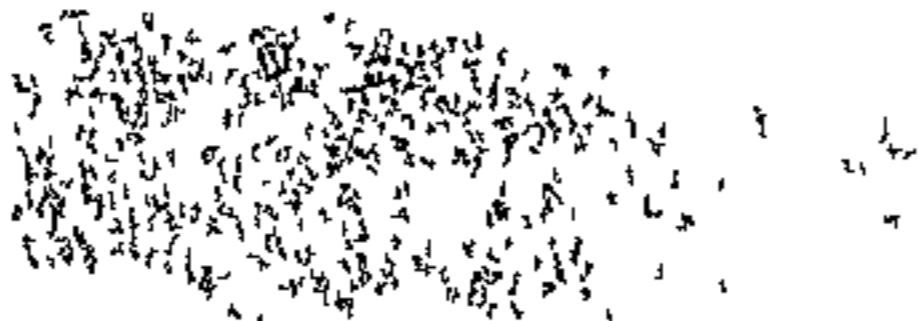
President Nelson Mandela pledged his support for the conference which brought together all the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country. He said the conference's focus on inequality and poverty should be "given as much support as possible". The country needed such organisations that work to improve quality of life in South Africa, Mandela said.

Kumi Naidoo the outgoing Executive

Director of the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) said "NGOs believe that we cannot address the issue of poverty and inequality in South Africa without applying ourselves to the economic realities that confront South Africa".

Delegates said there was an urgent need for **tax reforms** to encourage **business** and individuals to give more to NGOs. Other issues discussed included NGOs' relations with regard to **government** and political parties during the **next** elections.

"The conference is also an opportunity to **celebrate the** achievements of the NGO sector, reflect on the challenge it faces and set goals for the next couple of years," said Rams Ramashia, president of SANGOCO.



Global world demands better governance

Greg Mills looks at the dangers facing a world in which a quarter of the population lives in absolute poverty

THE post Cold War world has brought many unexpected challenges. Contrary to expectations, it has not ushered in an uncontested formula for economic and social advancement — as Francis Fukuyama suggested in his 1989 essay *The End of History*.

Rapid improvements in technology have undoubtedly made the world a smaller place. The information superhighway and the phenomenon of globalisation have synergised to create an environment operating at great pace.

For a while this seemed to be working to the advantage of all. Until the recent currency crisis which has thrown the universal acceptance of the liberal macroeconomic consensus into question, developing countries have been among those which have profited the most. Last year's World Bank annual report noted that developing countries were on track to double their share of global gross domestic product to account for nearly one-third of global output by the year 2020.

Events in southeast Asia have now washed over other emerging economies including the now wounded but once super power Russia, as well as SA.

The gap which exists between rich and poor states worldwide has widened. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, it nearly doubled between the seven richest and seven poorest states in 30 years from 1965.

Nearly a quarter of the world's population lives in absolute poverty. As events in the Congo illustrate, at the heart of addressing this crisis is the existence of so-called "dysfunctional states" — those which cannot even meet the basic needs of their citizens such as individual security and the provision of fundamental services.

This is not just confined to this continent however. States in Central Asia and potentially in southeast Asia (such as Indonesia), are beginning to exhibit similar signs of decay. As these governments face internal opposition stemming from the rupture of their systems of political patronage (partly the cause of the crisis in the first instance), they might decide to opt out of the liberal global order.

Last month the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) met in Durban. The principal platform and lobby for developing nations, the NAM's brief is partly to try

to provide some answers to these sorts of questions. As Thabo Mbeki noted at the meeting, as "the repository of democracy, human rights, good governance and the sovereign voice of the poor", the movement must be "a serious instrument for the transformation of a world driven by the process of globalisation, so that we meet the objectives of the upliftment of our peoples".

But frankly, given its record and lack of focus on its activities, it is improbable that the movement could either provide such answers or engineer sufficient consensus on possible solutions. Too often the NAM has degenerated into empty rhetoric, vulnerable to the many and varied national agendas of its 114 member states.

While some have suggested that SA can invigorate a dialogue and give direction to the organisation (which is sincerely hoped for), Pretoria's record at trying to co-ordinate the activities of its own government departments and prioritise foreign policy objectives is, at best, just average.

Where does this leave us in the next millennium — a world in which population numbers are expected to double and where the challenges, for example, of poverty and sustainable development and the maintenance of national resources, all seem to be beyond the capacity of many national governments?

As the first decade of the post-Cold War era has already indicated, unless we begin to think about the world around us, the dangers present may escalate beyond control.

Thus, in an interdependent and networked world, the maintenance of stability and prosperity demands first, an acknowledgment that we exist in a system of mutual benefit or, alternatively, of decay. The pursuit of selfish national or regional agendas can only be of decreasing overall gain in the longer term. The fortunes of the very poor will affect those of the wealthy, both between and within states.

Second, related to the above, it will be necessary to develop improved systems of multilateral governance. This will require, willingly or otherwise, abandoning the tendency to resort to unilateral state action.

Third, there is likely to be a reduction in the, already limited, powers available to governments, especially in



Poor women keeping warm during winter

those failing or dysfunctional states. If these states are to function at all, significant aspects of their nominal responsibilities will have to be outsourced, either to interstate or non-governmental organisations.

This has de facto already occurred in many African states. Security, tax collection, health services, commodity extraction and other areas — which were previously the preserve of national governments — will then demand outside regulation.

Fourth, the new millennium will place a premium on pragmatic and informed leadership. The late-20th century has, with a few notable exceptions, been characterised by mediocre political leadership. Many, especially in Africa and other parts of the developing world, have been keener on staying in power and harping on the past history of anticolonial struggle, rather than on planning for the future.

The history of struggle against colonialism is increasingly lost on the bulk of citizens. Most Zimbabweans, for example, were not even born at the time of independence in 1980. Half of SA's citizens were not around at the time of the Soweto uprising in 1976.

Fifth, good governance will require more than a resort to summitry and sloganeering by the leaders of the developing world.

It may be argued that a reversion to legends such as the African renaissance alongside the propensity towards summit meetings obscures the need for a devolution of power to officials and institution building.

The outside world is not confused by this tendency: as one central African banker put it, "if the African renaissance was true, we would have expected international lenders to move finances from Asia to Africa in 1998".

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, there was widespread hope for a more stable global order. In the interim, this enthusiasm has been dashed by the uncertainties of economic collapse and the fierce assertion of ethnic and national identities.

While today's unprecedented levels of international co-operation must give some cause for future optimism, they also stress the need for leadership to take a longer-term, less selfish view.

□ Mills is national director of the SA Institute of International Affairs

POVERTY - GENERAL -
1999

Poverty needs new definition

Nomavenda Mathiane

COUNTRIES ought to adopt new measures and strategies to eradicate poverty, as well as revisit certain definitions such as what was meant by poverty, World Bank senior vice-president Joseph Stiglitz said yesterday

Addressing an international workshop on poverty held in Kempton Park, Stiglitz exploded the myth that lack of earning caused poverty (241)

He said maintaining full employment ought to be central to all government policies

Yet issues such as education, land reforms and health policies were an integral part of the solution

Poor people had to be empowered and get meaningful community participation, and Stiglitz said societies should work far harder to open opportunities to those born into poverty

BD 13/1/99

Spotlight falls on ways to beat poverty

Strategies should concentrate on education, land reform, among others, says World Bank official

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Strategies to fight poverty should concentrate on education, land reform,

risk assessment, population policies, health, empowerment and employment, according to World Bank chief economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz.

Stiglitz was speaking at the launch of the International Workshop on Poverty and Development at the Kempton Park Conference Centre this week. Much of what comes out of the two-and-a-half day event will go into the organisation's World Development Report 2000/1 report.

Stiglitz, who is also senior vice-president of development economics at the World Bank and an economics lecturer at Stanford University in America, said some of the

main objectives of the workshop were to discuss further "what is poverty, how do we measure it and how do we reduce it".

He said economists had focused largely on income when dealing with poverty and this had produced results, but was "too narrow" and other aspects had to be encompassed because human development went beyond the economic.

Stiglitz said issues such as security, home environment, anxiety about such problems as crime, the breakdown of communities, access to health and education services, a lack of hope about the future and the breakdown of values were all important points.

Measuring progress should also go beyond income into the fields of public health and services, differences within households, adjust-

ments to changes in society, the availability of opportunity and upward mobility.

The workshop is being sponsored by the World Faiths Development Dialogue, Cornell University and the MacArthur Foundation as well as the World Bank and experts and religious leaders

International workshop digs deep into problem

from many countries have gathered to give their input. Stiglitz said members of the various faiths reached into communities around the world and were a vital link between organisations, researchers and the poor.

Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Njongonkulu Ndungane said 1.3-billion people around the world continued to live in extreme poverty on below R5,85 a day and about 70% of them were women. He said every year eight million children died of diseases linked to impure water and air pollution.

He said statistics showed that the top 20% of humanity had 86% of the wealth and the bottom 20% just 1.3%. The world's 225 richest people have R2,5-trillion and only 4% of this would provide basic education, healthcare, food, water and sanitation for all, for a year. "In South Africa, about 50% of the population lives below the poverty datum line," he said.

Archbishop Ndungane said astronomical debt owed by developing countries to de-

veloped ones was a major contributing factor to poverty.

"It should be crystal clear that the cancellation of these unpayable debts will go a long way towards improving the quality of life and restoring dignity in developing countries," he added.

Archbishop Ndungane said governments around the world should be lobbied to ensure that macro-economic policies were reworked to address the needs of the poor and it was no longer appropriate to let market forces dictate everything.

"Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Amartya Sen has emphasised that the validity of any economic policy should be judged on whether it takes into account its impact on people who are on the downside of the economy," he said.

