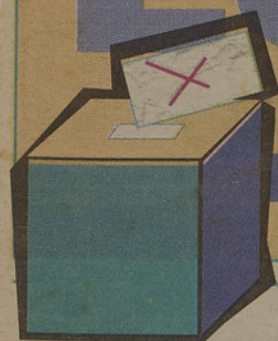


LOCAL Elections '95



Information Survey in The Star, The Pretoria News, Sowetan, Sunday Tribune, Ilanga and Weekend Argus

ADVERTISING: GABBY GILDEA. EDITORIAL: PAULA FRAY, CHARMEELA BHAGOWAT AND BONGIWE MLANGENI

Make your mark and give clout to your voice

Register now

Response to the registration campaign for the October Local Government Elections was "disappointing" with only about 10% of the country's 23 million potential voters signing up, according to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs, Roelf Meyer.

At the halfway mark to the April 28 registration deadline, Meyer said he was concerned about the low turnout. In some provinces, he said, registration levels were as low as 2%.

Incentives

High-level discussions are under way to initiate incentives - including the possibility of a competition - to speed up the process.

In order to boost the process, Meyer said voters needed to be educated on the necessity for the elections.

"This should be done by all role players at local government level. Political and other parties, as well as prospective candidates, have a pivotal role to play in registering their supporters," said Meyer.

"Provincial and local government administrations and other role players must assist by supplying a sufficient number of registration forms and registration points," he said.

It was, he said, essential for potential voters to register: "People not registered on a voters roll will not be allowed to vote in the local government elections, since registration establishes the right to vote."

In terms of the election regulations, said Meyer, it was possible for the 90-day registration period to be extended with the approval or at the direction of a premier. However, this was not desirable as there were "very tight deadlines in the run-up to these elections".

Instead, Meyer urged that the available time be used optimally by all role players to ensure that as many voters as possible were registered before



Brightening local democracy ... a huge mural depicting the functions of local government was unveiled this week as part of the national advertising campaign to urge voters to register being run by Saatchi and Saatchi, Klerck and Barrett.

April 28.

"Transitional councils, candidates and parties should actively start registering voters, since it is not sufficient to merely say that the onus is on the voter to register."

To boost the process, role players could:

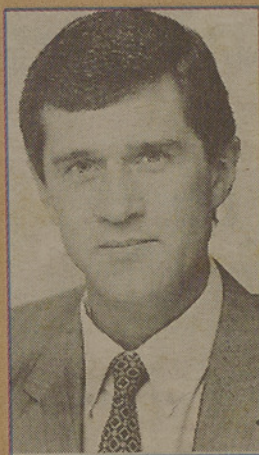
- Send people with local knowledge to do house-to-house or village-to-village registration in areas where the process was proceeding slowly.

- Gain the support of local business to ensure easy access to registration forms.

- Multiply the number of

NEWS FLASH

At the time of going to press a week ago, President Mandela announced the local government elections would be held on November 1. Reports in this supplement refer to the elections being pencilled in for October.



Roelf Meyer

Political and other parties, as well as prospective candidates have a pivotal role to play in registering their supporters.

registration points where voters can register on an ongoing basis. These points should be made more accessible to ordinary people by placing them at, among others, schools, clinics, sports fields, shopping malls and taxi ranks.

Discussions

Already, the Election Task Group has had discussions with the business sector and foreign representatives regarding incentive programmes such as competitions to encourage registration.

"Specific plans will be worked out once the nec-

essary funds are secured," said Meyer, giving the assurance that taxpayers' money would not be used for this purpose.

"It is the duty of taxpayers to register and their money cannot be used to encourage them to fulfil this obligation," he stressed.

Meyer said an amount of R38,4-million was approved from the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) fund for exclusive use in initiating the electoral process. Each province also received R500 000 for communication and voter education programmes to supplement the R42-million national programme.

Additional funds would be allocated from this year's budget, he said.

Contribution

"The emphasis is on the cost-effective management of the elections. Existing resources available from whatever source should be optimally utilised. All three tiers of government (local, regional and national) must make a contribution in this regard," said Meyer.

The planning of the elections and the registration process is being directed by the recently launched transitional structures. However, not all transitional structures are in place countrywide. Still, registration is proceeding in these areas as the Premier may authorise or direct another authority to prepare the voters' roll on their behalf.

At this stage, the Government appears to be working full steam in order to meet the October deadline.

However, Meyer said the Election Task Group had requested local governments - through the provinces - to prepare contingency plans to deal with their particular circumstances and problem areas.

"I trust, however, that all role players will do their planning in such a way that it will not be necessary to use them," said Meyer.



All-out effort to have IDs ready

In an effort to speed up the process between applying for and receiving identity documents, the Department of Home Affairs will issue a special temporary document to assist potential voters to register.

As the April 28 deadline for the registration of voters for the October local government elections approaches, the department also reported a dramatic jump in the number of identity document applications this year.

As a safeguard against fraud, the temporary document will be printed on special paper with built-in security features and will include a photograph, a date of birth and temporary identity number of the applicant.

Requirement

"Due to the fact that a substantial number of potential voters are not yet in possession of identity documents and because the process takes six weeks to complete, temporary documents to enable people to register as voters will be issued."

"As the presentation of an ID will remain a requirement for casting a vote, the number of this temporary document will also appear in the applicants ID for comparison against the number on the voters roll," said a department spokesman.

However, the department has also urged people to check whether or not the ID document already in their possession is not valid for the elections.

Uncollected

Existing identification documents — former TBVC states identity documents, TBVC travel documents, previous reference books, old green identity cards and old blue identity documents — are valid, it adds.

According to the Local Government Elections Task Group, about 2-million ID documents were lying uncollected at regional Home Affairs offices countrywide at the start of the registration period.

First-time applicants need a birth certificate, a copy of their marriage certificate (if any) and two black and white photographs. For the reissue of an identity document, applicants need two photographs and R3.

Secret to success REGISTER RIGHT!

International lessons indicate that the election process is most vulnerable at registration stage, says Cape Metropolitan elections transitional arrangement team member Robbie Mopp.

An imperfect voters roll may, at an early stage, threaten the entire process of conducting free and fair elections, he adds.

The voters roll in the process of being drawn up will be South Africa's first common voters roll and also the first comprehensive census, says Mopp.

There are, he adds, three fundamental purposes for registration:

■ To prevent voter fraud.

■ To enable all qualified people to vote.

■ To support other functions of the elections system by providing the numerical basis for determining the size and thus the number and location of voting stations, as well as a numerical basis for printing ballots or for allocating voting equipment to each voting station.

In order to complete an accurate registration of voters, it is essential that an achievable goal be set from the start to inspire, guide, monitor and evaluate the registration workers, says Mopp.

He says a number of concerns have been expressed about the election regulations including that the 90-day period set aside for registration closes at least 180 days before election day.

If the registration task is not completed in time, great numbers of voters could be disenfranchised: "It is a recipe for

conflict and chaos that will detract from the legitimacy of the process and local government structures.

"Alternative forms of registration could be utilised for the voters who are unregistered on the eve or the day of the election," says Mopp.

Large numbers of voters only become interested in the process once an election campaign starts: "Voters become interested to register and vote on the basis of vibrant candidates from their local area who would be seen to represent their interests through the campaign issues," says Mopp.

But, this process only kicks off three months before the election.

