

Delay on world heritage site angers 'greens'

Conservationists are concerned that delaying the application for the Lake St Lucia Wetland is a veiled effort on the part of Government to reopen the possibility of mining the dunes by Richards Bay Minerals

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape town

Minister Pallo Jordan has outraged local conservationists by withdrawing the country's application to declare Lake St Lucia the country's first World Heritage Site.

World Heritage Sites are areas around the world deemed by the United Nations Organisation to be worthy of international acclaim because of their unique natural or cultural features.

Their recognition as "special places of the planet" confers a status which places them firmly in the international tourism and conservation spotlight.

The St Lucia application was to have been submitted shortly by the South African

Government to the Paris-based World Heritage Site Centre, but was withdrawn suddenly by the minister without any formal announcement or official explanation.

The decision was confirmed earlier this week by senior offi-

Status is for unique places on the planet

cials of Jordan's department, who were at pains to emphasise that the decision was based on "procedural and administrative factors" rather than any "ominous" policy decision by government to reopen the bitter Richards Bay Minerals dune-mining controversy.

They said the St Lucia application would go ahead early next year, along with several other nominations - including Robben Island and Table Mountain.

Nevertheless, conservationists in KwaZulu Natal have expressed alarm that an application finalised by the Natal Parks Board more than three years ago should be withdrawn without any formal explanation. NPB chief George Hughes said he was "confused and very, very disappointed" with the decision.

Tony Pooley, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia - which was at the forefront of the bitter dune-mining battle - said it almost seemed that the Government was stalling the World Heritage Site issue at St Lucia.

Noting that World Heritage

status would effectively close the mining debate, conservationists have also drawn attention to recent statements by KZN economic affairs minister Jacob Zuma in which he hinted at the possibility of reopening the dune-mining issue.

They also speculated that the decision to withdraw the St Lucia application could have been influenced by political considerations at national government level.

However, this was denied by Dr Tanya Abrahamse, deputy director-general of the department of environmental affairs and tourism and national chairperson of the SA World Heritage Site convention committee, and by Ingrid Coetzee, deputy director of the department (cultural resources management).

Abrahamse said her com-

mittee - which includes representatives of national and provincial governments, the National Monuments Council, National Parks Board, National Botanical Institute and provincial environment departments - had taken a majority decision

State says delay is not linked to mining

to delay South Africa's application to register its list of potential world heritage sites.

She said the country hoped to put forward a so-called "tentative list" which would also include Robben Island and Table Mountain.

Coetzee said the applica-

tions for Robben Island and Table Mountain were incomplete and needed to be refined and amended.

She said although the Natal Parks Board believed the St Lucia application was ready for submission, the committee had certain reservations - including questions related to the Lubombo SDI corridor and the management structure of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.

Rather than putting forward St Lucia in isolation, it was felt that South Africa should "get its ducks in a row" and submit a list of several sites from all nine provinces.

Coetzee said the committee had also received advice from the World Heritage Centre not to "push" the St Lucia application because if an application was rejected the first time, it might not get a second chance.

BY HILLARY BELLER

It's not often that one gets to sit in the very chair in which our president sits when he eats his breakfast, but I recently had the privilege.

I cherished the special feeling of being there and imagined what President Nelson Mandela thinks about as he enjoys his customary light breakfast, gazing out at the special view from the breakfast room at Genadendal, on the Groote Schuur Estate in Rondebosch.

A rare glimpse into his culinary likes and dislikes were shared with me by his chef, Hilton Little.

Traditional foods are on list of favourites

Having recently returned from Canada, where he joined 27 other chefs of heads of state for a gathering of the prestigious *Club des Chefs des Chefs*, Little proudly explains that the only chefs de cuisine admitted into the club are those in the service of a king, a prince or a head of state.

Little is the youngest, and the first South African, to be a member of this exclusive association.

"It was such an honour for me to be able to represent this great country of ours, flying the flag of the rainbow nation with the great chefs of the world.

"It is thanks to President Mandela, Dr Bill Gallagher and the South African Chefs Association that this dream came true," enthused Little.

Surrounded by the cooks of the world in the form of the chefs to the Queen of England, the King of Spain and President Clinton, Little said much of the conversation was "table talk".

The chefs swapped recipes and shared the likes and dislikes of the people they cook for with each other. This aspect is very important when you are responsible for the meals of kings, queens and presidents.

"As the baby of the group I was nurtured, and there was enormous interest in my boss, President Nelson Mandela.

Cooking for our Madiba is a real privilege, says chef

The president has simple tastes and enjoys good, wholesome food, says Hilton Little

Overseas chefs were interested in the SA president

Pressed to share the president's food penchant, Little divulges: "What jelly beans are to President Reagan, so dried fruit, especially dried figs, are to President Mandela."

Traditional foods are high on the list of favourites.

A good bobotie and even breyani are much sought-after by Madiba, especially after an arduous overseas trip.

So there are no points for guessing what President Mandela is enjoying this week on his menu.

Try the recipes above to enjoy Madiba's favourites.

in a unique position of being the one person that cooks for him and not part of a kitchen brigade, as is often the situation."

Little trained at the Woodstock Holiday Inn and gained most of his experience at the Cape Sun. He can remember that from as young as nine-years old he was to be found cooking in the kitchen while his brothers were playing outside.

Cooking for the president, whom he affectionately speaks of as "Tata", has been a unique and special experience.

Madiba is a man of simple tastes who savours the flavours of good, wholesome food. Fresh fruit and vegetables are a highlight on his menu.

Ensuring that the president is well fed and nourished is a job that Little takes very seriously. He bears the responsibility with a great sense of pride.

The main meal of the day is enjoyed at midday. A typical lunch will be a three-course affair with the emphasis on white meat, fresh vegetables and fruit.

Rich creamy dishes and foods high in acid are avoided and Madiba's favourite dessert is fresh fruit. Chicken is a favoured choice - the leg and thigh are the chosen portions for a president.

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Access to justice is fundamental to a society which is founded on respect for the rule of law and

Let 'apprentice' lawyers

the protection of human rights, says Justice Arthur Chaskalson

supply legal aid

HCMASA DIAP

STAR

6/11/97



Our new constitutional order has been in place for a little more than three-and-a-half years. Memories tend to be short. When we talk about the present situation in South Africa we sometimes forget the reality of the past from which we have recently emerged.

The difference between the present and the past has profound implications for all sectors of our society, but none more so than the legal profession and the courts.

The judiciary is required by the constitution to bring all aspects of our law in line with our new constitutional values and has been given extensive powers to do so. This allows the courts an unusual latitude to develop the law. It also entails a heavy responsibility. The way this responsibility is discharged has important implications for the process of transformation and for the type of society that we will have in the future.

One of the paradoxes of the new constitutional order is that courts, which were previously used to enforce apartheid and the repression associated with it, have now been given a central role in the transformation of our society and in giving substance to and sustaining the new democratic order. They have on the whole shown a commitment and a sensitivity to this task and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so.

Recently considerable publicity has been given to the role of the judiciary under apartheid. Some of the comments as reported by the media imply that judges who held office under apartheid were in general persons who had no regard for human rights or civil liberties. In my view this generalisation is neither fair nor accurate.

The majority of the present judiciary was appointed prior to the coming into force of the new constitutional order. A conscious decision was taken by the founders of the constitution to retain the benefit of their skills and experience and the constitution specifically made provision for them to remain in office as judges. They hold office under the constitution and in terms of it.

My own views with regard to the role of the judiciary under apartheid are contained in a memorandum submitted to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by the Chief Justice, the Deputy Chief Justice, the Deputy President of the Constitutional Court, the former Chief Justice, Mr Justice Corbett, and myself.

I have been out of the country visiting the United Kingdom and Canada and have only recently returned home. I understand that the contents of this memorandum were given some publicity during my absence. I do not wish to go over that ground again other than to say that in dealing with complex problems such as the assessment of the role of the judiciary under apartheid, rigorous analysis is called for rather than broad and emotional generalisations.

An observation of Professor Mureinik, referred to in the memorandum, is relevant to this assessment:

"If we argue ... that moral judges should resign, we can no longer pray, when we go into court as defence counsel, or even as the accused, that we find a moral judge on the Bench."

The judiciary included moral judges and their presence on the Bench helped to place limits on arbitrary action and to preserve in our law important principles of fairness and justice. It placed them in an awkward position, however, for in accepting appointment they undertook to uphold the law of the land.

There needs to be, as we said in our memorandum to the TRC *"an acknowledgment of the pivotal role played by the legal system in the gross abuse of human rights which were committed. Not as an end in itself, but as prerequisite to the discharge of our present and future responsibilities"*.