(241) Stan 14/1/99

Dept helps turn the tide of poverty

More than 45 state programmes have been implemented to provide benefits and job prospects to the main breadwinners – the women – in an area where 325 000 people live

(241)

Star 20/1/99

By HOPEWELL RADEBE

In the district of Ga Modjaji, deep in the backwaters of the Northern Province, lies a constellation of 35 villages nestled in the green valleys

About 325 000 people live in this poverty stricken region, the main breadwinners being the women, who rear livestock and grow agricultural products in their back yards

The region has a 95% unemployment rate

But an innovative programme by the Department of Public Works has started to turn things around

In terms of the Rural Anti-poverty Programme, the department has set up 46 projects worth R21 million to "turn the tide of poverty" in the region

The centrepiece of the programme is a bustling "common economic hub" at a

central village. People from the whole region flock here to trade their wares to outsiders and to each other

Clusters of building complexes for business, entertainment and social development activities have been built

There are multipurpose

Hawkers have rented shops already

community halls, a taxi and bus rank with provision for hawkers' shops, a spacious factory building, a training centre, a daycare centre and a sports field

Since the inception of the programme earlier this year, about 4 441 people have been trained in various managerial and building skills

George Malatji (63), who says he has never been employed in his life, used his newly acquired construction skills to take part in the building of the new creche.

He said he now felt like "a real head of a family" since the project started "I have even spoilt my wife with a new dress and a pair of shoes which she will wear to church," Malatji said.

Entrepreneurs have begun registering to rent hawkers' stores built around the taxi and bus ranks near the complex, which is proving a catalyst for the local economy

The department will monitor the project closely with a view to replicating it in other parts of the country, especially in the poorer provinces

Public Works Community Based Programme director Gabi Gumbi said the idea of cluster buildings for social development programmes

came out of discussions between the department and rural communities in South Africa's three poorest provinces the Northern Province, KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape.

In the past, villages applied for funding only for creches and schools, she said.

Project may be replicated elsewhere

But physical visits and discussions with rural leaders reflected a need for an economic niche in every village.

Rural administrations which maintained and repaired the buildings would also have a regular source of income from entrepreneurs renting the shops and people using community

business buildings.

Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, who visited Ga Modjaji recently, said the projects had enhanced social and economic equity, particularly for women

He said the Cabinet has allocated a further R85-million from the Poverty Relief Fund to expand his department's rural anti poverty programmes

Depending on the priorities of each village or district, the department has been building access roads, helping to set out communal gardens and irrigation schemes, fencing grazing areas and low level bridges, and advising on vegetable markets.

Because the planning and the construction of these assets involve the participation of community based organisations and enterprises, "communities were bound to care for and to own the projects", Radebe said

Chilli sauce gives 'lifeline' to villagers in North

By HOPEWELL RADEBE

Sarah Molebatsi grew up subjected to continuous drizzling weather in the plantations in Mokwakwaila village – one of several nestled in the Ga Modjaji region in the Northern Province.

Most of her life she survived by working on farms, earning a meagre salary

while her husband, Moshe (48), was unemployed "He (Moshe) augmented our income by selling vegetables," she explained

The mother of three is very excited about the prospect of becoming one of the hundred villagers who will soon begin working at a community factory which will manufacture chilli sauce.

"Imagine all supermarkets in the province order our chilli sauce stock from our factory It will mean a better job and a better salary," she said.

The Department of Public Works has donated the building to her community to jump start their business activities It forms part of a cluster of facilities including

a hall, a sports field and several shops for entrepreneurs around a new taxi and bus rank Molebatsi was also upbeat about the day-care centre built 100m from the factory

She said women would no longer have to carry their children on their backs while working in the plantation fields and her 15 month-old baby, Josiah, would be one of

the young ones attending the creche.

Her husband, who was employed during the construction phase of the taxi rank, said he intended renting one of the shops to sell vegetables.

As Moshe spoke of his business plans, his wife cast her eyes on the green pastures covering the surrounding mountains

SA making progress in battle to eradicate poverty, claims minister

SAW 18/7/99 (241)

By JOVIAL RANTAO

Cape Town - Despite the huge hiccups, South Africa was slowly making inroads in its efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality, according to Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

In an address to the United Nations Economic Commission summit in Nairobi, Kenya, yesterday, Fraser-Moleketi said that, in line with guidelines from the World Social Summit, the Government was spending 14,8% of gross domestic product on social services.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has said that national and provincial government will spend R103,7-billion of the available resources on social services in the current financial year. The Government has set aside R1-billion for targeted poverty relief programmes. This will increase to R1,2-billion and R1,5-billion in 2000 and 2001.

In the past two years, the Ministry of Finance has made available an additional R1,6-billion for special poverty

eradication programmes. This was over and above the money allocated to social services in the Budget.

"We have received reports from people who have benefited from our programmes. I have visited their towns and I have witnessed the impact of these funds ... For many it presented a first opportunity for training,

skills development and sustainable livelihood.

"I believe our projects have laid the foundation for integrated poverty eradication programmes ... I believe that if we continue to invest in the micro-poor in a way that makes a difference to their lives, we will be able to report significant progress in the eradication of poverty," Fraser-Moleketi said.

She said the safety nets to the poor in South Africa through social security were unique among developing countries.

She also called for an integrated disaster management system and a common strategy in southern Africa to address challenges brought by the HIV/Aids pandemic and the Y2K millennium bug.



Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Life gets tougher in the new SA

M+G 9-15/4/99
The desperate poverty that is still rife in South Africa is taking its toll on the country's youngest citizens. Ian Clayton reports (241)

Grim new demographic details show that life for most South Africans is not getting better, and may well be getting worse

With an estimated 4.7 million people unemployed and looking for work, and only 5.1-million in formal employment, it is hardly surprising that life remains tough for ordinary people in the democratic South Africa.

But it is the figure of 22 865 infant deaths in 1995 — the highest infant death figure since 1991, and probably the highest ever in South Africa's history — that demonstrates the severity of poverty in the country

The number of infant deaths recorded may be a reflection of more accurate official records, but the fact is the death of 22 865 babies is unacceptably high — and that an average of more than 62 babies died every day of the year in 1995

These demographic statistics are contained in the latest issue of the *Bulletin of Statistics*, recently released by Statistics South Africa

➤ The report classified 9.1-million in various job categories, including

2.1-million working in private households, suggesting that about one in three potentially economically active people were unemployed and looking for work

With fewer than 5.3-million people having paid jobs in 1997, formal sector employment has continued to decline, from more than 5.3 million in 1996 to 5.1-million in the fourth quarter of 1997

A total of R2 217.3-million was paid in salaries and wages. The average salary paid in 1997 was R3 832 a year, an increase of R368 on the 1996 figure of R3 464

Unemployment rates are particularly severe among Africans — 4.2-million looking for work — and particularly among young Africans 1.9-million without jobs are under the age of 29, and there are 1.2-million people under the age of 24 looking for work

The report is described by Statistics South Africa head Mark Orkin as an "excellent reference source" as it provides a bird's eye view of a year's, or even several years', statistics

It gives figures on many different



Suffer the children: The 22 865 infant deaths in 1995 demonstrate the severe poverty in South Africa. PHOTOGRAPH: NADINE HUTTON

aspects of life in South Africa, including that 140 753 people were injured in traffic collisions in 1997 and 9 691 people were killed. Vehicles collided with 39 815 pedestrians and 6 846 cyclists

There were also more divorces than before — 31 593 in 1995 — more than half of them involving whites. But these figures did include 8 174 divorces involving black people — and black divorces were not recorded until 1994

One of the more disturbing sets

of figures are those concerning prosecutions and convictions in the courts. The number of prosecutions, for instance, dropped from 350 201 in 1995 to 291 774 in 1996. The number of convictions also dropped, from 260 887 to 218 394

Police have claimed the crime rate has stabilised, but the decline in prosecutions and convictions indicates the justice system is not working efficiently — and that a significant number of criminals are getting away with their crimes

Govt, private sector 'will fail to limit poverty'

Simphiwe Xako

(297)

(241)

NEITHER government nor the private sector would be able to increase the number of jobs and limit poverty in SA in the next 10 years, a Centre for Policy Studies seminar heard yesterday.

Anglo American's Clem Sunter said governments worldwide were streamlining public services and SA planned to shed about 300 000 jobs in the next five years, as required by government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy.

Similarly, the private sector was downsizing its workforce, under pressure exerted by globalisation and new technology.

Sunter argued the possible alternative was the strengthening and development of small, medium and micro enterprises and promotion of entrepreneurship.

Sunter said four conditions needed were easier access to capital in loan and equity financing, amending the tax code to stimulate small businesses, reducing the number of conditions and permits needed to open a business, and an environment encouraging entrepreneurship.

BD 3/11/99

Western Cape's top cop named

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

(251)
ARL 3/11/99
Deputy Eastern Cape provincial police commissioner Lennit Max has been appointed as the new Western Cape police commissioner.

Provincial community safety minister Mark Wiley was due to make the announcement today

Commissioner Max, who was recently cleared of sexual harassment charges, will take up the post immediately

Outgoing provincial Commissioner Leon Wessels retired at the end of last month and the post was temporarily filled by deputy commissioner Dirk Crafford

Commissioner Max was one of six candidates shortlisted for the post, who were interviewed by the provincial cabinet last week.

Last year a female colleague accused Commissioner Max of sexual harassment and the matter was investigated

Last week national Commissioner George Fivaz said an investigation into the alleged sexual harassment charges against Commissioner Max had been completed and no steps would be taken against him. "The matter is now closed," he said.

Eastern Cape Commissioner Nico Slabber said "I do hope it's clear to all that the investigation conducted by my office was procedurally correct, acceptable to all interested parties, endorsed by Commissioner Fivaz, and Commissioner Max has been cleared of all allegations. It's a known fact that Commissioner Max was a candidate for the Western Cape commissioner's post and the fact that this irresponsible allegation had left an indelible scar on his CV was defamatory and unfair," Commissioner Slabber said

Shilowa voices concern over poverty alleviation

John Dlodlu

GAUTENG premier Mbhazima Shilowa yesterday issued a stern warning to the delegates at the Commonwealth Business Council, saying that globalisation will not be seen as a "serious concept" if it fails to tackle poverty alleviation.

In a prepared address delivered at the opening function of the three-day Commonwealth Business Forum, organised by the council, Shilowa also called for the spirit of "human solidarity to govern" the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations.