Mopp pinpoints key problems around the upcoming elections as the absence of a nation-wide public awareness and voter information campaign prior to the registration period and the fact that the onus to register has been placed with the voter.

His concerns are backed up by the Cape-based Project Vote which, on the eve of the 90-days' registration period, released research results which showed massive resistance to registration among potential voters;

confusion about local government structures and elections and discontent with the pace of change since last year's historic election.

Project Vote has extended its civic and voter education initiative to help prepare the country for the next phase of political transition — the democratic election of local government bodies.

"Voters will not be persuaded to participate this time by abstract notions of democracy and freedom; they want to see delivery on promises made and they want local faces they can hold accountable for improv-

ing their quality of life," says Project Vote director Father Michael Weeder.

The research showed that reasons for refusing to register varied but boiled down to confusion over where people should register and suspicion regarding the need for the information: "I don't understand why our names must be taken down first; that was not done in the national elections," said one respondent.

There was also widespread confusion and lack of knowledge about the functions of local government and the need for the elections:

It's up to you — play your part

The onus to register — and so claim the democratic right to vote — rests on the individual and not the local authority, says the Local Elections Task Group.

"Every individual must register to be eligible to cast a vote in the October elections," the group stresses.

A person cannot register — or vote — outside the local government area in which he or she lives, or in which rates and services are paid to in the local authority.

Documents

To register, an individual must give proof of eligibility to vote — such as an address and identity number. It is therefore not necessary to produce an identity document — only an identity number — when registering.

If people do not have a South African identity document — or an identity/travel document of one of the old TBVC states — they should apply for one at any Department of Home Affairs office immediately.

"When it comes to actual voting day, every individual must produce a valid identity document before he/she enters the voting station. The identity number alone will not suffice on election day," says the Local Government Elections Task Group.

Every local authority is responsible for setting up registration points — the location of which should be publicised as widely as possible.

Information

When registering at one of these points, an individual must fill in a specific form (ER1) with the following information:

- Name and surname;
- Identity number;
- Address where the individual lives or where he/she is liable for assessment rates. An address in an informal settlement is also perfectly acceptable;
- Telephone number (if any);
- A signature or identifying mark.

This form can be filled in at the registration point or taken away and posted to the address on the form.

Once this process is completed, the eligible voter's name will automatically be included on the voters roll — provided the information is submitted before registration closes.

WHEN YOU FILL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM, PLEASE REMEMBER ...

1 You MUST include ALL these details

2 If you make a mistake, we need this information to contact you.

3 You must mark one of these two sections

4 If you will be 19 by the end of October 1995, endorse the form, "will be 18" here

5 If you are paying any municipal account (rates, electricity, water) or own property in the area, you must mark this box

IDENTITY NUMBER: 6 9 9 5 0 9 5 0 8 0 0 0 0

SURNAME: CITIZEN

FIRST NAMES: JOE PETER

ADDRESS: (MEANS THE ADDRESS OF THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE OR FOR WHICH YOU PAY WATER, ELECTRICITY ETC.)

BUILDING NO. AND NAME (IF APPLICABLE):

STREET NO. AND NAME: 3 LONG STREET

SUBURB / ZONE: FERND ALE

CITY / TOWN: RANDBURG

POSTAL CODE: 2194

PO BOX (IF APPLICABLE): P O BOX 156

SUBURB / TOWN: RANDBURG

POSTAL CODE: 2194

TEL NO. (HOME): 555 787

TEL NO. (WORK): 555 001

PLEASE MARK APPLICABLE BOX WITH 'X'

BASIS OF CLAIM: ☒ I LIVE AT THIS ADDRESS ☐ I DO NOT LIVE AT THIS ADDRESS BUT PAY WATER/ELECTRICITY ETC.

I AM 18 YRS. OR OLDER. I HEREBY CLAIM TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER: ☒ YES ☐ NO

SIGNATURE: Joe Peter Citizen DATE: 25/1/95

Registration points in major cities

Low registration rates across the country are beginning to cast dark shadows over October's local government elections.

And, transitional councils, faced with the difficult task of preparing for these elections, have to embark on wide-scale registration and voter education drives.

They also have to make sure that the registration forms they print reach the largest number of people possible.

At the end of the day, however, the responsibility for registering lies with residents who must make sure their names appear on the voters' roll if they want to have a direct say in who governs them and how they are governed.

Most of the

councils in the big cities have tried to make forms easily accessible to people by having stands in shopping malls and municipal buildings, and even by sending people out door-to-door to distribute and collect forms.

In most cities there are telephone "hotlines" for people with queries.

Here are some details from the five major cities around the country:

■ Place: Port Elizabeth

Council name: Port Elizabeth Municipality

Areas: Port Elizabeth and all surrounding townships

Registration points: All major shopping centres, municipal libraries, municipal treasury paypoints, places of work, voters' roll office and door-to-door canvassers.

Hotline: (041)

506-3241/3302/3303

■ Place: East London

Council name: East London Transitional Local Council

Areas: Former East London municipal areas, including Berlin, Gonubie, Beacon Bay, Gomo Town (Duncan Village), and Mdantsane.

Registration points: East London, Gonubie and Beacon Bay municipal offices, house-to-house canvassers in Duncan Village and Mdantsane and registration tables will soon be set up at major shopping centres.

Hotline: (0431) 342-230/200/201

■ Place: Durban

Council name: Durban Metropolitan and Substructure Council

Areas: Central Durban, areas as far north as Tongaat, as far west as Hammarsdale and as far south as Amaothana.

Registration points: All municipal offices, libraries

Hotline: (041)

and clinics. High profile registration points include University of Durban-Westville, Natal Technikon, M I Sultan Technikon, Mangosuthu Umlazi Technikon and the Phoenix Plaza. Door-to-door canvassers are also working in some areas.

Hotline: 0800-332-303 (toll-free)

■ Place: Cape Town

Council name: Cape Metropolitan Council

Areas: All places which fall within the following former local authority areas: Kuils River, Lindeburg West, Lwandle, Bellville, Brackenfell, Cape Town, Durbanville, Fish Hoek, Goodwood, Gordon's Bay, Kraaifontein, Milnerton, Parow, Pinelands, Simons Town, Somerset West, Strand, Western Cape Regional Services Council, Crossroads, Akapa and Mfuleni.

Registration points: Municipal offices, libraries,

clinics and shopping centres where political parties are conducting registration.

Door-to-door canvassing everywhere except in the areas which fall under formerly white municipalities.

Hotline: 0800-221-350 (toll-free)

■ Place: Johannesburg

Council Name: Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council

Areas: All areas which fall under the dissolved local authorities of Johannesburg, Roodepoort, Soweto, Diepsmeadow, Dobsonville, Alexandra, Randburg, Sandton, Ennerdale, Lenasia, South East, Lenasia, the South Western and Davidson/Fleurhof Management Committees.

Registration points: All municipal offices, libraries and clinics, major shopping centres, big companies and there are also many door-to-door canvassers.

