

The Cape Times, Saturday, May 26, 1984

Black areas run at profit, loss

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The three black townships in Cape Town were administered at a "profit" of R612 451 between April 1982 and June 1983.

But in the following eight months they ran at a loss of R195 474.

This information was given yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Co-operation, Dr George Morrison, in reply to a question tabled by Mr Ken Andrew (PFP Gardens).

Dr Morrison said a total of R6 980 319 had been generated as revenue through all channels in Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga between April 1, 1982, and June 30, 1983.

Expenditure for this period for the three townships totalled R6 367 778, including R1,1 million spent on housing in Langa and R247 973 in Nyanga.

During the following eight months, ending on February 29 this year, revenue totalled R3 759 303 but expenditure amounted to R3 954 777.

In this period, none of the expenditure went on housing. There was also no spending on schools between April 1982 and February 1984.

The administration costs for the three townships appears to be escalating dramatically: It was nearly R2,5 million for the first 15 months but was estimated to have risen to R2,8 million for the following eight months.

Dr Morrison pointed out that the financial year for the development boards had been adjusted to coincide with the financial year for municipalities and would in future run from the first of July in one year to the end of June for the next

Heunis hits back at Stern

Political Staff

THE once cosy relationship between the government and businessmen appears to be souring fast as the economy slips deeper into a recession.

In the latest indication that the honeymoon is over, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, yesterday sharply criticised comments this week on aspects of the government's economic policy by the president of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Mr R W Stern.



Mr R W Stern



Mr Chris Heunis

And it is reliably understood that certain senior cabinet ministers believe the private sector has not made sufficient effort to combat inflation and therefore has no right to accuse the government of adopting inflationary measures.

Criticism has also been expressed at cabinet level of the private sector's exploitation of the Income Tax Act and of the fact that the private sector's contribution to State revenue has dropped.

The government has been widely criticized for its economic policies since the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, presented his Budget.

Some of the most surprising comments came this week from the outgoing president of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, Mr Hennie Klerck, who accused the government of "apparent incompetence" in handling the economy.

Mr Stern said in his annual report released in Cape Town on Thursday that the government appeared unable to control its spending, but expected others to impose curbs on their's.

'Squalid and dangerous conditions'

He was also critical of official proposals to tax the business sector to finance local government under the new constitutional dispensation.

Yesterday Mr Heunis said the attack on the government by Mr Stern was "extremely negative".

In a statement, Mr Heunis said the chamber's president had not acknowledged that the authorities had spent "many millions of rand to improve the squalid and dangerous conditions under which many people had been living in the Western Cape". Nor had he acknowledged the government's "concerted efforts" to provide housing in which "it had in fact received very little active support from all but a handful of companies and employers".

Mr Heunis said the local authorities had had taxing powers for many years.

The proposals for additional sources of revenue for local authorities which had been approved in principle were also not new.

These proposals had already been discussed with commerce and industry on an informal basis.

"During these discussions it was stressed that the proposals would only be implemented once the government had taken final decisions on any possible changes in the form of local government and after comprehensive negotiations had then been conducted with organized commerce and industry as well as organized local government.

However, he was gratified to note that Mr Stern appealed to employers to shoulder some responsibility for housing as this was not the responsibility of the government alone.

Population control: new Govt plan

By Malcolm Fothergill

An ambitious population-control programme to stave off disaster in Southern Africa will be launched within the next three months.

Aimed at slowing and then, by the year 2 100, stopping population growth in South Africa, the plan will involve every section of society in an attempt to raise living standards, especially among those who reproduce the most — the poor.

Present family planning efforts will continue, but will play only a supporting role in the new plan.

The programme, recommended last year by the scientific committee of the President's Council and accepted by the Government last September, is intended to stop South Africa's population growth at 80 million.

Beyond that number, all the country's water resources would not be enough for everyone.

At the moment, there are about 29 million people in the country. Without the programme the total would reach 181 million in 2 100 at present rates of growth.

The cornerstone of the programme will be intensive grassroots participation.

The body overseeing the initiative, the Population Development Programme, is busy appointing nearly six dozen social scientists to find out what townships and other communities believe are their main social, economic and physical needs.

Once priorities have been established, programmes to meet them will be planned.

If a community is unable to carry out a particular task itself, it will look to other resources, such as the Urban Foundation.

Regional associations

Matters that cannot be dealt with on a local level will go through the country's 44 regional development associations or the Department of Health and Welfare to the National Regional Development Advisory Council, on which are represented the heads of Government departments and private enterprise.