Shilowa said unless globalisation was seen to create conditions for poverty eradication, the advancement of world peace and the promotion of a safe environment, poverty stricken people might be

persuaded to believe — as economist JK Galbraith once said — that "globalisation is not a serious concept".

The conference is taking place 20 days before the 135 members of the World Trade Organisation, including SA, meet in Seattle in the US to launch a new set of trade negotiations.

Shilowa's remarks underscore the SA government's central theme, which is seeking to make the next talks about addressing the imbalances in the world economy in favour of the developing world.

Later in the day, SA Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin said the Commonwealth — consisting of 54 member nations — was best placed to tackle some of the challenges facing the world's trading system today.

(241)

BD 10/11/99

Delivery organisations queue up to receive their rewards

A whopping R700 000 is on offer for organisations which deliver innovative poverty reduction programmes, writes Barry Streek

MHG:12-18/11/99

(297)

(211)

A programme to recognise and reward innovative poverty reduction projects for government delivery programmes with R700 000 to 15 different projects has provoked huge interest from both the government and NGOs.

In a rush to clinch these lucrative awards, 175 entries have been received which have now been "narrowed" down to a shortlist of 100 projects.

The entries for the Impumelelo Innovations Award reflect community priorities and are dominated by projects dealing with job creation education, health and crime fighting among others according to the programme's director, Rhoda Kadahle.

The aim of the programme is to recognise public service delivery by rewarding innovative poverty reduction projects.

Kadahle said the projects had to involve government projects (national, provincial or local) but they could also include those run in partnership with NGOs and the private sector.

In fact, a rough calculation shows 67 of the entries are administered by government and 95 by NGOs or the private sector.

The category of entries reveal a wide cross section of projects. They include five for the aged with children and homeless having four entries and

nine for the agricultural sector Community development projects boast 14 entries, criminal justice has 22 and curriculum development four. Other entries include an array of projects concerning disability education/pre-school, environment, finance, health, AIDS, housing, job creation, land restitution and development literacy skills development and water.

The government departments also reveal a wide cross-section of entries like agriculture, correctional services, defence, education, finance, trade and industry.

Impumelelo, which is the sixXhosa and Zulu word for success through working together, was launched in June at a function addressed by Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel.

At the awards ceremony on December 8 in Parliament, 10 awards of R60 000 each and five of R20 000 will be given.

Most of the projects — 46 of them — came from Gauteng, while the Western Cape follows with 34 and 31 from Kwazulu Natal. There were also 24 from the Eastern Cape and 17 entries from the Free State while Mpumalanga, North West and the Northern Cape each posted four entries. The Northern Province has chalked up 10 projects for the award.

The 100 shortlisted projects range from the Stepping Stones One Stop

Youth Justice Centre in the Eastern Cape, to the Bekkersdal Flagship job creation programme in Beaufort West, to the Mapila Hydroponics Community Co-op in the Northern Province.

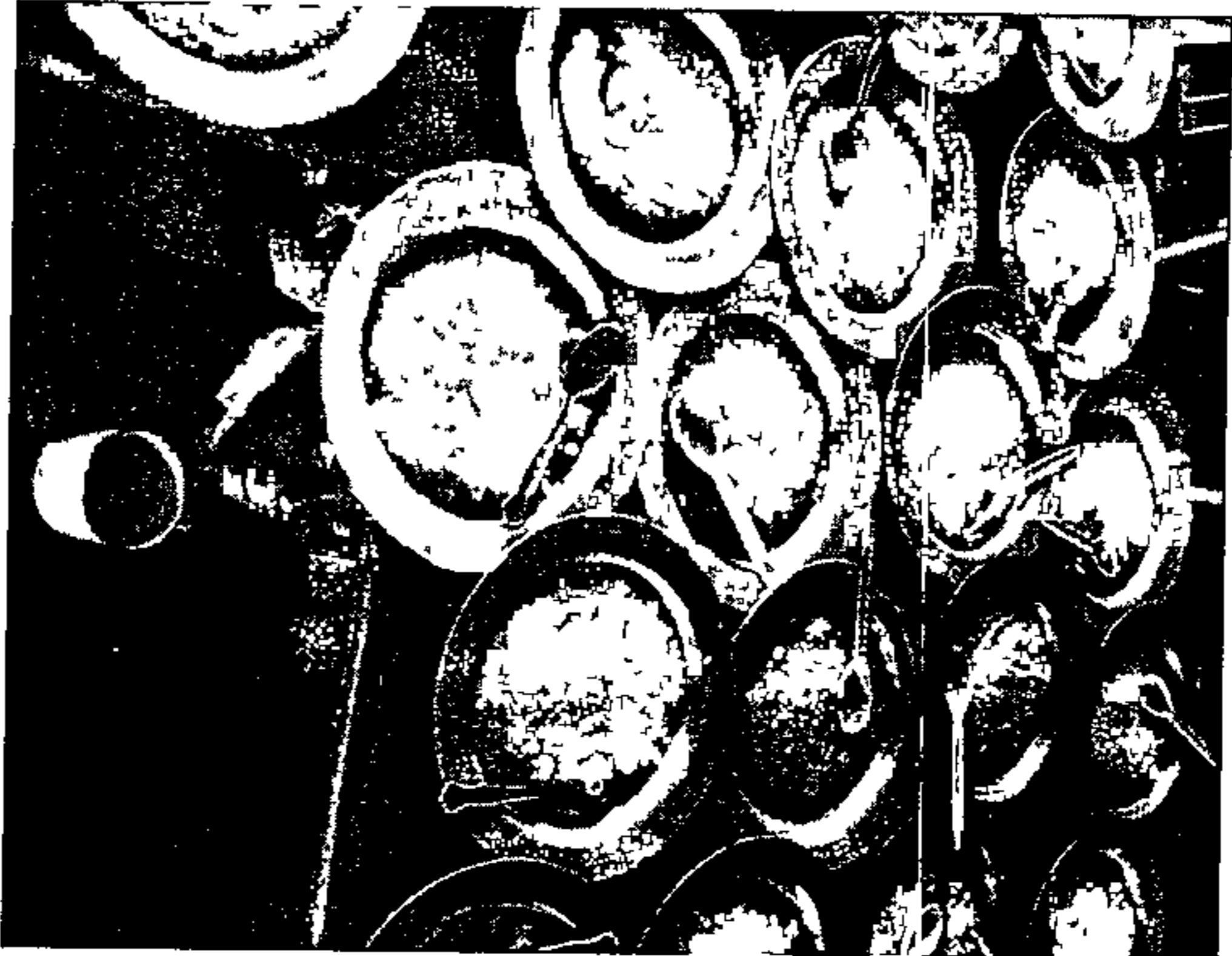
The Stepping Stones project, for instance, in a former coloured area in Port Elizabeth consists of a police station, youth court and counselling services in one location. It aims to confront the problem of "youth at risk" by diverting delinquent youth from prison. If possible and court selling them. Courts are open at weekends and social workers are on call 24 hours a day.

The Mapila Community Co-operative was started by a diesel mechanic in the Vanda region, who persuaded landholders in his community to consolidate their land to start an intensive farming project which provides jobs and income to villagers, mainly women.

The initiator, Mavhungu Mukwevho did not just start a simple food garden but introduced advanced cultivation methods (hydroponics) producing strawberries for export and vegetables for local markets including sales to Woolworths.

Says Kadahle: "Across the country the nature of innovative government funded community projects reflects the massive challenges facing South Africa's poor. It is heartening to know that the government is working together with ordinary South Africans to find creative solutions."

"The focus is particularly on the reduction of poverty in South Africa



Reaping the rewards. Programmes such as feeding schemes are in line for the Impumelelo awards. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE HILTON-BARBER

and on best practices that improve the quality of life of the poor. We seek to identify creative problem solving projects which exist in partnership with the government and to document broadcast and celebrate these projects in order to share elements of their success nationwide.

Impumelelo is based on similar programmes in the United States, Brazil and the Philippines and intends establishing an accessible data base of development programmes. It is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, the Netherlands government and the Human Sciences Research Council. The projects on the shortlist are currently being evaluated by developmental experts.

The awards will be the first Impumelelo has made.

Poverty the worst enemy

JUDY DAMON

FORMER president Nelson Mandela last night renewed the call for a national partnership to eradicate poverty and reconstruct society.

Delivering the annual lecture of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa at the University of the Western Cape, Mandela said South Africa remained a divided society — not in racial terms but between the rich and poor.

He described systematic and massive poverty as one of the most dangerous enemies of an open society.

"We are still one of the countries with the highest coefficients

indicating that difference between rich and poor

"The eradication of poverty must be the overall national priority

"A democratic government has been voted into office with the mandate to deliver a better life for all

"That simply and unequivocally means the mobilisation of all possible energies for poverty alleviation and eradication," he said

The former president said South Africa needed to nurture its intellectual infrastructure

"My basic argument has been for a broad national partnership for the reconstruction and development of our society

"This process must lead to substantive improvements in the material conditions of the poor

"It must ensure that we live in a society where fundamental freedoms and rights are respected and protected," he said.

The Open Society Foundation for South Africa was founded by the billionaire philanthropist George Soros in 1993

Soros believed that an open society was one based on the recognition that nobody had a monopoly on the truth, that different people had different views and interests, and that there was a need for institutions to protect the rights of all people to live together in peace.