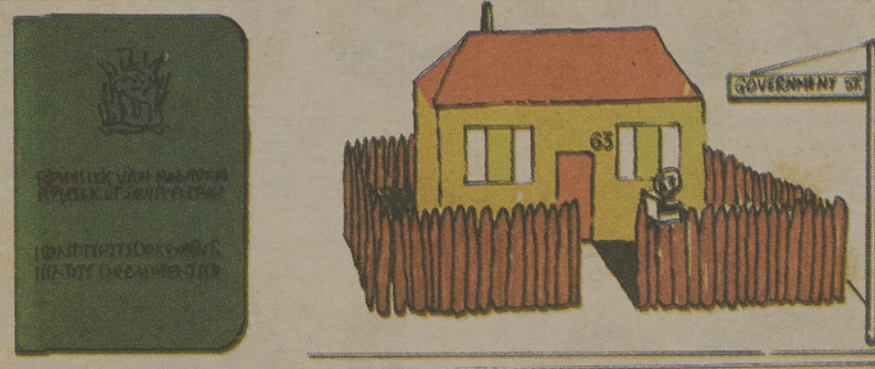
Hotline: (011) 339-6141

STEPS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

1. REGISTRATION



1. Registration forms can be collected from various municipal offices or high-profile registration points.



2. Potential voters, who are South Africans over 18, need an ID book and an address.

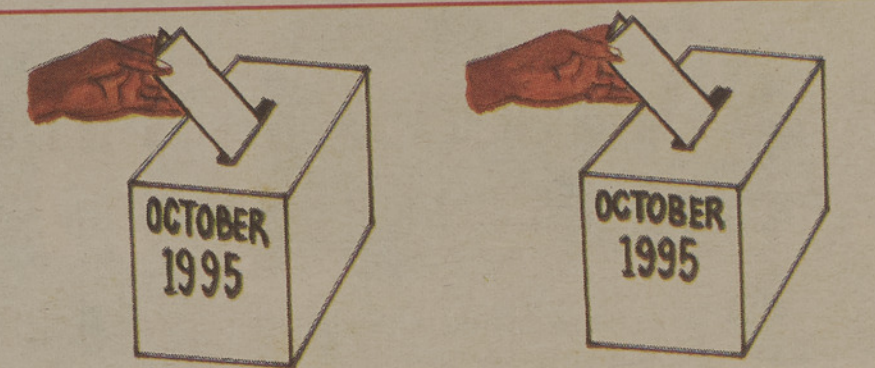


3. Forms can be filled in and handed back immediately or posted back to the registration office before April 28 in order for the voters' roll to be compiled.

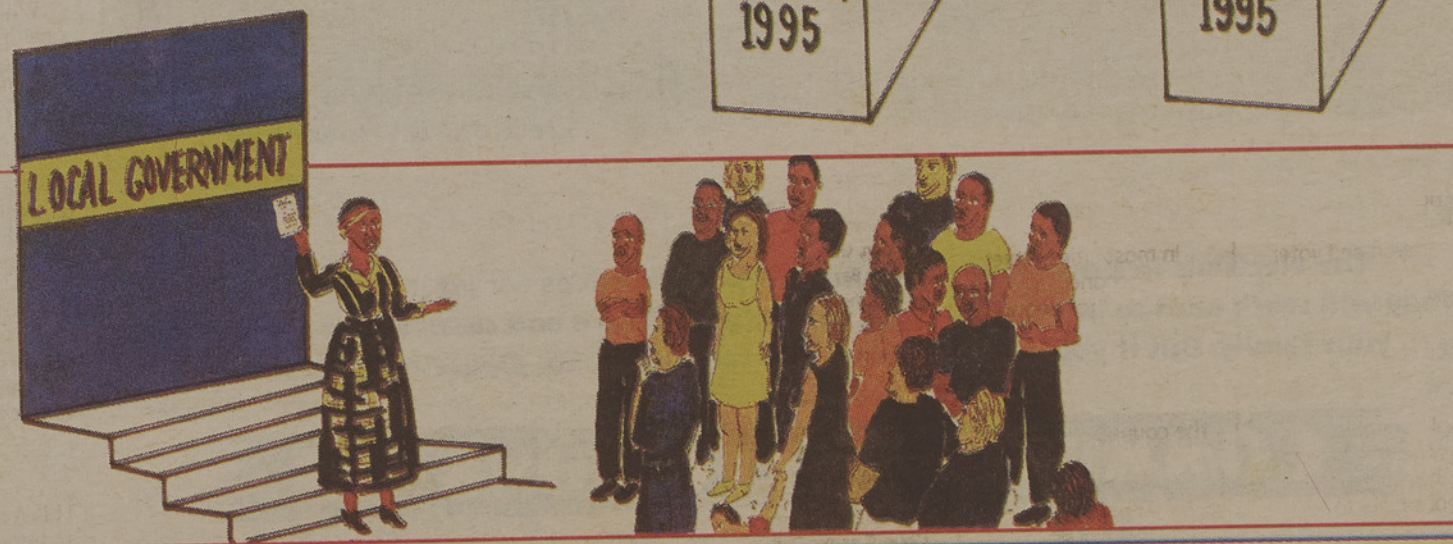
2. VOTING



4. During the October elections, voters will need their ID books to vote as their names will be checked on the voters' roll before they can enter the voting station.



5. All voters will cast at least two votes — one for a political party and one for a local representative. Residents in metropolitan areas will cast a third vote for a political party to represent them on the Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC).

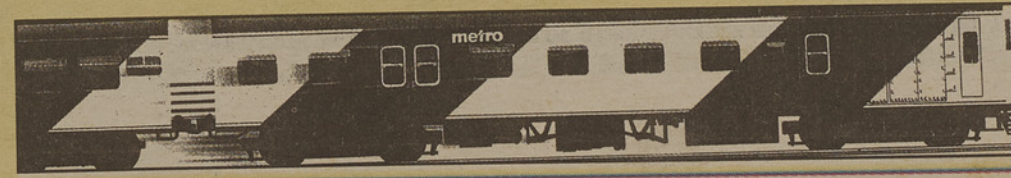


6. The end result is a democratically elected council with councillors of your choice representing you.

Illustration courtesy of Independent Mediation Service of South Africa (Local Government Voter Education Programme)

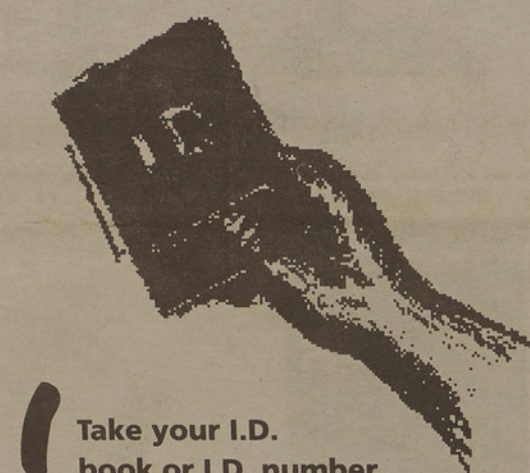
MASAKHANE / MASIBAMBANENI FOR A BRIGHT AND PEACEFUL FUTURE

me'tro
COME GO WITH US.

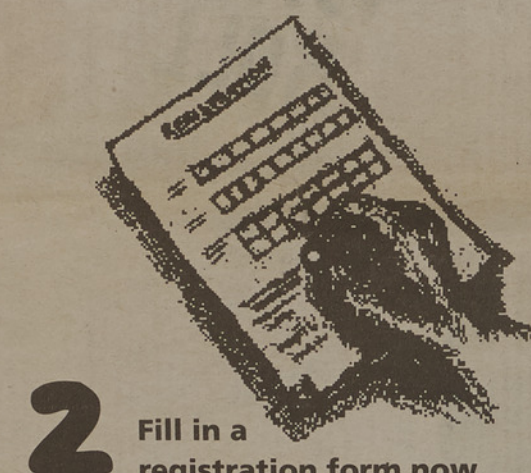


This page has been sponsored by Metro Rail in the interest of a peaceful election.

