

SUNDAY TIMES Extra, May 27, 1984

# WHO'LL PAY THAT R13m?

*Not us, says Soweto*

*Not us, says Wrab*

By EZRA MANTINI

**NO-ONE** seems willing to accept liability for the R13-million deficit which is reflected in Soweto's records.

"What R13-million are you talking about?" asked the mayor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala.

"I only took office last month and I have hardly signed the first cheque."

He conceded that the money was reflected in the council's books, but he said his office is new and the Soweto City Council — no longer the Community Council — is starting with a clean slate.

Mr Tshabalala said his officials had consulted their legal advisers who agreed the deficit should be borne by the West Rand Development Board.

"The board is trying to pass the buck, but we cannot accept this huge responsibility," he said.

"How on earth can we pay for a deficit when we don't even know how it was incurred?"



Mr Ephraim Tshabalala ... 'We won't break rent pledge'

P.T.O.

# TSHABALALA INSISTS: RENTS MUSTN'T GO UP

A clean slate

SUNDAY TIMES EXTRA

27/5/84

"We are starting with a clean slate — just as the old Community Council did," he said.

West Rand Development Board chairman Mr John Knoetze also denied responsibility for the deficit.

"The council is independeant and they make their own decisions," he said.

Mr Knoetze said the board had submitted a recommendation to the Soweto Council urging them to increase service rates to recover part of the money.

He said: "I was in Cape Town recently and the rates there had been adjusted by as much as 70 per cent, and there are many other towns and cities which followed with adjustments.

"I cannot see how the Soweto City Council can survive unless they adjust their rates.

"I cannot say by how much they should be adjusted, that should come directly from them, but service charges such as electricity, water and sewerage should be adjusted for the council to survive.

"As the Govern-

ment is not going subsidise them, they must adjust their rates as one of the methods of raising capital."

Mr Tshabalala said his council had rejected the board's suggestions on the grounds that they were not prepared to increase Soweto's rents under any circumstances.

"How can we turn against our people and increase their rents when we promised them that we will fight to bring them down?" he asked.

"It's no secret that the past council was operating under the West Rand Administration Board (now the development board) which should pay the deficit.

"If they do not have the money they must pass the burden to the Government, not to us," said Mr Tshabalala.

The council also announced the opening of the first phase of the Chiawelo flats to the public.

The estimated rental for the two-bedroomed flats will be R200.

Baragwanath Hospital made a plea to the council that single nurses should also be considered, and, if possible, given priority on the flats as they have accommodation problems.

The council decided that nurses be given the same treatment as everyone on the waiting list, but refused to grant accommodation to single nurses.

The council also decided to appoint new quantity surveyors to look into the costs of the flats and work out whether they were not overpriced.

The aim is to lower the R200 rental if the survey proves if it is possible.