CT 6/10/99

A way out of poverty

Bowman 20/10/99

SAMUEL Johnson wrote that "poverty destroys liberty" – a truth recognised in our Bill of Rights, and sadly evident throughout South Africa after five years of nominal freedom

More than half of South Africa's people live on less than R12 a day. During Parliament's constituency week, I visited some of the most destitute communities to see for myself

It soon became clear that an effective strategy to beat poverty requires two things from the state

- Sustainable social services to cover survival needs – water, sewerage, housing, health care and security, and

- The liberty to uplift oneself – allowing people to draw themselves out of deprivation through education and in an environment of economic freedom

It was immensely frustrating to witness failure on both counts everywhere I went. Yet the enterprising attitude of people – many living in the most dire circumstances – was the inspiring and hopeful sign I saw

The difference between initial delivery and sustainability of projects is glaringly obvious in rural KwaZulu-Natal. An elderly woman there told me how she walks about five kilometres every day to a river near Keat's Drift, Msinga, to fetch water

After two years not one of the water pumps installed by the Government is still working. This was not the success story of delivery the Government Communication and Information System told us about

But nor was it the worst problem facing the people of Keat's Drift. Two years ago there was a shoe-making factory in the area, which employed about 700 locals. The community of about 20 000 was poor but marginally self-sufficient, largely due to the factory

After a protracted strike organised by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the factory closed down. The empty, locked-up factory stands in grim reproach to current labour practices encouraged by our Government

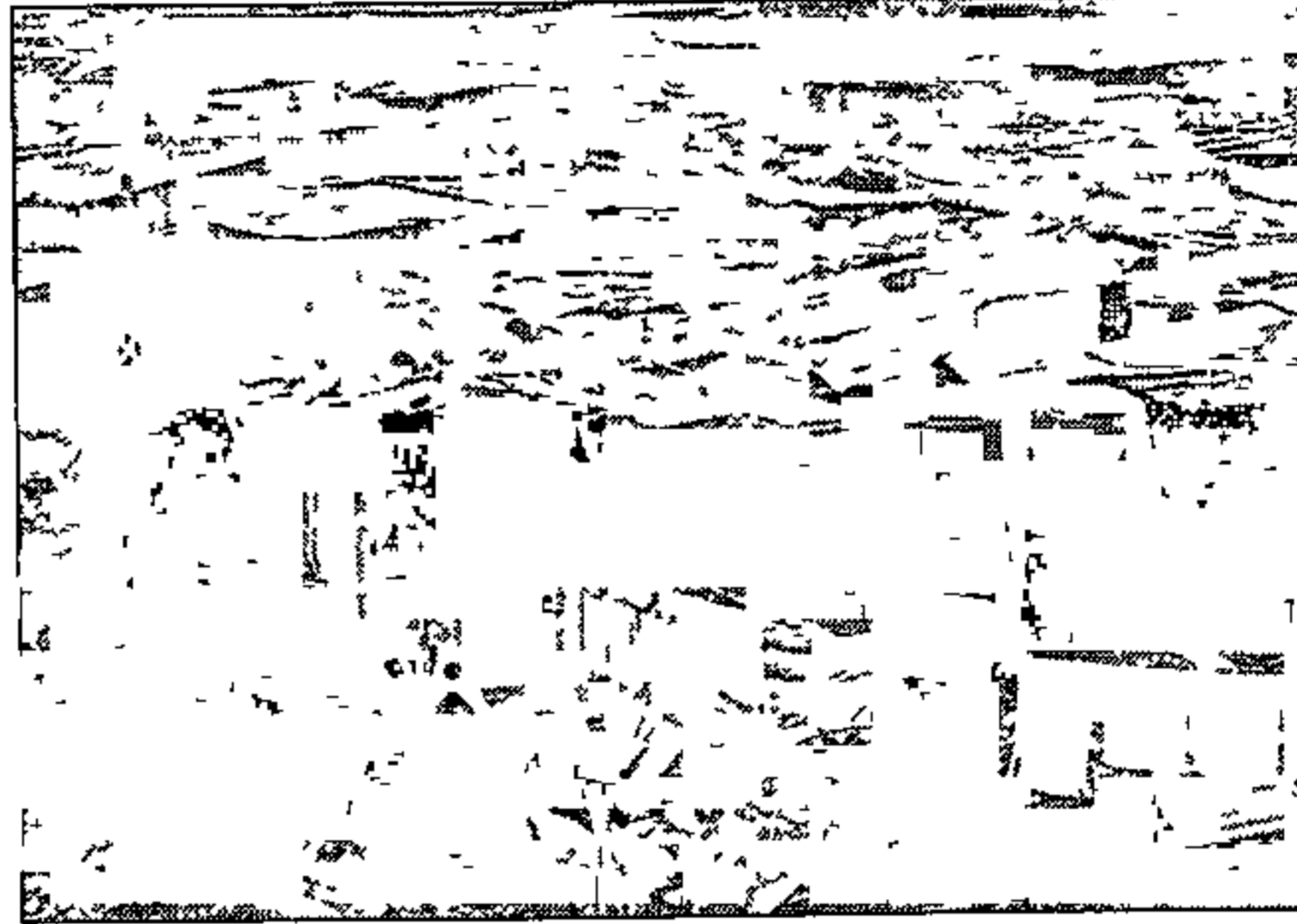
There is also no police station in Msinga, while locals estimate that at least three to four people are murdered each month. Unemployment and crime are the twin evils that beset every place where there is poverty in South Africa. This was so in the second place visited, in the Eastern Cape

At Buffalo Flats, outside East London, Elize Wade cares for 20 to 30 abused and neglected children on a small state grant and her husband's wages as a security guard. She told me of a knock on her door recently, which revealed a four-year-old girl, carrying her clothes in a bag, who said she couldn't live with her stepfather anymore

Other children welcomed us with a song at

The Government is not fulfilling its primary function, which is to safeguard the lives of its citizens, contends **Tony Leon**

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Alexander township ... freedom, but not from poverty. The state must do more says DP leader Tony Leon

the Isaiah 58 shelter in Pefferville. This home survives on a tiny and erratically delivered grant. Welfare grants and subsidies sustain thousands of people in Eastern Cape, where unemployment is 49 percent. But these payouts are unsustainable

For example, the suspension of disability grants in the last two years has devastated the lives of many in this province. I met one such man at The Workbench in Buffalo Flats – an employment project for disabled people. He earns R7 a week.

Clearly disabled, he has been declared "fit for work" by the welfare department and taken off the grant register. This is in a province which has 16 000 supernumerary bureaucrats paid to do nothing. Almost one in five employed people here is a public servant

The Government has chosen to reduce the budget by cutting aid to the weak and the marginalised – not because it is right, but because it is easier than confronting public service unions

Government should be commended and encouraged for trying to clear our disability and pension rolls of "welfare cheats". But it is the implementation of this laudable policy – and the failure to get private sector companies to drive it – which is compounding the misery of the marginalised

Skills and business opportunities are the only sustainable route out of poverty. In Western Cape it was encouraging to visit Zanele Centre, which trains people and directs them towards employment, particularly in enterprises sup-

porting tourism

At a more primary level, Western Cape MEC Helen Zille took me back to school to see two needy cases: Klipfontein Methodist Primary School and the Noluthando School for the Deaf in Khayelitsha

At 75 pupils a class, teachers at Klipfontein Primary reported that teaching is almost impossible. Based on a needs assessment, Zille's provincial department will now allocate roughly eight times the funding to this school than to the most privileged school in the province

And while the rest of the Government blows money where it shouldn't, its primary function is neglected to safeguard the lives of its citizens

Nowhere was this more apparent than in Mitchells Plain, where the community has formed neighbourhood watches to supplement the one police station that is meant to protect 1,2 million people from gang warfare and domestic violence

Finally, I went to Danville – a "poor white" area near Pretoria. If President Thabo Mbeki had been with me, he may have been forced to admit that his thesis of two nations – one rich and white, the other black and poor – is certainly a fallacy. The truth of the matter is that poor people are poor, they are not stupid and they are not in today's South Africa necessarily just black. And they do not need to be told what is good for them, they simply need to be given some basic assistance to get on and ahead with their lives. Perhaps the biggest slur inflicted on liberalism and its modern-day adherents is to suggest that somehow we are insensitive to the plight of those struggling in poverty or that we are indifferent to its consequences

In truth, we simply don't believe that the Government has the answer to every problem, or that employing civil servants is the solution to grinding poverty

On the contrary, my recent trip around the poorest communities in South Africa has convinced me that the opposite is often the case

(The writer is a Member of Parliament and leader of the Democratic Party)

SA's poor are getting poorer all the time

CP Correspondent

AN INCOME redistribution from whites to blacks has taken place between 1991 and 1996. But the gap between rich and poor has also grown.

And the bad news is that the gap between rich and poor will grow even more. These are some of the findings in a research report on income redistribution between population groups and households between 1991 and 1996.

The research was done by Andrew Whiteford and Dirk van Seventer, economists with the Pretoria-based Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates in Southern Africa (WEFA).

It points towards a major change in the race composition of rich and poor.

In 1996, black households comprised 22 percent of the richest 10 percent of South African households - a significant leap from the two percent in 1975.

In contrast to this, the share of white households in this category dropped from 95 percent in 1975 to 65 percent in 1996.

More black households were part of the 10 percent of the richest households in the country than white households.

Although the income share of the 10 percent richest households in the country has increased only marginally (from 52,3 percent in 1991 to 53 percent in 1996), the income share of the "poorest" 40 percent of SA households has decreased even

further, from 3,8 percent to 3,4 percent.

Thus, the gap between rich and poor has grown.

An analysis of the increased unequal distribution of income in 1996 shows that the unequal distribution within the different population groups is mainly responsible for the racial divide.

The income of the poorest 40 percent of black households has declined by an average of 21 percent, while the income of the richest 10 percent of black households has increased by 17 percent.

The reason for this is that more blacks are employed in job categories where high skills levels are required.

More than 90 percent of the income growth among blacks, coloureds and Indians is the result of economic growth, the study said.

Less than 10 percent is the result of a redistribution of income from whites to blacks.

It is significant that this redistributed income was taken from 80 percent of the poorest whites.

The richest blacks received 40 percent of this redistributed income.

Whiteford and Van Seventer say the changes in the distribution of income was mainly brought about by the poor performance of the economy and job opportunities that were lost.

The redistribution from whites to blacks was caused mainly by the declin-

ing employment of whites in the formal sector.

Whites were the worst hit by job losses in the formal sector between 1991 and 1996.

Asians were the only population group that showed an increase in the rate of employment.

A study by the Human Sciences Research Council has shown that the income gap is set to widen.

The study, *Skills needs of the SA Labour Market: 1998 - 2003*, indicates that the employment rate of highly skilled workers will strongly increase over this period.

The employment rate in the semi- and unskilled categories will decline.

The effect of this will be that the unemployment rate will increase from 36,3 percent in 1998 to 41,7 percent in 2003.

This means that the number of jobless people will grow from 1,5 million to 6,7 million in the next four years.