What must I do to vote?



1 Take your I.D. book or I.D. number



2 Fill in a registration form now



3 Listen and decide who you should vote for



4 Vote in the Community Elections on November 1

The elections in November are to elect representatives for your community. They will work hard to bring electricity, water, health care and clean streets to you and your family. But if you don't register, you can't vote. So, please register today.

COMMUNITY ELECTIONS '95

make your community a better place

YOU CAN'T VOTE IF YOU'RE NOT REGISTERED, AND YOU CAN'T REGISTER WITHOUT YOUR I.D. SO GET YOUR I.D. BOOK AND REGISTER NOW. REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI KLERCK & BARRETT TVL 23900

SURVEY

Winds of change blowing through country

South Africa's historic April election ushered in a new era of democracy but the process will not be complete until non-racial government has been successfully voted in at grassroots level and the Constitution has been finalised.

It is for this reason that negotiations for new transitional local government structures have, at times, been painfully slow and marked by hard bargaining and acrimonious debates.

Despite this, the winds of change have already blown through most of South Africa's municipalities and black mayors have become almost commonplace in previously right-wing towns.

Legitimate

Local government, says Local Government Elections Task Group co-chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, is at the coal-face of change. It is here that the new South Africa can make a tangible difference to the way people live.

Valli Moosa, the Deputy Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, says the restructuring of local government — with legitimate representatives in office — will ensure that the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) can be implemented as a financial programme at grassroots level.

"To prepare for elections, the playing field will have to be levelled as local government was dominated by one group for many decades," says Moosa.

"This has been rectified by forming local government forums where, for starters, representatives have equal rights."

Much of the local government elections preparations will have to be performed by the transitional structures.

"The demarcation of boundaries and delimitation of wards should also be completed, and nominated councils have commenced with the logistics to facilitate local elections such as the compilation of voters' rolls as well as with voter education," says Moosa.

Once elections have taken place, the Transitional Local Councils (TLC) and the Transitional Metropolitan Councils (TMC) will be replaced by non-racial, elected structures. But even these new councils will only last until the Constitution is finalised.

Businesses urged to get in on the act

Businesses which wish to assist in registering South Africa's almost 23 million potential voters can help with education programmes as well as facilitate the registration of their employees, says Local Government Elections Task Group spokesman Vic Milne.

Milne said there was a strong argument that

businesses had a duty to educate and provide the administration for their employees to register for the October elections.

Various local authorities and business are already pooling their resources to speed up registration.

Various incentives to urge people to register are being investigated by a technical team of

the Local Government Elections Task Group, according to co-chairman Van Zyl Slabbert.

Already, various non-government organisations and business groups have taken the initiative to assist.

The Independent media service of South Africa (Immsa) has extended its Elections and Balloting Project — a

massive direct voter education and in-house training programme used up to the April 1994 elections — to include registration and voting in the local government elections.

Weaving a story around four main characters, colourful posters are used to set out the logistics of registering while dispelling myths

around the issue.

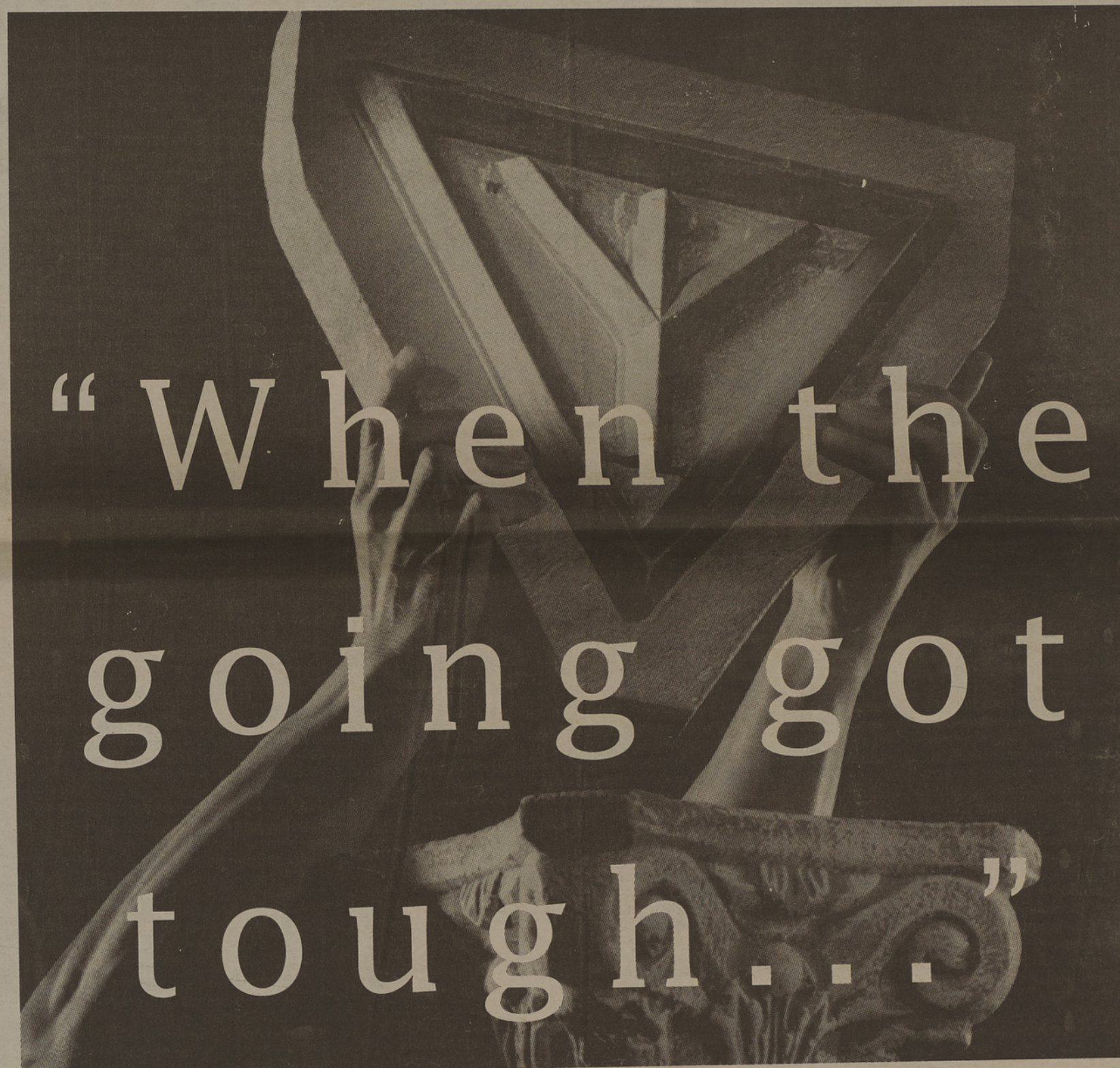
Immsa either trains in-house trainers or presents the programme directly to potential voters.

Various NGOs and church groupings have also set up their own voter education programmes to assist with the process.

■ An invitation to big

business to take up the challenge to help register South Africa's 23 million potential voters was snapped up by the OK Bazaars and Hyperama stores last month.