That acknowledgment is crucial for us to come to terms with the past and to build

a future based on the aspirations of our new constitution. But those of us who did not have to confront the dilemma faced by moral judges who held office under apartheid should not lightly condemn those who did so for the failure in which all of us share – judges and non-judges – to prevent the abuses that occurred.

I will deal with two matters affecting the legal system which have their roots in our past and are of particular relevance to the legal profession – access to justice and the representivity of the profession. Both are issues which need to be confronted by the profession at an institutional level.

Access to justice is fundamental to a society which is founded, as ours now is, on respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights. In the past there were significant constraints upon access to justice. Prior to the coming into force of the interim constitution a criminal trial had a familiar pattern. The accused was usually black. The judicial officer was invariably white; so too was the prosecutor and the defence lawyer, if there was one. The proceedings were conducted in a language which the accused often did not understand, or understood only imperfectly.

Not infrequently the accused was either illiterate or ill-educated and an interpreter was required to act as intermediary between the accused and the court and its officers. The accused, however, was usually not represented by a lawyer. The result in such cases was that preparation for trial, cross-examination of witnesses and the presentation of the accused's case was almost always ineffectual. Magistrates were required to explain to accused persons what their rights were; sometimes this was done with sympathy, sometimes in a crass and formal way.

But the explanation was not of much value, however it was given, for more often than not the accused lacked the skill to cross-examine or to present his or her

case adequately. This process occurred time after time. Thousands of undefended people passed through the courts in this way each year, and thousands were convicted and sent to jail.

Our constitution now provides that every person has the right to a fair trial which includes a right *"to have a legal practitioner assigned to the accused person by the state and at the state's expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly"*.

Our system of criminal law is now premised on the assumption that all are equal before the law, that all who are charged with criminal offences are entitled to a fair trial, and that where necessary to avoid injustice legal representation will be provided at the cost of the state. The importance of establishing the necessary infrastructure to enable the state to meet its constitutional obligations in this regard was stressed by the Constitutional Court.

The state entered into an arrangement with the Legal Aid Board in terms of which the board would act as its agent for the discharge of the state's responsibility to provide legal representation to accused persons under the constitution. This has placed a considerable financial burden on the Legal Aid Board, which is funded by the state.

The statistics kept by the board show that the number of criminal cases handled by it rose from 21 306 in the financial year 1990/1991 to 115 503 in the financial year 1995/1996. During the same period the board's funding from the Government increased from R21.8-million to R182.4-million. It has requested the state to provide it with R326-million for the current year, and its projected budget for next year R415-million.

We do not have the resources for social programmes that are available to the pub-

lic in the United Kingdom and Canada. We must assume, however, that the need for legal aid in South Africa will increase as it has done in those countries and in other parts of the world, and we must prepare ourselves to deal with this.

There are enormous demands on the state to find money to pay for housing, health care, education and other basic services. Legal aid, particularly in criminal trials, is an integral part of a fair justice system and not a luxury, but it must compete with other basic needs for a share of the state budget. The question we have to confront at an institutional level is how this growing need can best be met.

All concerned with the provision of basic services have to confront the same dilemma and find creative ways of providing services at costs within the resources which can be made available for such purposes by the Government.

I will make some suggestions later about how the demand for legal aid might be met. But I must comment briefly on the other institutional problem - the question of representivity in the profession.

At the heart of our new constitutional order is a commitment to equality and human dignity. We must move swiftly to dismantle the barriers of exclusion which have denied dignity and equality to the great majority of our people. These patterns of privilege are reflected in the profile of the profession, in which white men are dominant. We have to break down these patterns of privilege and the attitudes which gave rise to them. As far as the attorneys profession is concerned, the Law Societies have an important role to play in promoting the changes that are necessary.

It seems to have been accepted in principle that a four-year LLB should be introduced as a course available to those wishing to qualify as lawyers. The course will provide theoretical training and will have to be followed by a period of practical train-

ing before the law graduate goes into practice on his or her own account. The manner and place at which the practical training is offered is relevant to both the issues I have raised.

Young doctors receive their practical training as interns working in state hospitals after they have qualified. If a similar procedure were to be followed in the training of young lawyers, they would become a resource which could be drawn upon for the provision of legal services to poor people. Legal interns could be employed in offices of public defenders, in law centres, university law clinics and other similar institutions. Young lawyers would not only gain the practical experience needed to supplement their theoretical training, but would also make a valuable contribution to the delivery of legal services to the indigent.

Medical interns are paid a salary for their services and the same should apply to legal interns. Working in public defender offices and clinics with qualified salaried lawyers to whom they can turn for advice, and by whom their work can be supervised, the interns could provide a substantial part of the legal aid services needed. The delivery of legal aid through salaried lawyers is also easier to administer than the judicare system. It does not call for the regulation, correspondence, taxation and administrative supervision which takes up so much of the time and resources of the Legal Aid Board at present.

Each public defender office and legal aid clinic would be given a fixed budget within which it would have to function and the huge infrastructure which the Legal Aid Board requires to monitor cases, tax bills of costs, and deal with queries and the payment of accounts would not be necessary. The scheme would also provide a route into the profession for graduates wishing to practise who are unable to enter the profession because they are unable to find ar-

ticles. It would also provide the interns with an income during the period of their practical training.

To those who might say that the use of legal interns to provide services to indigent persons will result in a lowering of standards and in prejudice to the clients represented by them, I would answer as follows: that is not my experience of the way in which young lawyers perform in law clinics. I have had the opportunity of watching them do this for almost 15 years while I was at the Legal Resources Centre.

My experience then was that young lawyers in such an environment are idealistic and energetic. They are anxious to gain experience and see the internship as an opportunity for doing so, and for assisting those who need their help. There were, of course, exceptions, but on the whole they performed extremely well.

This has also been the experience of persons working in clinical programmes in the United States to whom I have spoken.

More than 1 500 law students graduate every year with an LLB. On the assumption that long and complicated cases would not be handled by them, each intern should be able to deal with approximately 100 trials in a year. If 1 000 interns were assigned to handle such cases, approximately 100 000 defences could be provided through the system.

Interns based in public defenders' offices established at the seats of the high court should be able to handle at least five straightforward appeals per week. Four hundred interns should be able to manage approximately 100 000 appeals each year.

I can see no way of meeting the problem of providing legal services to indigent persons, other than to expand the public defender system, incorporate legal interns into public defender offices, and make use of the interns both for providing defences at criminal trials and arguing appeals. Ideally the scheme should be part of a larger one involving clinics which provide civil legal services, advice offices, and judicare.

The infrastructure for the scheme will have to be developed, and this will take time. It will also be necessary to give consideration to whether there is any place for articles and pupillage and any need for professional examinations if such a scheme is adopted. In the United States, which probably has more lawyers than any other country in the world, law graduates are not required to undergo articles or pupillage, though they do have to pass a professional examination. If that is considered necessary it could be held at the end of the period of internship.

The use of public defenders and legal interns and the growth of legal clinics would divert funding from the private legal profession to salaried lawyers and interns. This could have an impact on practitioners who depend upon legal aid work for their livelihood. The purpose of legal aid is, however, to provide services to indigent persons, and not to support lawyers in private practice.

Opportunities for employment as salaried lawyers in public defender offices and legal clinics would become available and those who depend upon legal aid work for their livelihood would be able to seek employment in this field.

We face huge problems in reconstructing our society and in establishing a just order in our country. It is within our capacity to surmount these problems, but in order to do so we must be willing to make the commitment that is necessary for that purpose. We must not allow self-interest to be the guiding factor in our decisions; we must rather look to what our country needs and is willing to contribute to what has to be done in order to meet such needs. This is particularly important at an institutional level at which ethical standards are set and societal needs are addressed.

■ *This is a shortened version of Justice Chaskalson's address to the Transvaal Law Society last week.*

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Teens can learn valuable lesson from HIV-positive Lothario

By Rich Mikhondo
in Washington

He was a bogeyman incarnate, lurking in parks and playgrounds using drugs to get sex from girls. He had a lot of sexual partners, but didn't tell them his secret: he was HIV-positive.

Chautauqua County residents in the state of New York knew him by several aliases. Sometimes he was "Face", sometimes "Shyteek" and on occasion "Shoe."

When he was arrested, he recounted his sexual exploits with meticulous accuracy, providing 78 names of girls and young women with whom he had sex. First unsuspectingly and then knowingly, Nushawn Williams (20) passed the virus which causes Aids to at least nine partners - including a 13-year-old girl - and started a chain reaction that exposed scores of people across the state of New York.