Whiteford cited poor co-ordination between labour and trade policies as one of the reasons for unemployment.

On the one hand the government reduced import duties, which exposed local businesses to bigger competition from cheaper imported goods.

On the other hand the prices of local products went up.

The report also said SA's labour legislation had forced employers to lay off people in order to remain competitive.

CP 5/9/99

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Poverty 'forces' gangs into crime'

By Saint Molakeng

ANGSTERS don't just commit crimes for the hell of it, but are forced by poverty to terrorise their communities, two former gangsters from Westbury in Johannesburg have confessed

"We were not born into gangsterism. Having little or no money channelled us into gangsterism," said 39-year-old Mr Peter Faver, who until January belonged to the Fast Guns gang

"Our parents brought us up in the best way but insufficient funds drove us to gangsterism"

Faver explained that "a person who is hungry can't be told to have faith only" when he, like himself, had quit standing debts

He then confessed that gangsterism was a "lucrative" business

"As gangsters we had money, drove smart cars and had the best girlfriends," Faver said

He added that children did not need such role models as they ended up idolising them, dropping out of schools and joining gangs

"But gangsterism is hell that does not pay as we had to walk around in groups of 10 because we never knew who would attack us," Faver told *Sowetan*

He said that it was only after meeting with Pastor Freddie Edwards of the Jesus Celebration Centre (JCC) that God came into his life

"By serving God, I have seen miracles. You can now feel the peaceful atmosphere that exists in Westbury,"

Faver said

"By speaking to gang members, we are planting seeds of peace in the spiritual realm"

Faver said he did not miss the fast life. He was proud that he had become a proper role model for his four children

Another erstwhile gangster, Mr Kenneth Morgan, said that he was never proud of robbing people and depriving his victims' families of a livelihood

Now he is proud to be part of the JCC's empowerment programme.

"I had never spoken to businessmen before

"Now I have many (business) questions," Morgan said with a smile. He added that he wanted to create "legal jobs for our people"

Sowetan 2/8/99

Winter agony of city poor

Southern 10/6/99

(241)

By Charity Bhengu

THE only shelter from the biting cold for about 80 poverty-stricken families in downtown Johannesburg is a dilapidated building, which looks as if it is ready to collapse at any moment.

Despite its broken windows and gaping roof, the building suits their immediate needs — they do not have to worry about paying rent or services. With only the clothes on their backs, they move on when the need arises.

Many of the people come from as far as the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Province in search of employment. They have lived in cardboard shacks in the building for the past four years.

They survive by selling cardboard boxes for R5 a sack. They still manage to smile — but the dry lips and the tears of their children tell a different story.

When *Sowetan* arrived at the building, we were greeted by thick smoke coming from the building. Fires were burning in the shacks and young girls were cooking porridge for breakfast.

Mothers were preoccupied, packing cardboard boxes to sell. The fathers were out looking for jobs. But it is their children who suffer most from this overwhelming poverty.

Many are under the age of five. They sit around an open fire, wrapped up in old blankets. Some are playing hide and seek, using the lined-up sacks as cover.

Six-month-old Bongani is among the children still waiting

for their first meal of the day. The path leading into the shack where he lives is dirty and muddy. Negotiating the way in the dark building is not easy.

Bongani lives with his mother Nomisa Mthethwa in a room barely four square metres. She offered the *Sowetan* team empty containers to sit on.

It was warm inside but the thick smoke made us cough and we squinted to see clearly.

Bongani, playing on his mother's lap, seemed unaware of his surroundings. He was inadequately dressed for the cold winter morning in a Jersey and nothing else.

Mthethwa said: "The fire is our only source of warmth. I have only one blanket and the baby does not have warm clothes."

That is not all — sometimes she goes without food.

She is still breastfeeding Bongani but this will change when he is older.

If Mthethwa does not get a job soon,

her child will also suffer from malnutrition like the other children in the building.

Mthethwa, from the East Rand, used to travel to Johannesburg every day in search of work. When her transport money ran out, she joined other women living on the streets. Every morning she went looking for work with no luck.

Later she fell pregnant with Bongani. His father is also unemployed. That is how she ended up in downtown Johannesburg, living among garbage and with no proper sanitation.

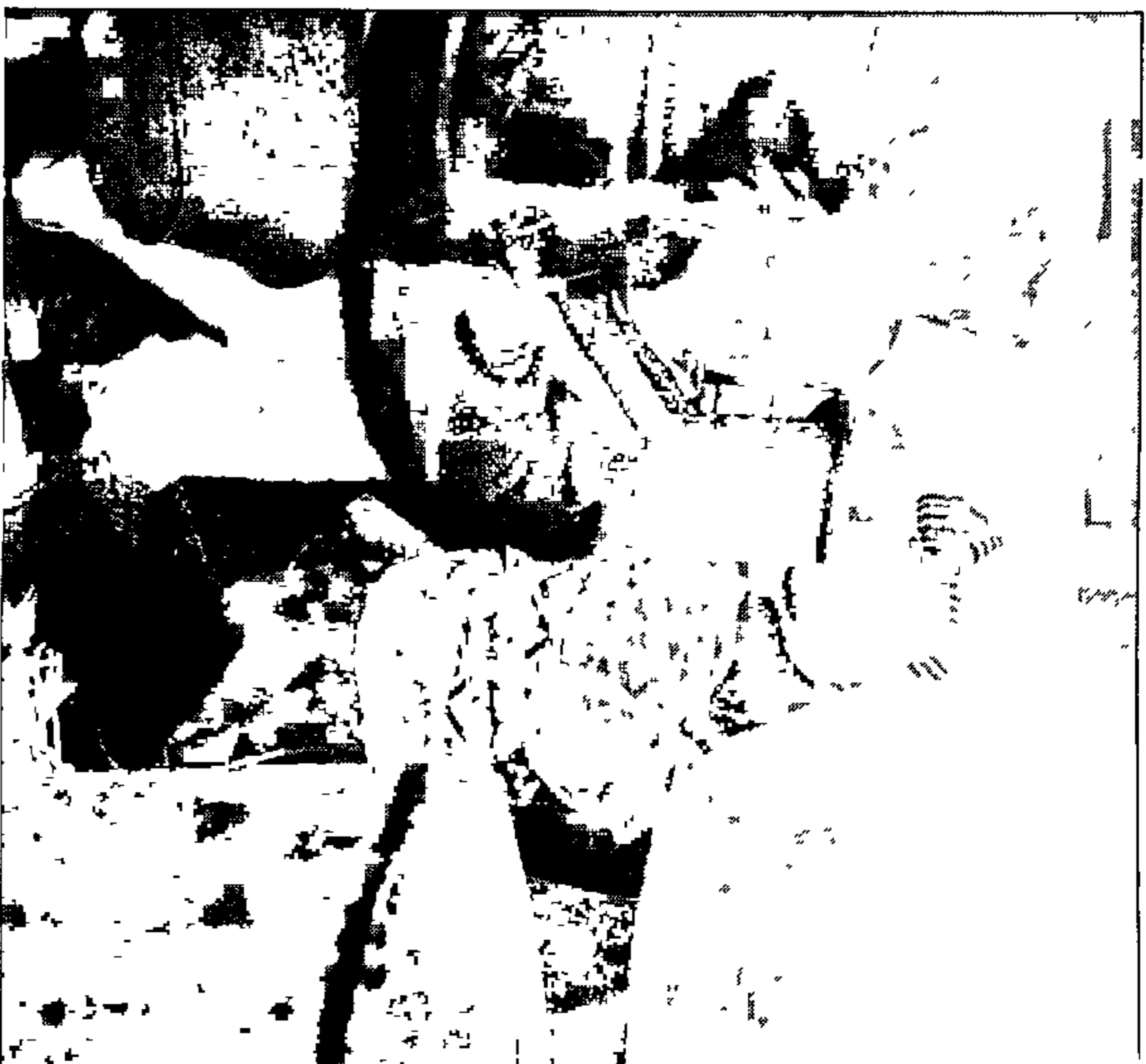
The South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare says such unhealthy living conditions are a major cause of illness and early death among children.

The council says many children under five in South Africa do not have access to clean water, nutritious food, proper housing or adequate health facilities.

Children make up half of the country's population, and more than 50 percent of them suffer from poor nutrition and inadequate health.

Says Lynette Schreuder of the council: "With 53 percent of our population living below the R301 a month poverty line, many families cannot provide proper shelter or sufficient food for its members."

This is why the infant mortality rate in South Africa has increased to four times higher than that of countries with comparable economies. Of the 1,2 million children born annually in South Africa, about 85 000 die



Children playing near a pile of garbage in a building in downtown Johannesburg.

PIC ANTONIO MUCHAVE

before their fifth birthday.

"Unhealthy living conditions are one of the factors causing illness and death among children," says Schreuder. About 36 percent of child deaths are due to diarrhoea and acute respiratory diseases that are preventable.

"Lack of clean water, for example, causes intestinal infections and this accounted for 19,5 percent of all deaths in the 0-5 year population group in 1998 according to the *Southern African Journal of Public Health*."

The journal also says "household food security" is a major problem in South Africa.

And for the poor and their children, in both rural and urban areas, household food security is extremely

precarious," says Schreuder.

She says poor families cannot get sufficient food contributing to health problems and even the death of children. About 23 percent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition or stunting.

Lack of proper sanitation also has significant implications for the spread of diseases.

About 28 percent of urban households, mostly in informal settlements, and more than 80 percent of poor people in rural areas, have no access to flush toilets.

Says Schreuder: "This is a crisis and a silent and invisible emergency, with profound implications for children and their future."

Children in the age group 0 - 5 exposed to poverty in 1998:

Province	Number of children	% living in poverty
Western Cape	412 325	22,2
Eastern Cape	995 230	70,2
Free State	365 105	57,1
Northern Cape	94 895	52,4
KwaZulu-Natal	1 288 300	55,9
Mpumalanga	470 475	52,1
Northern Province	988 850	74,1
North West	550 400	49,2
Gauteng	681 020	24,4

Source: Social Work Practise

SA Skids Down UN Index

Reneé Grawitzky

THE sharp reduction in life expectancy caused by HIV and AIDS has knocked SA 12 slots down the United Nations (UN) human development index ranking to 101st out of 174 countries.