At weekly staff meetings in February, about 22 000 employees at the group's 150 OK stores and 19 Hyperamas nationwide were given the chance to register.



"...The tough got going."

Knowing when to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty requires a mindset that recognises, 'There are no prizes for coming second'. It demands the mental discipline to drive oneself beyond the normal limits of achievement so that winning becomes the only thing that matters. It was this mindset that

ISCOR helped the management of Iscor to turn the company around. Today, Iscor is winning on so many fronts. With the exploration rights for a high grade coal mine in Australia. With an investment in an iron-ore harbour in China. With exports of iron-ore and steel products to markets around the world. Yes, Iscor is winning.



WINNING

Performance. Worldwide.

THE AGENCY 1396



Philadelphia Mazibu watched as refuse piled up on her street corner and learnt to live with the unbearable smell of sewage flowing on to the doorstep of her Diepkloof, Soweto, home.

For years, her complaints to the council went unheeded.

The 32-year-old mother felt powerless and useless. "My voice was not heard and my efforts were futile," she says.

But, she believes, her frustrations will soon

come to an end when she votes for the local government of her choice.

Mazibu has already registered. Come October 31, she intends to be first in line to make her mark.

"I am glad that for the first time I will be able to put the people I trust into power. My voice will soon have a meaning. Before we could not challenge the government and we had to swallow everything," she says.

Although the international world regards

Soweto as the icon of apartheid's legacy, the appalling conditions in Mazibu's home town can be found in most townships around the country such as Alexandra in Sandton, Gugulethu in Cape Town, KwaMagxaki in Port Elizabeth and Emlazi in Durban.

Mazibu says she has visited the Soweto administration office several

times to lodge a complaint about a burst pipe or a blocked drain. Just as often, she has been unsuccessful.

"No one bothered to come to fix up anything at home. We ended up doing things ourselves and most of the time incorrectly," she says.

Even though she has learnt to love her township, Mazibu says her

pride in the area is diminishing. The conditions — something for which her local government will be responsible — are increasingly becoming unbearable, she says.

Looking across the partially tarred road, she remembers how, years ago, she used to tiptoe to school on the untarred roads to keep her shoes shining. She says she

thought this would change with time but she has since been walking on the same dusty road to work.

"Every morning when I open the door and windows to get fresh air, I am confronted by a strong stench from the garbage outside my home. The smell just fills the air. It is worse on hot days.

"My life has been dark, smelly and dusty. Once there is proper administration, all this should disappear. I would like to see this area really transformed."

While she hopes democratically elected local government will bring dramatic changes to her township, she hesitates to pin all her hopes on the new councillors.

Mazibu believes that once the township is clean and well tarred, residents' pride will be restored and they will be too embarrassed to dump their rubbish in the streets.

She feels that residents should also take part in improving townships by paying for services.

At the same time, Ma-

zibu says the new council should not charge the same flat rate for everyone: "They should do research to find out how much each household can afford. Those who earn more should pay more. We cannot all afford to pay R100 a month."

Mazibu says it is also important that up-to-date statistics on the popula-

tion be compiled so that the council will know exactly how many houses are needed.

She says this process will be facilitated during registration when everyone will be listed on a voters' roll.

"What caused the problem in the past is that we were over-charged and everything was imposed. Those peo-

ple who could not afford to pay their rent and services were victimised or had their houses taken away."

Mazibu says she hopes for a local government free of corruption and more accountable to the community which elects them.

Councillors should bring themselves closer to the community so that they understand the community's life, she says, adding that every form of development in the town-

ship should involve the residents.

"Councillors should think in terms of employing people from the community. We have so many people who just need employment and motivation to stay away from crime. Safety should be a priority."

Mazibu says voting for the local government will empower her and hopes it will give her a say in the administration of her area. "I will make sure that I will vote."

I am glad that for the first time I will be able to put the people I trust into power. My voice will soon have a meaning. — Philadelphia Mazibu of Diepkloof.

Widespread ignorance over need to vote

In October, South Africans who have registered by April 28 will be deciding for whom to vote — only this time the historic queues will be for the local government elections.

But there is still widespread ignorance over what, for whom and why people should be voting in this election.

A snap survey conducted in Greater Johannesburg showed that most residents were still unsure if they should register or vote. Most believe that voting last year was "enough".

Among these was gardener Nyandile Nyodo who was unaware that there would be another election this year. "I also do not understand what this local government is all about. We voted last year and I think that was enough."

Housewife Tanya (who did not want to give her surname) does not intend to make her mark in October. "I do not see the need of voting and I will not vote. It is just really a municipal government and I feel the national government is more important. I am happy with the way things are... the local government is just about who is going to make decisions in your area."

Artist Lucky Moema is still uncertain. "I am not sure if I want to vote because I do not know the people I am supposed to put in power. I think the State can only function properly if it focuses on people at grassroots."

Also uncertain is self-employed Samson Mnisi. "I did not even know that I had to register and I am not so sure what the local government is going to do for us."

But many people were adamant these were vital elections.

Among these was business owner Natalie Souchon who said: "It is important for all of us to take part. The local government will help make the country more stable and develop it."

Student Mandla Mhlongo echoed her view. "I will



Nyandile Nyodo... unaware of another poll.



Samson Mnisi... 'What does it all mean.'



Mandla Mhlongo... must change lives.

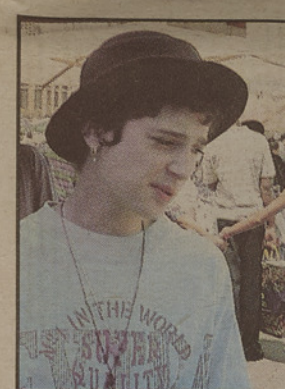
vote because I think it gives me a say but I am not so optimistic about the local government. I just hope it will consider the needs of the people and change my surroundings."

Less optimistic is artist Molefe Phake. "I am a bit sceptical about these elections. I also doubt that the local government will address my field of interest. I will however vote with the hope that my needs will be considered."

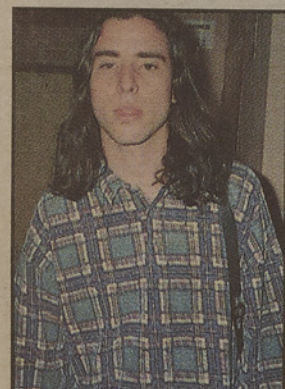
Student Raphael Sidesky wants action. "I will



Housewife Tanya... not making her mark.



Natalie Souchon... important to take part.



Raphael Sidesky... need for development.

vote but I do not think the local government will do anything for me in particular. I will only be happy if they start putting money into those areas where there is a need for development."

Business owner Claire Stubbos want accountable representatives: "I have registered but I am not sure what local government is all about... I do not know the councillors in my area. But I know that if I do not vote I will not be able to complain.

In the next five years, we're going to electrify 1 600 000 more homes. And, in so doing, we're going to give another 9 000 000 South Africans the power to reach their full potential.

For electricity will not only clear our skies of the smoke from countless coal fires as well as make streets more secure and daily chores so much less of a burden, it will also play a pivotal role in educating the workforce of tomorrow; in improving worker productivity today and, above all, in stimulating a dynamic, broad-based small business sector.

And that's not all. Eskom's commitment to achieving the world's lowest electricity price by the year 2000 will also make the

benefits of electricity as affordable as possible to as many as possible. And our policies of establishing Community Production and Agricultural centres in newly electrified areas and supporting small business when buying materials, goods and services will further contribute towards fostering development and economic empowerment.