From there, they will go if necessary to the Cabinet.

The head of the Population Development Programme, Dr J H (Boet) Schoeman, said black leaders were enthusiastic about the plan.

"At all levels and in all population groups we have found a most encouraging reaction."

Private sector support would be vital, he said. "This is an immense challenge and the Government will not be able to meet it on its own."

The emphasis, he said, would be on the quality of life. "This is not a numbers game."

Experience in many Third World countries had proved that improving people's quality of life lowered birth rates.

Particularly successful programmes had sliced birth rates in Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and several South American countries, he said.

Thank you, Tshabalala

SIR — I would like to express my gratitude towards Sofasonke Party in general and the well-known businessman, its leader in particular, for winning a clear victory in the recent elections.

That they have won means that now is their turn to be blamed for whatever mismanagement occurs during their term of office. They should try to serve the community to the best of their ability. This would be achieved by maintaining a harmonious contact with the masses. But on the other hand people should support their

representatives by whatever means they might possess. If they are invited to the meetings they must stand up and go there. They must stop making such crucial mistakes as missing meetings for residents. They must not rely much on those who attend such meetings. But what these lazy people should bear in mind is that the dassie has no tail because of relying on others.

United we die, united we conquer. Gossiping is useless while action is worthwhile. The Soweto citizens should know

from now on that the development of Soweto is their duty. Where are they going to get money to develop the township?

Who is going to finance them? I say it is stupid to keep on asking such questions because we should make finances available for the development of our own township. We waste thousands of rands in our mortal luxuries, but when it comes to important matters regarding our lives we have no money.

ENOCH MASONDO
Johannesburg

Un-civil servants

Sir, — Why is it that our state employees are, in most cases, most unobliging and have an art of putting an enquiring member of the public ill-at-ease?

To give just one simple example of what I mean, last Saturday I went into a large furniture store to pay my monthly instalment on a HP account. The young ladies behind the counter were extremely busy (being month-end) but nevertheless very obliging and pleasant.

I, with some hesitance, asked what amount would be due if I paid my account in full. The young lady, very obligingly, looked up my account, tapped the old calculator and told me exactly what I would have to pay and what I would save on finance charges.

I left that store feeling "I'd like to deal here again"!

The following Monday morning I went to the local Receiver of Revenue's office to enquire how much tax I owe. I had all the necessary information they would need for the exercise — in fact all I wanted was for my calculations to be checked as it is rather upsetting to find one is suddenly indebted to the ROR for quite a large sum of money in spite of PAYE.

Well, the reception I received was so different to that I experienced the previous Saturday! I was told in no uncertain terms that this was their busy period and that I would be given an approximate figure only.

There were only two other people waiting attention.

I received the information I had asked for, but walked out of that office feeling "I wish I didn't have to deal here again"!

TOLERANT

Durban

Boesak: Govt 'campaign against the people'

Political Staff

WHILE the government signed agreements with neighbouring states, it was waging a relentless campaign against the people of South Africa, the president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Dr Allan Boesak, said yesterday.

He also said that no matter how many times the government dealt with Mozambique or any other government "in the final event they will have to deal with the people of South Africa".

"We know what we want and our commitment to genuine peace rooted in justice shall not waver," Dr Boesak said.

He said this in an open letter in the United Democratic Front's campaign

for "building peace at home". A copy of the letter is being distributed as a leaflet.

Dr Boesak, who is a patron of the UDF, said the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, would celebrate Republic Day during his "whirlwind tour of foreign capitals and meetings with foreign governments".

Almost overnight the government had created for itself a new image: "The image of peacemaker; the image of a brave and forthright government turning its back on war and bloodshed.

"And peace is what we want; it is what we strive for and it is the legacy which we want to give to our children.

"Yet in our eagerness for peace, let us not confuse the image of peace with the realities of our land.

"For while the South Africa Government makes peace with Mozambique, our own leaders suffer in jail.

"While the government signs agreements with neighbouring states, they are waging a relentless campaign against our own people."

The new constitution was held out as the road to progress yet the fundamental sources of conflict remained untouched.

The continued increase in defence expenditure indicated that the country was preparing for war.

"Yes, we want peace. But we want a peace that begins here, in our own land; a peace which will enable us to bring up our children in security and confidence, free from fear.

"We want peace that will put an end

to Khayelitshas, to sons dying on borders far away, to detentions and violence.