By the time police caught up with him, Williams remembered at least 78 young women - 28 in Chautauqua County and 50

in New York City - with whom he had had sexual relations this year. He had sex with 80% of the women after he learnt that he was infected with the Aids virus. Police and health officials believe the number could be higher. Now city health officials are trying to find, counsel and test the women, all of whom have been exposed to the deadly virus.

At least 70 people in Chautauqua County alone may have been exposed to HIV, and at least one man infected, by having sex with any of Williams' 28 sex partners.

"This guy (Williams) is some kind of scorekeeper," said Chautauqua County health commissioner Robert Berke. "He takes delight in keeping records."

A tragedy such as this was bound to attract the attention of the American public. After all, it evokes the fear that every parent of a teenager suffers: what is he or she doing and with whom?

Now Williams has become the lurid centre of focus of US sex education. He has

the attention of parents, educationists, health authorities and politicians.

The HIV positive Lothario has moved from the shadows of society to force a public debate about sex education, particularly the distribution of condoms in schools and strict state confidentiality law to protect those who test positive for HIV.

Williams has brought sex education to the centre of the school curriculum, offering what a high school principal called "a teachable moment" at assemblies in every school, and debates on radio and TV and public meetings across the United States.

New York state health commissioner Barbara DeBuono said: "I have not seen anything quite like this before."

While noting the dangers of shared drug needles and unprotected sex, DeBuono stressed that abstinence is the best defence against Aids.

"No one is safe from this type of event," said county executive Andrew Goodell. "We thought we were relatively safe because we have a low crime rate, a rela-

tively small number of Aids cases, and a solid conservative social fabric," he said.

"But we got a wake-up call. It came from a guy who is HIV positive, yet has no moral compunction about preying on kids."

New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani said: "There's no question that Williams should be prosecuted for attempted murder, or worse."

Unfortunately for Giuliani, New York is not among 26 of the 50 states which have passed laws that make it a crime for someone with the Aids virus to have sex without informing the partner about the disease.

Among the states that do not require reporting of HIV sufferers are the states with the highest incidence of HIV and Aids, including New York, California, New Jersey and Illinois.

Although New York state does not have such a law, the state's Chautauqua County district attorney has said he will try to prosecute Williams for first-degree assault in the 10 cases in which Williams apparently passed on the virus. He would also be

charged with raping the 13-year-old.

Many Chautauqua students are angry that health officials waited for five months before identifying Williams because state laws prohibit the identification of HIV carriers. Only after it was discovered that two of Williams' partners were pregnant, did a state judge grant special permission to make Williams' name public.

While Aids activists questioned the decision to waive confidentiality rules and release Williams' name and photograph, law enforcement officials complained that they shouldn't have to get a judge's permission to make such disclosures public.

Now health officials and the public hope that the furore over Williams will boost efforts to get all states to report HIV cases.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said it would formally recommend to the US Congress that all states require HIV reporting.

Williams has been described as an incorrigible 20-year-old who was arrested three times for three different crimes in the

first nine months of 1996.

He was identified when several teenagers in the county tested positive for HIV. They all said Williams had been a sexual partner. At the time he was identified, he was in jail in New York City awaiting sentencing for selling drugs.

Former surgeon-general Joycelyn Elders blames inadequate sex education for the deadly risk-taking by adolescent girls.

"We deny that our children are having sex and that teen girls are having sex with adults. Seventy percent of teen girls become pregnant by adult men. Adolescent women need contraceptives," she said. "I'd have a bag on every corner so all you have to do is reach in and pick them up."

But officials in Chautauqua, which has won national awards for its sex education programmes that teach students as young as seven how Aids is transmitted, said the Williams case is also a sobering warning that information alone is not enough to influence the behaviour of young people. -
Star Foreign Service

Practical steps the best medicine

Zuma's aim of improved medical benefits for all cannot be met by legislation alone, writes Gavin Lewis

293 new clinics have been built, to address primary health care needs, and 152 clinics have been extended, reaching some three million people, particularly in neglected rural areas. Another 100 new clinics are in the pipeline. The problem is not just building clinics, but running and staffing them on a sustainable basis.

The principle underlying this programme is similar to that in education and housing – equity for all. The problem comes when equity clashes with the need for excellence – a minimum standard for everyone, or the best possible for everyone.

And key to the whole process is supposed to be the “dignity and integrity of individuals and communities”. In practice, blanket national policies gravely neglect this approach – as is inevitable with well-meant but sweeping legislatively based approaches to acute individual needs.

There is no one more lonely, more frightened and more isolated than a seriously ill person confronted with his own mortality – and this most basic need is not reflected in any way by the present legislative drive (as indeed it was not in the past). Laws are not enough.

Nonetheless, it is in the nature of South African politics that we continue to place our faith in our laws rather than in our humanity, and it is around pro-

posed new laws that controversy in the health arena flares.

Matters are not calmed by the personality of the Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma, whose fierce determination attracts wide publicity. Her achievements can be listed not just in the clinic programme, but in the provision of free basic health care, free abortion on demand, widespread vaccination campaigns, the national feeding scheme, condoms for male prisoners and the importation of foreign doctors for rural areas. Not all of these have worked well.

The ultimate goal is a national health bill, probably due in early 1998, in which Zuma will have to fight head-on the powerful private medical industry in South Africa. And the first shots have been fired in three associated bills now passed by Parliament.

These are the Medicines and Related Substances Control Bill, affecting drug prices (the SA pharmaceutical industry is worth some R10-billion), the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Amendment Bill, providing for compulsory one-year community service for medical interns, and the Pharmacy Amendment Bill, which opens the pharmacy industry to almost all comers in the interests of reducing costs.

All these bills have two things in common. First, they seek to lower the cost of medication and extend the reach of medical services. Second, and more controversially, they give the minister wide

powers to override the professional medical bodies concerned in each sector.

The Pharmacy Amendment Bill aims to cut medicine prices by widening competition – for instance allowing supermarkets to provide medicines – and, if necessary, to make it possible to override the powers of the Pharmacy Council to grant or refuse pharmacy licences.

The Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Amendment Bill allows the minister to withhold interns' registration until they have completed a year's community service, and allows her to determine where they will serve and their employment conditions – designed to meet acute needs in underserved rural areas in particular.

The Medicines and Related Substances Control Bill clashes head-on with the mostly internationally based pharmaceutical companies. The bill allows for, among other things, parallel importing of medicines – buying them from manufacturers outside South Africa who are willing to sell them at lower cost than local manufacturers.

This could potentially infringe on international intellectual property rights for patent or trademark owners. Some fear that the bill's provision for the minister to bypass the Medicines Control Council could open the door to the international trade in counterfeit drugs.

It could also lead to major disinvest-

ments by pharmaceutical companies active in South Africa, resulting in considerable job losses. The bill is important to the companies, since Government uses 80% of all medicines in South Africa. Also, the bill allows the health ministry to enforce the use of cheaper generic drugs, on which patents have expired, to bring down prices.

Manufacturers reply that the real problems regarding drug prices are due to high retail markups and, more significantly, to losses of more than 40% due to theft from government drug inventories.

A saving of 40% in the state's expenditure on medicines alone would transform the effectiveness of the existing government expenditure on health care. It remains to be explained why this key area is not receiving the same attention from Government as the legislative aspect is. And it is uncomfortably reminiscent of the repeated failures of Operation Masakhane campaigns, where high-level appeals and edicts were not followed up with effective, pragmatic, grassroots operations to ensure maximum benefit from existing expenditures.

In the last resort, the solution may be that the matter can only be resolved by outsourcing. Even the best-meant laws mean nothing if they cannot be enforced. There is no sign that they can.

■ *Dr Gavin Lewis is the editor of two independent monthlies, RDP Monitor and Tourism Info Brief.*



By world standards South Africa's expenditure of almost 10% of GDP on health care (R20-billion) is much more than most other developing countries, and indeed than some fully developed countries. Yet by several indices, such as infant mortality rates, life expectancy and incidence of TB, we underperform countries that spend less than us. Part of the reason for this is apartheid anomalies in the location of health-care facilities, or in the provision of clean water and sanitation. The other part is sheer inefficiency.

The problem with the health-care sector is the welter of major vested interests one encounters. These range from large multinational pharmaceutical companies to private medical aids, private medical care and a host of well-organised and articulate professional medical bodies to entrenched trade unions and bureaucracies.

All have vested interests to defend. And all are affected by the Government's RDP of, ultimately, free public health care for all, with the emphasis on primary, local, preventive health care.

No one can deny the inequities in health care. It is biased towards richer whites and people living in urban areas. Infant mortality is nearly eight times higher among blacks than among whites. So what has the Department of Health done about it all? Since 1995 more than

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Madiba's spice really, really helps

For many, change of the monarchy is long overdue, writes Tyrone Seale from Lond

Britain's hottest pop export of the year has learnt that what marketing consultants really, really want is popular consumer identification with existing, instantly recognised success.