Yes, whichever way you look at it, electrification is going to give another 9 000 000 South Africans the most precious of things: the power to achieve self-fulfilment.

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE ANOTHER 9 000 000 SOUTH AFRICANS THE POWER TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

ESKOM
THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

THE AGENCY 1286

At ABSA Bank we strive to establish relationships

bridged by trust. Relationships bridged by understanding.

And above all, relationships that will help take you from

where you are, to where you want to be.

At ABSA Bank we share a common dream with all South

Africans to see an improvement in the economic well

being of all our peoples.

We are committed to the Reconstruction and

Development Programme and will work with Local

Councils for the benefit of the Community we serve.

ABSA BANK
The Bank for Local Government

Any Enquiries can be directed to ABSA's Public Sector Units at Johannesburg (011) 330-3203, Bloemfontein (051) 47-1551, Cape Town (021) 405-8222, Durban (031) 37-8222, Port Elizabeth (041) 56-0081

Questions answered on what the poll means

Deputy Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa answers some questions on local government elections.

Why are these local elections important?

There are various reasons why these elections are important. The most important being that the democratisation process is incomplete without local elections taking place. The first two tiers of government have gone through this process. The next step in the democratisation process is local government.

The appointed transitional councils which replaced the old local councils are only the first step. The legitimacy of local government will not be restored unless they are elected and as such representative of the community.

The rent and service charges boycott is one negative manifestation of the illegitimacy of present local government structures. This election is thus critical, especially because it is the first fully representative local government elections in our country's history.

Why were local government elections postponed from last year?

It was originally foreseen that local government elections would take place soon after the April 1994 national and provincial elections. The nationally agreed transition process, however, proved to be more complex, cumbersome and time-consuming than originally foreseen. The Local Government Transition Act, 1993, prescribes that the democratisation of local government should take place in two phases, the first of which was the pre-interim phase during which appointed transitional structures were set up. An important function of these transitional structures is to register voters and to run the elections.

There have been calls to lengthen the 90-days registration period. Will Government allow/consider this option?

There is little room for reshuffling the tight election schedule. The Ministry and Task Group are monitoring the progress.

When will the Government's voter education campaign begin and what form is it going to take?

The campaign started on February 12 1995. The campaign is divided into several phases, the first of which is to convince voters to register. Radio and TV advertisements and printed matter will follow.

Do you think, even with the co-operation of political parties and non-governmental organisations that there is sufficient time for this campaign to work?

Yes, I believe so.

WHAT THE LOCAL ELECTION IS ABOUT

Clean water from your tap and in your nearest stream

Proper Roads - new and maintenance to existing roads

Ambulances and Fire Brigades to ensure your safety

Refuse Removal - regularly and effectively

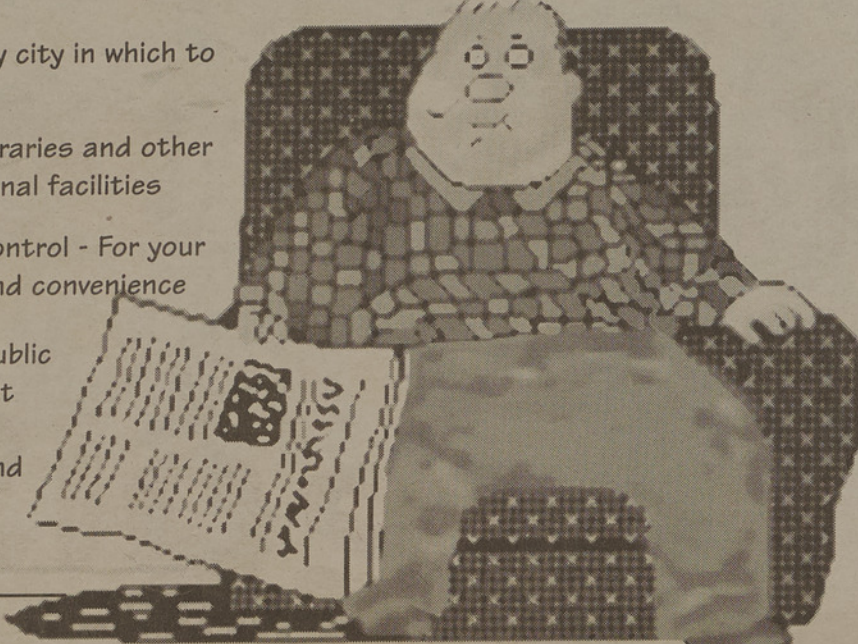
A healthy city in which to live

Parks, libraries and other recreational facilities

Traffic Control - For your safety and convenience

Proper Public Transport

Clinics and Creches



Local government 'the coalface of change'

We can make all the difference

It is at local authority level that South Africans come face-to-face with government, says the Local Government Elections Task Group.

Local government, says Local Government Elections Task Group co-chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, is the coalface of change. It is here that the new South Africa can make a tangible difference to the way people live.

And, says Institute for Local Governance and Development (Inlogov) executive director Andrew Boraine, effective local government is the backbone of the Government's crucial Masakhane campaign to restore a culture of payment in the country.

The elections in October will usher in the first democratically elected members of local government in each of the approximately 700 transitional local authorities which are in place, or are being put in place, throughout South Africa.

Until October, there are four different structures for local government which were negotiated by all the parties in the Government of National Unity — Transitional Metropolitan Councils (TMC), Transitional Local Councils (TLC), Local Government Co-ordinating Committees and Transitional Local Councils for Rural Areas.

Each operates in terms of the Local Government Transition Act and provincial legislation.

In this first phase of new local government — up until the October elections — the positions on these structures are shared equally between the previously empowered (eg white councillors) and the previously disempowered (eg black

people who did not have legitimate local government structures).

Although pencilled in for October 31, the actual election date will be decided on by the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development after consultation with the nine provinces.

Actually running

All the details of running the elections in each province — such as the procedures to follow during elections, the qualification of individuals to vote, elections expenses, illegal practices and deciding on the number of wards — remain the responsibility of provincial MECs who are in charge of local government. They, in turn, operate within the framework for the election laid down by the Government.

Responsibility for actually running the elections in each area rests with each local authority, says the Local Government Elections Task Group.

So, why the need for these elections?

The Task Group's guide to participants in the local elections, is clear on the matter: "National and provincial government are far removed from most people in the country. It is at local level — in municipalities — that people come face-to-face with government.

"Here, local government provides the services and resources that determine the quality of life," it says.

Local government structures are now in a pre-interim stage when existing councillors and those who did not participate in local govern-

ment in the past serve jointly, on a 50/50 basis, in transitional structures.

"These structures," says the task group, "are the first steps towards fully legitimate and democratic local government".

Their duties centre on facilitating the daily life of residents. Those who serve on nominated transitional councils, as well as those who will be elected in October, have a duty and responsibility to govern their area and to attend to the matters which affect the daily lives of people — such as electricity, water and sewage reticulation, refuse removal, traffic control, street lighting, local health needs, streets, recreations and any other facilities for residents.

It here that the transitional local authorities also play an important role in Campaign Masakhane.

Before you can call on people to pay, local authorities have to address their systems of payments, says Boraine. This includes sending out accurate accounts and demands a proper billing system — something which a large number of former Black Local Authorities did not have.