The UN development programme (UNDP), which released its 1999 human development report yesterday, found that although SA's overall ranking declined, performance improved in almost all areas bar life expectancy. It estimated that 51% of South Africans were not expected to live to 60, compared with 11% of those living in industrialised countries and an average of 28% for all developing countries.

The report analyses changes in the human development index, which ranks 174 countries in terms of life

AIDS knocks place on human development scale to 101 — behind Libya

RD 17/7/99

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expectancy, education and income. The UNDP cautioned that due to changes in methodology, it was difficult to compare this year's and last year's rankings. However, changes emphasised the effect on SA, as on Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa of rapidly declining life expectancy resulting from the impact of HIV and AIDS.

Among African nations, only Libya is ranked ahead of SA, which falls immediately behind Albania, but ahead of Indonesia, India, Azerbaijan and most African countries, including Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria. This year's report focuses on the

negative effects of globalisation and proposed mechanisms to bring "globalisation back on track" and "to make globalisation work for people".

It shows widening disparities between developing and developed countries as well as the growing gap between rich and poor. A fifth of the world's people living in the highest-income countries have 86% of the world's gross domestic product.

The report calls for measures to restructure and ensure greater accountability of international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), and to ensure developing coun-

tries have a more effective voice in the WTO. It also proposes that developing countries adopt regional frameworks covering minimum labour and environmental standards to help ensure protection "against the undermining influence of global competition".

It also calls for a "global forum" to bring together multinational corporations, trade unions, nongovernmental organisations and governments which will give "rich and poor people a louder voice in global decision-making".

The report says the WTO's mandate must be expanded to give it anti-monopoly functions over the activities of multinational corporations, as they

dominate world trade

The UNDP insisted yesterday that the report — which backed IMF moves to sell gold reserves to finance debt relief for poor countries — was not an attempt to oppose globalisation or Breton Woods policies. Its focus was to ensure that the benefits derived from globalisation were shared equitably.

SA Reserve Bank deputy governor, Tim Thahane said the report was critical in focusing attention not only on the cost of HIV and AIDS but also on how the country could harness technology to ensure the majority benefited.

The report placed Canada, for the sixth consecutive year, top of the index and Sierra Leone last

Minister of Welfare and Population Development Dr Zola Skweyva has the daunting task of improving the lives of the poor and redressing imbalances of the past, writes Chantty Bhengu

The Department of Welfare and Population Development made significant efforts to turn the tide of poverty during the past five years. Its successes cannot be underestimated.

However, although the department has made great strides in improving the lives of the poor and correcting imbalances of the past, its efforts were often concentrated on urban areas.

The struggle to free thousands of people in rural areas from their poverty will therefore continue during new Minister of Welfare and Population Development Dr Zola Skweyva's term.

He is no stranger to welfare issues. His involvement in the constitutional committee of the African National Congress, as well as in gender issues and children's rights while in exile, attest to this.

In an interview at his Pretoria office this week, Skweyva admitted "This is a daunting task for me as this time I am not dealing with lawyers", but with sensitive issues intimately linked to basic human needs.

However, with the good foundation laid by former welfare minister General-Fraser-Moleketi, he is ready to accelerate the pace of "the agenda of welfare reforms the Government has pursued for the past five years".

Skweyva recognises that the department has not been able to do well in rural areas but says "We are going to improve and speed up service delivery in the rural areas with part of the R18,768 billion of the national and provincial budget allocated for 1999-2000".

As he comes from a poverty-stricken background, the minister says "I know what I am talking about."

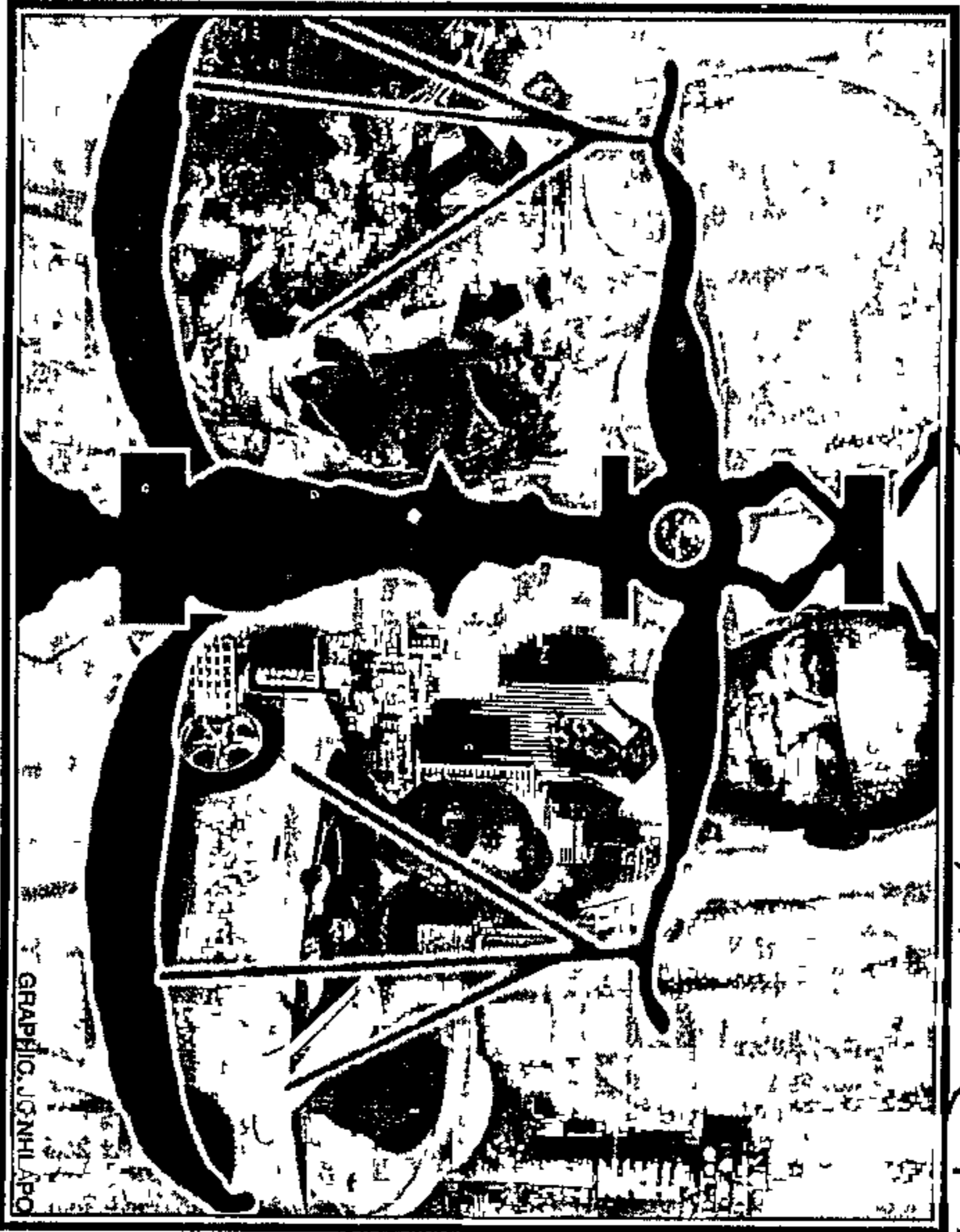
After only a month in office Skweyva has already spoken to various bodies in Western Cape and Gauteng to familiarise himself with the issues at hand and to seek support for his plans.

Almost everybody complained about service delivery not reaching the rural areas, he says.

He plans to visit Eastern Cape, Northern Province and KwaZulu-Natal - the country's poorest provinces - during the next two months. The bulk of the department's poverty alleviation funds are spent in these provinces. Skweyva is mindful of the need to

Turning the tide of poverty

Sowetan 28/7/99 (241) (297)



involve non-governmental organisations and other organs of civil society in the process of devising ways to reach everybody to ensure progress, especially in the rural areas.

To guarantee advancement, he says, it is necessary to have a department that is stable and has the capacity to champion transformation.

In pursuit of these goals, the minister will talk to departmental heads to understand the staff and management he will be working with.

He admits that the department has not been stable since 1994 - at least four director-generals and 17 top officials have left their posts since they were appointed.

However, Skweyva is convinced that most left because they could not live up to the demands of their jobs and lacked the skills expected by the department.

Taking into account that many people in the department were employed on the basis that they were social workers, he says "In my opinion, I doubt whether we need social workers here. They should be out doing fieldwork."

The department needs people with good welfare economics and development planning skills to ensure the department's poverty alleviation focus is effective, says Skweyva. "I have approached different donors

- from Britain, Sweden and Germany and the World Bank - to assist us in training our staff."

The minister is still consulting his management to identify the training the staff currently lacks.

"We should be able to find a way of working together to disperse the budget wisely so that a culture of caring takes root in our work."

Training is a key part of the department's plans this year. "It is through that process that we will know exactly what we need to do to ensure that our clients get the necessary services."

Capacity-building programmes for middle and senior managers planned for this year will provide a stepping

stone towards the development of a holistic human resource development strategy for the welfare sector.

The department was allocated R203 million as part of the Government's poverty relief fund for the 1998-1999 financial year.

So far R80 million has been dispersed to 2 015 projects in all provinces, the main target being income-generating projects involving women and children in rural areas.

"I don't know yet how that money was dispersed, who it reached and what impact it had in the communities," says Skweyva.

"The Independent Development Trust disperses the poverty alleviation budget on behalf of the department."

He is confident that a welfare financing policy which is being phased in over five years from April 1, will correct the imbalances of the past, in particular to ensure access to government resources for rural communities.

It will be implemented in tandem with programmes for monitoring and capacity building.

Village projects are being introduced in Eastern Cape and Free State as part of the Rural Development Programme. These will cover the entire spectrum of development needs, especially those of vulnerable groups like women, children, older people and people with disabilities.

The minister believes an integrated approach to poverty alleviation with other departments will make a significant impact on people's lives.