When such success is characterised in popular culture by catchy musical hooklines that are inescapable, you've got it made - whether you are the supermarket manager or the Spice Girls' manager.

But, at the weekend, the trade in endorsements went the other way, as Madiba Spice appeared to hail his meeting with the pop stars as one of his great moments. While the more reluctant among the Spice Girls' following might have peeped, embarrassed, at coverage of the encounter, they will have paid greater attention to the President's endorsement of his more enduring guests: Prince Charles and Prince Harry.

The greater significance is that the Southern African visit by the future king of England was his first trip abroad since the Queen faced calls for transformation in the house of Windsor following the death of Diana. Britons called for transformation that would see the royals part with inherited privilege to assume tangible relevance in the lives of their compatriots, while maintaining their traditional position at the top of the social heap.

Prince Charles, the respected and active patron of a nationwide youth development programme, has strong opinions on a range of social issues; opinions he has often had to keep to himself under pressure from traditionalists who say the monarchy should not involve itself in political controversy. However, the new Labour government has welcomed the Prince's statement of his views, and both he and the government consider this an effective way to modernise a much-maligned institution.

Prince Charles' visit follows just weeks after the Queen visited India and Pakistan as part of those countries' celebrations of half a century of independence. The Queen's visit to Amritsar, where British soldiers massacred Indians fighting for in-

dependence, provoked public anger among Indians who resent the role Britain played in that country's history. This was compounded by the Duke of Edinburgh's suggestion that the number of Indians who died at Amritsar was exaggerated.

The Queen flew from India in time for Commonwealth meeting in Edinburgh.

Asked by a journalist whether he considered appropriate for the British monarch to be retained as the head of what used to be the British Commonwealth, President Mandela was in no doubt. "It's always desirable to have a head for any organisation," he said, "and I think because of history and the situation of the English-speaking territories or countries which are members of the Commonwealth, it is fitting for the British monarch to be accepted as the head of that body."

"I think the respect which all the countries that are members of the Commonwealth have for Her Majesty the Queen justifies her to take a leading position in the Commonwealth, and in my view that can only be to the benefit of this organisation."

This is not a view shared by all 54 heads of government in the Commonwealth, but, given most people's reluctance to gainsay anything a fancy-shirted living saint says, we'll probably not know just how many differ with him. But, given Mandela's ancestry, and the fact that South Africa and the neighbours visited by Prince Charles last week retain vibrant (if not democratically inclined) monarchies, it is not surprising the president has a soft spot for blue blood. And for that, the house of Windsor should be grateful. - Star Foreign Service

Lessons learnt the hard way

In the matter of the State v Struggle Bookkeeping, the latter has lost round one. Freddie Steenkamp, disgraced bookkeeper of the now defunct Foundation for Peace and Justice, has been jailed for six years on charges of theft and fraud.

Round two will be more interesting politically, because then Steenkamp's former boss, Dr Allan Boesak, will face similar charges. Their trials were separated when Steenkamp pleaded guilty. At issue is how donor money, meant for anti-poverty projects, was spent. In Steenkamp's case we now have the answer - fraudulently. This is not the time to reflect on the possible involvement of the anti-apartheid cleric and former leader of the ANC in the Western Cape in this unsavoury affair. But there are three points that need to be made.

The first is that, as the judge at the Steenkamp trial observed, "there is no such thing as a loan when you do not repay it". In other words, there can be no justifying theft and fraud - or any other misdemeanours - when you intended to commit them and in fact did so.

The second is that it was most unfortunate that Justice Minister Dullah Omar, in the context of this case, should have referred to struggle bookkeeping. That taints the liberation struggle as a whole when what we are dealing with is an instance where individuals in positions of trust, forgetting their allegiances, may have misbehaved.

The third point is that an alert has been sounded for the country's NGOs. In the words of Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition president Rams Ramashia: "I believe that the Steenkamp sentence will send an unequivocal message to any other corrupt NGO officials that our society and our courts are intolerant of people who use their fiduciary positions to defraud the public."

If NGO boards are now asking more relevant questions and if we all understand the meaning of public trust, then this unhappy episode may not turn out to have been a complete disaster.

Come up and see me sometime ... a blonde image of sexual allure graces the "storefront" of this modest brothel in central Johannesburg.

Some ladies of the night are relieved, but others fear the taxman cometh

By Bunty West

The decriminalisation of their trade means different things to different prostitutes - to street walkers it means freedom from the threat of arrest, while for the high-class high-chargers it means fear of the taxman.

Promise (23), a prostitute working the streets in and

around Observatory, Johannesburg, was happy to hear that she would not be harassed by the police anymore.

Originally from Nelspruit, she moved to Johannesburg three months ago to find work but a lack of job opportunities led her to prostitution. On a good night she gets four or five clients, from whom she earns

about R450. Promise works for herself and does not have to hand over her money to a pimp.

Lauren, a northern-suburbs prostitute in her early 30s, works from a comfortable Craighall residence which doubles as an escort agency. She clears nearly R20 000 a month.

She is not happy with the decision because she does not

want to declare her income to the taxman. As a single woman she would pay 43% of her earnings in taxes. Lauren has a manager who takes care of her and the other women living on the premises.

Andrew (no surname given), the owner of The Ranch in Rivonia, is in favour of decriminalisation. His establishment

was one of the interest groups that provided information for the task team which advised the Gauteng government on the matter.

"The police have limited resources and should be using them to catch the real criminals. The decision will help stop police corruption," Andrew said.

Prostitutes get the green light

Gauteng decision will ensure more effective control over exploitative aspects

THYS DULLAART

By CECILIA RUSSELL

Pimps and prostitute-trafficers will come under increased scrutiny from the authorities following the Gauteng government's decision yesterday to decriminalise prostitution.

Although changes to the Sexual Offences Act of 1957 are needed to decriminalise the profession nationally, prostitutes in Gauteng no longer need live in fear of harassment following the adoption of a report of a task team by the Gauteng cabinet yesterday. The report was commissioned by Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte.

Gauteng is the first province to make such a move and it is expected that pressure will mount on other provinces and the Government to follow suit.

The report will be forwarded to the national ministries of safety and security, justice, education, labour and welfare, and will also be used to lobby for changes to the Sexual Offences Act.

The resolution will free the police from mounting sting operations on prostitutes and enable authorities to regulate and monitor the industry. It is estimated that the industry employs more than 10 000 people in Johannesburg alone.

Safety and security deputy director Sylvester Rakgoadi said the resolution would accord greater protection for prostitutes and enable the law to deal more effectively with the exploitative aspects of the business. It would make it easier for prostitutes to report rapes and other violent crimes.

The task team report was the result of months of research by members of the Sexual Harassment and Education Project, the Centres for Applied Legal Studies and Violence and Reconciliation, Gauteng's departments of health and welfare, the attorney-general's

office, the Human Sciences Research Council and members of Duarte's office. Prostitutes and brothel owners also participated in the study.

"The resolution passed by the Gauteng cabinet enshrines the principles of the rights of sex workers to protection from the law, and enables them to enjoy rights and freedoms as human beings and as workers," Rakgoadi said.

But while prostitutes' civil rights are to be protected, pimps and traffickers who trade in human beings and those who deal in child prostitution will be the focus of renewed and even increased sanctions.

The task team report recommends that child prostitutes be decriminalised. But procurers, clients and intermediaries in child prostitution will be held criminally responsible. The Gauteng Welfare Department is considering the establishment of a register for child prostitutes so that welfare services can be provided to them.