Their second role, he adds, will be to ensure that there are visible improvements in services.

"Improving the standards of maintenance is the short-term goal. The long-term goal is to equalise services," said Boraine.

"Campaign Masakhane cannot succeed unless local authorities are effective. This, and preparations for the local government elections, are the only things they should be talking about," says Boraine.

What all that govt jargon really means

Pre-interim phase: During this period, forums are established around the country to negotiate the formation of transitional city and town councils, made up of nominated representatives from all sectors of the community. Once established, transitional councils consist of appointed councillors who assume responsibility for the functions of local government until the elections. Most urban areas around the country have already set up their transitional structures.

Interim phase: After elections, which are expected to take place throughout South Africa on the same day, elected councillors will remain in office until new elections are held in terms of the final constitution. The phase is termed interim as the constitution is still being finalised.

TMC: A Transitional Metropolitan Council will be established in seven to nine areas countrywide such as Greater Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Verwoerdburg/Pretoria. Metropolitan councils, joining linked towns and suburbs, are more powerful than ordinary councils.

TLC: Transitional Town Councils replace councils, local authorities and management committees in stand alone cities and towns throughout the country.

MSS: Metropolitan Substructures are basically municipal areas within a Transitional Metropolitan Council.

Local Government Transition Act: The Act, passed in 1993, provides for new interim local government structures to be set up before local elections are held.

Voters roll: This is a list of every eligible voter in each area which is being collated during the 90-day registration period. As a totally new voters roll is being drawn up, everyone — including those who registered for previous municipal elections — needs to register.

Registration: Residents or ratepayers within any municipal area will have to complete a Claim to Enrol As A Voter Form (ER1) before April 28. In order to do so, potential voters need to be 18 or over by October 31 and in possession of a valid identity document.

Local government elections: These elections, expected to take place countrywide on October 31, will put in office at local authority level democratically elected councillors. These new councils are mainly responsible for the day-to-day running of areas in which voters live and deal with issues directly affecting the standard of living such as water, roads, lights and municipal facilities.

Local Negotiating Forums: Forums were set up, with the broadest possible representation, to negotiate future local government structures in local authorities.

Promulgation: The agreements to form non-racial transitional structures are, once checked and approved as falling within the parameters of the Local Government Transition Act, promulgated by the provincial Cabinet. There are still a few agreements — such as one for Cullinan in Gauteng — which have not yet been promulgated.

Statutory side: Each transitional structure consists of a statutory and a non-statutory side. The statutory half of local government transitional structures consists of former councillors and political parties which have contested previous local government elections. It also consists of ratepayer groups.

Non-statutory side: This half consists of civics, community groups and political parties which have not contested previous local elections and include parties such as the ANC, PAC and IFP. Ratepayer groups are also included.

Townships pose major headache

These areas.

This, say experts, could take decades.

Areas such as Khayelitsha in Cape Town, KwaMashu in Durban and Alexandra in Sandton are already on the verge of collapse. So too, is Soweto which has a population of millions.

A Greater Johannesburg attempt to seek

a solution for Soweto saw councillors on the Western Metropolitan Substructure — which covers Soweto, Diepsloot and some parts of Johannesburg — go on a tour of the area to identify its problems.

A report tabled by the area's chief executive officer Denis Rogers revealed that Soweto has

been living on a low annual budget of R450-million — far less than the R2-billion budget it needs to repair and maintain services again.

The council is also understaffed and the workers are unskilled or under trained. There are about 1 300 workers when there should be about 3 500.

All the departments lack funds, material and manpower.

Limited staff and equipment in the engineering department has made it impossible for workers to attend to emergency calls.

The refuse department is unable to handle the work load.

Soweto has about

25 000 tons refuse every month but only 17 000 is removed.

At times, residents live without refuse removal for weeks and this leads to garbage being dumped on street corners. Community health services too cannot cover the community's needs.

Social services which include sport and recreation are too limited.

Road construction is another problem. While a large area in Soweto needs to be tarred, construction often takes longer than usual and once finished it is seldom maintained.

Even though the new local government should address all these problems, the Rogers pointed out that the residents would have to take part in rehabilitating their own areas.

Driving forces behind election

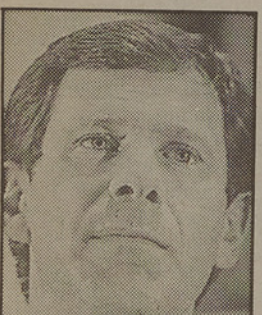
The crucial task of overseeing the planning and preparation of the local government elections rests in the hands of local governance experts Khehla Shubane and Dr Van Zyl Slabbert.

The two co-chair the Local Government Elections Task Group which will manage the elections nationwide.

Shubane is a researcher with the Centre for Policy Studies in Johannesburg, where he



Khehla Shubane



Van Zyl Slabbert

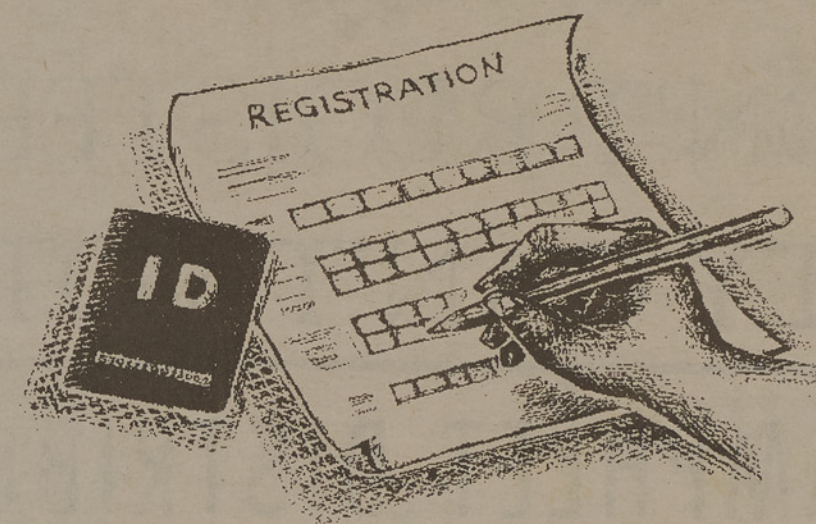
specialises in issues concerning local and regional government and the payment of services.

He holds an honours degree in Political Science from the University of the Witwatersrand. His studies were initially interrupted by his arrest at Turfloop University in 1976 for "ANC activities" and he spent five years on Robben Island.

Co-chair Slabbert brings to the job extensive experience as, among others, the chairman of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

The former Progressive Federal Party leader was also executive director and co-founder of the influential Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa).

Why must I register now?



The Community Elections on November 1 are to elect your community representatives. They will work hard to bring you water and electricity. Clean streets. Health care for your family. A safe place for your children to play.

But before you can vote, you must first register to get on the Voters' Roll.

A Voters' Roll is used to make sure that only the people who live in your area vote for your local government.

Elect the community representatives you deserve. Register now.

COMMUNITY ELECTIONS '95

make your community a better place

YOU CAN'T VOTE IF YOU'RE NOT REGISTERED, AND YOU CAN'T REGISTER WITHOUT YOUR I.D. SO GET YOUR I.D. BOOK AND REGISTER NOW. REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.



The rural dilemma

Govt grappling with serious obstacles

While the process of democratising urban local government moves ahead painstakingly, transformation in most rural areas has not even begun, as rural stakeholders battle to traverse a road that is littered with obstacles.