Such an approach will help solve the problem of overcrowding in the cities by unemployed migrant workers, homelessness and help to reduce crime in urban areas.

By the end of his five-year term, Skweyva hopes his leadership will have made a positive impact on welfare delivery for millions of South Africans.

His vision includes maximising self-sufficiency for the economic liberation of the poor and halting the trend of "the feminisation of poverty," he says.

Poverty alleviation vital for regional security — Selebi

Stephen Lauffer (27/11/99)

POVERTY alleviation and the closing of income gaps between the "haves" and the "have nots" lie at the heart of sustainable human security, which is a key aspect of overall peace and stability in southern Africa, foreign affairs director-general Jackie Selebi said yesterday.

At a seminar on the regional challenge for the SA Army, Selebi said a failure to address pervasive poverty, underdevelopment, ethnic strife, enforced population movements and environmental degradation would make the long-term security of national states in southern Africa unattainable. The collective security of the region could be achieved only if viable, open, democratic and outward-looking states were the norm.

Besides securing national borders and internal law and order, states in southern

Africa must "create and deepen democratic practices and respect for universal human rights and freedoms". Promoting the welfare of their citizens, they "must create enabling environments for the attainment of economic development and trade and exchange with the outside world".

The region had consistently seen the absence of conflict and the attainment of economic justice and social harmony as "one big indivisible challenge". The Southern African Development Community free trade treaty, due to come into force early next year, would give a boost to the quest for economic prosperity, helping to ensure the region's integration into the world economy. Warning against delusions, Selebi said the region's security challenges were "many and complex". There were no quick fixes and

Congo continued to give cause for concern SA and other countries in the region could not isolate themselves from the crises in those countries but had to assist in creating peaceful and stable conditions as an element of their own national wellbeing.

SA's policy in southern Africa was not the result of mere enlightenment or pragmatism, but sprang from recognition of the fact that "our destiny as a nation is irrevocably tied with the destiny of our region and Africa at large". Selebi said "if they win, we win — if they fail, we fail".

Peacemaking in the region was "an arduous and long process", Selebi said.

SA had consistently emphasised not just the military dimensions of conflicts, "the result of which may be to forever rush in armies", but sought to deal with the political, social, cultural, and environmental issues behind conflicts.

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NEGLECTED WINTERVELDT

The poor, bound in red tape, show amazing resilience

Star 27/5/99

(241)

Thabo Mbeki has inherited a complicated, struggling constituency in need of jobs and houses

By Ryan Cresswell

Life in Winterveldt in the North West is not easy for another of four Evah Manguela - she sells sandwiches and sweets outside a school, but on a bad month her family have to survive on about R40.

Her husband, Stevens, is unemployed and can only add to the monthly survival fund when he gets a few days' labouring here and there.

"There is just no money here. We have some taps, but they are far away and there is no electricity. They said we would get water after the (last) elections," she said.

Winterveldt is a poorly served township about 40km outside Pretoria and was established in the former Gaborone, which later became

Bophuthatswana, as a labour pool for Pretoria and the surrounding areas.

The problems the Manguelas live with affect many of Winterveldt's approximately 200 000 residents, but there are a number of special things about the place.

The people are amazingly resilient and informal businesses are spread across the peri-urban township. They have also started many of their own self-help programmes that range from crime patrols to youth counselling.

There are many people from Mozambique and Zimbabwe here, and unlike in some areas, their industriousness and civic-mindedness is recognised.

It is also the allocated constituency of ANC president and South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and he has made at least four visits there

The people speak a mixture of Tswana, Shangan, Pedi, Zulu and languages from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This is an unusual combination in the North West.

Rural north and urban south divide

usual thing about the area is the fact that it is one of the few areas where land was purchased by black people before 1948 and registered in their names. Grandfathers still talk about buying land for the equivalent of R40. On the face of it, this is a bright spot of a bleak apartheid history, but it has caused a perplexing situation

The township is divided into a rural northern half and an urban southern half and there are complex tenure arrangements between plot owners and thousands of residents.

The southern half has some services, but in the north, called Klippan, development can't go ahead because residents do not have title deeds. This situation has, at least partially, tied the hands of Rand Water, Telkom and Eskom.

Rand Water initiated a multi-million rand pipe-laying scheme, but many of the pipes can't be connected to homes for legal reasons.

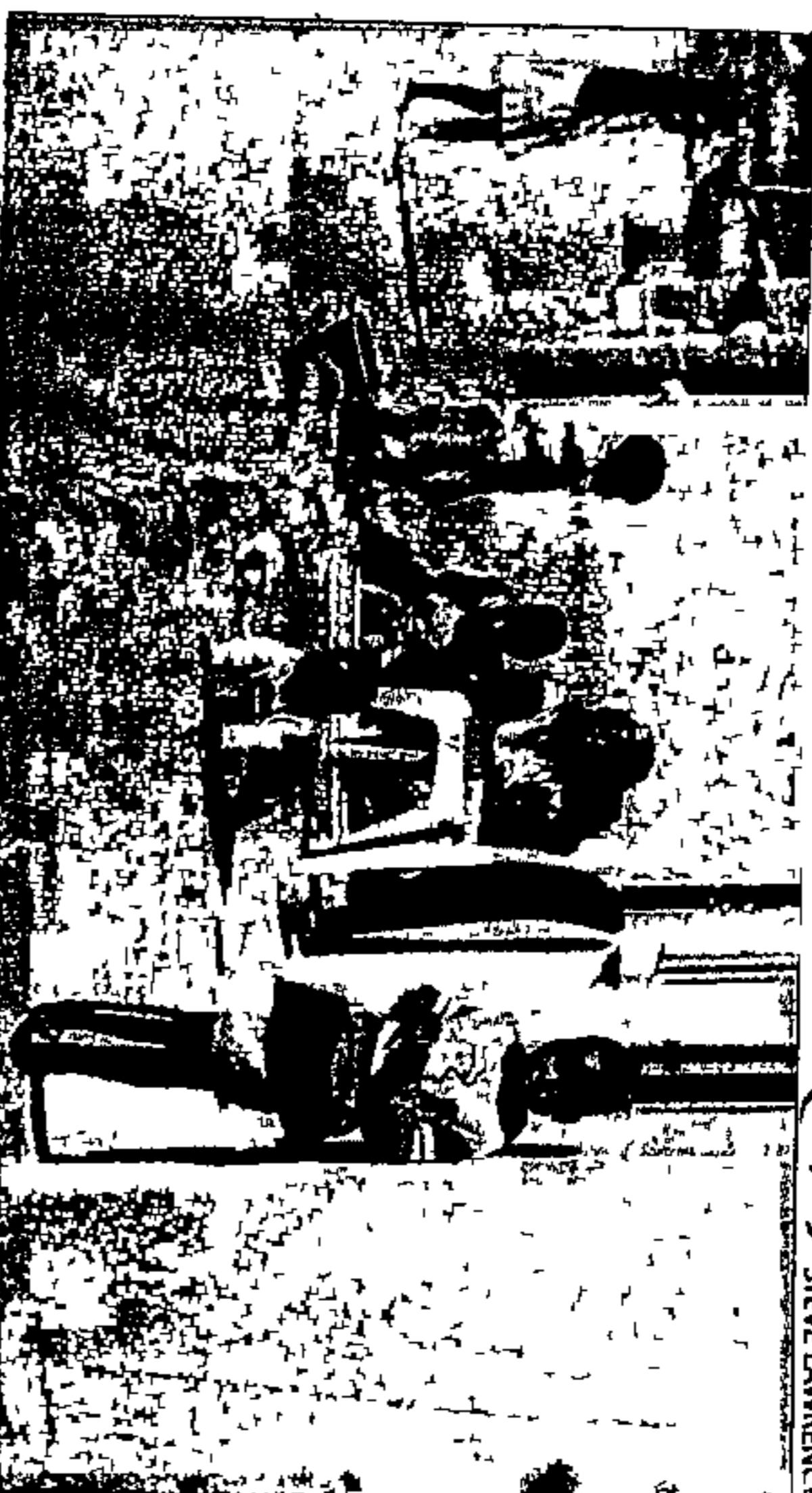
Things are better for schools in the area. Sanna Mahlangu, principal of Mahlwong primary school, said they now had taps and even a few telephones. A subsidised low-cost housing

scheme in an area called Slovoville is under way in the area, but there have been problems with placement and matters about "corruption".

ANC ward councillor Lazarus Makana said a new subsidised housing scheme would be initiated soon.

"Once the project gets of the ground Klippan residents will be asked to apply for housing. We have a development forum that meets every three months with community members. Last time we discouraged them from buying from owners unless they go through proper sub-division formalities," he said.

Makana also said negotiations were under way with plot owners. But William Maluleke, a senior member of the Plot Owners Association and a district organiser for the PAC, is sceptical



STEVE LAWRENCE

Makeshift crèche - a women looks after neighbourhood children while their parents work. He said tensions had developed between the council, plot owners and residents, and that some tenants had refused to pay rent

until they obtained facilities. Another problem facing politicians is that many people in the area feel they should be part of Gauteng, which is just

five kilometres away. Mbeki inherited one of the most complex constituencies in the country. The future of Winterveldt remains uncertain.

Why poverty's more than sums

Haroon Bhorat

One of the key dilemmas facing the government is to eradicate, or at least reduce, poverty. The first step is to understand which are the most affected groups. In the labour market there are three groups which together explain more than 80% of the poverty in South Africa. They are unemployed people, domestic workers and farmworkers.

Domestics and farmworkers may have jobs, but they are still living in poverty. While less than 4% of labourers in the mining and manufacturing sectors live in poverty, 38% of domestics are poor and 27% of farmworkers earn below the poverty line.

From a policy perspective, this means that labour market interventions aimed at poverty alleviation need to give credence to the fact that poverty exists not only among the unemployed, but also among narrowly (and indeed easily) defined sections of the employed.

Some commentators may argue that while these groups are very poor, they could be living in households that are not poor, that the collective income in a home they have access to will make them non-poor.

Statistics show, however, that this is patently untrue: the three poorest groups also come from the three poorest types of households in the country.