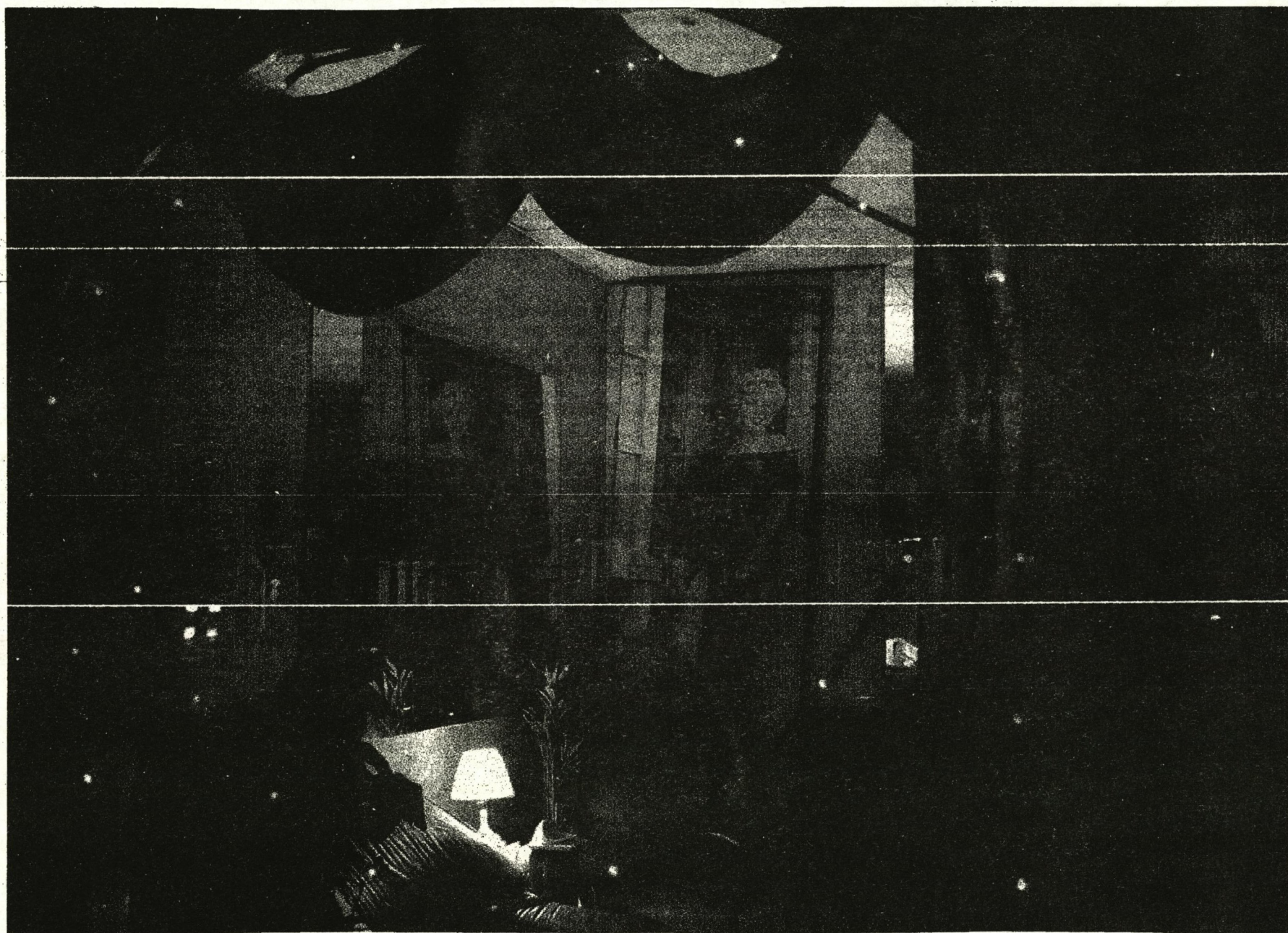
Task team member and researcher Janet Wojcicki said prostitutes would now have recourse to labour laws "which should regulate the practices of the pimps, and break the vicious cycle of exploitation which the illegal nature of the work encourages".

She said it was also hoped that the decriminalisation would rid prostitutes of "the tremendous amount of stigma surrounding the work".

"This resolution is a brave and sensible thing. There are many more serious crimes in Johannesburg, and police will be freed to pursue these, apart from the obvious benefits to sex workers. The challenge is to regulate or monitor sex workers without further stigmatising this section of the population," Wojcicki said.

► More reports

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'Dianafication' of Charles stuns the world

The heir to the British throne appears to have reinvented himself and presented a relaxed, charming face to South Africans

SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Royal-watchers have been stunned by what British newspapers are calling "Dianafication" of Prince Charles during his first official visit since the death of his first wife two months ago.

The heir to the throne returned to England last night, not before South Africans experienced at first hand the "paradigm change" in the life of Charles. The transformation has been from boring, backward prince to the obvious frontrunner for his mother's

Communications consultant

Dorice Bjorkman said the evidence was pleasantly obvious.

"His stultified voice was replaced by a more relaxed delivery and even the exclusive royal 'we' became a shared, inclusive experience," she said.

"Too short and slightly stooped, he never looked good in a well-cut suit.

"But here we saw a subtle change to woven fabrics which created a more informal appearance to match the new persona.

"Then there was the emotional and physical contact, normally forbidden with royals who are supreme examples of the so-called English coldness.

"When he touched his son Harry, it was a sign of genuine love, public handshakes changed from mere formal contact to warm greetings and everyone loved the brief incident where he put his hand around the waist of one of the saucy Spice Girls.

"When the public rushed to touch him, he reached right back into the crowd," noted Bjorkman.

The change was evident at a remote Zulu village school where the prince sipped strong maize beer with the fur-clad leader of the Mkhwanazi tribe, then tapped his feet while he and Harry watched bare-

breasted Zulu maidens dancing for them in the schoolyard.

Later the royal guests imprinted their hands in concrete on a school plaque and signed their names underneath - no royal title, just plain "Charles" and "Harry".

In Cape Town he pounded African drums at the Tsoga environmental centre and in Hillbrow he sat down uninvited in a downtown flat.

The new Charles found time to talk to journalists, a group he previously resented for their intrusion into his and Diana's private lives.

Bjorkman said: "Diana was adored because people who

looked up to her could also identify with her weaknesses.

"Perhaps her death is the catharsis which has allowed Charles to transform, to identify with people."

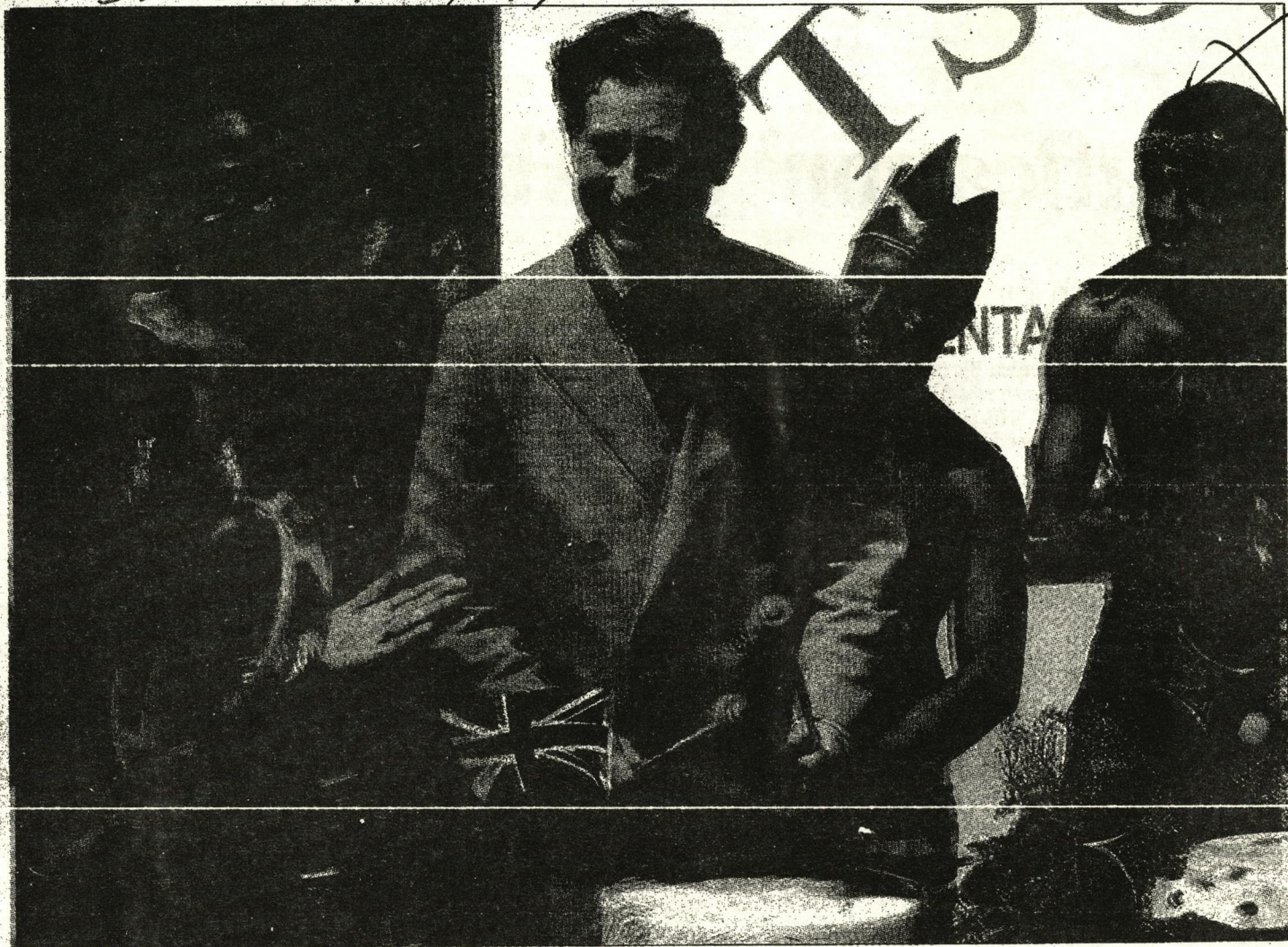
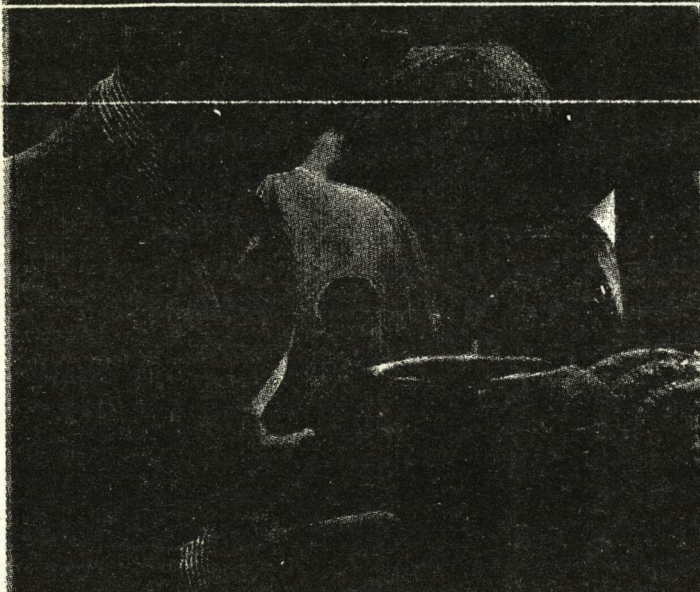
The prince said in Swaziland: "No institution can survive, let alone flourish, in the modern world, without attempting to communicate effectively with the public it serves."