"We want a peace in which all South Africans have an equal say in the affairs which govern their lives," Dr Boesak said.

Another leaflet has been prepared as part of the campaign by the University of Cape Town's Students Representative Council Media Committee for distribution among schools.

In it, pupils will be told that while Mr Botha "jets off overseas to sell the new constitution" the problems of inequality remain at home in South Africa and that "the apartheid republic does not provide a formula for peace at home".

Govt doesn't know how 'baby' will look

By HILARY VENABLES

THE government still does not know what form provincial and local government will take under the new dispensation, the MEC for local government in the Provincial Council, Mr Hernus Kriel, said yesterday.

Mr Kriel, who is a member of the committee investigating the future of local government, compared the restructuring process to giving birth.

"You know what to do, it is not painless, and you don't know what the baby will look like."

During debate on the budget vote for local government, Mr Kriel continually evaded opposition questions on the details of second and third tier government under the new deal.

If he had any say in the restructuring, he said, he would make sure city councils like the Cape Town City Council would comply with government policy and not "stick out their tongues at the government and refuse to do what they're asked to".

The only details he was prepared to divulge



at this stage were that:

- Uniform criteria would be imposed on voters for local authorities throughout the country.
- There would be some sort of hierarchy of local authority.

- A "dynamic programme", in which white local authorities would play a key role, would be instituted for training officials.

From above

- Areas of jurisdiction would be delimited to prevent overlapping.

- Joint services would be provided on a regional and local level for the sake of cost effectiveness. Structures would therefore have to be created for joint decision-making by all population groups.

- Authority would be "devolved" but control would still be imposed from above.

- Mechanisms would be created to handle conflict between local authorities.

- New sources of revenue would have to be used to finance these authorities.

Mr Kriel said it was impossible to create new local authorities overnight and for the time being management committees would have to be used as a link with white local authorities.

The leader of the opposition in the council, Mr Herbert Hirsch, replied that it was critical that new local authorities were not created for ideological reasons, but practical ones.

He drew Mr Kriel's attention to "the number of local authorities already existing in the Cape Province which are in difficulties as a result of the shortage of qualified personnel and financial unavailability".

Referring to provincial government, Mr Hirsch said that if it were confined to "general affairs" as had been suggested, the life of provincial councils was "certainly limited".

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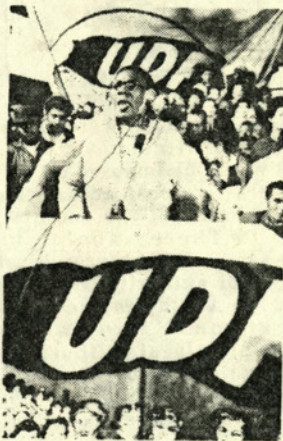
papers: No-one charged

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

— The police took steps against a UDF pamphlet in Mossel Bay earlier this month because it was suspected "on reasonable grounds" that they "could possibly" contravene the law, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, said yesterday.

He said the pamphlets were "in general terms an inflammatory condemnation and rejection of the new constitutional dispensation and the forthcoming coloured and Indian elections". However, after "careful perusal" it had been decided that the contents of the pamphlets did not warrant referral to a publications committee, and no one had been charged with issuing, possessing or distributing the pamphlets.



Replying to a question tabled by Mr Tian van der Merwe (PFP Green Point) Mr Le Grange said 88 copies of the pamphlet were involved in the incident and these had been returned the following day to the person from whom they had been taken.

Mr Le Grange also said no-one had been detained in connection with the incident.

"The person who distributed the pamphlets voluntarily accompanied the police to the police station where routine questions were put to him and whereafter he was allowed to go."

Slabbert's call on remarks by judge

Political Staff

OPPOSITION Leader Dr Van Zyl Slabbert yesterday said the government should repudiate remarks by a judge if reports were correct that he had said a man deserved a medal for shooting a thief who stole 63c milk money.

Dr Slabbert raised the issue during the budget debate on the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning during which the chairman, Mr Val Volker, said in a later ruling that had Dr Slabbert still been in the House he would have asked him to withdraw his remarks.

Dr Slabbert was commenting on reports which said that Mr Justice Irving Steyn had said in acquitting a 56-year-old bus driver, Mr Francois Quintino, of killing a thief that there had been no more milk thefts in the area.

He was reported to have said that Mr Quintino may have done the community a service and deserved a medal.