The statistics show that in the homes where

farmworkers live, more than 60% live in dire poverty. In the case of the unemployed and domestics, more than 40% of their homes are poor.

Knowing who most of the poor people are, in which homes they live and how much money each of these homes earns enables one to undertake a theoretical exercise giving each of these poor households enough money to place them above the poverty line.

For example, if a home is earning an income of R500 and the poverty line is about R900, then we would need to give that home R400 and it would no longer be poor.

If we use this approach, what would it cost, in theory, to eradicate most of the poverty in society?

In total, the number of poor homes which have domestics, unemployed people or farmworkers living in them amounts to just more than two million. The calculations show it would cost about R10-billion a year to place all these homes out of poverty. This translates into giving each of these poor homes an average of R3,300 a year.

How do we evaluate this amount? Is it inordinately large or surprisingly small? To put it in perspective, it represents about 6% of the government's total expenditure outlays.

The government spends about 20% of its budget on paying the interest on its debt, and about the same amount on education each year. This 6%, then, is a relatively low amount, and it would seem to indicate that the prob-

lem of poverty is easily solved.

Does this mean all that needs to happen is for the government to make provision for an income grant of this sort on an annual basis, and we could immediately talk of a poverty-free society? The answer is no.

As is the case with most theoretically appealing calculations, such a potential income grant throws up a whole host of obstacles.

The first difficulty is that the government will not find it easy to target the poorest of the poor effectively. Large wastage could occur through ineffective targeting, and while the money may get into the hands of poor homes, it won't reach the poorest of the poor.

Then there are the not insignificant administration costs that inevitably go with the setting up of such a scheme.

Thirdly, giving grants to indigent homes could result in an undesired outcome: individuals may cease work, or stop looking for work. Apart from the obvious moral issues here, such a withdrawal of labour would have serious negative economic consequences. One can imagine the growing drain on the state of such a scheme, as new entrants in the labour market refused to find jobs and rather relied on the state's income transfer.

What is clear, however, is that we can describe the nature and extent of poverty in South Africa quite simply and vividly. It is also evident that those individuals who are poor invariably live in homes that are indigent.

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A heavy load: Three groups in the labour market explain 80% of the poverty — the unemployed, domestic workers and farmworkers. PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

Finally, while the above calculations are simplistic and rather tell a story about the size of the problem than offer a tangible policy intervention, they suggest the government needs to think more energetically about social security and welfare provision for the poor.

Haroon Bhorat is a senior researcher in the development policy research unit at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town

Fighting poverty the key to real empowerment

Many initiatives have failed because they are based on race issues and not on economic need, says the Democratic Party's Ken Andrew

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SA UNDER African National Congress (ANC) rule shares similarities with the world Alice visited in *Through the Looking Glass*, where Humpty Dumpty said to her "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean"

"Empowerment" is one such word that has been used to mean different things to different people

The use by Nail directors of "black empowerment" to justify a scandalous attempt at self-enrichment to the value of R130m in shares is one recent example. A newspaper has commented that critics "from the left" say "the Nail fiasco proves their point that black empowerment is a euphemism for black enrichment of the very few"

While this article was clearly not referring to the Democratic Party (DP), we and the Congress of SA Trade Unions are, for once, on common ground in our appraisal of certain "empowerment" deals. We share a refusal to be distracted by the rhetoric of race from seeing the economic foundations of poverty in SA. The problem with many so-called empowerment initiatives is that they are formulated on the basis of race rather than economic need.

The DP believes in the economic empowerment of those who have been disadvantaged by the legacy of the past. Our economic policy recognises the existence of unacceptable wealth, income, opportunity and skills gaps in our society that need urgent attention.

While the DP believes that entrepreneurs of any colour should reap the rewards of their initiative, risk-taking and hard work, the objective of empowerment as such should not be to replace one elite with another of a different colour — which is the way the ANC's black empowerment strategy seems to be going.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's talk of the "two SAs" in which whites are rich and blacks are poor is a myth the ANC perpetuates for the convenience of its wealthier members and friends.

SA is currently witnessing the fairly rapid emergence of a new economic and financial elite, while the majority is being left behind in poverty.

There will be some people who are economically empowered, and even made very wealthy, by being able to participate in large corporate deals. Yet this is a very small minority. Unless we address poverty and unemployment, the divide based on race created in the old SA will simply be replaced by the divide of class in the new SA.

Genuine economic empowerment means providing opportunities and access to the skills and resources that people need to participate and benefit

as equals in the economy, and to take responsibility for their own lives and destinies.

For the vast majority of our people, economic empowerment will depend primarily on three things: These are appropriate education and training, job creation, and targeted assistance to small and very small enterprises.

Unfortunately, these are three critical areas where the ANC-led government has failed lamentably. Determination to dictate from the centre, an inability to prioritise properly, an unwillingness of the government to stand up to its allies representing the unionised elite, and misguided transformation policies have ensured that economic empowerment has remained a dream rather than becoming a reality for most South Africans.

It is for this reason that the DP will monitor closely the soon to be enacted National Empowerment Fund Act. The idea of the fund is to distribute some of the proceeds of the sale of public enterprises as shares to the poor, giving them a stake in the economy for the first time. The DP believes that this type of targeted action could work, and proposed a similar scheme at our federal congress in 1995.

The fatal flaw in the act, however, is that it defines those eligible for shares on the basis of race rather than economic need. Hence the fund could end up benefiting mainly a small elite.

The act also gives the trustees and managers of the fund very wide powers, but no direct accountability to Parliament. For a trust that is going to control billions of rands, it is dangerous that it is unaccountable to anyone other than the minister of trade and industry.

We cannot afford to be distracted from the task of addressing poverty. Nor can we afford to give away the proceeds of privatisation cheaply to a tiny elite who are doing very well for themselves thanks to the rhetoric of entitlement by virtue of their race.

We must not allow the National Empowerment Fund to be distorted into a tool for the further enrichment of ANC cronies. This would be a case of taking from the overburdened taxpayer to give, not to the poor, but to the new rich and the super-rich.

If the ANC took off its racial blinkers for a moment, it would see that joblessness and poverty go hand in hand, irrespective of your race classification under apartheid years ago.

The DP will return to Parliament after the election with its eyes wide open for signs of misuse of the word "empowerment".

□ Andrew is a Democratic Party MP

Our failure to end poverty is the real shame of the nation

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Don't blame the Constitution for the ills of society, veteran human rights lawyer GEORGE BIZOS tells students

YOU are among the first to have started your university education in the new South Africa to graduate. Being among the first of this era, you have some special responsibilities to our society.

Fundamental changes are taking place to improve the lives of all in South Africa. There are complaints that they are not coming quickly enough. Before we judge what is being done, let us examine where we have come from.

Our generation was too young to fight in World War Two, but old enough to understand and, perhaps naively, believe what we were told would be at the end of it — the lofty principles of the Atlantic Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the promises that all of us would live in a better world and an egalitarian society.

Instead, we got the Cold War, divisions between the rich and the poor, apartheid, racism, inequality and a tyrannical oligarchy for 46 years.

No more than a handful of blacks graduated with me in 1950 and only one in 1953.

We all know what happened in the '60s and '70s. Detention without trial, torture, trials, compulsion to give evidence against one's friends and relatives, bannings, conscription, police invasions of the campus and security police infiltration of the student movement were common. Student leaders were

targeted. Often it meant the end of their academic careers unless they continued on Robben Island. Death, imprisonment or exile was the possible consequence if you emerged as a student leader in Soweto or elsewhere — worse still if you were a leader of Cosas in the '80s.

These sacrifices were not made in vain. They were intended to liberate the people of South Africa and for all to enjoy the rights of citizenship under our democratic Constitution.

To those who tell us nothing has changed, let each one of you be a witness as to how different your student life has been from that of your older brothers and sisters. To assert that nothing or very little has changed shows disrespect for their heroic contribution to the freedom struggle.

Our Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly, elected in fair and free elections. The 11 Constitutional Court judges were unanimous that it complied with the 34 democratic principles agreed to at Codesa. Its Bill of Rights and structures to support democracy were almost universally acclaimed.

The Chief Justice has described a constitution as "a mirror reflecting the national soul, the identification of the ideals and aspirations of a nation, the articulation of the values bonding its people and disciplining its government".

Elements within the country

— in their public pronouncements, election posters, T-shirt slogans and some of the media supporting them — blame all the wrongs, actual or perceived, on the Constitution. Bring back the death penalty, reintroduce corporal punishment, abolish the right to bail and the right to remain silent, remove judicial discretion on sentencing, make provision for the amputation of limbs.

To introduce any of these changes, at least a two-thirds majority in Parliament would be required. Those calling for them are the very people who warn how dangerous it would be for the ruling party to obtain a two-thirds majority in the forthcoming elections.

There are inherent dangers in blaming the Constitution and seeking to water down our rights. They may not be there to protect us when we may be in need of their protection.

Another matter of concern are the criticisms of the judiciary as a whole — often expressed without adequate knowledge of the issues involved, the evidence led, the provisions of the law relating to the matter and, at times, without bothering to read the judgement. No useful purpose can be served by dwelling on the performance of the judicial function during the apartheid years on this occasion. Many of the judges could have tried to do better than they did.

But we must acknowledge

that we owe much to those of them who kept alive the principles of freedom and justice and the protection of some fundamental rights. This group of judges established a legacy that helped us to reach a political settlement, avoid a civil war, adopt a constitution and create structures to resolve the inevitable conflicts arising from our unjust, violent heritage.

There are grave dangers in attempts to bring the judiciary into disrepute and I would appeal to you to become active supporters of the Constitution, the judiciary and other structures established to support democracy here.

Don't blame the Constitution. Look for reasons for our problems elsewhere.

Most of our fellow citizens are poor. They are without proper housing, health care and schools. Many are without jobs. Even those who have them earn too little to support themselves and their families.

Poverty is inimical to democracy, to a relatively crime-free, well-ordered society. There is no shame in admitting there is poverty and an unjust distribution of wealth and the granting of honours amongst us. The real shame is and will continue to be our failure to take steps to put an end to both poverty and substantial inequality.

● *This is an edited version of a speech Bizos delivered this week at Wits, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate.*