Bjorkman said: "What South Africans saw was the new Charles putting those words into action, the man who had made that paradigm shift as he broke out of the mould ingrained by too many years of ideology.

"The easy-flowing movements of the smiling, new Prince Charming indicate a sincere and warm man, opening the way for the monarchy to re-invent itself and the heir to the throne to regain his lost popularity."

It was Pliny the Elder who said some 2 000 years ago: "*Ex Africa semper aliquid novi*."

Can there be better proof that "there is always something new out of Africa", than the transformation of the frog into a handsome Prince Charming, when the African sun kissed Charles during his official eight-day visit to South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland?



Tradition prevails ... Prince Charles tastes sorghum beer at Dukuduku village in KwaZulu Natal, as his son Harry watches.

Get that rhythm ... the new Charles happily takes his turn on the African drums with the traditional South African music group Jikeleza during his visit to the Tsoga environmental centre in Langa, Cape Town.

Ghost civil servants eat up R200-m a year

More than 7 200 phantom workers have been collecting a fortune from the Eastern Cape government each month

ECN
Betro

Preliminary results of the Eastern Cape civil servant head-count show more than 7 200 ghost workers who have been collecting almost R200-million a year.

Premier Makhenkosi Stofile, in reply to a written question about the head-count from Democratic Party MPL Eddie Trent, has released figures which covered most government departments.

There were 7 244 names on the payroll who have been classed as ghosts after they failed to report in person to the head-count staff. Salaries for the first batch of ghosts were dropped in September.

A note on Stofile's written reply mentions that the counts

in public works and agriculture would be checked again because those two departments yielded 5 900 ghosts between them.

The figures released to Trent revealed the number of ghosts and their salaries, which Trent said must have been paid since 1994, when the Eastern Cape

As much as R2,5-bn lost in scams since 1994

government came into being.

He said these figures would satisfy one of the ANC's challenges to him to provide documentary proof that the province was wrestling industry and was technically bankrupt.

Other figures Trent used came from a welfare department oversight report, which was tabled in the legislature last week and then withdrawn.

Trent said the welfare department had reported it was paying social grants to 630 000 beneficiaries, but had added another 324 000 to the list since March this year.

Trent said: "Taking into account information from welfare, the percentage of ghosts on the welfare grant list could be 20%. If you then say just 100 000 are ghosts who have been getting grants of R440 a month, then that is R528-million a year wasted."

He said the ghost civil servants and the ghost pensioners could have cost the Eastern Cape government R2,5-billion since April 1994.

The Star Thursday November 6 1997

'Violent crime coming down'

ANC MP says the country may have reached a turning point in its fight against such crimes as murder, attempted murder and aggravated robbery

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

Crime, particularly violent crime, is on the decrease, according to official figures quoted by ANC MP Willie Hofmeyr.

Hofmeyr said on Tuesday night: "We may have reached a turning point in the fight against crime."

The total serious crime rate had decreased by a significant 2,2%, he said. The rate for all serious crimes increased by 1,3% in 1995, stabilised in 1996, and this year dropped by a significant 4,5%.

"The crime rate is now 3,3% less than in 1994 if one

takes account of the population increase."

The three most serious violent crimes showed some of the biggest decreases, he said. These were murders (down by 6%), attempted murder (by 3%) and aggravated robberies (by 6%).

Hofmeyr said that since 1994 murders had decreased by 14% and aggravated robberies by 21%. Since last year, bank robberies were down by 29%, robberies of cash in transit by 61% and car hijackings by 4%.

Figures for the last-named three crimes had only been kept since last year.

A number of other

crimes were also at lower levels than they were in 1994.

Car theft was down 5% although this year showed a 1% increase, drug-related offences dropped by 7% although it increased by 11% this year, and arson was down 18%, Hofmeyr said.

For most of the crimes which had increased since 1994, the increase was less than the 7,4% population growth.

Almost all of these decreased significantly this year: serious assaults were down 4%, housebreakings down 2%, less serious thefts and robberies down 4% and malicious damage to prop-

erty was down 3%.

Hofmeyr said commercial crimes had increased more or less in line with the population increase since 1994.

The only crimes which had increased more than the population increase were rape, up by 32%, serious assault by 14% and illegal possession of firearms by 17%.

"But even here the news is not all bad," Hofmeyr said.

The 1997 figures showed they had all been brought under control with a 6% decrease for illegal firearms, no increase for serious assaults and a 2% increase for rape.

Police guards pulled off Winnie beat

POLITICAL STAFF

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's private bodyguards posed such a danger to herself and the police bodyguards assigned to her that the police have reluctantly withdrawn their men from the job.

The police guards in turn were there only to keep tabs on Madikizela-Mandela anyway and were pulled off the job only after failing to penetrate the wall of brawn with which she surrounds herself.

Such were the two conflicting reasons offered yesterday for Commissioner George Fivaz's order that his men abandon the thankless task of preserving Madikizela-Mandela intact for the nation.

Police spokesman Superintendent Leon Engelbrecht said the decision to remove Madikizela-Mandela's police bodyguards followed long-term disagreements between her private guards and the police guards.

She has had police bodyguards ever since her ill-fated tenure as a deputy minister. After her axing early in 1995, the police guards continued to look after her - in a highly uncomfortable relationship with the private guards.

The decision to withdraw police guards has not been sudden. "Frustrations and irritations" between Madikizela-Mandela's private bodyguards and police bodyguards who "followed two completely different working methods" had been the major factor.

The differences included conflict over motorcade protocol, and command problems relating to which guards could legitimately push the others around.

Engelbrecht said that while the initial request for police protection had come from the Government, their withdrawal was "in no way" politically motivated.

The Star understands, however, that Deputy Police Com-

missioner Zolisa Lavisa was more explicit in his written explanation to Madikizela-Mandela.

His letter states that the private guards are a danger to her and the police officers.

The two police guards, inspectors Simon Modise and Peter Nkumbi, were deployed without transport and routinely demanded to be carted to and from their homes in Soweto.

The private guards were reluctant to comply, suspecting that the police guards wanted to stay close to eavesdrop on cellphone conversations.

Madikizela-Mandela's lawyer, advocate Ismail Semanya, said last night he had written to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi asking them to rescind their decision to withdraw her police bodyguards.

"There is more politics than real issues at play here," he claimed.

Long tale of her tails

The turbulent history of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards:

■ March 1996: Madikizela-Mandela, through her lawyer, denies running up unauthorised expenditure on private guards.

This is in response to Auditor-General Henri Kluever's report that she incurred unauthorised expenditure of R222 015 on her bodyguards while a deputy minister.