Dr Slabbert said the Minister, Mr Chris Heunis, had said the country was in a delicate situation as far as constitutional change was concerned. Everyone had to contribute to evolutionary change in

society and avoid "wrong impressions, stereotypes and distortions of the South African situation".

"I want to agree with him wholeheartedly," said Dr Slabbert.

"I should also like to say, however, that on the eve of the departure of the Prime Minister, on the eve of the implementation of the new constitution, I cannot think of anything that is calculated to confirm the worst stereotypes about South Africa, to demonstrate the existence of racial insensitivity and to bring our judiciary and our Bench into disrepute than the judgment and statement by one of our judges that a man deserves a medal and has done a service to the community for shooting somebody who stole 63c milk money.

"Honestly, if that report is correct, I appeal to the government to repudiate this gentleman and to distance itself from that type of action, because it destroys all the good that we could possibly do in the area of constitutional change."

Interrupting the afternoon's debate, Mr Volker said Mr Justice Steyn's judgment should not be discussed in the House.

"South Africa prides itself on the independence of its judiciary.

"A judge, in giving his verdict, considers many relevant aspects which are not necessarily reported in the public media.

"It is therefore not prudent for members of Parliament to comment in general debate on a portion of a judge's verdict as reported in the press."

He recalled that the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, had raised a point of order when Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton) had raised a similar issue recently.

The deputy chairman had said at the time that the conduct of a judge in his judicial capacity could be criticized only on a substantive motion.

The conduct of a judge which had no bearing on the performance of his judicial functions could be debated in Parliament provided no reflection or charges impugning his honour or personal conduct were made.

It would be injurious to the proper administration of justice to have attacks during general debate in the House on the "correctness in law of a judicial decision".

MPC meets P W Botha in City

Political Staff

A DELEGATION from the Multi Party Conference (MPC) in SWA/Namibia met the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, in Cape Town yesterday afternoon, to inform him of their recent tour through Africa.

The meeting, at the MPC's request, came only a few hours after the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, had met the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr

Chester Crocker, for two hours in Johannesburg.

Mr Pik Botha was present at the meeting with the Prime Minister, who said the MPC was aware of the fact that he was due to leave for Europe soon and had wanted to put their views to him.

They had recently met with other African heads of state and had thought it fit to see him as well.

UDF, students blitz schools with leaflets

By DIANE CASSERE

MEMBERS of the United Democratic Front and students from the University of Cape Town's SRC yesterday handed out leaflets at 14 high schools in Cape Town. They also picketed 40 spots, including Claremont Main Road.

The picketing and distribution of leaflets will be repeated on Monday.

The leaflets advertised a mass meeting, with "building peace at home" as the theme, to be held on Monday at 8pm at the Claremont Civic Centre, and also protested against the celebration of Republic Day on May 31.

Speakers at the mass meeting will be Mr Popo Molefe, UDF national secretary and of the Soweto Civic Association, Miss Cheryl Carolus of UDF Western Cape, Mr Zoli Malindi of the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, and Mrs Mary Burton, chairman of Black Sash, Western Cape.

In one of the leaflets, a letter from the Rev. Dr Allan Boesak reads: "Next week Prime Minister Botha will celebrate Republic Day in Europe, as he embarks on a whirlwind tour of foreign capitals and meetings with foreign governments.

"As Republic Day approaches, let us remember that no matter how many times the South African Government deals with Mozambique or any other country, in the final event it will

have to deal with the people of South Africa.

"We know what we want and our commitment to genuine peace rooted in justice shall not waver."

Another leaflet aimed at pupils began:

"Throughout the last few years at school the ordeal of writing matric looms over us. As the pressure builds up we are less and less likely to stop and question our syllabus and education.

"This Thursday is Republic Day, so we get a long weekend and speeches on SATV. What does Republic Day mean for the majority of South Africans?"

According to Miss Moira Levy, a student at UCT, the leaflets were distributed at:

Wynberg Boys' High, Sans Souci, SACS, Herschel, Bishops, Rondebosch Boys' High, CT High, Herzlia, Ellersley, Sea Point Boys' High, CBC, Camps Bay, Westerford and Rustenburg.

Late yesterday afternoon, most of the schools' staff were not available for comment. Staff members at Wynberg Boys' High School said they were not aware that the leaflets had been handed out.

Mr J Martin, deputy head of Westerford High School, said:

"It is a bit unfair if they catch the pupils on their way to school, as they have a captive audience. But our pupils are not naive, and they would make their own judgments on the subject matter."