A wide range of delegates to a recent summit

on rural local government expressed grave concern about South Africa's first democratic local elections in October.

They questioned the feasibility of conducting

inclusive elections in rural areas, a problem which has been exacerbated by the uncertainty of the role traditional leaders will eventually play in their structures.

The delegates, primarily from non-governmental organisations

working in rural areas, did not doubt the election would occur, but they did question how inclusive and, therefore, legitimate the results

would be because they believe there might not be enough time to get everyone involved in the election.

That seems to be the crux of the issue — if the structures are not seen to be legitimate, then the new Government will be saddled with the same problems as the old and its Reconstruction and Development Programme will not get off the ground.

In fact, according to many who attended the summit organised by the National Land Committee (NLC) the "rural problem" began with the shoddy treatment it received from Government from the very beginning.

Says NLC researcher Alistair McIntosh: "Government recognition of the shortcomings of previous systems of administration has not translated into a sufficiently firm commitment to establishing an effective local government system in rural areas."

"It is for this reason that the potential offered by local government — of rural communities taking responsibility for their own services and development needs, rather than relying on distant outsiders — may remain stillborn."

He says the rural local government issue was first raised by the NLC, ANC and the South African National Civics Organisation before the national election, while the Local Government Transition Act was still being negotiated in the National Local Government Negotiating Forum.

Although a broadly acceptable set of principles which could have been used as a framework was established, it never found its way into the Act which remained centred on urban structures until well into the transition process, says McIntosh.

By the time the anomalies were pointed out to the Transitional Executive Council, the council's time had run out and the issues were left to the new Government to handle.

In addition, he says, soon after the elections, local government became a provincial responsibility in terms of the Interim Constitution — preventing a national framework for rural local elections from being drafted timeously.

McIntosh says a bias towards urban concerns and issues and the lack of an anticipated local government ministry are two important factors which delayed finalising a rural transformation framework.

While most provinces seem to be opting for a district council model which would include large districts encompassing a variety of rural settlements and

► To Page 11

SPREAD THE NEWS AROUND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS IF THEY

DON'T REGISTER, THEY CAN'T VOTE.

PWV PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTORS

Distributors of 25 million election pamphlets throughout South Africa.

JOHANNESBURG

HEAD OFFICE

Tel (011) 789-7808

Fax (011) 789-7397

NATIONAL BRANCHES:

Johannesburg

Cape Town

Durban

Port Elizabeth

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VOTERS

Northern Transvaal	2 403 814	10.3%
Eastern Transvaal	1 642 770	7.0%
North Western Region	1 768 995	7.6%
Gauteng	4 999 961	21.4%
Orange Free State	1 669 271	7.1%
Kwazulu / Natal	4 717 403	20.2%
Northern Cape Region	442 325	1.9%
Western Cape Region	2 476 943	10.6%
Eastern Cape Region	3 241 723	13.9%

TOTAL: 23 363 205

The Govt faces rural dilemma

◀ From Page 10

major commercial centres, variations are emerging across the provinces.

In KwaZulu/Natal, for example, where more than half of the population live under the jurisdiction of tribal authorities, chiefs in rural areas have proposed a system whereby 50% of any structure is appointed by the tribal authorities.

The issue of tribal authorities and their role in the new local dispensation has been the major political obstacle to preparing for October's elections and efforts to resolve the issue are progressing at a snail's pace.

Says Eric Apelgren from the Institute for Multiparty Democracy: "Chiefs in KwaZulu/Natal want certain guarantees that their authority and control will not be undermined by the new dispensation."

McIntosh says: "The impasse around this and other issues, including the controversy over the House of Traditional Leaders, as well as the linkage of local government elections to international mediation around the future of the Zulu kingdom, explains why a model for rural local government has not been finalised in KwaZulu/Natal."

But many other provinces have not finalised models for rural local

government either. In fact, most of them have not even yet demarcated district or local council boundaries.

In areas such as the Eastern Cape and Northern Transvaal, disputes between civic organisations and traditional leaders have hindered the finalisation of acceptable models.

It is clear, therefore, that the traditional authorities question will only stop blighting the local transition process once it has been resolved politically.

As Apelgren says: "The positive thing is that all parties have committed themselves to the registration process, but the actual appointment and subsequent election of councillors is going to pose a problem."

This is especially true for KwaZulu/Natal, where the rural population is still living under a veil of violence and where "no-go" areas still exist, robbing them of their freedom to educate and campaign around the election, says Apelgren.

So now, even though community organisations have committed themselves to salvaging what looks like a no-win situation and Government is grappling with serious political obstacles to the election, only eight months remain and the democratic future of rural South Africa hangs in the balance.

Rural women demand a voice

Women heaved a collective sigh of relief after last year's election, feeling that they had the opportunity to take control of their lives for the first time.

But the promises of equality for all were not realised for the thousands of rural South African women, who have now organised themselves and are demanding 50 percent representation on local government bodies.

Ellen Ntsoelengoe of the Rural Women's Movement says the local government transition process "bypassed the gender issue" and was even "hostile" to women.

"We call for all transitional local councils to be constituted in a way that ensures equal representation," she says.

Rural women have also expressed strong opinions about tribal authorities and the role of chiefs in their communities. They believe chiefs should not be accorded any special status on local government structures.

Ntsoelengoe says rural women have suffered enough and their strong convictions regarding local government are vindicated by President Mandela, who recently said he was concerned about the small number of women in national government.

An area of great concern

Voter education in remote rural areas has failed to take off and remains a daunting challenge for all involved, says Beattie Hofmeyer of the Voter Education and Election Training Unit.

According to Hofmeyer, non-governmental and community-based organisations which conducted voter education campaigns in rural areas before last year's national election enjoyed only mixed success.

This time around they face more serious problems, with the additional task of helping people understand the complex voting procedures, which differ from area to area, in the face of staff and resource shortages, she says.

These problems are compounded by a myriad of other constraints.

"Many of the voters in rural areas — where there are no transitional structures — are also affected by the fact that

some traditional leaders and farmers still do not allow political parties, or even NGOs, to come on to their land to talk to voters."

The regulations for the local elections give no rights to canvassers or voter education bodies to do so," says Hofmeyer.

She says residents' suspicion about giving their personal details to unknown councils and ignorance about the role of local government (especially where there have never been elected structures) are some of the problems facing NGOs.

Like many experts, Hofmeyer believes that while many of the problems can be addressed by intensive voter education, it will be difficult to resolve them until the exact model of rural local government has been finalised.

She suggests Government take the following steps to prevent the

elections process from being "shipwrecked":

■ Sort out the legal framework for rural areas now.

■ Get provinces to send special task teams to handle voter registration in areas where there are no local authorities.

■ Use radio and other media to educate voters about local government, registration and voting.

■ Co-ordinate the use of churches, schools and health services to reach, register and educate voters.

■ Sort out regulations to ensure that voter educators and parties can have access to voters on farms and in areas which fall under traditional leaders.

You've already done the impossible.

(National Election '94)

Now do it again.

(Community Elections '95)

Our philosophy as an advertising agency is very much in line with the current mood of most of the people of South Africa — "nothing is impossible". By voting in the local elections, you can again make this philosophy a reality, this time closer to home. But first you have to register.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI KLERCK & BARRETT

Nothing is impossible