■ May 8 1997: Madikizela-Mandela demands a police escort to the airport after addressing a graduation ceremony in Durban. The request is turned down.

■ October 23 1997: Two bodyguards on board a Johannesburg-New York flight with Madikizela-Mandela are upgraded from economy to business class at Madikizela-Mandela's request. She is required to pay the difference in airfares.

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DAILY NEWS
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Cut your ties, warns US

South Africa reprimanded for doing business with Libya, Iran

The US is not happy with some of South Africa's international links, reports RICH MKHONDO of our Washington Bureau.

STOP conducting business with Iran and Libya - that's the blunt advice South Africa has been given by a senior US government official.

The two countries had been actively sponsoring terrorism and were "an anathema to western values and US interests", said Joseph Wilson, Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton and Senior Director for African Affairs and the National Security Council.

Mr Wilson said the US would continue to urge South Africa and other countries to stop "conducting business as usual" with those countries. "Iran and Libya have been active in the destabilisation of their neighbours," Mr Wilson told a press briefing of foreign journalists.

President Mandela was in Libya a fortnight ago to thank

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi for helping the ANC in the struggle against apartheid.

From Tripoli, the president went to the Commonwealth meeting in Edinburgh where he failed to convince his counterparts to abandon their insistence on a trial in Britain or the US for the two suspected Libyan bombers involved in the Lockerbie plane disaster.

Nuclear

The US has also accused Tehran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons: "We actively discourage our friends all over the world from conducting business in those countries, and that will include South Africa," Mr Wilson said.

Would the US would ever consider punishing South Africa for its links with Iran and Libya? "We have sanctions in place against Iran and Libya. We hope our friends, including South Africa, understand that."

But back at home, the war of words over President Mandela's controversial visit to

Libya rages on, writes Alan Cooper.

An outraged Democratic Party leader, Tony Leon, yesterday lashed back at the ANC for branding him a "white racist" after he criticised the visit.

Mr Leon said on Monday that President Mandela had visited Libya to gain funds for the ANC, and was throwing away a probable seat on the UN Security Council by going there.

The ANC denies both accusations. "Tony Leon is increasingly showing his true colours; that of a white racist South African leader who actually fears the consolidation of democracy in our country," it said.

Mr Leon said "cheap mudslinging" could not disguise the ANC's lack of an adequate answer to his criticism that SA's international image was being damaged because its foreign policy was determined by the ANC's "struggle debts".

"Fraternising with dictators is no way to start an African Renaissance," Mr Leon said.

He was backed by an unusual source, the National Party

Ngubane confident of stemming runaway expenditure

DAILY
NEWS

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GREG ARDÉ
POLITICAL REPORTER

X

KWAZULU-NATAL Premier Ben Ngubane returned from top level meetings in Cape Town last night confident that adequate measures had been put in place to stem runaway expenditure in the country's nine provinces.

After a meeting with the finance ministry and national Cabinet, Dr Ngubane said task teams would be put in place to examine how to regulate restricted cash flows to the provinces.

KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Northern Province have gone public about their projected budget shortfalls this year, and have asked national government to help.

The shortfall, in the case of KwaZulu-Natal, arises out of the province having to fund national government mandates, like severance packages for teachers, according to KZN officials.

KwaZulu-Natal, with an annual budget of R16 billion plus, expected a shortfall this year of as much as R2,2 billion.

Wrestling

Dr Ngubane said all provinces were wrestling with how to deal with "runaway expenditures", especially in social service departments like education, health and welfare, because of the opening of new offices, overtime pay and the influx of new pensioners.

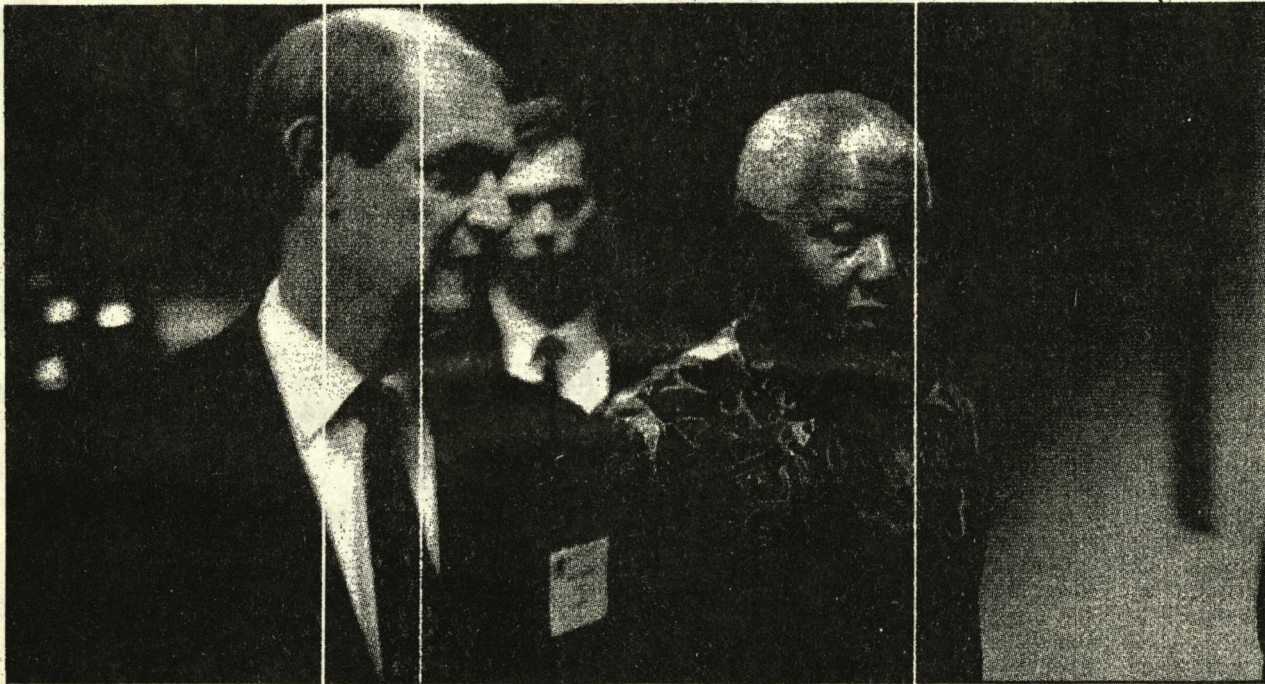
"Secondly we face the issue of cash flow problems ... which need to be rescheduled to eliminate recurring overdrafts.

"We examined all these things in Cape Town and while I cannot give details at this stage, I'm quite confident we will find a reasonable ways of meeting our obligations to our suppliers and returning cash flow to normal."

Currently the provinces are paid their budgets in segments from central government, rather than in a lump sum, and cannot go into overdraft themselves.

Among the measures believed to have been discussed in Cape Town, was the possible intervention of top officials in managing individual departmental budgets. Dr Ngubane said that the province had not asked for more cash but requested a rescheduling of payments.

DAILY NEWS 6/4/97



WALK THIS WAY:
President Nelson Mandela and Minister of Trade and Industry, Alec Erwin, leave Durban's International Convention Centre after hosting a banquet for more than 2 000 people last night.

PICTURE:
MARILYN BERNARD

Small business key to success – Mandela

VENILLA YOGANATHAN

SOUTH Africa's success depended on local development, President Nelson Mandela said in Durban last night – throwing his weight behind the growth of small businesses and municipalities.

Mr Mandela hosted a lavish banquet at the International Convention Centre for some 2100 delegates and dignitaries attending the biggest small business conference held in South Africa.

Stressing the importance of small business to the national economy, Mr Mandela said: "Whatever strategies we adopt and however many institutions we establish, success will depend on what happens at local level – in rural villages, in the townships and in the business centres of our towns."

Mr Mandela is among several political heavyweights who have added their muscle to the growing move to boost the status of local government.

The conference, being held in

Durban this week, is also an attempt to get local government more closely involved in the growth of small businesses.

The 800 000-strong small business sector contributes one-third of South Africa's economic product, Mr Mandela said last night.

He said local authorities had to bear the responsibilities of providing education and training, simplifying tender procedures and framing by-laws which were fair and conducive to the prosperity of informal

and formal business.

The suppression of black businesses as a result of apartheid policies, he said, had resulted in several obstacles to the development of small businesses.

Declaring a personal interest in attending last night's banquet, Mr Mandela said: "As 1999 approaches, I need to think of my own situation and it seems to me that my needs might well be met by a small business, indeed a very micro enterprise, perhaps in gardening!"

DAILY NEWS
6/11/97

Diabetes on the increase

FACT FILE:

There are two types of diabetes. The first is insulin-dependent diabetes (Type 1) where the body produces too little or no insulin. This occurs at all ages. Type 1 is not fully understood but hereditary predisposition, virus infection and hypersensitivity appear to be important factors. The second type (Type 2) is non-insulin-dependent diabetes. The body produces some insulin but is unable to use it effectively. Type 2, also known as adult-onset diabetes, occurs gradually and often goes unnoticed for years. Adults over 40 years old are at risk. Hereditary predisposition and being overweight is a major factor in Type 2 diabetes. About 2,5 million South Africans suffer from Type 2 diabetes.

Symptoms associated with diabetes: frequent urination, excessive thirst and hunger, weight loss or gain, fatigue, weakness, blurred vision, tingling and numbness in hands and feet, skin infections, slow healing of cuts and itching.

For more information contact the South African Diabetes Association at (011) 788 4595.

Changing lifestyles are blamed for the growing number of diabetics, writes Medical Reporter JANI MEYER.

THEY took off two of my toes. Then, when they didn't heal, they had to cut off my whole foot," Maria Adonis explained from her hospital bed.

Ms Adonis is a diabetic with high blood sugar levels – one of about three million diabetics in South Africa. Unfortunately she found out too late.

The South African Diabetic Association explained that blood heavy with sugar for a long period destroys nerves and capillaries. It also inhibits the action of white blood cells – the body's main germ fighters.

Poor circulation makes diabetics susceptible to infection and the feet are particularly vulnerable.

Without diagnosis and treatment, diabetics could suffer kidney failure, heart failure, blind-

ness or amputation.

Two years ago, the International Diabetes Federation announced a worldwide explosion of diabetes. The number of people suffering from the disease was expected to double in the next 15 years.

South Africa has more than one million diagnosed diabetics and about two million more may be suffering from diabetes.

Dr Dinky Levitt of the endocrine unit at Grootte Schuur Hospital in Cape Town said there were many reasons for the increase in diabetes.

"Around the world, urbanisation has meant changing lifestyles, different eating patterns, increased obesity, less physical activity and stress."

Dr Harry Seftel from Wits Medical School was more blunt. He blamed the increase on the "Western deathstyle".

People in societies undergoing rapid westernisation were particularly vulnerable and the genetic factor was also important. According to the South African

Diabetic Association, a gene pool in South Africa's Indian population makes them especially susceptible to the disease.

The association said between 13% and 18% of the Indian population were diabetic.

Although research is being done there is no cure and no way to prevent diabetics. Treatment concentrates on achieving normalisation of the blood's glucose content.

Ria Buys, a dietician treating diabetics, said that in many cases treatment was as simple as a change in lifestyle.

"A healthy eating plan and moderate exercise may be all that is needed. A diet high in unrefined carbohydrates like whole-grain bread, cereals, potatoes, starchy mealies and beans with less fat and protein and a high intake of fruit and vegetables can help regulate blood sugar levels."

"In more severe cases a combination of diet, exercise and medication are needed," Ms Buys said. National Diabetes Week observed from November 9

KwaZulu-Natal's urban density threatens schools' facilities

This week Sowetan visits KwaZulu-Natal, a province with the highest number of children in the country. The province's urban areas are under extreme pressure as people stream to the cities. However, despite these challenges, Dr Vincent Zulu maintains that education is his life and he would never move to another ministry.

The KwaZulu Natal department of education and culture believes that its children are the future leaders. They need to be nurtured and taken care of until they have established roots, enabling them to spread their wings and fly to greater heights, without supervision.

"There have been undue difficulties in obtaining accurate statistics about schools and personnel. The School Register of Needs has been completed by the HSRC and its partners and this computerised pro-

vince and comments by observers have been positive and most encouraging. Every possible effort currently is being made to cater for the implementation in 1998. However, grossly insufficient funding is worrisome.

All Grade 1 educators were retrained from October 20 to November 3 and training will be cascaded so that teams of educators will retrain other educators.

Plans are also in place to prepare all principals for the introduction in Grade 1 next year. An intensive in-service training programme directed



The MEC for KwaZulu Natal Department of Education and Culture, Dr Vincent Zulu.

gramme will be an invaluable tool for our educational planners.

"We feel that the current assessment of 2,1 million children is inaccurate and that the true figure is closer to 2,8 million children of school going age," states Zulu.

"We have a huge rural community backlog and we will be adding to that by administratively taking over the Umzimkulu area to provide schooling.

"In addition there is a massive urban sprawl. In fact our informal settlements are amongst the largest in the country, with the twin problems of high unemployment, high crime.

"Parents try to avoid these problems by sending their children to schools outside the squatter areas, which means city schools are overcrowded and enrolment is lower in townships.

"However, despite all this I would not go to another Ministry - education is my life and I hope to make a difference

Curriculum 2005

"The Curriculum Unit of the department is on track with its preparations for Curriculum 2005. Learning areas committees have been established in all eight education regions of the department. Trainers, to train other trainers at district level have been trained, even in the most remote areas in the province.

Right now, the pilot stage is well under way in thirty schools in the

at the senior management of 3500 schools will equip them to support educators in this difficult time.

Teacher-pupil ratios

"In the face of a shoestring budget, the department is finding it increasingly difficult to attain the national norm of 1:40 and 1:35 in primary and secondary schools respectively.

"The only practical means of reaching the desired ratios available to the department is the transfer of excess posts (identified by right sizing process) at advantaged to disadvantaged schools.

"Efforts to facilitate such volunteers to such transfer from advantaged to disadvantaged schools have not been successful.

"The province has a provincial task team to assist in implementing the provincial policy on the staffing of schools. It is hoped to obtain statistics in respect of schools before the year end so that the 1998 staffing requirements can be addressed.

Integration of LSEN into main school streams

"At present the province is awaiting the outcome of a national commission investigating special needs in education and training before deciding on integration.

"Schools and communities are engaged in preliminary discussions about the proposed integration. With the involvement of the University of Natal, the provincial education

department is on the verge of concluding a pilot project stage which will give an indication of how the proposed integration will impact on main-stream schooling.

"It has been considered wise to move cautiously and systematically on this issue before venturing into a full-scale integration of LSEN into mainstream schooling.

"Presently, there is some form of integration between learners in mainstream and special schools. This takes place on the social, cultural and sporting levels. We have approximately 45 special classes in mainstream schools.

"Children receive specialised attention for their learning problems in these classes but interact with children in mainstream education for some activities e.g. music lessons, hand work or during a play period. There are however, many LSEN in mainstream education who do not receive any specialised support, particularly in rural and previously disadvantaged areas.

NGO successes in education

"A wide variety of NGO involvement in education has made an invaluable contribution with regard to the provision of support for education in the province. This is particularly the case in the historically disadvantaged school communities.

"Wide-range science, mathematics, English and management courses were, and still are being, offered by a

number of NGO's in the schools and communities most in need of these services.

"Aids education, one of the most valued NGO initiatives in the province, has gone particularly well. On an increasing basis, some communities have taken it upon themselves to organise Aids awareness campaigns in their respective areas.

"In a large number of schools, NGOs have generously donated library books, science equipment, teaching aids and labour saving devices.

"Regions in the province are also encouraged to develop partnerships with other service providers. The north Durban region has spearheaded this process with the establishment of a Service providers' Forum.

Role of business in education in the province

"The premier has set up a meeting with NBI (National Business Institute) on 10 November 1997 at the Royal Hotel, Durban, to ascertain to what extent business enterprises can assist the KZNDEC in developing resources and capacity building in the province.

"A large number of schools in the province are on privately owned farm land. It is remarkable that many of these farm school buildings are of a high quality.

"Big business has provided funds for the establishment of a number of schools in the province. Provincially

based businesses appear to prefer to limit their projects to those areas in which they do most of their business.

"In recent years, business has in particular come forward with some generous gifts for the enhancement of computer skills in disadvantaged communities.

"Examples are many, such as Safmarine which has been building schools with container units in Inanda. The Divine Life Society has built Sivananda High School, additional classrooms, manufactured pupil desks and chairs and supplied reading material to disadvantaged schools.

"In addition, it has donated two printing presses, worth R1m each, Cato Manor Technical College and Umlazi Technical College.

"Sanlam has given funds for management training, as have Metropolitan Life. Beacon Sweets and Y Lockhat & Sons donated R100 000 each for additional lecture rooms at Cato Manor Technical college.

"It is the intention of this Department to increase the involvement of business in every step forward: in the advancement of education provision, support and administration in the years ahead.

"It is an undeniable fact that this department cannot go it alone in its honest endeavours to provide all educational needs within our great province. We need to join hands with business, great and small and build the province," concludes Zulu.